



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Aaniin gakina-awiya! Niminwendamin apane ani-ziigwang giuwedinong. Ziigwan omaa. Nibiindaakoojige jiigaatig, ganabaj jiigibiig gaye. Megwayaak gemaa iwidi giti-gaaning nimbimose. Ninandokawechige imaa. Gigii-nandokawechige na? Gigii-nandawaabamaag ina bineshiiyag? Noongom ziigwang, giga-waabamaag ingiw banajaanyag. Maagizhaa gidaa-waabandaan migiziwaziwon gaye. Ge-niin niwaabamaag ingiw ininaatigoog. Aaniin apii gaa-maajigaag? Daa-iskigamide niimidana-daso-minikwaajigan iwe ziinzibaakwadaboo biinish ingo-minikwaajigan iwe zhiywaagamizigan!

(Greetings everyone! We are always glad when spring begins in the north. It is spring here. I make an offering of tobacco by a tree, maybe by the lakeshore too. In the woods or over there in the fields I walk. I look for tracks there. Did you look for tracks? Did you look for birds? Now, when it is spring you will see those baby birds. Perhaps you could see an eagle's nest too. I too am looking for those maple trees. When did the sap start running? Forty gallons of sap can boil down to one gallon of maple syrup!)

Bezbig—1

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Waabooz—as in father

Miigwech—as in jay

Aaniin—as in seen

Mooz—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O

Dash—as in about

Ingiw—as in tin

Niizho—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

OJIBWEMOWIN

(Ojibwe Language)

Niizh—2

Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Inashke! Ingii-mikaan gwaaba'aawangwaan. Miskwaa.

B. Ingoji indayaan gaashkakamiga'igan gaye.

C. Ate omaa i'iw zhiishada'igan wayaabishkaandeg.

D. Ozaawaa na i'iw biskitenaagan?

E. Daga wewiib iwidi gitigaaning. Mangaanibaandaan wiyagasnh.

F. Indaabijitoomin iniw gitigaanan imaa.

G. Niminwendaan ani-ziigwang.

H. Gidibishkaamin noongom!

A	B	N	G	G							
N	O	A	'	A	M						
I	N	N	A	G	O	I					
Z	O	A	E	E	Y	T	S				
I	O	A	A	Y	N	A	'	K			
I	N	G	S	A	Z	A	G	O	W		
G	G	I	I	G	A	A	N	A	D	A	
W	O	T	W	M	K	G	Y	A	S	A	A
A	M	I	O	D	E	T	G	'	O	H	D
N	'	G	A	O	Z	A	A	W	A	A	E
I	O	H	N	S	A	G	A	Y	I	I	W

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN

ODAMINOWIN

(word play)

Down:

1. along the shore

2. I think that, maybe

3. I think that, perhaps

4. always

7. hurry

Across:

5. everybody

6. or

8. yes/no question word

9. also, and, too

Angotoon!
Reduce it to nothing!
Minwaabajitoon!
Get good use of it!

Online Resources
ojibwe.lib.umn.edu
ojibwe.net
glifwc.org
glifwc-inwe.com

Niiwin—4

Aandi gezhiikaayan noongom?
Where are you going so fast today?
Answer: **Indizhaa...**I am going... (By, on, in, at, to) the garden/farm.—Gitigaaning.

To the store.—Adaawewigamigong.

To the road.—Milkanaang.

To the swamp.—Mashkiigong.

To the sugarbush.—Iskigamiziganing.

To the lake.—Zaaga'iganing.

****Plural Inanimate things Colors**

Makadewaawan.—**They** are black.

Waabishkaawan.—**They** are white.

Miskwaawan.—**They** are red.

Ozhaawaashkwaawan.—**They** are blue or green.

Ozaawaawan.—**They** are yellow or brown.

Mii'iw.—That's it.

1. Niijikwe gii-pimose Ziibi _____ biijinaago.

2. Bimoseg mashkiig _____ nibiiwakamigaa.

3. Waakaa'iganing iniw aabajichiganan miskwaa _____.

4. Ozide-miikana _____, nisayenh gii-pookonikeshin.

5. Suffix (endings) such as -ong, -ing, -ang for nouns denote location of the action. These are called _____.

—ong

—wan

locatives

—ing

—ang

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Look! I found a shovel. It is red. B. Somewhere I have a hoe also. C. Here is that broom that is white. D. Is that sap bucket of folded birch bark brown? E. Please hurry over there to the garden. Shovel the dirt. F. We use these gardens there. G. I like it when spring begins. H. We all have a birthday today!

Niswi—3 Down: 1. jiigibiig 2. ganabaj 3. maagizhaa 4. apane 7. wewiib Across: 5. gakina awiya 6. gemaa 8. ina 9. gaye

Niiwin-4 1. My female friend walked to the river (-ing) yesterday. 2. When s/he walks at the swamp/muskeg, it is wet ground. (-ong) 3. By the house, those tools are red. (-wan) 4. On the foot path, my older brother fell and broke his arm. (-ang) 5. "At the, to the, in the, by the" location suffixes are called locatives.

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. The grammar patterns may help a beginner voice inanimate and animate nouns and verbs correctly, as well as create questions and negate statements. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. Some spellings and translations from The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to **MAZINA'IGAN**, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 lynn@glifwc.org.

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