



# Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

## They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Booshke giin. Anishinaabemog/Ojibwemog! Akawe, daga ikidon, “Aaniin!” gemaa “Boozhoo!” Aaniin ezhi-ayaayan? Nimino-ayaa. Giin dash? Mii dash gagwejimad: Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan? \_\_\_\_\_ indizhinikaaz. Indoojibwem bangii. Ninitaa-ojibwem. Gigikinoo’amawaa abinoojiinh giishpin netaa-ojibwemoyan. Biboon noongom. Gisinaa. Minwendaagwad. Boodawen! Minwaajimon! Aadizooken! Minawaanikwad. Gakina awiya daga izhaadaa agwajiing noongom!

(It is your decision. You all speak the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe language! First, please say, “Hello!” or “Hi!” How are you? I am well. And you? And then you ask him or her: What is your name? \_\_\_\_\_ is my name. I speak Ojibwe a little bit. I’m skillful at speaking Ojibwe. Teach a child if you are a really skilled Ojibwe speaker. It is winter now. It is cold. It is fun. Build a fire! Tell a good story! Tell a sacred story! It is exciting. Everyone please let’s all go outside now!

Bezhig—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)

Niizh—2

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

A. Biboong indizhaa zaaga’iganing. Indakwa’waa. (VAI)

B. Biboong, nindagindaas neniibowa waakaa’iganing. (VAI)

C. Biboon. Gisinaa. Gooniwan. Niiskaadad, geget! (VII)

D. Niizho-giizhigad. Aabitaa-dibikad. (VII)

E. Inga-miijin okosimaan ningo-diba’iganek. (VTI)

F. Indayaan onow niizh okosimaanan. (VTI)

G. Ingii-waabamaa nimaamaa. (VTA)

H. Gaawiin ningii-waabamaasiin nindede. (VTA)

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN

ODAMINOWIN

(word play)

Down:

1. first

2. Let’s all go!

3. or

5. Say it!

7. friend

9. It is foggy.

Across:

4. Give it to him/her!

6. please

8. someone

10. more

Niiwin—4

Ginwaa Ikidowinan—Long words

Miini-baashkiminisigani-biitoosiji-gani-baadigwingwezhigani-bak-wezhigan (ag)—Blueberry Pie (s)

Blueberry cooked to sauce in pie-face covered bread.

Mishiimini-baashkimininsigani-bi-itoosijigani-bakwezhigan—Apple Pie.

Apple cooked to sauce in pie and bread.

Future tenses: **wii- will or want to, da- or ga- definite will.**

Past tense: **gii- did**

And—**dash or idash, ashi in counting**

Question markers as

2nd word—**na, ina**

1. Waabang megwayaak ni \_\_\_\_\_ - waabamaa waawaashkeshi.

2. In \_\_\_\_\_ -waabamaag niizh migiziwag zaaga’iganing.

3. Gigii-mikawaa \_\_\_\_\_ moozweshkan iwidi? (yes/no?)

4. Inashke iwidi! Waagosh waabooz \_\_\_\_\_ bimibatoowag. (and)

5. In \_\_\_\_\_ -andokawe’aa megwaayaak noongom. Waaboozikaaw iwidi. (will definitely)

**Translations:**

**Niizh—2** A. When it is winter, I go to the lake. I spearfish through the ice. (VAI) B. When it is winter, I read a lot at the house. (VAI) C. It is winter. It is cold. It is snowy. It is bad weather, for sure! (VII) D. It is Tuesday. It is midnight. (VII) E. I shall eat a squash when it is one o’clock. (VTI) F. I have these two squashes. (VTI) G. I saw my mother (VTA). H. I did not see my Father. (VTA negation)

**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Nitam 2. Izhaadaa 3. Gemaa 5. Ikidon 7. Niijii 9. Awan Across: 4. Miizh 6. Daga 8. Awiya 10. Nawaj

**Niiwin—4** 1. Tomorrow in the woods, I want to see a deer. (wii-) 2. I saw two eagles at the lake. (gii-) 3. Did you find the moose antlers over there? (ina) 4. Look over there! That fox and rabbit are running! (idash) 5. I will definitely look for his tracks in the woods today. There are a lot of rabbits over there. (ga-)

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](mailto:lynn@glifwc.org).

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