



# Anishinaabemwin

A Beginners' Ojibway Language Course

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Ontario Native Literacy Coalition

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## Introduction - The Grammar

### E-naabiising Nwe'ewin

The following lessons are meant to introduce you to the Ojibway/Odawa language or sometimes referred to as Anishnaabemwin. We must first have a look at the grammatical structure so that you will be able to understand what you will be learning. Many individuals who already speak one language are able to start understanding and using another language. The parts of speech are nine as in other languages – the article, noun, adjective, pronoun, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection and the verb. These will be studied as they arise, and you are not expected to know all in this course.

By the end of this introductory/beginners' course, the learner will know the following:

- The sounds of the language – the vowels and consonants and be able to read and write words using the double-vowel system of writing;
- That the Ojibway/Odawa language divides all objects into two classes animate and inanimate, both for nouns and verbs and also in the article, adjective and pronoun;
- That there are two first person's plural: we, (*niinwi*) excluding the person spoken to and we (*giinwi*) including the person spoken to;
- That there is no indefinite article 'a' the object is simply mentioned alone or with one – a man, *inini* or *bezhig inini*;
- That there is, however, a definite animate and definite inanimate article. For example: the man (*owh inini*) and the box (*ewh mkak*). More will be studied in the Demonstrative Pronoun section;
- That Nouns have gender (animate and inanimate) and number (singular and plural), the diminutive ending (indicating smallness) derogative ending (term of endearment or derogatory), and locative – indicating location i.e. to the bank (*zhoonyaagamigong*);
- That the verb – a word that tells what the action is or the state of something, come in four types and that they can command and negate. And to use the verb, the learner needs to know the seven pronouns and how they are used, as well as the suffixes of the verb;
- Develop their vocabulary pertinent to each lesson.

Learners will also be aware of:

- Adjectives – words that describe the noun i.e. the big canoe (*ewh gchi-jiimaan*)
- Adverbs – words that modify the verb i.e. Tim ate heartily (*Tim gii-gchi-wiisni*).

There are many other aspects of the grammar that can be studied but as this is only an introductory/beginners' course, further can be learned in intermediate and advanced classes.

## Lesson 1-The Sound of Our Language - Enwe'ek Gdi-nwewninaanh

Let's start with the sounds that are in our Anishinaabe language.

### Vowels

There are three short vowels: a, i, o

Short vowel	Sounds like....
a	but, cut, hut
i	bit, fit, sit
o	book, cook, took

Practice these three sounds, saying the English word, but concentrate on the vowel sound in that English word.

Then there are four long vowels: aa, ii, oo, e

They are called long vowels because they sound longer than the short vowels.

Long vowel	Sounds like....
aa	cob, caught, hot
ii	see, feet, bean
oo	boat, coat, foam
e	bed, fed, lead

Practice these four sounds, saying the English word, but concentrate on the vowel sound in that English word. You might ask why the "e" is a long vowel when it has only one letter, but it is the sound that is long.

### Nasal Sounds

There are the Nasal sounds where the vowels are followed by "nh". There are no English equivalents to these sounds.

Nasal Sound	Sounds like...
aanh	Banajaanh - nestling
iinh	Bineshiinh - bird
oonh	Giigoonh - fish
enh	Mshiikenh - turtle

## Anishinaabemwin - Beginners' Ojibway Language Course

Vowels are nasalized before ns, nz, and nzh. The n is then omitted in pronunciation such as:

gaawiin ingikendanziiin wi = I don't know it

jiimaanens = small boat

oshkanzhiin = someone's fingernail(s)

Long vowels after a nasal consonant m or n are often nasalized, especially before s, sh, z, or zh. It is often difficult to decide whether to write these as nasalized vowels or not.

Example: we write the word for "moose" without indicating the phonetic nasalization, many prefer to write it with an n: mooz or moonz

### Consonants

The consonants that are found are:

b	d	g	j	z	zh
p	t	k	ch	s	sh

m, n, w and y

The top row of consonants sometimes sounds like the ones on the bottom. For example: b and p, some might say Pkwezghan (bread), while others might say Bkwezghan. This is due to the dialectal areas of our Nishnaabe language. There is a full vowel Ojibwe – meaning the vowels are distinctly heard and therefore are written in that manner. For example: Pakwezghan or Bakwezghan.

Letters that are not used are: f l q r u v x

**Other Sounds:** Nasal Sounds (through the nose); See previous page  
Written as nh (singular) and ns (plural) at the end of the word  
e.g. binoojiinh – child      binoojiins - baby

Aye sound – sounds like eye or ice e.g. mooday (bottle); nday (my dog)

## Consonant-Vowel Syllable Chart

<b>Consonant</b>	<b>Short Vowels</b>			<b>Long Vowels</b>			
	<b>a</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>o</b>	<b>aa</b>	<b>ii</b>	<b>oo</b>	<b>e</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>ba</b>	<b>bi</b>	<b>bo</b>	<b>baa</b>	<b>bii</b>	<b>boo</b>	<b>be</b>
<b>p</b>	<b>pa</b>	<b>pi</b>	<b>po</b>	<b>paa</b>	<b>pii</b>	<b>poo</b>	<b>pe</b>
<b>d</b>	<b>da</b>	<b>di</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>daa</b>	<b>dii</b>	<b>doo</b>	<b>de</b>
<b>t</b>	<b>ta</b>	<b>ti</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>taa</b>	<b>tii</b>	<b>too</b>	<b>te</b>
<b>g</b>	<b>ga</b>	<b>gi</b>	<b>go</b>	<b>gaa</b>	<b>gii</b>	<b>goo</b>	<b>ge</b>
<b>k</b>	<b>ka</b>	<b>ki</b>	<b>ko</b>	<b>kaa</b>	<b>kii</b>	<b>koo</b>	<b>ke</b>
<b>j</b>	<b>ja</b>	<b>ji</b>	<b>jo</b>	<b>jaa</b>	<b>jii</b>	<b>joo</b>	<b>je</b>
<b>ch</b>	<b>cha</b>	<b>chi</b>	<b>cho</b>	<b>chaa</b>	<b>chii</b>	<b>choo</b>	<b>che</b>
<b>z</b>	<b>za</b>	<b>zi</b>	<b>zo</b>	<b>zaa</b>	<b>zii</b>	<b>zoo</b>	<b>ze</b>
<b>s</b>	<b>sa</b>	<b>si</b>	<b>so</b>	<b>saa</b>	<b>sii</b>	<b>soo</b>	<b>se</b>
<b>zh</b>	<b>zha</b>	<b>zhi</b>	<b>zho</b>	<b>zhaa</b>	<b>zhii</b>	<b>zhoo</b>	<b>zhe</b>
<b>sh</b>	<b>sha</b>	<b>shi</b>	<b>sho</b>	<b>shaa</b>	<b>shii</b>	<b>shoo</b>	<b>she</b>
<b>m</b>	<b>ma</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>mo</b>	<b>maa</b>	<b>mii</b>	<b>moo</b>	<b>me</b>
<b>n</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>ni</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>naa</b>	<b>nii</b>	<b>noo</b>	<b>ne</b>
<b>w</b>	<b>wa</b>	<b>wi</b>	<b>wo</b>	<b>waa</b>	<b>wii</b>	<b>woo</b>	<b>we</b>
<b>y</b>	<b>ya</b>	<b>yi</b>	<b>yo</b>	<b>yaa</b>	<b>yii</b>	<b>yoo</b>	<b>ye</b>
<b>‘</b>	<b>‘a</b>	<b>‘i</b>	<b>‘o</b>	<b>‘aa</b>	<b>‘ii</b>	<b>‘oo</b>	<b>‘e</b>

Letters that are not used are: f l q r u v x

### Exercise 1-1

#### Vowel Pronunciation Exercise

Say to yourself the 3 short vowels (refer to the English word for the sound). Now say the Ojibwe word for each vowel. The English word below each Ojibwe word is only the translation and has nothing to do with the sound.

**Short Vowels:** a i o

A as in but	<i>aki</i> ( <i>earth</i> )	<i>amik</i> ( <i>beaver</i> )	<i>asemaa</i> ( <i>tobacco</i> )	<i>akik</i> ( <i>pot/kettle/pail</i> )
I as in hit	<i>ikwe</i> ( <i>woman</i> )	<i>ikwezens</i> ( <i>girl</i> )	<i>ishkode</i> ( <i>fire</i> )	<i>ishpiming</i> ( <i>above/up</i> )
O as in book	<i>gindaaso</i> ( <i>he/she reads</i> )	<i>bimose</i> ( <i>he/she walks</i> )	<i>kosmaan</i> ( <i>pumpkin</i> )	<i>minoyaa</i> ( <i>he/she is well</i> )

Say to yourself the 4 long vowels (refer to the English word for the sound). Now say the Ojibwe word for each vowel. The English word below each Ojibwe word is only the translation and has nothing to do with the sound.

