



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Aaniin, Niibin! Indayaa omaa zaaga'iganing. Nimitab besho mitaawangaang. Hay'! Apane bezhig mizizaak ayaa!
Awaa! Gaye aabawaate. Aw giizis bagakaasige noongom. Waabishkaanakwad. Inashke!
I'iw aanakwad izhinaagwad dibishkoo animosh gezhiibaatood. Niwii-naadin i'iw waabooyaan odaabaaning.
Niwii-kawishim omaa. Giwii-kanawaabandaamin iniw aanakwadoon. Ingigiwiiwakwaane mii ezhi gashkaasosiwaan.
Madweyaashkwaa omaa agwaayaashkaag. Odaminowag, ingiw abinoojiinyag.
Mino-niibino-giizigad mii azhigwa niibing. Mii'iw.

(Hello, it is summer! I am here at the lake. I am sitting on the bare ground by a sandy beach. Dang!
There's always one horsefly here! Go away! Also, it's warm in the sunshine. The sun shines brightly today.
There are white clouds. Look! That cloud looks like a dog who's running fast. I want to go get that blanket in the car.
I want to lie down here. We all will watch those clouds. I'm wearing a hat so I don't get a sunburn.
Waves are heard here as they come onto the shore. Those kids are playing. It is a nice summer day. That's all.)

Bezhig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN

(Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Waaboos—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.

Niibing.—As it is Summer.

Ode'imini-giizis wa'aw giizis.—It is the Strawberry moon (June) month.

Endaso-niibin...—Every summer...

Mawinzo.—S/he picks berries.

Gabeshi.—S/he camps.

Giigoonyike.—S/he fishes.

Bagizo.—S/he goes swimming.

Jiime.—S/he canoes.

Atoono/Jiimaanike.—S/he builds a canoe.

Babaamishkaa.—S/he goes about in a boat.

Niibinishi.—S/he spends the summer somewhere.

Aabita-niibin.—It's midsummer/the 4th of July.

Gitige.—S/he farms, gardens.

Ingitige. Gigitige.—I farm. You farm.

Niizh—2

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

A. Biboonong, gisinaa. Oshki-niibing niminwendam.

B. Bagizowag ina noongom? Gii-ikidowag, “Bagizodaa!”

C. Naadin giziingwe'on! Bagakaasige. Zigajibii'owag.

D. Gaaskanazodiwag. Noongom wii-naawakwe-wiisiniwag.

E. Nawajiidaa agwajiing! Zaagizitoon! Nimbakade gaye.

F. Endaso-niibing, niminwendam babaamoseyaan.

G. Gibabaamose na?

H. Ambe! Babaamosen! Babaamosedaa!

J N E I O

B I O Z N N

G I S I N A A

N B H N Z A A M

A I K I D W B D O

O Z I I E A J T I B

N I M B A K A D E N Z

W Y M I N W Z O E S A O

T A E N D E M Y N G I W

A A B G I H A Z I B E H

G Z O B A G I Z O D A A

B A B A A M O S E N I N

ode-imin(an)

strawberry(ies)

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN

ODAMINOWIN

(word play)

Across:

1. They play.

3. here

6. Dang!

7. Go away!

8. S/he canoes.

9. horsefly

Down:

2. moon/sun/month

4. cloud

5. S/he picks berries.

mitigomizh(iig)—oak(s)

Online Resources

ojibwe.lib.umn.edu

ojibwe.net

glifwc.org

glifwc-inwe.com

Niiwin—4

Verbs, Animate, Intransitive: VAI's

Babaamaadizi.—S/he travels about.

Nibabaamaadiz.—I travel about...

(to the) lake—zaaga'igan(ing)

(to the) town—oodena(ang)

Gibabaamaadiz ina?—Do you travel about?

(to the) farm—gitigaan(ing)?

(to the) store—adaawewigamig(ong)?

*Obviation: 2 beings in statement:

Jake ogii-waabamaan makwan.—

Jake he did see him/her a bear.

2 living being(s) in statement→

2nd being(s)—to whom action goes, is obviated.

Him/her or them are spoken as an obviates or the 2nd 3rd person (aka the 4th person).

1. Nimaamaa ogii-kanawenimaan nindaanis _____.

2. Zaaga'igan _____, ingii-waabamaag niizh maangwag.

3. Noomaya niibing, Hank gii-chiimanike giowedin _____.

4. Bijiinaago ziibing, _____gii-chiime. Gii-minwendaagwad.

5. _____oodamin ina agwaajiing endaso-niibin? Geget!

6. Ani-niibing, apegish minoseyeg zaaga'iganing.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. When it is winter it is cold. When it is early summer, I am happy. B. Are they going swimming today? They said, “Let’s all go swimming!” C. Fetch a towel! The sun shines brightly. They are tired of waiting. D. They are whispering to each other. Now they want to eat lunch. E. Let’s all take a lunch break! Take it outside! I’m hungry too. F. Every summer, I’m happy when I walk around. G. Do you walk around? H. Come on! Walk around! Let’s all walk around!

Niswi—3 Across: 1. odaminowag 3. omaa 6. hay’ 7. awas 8. jiime 9. mizizaak Down: 2. giizis 4. anaakwad 5. mawinzo

Niiwin-4 1. My mother, she cared for my daughter. (-an *obviation ending) 2. At the lake, I saw two loons. (-ing). 3. In a recent summer, Hank built a canoe in the north. (-ong) 4. Yesterday on the river, I canoed. It was fun. (nin) 5. Do you play outside every summer? For sure! (Gid-). 6. As summer begins, I hope you all have good luck at the lake.

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. © 2022 Shelly Ceglar • Edited by Jennifer Ballinger, Saagajiwe-Gaabawiik