

Ojibwe Reference Book for
Beginners

Numbers,
Inanimate/
Animate,
Places



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.

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

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.

e as in bed, i as in pit, ii as in peek, o as in put, oo as
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**“Bezhiḡ”
(One)**



**“Niizh”
(Two)**

**“Niswe”
(Three)**



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“Niiwin”
(Four)



“Naanan”
(Five)



“Ngodwaaswi”
(Six)

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**“Niizhwaaswi”
(Seven)**



**“Nishwaaswi”
(Eight)**

**“Zhaangaswi”
(Nine)**



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“Midaaswi”
(Ten)

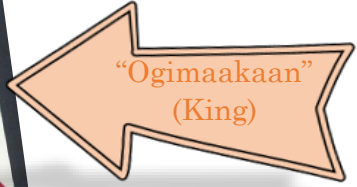
“Midwaswi ashi bezhig”
(Eleven)



“Niishtana ashi bezhig”
(The number 21)



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

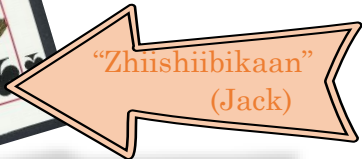


“Ogimaakaan”
(King)

(Also used for Chief)



“Ogimaakwe”
(Queen)



“Zhiishiibikaan”
(Jack)

(Also used for Soldier and
Policeman)

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

“Odaapin___”
(Pick up something inanimate)



“Odaapinan___”
(Pick up something animate)



“Ongimaa”
(Counted in)



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



“Abi”
(He/She is at home)

“Anokii”
(He/She works)



“Anookii”
(He/She asks)

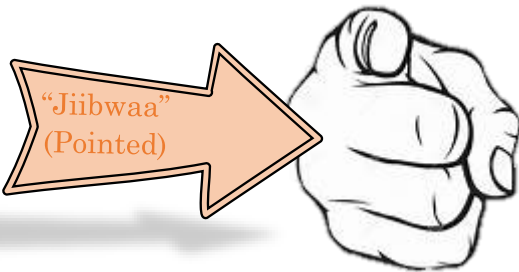
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“Apii”
(At the time/when/later)



“Jibwaa”
(Before)



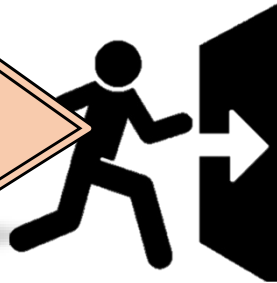
“Jiibwaa”
(Pointed)

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



“Maajaaban”
(He/She was leaving or going)

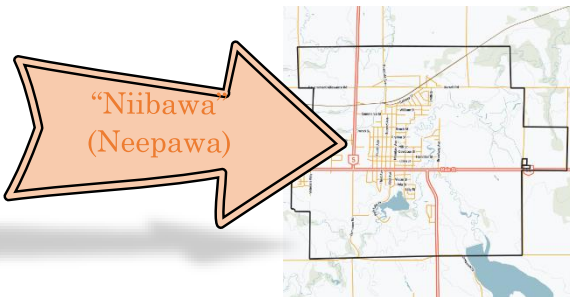
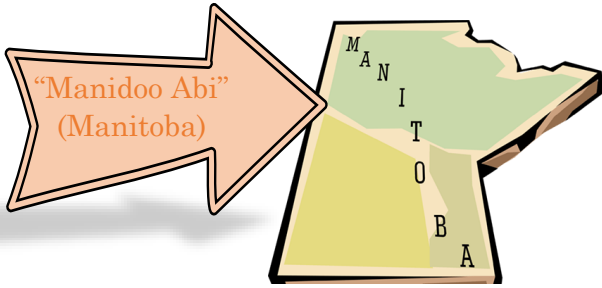
“Maajaapan”
(If he/she leave or go)



“Ndoodem”
(Clan)



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



“Makizin”
(Shoe/slipper)



“Waaki’igan Dibikak”
(Fort Nite)



“Adizooked”
(To tell a story)

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



“Jijaakam”
(Spirit)



“Jibay”
(Ghost)



“Adizookaam”
(Story)

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



“Mayaajibayaboons”
(A little spirit)

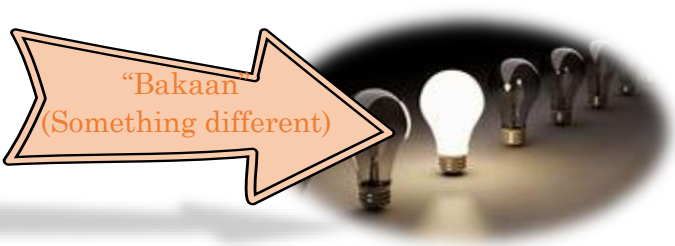
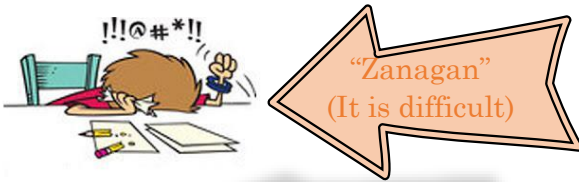
“Gaaniigaanshkamonang”
(Leaders)