**Long Vowels:** aa ii oo e

<i>aa</i> as in ball	<i>aamoo</i> ( <i>bee</i> )	<i>aambe</i> ( <i>Let's go</i> )	<i>aazhgan</i> ( <i>bridge</i> )	<i>aakozi</i> ( <i>He/she is sick</i> )
<i>ii</i> as in feet	<i>biidoon</i> ( <i>bring it</i> )	<i>wiibid</i> ( <i>tooth</i> )	<i>niibiish</i> ( <i>leaf</i> )	<i>jiimaan</i> ( <i>boat</i> )
<i>oo</i> as in boat	<i>boodwe</i> ( <i>to make fire</i> )	<i>boozi</i> ( <i>to get in/on</i> )	<i>boozhoo</i> ( <i>Hello</i> )	<i>zoogpo</i> ( <i>it's snowing</i> )
<i>e</i> as in bed	<i>emkwaan</i> ( <i>spoon</i> )	<i>enigoons</i> ( <i>ant</i> )	<i>eshkam</i> ( <i>gradually</i> )	<i>boodwe</i> ( <i>to make fire</i> )

Repeat the exercise again until you have mastered the sound of the short and long vowels. You can also find words that have more than one vowel either 2 short vowels or 2 long vowels or 1 of each.

**Exercise 1-2**

**Using your resources (dictionary, on-line resources etc.) please find:**

1) 6 Ojibwe words containing the short vowel a and underline it


2) 6 Ojibwe words containing the short vowel i and underline it


3) 6 Ojibwe words containing the short vowel o and underline it


4) 6 Ojibwe words containing the long vowel aa and underline it


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5) 6 Ojibwe words containing the long vowel ii and underline it


6) 6 Ojibwe words containing the long vowel oo and underline it


7) 6 Ojibwe words containing the long vowel ee and underline it


Now, **underline** the short vowels in these sentences and **double underline** the long vowels and read as you go along.

1. Aapji go gii-gchi-gmiwan dibikong, miinwaa go gii-gchi-noodin.  
*It was raining heavily last night, and it was also very windy.*
2. Aabdeg go bemaazijig biindig gii-yaawag, zaam gii niizaanad.  
*People had to stay inside, because it was too dangerous.*
3. Mii dash gchi-kizheb gii-boonbiisaang miinwaa gii-boonaanmag.  
*Then in the early morning, it stopped raining and stopped being windy*

## Lesson 2-Greetings & Introductions

### Nkweshkdaading ekidang

Now that we are familiar with the sounds of the consonants and vowels, let's see if we can learn the greetings in anishnaabemwin. Please say the anishnaabe word for the greetings and introductions.

Anishinaabemwin	English
Aaniinh! (Some dialects use the final "n" rather than the nasal ending "nh".)	Hello!
Boozhoo! This is a more formal greeting.	Hello!
Mna-kizhebaagad!	It's a nice morning!
Aapiji!	Very much so!
Aaniish naanh?	How's it going??
Oh, nishin go!	It's going good!
Aaniish naanh ezhnikaazyin?	What is your name?
_____ nizhnikaaz.	My name is _____.
Manidoo noozwin na gdaa'aan?	Do you have a spirit name?
Enh!	Yes!
Aaniish naanh gdoo-manidoo noozwin?	What is your spirit name?
_____ indigoog.	_____ they call me.
Wenesh gdoodem?	Who is your clan?
_____ indoodem.	My clan is _____.
Aapiish enjibaayin?	Where are you from?
_____ indoobjibaa.	I am from _____.
Aapiish endaayin?	Where do you live?
_____ ndidaa.	I live in _____.
Gwii-oo mkade'aabooke na?	Do you want to go have coffee?
Ta go!	Please!
Gbakde na ge'e?	Are you hungry as well?
Enh!	Yes!
Ahaaw, shangegamgoong zhaadaa!	OK, let's go to the restaurant!

## Exercise 2-1

Practice the following introductory conversations, team up with a classmate or someone you know and practice them a few times.

### Conversation 1:

Person Speaking	Person Responding
Aaniinh! ( <i>Hello!</i> )	Aaniinh! ( <i>Hello!</i> )
Mna-kizhebaagad! ( <i>It's a nice morning!</i> )	Aapiji! ( <i>Very much so!</i> )
Aaniish naanh? ( <i>How's it going?</i> )	Oh, nishin go! ( <i>Oh, good!</i> )
Geniinh gwa nishin! ( <i>Me too, it's good!</i> )	Onh, ahaaw! ( <i>Oh, OK!</i> )

### Conversation 2:

Person Speaking	Person Responding
Aaniinh! ( <i>Hello!</i> )	Aaniinh! ( <i>Hello!</i> )
Aaniish naanh ezhnikaazyin? ( <i>What's your name?</i> )	_____ ndizhnikaaz. ( <i>My name is _____.</i> )
	Giin dash? Aaniish ezhnikaazyin? ( <i>And you? What is your name?</i> )
_____ ndizhnikaaz! ( <i>My name is _____!</i> )	Ohn, haaw, Boozhoo! ( <i>Oh, ok, hello!</i> )

### Conversation 3:

Person Speaking	Person Responding
Aaniinh! ( <i>Hello!</i> )	Aaniinh! ( <i>Hello!</i> )
Aapiish enjibaayin? ( <i>Where are you from?</i> )	_____ ndoonjibaa! ( <i>I'm from _____</i> )
	Giin dash? Aapiish enjibaayin? ( <i>And you? Where are you from?</i> )
Oh, _____ ndoonjibaa! ( <i>Oh, I'm from _____</i> )	Ohn, haaw, Boozhoo! ( <i>Oh, ok, hello!</i> )

### Conversation 4:

Person Speaking	Person Responding
Aaniinh! ( <i>Hello!</i> )	Aaniinh! ( <i>Hello!</i> )
Manidoo noozwin na gdaa'aan? ( <i>Do you have a Spirit name?</i> )	Enh, ndaa'aan gwa! _____ ndigoog. ( <i>Yes, I have! They call me _____.</i> ) Giin dash? Manidoo noozwin na gegii gdaa'aan? ( <i>And you, do you have a Spirit name?</i> )
Enh, _____ ndigoog. ( <i>Yes, they call me _____.</i> )	Haaw, Boozhoo _____! ( <i>Ok, hello _____!</i> )

## Lesson 3 -How are you? (Feelings)

### Aaniish naanh e-zhi-yaayin?

Now, to keep a conversation going, let's learn how to ask a person how they are doing and the responses we can expect.

Anishinaabemwin	English
Aaniish naanh e-zhi-yaayin?	How are you?
Niminoyaa.	I am fine.
Niminwendam.	I am content.
N'gichinendam.	I am happy.
Nimaanaadendam.	I am sad.
Nishkaadiz.	I am angry.
N'daakwaz.	I am sick.
N'de'ekwaz.	I am tired.

Now is a good time to introduce to you the **seven (7) personal pronouns**.

Seven Personal Pronouns	
1. Niin	I
2. Giin	You
3. Wiin	He/she
4. Niinwi	We (but not you, otherwise referred to as exclusive)
5. Giinwi	We (including you, otherwise referred to as inclusive)
6. Giinwaa	You (all)
7. Wiinwaa	They

So, we can use these personal pronouns when we make sentences. You do not use the full personal pronoun, you can just use the first letter. Sometimes you can hear the vowel after the first letter of the pronoun and it is ok to do that.

Please refer to the first chart above:

Niminoyaa. – I am fine.  
N'gichinendam – I am happy.

Niminwendam. – I am content.  
Nimaanaadendam. – I am sad.

You will notice that sometimes there's only an "n" and other times there is an "ni". These are both correct forms. It's whichever the dialect or speaker chooses to write. This refers to the pronoun *nin*.

Let us see how we can use the personal pronouns when we work with action words (verbs), this is called conjugating a verb, using the 7 personal pronouns.

Let's take one action word from the previous "feelings" words. Let's work with *Niminoyaa*

Conjugating a Verb Using the Seven Personal Pronouns			
Personal Pronoun	Subject		Predicate (Action word) in present tense
1. Niin	I	Ni	minoyaa
2. Giin	You	Gi	minoyaa
3. Wiin	He/she	(W)	minoyaa
4. Niinwi	We (excl.)	Ni	minoyaami
5. Giinwi	We (incl.)	Gi	minoyaami
6. Giinwaa	You (all)	Gi	minoyaam
7. Wiinwaa	They	(W)	minoyaawag

Now let's conjugate using the **present tense** - 3 feelings. Sometimes "doo" is used as the present tense marker, so you can insert it in after the personal pronoun. E.g. *ndoo-minoyaa*.

