



Ojibwe Reference Book for Beginners

Introduction, Sweat Lodge, Ceremony & 7 Teachings.



Roseau River Anishinaabe First
Nation Language Camp

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in soup, **a** as in pup, **aa** as in mama

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The following is a reference
booklet on learning the
language of Ojibwe that was
composed during the Ojibwe
Language Camp in Roseau
River Anishinaabe First Nation.

October 18-20, 2021

*Note – Not all words are the
same across Anishinaabe
country. There are variations of
words that are specific to that
community or region. They are
not wrong... it is a variation.

We need to be proud of our
language on how vast and
comprehensive it is. Do not
limit yourself to only knowing
one way to saying something.

Keep on learning.

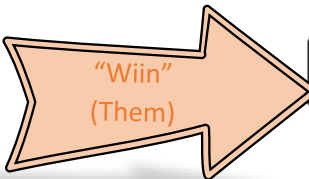
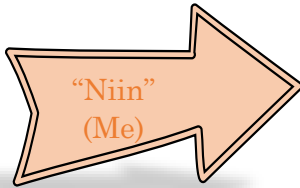
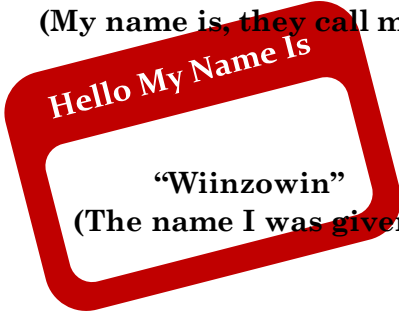
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Miigwech!

We give thanks to Carol
Beaulieu, Charlie Nelson,
Dawnis Kennedy, Ernie
Longclaws, and Peter Atkinson
for helping with translating
over the language camp days.

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“Ndizhinikaa”
(My name is, they call me)



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in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama



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“Gwiizens Dewigan”
(Little Boy Water drum)



“Maandoodoosan”
(Sweat Lodge)



“Midewewin/ Mide”
(People of the heart)



e as in bed, i as in pit, ii as in peek, o as in put, oo as
in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama

“Beminokwan”
(Umbilical cord)



“Asiniisag”
(Little Rocks/pebbles)

“Asiniig”
(Rocks)



“Mide Manidoo”
(Mide Spirit)

e as in bed, i as in pit, ii as in peek, o as in put, oo as
in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama

“Bimaadiziwin”

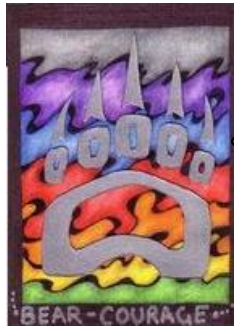
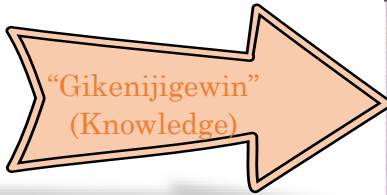
(The good life)

“Gweyak bimaadiziwin”

(Live the good life properly)



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in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama



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“Bashkwegan”
(Leather/Hide)



“Zhiizhiigwan”
(Rattle/shaker)

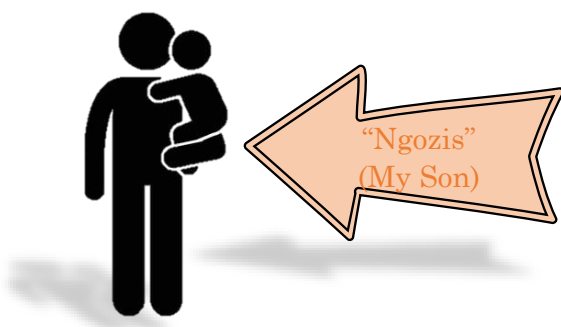


“Wenaboozhoo”
(First Man)

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in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama



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“Asemaa”
(Tobacco)



