

Michael Waasegiizhig Price Traditional Ecological Knowledge Specialist Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Giishpin ganawendan gidinwewininaan, gigaganawenimig aadizookaan gaa-ganawendang Anishinaabemowin.

If you take care of the language, the spirit-keeper of the language will take care of you.

Tobasaanakwad Kinew

Berrypicking words

Mawinzo
S/he is picking berries

Miinike
S/he is picking berries, eating berries

Aagawinzo
S/he conceals location of berries

Baasiminaanike drying berries

Baasiminaan dried berry

Miskomin Raspberry

Miin Blueberry

Odatagaagomin Blackberry (odatagwaagan - spine)

Niminwendam mawinzoyaan.

I am happy when I am picking berries.

Ingii-minwendam mawinzoyaan bijiinaago.
I was happy picking berries yesterday.

Niminwendam gii-mawinzod bijiinaago.

I am happy that she picked berries yesterday.

Minwendamoog mawinzowaad.

They are happy when they are picking berries.

Ingii-ayekoz gii-mawinzoyaan bijiinaago.
I was tired while I picked berries yesterday.

Apane nimbakade mawinzoyaan.

I am always hungry when I pick berries.

apane - always

Gaawiin ingii-mawinzosii bijiinaago.

I did not pick berries yesterday.

Ingii-mawinzomin gabe-giizhig bijiinaago. We picked berries all day yesterday.

gabe-giizhig - all day

Goshkozin! Giga-mawinz noongom!

Wake up! You are picking berries today!

Inga-mawinzomin goshkoziwaad.
We will pick berries when they wake up.

Inga-mawinzomin goshkoziyeg.
We will pick berries when you all wake up.

B-Form Plurals - We inclusive and exclusive

B-Form Plurals for 1st person are very close to Singulars.

Bakadeyaang when we are hungry (exclusive)

► Bakadeyang when we are hungry (inclusive)

B-Form Pronouns	Singular Formula	Plural Formula	
1st Person (me)	verb + yaan	verb + yaang (exclusive)	
		verb + yang (inclusive)	
2 nd Person (you)	verb + yan	verb + yeg	
3 rd Person (s/he)	verb + d	verb + waad	

Nimbakademin mawinzoyaang.

We are hungry when we are picking berries (excl). (excluding the person that you are speaking to)

Gibakademin mawinzoyang (incl).

We are hungry when we are picking berries. (including the person that you are speaking to)

Niminwendam mawinzoyang.

I am happy when we are picking berries (inclusive).

Minwendamoog mawinzoyaang.

They are happy when we are picking berries (exclusive).

Ingii-ayekoz gii-mawinzoyaang bijiinaago.

I was tired when we picked berries yesterday (exclusive).

Ingii-nagamomin gii-mawinzoyaang.
We were singing when while we picked berries.

Ingii-mawinzomin gii-ayekoziyaang.
We picked berries while we were tired.

VAI Conjugation Chart: A-form and B-form

Pronoun	A-form Singular	A-form Plural	B-form Singular	B-form Plural
1 st Person (me)	Ni + verb In + verb Nin + verb Nind + verb Nim + verb	Ni + verb + min (exclusive) Gi + verb + min Gid + verb + min (inclusive)	verb + yaan	verb + yaang (exclusive) verb + yang (inclusive)
2 nd Person (you)	Gi + verb Gid + verb	Gi + verb + m Gid + verb + m	verb + yan	verb + yeg
3 rd person (s/he)	verb	verb + wag Verb + oog	verb + d	verb + waad

I am happy when I pick berries.

Niminwendam mawinzoyaan.

I was happy when I picked berries yesterday. Ingii-minwendam gii-mawinzoyaan bijiinaago. I picked a lot of berries yesterday. Ingii-mawinz niibowa bijiinaago. We sang while we picked berries.

Ingii-nagamomin gii-mawinzoyaang.

They picked a lot of berries yesterday. Gii-mawinzowag niibowa bijiinaago.

Gagwejim ina?