

BEGINNERS
BOOK 1

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Disclaimer

Some of the educational materials in this language program have been edited, adapted, and modified from their original form to ensure compatibility with the local dialect.

GREETINGS & SMALL TALK

The reason to learn a new language is to use it.
Here's how to greet others and start a conversation.

Boozhoo

Aaniin

Nimino-ayaa

Giin dash?

Aan ezhinikaazoyin

Joe ndizhinikaaz. Ginn dash?

Rick niin ndizhinikaaz

Aandi wenjiiyin?

Brandon ndoonjii

Winnipeg niin ndoonjii

Miinawaa ga-waabamin

Giga-waabaminim minawaa

Haam

Hello

How are you? How are things?

I'm well, I'm fine

And you?

What's your name?

My name is Joe. And you?

My name is Rick

Where are you from?

I'm from Brandon

Me, I'm from Winnipeg


I'll see you again

See you later

Okay

Practice saying the phrases below without worrying about grammar.
Just let the sounds and meaning become more familiar.

Minogizhebaawawan
It's a good morning



* This is all one word and it reminds us we can see Anishinaabe science in: geegesheb (morning), keeshibaatay (rotation), giizhig (day) and abawaa a(warm weather). The first speakers of Anishinaabemowin understood that the earth goes around something that creates heat and light. Furthermore, it is clear both the orbit that causes seasons and the rotation that causes day and night were understood.

Carol naa gidizhinikaaz?
Carol? you are called?

("naa" makes a sentence a question)

Enh, Carol dizhinikaaz.
Yes, Carol I am called.

Ontario doondoo say.
Ontario is where I am from originally

Makwa Dipaindagoz
Bear is my clan

Maang dibendaagoz
Loon is the one I belong to

It is common for speakers to ask about your clan in a first conversation. This complex system, based on the animal world, has given Anishinaabe people a way to connect communities and share roles in society for many thousands of years. It is the Anishinaabe custom for people to be part of their father's clan, but not everyone today knows their clan. Some are adopted into clans and some do considerable research to find their clan. Most importantly, when you meet someone and find out their clan you now know if you can marry that person. If the clan is the same, elders would say "try again."

Kee nonday skuday naa?
Are you hungry?

Meenaa gay apeghee ninodayskaaday
Yes, very much, I am hungry

Ahow, ambe izhaadaa wiisiniwigamigong
Ok, come on let's go to the restaurant

Wiisinidaa gaye Anishinaabemodaa!
Let's eat and let's speak Anishinaabemowin!

In Anishinaabe Culture, it was the elders, grandmothers and grandfathers, who taught about life, through stories, parables, fables, allegories, songs, chants and dances. They were the ones who had lived long enough and had had a path to follow, and were deemed to possess the qualities for teaching wisdom, knowledge, patience and generosity.

Grandmothers teach young women their roles and responsibilities. Grandfathers teach the young men. Grandmother or Nokomis has a special place in the teachings and stories of the Anishinaabe people.



FAMILY

Baabaa My father

Gibaabaa Your father

Obaabaayan His/her father

Nimaamaa My mother

Omaamaayan His/her mother

Nookoo Grandmother

Nimishoomis Your Grandfather

Noosis My Grandson

Noosis Granddaughter

Noosis Grandchild

Gozis My son

Gozisag My sons

Kee Koosis Your son

Gigozisag Your sons

Ogozisan His/her son

Ogozisa' His/her sons

Daanis My daughter

Daanisag My daughters

Gidaanisan Your daughter

Gidaanisan Your daughters

Odaanisan His/her daughter

Odaanisa' His/her daughters

Nisaye	My older brother
Nisayeyag	My older brothers
Gisaye	Your older brother
Gisayeyag	Your older brothers
Osayeyan	His/her older brother
Osayeya'	His/her older brothers
Nimisey	My older sister
Nimiseyag	My older sisters
Gimisay	Your older sister
Gimiseyag	Your older sisters
Omiseyan	His/her older sister
Omiseya'	His/her older sisters
Nishiimey	My younger sibling
Nishiimeyag	My younger siblings
Gishiimey	Your younger sibling
Gishiimeyag	Your younger siblings
Oshiimeyan	His/her younger sibling
Oshimeya'	His/her younger sibling





VISITING NOOKOOM

Grandparents are important in our lives, those who are lucky enough to have them. In many families, the parents are busy working outside the home. Parenting and cultural teaching often become the domain of the grandmother, especially.

Nookoom!
Wiikaa na gidamwaa gaag?

Bizhishig!

Geget na?

**Aneeshaa kidinin
may wee
Shaankee aamaw gaag**

Ayaa tush pishew?

Appeeting mayweeshaa

Minopagoosi

Tapishkoo wabooz

**Aanish pishew ominaneman
Waboozon chee aamot**



**Grandmother!
Do you ever eat porcupine?**

All the time!