“Giishkaandag”
(Cedar)

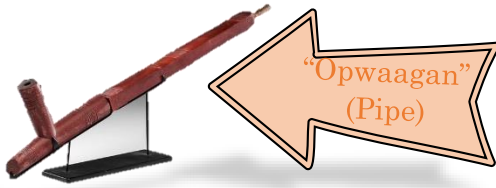


“Wiingwashk”
(Sweetgrass)



“Mashkodebizhiki
Wiinwashk”
(Buffalo Sage)

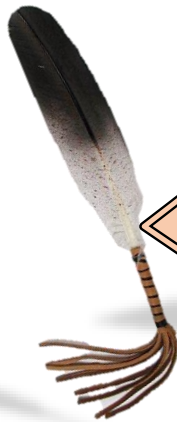
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“Niingwill”
(Fan/wing from a bird)

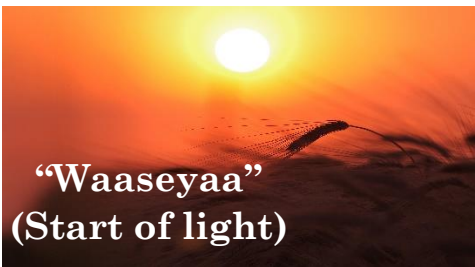


“Niigan”
(One feather)



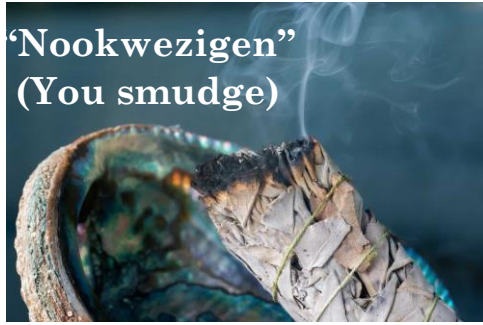
“Asemaa onaagan”
(Tobacco bowl)

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in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama



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**“Nookwezigen”
(You smudge)**



**“Nookwezan”
(The act of smudging)**



**“Gakina gegoo
wiingoshkizan”
(Smudge Everything)**



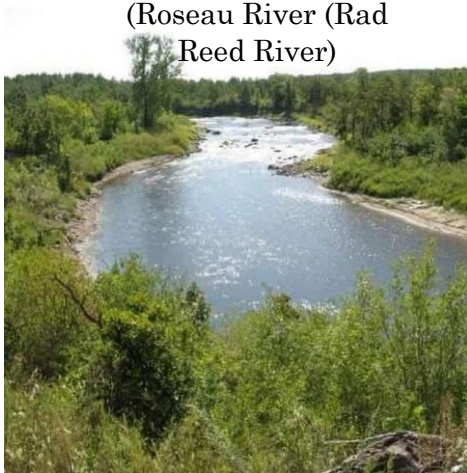
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in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama

“Anishinaabemowin”
(The Ojibwe language)

“Ojibwemodaa”
(Let’s speak Ojibwe)



“Bagonishkoziibiing”
(Roseau River (Rad
Reed River)

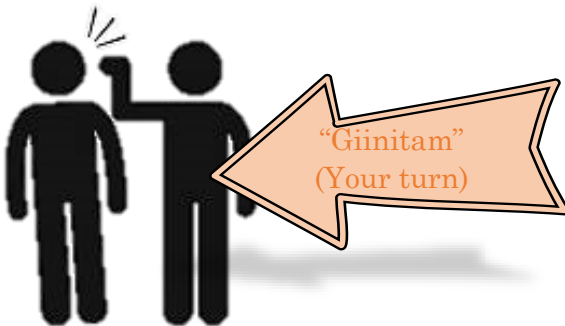


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“Dezhwegizidon”
(Spread it out ie: blanket)



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in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama



“Bagonegaad”
(Made a hole through it)



“Boodakwayan”
(Put it into the water)

“Agonjim”
(Let it soak)

