

BEGINNERS
BOOK 3

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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.

Anishinaabemowin (excerpt from Gookom's Language Book)

Anishinaabemowin, the Ojibwe language, belongs to the Algonquian language family, one of the largest in Mikinaakominising (Turtle Island) or North America. Today, the Anishinaabe language is spoken in western Quebec and eastern Ontario where it's called Algonquin. Their written language is influenced somewhat by their French neighbours. In Ontario, they know it as Ojibwe. It is called Chippewa in a small part of southern Ontario, northern parts of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota. Further west in southern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, it becomes known as Saulteaux. In Saskatchewan, the Anishinaabe people there call their language "nakawewin". They have developed their own way of spelling their language. There are even some Ojibwe or Saulteaux communities in British Columbia.

Although Anishinaabemowin does change slightly as you go from one region to another, it is the same language. People from different areas are very accommodating when minor dialect differences appear while talking. These variations should not present barriers in communication. Do not feel self-conscious in these situations. Be proud of the dialect that you're learning. Each dialect exist because of its unique social history. Real people spoke the language that you're in the process of learning. Those are real people that got up early each morning while it was still dark, people who had to feed their children and elders, people who feared strange sounds in the night because it might be enemies sneaking up on them, or cannibal spirits coming at them. Our language exists today because our ancestors survived great hardships. The dialect we learn is the remainder of that time. Let's honour the ancestors by learning the language they left behind for us to speak.

OJIBWAY CALENDAR

An Ojibway is not the same as a western calendar. Ojibway calendar is lunar and is logical to a people who are closely linked to the land and nature.

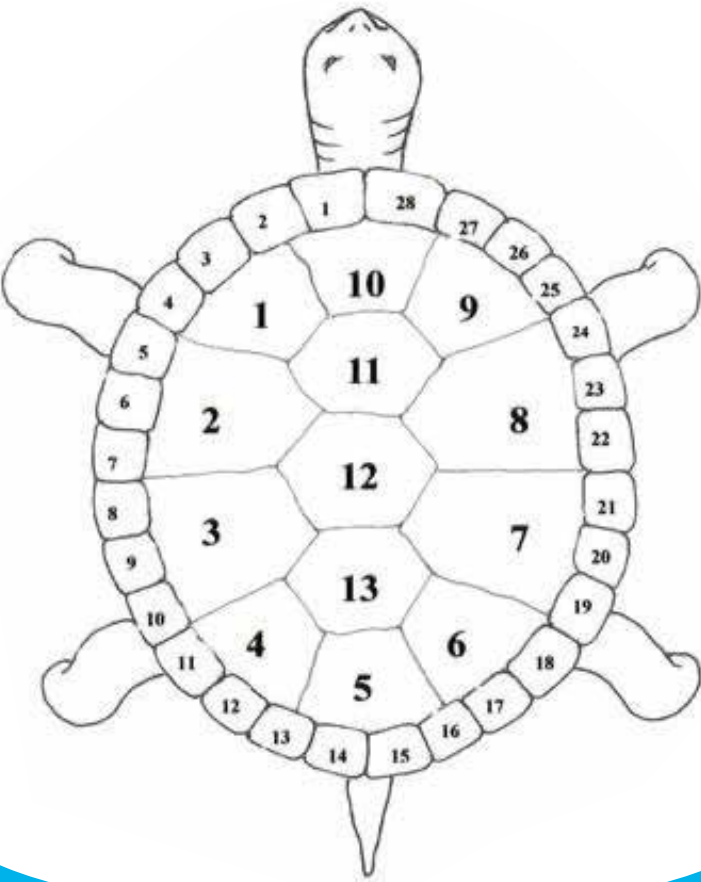
The different times of the moon are closely linked to corresponding important yearly events. There are many different names and variations of the thirteen moons. This is why these calendars do not often match up with the typical 12 month calendar.

The naming of the moons also has a cultural teaching that explains the cycle of life and nature within the culture.

When you look at the moon phases for each year you will see that there are 13 moons in the calendar year.

A special note of interest is from a teaching about turtles. On a turtles back the pattern of scales establishes the combination of numbers that define the lunar calendar cycle.

