



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Aaniin! Aandi gaa-izhaayan? Ningii-kiiyose gaa-tagwaaging. Ingii-nooji'aag binewag. Ningii-nandawishibe gaye. Inashke! Jiibaakwewigamigong, nindayaan gete-jiibaakwe-gizhaabikizigan. Noongom, niwii-chiibaakwe. Ningii-ayaan wiyaas. Gigii-kiiyose na? Gaye ningii-izhaa wiisnii-adaawewigamigong. Ningii-miijimadaawe. Niminopidaan mashkode-bizhiki-wiiaas. Ambe omaa! Biindigen! Daga namadabin imaa! Gibakade na? Dazhiiken imaa. Niwii-kiizizamoon noongom. Indayaawaa jiibaakwewakik. Indayaawaag zaasagokwaanag gaye. Nibakade. Niminwendam gidaayaa omaa, gaye. Chi-miigwech. Mii'iw. Howah!

Greetings! Where did you go? I hunted when it was fall/autumn. I hunted partridges. I hunted ducks also. Look! In the kitchen/cook shack, I have a very old stove. Today, I will be cooking. I had meat. Did you hunt? Also, I went to the grocery store. I bought food. I like the taste of buffalo meat. Come here! Come in! Please sit there! Are you hungry? Stay there. I will cook something for you now. I have a cooking pot. I have frybreads also. I am hungry. I am happy you are here, too. Many thanks. That is all. Wow!

Bezhig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN

(Ojibwe Language)

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

Ingii—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.

VAI's—Simple Verbs for Animate People

Anishinaabe(g)—Person(People)

Abinoojiinh(Abinoojiinyag)—Child(ren)

Abinoojiyens(ag)—Baby(Babies)

Ikwe(wag)—Woman(women)

Inini(wag)—Man(men)

Bemaadizid(jig)—One who lives(pl)

S/he eats. They eat.—Wisini. Wiisiniwag

S/he drinks. They drink.—Minikwe. Minikewag.

S/he giggles. They giggle.—Baapi. Baapiwag.

S/he cries. They cry.—Mawi. Mawiwag.

S/he walks slow. They walk slow.—Bedose. Bedosewag...(add person(s))

They were happy.—Gii-minwendamoog.

They will be happy.—Wii-minwendamoog.

Niizh—2

Circle the 11 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Ginitaa-gashkigwaas ina? Ningii-kashkigwaas bangi.

B. Ningii-mazinigwaas gaye. Nizaagitoon apane.

C. Ningii-wanigwaadaan, ingii-wanaabidoo'ige idash.

D. Niminwendam gidagaag, geget.

E. Minwaande, giishpin waabishikaag gemaa makadewaag.

F. Ozaawaa. Waabishkwaa. Ozhaawashkwaa.

G. Gidadisige.

H. Aniibiish minwaande.

G M B I N

I I G A Y E

I N D O N Z I

S W Z A M O W A

H A H E D O N H G

P A G S E I S N I A

I N I I Z A S Y D A W

N D A M O H P I A K D B

Z E P I O B O O G I I A

O Z A A W A A O A E Z N

W D N M T A I D A S H G

K G E G E T B N G Z E I

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN

ODAMINOWIN

(word play)

DOWN:

1. yes/no question maker

2. partridge (plural)

3. one who lives

4. and/but

5. also, too

Across:

6. Stay there!

7. old, ancient

8. come

9. here

10. woman

11. man

Boodawazo.

(S/he builds a fire to warm up.)

Online Resources

ojibwe.lib.umn.edu

ojibwe.net

glifwc.org

glifwc-inwe.com

Niiwin—4

Who? What? Where? Why?:

The W-Word Question Patterns, initial vowel change, verb's suffix patterns

Aandi, Aaniindi?—Where? Awenen?—Who?

Aaniin?—How?/In what way? Aaniish?—How, Why?

Aaniin apii?—When?

Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiing?

—How is the weather outside?

A: Zoogipon. (It snows.)

Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan?—How/what are you named?

A: [Name] nindizhinikaaz.—[Name] is my name.

Aandi ezhaawaad? Where are they going?

A: [Place] izhaawag.

They are going to [a place].

Aaniin apii gaa-izhaad?

—When did s/he go?

Gii-izhaa bijiinaago.

—S/he went yesterday.

Gagwejitoon! ! Try it!

1. _____-soogipon omaa.

Gii-pimikawe.

2. _____a'aw zhooniyaawagosh

gii-kiiyose omaa.

3. Aaniin apii *mayaajaa* _____?

Giwii-wiijiwin noopiming

4. Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiing? _____. Zhakipon.

5. Awenen? _____. Aaniish? Aaniin apii? Ojibwemowin!

6. Apegish mino-ayaad.

7. Giishpin bakadeyaan, niwii-chiibaakwaan.

Zoogipon

-yan

Aaniin

Gii-

Bijiinaago

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Do you know how to sew? I sewed a little bit. B. I embroidered too. I always loved it. C. I made a mistake sewing and I made a mistake beading on the loom. D. I am happy when it is multi-colored, that's right. E. It is a good color, if it is white or black. F. It's yellow/brown. It's white. It's green/blue. G. You color things. H. The leaf is a good color.

Niswi—3 **Down:** 1. Na 2. Binewag 3. Bemaadizid 4. Dash 5. Gaye **Across:** 6. Dazhiiken 7. Gete 8. Ambe 9. Omaa 10. Ikwe 11. Inini

Niiwin-4 1. **It was** snowing here. S/he left tracks along here. (Gii-) 2. **Yesterday**, that silver fox hunted here. (Bijiinaago) 3. When are **you** leaving? I will go with you to the woods. (-yan) 4. What's the weather outside? **It is snowing**. It is a wet heavy snow. (Zoogipon.) 5. Who? **What?** Why? When? The Ojibwe/Anishinaabeg language! (Aaniin) 6. I hope you are well. 7. If I am hungry, I will cook something

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