Minoyaa	Aakozi	Minwendamo
1. Ni minoyaa	1. N'daakwaz	1. Ni minwendam
2. Gi minoyaa	2. Gi daakwaz	2. Gi minwendam
3. (w) minoyaa	3. (w) aakwazi	3. (w) minwendamo
4. Ni minoyaami	4. N'daakwazimi	4. Ni minwendamami
5. Gi minoyaami	5. G'daakwazimi	5. Gi minwendamami
6. Gi minoyaam	6. G'daakwazim	6. Gi minwendaam
7. (w) minoyaawag	7. (w) aakwaziwag	7. (w) minwendamoog

Pay particular attention to the endings of the verb used for each of the 7 personal pronouns.

Now let's conjugate using the **past tense** for those same 3 feelings

Minoyaa	Aakozi	Minwendamo
1. Ni gii-minoyaa	1. N'gii-aakwaz	1. Ni gii-minwendam
2. Gi gii-minoyaa	2. Ggii-aakwaz	2. Gi gii-minwendam
3. (w) gii-minoyaa	3. (w) gii-aakwazi	3. (w) gii-minwendamo
4. Ni gii-minoyaami	4. N'gii-aakwazimi	4. Ni gii-minwendamami
5. Gi gii-minoyaami	5. G'gii-aakwazimi	5. Gi gii-minwendamami
6. Gi gii-minoyaam	6. G'gii-aakwazim	6. Gi gii-minwendaam
7. (w) gii-minoyaawag	7. (w)gii-aakwaziwag	7. (w) gii-minwendamoog

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The **future tense** will, is indicated by “*ga*” placed before the verb. There is another future tense indicating want to and this is “*wii*” placed before the verb.

Let’s conjugate the **future tense** using “will”, ‘*ga*’ in Nishnaabemwin, pay particular attention to the tense marker in the third person singular and plural. This happens only for this tense.

Minoyaa	Aakozi	Minwendamo
1. Nga-minoyaa	1. Nga-aakwaz	1. Nga-minwendam
2. Gga-minoyaa	2. Gga-aakwaz	2. Gga-minwendam
3. (w) <b>da</b> -minoyaa	3. (w) <b>da</b> -aakwazi	3. (w) <b>da</b> -minwendamo
4. Nga-minoyaami	4. Nga-aakwazimi	4. Nga-minwendamami
5. Gga-minoyaami	5. Gga-aakwazimi	5. Gga-minwendamami
6. Gga-minoyaam	6. Gga-aakwazim	6. Gga-minwendaam
7. (w) <b>da</b> -minoyaawag	7. (w) <b>da</b> -aakwaziwag	7. (w) <b>da</b> -minwendamoog

Let’s conjugate the future tense using “want to”, ‘*wii*’ in Nishnaabemwin.

Minoyaa	Aakozi	Minwendamo
1. Nwii-minoyaa	1. Nwii-aakwaz	1. Nwii-minwendam
2. Gwii-minoyaa	2. Gwii-aakwaz	2. Gwii-minwendam
3. (w)wii-minoyaa	3. (w)wii-aakwazi	3. (w)wii-minwendamo
4. Nwii-minoyaami	4. Nwii-aakwazimi	4. Nwii-minwendamami
5. Gwii-minoyaami	5. Gwii-aakwazimi	5. Gwii-minwendamami
6. Gwii-minoyaam	6. Gwii-aakwazim	6. Gwii-minwendaam
7. (w)wii-minoyaawag	7. (w)wii-aakwaziwag	7. (w)wii-minwendamoog

**Exercise 3-1**

Using the feelings chart and the seven personal pronoun and conjugation charts in Lesson 3, translate the following to Anishnaabemwin. First, who is doing the action? Which personal pronoun do you use?

1. We (inclusive) are tired. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I am happy. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tammy is sick. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sam and Mary were happy. \_\_\_\_\_
5. We (exclusive) are content. \_\_\_\_\_
6. They will be tired. \_\_\_\_\_
7. You are all angry. \_\_\_\_\_
8. John was angry. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Anne is content. \_\_\_\_\_
10. You all are happy. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Mary is sad. \_\_\_\_\_
12. You are tired. \_\_\_\_\_
13. They will be happy. \_\_\_\_\_
14. I will be content. \_\_\_\_\_
15. We (Incl.) want to be happy. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Mary will be angry. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Mike want to be content. \_\_\_\_\_
18. They will be tired. \_\_\_\_\_
19. You want to be happy. \_\_\_\_\_
20. They will be well. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 4-The Noun

### Gender, Locative, Diminutive, Pejorative and Preterit

As in the introduction, it is stated:

- That Nouns have gender (animate and inanimate) and number (singular and plural),
- That they can be locative – indicating location i.e. to the bank (*zhoonyaagamigong*),
- That they can have a diminutive ending (indicating smallness)
- That they can have a derogative (pejorative) ending (term of endearment or derogatory),
- And they can be preterit – indicating the noun was once living, is now dead, or is a former i.e. my former wife (*n'wiidigemaagniba*).

Let's look at each of these categories of nouns:

#### Gender – Animate and Inanimate

Animate nouns are objects that are alive or considered alive or sacred. Examples of animate nouns: man, woman, boy, girl, baby, all animals, trees, rock, stars, sun, moon, some fruit and some vegetables. The following is not a complete list, there are far more nouns, these are just examples.

You can identify animate nouns by their plural ending '*ag*'.

For example:	inini	man	ininiwag	men
	ikwe	woman	ikwewag	women
	bineshiinh	bird	bineshiinyag	birds
	gaazhag	cat	gazhagag	cats
	daabaan	car	daabaanag	cars
	dabgiiswaan	clock	dabgiiswaanag	clocks
	mskomin	raspberry	mskominag	raspberries
	mindaamin	corn	mindaaminag	corn (pl)
	giigoonh	fish	giigoonhiig	fish (pl)
	pin	potatoe	piniig	potatoes
	bagesaan	plum	bagesaanag	plums

You can identify inanimate nouns by their plural ending '*an*'.

For example:

pabwin	chair	pabwinan	chairs
doopwin	table	doopwinan	tables
m'bijiizgan	bread	mbijiizgan	breads
waawan	egg	waawanoon	eggs
mookmaan	knife	mookmaan	knives
emkwaan	spoon	emkwaan	spoons
bdakjiigan	fork	bdakjiigan	forks
naagan	plate	naagan	plates
biiskawaagan	coat	biiskawaagan	coats
miiknood	pants	miiknood	pants (pl)
zhoonyaagamig	bank	zhoonyaagamig	bank

**The Locative** expresses location on nouns by adding a suffix *ing, eng, aang, iing, ong*. These special endings express *in, on, to, from* the noun. This appears only in the singular form of the animate or inanimate noun.

Examples with their locative endings:

jiimaan	jiimaaning	in, on, to, from the boat
wiigwaam	wiigwaaming	in, on, to, from the house
ikwe	ikweng	in, on, to, from the woman
inini	ininiing	in, on, to, from the man
aki	akiing	in, on, to, from the land
asin	asiniing	in, on, to, from the stone
odena	odenaang	in, on, to, from town
zid	zidaang	in, on, to, from the foot
mshkimod	mshkimodaang	in, on, to, from the bag
akik	akikong	in, on, to, from the pail
mtig	mtigong	in, on, to, from the tree

**The Diminutive** expresses smallness of both animate and inanimate nouns by adding *ens, iins, aans* and *oons*. These endings tell us that the object or noun is small. We will use some of the same nouns from previous examples.

Examples of **animate** nouns with their diminutive endings. See what happens to the plural!

<u>Singular</u>		<u>Singular Diminutive</u>		<u>Plural Diminutive</u>	
inini	man	inini <b>iins</b>	small man	inini <b>insag</b>	small men
ikwe	woman	ikwe <b>ns</b>	little woman	ikwe <b>nsag</b>	small women
bineshiinh	bird	bineshi <b>iins</b>	small bird	bineshi <b>insag</b>	small birds
gaazhag	cat	gazhag <b>ens</b>	small cat	gazhag <b>ensag</b>	small cat
daabaan	car	daabaan <b>ens</b>	small car	daabaan <b>ensag</b>	small cars
mindaamin	corn	mindaamin <b>ens</b>	small corn	mindaamin <b>ensag</b>	small corns
giigoonh	fish	giigoon <b>s</b>	small fish	giigoon <b>sag</b>	small fish
pin	potatoe	pin <b>iins</b>	small potatoe	pin <b>insag</b>	small potatoes
bagesaan	plum	bagesaan <b>ens</b>	small plums	bagesaan <b>ensag</b>	small plums

So, when you pluralize the animate diminutive noun, you simply add the plural ending '**ag**'.

Examples of **inanimate** nouns with their diminutive endings. See what happens to the plural!

<u>Singular</u>		<u>Singular Diminutive</u>		<u>Plural Diminutive</u>	
pabwin	chair	pabwaan <b>s</b>	small chair	pabwaan <b>san</b>	small chairs
doopwin	table	doopwaan <b>s</b>	small table	doopwaan <b>san</b>	small tables
m'bijiizgan	bread	mbijiizga <b>ans</b>	small bread	mbijiizga <b>ansan</b>	small breads
waawan	egg	waawan <b>oons</b>	small egg	waawan <b>oonsan</b>	small eggs
mookmaan	knife	mookmaan <b>ens</b>	small knife	mookmaan <b>ensan</b>	small knives
emkwaan	spoon	emkwaan <b>ens</b>	small spoon	emkwaan <b>ensan</b>	small spoons

So, when you pluralize the inanimate diminutive noun, you simply add the plural ending 'an'. Look at the first two inanimate nouns, some dialects leave it as pabwin and add **ens** to make it diminutive and likewise add **an** at the end to pluralize.