Really?

**I am just kidding you.
I ate porcupine a long time ago.**

How about lynx?

Once a long time ago

Tastes good?

it tastes like rabbit

**That's because
the lynx likes to eat rabbit**



3. ANIMALS

Ojibwes belong to clans. People of the same clan do not marry each other even if they are from distant villages and are not known to be related to each other. People are proud of their clan because it points out their identity. Clans are identified by colours and community role. Everyone belong to a clan, whether you know it or not.

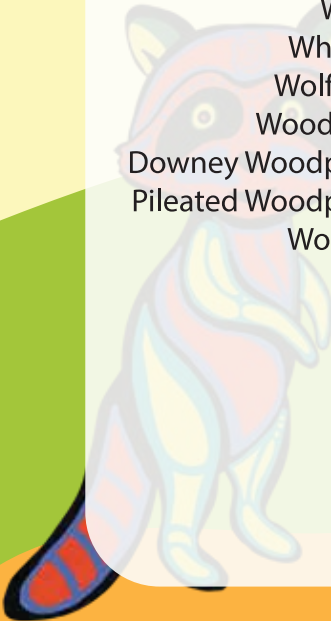


Ant(s)	Enigoons(ag)
Bass(s)	Ashigan(ag)
Bear(s)	Makwa(g)
Beaver(s)	Amik(wag)
Bee(s)	Aamoo(g)
Bird(s)	Bineshii(yag)
Blackbird(s)	Asiginaak(wag)
Bluejay(s)	Diindiisi(wag)
Bobcat(s)	Gidagaa-bizhwi(ag)
Butterfly(s)	Memengwaa(g)
Buffalo(s)	Mashkodebizhiki(wag)
Caribou(s)	Adik(wag)
Cat(s)	Pooshance
Chickadee(s)	Gijigaaneshii(yag)
Chicken(s)	Pagagwan
Chipmunk(s)	Okitiigaogunance
Coyote(s)	Maycheejagan
Cow(s)	Bizhiki(wag)
Crane(s)	Mooshka' oosi(wag)
Crow(s)	Aandeg(wag)
Deer(s)	Mukaasaaywanoosh
Dog(s)	aAnimosh(ag)

Dragonfly(ies)	Boochikwanishi(wag)
Duck(s)	Zhiishiib(ag)
Bald Eagle(s)	Migizi(wag)
Golden Eagle(s)	Giniw(ag)
Firefly(ies)	Waawaatesi(wag)
Fish(s)	Giigoo(yag)
Fly(ies)	Ojiins(ag)
Fox(es)	Waagosh(ag)
Frog(s)	Omakakii(g)
Canadian Goose	Nika(g)(geese)
Snow Goose	Wewe(g) (geese)
Hawk(s)	Noojygenabiqwashy
Horse(s)	Mish Tatim
Hummingbird(s)	Nenookaasi(wag)
Loon(s)	Maang(wag)
Mallard(s)	Shesheep
Marten(s)	Waabizheshi(wag)
Mink(s)	Shangweghi
Minnow(s)	Giigoozens(ag)
Moose(s)	Waabigonoojii(yag)
Mosquito(s)	Zagime(g)
Mouse(mice)	Waawaabigonoojii(yag)
Muskrat(s)	Wazhashk(wag)
Northern Pike(s)	Ginoozhe(g)
Oriole(s)	Asiginaak(wag)
Owl(s)	Kooko' oo(g)
Otter(s)	Nigig(wag)
Partridge(s)	Pinay
Pheasant(s)	Mayagi-bine(wag)
Pig(s)	Kookoosh(ag)
Porcupine(s)	Gaag(wag)
Rabbit(s)	Waabooz(oog)



Raccoon(s)	Esiban(ag)
Robin(s)	Opichi(wag)
Skunk(s)	Zhigaag(wag)
Sparrow(s)	Gakaashkine(wag)
Spider(s)	Asabikeshii(yag)
Squirrel(s)	Ajidamoo(g)
Snake(s)	Ginebig(oog)
Painted turtle(s)	Makinak
Snapping turtle(s)	Mikinaak(wag)
Sturgeon(s)	Name(wag)
Sucker(s)	Namebin(ag)
Sunfish(s)	Keegoo
Thunderbird(s)	Pinaaseeyuk
Turkey(s)	Mizise(g)
Turtle(s)	Makinak
Vulture(s)	Wiinaange(wag)
Walleye(s)	Ogaa(wag)
Weasel(s)	Zhingos(ag)
Whitefish(s)	Adikameg(wag)
Wolf(wolves)	Ma' iingan(ag)
Woodchuck(s)	Makakojiishi(wag)
Downey Woodpecker(s)	Baapaase(wag)
Pileated Woodpecker(s)	Meme(g)
Woodtick(s)	Aiseegaa
Wren(s)	Anaamisagadaweshii(wag)