The circle of scales that surround the edge add up to 28, the number of days that comprise the lunar cycle. (28 days from full moon to full moon). The center of the shell has a pattern of thirteen larger scales which represent the 13 moons of the lunar calendar.



A night scene with a large, bright full moon in the center. The sky is dark blue with scattered white stars and soft, light blue clouds. In the foreground, there is a row of several green evergreen trees with brown trunks, standing on a green field. The overall atmosphere is calm and serene.

Ojibway Moons

The months are named for natural happenings at the time.

October in most places is **Binaakwe-giizis**, the moon when trees shed leaves.

November is **Gashkadino-giizis**, the moon when the lake or river water freezes. The names change gradually with each region because of the varying local geography and climate. Freeze-up happens earlier further north, as the budding of plant life will happen earlier towards the south, and so on. Northern and western Ojibway names of the months have been included in this section

Months

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

Manidoo-giizis, Bijibibooni-giizis
Gaa-dakwaasiged giizis
Migiziwi-giizis
Niki-giizis
Maango-giizis
Ode'imini-giizis, Zaagibagaawi-giizis
Miskomini-giizis, Ishkaninjiwi-giizis
Miini-giizis, Aditemini-giizis
Manoomini-giizis
Binaakwe-giizis
Gashkadino-giizis
Gichi-anama'egiizhigani-giizis,
Makozhegiizhigani-giizis.



Indian Time

(excerpt from Gookom's Language Book)

There is usually a joke made about "Indian time". It's supposed that native people operate under a different perception of time, and not by the clock. "My parents used to arrive early if they were to be at an event or to visit at a certain time. It showed that they held respect for their hosts by doing so. If they were ever late, it was because things happened that were out of their control. People had to be considerate and humble".t

Aanin-apeechee-angiimint keesis

What season is it?



Wintertime

- gichi-awasi-biboonong** three winters ago
- awasi-biboonong** two winters ago
- biboonong** last winter
- biboon** it is winter
- apita-biboon** it is in the middle of winter
- keetom-biboonong** next winter



Springtime

- gichi-awasi-ziigwanong** three springs ago
- awasi-ziigwanong** two springs ago
- ziigwanong** last spring
- ziigwan** it is spring
- weekaa giigwaanong** in the late spring
- weekaa giigwaanong** it is late spring
- keetom weekaa giigwaanong** next late spring
- keetom eegiig wanong** next spring



Summetime

gichi-awasi-niibinong	three summers ago
awasi-niibinong	two summers ago
niibinong	last summer
niibin	it is summer
keetom-niibing	next summer



Falltime

gichi-awasi-taagwaaging	three falls ago
awasi-niipin	two summers ago
niipinong	last summer
niipin	it is summer
keetom niipin	next summer

Days of the Week and Time of the Day

Sunday

Anamay giizhigan

SUNDAY

MONDAY

Monday

eeshkwaa anamay keeshik

Tuesday

niizhogiizhigan

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

aabitawise

Wednesday

Thursday

niiwigiizhigan

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

naanogiizhigan

Friday

Saturday

maadinawegiizhigan

SATURDAY

Other ways about time...

niswi-kiizigan apii	three weeks ago
niso-kiizigan apii	two weeks ago
kiizigan apii	last week
noogom kiizigan	this week
kiitom kiizigan	next week
gichi-awasinaago	three days ago
awasinaago	two days ago
bijiinaago	yesterday
dibikong	last night
kiikiizheb	this past morning
gizhebaawagan	it is morning
ishpi-giizhigan	it is late in the morning
jibwaa-naawakwe	it is before noon
jibwaa-naawakweg	when it will be before noon
naawakweg	at noon, when it will be noon
gii-naawakweg	when it was noon
noongom	now, today
naawakwe	it is noon



ishkwaa-naawakwe	it is afternoon
ishkwaa-naawakweg	when it will be afternoon
gii-ishkwaa-naawakweg	when it was/is in the afternoon
onaagoshig	in the evening
onaagoshin	it is the evening
aabitaa-dibikag	at midnight
gii-aabitaa-dibikaj	at midnight, when it was midnight
aabitaa-dibikan	it is midnight
waabung onagooshig	next evening tomorrow
waagung ge-dibikag	tomorrow night
neesho geeshigaak	in two days
awasibang	in three days