The **Derogative** form of a noun, whether it is animate or inanimate, expresses that it is derogatory, or in some way unsatisfactory AND also can express affection or endearment. The endings are sh, ish, oosh, or wish and their plural is always **ag** animate and **an** inanimate.

Examples of **animate** nouns (singular and plural) with their derogative/pejorative endings:

<u>Singular</u>		<u>Singular Derogative</u>		<u>Plural Derogative</u>
inini	man	ininiwish	darn man	ininiwishag darn men
ikwe	woman	ikwewish	darn woman	ikwewishag darn women
bineshiinh	bird	bineshiinish	darn bird	bineshiinishag darn birds
gaazhag	cat	gazhagish	darn cat	gazhagishag darn cat
daabaan	car	daabaanish	darn car	daabaanishag darn cars
mindaamin	corn	mindaaminish	darn corn	mindaaminishag darn corns
giigoonh	fish	giigoonwish	darn fish	giigoonwishag darn fish
bagesaan	plum	bagesaanish	darn plum	bagesaanishag darn plums

So, when you pluralize the animate derogative noun, you simply add the plural ending 'ag'.

Examples of **inanimate** nouns (singular and plural) with their derogative/pejorative endings:

<u>Singular</u>		<u>Singular Derogative</u>		<u>Plural Derogative</u>
pabwin	chair	pabwinish	darn chair	pabwinishan darn chairs
doopwin	table	doopwinish	darn table	doopwinshan darn tables
m'bijiizgan	bread	mbijiizganish	darn bread	mbijiizganishan darn breads
waawan	egg	waawanoonwish	darn egg	waawanoonwishan darn eggs
mookmaan	knife	mookmaanish	darn knife	mookmaanishan darn knives
emkwaan	spoon	emkwaanish	darn spoon	emkwaanishan darn spoons

So, when you pluralize the animate derogatory noun, you simply add the plural ending 'an'.

The **Preterit** form of a noun indicates a past state or absence. When preterit suffix is added to a person, it indicates that the person is deceased, and if added to a noun it states that the object is missing, no longer there. The preterit suffix can be added to both animate and inanimate nouns. The suffix is **ba, iba, iban** (animate and inanimate nouns – depending on dialect) and **iin** (inanimate plural) and **iig** (animate plural).

Examples of preterit nouns:

<u>Singular Preterit</u>	<u>Plural preterit</u>	
The late David	David –ba/iba/iban	
My late grandmother	N'nookmis- ba/iba/iban	N'nookmis-baniig/ibaniig
My late son	N'gwis- ba/iba/iban	N'gwis- baniig/ibaniig
The hat I used to have	n'wiikwaan- ba/iba/iban	n'wiikwaan- baniin/ibaniin
The car I used to have	n'daabaan-ba/iba/iban	n'daabaan- baniig/ibaniig
The knife I used to have	n'mookmaan- ba/iba/iban	n'mookmaan- baniin/ibaniin

When it's the name of a Person, there is no plural.

You do not pluralize the noun first before adding the preterit. It stays as a single noun and get pluralized in the preterit suffix.

### Exercise 4-1

Now that we have studied Noun Classes in Lesson 4, please **underline the suffix** and tell whether it is animate or inanimate, singular or plural, Locative, Diminutive (singular, plural, animate or inanimate) Derogatory (singular, plural, animate or inanimate) or Preterit (singular, plural, animate or inanimate).

1. Underline the suffix and translate the following:

- a) Daabaanens - \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Wiikwaanish- \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Davidish \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Davidens \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Wiigwaaman \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Oodenaang \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Makizin \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Jiimaanishan \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Gwiizenshishag \_\_\_\_\_
- j) Daabaaning \_\_\_\_\_
- k) Mtigoong \_\_\_\_\_
- l) Gaazhagenzhish \_\_\_\_\_
- m) Gaazhigens \_\_\_\_\_
- n) Damnowaaganag \_\_\_\_\_
- o) Damnowaaganishag \_\_\_\_\_
- p) Ndo-daabaan-iba \_\_\_\_\_
- q) N'nimoshiba \_\_\_\_\_
- r) Mshiiimnishag \_\_\_\_\_
- s) Bakwezhiganan \_\_\_\_\_
- t) Damnowaagaans \_\_\_\_\_
- u) Mishoomsag \_\_\_\_\_
- v) Nangoonsag \_\_\_\_\_
- w) Jiimaan \_\_\_\_\_
- x) Mzinganishan \_\_\_\_\_

- y) Zidensan \_\_\_\_\_  
z) Njaanzhish \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 5 -The verb

### The first 2 verb types – AI and II, tenses, conjugation and Negation and The Noun

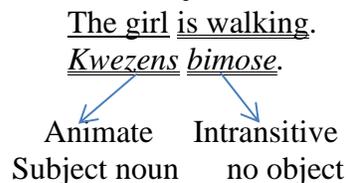
#### What is a verb?

A verb is a word that... in a sentence...

- Tells what the action is
- Tells what the state is
- Tells what the condition is
- Can show negation (is not.....)

In Ojibway, there are four types of verbs but in this lesson, we will study the first two – AI and II.

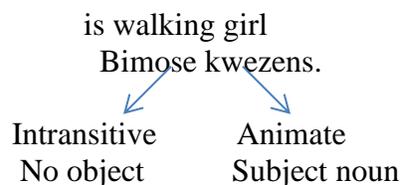
1. **Animate Intransitive** - the subject is animate, and it is doing the action.



Ask yourself:

Who is doing the action? What is being done? Anything else?

Usually the verb would come first, and the subject noun after. Hence:



Fluent speakers speak this way, but it is wrong to have the subject noun first, then the verb/action word after. Whichever way is best for the learner, both will be right.

Then this kind of verb is called **Animate Intransitive** or **AI** because an animate noun is doing the action and nothing else is happening therefore the verb is intransitive.

Let's look at some verbs that would fall in this category. The subject noun does not always have to be he/she, it can be any one of the 7 personal pronouns, you could use the name of a person as well as animals. Verbs in the Rhodes' Dictionary appear in the third person singular.

Sit - *nimadabi*

Stand – *naaniibowi*

To wake up - *nishkaa*

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Eat – <i>wiisini</i>	See – <i>waabi</i>	To get dressed - <i>biiskonye</i>
Sleep - <i>nibaa</i>	Sing - <i>ngamo</i>	To get undressed - <i>giiskonye</i>
Dance – <i>niimi</i>	Talk – <i>giigida</i>	To drink - <i>minakwe</i>
Run – <i>bimoptoo</i>	Walk – <i>bimose</i>	To write – <i>zhibii'ige</i>

Now let's conjugate using the **3 tenses** for 3 different verbs.

<b>Past</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Future (ga)</b>
Wiisini	Nibaa	Bimose
1. Ni gii-wiisin	1. Nnibaa	1. Ni ga-bimose
2. Gi gii-wiisin	2. Ginibaa	2. Gi ga-bimose
3. (w)gii-wiisini	3. (w)nibaa	3. (w) <b>da</b> -bimose
4. Ni gii-wiisinimi	4. Nnibaami	4. Ni ga-bimosemi
5. Gi gii-wiisinimi	5. Ginibaami	5. Gi ga-bimosemi
6. Gi gii-wiisinim	6. Gnibaam	6. Gi ga-bimosem
7. (w)gii-wiisiniwag	7. (w)nibaawag	7. (w) <b>da</b> -bimosewag

Working with **Animate Intransitive** verbs beginning with the animate subject noun:

1. The baby is sitting.	<i>Binoojiins nimadabi.</i>
2. The dogs ate.	<i>Nimshag gii-wiisiniwag.</i>
3. John got dressed.	<i>John gii-biiskonye.</i>
4. We (excl.) drank.	<i>Nigii-mnakwemi.</i>
5. I stood up.	<i>Nigii-naaniibow.</i>
6. You will eat.	<i>Giga-wiisin.</i>
7. We (incl.) will write.	<i>Giga-zhibii'igemi.</i>
8. You will all walk.	<i>Giga-bimosem.</i>
9. John and Mary slept.	<i>John miinwaa Mary gii-nibaawag.</i>
10. The bear ran.	<i>Makwa gii-bimoptoo.</i>

**Other AI verbs that describe animate nouns end in “zi (singular), zoog (plural):**

Colours	<i>Miskozi. Mkadewizi, waabshkizi, zaawzi</i> etc.
	Red      black      white      yellow
size (, tall, big, small)	<i>tkoozi, gnoozi, mdida, gaachiinye</i> etc.
	short      tall      big      small
Tastes good	<i>minopgozi (giigoonh) (fish)</i>
Smells bad	<i>nchiimaagzi (zhagaag) skunk</i>

Let's look at some examples using the verbs that end in 'zi' that describe animate nouns:

The car is black.	<i>Mkadewizi daabaan.</i>
The scarf is red.	<i>Miskozi naabkowaagan.</i>
The man is short.	<i>Tkoozi nini.</i>
The boy is tall.	<i>Gnoozi gwiizens.</i>
The dog is big.	<i>Mdida nimosh.</i>
The baby is small.	<i>Gaachiinye binoojiins.</i>

The fish tastes good.  
The skunk smells bad.

