



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

“Howah! Noongom, Ziigwan. Niminwendam, gidayaa omaa. Boozhoo! Aaniin! Aaniin ezhi-ayaayeg?—  
Ojibwemodaa! Ojibwe-ikidowinan. (Giwaabandaanan ozhibii'iganan  
nisayi'ii -Bezhigh-1). Ikidowinan, Ikidowinan! Noongom... **Giwii**-minwendam. Howah!  
Giwii-ojibwem. Giwii-kizhiiwe. Daga, **gidojibwemom**! Howah! Bezhigh, niizh, niswi—Izhaan!

(Alright! Now, it is Spring. I am happy, you are in this place here. Greetings! Hello/How! How thusly-are  
you all?—Let's all speak Ojibwe! Ojibwe-words. (You see the alphabet letters/vowels sounds down from  
it-Bezhigh-1). Words, Words! Now... **You will** be happy. Great! You will speak Ojibwe. You will speak  
with a clear voice. Please, **you all** speak Ojibwe!!  
Alright! One, two, three—Go!)

**Bezhigh—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  
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.

“**Ziigwang, giminwendamin.**  
Endaso-ziigwangagwaajiiing,  
**gibinaakwe'igemin.** Gisinaa  
omaa geyaabi. Bimipon.”

*When it is Spring, we are happy.  
As it's-spring outside, we rake things.  
It feels cool here yet. Snow goes along.*

Maagizhaa gaye, gooniwaa. —  
And perhaps, it is snowy.

Ziigwan.-It is spring. VII's are the **“It is... verbs** - a Verb, Inanimate, Intransitive. Like the “Weather” ikidowinan (words).  
Biizibiisaa. - It is a light rain/drizzle.  
Bii zi bii saa. (Fun to say) & Gimiwan.-It rains.

**Niizh—2** Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Waabigwaniin! Nawaj waabigwaniin daga. Anokii.  
B. Wewebanaabii. Migiskaneyaabiin. Minwendam.  
C. Noongom waaseyaa agwajiiing zaaga'iganing. Eya'!  
D. Ayaawag opichiwag. Bakadewag.  
E. Gii-ningide dekaag. Ningide mikwamii-makakong. Gaawiin!  
F. Nindizhaa gitigaan.  
G. Giwii-ayaa ina gitigaaning imaa?  
H. Eya'. Niwii-gitige.

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



Waawaashkeshi (Deer)

**Niswi—3**

**IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)**

**DOWN:**

- It melts.
- Snow goes away.
- Speaking, Words
- In certain place
- No, Not

**ACROSS:**

- It's a light drizzle.
- Please, Come on.
- Greetings. What/why?

Wiidige. (S/he marries.)  
Zaagi'idiwag. (They love each other.)

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

**Niiwin—4**

**Nimishoomis, Nookomis! Aaniin-ezhi-ayaayeg? Gizaaga'ininim.**  
My grandfather, My grandmother!  
How are you all? We love you all.  
**Gimino-ayaamin.**—We are good.  
**VII root**—It is colored so—**Inaande.**

It is blue/green.—Ozhaawashkwaa(g)  
It is brown/yellow.—Ozaawaa(g).  
It is red.—Miskwaa. They're: Miskwaag  
It is black.—Makadewaa.(g) (g=living)  
It is white.—Waabishkaa.(g) (g=plural)  
Plural: add -wan.(-wan: non-living)  
Ozaawaawan.—They're yellow.  
Miskwaawan.—They're red.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 mazina'iganan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 gichi-zaaga'iganan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 waakaa'iganan zaaga'iganing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 ayaa gichi-baapi omaa.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 akwa'waa. Niibing, i'iw jiimaan.
- Apegish menoseyeg.

**Translations:**  
**Niizh—2** A. Flowers! More flowers please. S/he works. B. S/he fishes with hook and line. Hooks and lines. S/he is happy. C. Today it is sunny outside at the lake. Yes! D. They're in a certain way, the robins. They are hungry. E. It did-melt, the ice cream. It melt in the ice box. No! F. I go to the garden. G. You will go? to the garden there? H. Yes, I will plant.  
**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Ningide 2. Bimipon 3. Ikidowinan 6. Aandi Across: 5. Biizibiisaa! 5. On Earth 7. Ina 8. Apegish 9. Imaa  
**Niiwin—4** 1. Niiwin papers. 2. Niizh big-lakes. 3. Naanan houses by the lake. 4. Niswi, always walks around town. 5. bezhigh s/he goes spearing/ice fishing. In the summer that canoe. 6. I hope you all have good luck/happenings.

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.  
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