



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Aaniin, Boozhoo! Aaniin ezhi-ayaayan? Gaye niin, niminwendam. Aandi ezhaayan?
Niin, nindizhaa awakaanigamigong. Inga-gagwedoomig. Inga-babaamoomig. Niminwendaan.
Giwii-gagwedoomig ina? Ambe! Bebezhigooganzhiig, miikawaadiziwig. Mino-izhiwebiziwig.
Gaawiin ina? Eya' ina? Ditibiwebishkiganag ina ganabaj? Nindaa-ditibiwebishkigemin.
Niminwendam ziigwang omaa Akiing. Ojibwemodaa Anishinaabeg! Mii'iw, gichi-miigwech.

(Greetings, Hello! How are you? Also me, I am well. Where are you going? Me, I am going to the barn.
I will go to practice horseback riding. I will ride about on horseback. I like it. You want to practice riding?
Come on! Horses, they are beautiful. They behave well. No? Yes? Bicycle? maybe? We should/could pedal.
I am happy as it is spring here on Earth. Let's all speak Ojibwe language, Native people! That's all, great 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.
—English can lose its natural flow in language translations.

Numbers

bezbig, niizh, niswi,
niiwin, naanan, ingodwaaswi,
niizhwaaswi, ishwaaswi, zhaangaswi,
midaaswi—1 to 10

ashi-bezhig, ashi-niizh, ashi-niswi, ashi-niiwin,
ashi-naanan, ashi-ingodwaaswi, ashi-niizhwaaswi,
ashi-ishwaaswi, ashi-zhaangaswi, niishtana—11 to 20

Agindaaso.—S/he counts.
Nindagindaas.—I count.
Agim!—Count him/her!
Nindagimaa.—I count him/her.
Agindan!—Count it!
Nindagindaan.—I count it.
Gidagindaan.—You count it.
Aandaginzo.—S/he counts someone over.
Aandagindan!—Count something over!
Mii'iw.—That's it.

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. Nindede, gii-piimiskonikeshin. Gii-bimose jiigi-awakaanigamigong.

E. Ginitaawaada'e na? Eya'! Ninzhooshkwaada'e.

F. Ningide noongom!

G. Waa! Nindozhaashise.

H. Gisinaa na?

E Y A ' B

N S B N A G

I K I Z ' I G E

M H M Y N S W A

A Z O O G I P O N

K I S Z H N N N G M

I G E O I A T D O E K

Z T D M Y A ' S E K G E

I B A A P I K E N D A O

N K A O N M P Z A B E '

A W I O E S O D H W I O'

N M A N N O O N G O M E



makwa

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Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN

ODAMINOWIN

(word play)

Down:

1. I, Me

2. when it's spring

3. twenty

4. ten

Across:

5. I am happy

6. count him/her

7. here, exclamation

8. also, too, and

9. yes



makoons
(bear cub)

USFWS photo

Online Resources

ojibwe.lib.umn.edu

ojibwe.net

glifwc.org

glifwc-inwe.com

Niiwin—4

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

Endaso-giizhik Nimbimose agwajiing.

—Every day I walk outside.

Eya'—Yes!

Gibimose na agwajiing?—You walk outside?

Giga-bimosemin ina?—We all will walk?

Gii-pimosewag ina zaaga'iganing?

—Did they walk to the lake?

Gaawiin!—No!

Gaawiin bimibatoosii 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! _____, ginwaabiigigwewag.

4. Waabamag _____, nimbiindaakoona.

5. Niminotawaa _____ noondaagoziwaad.

6. Ani-ziigwang, apegish menoseyeg megwaayaak.

Migizi(wag)

Maang(wag)

Giigoo(yag)

Ajijaak(wag)

Makwa(g)

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. It is snowing outside. They slip, my shoes. 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 he fell and twisted his arm. He was walking by the barn. E. Do you know how to skate? Yes! I skate. F. It is melting now! G. Wow! I am slipping. H. It is cold?

Niswi—3 Down: 1. niin 2. ziigwang 3. niishtana 4. midaaswi Across: 5. niminwendam 7. waa 8. gaye 9. eya'

Niiwin-4 1. They are hungry now those bears. (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/happenings 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 pjo@glifwc.org.

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