



Zaasijiwan
• It Ripples •

Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Aaniin gakina awiya! Aaniin ezhi-ayaayan? Aaniin ezhi-eyaawaad awesiinyag? Awenen gidoodem?
Gaawiin mashi gikenimaasiin indoodem. Awenen odoodeman gidede? Awenen odoodeman gimaamaa?
Maang ina gidoodem? Ajijaak ina gidoodem? Waabizheshi na gidoodem? Makwan na odoodeman gidede?
Migiziwan ina odoodeman gimaamaa? Indoodoodemimaa indede. Indoodoodemindimin, nishiime miinawaa niin.
Akiing enishinaabewijig mino-ayaawag.

(Greetings everyone! How are you? How are the wild animals? Who is your clan?
I do not yet know my clan. Who is your father's clan? Who is your mother's clan?
Are you loon clan? Are you crane clan? Are you marten clan? Is your father bear clan?
Is your mother eagle clan? I am the same clan as my father. We are the same clan, my younger sibling and I.
On earth, those who are Anishinaabe are feeling good.)

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)

NI Noun Inanimate NIBI!—Water!

Dakib.—Cold water.
Giizhoogamin.—It (a liquid) is warm.
Gizhaagamide-nibi.—Hot water.
Naadoobii.—S/he gets water.
Ninaadoobii.—I get water.
Ginaadoobii na?—Do **you** get water?
Gwaaba'ibii.—S/he draws water.
Niwii-gwaaba'ibii.—I **will** draw water.
Onda'ibaa.—Water source, well. NI
Nibiikaa.—There **is a lot** of water. VII
Ziiga'andan!—Pour a liquid on it! VTI
Ziiga'andaw!—Pour a liquid on h/h VTA
Agamiing.—At the lake, at the water.
Zaaga'igan(**an**)—Lake(s)
Ziibi—River

Niizh—2

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

A. Gigiizhkaabaagwe na? Giga-mina'in omaa. Minikwen!

B. Nimina'iwe noongom. Awiya na? Daga odaapinan!

C. Gojipidan i'iw nibi! Gigii-minopidaan ina o'ow nibi?

D. Omaa mikwamii-makakong ginaanaa a'aw mikwam gaye.

E. "Nibiikaa imaa!" ningii-ikid, gii- waabandamaan Gichigami.

F. Giwii-kanawendaamin ina zaaga'igan?

G. Apane ganawendandaa nibi!

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

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN
ODAMINOWIN
(word play)

Down:

1. Maybe, or
2. Eagle
3. Fish
4. And, but
8. Bear

Across:

5. Wild animal
6. How, what, why
7. Question word
9. Loon
10. Someone

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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

Ma'iingan
Ma'iinganag
Indoodem—My clan

Niiwin—4

Aaniin waayabandaameg?—What do you all see?
Niwaabandaan-an i'iw/ingiw.—I see it/those.
Nibimose...—I am walking...
Lake(s)(to the).—Zaaga'igan(an)(ing).
Creek(s)(to the).— Ziibiins(an)(ing).
Spring(s)(to the).—Mookijiwanibiig(oon)(ong).
River(s)(to the).—Ziibi(wan)(ing).
Swamp(s)(to the).—Mashkiig(oon)(ong).
There are storm clouds.—Zegaanakwad. (VII)
It is a pond/puddle.—Waanzhibiiyaa.
Iskaabii.—It dries up/recedes.
It is flooded.—Mooshka'an.
It is dirty/polluted water.
—Wiinaagamin.
On shore.—Agamiing.
S/he goes inland.
—Gopii. (VAI)

ina, na
Gi
—ikaa
Nin
—ong

1. Mashkiig____, ina gigii-wanisin imaa?

2. Zaaga'igan____ omaa Gakaabikaang.

3. Bijinaago ziibiing gii-chiimeyaan, ____ gii-gop.

4. Dibikong ina ____ gii-siiga'andaan i'iw ishkode?

5. Gii-naadoobiiwag ____ zibiing? Gemaa ____ gii-naadoobiiwag onda'ibaaning?

Translations:
Niizh—2 A. Are you thirsty? I will give you a drink here. Drink it, you! B. I am giving out drinks. Anybody? Please take it! C. Taste that water! Did you like the taste of this water? D. Here in the freezer, you grab that ice too. E. "That is a lot of water there!" I said when I saw Lake Superior.
F. Will we all take care of the lake? G. Let's always take care of water!
Niswi—3 Down: 2. Gemaa 2. Migizi 3. Giigoonh 4. Dash 8. Makwa Across: 5. Awesiinyang 6. Aaniin 7. Ina 9. Maang 10. Awiya
Niiwin-4 1. In the swamp, were you lost there? (-ong) 2. There are a lot of lakes here in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (-ikaa) 3. Yesterday on the river when I was canoeing, I went inland (nin-). 4. Last night did you pour water on that fire? (Gi-) 5. Did they get water at the river? Or did they get water from another source of water? (ina or na are always 2nd word question marker for yes/no question).
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 5486; or email lynn@glifwc.org.