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in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama

“Ozhiitan”
(Get ready)



“Noonde wiijgaabetawaa”
(Stand with a “living thing”)

“Ndaagaagiizimaa”
(Help to complete a duty)



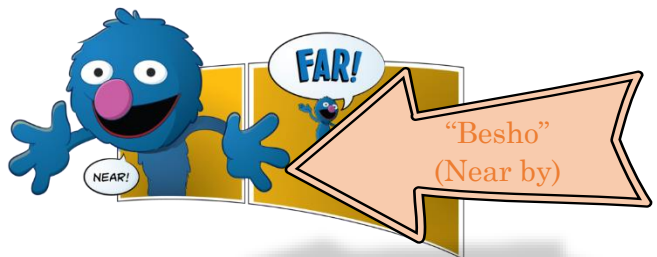
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“Inaakonigeg”
(Decide things a certain way ie: making a judgement or making a law)



“Naniinim asemaa”
(Lift the tobacco)



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in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama

“Niiwinoon ishkwandeman”
(There are 4 doorways)



“Zhaawanong Ishkwaandem”
(South Door)



“Ningaabi'inong Ishkwaandem”
(West Door)



“Waabanong Ishkwaandem”
(East Door)

“Giiwedinong Ishkwaandem”
(North Door)



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“Baakiiginaan”
(Open the cloth
doorway/curtain)

“Baakisidoon ishkwaandem”
(Leave the door open)



“Baakisidoon”
(Leave it open)

“Gaakiiginach”
(Hold it open)



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in soup, a as in pup, aa as in mama

“Agona’an maadoodooswan”
(Cover the sweat lodge)



“Naynan”
(Put it away)



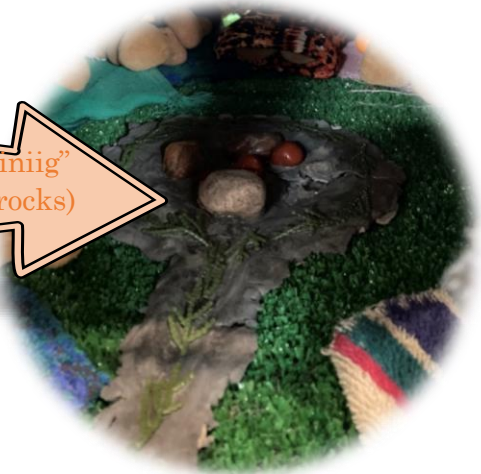
“Zaakaagisidoon”
(Put it away properly)

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“Enakosijigen”
(Making the “fireplace”)



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“Biidigazh asiniig”
(Bring in the rocks)

“Aaniin minik aniniig?”
(How many rocks?)

“Ozhigaabowig”
(Stand in line)



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“Giinawaa gaa-
biindigewag”
(You all went in)



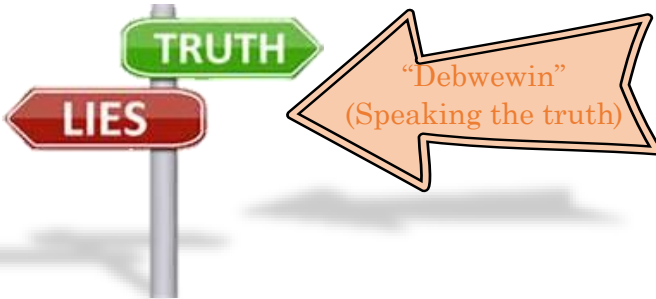
“Gizhibaashkaa
(Go around)

“Gibichiin imaa”
(Stop there)



“Wiindamaa ezhinikaazoyin”
(Announce your name)

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**“Ngaawiidibimaanana omaa”
(We will sit with him/her here)**



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“Boodawan”
(Make a fire
(in the
stove))

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“Ga-niiganishkan”
(Leader of the sweat lodge)



“Ngwiime”
(My namesake (the person who gave me a spiritual name))



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