*Mnopgozi giigoonh.*  
*Nchiimaagzi zhigaag.*

You will notice that the animate verb and the subject noun in reversed. This is legal, as fluent speakers speak this way and if you wish to learn it in this manner that is perfectly fine.

**Negation:** To show negation or the negative (not), this is how it's is done:

To say "I did not sleep," you begin with "*Gaawiin* (no/not), then you insert subject noun and finally you add the suffix "*si*" immediately at the end of the verb. Thus:

Past (Did not)	Present (Am/are not)	Future (will not)
Wiisini	Nibaa	Bimose
1. <i>Gaawiin nigii-wiisinisii.</i>	1. <i>Gaawiin nnibaasii</i>	1. <i>Gaawiin niga-bimosesii</i>
2. <i>Gaawiin gigii-wiisinisii.</i>	2. <i>Gaawiin ginibaasii</i>	2. <i>Gaawiin giga-bimosesii</i>
3. <i>Gaawiin (w)gii-wiisinisii</i>	3. <i>Gaawiin (w)nibaasii</i>	3. <i>Gaawiin (w)da-bimosesii</i>
4. <i>Gaawiin nigii-wiisinisiimi</i>	4. <i>Gaawiin nnibaasiimi</i>	4. <i>Gaawiin niga-bimosesiimi</i>
5. <i>Gaawiin gigii-wiisinisiimi</i>	5. <i>Gaawiin inibaasiimi</i>	5. <i>Gaawiin giga-bimosesiimi</i>
6. <i>Gaawiin gigii-wiisinisiim</i>	6. <i>Gaawiin gnibaasiim</i>	6. <i>Gaawiin giga-bimosesiim</i>
7. <i>Gaawiin (w)gii-wiisinisiiwag</i>	7. <i>Gaawiin (w)nibaasiiwag</i>	7. <i>Gaawiin (w)da-bimosesiiwag</i>

Working with Animate Intransitive verbs, putting them in the negative and inserting the animate subject noun:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. The baby is not sitting.     | <i>Gaawiin nimadabisii binoojiins.</i>            |
| 2. The dogs did not eat.        | <i>Gaawiin nimshag gii-wiisinisiiwag.</i>         |
| 3. John did not get dressed.    | <i>Gaawiin John gii-biiskonyesii.</i>             |
| 4. We (excl.) did not drink.    | <i>Gaawiin nigii-mnakwesiimi.</i>                 |
| 5. I did not stand up.          | <i>Gaawiin nigii-nnaniibowisiimi.</i>             |
| 6. You will not eat.            | <i>Gaawiin giga-wiisinisii.</i>                   |
| 7. We (incl.) will not write.   | <i>Gaawiin giga-zhibii'igesiimi.</i>              |
| 8. You will all not walk.       | <i>Gaawiin giga-bimosesiim.</i>                   |
| 9. John and Mary did not sleep. | <i>Gaawiin John miinwaa Mary gii-nibaasiiwag.</i> |
| 10. The bear did not run.       | <i>Gaawiin makwa gii-bimoptoosii.</i>             |

Review the sentences above and underline what makes the verb negative. Ask yourself, "who is not doing the action?" What tense is the verb and which personal pronoun is not doing the action?

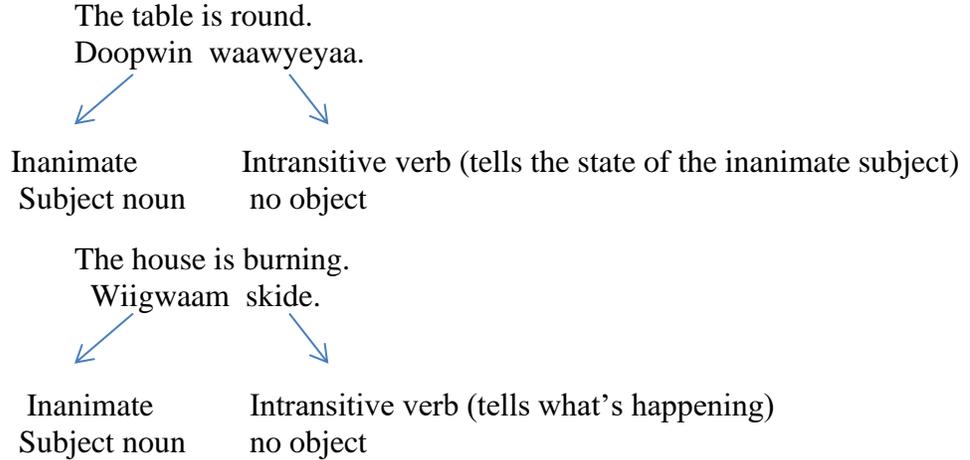
Remember the rule: *Gaawiin* before the subject noun, then you add the suffix "*si*" immediately at the end of the verb.

**The second type of verb that we will study in this lesson is:**

- Inanimate Intransitive** – The verb is Inanimate because there is no object of the verb, the verb is merely stating a fact. The subject is inanimate (things that are considered not alive).

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Example:



Some examples of inanimate nouns:

Box	<i>mkak</i>	chair	<i>pabwin</i>
Table	<i>doopwin</i>	bag	<i>mshkimad</i>
Bed	<i>nbaagan</i>	stove	<i>gzhaabkizgan</i>
Knife	<i>mookmaan</i>	spoon	<i>emkwaan</i>
Hat	<i>Wiikwaan</i>	pants	<i>miiknood</i>
Shirt	<i>bagweyaan</i>	coat	<i>biiskawaagan</i>

There are many nouns that are classed as inanimate, but we will use the above in this lesson.

What can we say about these nouns? We can say the colour, size, shape, looks nice.

Let's look at some example sentences:

The box is big.	<i>Mchaamgad iw mkak.</i>
The chair is small.	<i>Gaachin iw pabwin.</i>
The hat is nice.	<i>Gnaajiwan iw wiikwaa.</i>
The shirt is red.	<i>Mskwaamgad iw bagweyaan.</i>

**Other Inanimate Intransitive** – something happens with no inanimate noun involved including all weather terms.

It is cold.	<i>Ksinaa.</i>
It is foggy.	<i>Aawan.</i>
It is raining.	<i>Gimiwan.</i>
It is windy.	<i>Noodin.</i>
It is snowing.	<i>Zoogpo.</i>

The use of the II Verb suffix 'mgad' is unstable. While some words require it's use, many words may or may not have it. It is generally found in verbs ending with "aa" or "e".

e.g. <i>Ksinaa.</i>	<i>Ksinaamgad.</i>	It is cold.
<i>Miskwaa</i>	<i>Miskwaamgad</i>	It is red.
<i>Mchaa.</i>	<i>Mchaamgad.</i>	It is big.
<i>Te.</i>	<i>Temgad.</i>	It is there.

**Exercise 5 - 1**

1. Please explain what the animate intransitive verb does and give a sentence example.

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2. Using the AI verb, translate to Anishnaabemwin the following sentences (keep in mind the tense and the personal pronoun):

a) The dog is sitting. \_\_\_\_\_

b) The girls are singing. \_\_\_\_\_

c) The dog drank. \_\_\_\_\_

d) David was writing. \_\_\_\_\_

e) John will walk. \_\_\_\_\_

f) We will all eat. \_\_\_\_\_

g) John and Mary danced. \_\_\_\_\_

h) You all will walk. \_\_\_\_\_

i) The babies slept. \_\_\_\_\_

j) You will get dressed. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Other types of AI verbs describe the subject noun and these verbs end in “*zi* or *zoog*”, translate the following, keeping in mind the tense, personal pronoun and negation:

a) Alice is short. \_\_\_\_\_

b) The cars are red. \_\_\_\_\_

c) The fish tasted good. \_\_\_\_\_

d) The dog is not big. \_\_\_\_\_

e) The bears are not white. \_\_\_\_\_

f) Bill and Marie are not tall. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Another verb type is the II (inanimate intransitive), please translate the following:

a) The table is big. \_\_\_\_\_

b) The hat was nice. \_\_\_\_\_

c) It's windy. \_\_\_\_\_

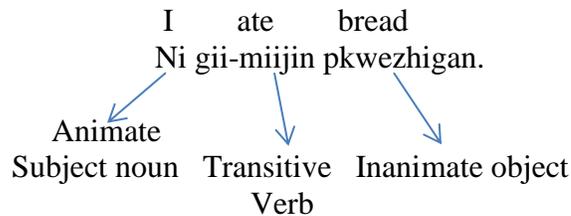
d) It's red. \_\_\_\_\_

e) The coat is big. \_\_\_\_\_

f) The house is burning. \_\_\_\_\_



4. **Transitive Inanimate** - the subject is animate and the verb takes on an inanimate object. In this type of sentence, there is an object of the verb and it is inanimate.