4. NUMBERS

1

Bezhigh

6

Ningodwaaswi

2

Niizh

7

Niizhwaaswi

3

Niswi

8

Nishwaaswi

4

Niiwin

9

Zhaangaswi

5

Naanan

10

Midaaswi

11 to 19

add **Ashi** before number:

11 Ashi bezhigh

20 to 29

add **Niizhtana ashi**
before number:

21 Niizhtana ashi bezhigh

30 to 39

add **Nisimidana ashi**
before number:

31 Nisimidana ashi bezhigh

40s add Niimidana ashi

50s add Naanimidana ashi

60s add Ningodwaasimidana ashi

70s add Niizhwaasimidana ashi

80s add Nishwaasimidana ashi

90s add Zhaangasimidana ashi

100s add Angoodok

Nookoom, aaniin endasowi-biboonayan?
Grandmother, How old are you?

Nishwaasimidana ashi Nishwaaswi
Nindaaw gekinoo'mindimooyenh
Eighty I am an old lady

5. FOUR STAGES OF LIFE



Baby(ies)- Abinoojiiyens(ag)



Child(childeren)- Abinoojii(yag)

Girl(s)- Ikwesens(ag)

Boy(s)- Gwiiwizens(ag)



Women(Women)- Ikwe(wag)

Man(men)- Inini(wag)



Old Woman(women)- Mindimooye(yag)

Old Man(men)- Akiwenzii(yag)

6. DAYS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY

Monday(day after prayer day)
Ishkaa-anami'e giizhigad

TUESDAY

Tuesday(second day)
Niizho-giizhigad

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday(half way)
Aabitooweesay

THURSDAY

Thursday(fourth day)
Niiyo giizhigad

FRIDAY

Friday(fifth day)
Naano giizhigad

SATURDAY

Saturday(floor washing day)
Matinawe o giizangi

SUNDAY

Sunday(last work day or prayer day)
Ishwaaj-anokiigiizhigad or Anami'e-giizhigad

7. MONTHS

- January(Great Spirit Moon) Gichi-Manidoo-Giizis
- February(Sucker Fish Moon) Namebini-Giizis
- March(Crust on the Snow Moon) Onaabani-Giizis
- April(Sap Boiling Moon) Iskigamizige-Giizis
- May(Flower Budding Moon) Zaagibagaa-Giizis
- June(Strawberry Moon) Ode' imini-Giizis
- July(Half -Way, Summer Moon) Abitaa-Niibini-Giizis
- August(Wild Rice Moon) Manoominike-Giizis
- September(Leaves Changing Color Moon) Tagwaaginy Gezis
- October(Leaves Falling Moon))- Pinnabigoony Gezis
- November(Freezing Over Moon) Gashkadino-Giizis
- December(Little Spirit Moon) Biboony-Geezis



8. FOUR SEASONS



Summer- Niibin



Spring- Ziigwan



Fall- Dagwaagin



Winter- Biboon

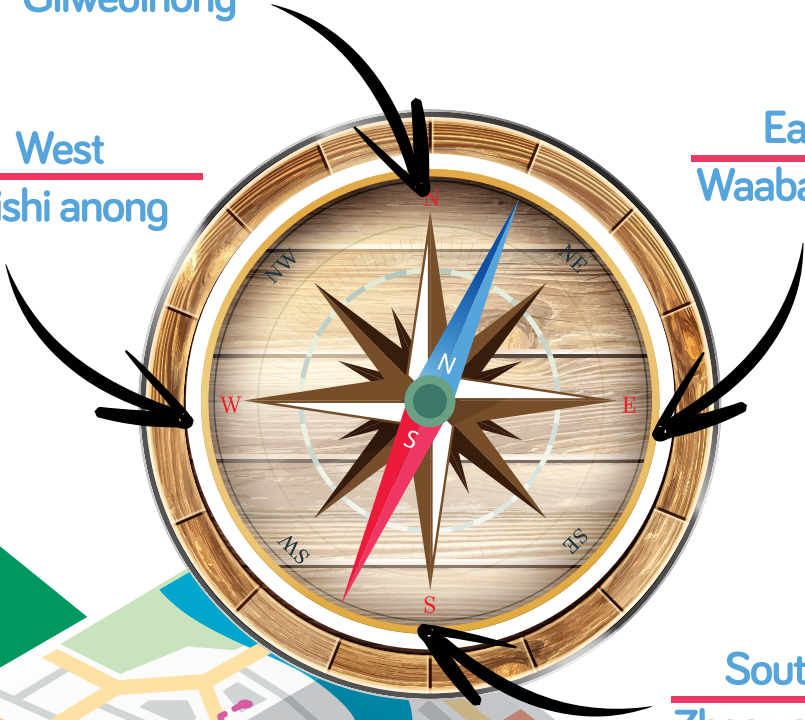
9. FOUR DIRECTIONS

North
Giwedionong

West
Kyishi anong

East
Waabanong

South
Zhaawanong



10. TIME

What time is it?- Aaniin endaso-diba' iganed?

