



Zaasijiwan
• It Ripples •

Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing. They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Gidizhaa na agwajiing? Gaye niin. Noogishkaan! Bizindan! Awenen eyaad imaa? Aaniin ezhichigewaad? Oonh, inashke! Mitigong, ingiw esibanag odakwaandawewag. Iwidi waasa, jiigikana ingiw niizh makwag animosewag. Howah! Mandaamini-gitigaaning, endasonaagosh ingiw waawaashkeshiiwag wiisiniwag. Wewiib! Biboon. Wiisinig! Noongom gigii-mikaanaawaan, giwaazhinaanan. Waawaashkeshiwag, izhaag awas mashkiigong. Gaawiin ingii-ashamaasiinaanig biboong. Ningii-pooni'aanaanig ingiw waawaashkeshiiwag. Ganawendan aki miinawaa nibi. Ikwanaamon! Miigwech!

(Are you going outside? Me too. Stop! Listen to it! Who is there? What are they doing? Oh, look! In the tree, those raccoons are climbing. Far over there, by the road those two bears are walking away. Wow! In the corn field, every evening, those deer eat. Hurry up! It is winter. You all eat! Now you all found your dens. Deer, you all go away to the swamp. No, we did not feed them as it is winter. We left those deer alone. Protect the land and water. Breathe in! Thank you!)

Bezbig — 1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Waa^{booz}—as in fa^{ther}
Miig^{wech}—as in ja^y
Aaniⁱⁿ—as in seeⁿ
Moo^z—as in mooⁿ
—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Dash—as in ab^{out}
Ing^{iw}—as in tiⁿ
Niizh^o—as in on^{ly}

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.
—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

VII: "To it" Verbs, Inanimate, Intransitive; action for It is/was/will...or There is/was/will...

Biskane.—It catches fire; ignites.
Gii-piskane.—It caught fire; ignited.
Wii-piskane.—It will catch fire; ignite.
Nawadide.—It catches fire.
Gii-nawadide.—It caught fire.
Wii-nawadide.—It will to catch fire.
Zaka'igaade.—It's lit on fire by someone.
Gii-saka'igaade.—It was lit on fire by someone.
Boodawaade.—There's a fire in the fireplace.
Wii-poodawaade.—There will be fire in fireplace.
VAI: Nawadizo.—S/he catches fire.
Ningii-nawadiz.—I caught fire.
Wii-nawadizowag.—They will catch fire.
VAI only—drop short end vowel in 1st (I) and 2nd (you) person

Niizh — 2

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

A. Dibaajimishin! Aaniindi (or Aandi) gaa-atoon i'iw mishi?

B. Agwajiing (n)indayaanan iniw misaa. Ninga-naadinan.

C. Nindaa-naajimijime na wiisiniwigamigong? Gibakade na??

D. Eya'. Boodawaaning omaa niwii-miijimin baaka'aakwe-wiyya.

E. Gisinaa agwajiing. Niwii-mikaan. Niwii-piichibabiinzikawaagane.

F. Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiing? Zoogipon ina.

G. Giwedinong. Gaawiin zoogiponzinoon.

H. Dakate waaka'igan Gizizan!



Niswi — 3

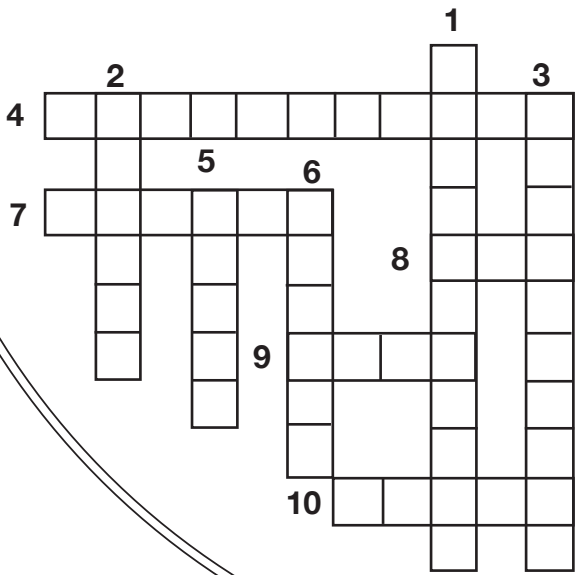
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- Stop
- Who
- Protect it!
- Those (animate)
- As it is winter.

Across:

- To the swamp
- Hurry up!
- Question marker
- Oh!
- Far, distant



Mamaangipon.
There are big snowflakes.

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

Niiwin — 4

Wegonen enendaman biboong?—
What are you thinking about in winter?

Niminwendam aagimeyaan megwayaak.—
I am happy as I snowshoe in the woods.

Niwii-zhooshkwaagime wayiiba.—I want to ski soon.

Gaawiin ninitaawaada'esiin.—No, I don't skate.

Ingii-pedaada'e.—I did skate slowly.

Da-soogipon.—It will definitely snow.

Wii-gisinaa.—It will be cold.

Biboonong, nibabaamaadiz zhaawannong.—Last winter, I traveled to the south.

Mii'iw.—This is it.

1. Waabang ni _____ mikaan i'iw gichi-wiiwakwaan

2. Biiijinaago _____ aagime naano-diba'igan. Howah!

3. _____ niminwendanzii mangaanibaazhag.

4. Giwedin _____ ninganawaab, waawaateg.

5. Niminwendam wisini _____, nibaa _____, ojibwemo _____, odamino _____. Miigwech.

—yaan

wii—

ningii—

Gaawiin

—ong

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Tell it to me! Where is the piece of wood? B. Outside I have the firewood. I will get it. C. I could go get food at the restaurant? Are you hungry? D. Yes, by the fire here we will eat chicken (meat). E. It is cold outside. I will find it. I will put on a coat. F. No, I do not have it. I want to go to the grocery store. G. What's the weather like outside? Is it snowing. H. There is a north wind. No, it is not snowing. I. The house is cold. Heat it up!

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Noogishkaan 2. Awenen 3. Ganawendan 5. Ingwi 6. Biboon Across: 4. Mashkiigong 7. Wewiib 8. Ina 9. oonh 10. Waasa
Niiwin—4 1. Tomorrow I want to find that big hat. (wii-) 2. Yesterday I snowshoed five miles. Wow! (ningii-) 3. No, I am not happy when I shovel snow (Gaawiin. -siin). 4. I look to the north when there are the Northern lights. (-ong) 5. I am happy when I eat, when I sleep, when I speak Ojibwe, when I play. (-yaan)

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.
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