

Gekinoo'amaadiiwigamig Ojibwemowin Lesson 29: Nouns

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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

Animate and Inanimate Nouns

There are two types of nouns: **animate** and **inanimate**.
Some of the delineations are intuitive, some are not.

Animate nouns

Mitig	tree
Giizis	sun
Dibiki-giizis	moon
Miigwan	feather

Inanimate nouns

Zaaga'igan	lake
Mashkode	prairie
Miikana	road
Mitigomin	acorn

Animate and Inanimate Nouns

According to our teachings, the sacred elements are as follows:

Asin	Rock	Animate
Noodin	Wind	Inanimate
Ishkode	Fire	Inanimate
Nibi	Water	Inanimate

Currently, there are lots of discussions about the animacy/inanimacy of water.

Creating Nouns from Verbs

A VAI verb can be converted into a noun by adding 'win' at the end of the word.

VAI Verb

Gabeshi

S/he camps.

Nagamo

S/he sings.

Niimi

S/he dances.

Bezhigo

S/he is alone.

Anokii.

S/he works.

Noun

Gabeshiwin

encampment

Nagamowin

a song

Niimiwin

a dance

Bezhigowin

solitude

Anokiiwin

work

Creating Nouns from Verbs

Nouns which indicate specific places (buildings) are created by adding 'wigamig' at the end of the verb:

Aakozi.	S/he is sick.	Aakoziwigamig	hospital
Adaawe.	S/he buys.	Adaawewigamig	store
Wiisini.	S/he eats.	Wiisiniwigamig	restaurant
Ataage.	She gambles.	Ataagewigamig	casino

Creating Nouns from Verbs

Adding 'ong' or 'ing' at the end of the word creates a locative phrase indicating a location:

- ▶ aakoziwigamig hospital
- ▶ aakoziwigamigong at the hospital

- ▶ adaawewigamig store
- ▶ adaawewigamigong at the store

- ▶ wiisiniwigamig restaurant
- ▶ wiisiniwigamigong at the restaurant

Creating Verbs from Nouns

Creating verbs from nouns requires adding 'ike' at the end of the noun to create a relative verb:

- ▶ Manoomin wild rice
- ▶ **Manoominike** harvests wild rice

- ▶ Bakwezhigan bread
- ▶ **Bakwezhiganike** making bread

- ▶ Jiimaan canoe
- ▶ **Jiimaanike** making a canoe

Review of Pronouns

1 st person	Niin	I, me
2 nd person	Giin	You
3 rd person	Wiin	Him, Her
1 st person plural	Niinawind	We (exclusive)
1 st person plural	Giinawind	We (inclusive)
2 nd person plural	Giinawaa	You all
3 rd person plural	Wiinawaa	They

Possessive Nouns

Possessive nouns indicate who possesses them and are conjugated with the pronouns: niin, giin, wiin.

Waakaa'igan	house	
Niwaakaa'igan	my house	(niin)
Giwaakaa'igan	your house	(giin)
Owaakaa'igan	his/her house	(wiin)

Possessive Nouns

Possessive nouns indicate who possesses them and are conjugated with the plural pronouns: *niinwind*, *giinwind*, *giinawaa*, *wiinawaa*.

Niwaakaa'iganinaan	Our house (exclusive)	(Niinawind)
Giwaakaa'iganinaan	Our house (inclusive)	(Giinawind)
Giwaakaa'iganiwaa	You all's house	(Giinawaa)
Owaakaa'iganiwaa	Their house	(Wiinawaa)

Possessive Nouns

- ▶ **gimishoomis** your grandfather
- ▶ **Gimishoomisinaan** our grandfather
- ▶ **Gimishoomisinaanig** our grandfathers

- ▶ **Gookomis** your grandmother
- ▶ **Gookomisinaan** our grandmother
- ▶ **Gookomisinaanig** our grandmothers

Gi-nibii-m-inaan Our water (inclusive)



Verb Relationships in Ojibwemowin

Thoughts or ideas can be articulated in different verb forms such as:

Minwendam.	S/he is happy.	VAI
Minwendan.	Like it.	VTI
Minwenim.	Like someone.	VTA
Bizindam.	S/he is listening.	VAI
Bizindan.	Listen to it.	VTI
Bizindaw.	Listen to him/her.	VTA

Verb Relationships in Ojibwemowin

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|-----|
| ▶ Niminwendam. | I am happy. | VAI |
| ▶ Niminwendaan. | I like it. | VTI |
| ▶ Niminwenimaa. | I like him/her. | VTA |
| | | |
| ▶ Nimbizindam. | I am listening. | VAI |
| ▶ Nimbizindaan. | I am listening to it. | VTI |
| ▶ Nimbizindawaa. | I am listening to him. | VTA |

Niminwendaan niwaakaa'igan.

I like my house.

Niminwendaan giwaakaa'igan.

I like your house.

Niminwendaan owaakaa'igan Dawn.

I like Dawn's house.

Manoomin niminwendaan.

I like wild rice.

Ode'imin niminwendaan.

I like strawberry.

Wiisiniwin niminwendaan.

I like food.

Niminwendam! Niminwendaan niwaakaa'igan.

I am happy.

I like my house.

Niminwendam giwaakaa'iganing.

I am happy at your house.

Tayaa! Ingii-goshkoz giwaakaa'iganing.

Oh no! I woke up at your house.

Niminwendaan zaaga'igan.

I like the lake.

Niminwendam zaaga'iganing.

I am happy at the lake.

Summary

- ▶ Animate and inanimate nouns
- ▶ Creating Nouns from Verb
- ▶ Creating Verbs from Nouns
- ▶ Possessive Nouns
- ▶ Verb Relationships in Ojibwemowin

Gagwejim ina?