



Gekinoo'amaadiwigamig Ojibwemowin Lesson 3: 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



Review from last week

- ▶ Rule 1: All VAI verbs are in 3rd person (he/she).
- ▶ Rule 2: Use pronouns Niin or Giin at the front of the verb to refer to 1st or 2nd person respectively.
- ▶ Rule 3: Drop the short vowels “i” and “o” when speaking only in 1st and 2nd person singular.
- ▶ Rule 4: Add “wag” to the end of a 3rd person VAI to pluralize it (they).



Nimbakade.



I am hungry.



Wiisini.



S/he is eating.



Giwiisin.



You are eating.



Wiisiniwag.



They are eating.



Bakadewag.



They are hungry.



Izhinikaazo Miles.



He is called Miles.



Gidizhinikaaz Tanya.



You are called Tanya.



Overview of today's lesson

- ▶ 1st person plural – We's (inclusive and exclusive)
- ▶ 2nd person plural – ya'll, you's, you's guys, you all
- ▶ "Yes" or "No" questions



1st person plural – “we” or “us”

In Ojibwemowin, there are two types of “we:”

we (exclusive) – excludes the person that you are talking to when speaking collectively.

we (inclusive) – includes the person that you are talking to when speaking collectively.



We (exclusive)

- ▶ Begin verb with 1st person pronoun “niin.”
- ▶ Add “min” or “imin” at the end of the verb to pluralize it.

Example:

- ▶ **Nibakademin** – We are hungry (excluding you)
- ▶ **Nindanokiimin** – We are working (excluding you)



We (inclusive)

- ▶ Begin verb with 2nd person pronoun “giin.”
- ▶ Add “min” or “imin” at the end of the verb to pluralize it.

Example:

Gibakademin – we are hungry (including you)

Gidanokiimin – we are working (including you)



Ayekozi – s/he is tired.

Nindayekozimin.



We are tired.
(excluding the person you
are talking to)



Bimose – S/he is walking.

Gibimosemin.





We are walking.
(including you)



Gidizhinikaazomin scientists.



We are called scientists.
(including you)

VAI – Plural – 2nd person

- ▶ Conjugate the verb to 2nd person.
- ▶ **Important Rule: Add “m” at the end of the verb to make it 2nd person plural.**

Example: **Gi**bakade**m** – You all are hungry.

Giwiisini**m** – You all are eating.

Gidanoki**m** – You all are working.



VAI – Plural – 2nd person - Wiisini

3rd person single : **Wiisini** – s/he is eating.

3rd person plural: **Wiisniwag** – they are eating.

1st person single: **Niwiisin** – I am eating.

2nd person single: **Giwiisin** – You are eating.

2nd person plural: **Giwiisnim** – You all are eating.



Gibimosem.



Gibimosem.

You all are walking.



Giwiisinim.



Giwiisinim.

You all are eating.



Ginagamom.



Ginagamom.

You all are singing.

Personal Pronouns	Singular Formula	Plural Formula
First Person (me)	Ni + verb In + verb Nin + verb Nim + verb Nind + verb	Ni + verb + min (exclusive) Gi + verb + min (inclusive)
Second Person (you)	Gi + verb Gid + verb	Gi + verb + m
Third Person (he/she)	verb	Verb + wag Verb + oog



“Yes” or “No” questions for VAIs

- ▶ Use “na or “ina” as the 2nd word in the sentence when asking a yes or no question.
- ▶ This only applies to VAI verbs.
- ▶ Example:
 - ▶ **Gibakade** na? Are you hungry?
 - ▶ **Gidanokii** na? Are you working?
 - ▶ **Niminwendam** ina? Am I happy?



“Yes” or “No” questions for VAs

- ▶ Miles na gidizhinikaaz?
- ▶ Are you called Miles?

- ▶ Gidizhinikaaz na Miles?
- ▶ Are you called Miles?



Gibimose na noongom?



Are you walking today?



Bakadewag ina?



Are they hungry?



Giwiisinimin ina noongom?



Are we eating now?



Gagwejim ina?

Are there any questions?





Ojibwemowin Phrase of the Day:

“Ayaangwaamizin imaa.”

“Be careful out there.”