Telling Time



What time is it?
aanin minig essisaig

hour
waakaase

minute
miniciins

1 o'clock
bezhigo-diba'igan

4 o'clock
niwi-diba'igan

10 o'clock
midaaso-diba'igan

12 o'clock
Apitaadibikaan-gayma-nowaakway
(best to say it is noon or midnight)

6:30 pm

ngodwaaso aabita daso-diba'igan

3:30 am

nisin/niswi aabita daso-diba'igan

4:45 pm

Niiwin sigwa nii mitana azi maanan miniciison

3:10 pm

Niswii sigwa mitaazo iminiciison



Aneen Minik Asissaik



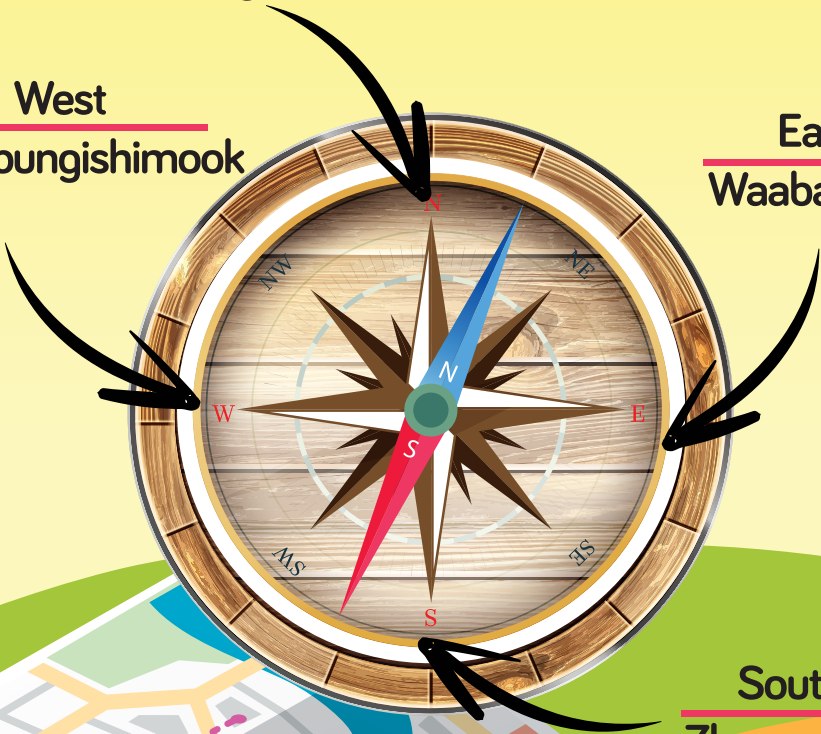
Locatives

North
Giiwedinong

West
Asheebungishimook

East
Waabanong

South
Zhaawanong



Some Locatives

aagawaateng	in the shade
nooding-aasamaya'ii	on the windy side
aasamisag	on the wall
aazhagaam	at the other side of the lake
aagawaytaing	in the shade
agaamy nee beeng	across the water
agamikana	across the road
kwaikaii-agarniya'iing	on the other side
agwajiing	outside
anaamakamig	underground
anaameebeeng	underwater
anaamiindim	underwater
anaaming	underneath
goochee ootee	away from here
eewiitee	over there
pagochayee bagwadakamig	in the wilderness
bagwajiya'iing	in the wilderness
bakekana	off to the side of the road
bakeya'ii	off to the side
ishpiming	over the top
besho	close by
bezhigwanong	in the same place
biindig	inside