One o'clock- Peshikoo-diba' igan

Two o'clock- Niizho-diba'igan

Three o'clock- Niso-diba' igan

Four o'clock- Niyo-diba' igan

Five o'clock- Naano-diba' igan

Six o'clock- Ningodwaaso-diba' igan

Seven o'clock- Niizhwaaso-diba' igan

Eight o'clock- Nishwaaso-diba' igan

Nine o'clock- Zhaangaso-diba' igan

Ten o'clock- Midaaso-diba' igan

Eleven o'clock- Midaggo Ashipeshik-diba' igan

Twelve o'clock- Naawaaguay (Noon)

Appitaatibiican (Midnight)



Hour- Diba'igan

Minute- Diba'iganens

11. COLORS

Black- Makadewaa

Red- Miskwaa

White- Waabishkaa

Blue or Green- Ozhaawashkwaa

Brown or Yellow- Ozhaawaa



12. FOUR MEDICINES



Ceder - Shingoop
Sweet Grass - Weengashkoon
Tobacco - Asemaa

13. FOUR PARTS OF A PLANT

Flower(s)- Waabigwan(iin)



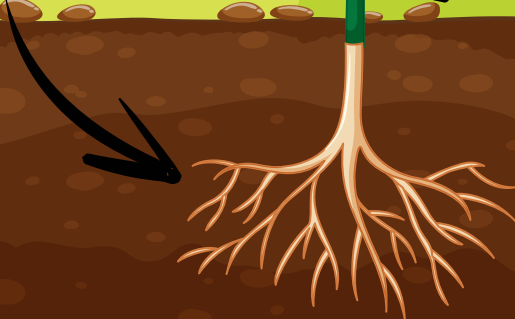
Leaf(s)- Aniibish(an)



Stem(s)- Shiizhins(an)



Root(s)- Ojiibik(an)



14. TREES

- Tree(s)- Mitig(oog)
- Balsam fir(s)- Zhingob(iiig)
- Black Ash(s)- Mukaaday Pingwee
- Jack Pine(s)- Wakikaandag(oog)
- Maple(s)- Aninaatig(oog)
- Norway Pine(s)- Apakwanagemag(oog)
- Poplar(s)- Azaadi(wag)
- Red Cedar(s)- Miskwaawaak(oog)
- Red Osier Dogwood(s)- Miskwaabiiminzh(iiig)
- Speckled or Tag Alder(s)- Wadoop(iiig)
- Spruce(s)- Zhingooob
- White Ash(s)- Waapishky Pingwee
- White Birch(s)- Wiigwaasi-mitig(oog)
- White Cedar(s)- Giizhik(ag)
- Willow(s)- Oziisigobiminzh(iiig)



15. FOOD

Bean(s)- Aneegeemin

Blackberry(s)- Makaadaygeemin

Blueberries-Miinan

Bread- Bakwezhigan

Cherry(s)- Ookwemin(an)

Coffee- Makademashkikiwaaboo

Cookie(s)- Aasuk

Corn- Mandaamin(ag)

Cranberry(s)- Aneepeeyiminun

Fry Bread- Zaasakokwaanibakwezhigan(ag)

Maple Sugar- Sheewaagamisigun

Meat- Wiiyaas

Milk- Tootooshaboo

Pea(s)- Anijiimin(an)

Pepper- Wiisagad

Raspberry(s)- Miskomin(ag)

Salt- Zhiiwitaagan

Strawberry(s)- Ode' imin(an)

Sugar- Sheeweenigun

Tea- Neetga

Tomato(s)- Ogeeneeg

Wild Rice- Manoomin



16. Wagonen owe?
What is this?

??

Mitig awe

That is a tree



Nibi iwe

That is water



Ishgode owe

This is fire



Mazina'igan iwe

That is a book



Adoopowin owe

This is a table



Inini wa'a

This is a man



Inini awe

That is a man



Ikwe awe

That is a woman



Giizis awe

That is the sun



Dibiki-giizis awe

That is the moon



Wapeeiwegoon iwe

That is a rose



17. Awenen awe?
Who is that?

??



Awenen awe inini?
Who is that man?

Baabaa awe
That is my father

Awenen awe ikwe?
Who is that woman

Nimaamaa awe
That is my mother



Awenen awe gwiwizenz?
Who is that boy?

Goozis awe
That is my son



Awenen awe ikwizenz?
Who is that girl

Daanis awe
That is my daughter

Animosh na awe?
Is that a dog?

Miinange
Yes. Of course