In this type of sentence, the subject noun (who is doing the action) is animate, and is doing something to something that is inanimate, or the receiver of the action is inanimate.



Some examples of TI verbs (let's take the same TA verbs and see what happens):

<i>Waamdaan</i>	to see	<i>jaagzaan</i>	to burn
<i>Noondaan</i>	to hear	<i>nminpidaan</i>	to like the taste of
<i>Zaagi'toon</i>	to love	<i>ntoon</i>	to kill
<i>Miijin</i>	to eat	<i>bshigbidoon</i>	to drop
<i>Biiskaan</i>	to wear	<i>mnazaan</i>	to cook
<i>Dibendaan</i>	to own	<i>biigbidoon</i>	to break

There is a slight difference in the sound and spelling of these verbs but very similar and you will also notice that these verbs all end in "n".

Let's conjugate 3 VTI's using 3 tenses for 3 different verbs.

Past	Present	Future (ga)
Miijin (to eat)	Waamdaan (to see)	Mnazaan (to cook)
1. Ni gii-miijin pkwezhigan	1. Nwaamdaan wiigwaam	1. Ni ga-mnazaan wiiyaas
2. Gi gii-miijin pkwezhigan	2. Giwaamdaan wiigwaam	2. Gi ga-mnazaan wiiyaas
3. (w)gii-miijin pkwezhigan	3. (w)waamdaan wiigwaam	3. (w) <b>da</b> -mnazaan wiiyaas
4. Ni gii-miijinaa pkwezhigan	4. Nwaamdaanaa wiigwaam	4. Ni ga-mnazaanaa wiiyaas
5. Gi gii-miijinaa pkwezhigan	5. Giwaamdaanaa wiigwaam	5. Gi ga-mnazaanaa wiiyaas
6. Gi gii-miijinaa'aa pkwezhigan	6. Gwaamdaanaa'aa wiigwaam	6. Gi ga-mnazaanaa'aa wiiyaas
7. (w)gii-miijinaa'aa pkwezhigan	7. (w)waamdaanaa'aa wiigwaam	7. (w) <b>da</b> -mnazaanaa'aa wiiyaas

Look at what happens to the verb endings the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> pronouns.

In the future tense, only the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> persons have **da** before the verb. Nothing happens to the object of the verb.

The best way to know these verb types is to use the acronyms **VAI** (verb animate intransitive), **VII** (verb inanimate intransitive), **VTA** (verb transitive animate and **VTI** (verb transitive inanimate). Some verbs can be found in all the four areas.

**VERBS**

Subject		Object	
VAI	VII	VTA	VTI
Waabi (see)	Waamjigaade	Waabmaa	Waamdaan
Nangza (cost)	Nangde	Nagmaan	Nangdaan
Jaagza (burn)	Jaagde	Jaagzwaan	Jaagzaan
Mnopgozi (taste good)	Mnopgod	Mnopwaan	Mnopdaan
Nokii (work)	Nokiimgad	Nokii'aaan	Nokiitoon
Biigshin (break)	Biigsin	Biigshimaan	Biigsidoon
Mnoza (cook)	Mnode	Mnozwaan	Mnozaan
Biiskonye (get dressed)	Biiskogaade	Biiskowaan	Biiskaan
Giiskonye (get undressed)	Giiskogaade	Giiskowaan	Giiskaan

These are only a few of the verbs that fall in the four verb types. There are others that appear in less than the four types. For example, weather terms are found only in the VII.

**Verb Commands**

You can give commands in Anishnaabemwin by simply adding “**n**” when talking to one person, and “**g**” when talking to more than one person.

Some Examples of verb commands:

<b><u>Verb</u></b>		<b><u>Singular</u></b>	<b><u>Plural</u></b>	<b><u>Let's all</u></b>
Biindige	enter/come in	Biindigen	Biindigeg	Biindigedaa
Nimadabi	sit	Nimadabin	Nimadabig	Nimadabidaa
Wiisin	eat	Wiisinin	Wiisinig	Wiisinidaa
Kogaa	get out of way	Kogaan	Kogaag	Kogaadaa
Nibaa	sleep	Nibaan	Nibaag	Nibaadaa
Nimaajaa	leaves/goes away	Nimaajaan	Nimaajaag	Nimaajaadaa
Naaniibow	stand	Naaniibowin	Naaniibowig	Naaniibowidaa
Biiskonye	get dressed	Biiskonyen	Biiskonyeg	Biiskonyedaa
Giiskonye	get undressed	Giiskonyen	Giiskonyeg	Giiskonyedaa
Zhibiige	write	Zhibiigen	Zhibiigeg	Zhibiigedaa

You can also give a prohibitive command – Don't - singular, plural

<b>Gegwa biindigeke</b>	<b>Gegwa biindigekegwa</b>
<b>Gegwa nimadabike</b>	<b>Gegwa nimadabikegwa</b>
<b>Gegwa wiisinike</b>	<b>Gegwa wiisinkegwa</b>
<b>Gegwa nibaake</b>	<b>Gegwa nibaakegwa</b>
<b>Gegwa zhibiigeke</b>	<b>Gegwa zhibiigekegwa</b>

### Exercise 6-1

1. From Lesson 6, translate to Nishnaabemwin the following and tell if it is VTA or VTI:

- a) I see it. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) We ate bread. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) He saw a bird. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) The bear ate fish. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) He liked the taste of the fish. \_\_\_\_\_
- f) I am wearing a scarf. \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Mary cooked meat. \_\_\_\_\_
- h) The meat burnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- i) John cooked mooz. \_\_\_\_\_
- j) I am wearing a coat. \_\_\_\_\_
- k) He took off his shoes. \_\_\_\_\_
- l) We broke the window. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Circle VTA or VTA in the following sentences

- |  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| a) Makwan gii-waabimaan.                 | VTA | VTI |
| b) Biskawaagan n'gii-biiskaan.           | VTA | VTI |
| c) Giigoonh ngii-mnozwaanaa.             | VTA | VTI |
| d) Wiiyaas gii-mnopdaan gwiizens.        | VTA | VTI |
| e) Zisbaakdoons gii-miijin Nookmis.      | VTA | VTI |
| f) Wiigwaam gii-skide.                   | VTA | VTI |
| g) Mishoomis zaagi'aan nookmisan.        | VTA | VTI |
| h) Wiikwaan ngii-biiskaan.               | VTA | VTI |
| i) Niin ndibenmaa wa daabaan.            | VTA | VTI |
| j) John gii-biigshimaan wdoo-daabaanman. | VTA | VTI |
| k) Jane gii-biiskowaan mjinkaawinan.     | VTA | VTI |
| l) David gii-waamdaan jiimaan.           | VTA | VTI |

3. Give a command to one person. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Give a command to more than one person. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Give a probative command to one person. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 7-What's Happening Outside? (Weather) Aaniish naanh e-zhwebag gojiing?

### Vocabulary

<i>Aabwaa</i>	It is mild.
<i>Gzhaate</i>	It's a hot day.
<i>Gzhide</i>	It's hot.
<i>Gzhinaamde</i>	It's muggy.
<i>Ksinaa</i>	It's cold.
<i>Mno-giizhgad</i>	It's a nice day.
<i>Ngwaankwad</i>	It's cloudy.
<i>Noodin</i>	It's windy.
<i>Zoogpo</i>	It's snowing.

These weather terms are VII verbs and they are in the present tense. You can put them in the past and future tense by putting the tense marker in the front.

**PREVERBS:** There are many preverbs in Anishnaabemwin. They are placed before the verb. Some examples are: *maajii* – start, *gchi* – big, *booni* – stop

So, you can say *maajii-gmiwan*, *gchi-gmiwa*, *booni-gmiwan*  
*Maajii-zoogpo*, *gchi-zoogpo*, *booni-zoogpo*

When you put them in the past or future tense, you normally just put the tense marker before the verb. For example: ***Gii-zoogpo***. (It snowed). And if you want to use a preverb as well, then you must place the preverb right before the verb. For example: ***Gii-gchi-zoogpo***. (It snowed very hard).

Let's take a look at asking questions. There are 2 types of questions – one is a yes/no question, where the response is either a yes or a no and the other type is a content question – where the response gives more information than a yes or a no.

