



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Nashke! Ashkibagaa. Zaagibagaa miinawaa. Ozhaawashkonaagoziwag.
Megwekob, gibizindawaawaag naagamowaad ongow bineshiiyag. A'aw baapaase iwidi ombiigizi.
Obijimaamaan ina manidoonsan? Manidoonikaa, oo! Onandotawaan na? Amang iidog.
Gaawiin nindinendanziin noongom. Wayiiba na ninga-giigooyikemin? Eya'. Gaye, ninga-gitige.
Niwii-ditibiwebishkawaa endaso-giizhig. Niminwendam ziigwang omaa Akiing. Mii'iw, miigwech.

(Look! There are young green leaves. The leaves are budding also/again. They appear green.
In the bush/brush, you all listen to them when they sing those birds. That red-headed woodpecker over there is loud/noisy. Does she smell h/her, a bug/worm? There are a lot of bugs. Oh! Does s/he listen for them? I am not certain.
I do not know what to do or think now. Will we go fishing soon? Yes. Also, I want to plant a garden.
I want to ride a bike every day. I am happy when it is spring here on Earth. That's all, thanks.)

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN

(Ojibwe Language)

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

Bine—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.

Numbers

Midaaswaak ashi nishwaaswaak miinawaa naanimidana ashi niwin =1000 + 800 & 50 + 4 = 1854

Midaaswaak ashi nishwaaswaak miinawaa niimidana ashi niizh = 1000 + 800 & 40 + 2 = 1842

Midaaswaak ashi nishwaaswaak miinawaa nisimidana ashi niizhwaaswi = 1000 + 800 & 30 + 7 = 1837

Midaaswaak ashi nishwaaswaak miinawaa nisimidana ashi ningodwaaswi = 1000 + 800 & 30 + 6 = 1836

Niizhosagoons miinawaa niizhtana ashi niwin = 2000 & 20 + 4 = 2024

(Rand Valentine's Nishnaabemwin dictionary, 2001)

Niizh—2

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

A. Zoogipon agwajiing! Zhooshkobidewan nimakizinan.

B. Gego bookojaaneshiniken! Gego baapiken noongom!

C. Bimosedaa! Naanaagadawaabandan bimoseyan omaa.

D. Gii-piimiskonikeshin nindede. Gii-pimose jiigi-bizhikiwigamigong.

E. Gi-nitaa-zhooshkwaada'e na? Eya'! Ninzhooshkwaada'e.

F. Ningide noongom!

G. Waa! Nindozhaashise.

H. Gisinaa na?

A N G Z G

B O I D ' I

I O S M N E S

M N Z W A D Y I

O G ' A H K E A N

S O W A A D I O ' A

E M P I E I O Z O G A

D B H D O G W G I D W E

A S N A Z H E P E N A N

A I I B S G B G S M A D

N I M W B A A P I K E N

N Z O O G I P O N D H Z

migizi(wag)

eagle(s)

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN

ODAMINOWIN

(word play)

Down:

1. in the bush/brush

2. leaves are budding

4. on the earth

6. "yes/no" question marker

Across:

3. s/he is loud

5. when/if it is spring

7. also

8. over there

9. here

Online Resources

ojibwe.lib.umn.edu

ojibwe.net

glifwc.org

glifwc-inwe.com

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Niiwin—4

Eya'! Agwajiing Izhaadaa!—Yes! Outside Let's All Go!

Endaso-giizhik: Nimbimose agwajiing.

—Everyday: I walk outside. Eya'!—Yes!

Gibimose na agwajiing?—You walk?

Giwii-bimosemin ina?—We all will walk?

Gii-pimosewag ina zaaga'iganing?

—Did they walk to the lake? Gaa!—No!

Gaawiin bimibaatoosii miikanaang.

—No s/he does not run on the road.

Bima'adoo.—S/he follows a trail.

Nimbima'adoo omaa gaye.

—I follow a trail here also.

Endaso-giizhik—Daily

Ojibwemodaa!

—Let's all speak Ojibwe!

1. Bakadewag noongom ingiw _____.

2. _____ ina? Aaniin minik noongom?

3. Inashke! _____, ginwaabiigwewag.

4. Waabamag _____, nimbiindaakoonaa.

5. Niminotawaa _____ noondaagoziwaad.

6. Ani-ziigwang, apegish ji-menoseyeg megwaayaak.

Migizi(wag)

Maang(wag)

Giigoon(yag)

Ajijaak(wag)

Makwa(g)

Translations:
Niizh—2 A. It is snowing outside. My shoes slipped. B. Don't fall down and break your nose! Don't laugh now. C. Let's all walk! Watch it carefully when you walk here! D. My Dad fell and twisted his arm. He was walking by the cattle barn. E. Do you know how to skate? Yes! I skate. F. It is melting now! G. Wow! I am slipping. H. Is it cold?
Niswi—3 Down: 1. Megwekob 2. Zaagibagaa 4. Akiing 6. Ina Across: 3. Ombiigizi 5. Ziigwang 7. Gaye 8. Iwidi 9. Omaa
Niiwin-4 1. Those bears are hungry now. (Makwag) 2. Fish? How many today/now? (Giigoonyag). 3. Look! Cranes, they have thin long necks. (Ajijaakwag) 4. When I see him/her, eagle, I make a tobacco offering to him/her. (Migizi) 5. I like hearing them loons when they call out. (Maangwag). 6. As spring approaches, I hope you all have good luck in the woods.
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 pio@glifwc.org.
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