

Ojibwe Reference Book for  
Beginners

Odds  
&  
Ends



Roseau River Anishinaabe First  
Nation Language Camp

**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

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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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“Siigwan”  
(Spring)



“Niibin”  
(Summer)

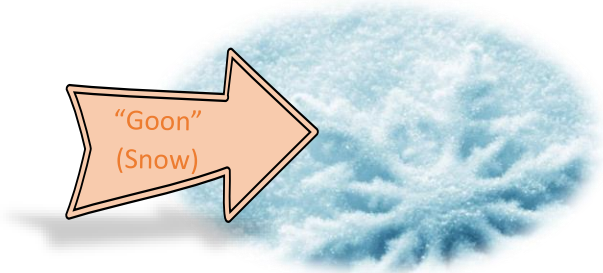
“Taquagwan”  
(Fall)



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“Bipoon”  
(Winter)



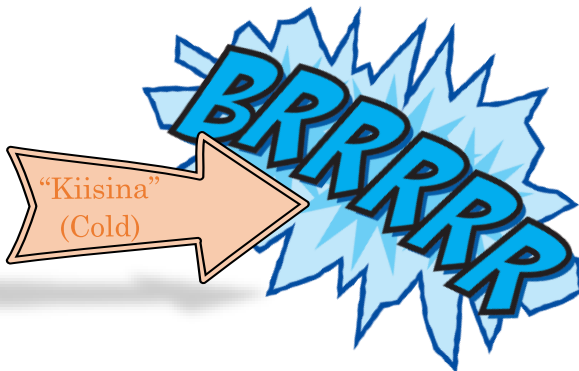
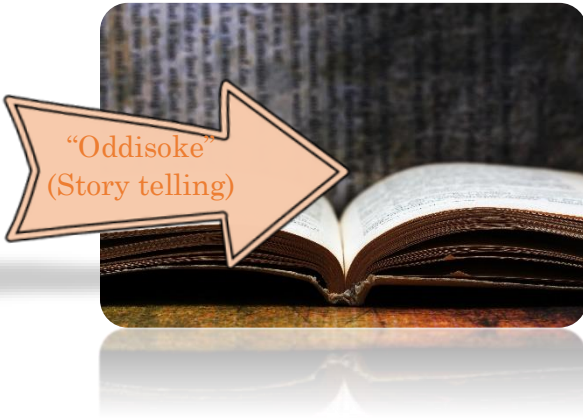
“Goon”  
(Snow)



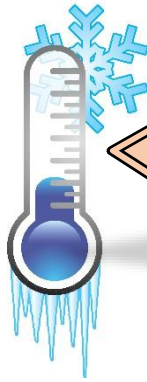
“Soogiipoon”  
(It is snowing)

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“Takagii”  
(Cold from the weather)



“Mushkwakodin”  
(Frozen)

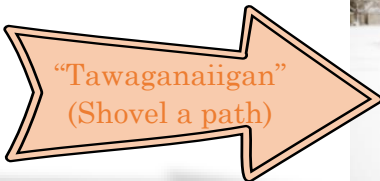


“Piwon”  
(Snow blowing over the land)

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



**“Bawbeewashe”  
(Blowing around as snowflake)**



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

“Shoshkoogiaa”  
(Sliding)



“Shoshquade a”  
(Skating)



“Miquam”  
(Ice)



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“Mushquakoogi”  
(He/She is frozen)

“Mushquakoojiitagaywagi”  
(Froze his/her ear)



“Ziidawakoogin”  
(Frozen stiff)

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“ninGiikag”  
(I am cold)

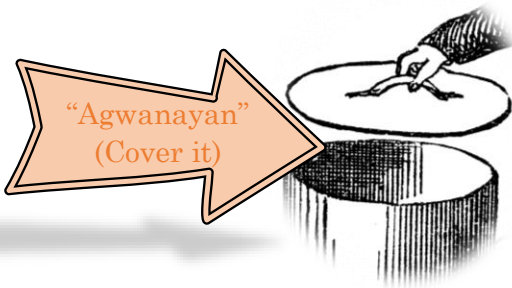


“Giikagingiwadg”  
(I have cold hands)

“Biiziicun”  
(Wear it)

**WEAR IT!**

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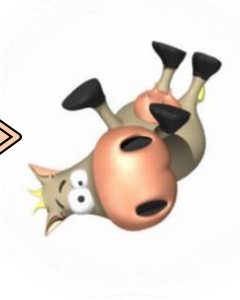


