



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Howah! Gidayaa omaa. Eya! Aaniin ezhi-ayaayeg? Niminwendam ezhi-ayaayan omaa! Giga-minwendam gaye wii-ojibwemoyeg bangii. Nitam, gidasiginaanan Ojibwemowin-ikidowinan. Giga-minwendam. Niiwin gemaa, ganabaj midaaso ikidowinan. Naabinootaagen! Gaawiin wendazinoon. Minwendaagwad, Biboon Ikidowinan: Waabooz, Goon, Zhakipon, Dawaagone'ige, Ozhaashikwaa, Minjikawanag, Miijim. Daga ojibwemodaa!

(Alright! You're in a place here. Yes! How thusly-are you all? I am happy you are here! And you will be happy also, when/if you all will-speak Ojibwe language a bit. First, you gather them Ojibwe words. You will be happy. Four perhaps, maybe ten words. Repeat what others say! No, it's not easy. It is fun, Winter Words: Snowshoe Hare, Snow, Wet snow. S/he shovels snow. Slippery ice. Mittens. Food. Please let's all speak Ojibwe Language!)

Bezbig—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 hesitation as in A'aw.

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

OJIBWEMOWIN

(Ojibwe Language)

Biboong...
ningigibabiinzikawaa ganemin. Gaye biboonimak izinan, idash wiiwakwaan
Gisinaa omaa.—**As it is winter...** we wear coats. Also winter shoes/boots and hat. **It's** cold here. Gego mashkawaa-kawajiken!—Don't get frostbite!
Gooniwan.—**It is** snowy. Goon—Snow
Wii-biboong, inga-dawaagone'aan.—**When** it **will** be winter, I'll shovel snow.
Biboon is a **VII**—a Verb, Inanimate, (non-living), and Intransitive (action does not transfer to other thing or person.) VII's are the “*It is....*” verbs.
• Biboon.—*It is* winter.
• Zoogipong...—**As it** snows... (weather)
• Zesakwaa.—*It is* a heavy frost.
• Zesakwaag...—**When/if/as it is** a heavy frost...
• **Gaawiin** biiwanzinoon.—*It is no* blizzard.

Niizh—2

Circle the 8 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Ninzaagitoon mashkawaakwading agwajiing. Ambe!
B. Omaa, zhooshkwaada'e. Ninitaawaada'e noongom.
C. Ojibwemowin. Endaso-giizhik agindaasodaa!
D. Wayiiba, inga-akwa'waamin.
E. Gego ozhaashikoshiken!
Maagizhaa wii-mikwamii-wadamon.
F. Gidayaana ina boodawaanaabik?
G. Nindombendam.
H. Nawaj gisinaa.

W	A	S	H	N							
J	G	A	O	I	E	M					
G	I	S	I	N	A	A	E				
Z	N	E	P	Z	G	K	M	O			
A	D	W	A	A	B	E	I	I	J		
S	A	G	W	A	J	I	I	N	G		
A	A	B	B	G	O	'	I	O	E	W	
K	S	N	E	I	N	A	G	B	K	D	
W	O	Z	A	T	W	E	Z	O	O	E	A
A	D	I	'	O	G	S	H	A	B	O	N
A	A	G	O	O	M	A	A	M	J	W	N
B	A	O	W	N	A	W	A	J	K	I	G

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN
ODAMINOWIN
(word play)

DOWN:
2. first
3. heavy wet snow
4. a little bit, a few
5. It is cold weather.

ACROSS:
1. It is winter.
6. You are in a place/a certain way.
7. food
8. four

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

Snow - Goon
It's slippery - Ozhaashaa
Ice - Mikwam

Niiwin—4

Nimaamaa, Nindede! Aaniin ezhi-ayaayeg?
Gizaagi'ininim.
My mother, my father! How are you all? Love you all.
Niniijaanisag, gizaagi'ininim. Zaagi'idiwin.
My children, I love you all. Mutual love.
Waaseyaa!—It is sunny!

Endaso-giizhik!: Anama'e-giizhigad. Ishkwaa-anama'e-giizhigad. Niizho-giizhigad. Aabitoose. Niiyo-giizhigad. Naano-giizhigad. Giziibiigisaginige-giizhigad.

Everyday!: Prayer day (Sun.), 1st work day (Mon.), 2nd-day (Tues.), Halfway Day (Wed.), 4th day (Thurs.), 5th day (Fri.), House cleaning day (Sat.).

Mii'iw!—That is all!
Let's all speak Ojibwe!

1. _____ wiidookaage.
2. _____ gichi-baapi omaa.
3. _____ wawiyadendaagozi.
4. _____ apane babaamose oodenaang.
5. _____ akwa'waa. Niibing, i'iw jiimaan.
6. Apegish menoseyeg.

Gidede
Gimaamaa
Nimise
Nisaye
Nishiime

©2025 Shelly Ceglar

Translations:
Niizh—2 A. I love it when it is freezes outside. Come! B. Here, s/he ice skates! I know how to skate now. C. The Language. Everyday, let's all read/count! D. Soon, we will spear fish through the ice. E. Don't slip/fall! Perhaps icy trails. F. Do you have a fireplace/stove? G. I am hopeful/ excited. H. More cold weather.
Niswi—3 **Down:** 2. Nitam 3. Zhakipon 4. Bangii 5. Gisinaa **Across:** 1. Biboon 6. Gidayaa 7. Miijim 8. Niiwin
Niiwin—4 **Pick a person for each:** 1. _____ s/he is always helping people. 2. _____ s/he laughs a big laugh here. 3. s/he is thought to be funny/cute. 4. _____ s/he always walks around town. 5. _____ s/he goes spearing.ice fishing. In the summer, that canoe. 6. I hope you all have good luck/happenings. (Your dad (Gidede). Your mom (Gimaamaa). My older sister (Nimise). My older brother (Nisaye). My younger sibling (Nishiime).) 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 pio@glifwc.org. *Edited by Michael Waasegiizhig Price*