“Gichi-ogimaa” (Prime Ministers)



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**“Niizh minjaninch ishpaning”
(2 thumbs up)**



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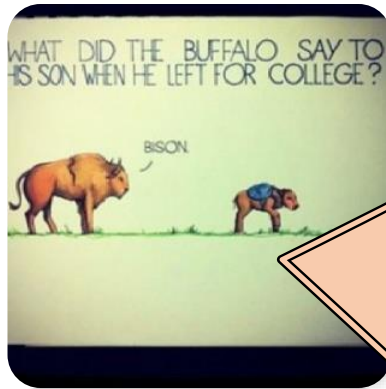
“Michi anishinaabemon”
(Just use Ojibwe to one



“Michi anishinaabemog”
(Just use Ojibwe to more
than one person)



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



“Awezhigo”
(Funny)

“Gaamashi”
(Not yet)

Not
Yet



“Aa say”
(Oh no)

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



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**“Minikweshki”
(He/She is a habitual drinker)**



**“Aabaakwese”
(Come to a realization)**

**“Nookaa”
(Soft)**

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


long time ago...



“Mewinzha”
(Long ago)



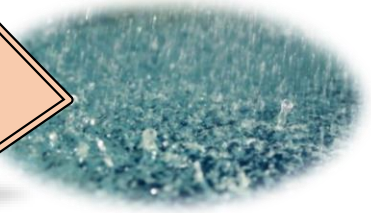
“Minjinij”
(Thumbs)



“Ishpiming”
(Up)

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

“Gimiwan”
(Rain)



“Mikomiins bangishin”
(Hail is falling)

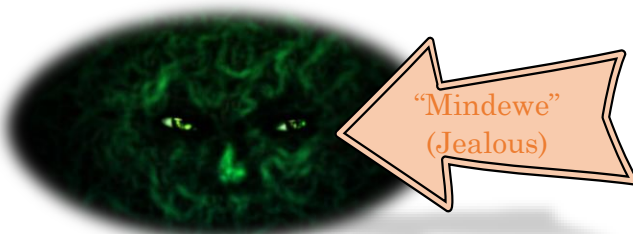
“Ningokwamigan”
(Storming/cloudy)



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

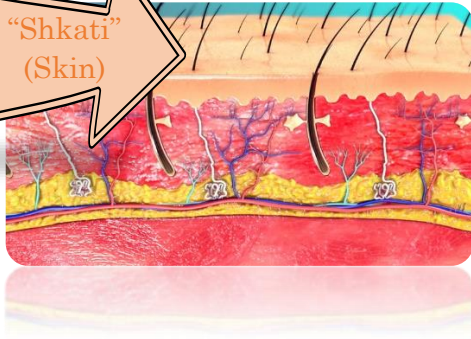


“Aaniin endasabiboonayin?”
(How many winters have
you been alive?)



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

“Shkati”
(Skin)



“Gi-giichaagiz”
(You got burned)

“Ni-ondaabaamaa waabang”
(I’m going to see the doctor
tomorrow)



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“Awenen noonde-waabamad?”

(Who do you want to see?)

I can't wait to
see you again

“Awenen noonde-ganoonad?”

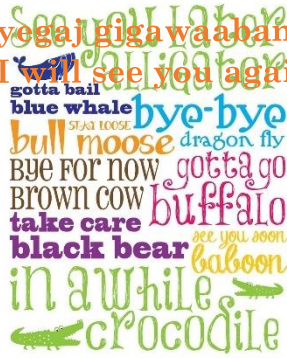
(Who do you want to speak to?)



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“Nayegaj gigawaabinamin miinawaa”

(I will see you again, later on)



“Noonde bizindawaan
Anishinaabe”

(I want to listen to
Anishinaabe)



“Geyaabi ji-abijitooyan”

(You are still use it)



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

“Da’izhin ina?”
(Are you talking about me?)



“Gi-dazhimig”
(He/She is talking about you)

Don't be shy!

“Gego agajiken”
(Don't be shy)

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

Don't BE
AFRAID



“Gego zegisiken”
(Don't be afraid)



“Bekaach”
(Slower)

SLOW

Do You
Understand
Me?



“Ginisitotami na?”
(Do you understand me?)

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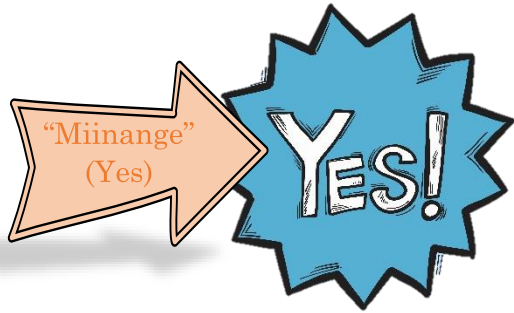
“Gaan nisidotanziin”
(I do not understand)



“Aapiji miigwech”
(Thank you very much)



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Created by Veronica Berg

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