



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Megwaayaak nibimose. Nibiindaakoojige. Nimiigwechiwi'aag ininaatigoog.
Gaawiin niwaabamaasiig niibowa wiigwaasi-mitigoog. Aabiding ingii-ozhitoomin wiigwaasi-jiimaan.
Ingii-ozhikozhaanaanig niibowa waaginaag. Zaaga'iganing ingii-pabaamishkaamin. Ayayaa Nagaajiwanaang Tribal & Community Gabe-gikendaasowigamigong. Inashke! Waabanong, waasa niwaabamaag ingiw zhingwaakwag miinawaa apakwanagemagoog. Howah! Wayiiba giwii-minomaandaanaawaa wiingashk. Gidapikaadaan ina? Nindapikaadaan. Izhaadaa agwajiing! Miigwech!"

(In the woods I walk. I offer tobacco. I thank the sugar maples. I don't see many birch trees.
Once we made a birch bark canoe. We carved many canoe ribs. On the lake we paddled around.
S/he hangs out at Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College. Look! To the east, far off I see those white pines and red pines. Wow! Soon you all will like the smell of sweetgrass. Do you braid it? I braid it.
Let's all go outside! Thank you!")

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)

VII: It is...
Verbs, Inanimate,
Intransitive

Niiskaakad.—It's bad weather.
Mizhakwad.—It's good weather.
Minotaagwad.—It sounds good.
Maazhipogwad.—It tastes bad.
Wendad.—It is easy/simple or cheap.
Zanagad.—It is hard to do/difficult.
Minwendaagwad.—It is fun/likeable.
Dibikad. Gii-tibikad.—Wii-tibikad.
It is night. It was night—It will be night.
Dibikak, gaawiin giizhigasinoon.—When/If it is night, it is not day.
Giizhigad. Gii-kiizhigad. Wii-kiizhigad.—It is day.
It was day. It will be day.
Giizhigak, gaawiin dibikasinoon.—When it is day, it is not night.

Niizh—2

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

A. Nibi. Nizaagitoon dakib. Niminwendam bagizoyaan.

B. Apishimoning, indaa-neshangishin.

C. Ingichi-baap bakobiigwaashkwaniyaan. Minwendaagwad.

D. Aandi nebinaadiyan? Oodenaang ina? Gidayaana ina onda'ibaan?

E. Nindayaamin onda'ibaan. Biinaagamin. Indebizimin.

F. Naadoobii ziibiing. Odoonzaan ikwe.

G. Bakobiidaa! Bagizog!

H. Inashke! Miskwaadesi mookibii imaa.

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

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN
ODAMINOWIN
(word play)

Down:
1. those
2. far away
3. long ago
4. S/he baths/swims.
6. cold water
7. it is night

Across:
5. Look! Behold!
8. It is easy/cheap.
9. water
10. hello/greetings

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10

amoo (bee)

Online Resources
ojibwe.lib.umn.edu
ojibwe.net
glifwc.org

Niiwin—4

Awegonenan ezhi-giizhik?—What are those certain days?
Daso-anama'e-giizhik.—A certain number of weeks.
Daso-giizhik.—A certain number of days.
Ishkwaa-anama'e-giizhigad.—
It is after the church day/Monday.
Niizho-giizhigad.—It is the second day/Tuesday.
Aabitoose.—It is Wednesday.
Niiyo-giizhigad.—It is the fourth day/Thursday.
Naano-giizhigad.—It is the fifth day/Friday.
Giziibiigiisaginige-giizhigad.—
It is floor washing day/Saturday.
Anama'e-giizhigad.—It is church day/Sunday.
Aabitooseg.—When/If it is Wednesday.
Niiyo-giizhigak.—
When/if it is the Thursday.

1. Oodenaang niizho-giizhiga ____ indanokii.
2. Apane ninemaabii aabitoose ____.
3. Zanagad ____ anokiiyan ningo-anami'e-giizhik?
4. Nin ____ -minwendaan, ____ -anokiiyaan agwajiing.
5. Gaye gi ____ -minwendaan, anokiiyan agwajiing. Niibing, ____ -aabawaa.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Water. I love cold water. I am happy as I swim. B. On an air mattress, I can relax. C. I laugh hard when I jump in the water. It is fun. D. Where do you get water? In town? Do you have a well? E. We have a well. It is (liquid) clean. We are lucky. F. She goes to get water at the river. The woman boils it. G. Let's all go in the water. You all swim! H. Look! The painted turtle emerges from the water there.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Ingiw 2.Waasa 3. Mewinzha 4. Bagizo 6. Dakib 7. Dibikad Across: 5. Inashke 8. Wendad 9. Nibi 10. Boozhoo

Niiwin-4 1. In town when it is 2nd day/Tuesday I work. (d->k) 2. Always I play pool when it is Wednesday. (-g) 3. Is it difficult ? when you worked one week? (ina -question marker is 2nd word.) 4. I did like it, as I did work outside. (past tense: gii-) 5. Also you will-like it, when you work outside. When is it summer, it will be warm and mild. (wii-)

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 or email lynn@glifwc.org.

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