Examples of a **yes/no question** where “*na*” is the question marker and appears after the first word in the question. Responses can either be *Enh* or *Kaa*

<i>Zoogpo na?</i>	Is it snowing?
<i>Gchi-zoopo na?</i>	Is it snowing hard?
<i>Gii-nodin na?</i>	Was it windy?
<i>Gii-maajii-noodin na?</i>	Did it start being windy?
<i>Wii-maajii-gmiwan na?</i>	Is it going to start raining?
<i>Aabwaa na?</i>	Is it mild?
<i>Wii-mno-giizhgad na?</i>	Is it going to be a nice day?

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You can expand these questions by adding a time i.e. *jiinaagwa* (yesterday), *waabang* (tomorrow), *zhaazhi* (already), *megwaa* (at the present moment) and the response can also be expanded as well.

<i>Zoogpo na megwaa?</i>	Is it snowing at the present moment?
<i>Gii-nodin na jiinaagwa?</i>	Was it windy yesterday?
<i>Gii-gchi-nodin na jiinaagwa?</i>	Was it very windy yesterday?
<i>Gii-maajii-gmiwan na zhaazhi?</i>	Did it start raining already?
<i>Wii-mno-giizhcad na waabang?</i>	Is it going to be a nice day tomorrow?

When responding **no** (*kaa/gaawiin*) and want to expand on the time, add the word *gaawiin* before the verb and *sinoo* or *zinoo* at the end of the verb.

Q. *Zoogpo na megwaa?* Is it snowing at the present moment?  
A. *Gaawiin zoogposinoo megwaa.* No, it's not snowing right now.

Q. *Gii-gchi-nodin na jiinaagwa?* Was it very windy yesterday?  
A. *Gaawiin gii-gchi-noodsinoo jiinaagwa.* No, it was not very windy yesterday.

Q. *Gii-maajii-gmiwan na zhaazhi?* Did it start raining already?  
A. *Gaawiin gii-maajii-gmiwzinoo mshi.* No, it did not start raining yet.

Q. *Wii-mno-giizhcad na waabang?* Is it going to be a nice day tomorrow?  
A. *Gaawiin wii-mno-giizhgadsinooon waabang?* No, it's not going to be a nice day tomorrow?

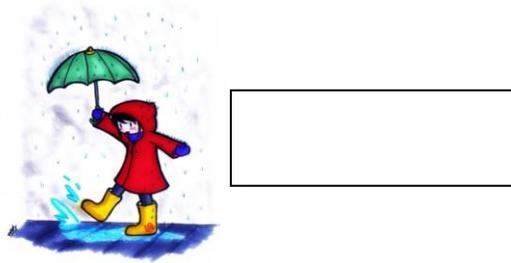
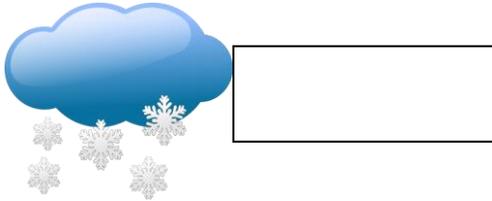
**Content questions** contain question words such as who (*wenesh*), what (*aaniish*), when (*aaniish pii*), where (*aapiish*), why (*aanii dash*) and how (*aaniish*).

Some content questions we can ask are:

*Aaniish ezhwebag gojiing?* What's happening outside?/What's the weather like?  
*Aaniish pii waa gmiwang?* When is it going to rain?

**Exercise 7 -1**

1. Fill in the weather terms for each picture.



2. Translate the following to English:

- a) Gii-maajii-zoogpo. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Wii-gmiwan. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Zhaazhi gii-zoogpo. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Gii-gchi-gmiwan. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Gii-gchi-noodin na? \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Gaawiin gii-gchi-noodsinoon. \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Aapji mno-giizhgad. \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Gii-aabwaa na jiinaagwa? \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Megwaa na ngwaankwaad? \_\_\_\_\_
- j) Gaawiin gii-zoogposinoo jiinaagwa. \_\_\_\_\_
- k) Aapji gii-gchi-noodin. \_\_\_\_\_
- l) Megwaa aabwaa. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 8 -Where are you going? (Buildings & Places)

### Aapiish naanh e-zhaayin? (Ngoji) Working with LOCATIVES

**VOCABULARY** of places one can be at or go to. The prepositions are incorporated in the locative endings of the noun.

<u>Noun (Places)</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Locative</u>
Ookaangamig	barn	ookaangamigoong
Wiigwaam	house	wiigwaaming
Daabaan	car	daabaaning
Nbaagan	bed	nbaaganing
Zhoonyaagamig	bank	zhoonyaagamigoong
Gkinoomaagegamig	school	gkinoomaagegamigoong
Daawegamig	store	daawegamigoong
Minakwegamig	bar	minkwegamigoong
Namegamig	church	namegamigoong
Oodena	town	oodenaang
Ishkode	fire	ishkodeng
Aazhbik	rock	aazhbikoong
Giigdoogamig	Council Hall	Giigdoogamigoong
Aakoziigamig	Hospital	Aakoziigamigoong
Zhoozhkwaadegamig	Arena	Zhoozhkwaadegamigong
Mtigwaaki	Woods/Forest	Mtigwaakiing

We can conjugate questions in the 3 tenses below using the question Where 'Aapiish' Take note of the endings for the personal pronouns and the tense markers.

<b>Past</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Future</b>
zhaa	zhaa	zhaa
1. Where did I go? Aapiish <b>gaa-zhaa'aanh?</b>	1. Where am I going? Aapiish <b>e-zhaa'aanh?</b>	1. Where will I go? Aapiish <b>waa-zhaa'aanh?</b>
2. Where did you go? Aapiish <b>gaa-zhaayin?</b>	2. Where are you going? Aapiish <b>e-zhaayin?</b>	2. Where will you go? Aapiish <b>waa-zhaayin?</b>
3. Where did John go? Aapiish John <b>gaa-zhaad?</b>	3. Where is John going? Aapiish John <b>e-zhaad?</b>	3. Where will John go? Aapiish John <b>waa-zhaad?</b>
4. Where did we (excl) go? Aapiish <b>gaa-zhaayaang?</b>	4. Where are we (excl) going? Aapiish <b>e-zhaayaang?</b>	4. Where will we (excl) go? Aapiish <b>waa-zhaayaang?</b>
5. Where did we (incl) go? Aapiish <b>gaa-zhaaying?</b>	5. Where are we (incl) going? Aapiish <b>e-zhaaying?</b>	5. Where will we (incl) go? Aapiish <b>waa-zhaaying?</b>
6. Where did you all go? Aapiish <b>gaa-zhaayeg?</b>	6. Where are you all going? Aapiish <b>e-zhaayeg?</b>	6. Where will you all go? Aapiish <b>waa-zhaayeg?</b>
7. Where did they go? Aapiish <b>gaa-zhaawaad?</b>	7. Where are they going? Aapiish <b>e-zhaawaad?</b>	7. Where will they go? Aapiish <b>waa-zhaawaad?</b>

**Exercise 8 – 1**

1. Using the vocabulary from the lesson and the conjugation chart, translate the following:

a) Where did John and Mary go yesterday?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Where are you going today?

\_\_\_\_\_

c) Where will we (excl) go tomorrow?

\_\_\_\_\_

d) Where is John going?

\_\_\_\_\_

e) Where will you all go tomorrow?

\_\_\_\_\_

f) Where did you go yesterday?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Translate the following to answer the above questions.

a) John and Mary went to the woods yesterday.

\_\_\_\_\_

b) I am going to school today.

\_\_\_\_\_

c) We (excl) are going to town tomorrow.

\_\_\_\_\_

d) John is going to the barn.

\_\_\_\_\_

e) We will all go to the bank tomorrow.

\_\_\_\_\_

f) I went to arena yesterday.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 9 -When? Aaniish Pii?

Working with time (months, weeks, days, time, etc.)