**“Biimindabasoo”**  
**(Someone is being**  
**pulled as in a sled)**



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“Gigwanibiisay”  
(He tipped over)

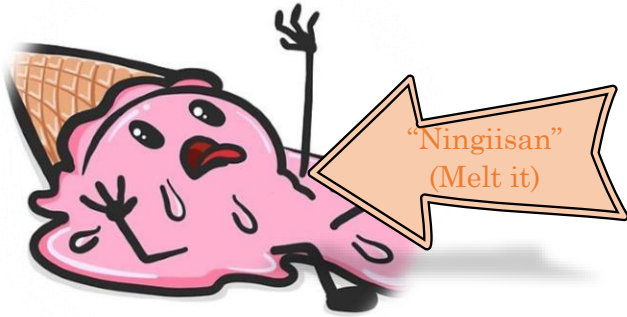


“Agiidinan”  
(Tip upside down)

“Giishoshin”  
(Laying down in warm place)



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**“Shaashaagishki”**  
**(Dancing, lowering their**  
**bodies towards the**  
**grounds)**



**“Nimidawin”**  
**(There’s a dance (noun))**



**“Nimiwak”**  
**(They are dancing)**



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“Nimii”  
(Dancing)



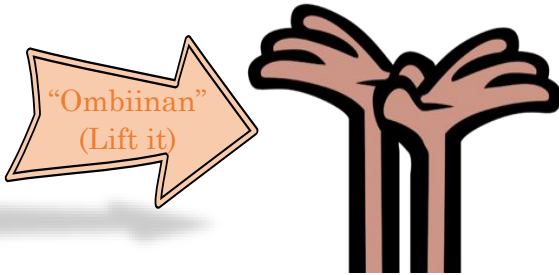
“Biindageshaamowak”  
(They are dancing in)



“Nimiidi agishganganan”  
(Dance outfit)



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“Naniimin asema”  
(Dance with the tobacco)



“Oniimin”  
(Go and dance)



“Naniimin o  
asema  
onaagan”  
(Go and dance  
for the  
tobacco bowl)

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**“Naagamon asema onaagan”**  
**(Sing the tobacco bowl song)**



**“Gaamaadicomigizimin”**  
**(Start it (command))**



**“Maamaajiin”**  
**(Start to move (command))**

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“Asemaa onaagan niwaabanda  
(I see the tobacco bowl)”

“Asemaa onaagan ninaazikaan”  
(I am going to get the tobacco

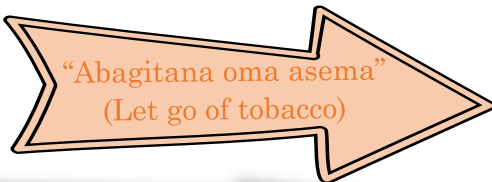
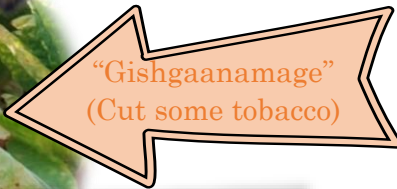
bowl)



“Asemaa onaagan ombinanan”  
(I am lifting the tobacco bowl)”

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**“Asemaa onaagan bimiwedooyaan”  
(Collecting the tobacco in the bowl)**



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“Oma’inchin”  
(Putting asema down)

“Anami’etaamo”  
(Can you hear them praying?)



“Gidagagiizaagoz”  
(Say appeasing words)

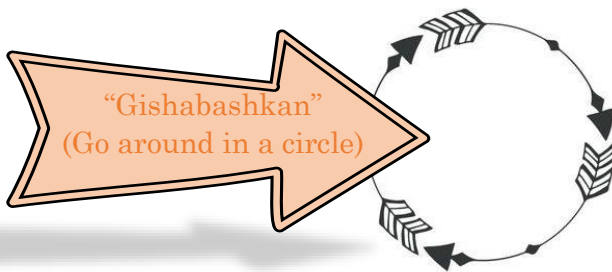


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**“Jinikwetaagomin”**  
**(We are being answered by the spirit)**



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**“Ganawachewenge”**  
**(Special place up there, well  
thought)**



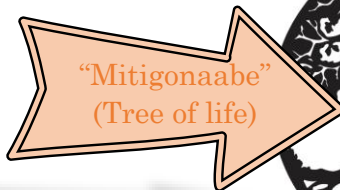
**“Miimaa da kooking miikaanan”**  
**(Take the steps of your ancestors)**



**“Mide miikana bimose’an”**  
**(Walking on the mide road)**



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Created by Veronica Berg  
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