peenche-cheeman-	inside a boat or canoe
ingbiinjiya'ii	inside
biitawakamig	between earth layers
dabazhiish	lower
dibinawaang	in the shelter from the wind
e'iidawee	on either side
e'iidawagaam	on either side of a body of water
giikesagaang	along the floorboard
giizhigong	in the sky
giiwaaweeyaa	around full circle
imaa	there (close by)
ishkweya'iing	in the far corner
ishpiming	up, skyward
gii gee nii beeng	on the shoreland
jiigi biig	near the water
jiigishkwaandem	near the door
jiigiya'ii	nearby
megwaakwaang	among the trees
megwekamig	in the middle of the land mass
ishpashkang	in the tall grass
michisag	on the floor
mishawagaam	in the middle of the lake
mishawakamig	in the open land
mishawisag	in middle of the room

mitakamig	on the bare ground
miziwe	everywhere
cheegaa ayee	along the shore
nibeengnaawagaam	in the middle of the lake
naawakamig	in the middle of the earth/land
naawakana	In the middle of the road
naawisag	in the middle of the room
naazhiya'ii	downwards
naa-waazibiing	down at the lake
gaacheebog	at the point
niigaan	at the front
niisaajiwan	downstream
niisadin	down the hill
niisajiw	down the hill
niisaki	down the hill
niisiya'ii	downwards
goji	somewhere else
naanaawaayee	in between
noopimiing	In the forest
odaanaang	at the back
oogichee asin	on top of the rock
ogidaajiwan	upstream

ogicheewakia ogidabak up on the roof
oogidaachew -ogidadin on top of the hill
ogidakamig on top of the earth
ogijiya'ii on top
omaa here
onakong treetop
ondaas towards this way
ootee - onigamiing at/from/to the portage
oodenaang downtown, at/from/to town
opimeya'ii on the side
waasa far away
oowedi over there
wiikwesagaang in the corner
seebe zaagiing at/from/to the river mouth
zagaakwaang in the tangled bush
zhiibaaya'ii under
shapooshkaa through

Let's talk about weather

**(Tok Tok!)
(Knock Knock!)**



**Biindigen!
Come in!**

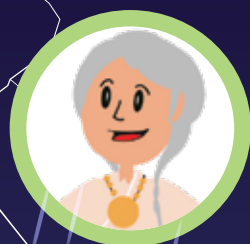
**Namadabin imaa
Sit there**

**Aaniin, ezhiwebak agwajiing?
How's the weather like outside?**

**Gimiwan, gichi-noodin gaye
It's raining, and also very windy**



**Bekish na gaye noondagoosiwa?
Is it also thundering as well?**



**Eya! Wiinge gosha maanzhigiizhigan
Yeah! It's really a bad day**



Weather Verbs

As many other cultures, we like to make small talk about the weather.

The situation is usually that one person hasn't been outside yet and must know what the weather is like.

Other times people can meet outside and observe the weather just to say something.

It is "nice weather, eh?" kind of talk.

These are the most common simple weather verbs that you can use.

In many dialects the cloud, day, night verbs end with a **d** instead of an **n**. Both mean exactly the same thing.

ningokwan = ningokwad

mino-giizhigan = mino-giizhigad

mino-dibikan = mino-dibikad

The weather verbs introduced here are the basic ones.

There are other weather verbs that describe the variety of weather.

aabawaa	it's getting mild
animikiikaa	there's a thunderstorm
binesiikaa	there's a thunderstorm
dakaayaa, daki'ayaa	it's cool
giizhawaayaa	it's warm, mild
gimiwan	it's raining
gisinaa	it's cold
gizhaate	the sun is shining warmly
gizhide	it's hot
maanzhigiizhigan	it's a bad day
mino-giizhigan	it's a beautiful day
mino-dibikan	it's a beautiful night
niiskaadan	it's wet
ningokwan	it is cloudy
noodin, gichi-noodin	it's windy
zaagaate	the sun's coming out
zoogipon	it is snowing



Aan'sh ezhiwebak?
What's the weather like?

Geyaabi ganabach gizaate
I think it's still hot



Ishe. Aazha ginwesh gizaate
Yuck, it's been hot so long now

Amii goda'i
That's for sure



Aandi?
Where to?

Oodenaang
Downtown





Wii-gimiwan gosha
It's going to rain

Gaaw'n ganabach
I don't think so



Ajina sa eta izhaadaa
Let's just go for a while

