



Gekinoo'amaagewigamig Ojibwemowin Lesson 2: VAI verbs

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Giishpin ganawendan gidinwewininaan, giga-
ganawenimig aadizookaan gaa-ganawendang
Anishinaabemowin.

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

Tobasaanakwad Kinew



Outline for today's lesson

- ▶ Vowel Pronunciations
- ▶ Intro to VAs
- ▶ Dropping the short vowels

Vowel Pronunciations in Ojibwemowin

Short vowels:

- ▶ a up
- ▶ i sit
- ▶ o open

Long vowels:

- ▶ ii fet
- ▶ oo boot
- ▶ e day
- ▶ aa father



Bakade

Bimibatoo

Wiisini

Short vowels:

a	up
i	sit
o	open

Long vowels:

ii	feet
oo	boot
e	day



Verb Animate Intransitive (VAI)

Definition of VAI:

- ▶ The verb is referring to a living (animate) subject.
- ▶ The verb is “intransitive” meaning that it does NOT transfer action to another object.

Examples of intransitive verbs:

- ▶ I am hungry. He is working.
- ▶ You are sleepy. She is contemplative.
- ▶ We were happy. They went hunting.

Verb Animate Intransitive (VAI)

What is the difference between VAI and VTA?

VAI:

- ▶ **Wisini** – s/he is eating.
- ▶ **Niwiisin** – I am eating.

VTA:

- ▶ **Amo** – eating someone animate.
- ▶ Nind**amw**aa mishiimin.
I am eating an apple.
- ▶ Nind**amw**aag mishiiminag.
I am eating apples.



Verb Animate Intransitive (VAI)

1st person - Niin:

Ni _____. (if the verb starts with a consonant)

In _____. (if the verb starts with a vowel)

Nind _____. (if the verb starts with a vowel)

Nim _____. (if the verb starts with a "b")

2nd person - Giin:

Gi _____. (if the verb starts with a consonant)

Gid _____. (if the verb starts with a vowel)



Verb Animate Intransitive (VAI)

1st person – Niin:

- ▶ Ninibaa – I am sleeping.
- ▶ Indewikwe – I have a headache.
- ▶ Nindayekoz – I am tired.
- ▶ Nimbimose – I am walking.

2nd person – Giin:

- ▶ Gibakade – You are hungry.
- ▶ Gidanokii – You are working.



Verb Animate Intransitive (VAI)

The VAI verb is already in 3rd person. No conjugation required for he or she.

Ex. **Bakade.** - She is hungry.

Bimose. - She is walking.

For 3rd person plural, add “-wag” at the end of the VAI:

Ex. **Bakadewag.** – They are hungry.

Bimosewag. – They are walking.

Verb Animate Intransitive (VAI)

Important Rule:

When a VAI verb ends with a “i” or “o”, the vowel is dropped for 1st and 2nd persons only.

Wisini – s/he is eating

Ni-**wisin** – I am eating.

Gi-**wisin** – You are eating.

Nagamo – s/he is singing.

Ni-**nagam** – I am singing.

Gi-**nagam** – You are singing.

Verb Animate Intransitive (VAI)

Important Rule:

When a VAI verb ends with a “i” or “o”, the vowel is dropped for 1st and 2nd persons only.

S/he is called _____.

Izhinikaazo _____.

I am called _____.

Indizhinikaaz _____.

You are called _____.

Gidizhinikaaz _____.

They are called _____.

Izhinikaazowag _____.



Question:

Anokii. – S/he is working.

Would you drop the vowel for “I” or “you” sentence?

Gidanokii. Is this correct? Why?



Nimbakade.



Bakadewag.



Giwiisin.



Wiisiniwag.



Izhinikaazo Miles.



Gidizhinikaaz Cat.




Scientists Izhinikaazowag.





Gagwejim na?
Are there questions?



Ojibwemowin Phrase of the Day:
Bizindaw gaa-wiisagendamowaad.
“Listen to those who are hurting.”