



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Wiidookaage. Giwiidookaage na? Omashkikiikazhaas, mashkikiiwinini/mashkikiiwiniiikwe. Bami'iwewag. Nimiigwechiwenimaa. Gaye wiibidaakewinini/wiibidaakewikwe. Izhi, "Gichi-miigwech!"
Gaye, gimaamaa dash gidede. Maagizhaa gekinoo'amaaged, dakoniwewinini dash dakoniwewikwe, dash mazina'iganiiwinini/mazina'iganiiwikwe. Gaye, giinawaa, gimigwechiweniminim!
Apegish menoseyeg gaye waawiyebii'iganing. Mino-giizhigad noongom. *Mii'iw, gichi-miigwech.*

(He or She helps people. Do you help people? S/he treats them/people, a medicine/doctorman/doctor-woman. They heal/take care of people. I thank him/her. Also a dentist/dentist woman. Tell him/her! "Great/big-thanks!"
Also, your mother and your father. Maybe to "one who teaches," a policeman and a policewoman, and paper/postal man/woman. Also, you all, I give thanks to you all!
I wish you all goodness/wellness also, in the circle. It is a good day today. *That's all, great-thanks.*)

Bezhig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Waa**bo**oz—as in f**ath**er

Miig**w**ech—as in j**ay**

Aani**i**n—**i**i as in s**ee**n

Moo**z**—as in m**oo**n

Short Vowels: A, I, O

Dash—as in a**bo**ut

Ingi**w**—as in t**i**n

Niizh**o**—as in o**n**ly

• A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.

• Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

• English can lose its natural flow in language translations.

Speak it!
Anishinaabemon!

Minwendan!—Like it!
Niminwendaan.—I like it.
Giminwendaan.—You like it.
Ominwendaanaawaa.—They like it.

Add any Noun Inanimate (NI) that you like.

aanakwad(oon)—a cloud(s)
waabooyaan—blanket
bashkwegin—a hide or leather
aasaakamig—moss
onaagan—dish/Plate
mazina'igan—book

Try the VTI: Ayaan—Have/own it!
Nindayaan...add NI. I have it _____.

Pluralize the verb and noun (add -n -an, -oon)
when speaking of more than one thing.
Nindayaanan waawanoon.—I have eggs.

Niizh—2

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

A. Ambe omaa! Nindoday. Niijii izhinikaazo. Mino-ayaa.

B. Niijii ozaawizi. Gagaanwaanikwe. Mino-izhiwebizi.

C. Niijii daga namadabin omaa. Gigiishkaabaagwe na?

D. Biiminakwaan nindayaan.

E. Nimbimosemin endaso-giizhik

F. Giwiida'adoomiminaam ina?

G. Gidede, Niijii, dash niin
nimino-izhi-webizimin.

H. Miigwech, mii'iw.

A M B E G
O K W A Y I
M S A N J Z D
I E B I I H W E
I Z E N Y I N I D
G G H D ' N Z H N E
W I N A M I B O I I D
E E A Y W K D O I Z I B
C O O A D A Z N J W H N
H H A A E A A ' I E G M
N Z ' N M Z G Z I N B I
O N I N D O D A Y O N K



mamaangipon
there are big
snowflakes

Niswi—3

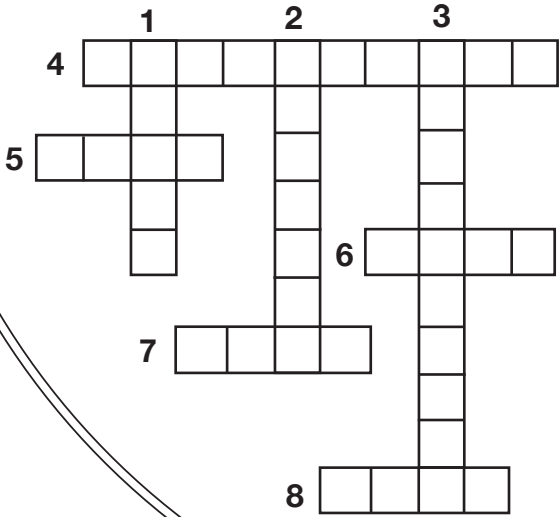
**IKIDOWIN
ODAMINOWIN
(word play)**

DOWN:

- have/own it
- plate/dish
- moss

Across:

- blanket
- here
- also, and
- good
- please



zoogipon
it snows

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

Niiwin—4

**Aaniin—Greetings! or
How...? What way...? Why...?**

Aaniin ezhi-ayaayeg?—How are you all?
Aaniin ezhinikaazod?—What's h/h name?
Gii-maajaawaad ina?—Did they leave?
Amang iidog.—I am not certain maybe.
Giga-waabamin.—I'll see you/bye.

Mino-nibaa-anami'e giizhigad!—Happy-
sleeping-praying day! (Christmas greetings!)

Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiing?—
What's the weather?

Zoogipon!—It snows!

Gaa-miskojaaned adikoons.
—A red nosed reindeer!

1. _____-giizhigad noongom!

2. Aaniin ezhi-ayaa _____?

3. Aandi ezhaawaad? Zhooshkwaagime _____.

4. Aandi wenjibaayeg? _____zhooshkwaagime _____!

5. VTI is a: _____.

Learn VTI "root verbs" & patterns to speak about non-living things.

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Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Come here! I have her a dog. Niijii—my friend, she is named. S/he is good. B. Niijii is yellow. She has long hair. She is well-behaved. C. My friend please sit here! Are you thirsty? D. Rope, leash, I have it. E. We walk everyday. F. You walk on the trail with us? G. Your dad, Niijii and I, we fare well. H. Miigwech. that's it.

Niswi—3 **Down:** 1. ayaan 2. onaagan 3. aasaakamig **Across:** 4. waabooyaan 5. omaa 6. gaye 7. mino 8. daga

Niiwin-4 1. **Good** day now/today! (Mino) 2. How are **you all?** (yeg) 3. Where are they going? **They** are going skiing. (-wag) 4. Where are you all going? **We** ski! (Nin- -min) 5. VTI is a **Verb**—It's action/feeling. Action **Transfers** to an **Inanimate thing**. Root VTI's are commands! The prefix/suffix patterns for actions/feelings are used when speaking about I, You, S/he, They, and We/We all. Example: Minwendan!—Like it! **Niminwendaan** i'iw onaagaans.—I like **it** that cup. **Niminwendaan** o'ow Mazina'igan.—I like this Paper.

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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