### VOCABULARY

One month	- ngo-giizis	one week	- ngo-name-giizhik
Two months	- niizho-giizis	two weeks	- niizho-name-giizhik
Three months	- nso-giizis	three weeks	- nso-name-giizhik
Four months	- niiwo-giizis	four weeks	- niiwo-name-giizhik
Five months	- naano-giizis	five weeks	- naano-name-giizhik

One day	- ngo-giizhik	one year	- ngo-bboon
Two days	- niizho-giizhik	two years	- niizho-bboon
Three days	- nso-giizhik	three years	- nso-bboon
Four days	- niiwo-giizhik	four years	- niiwo-bboon
Five days	- naano-giizhik	five years	- naano-bboon

One hour	- ngo-dbagiiswaan	one minute	- ngo-dbagaans
Two hours	- niizho-dbagiiswaan	two minutes	- niizho-dbagaans
Three hours	- nso-dbagiiswaan	three minutes	- nso-dbagaans
Four hours	- niiwo-dbagiiswaan	four minutes	- niiwo-dbagaans
Five hours	- naano-dbagiiswaan	five minutes	- naano- dbagaans

### Numbers

1 Bezhik	6 Ngodwaaswi
2 Niizh	7 Niizhwaaswi
3 Nswi	8 Nchwaaswi
4 Niiwin	9 Zhaangswi
5 Naanan	10 midaaswi

### Time

What time is it?	- Aaniish enso-dibagane'eg?	
One o'clock	- Ningo-dibagane'e	1:30 Ningo-dbagane'e-zhi-aapta
Two o'clock	- Niizho-dibagane'e	2:30 Niizho-dbagane'e-zhi-aapta
Three o'clock	- Nso-dibagane'e	3:30 Nso-dibagane'e-zhi-aapta
Four o'clock	- Niiwo-dibagane'e	and so on.....
Five o'clock	- Naano-dibagane'e	
Six o'clock	- Ningodwaaso-dibagane'e	
Seven o'clock	- Niizhwaaso-dibagane'e	
Eight o'clock	- Nishwaaso-dibagane'e	
Nine o'clock	- Zhaangso-dibagane'e	
Ten o'clock	- Midaaso-dibagane'e	
Eleven o'clock	- Midaaso-dibagane'e-zhi-bezhig	
12 o'clock am	- Aaptaa-dbikat	
12 o'clock am	- Naakwe	

**Exercise – 9-1**

Translate the following:

1. Aaniish enso-dbagane'eg?

---

2. Ngodbagane'eg nga-wiisnimi.

---

3. Ngo-giizhig ngii-nokiimi.

---

4. Naano-dbagane'eg nga-giiwemi.

---

5. Niizhwaaswi kwezensag gii-yaawag.

---

6. Ngo-dbagane'e-zhi-aapta.

---

7. Aaptaa-dbikak gga-nbaami.

---

8. Ngo-bboon nga-bskaabii.

---

9. Nso-dbagane'e na?

---

10. Niizho-name-giizhig gga-waabmin.

---

## Lesson 10-Foods (Let's eat!) and Table Talk

### Mijim (Wiisnidaa) miinwaa Ge-kidngiba pii Wiisning

#### Vocabulary

<u>Food</u>	<u>Mijim</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Mijim</u>
White rice	Waabi-mnoomin	Fish	Giigoonh
Wild rice	Bgoji-mnoomin	Deer	Waawaashkesh
Salt	Ziitaagan	Turkey	Mzise
Pepper	Waasagan	Chicken	Baakaakwenh
Soup	Nboop	Bologna	Gchi-nagish
Porridge/Oatmeal	Nenaabgaanh	Pork	Gookoosh-wiyyaas
Bread	Bakwezhigan	Beef	Bzhikii-wiyyaas
Bread (homemade)	Mbijiizgan	Liver	Kwan
Butter	Ozaaw-bmide	Potatoe/s	Pin/iig
Sugar	Ziisbaakwad	Carrot	Jiisens
Milk	Doodooshaaboo	Pumpkin	Kosmaan
Tea	Niibiishaaboo	Turnip/s	Jiis/an
Coffee	Mkade-aaboo	Cabbage/Lettuce	Gchi-niibiish
Apple juice	Mishiiminaaboo	Onion	Zhigaangwanzh
Water	Nibi/nbiish	Beans	Miskodiisminag
Soda/soft drinks	Menwaagmig	Peas	Minijiimnan
Meat	Wiyyaas	Corn	Mindaamin
Egg/s	Waawan/oon	Moose	Moonz
Grapes	Zhoominag	Blueberries	Miinan
Apple	Mishiimin	Strawberries	Dewminan
Rhubarb	Ziiwbak	Orange	Zaawmingaanh
Pear	Bookdoonsh	Plum	Bagesaan
Cherries	Wiigwaasminan	Cranberries	Mshkiigminan

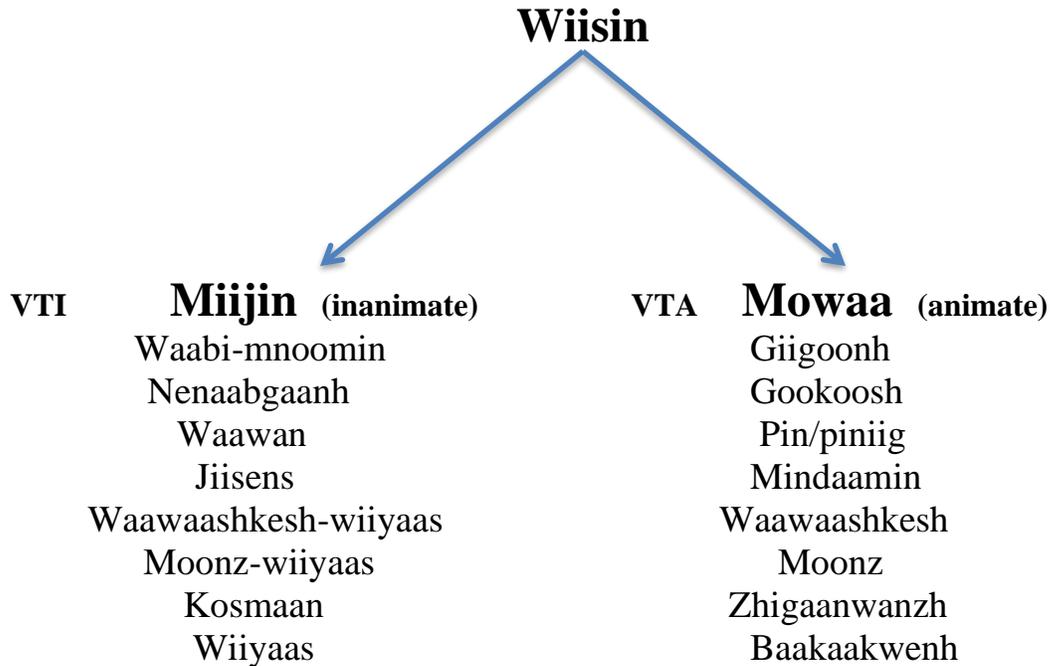
#### Kitchen Utensils

Knife	Mookmaan
Spoon	Emkwaan
Fork	Bdakjiigan
Plate	Naagan/Desnaagan
Bowl	Booski-naagan
Cooking pot	Jiibaakwe-kik
Teapot	Niibiishaaboo-kik

Kitchen	Jiibaakwegamik
Table	doopwin
Chair	Pabwin
Refrigerator	Mkomii-taaswin
Stove	Gzhaabkizgan

**Important thing to remember about the Verb – Eat**

- Eat**            **Wiisin** - We use this when we tell we are eating and not anything else.  
**Miijin** - We use this when we tell we are eating an inanimate food.  
**Mowaa** - We use this when we tell we are eating an animate food.



When the object is plural, the verb also has to be plural.

For example:	Singular Mishiimin ngii mowaa.	I ate an apple.	}	<b>VTA</b>
	Plural Mishiiminag ngii-mowaag.	I ate apples.	}	
	Singular Waawan ngii-miijin.	I ate an egg.	}	<b>VTI</b>
	Plural Waawanoon ngii-miijinan.	I ate eggs.	}	

**Example Sentences:**

I am eating.	N'wiisin.
I am eating meat	Wiiyaas n'miijin.
We ate chicken today.	Baakaakwenh ngii-mowaanaanh nongwa.
He ate blueberries.	Miinan gii-miijnan.
They ate the apples.	Mishiiminan gii-miijnaa'aan.
We will eat oatmeal.	Nenaabgaanh giga-miijnaanh.
You will eat fish.	Giigoonh gga-mowaa.
We (excl) ate deer meat.	Waawaashkesh-wiiyaas ngii-miijnaanh.

**Other verbs to use in this lesson:**

<b>Nakaazan</b>	<b>use</b>
<b>Bininan</b>	<b>pass</b>
<b>Mnakwen</b>	<b>drink</b>

## Exercise 10-1

Translate the following using all resources from previous lessons:

1. We are eating at 5 o'clock.

---

2. We will eat deer meat.

---

3. Pass the knife.

---

4. We will eat oatmeal.

---

5. Are you going to eat at 6 o'clock?

---

6. Drink the milk.

---

7. He drank tea.

---

8. They are eating the raspberries.

---

9. Pass the spoon.

---

10. She is using the plates.

---

2. Circle VTA or VTI in the following sentences

- |                                   |     |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| a) Mishiiminan gii-mowaan.        | VTA | VTI |
| b) Wiiyaas ngii-miijnaanh nongwa. | VTA | VTI |
| c) Fred gii-miijnan niinan.       | VTA | VTI |
| d) Piniig ngii-mowaanaanig.       | VTA | VTI |
| e) Nenaabgaanh ngii miijin.       | VTA | VTI |
| f) Giigoonhiin gii-mowaan John.   | VTA | VTI |



This resource is meant to introduce learners to the Ojibway/Odawa language or sometimes referred to as Anishnaabemwin. The parts of speech are nine as in other languages – the article, noun, adjective, pronoun, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection and the verb. With lessons in grammatical structures for learners to understand words/phrases. These will be studied as they arise, and learners are not expected to know all in this course.

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