



Gekinoo'amaadiiwigamig Ojibwemowin Lesson 4: VAIs and Tenses

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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 of last week: VAI

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 Gid + verb + m
Third Person (he/she)	verb	Verb + wag Verb + oog



Waawaashkeshiwag bimibatoowag.

The deer are running.



Waaboozoo namadabi.

The rabbit is sitting.



Migiziwag bimisewag.

The eagles are flying.



Ikwewag baapiwag.

The women are laughing.



Nindayekozimin miinawaa.

We are tired again.



Minwendamoog.

They are happy.



Verb Tenses – past and future

gii – past tense

wii – future (want to)

ga/da – future (will)



Verb Tenses – past and future

There is a specific order to pronouns and tenses. The formula is:

Pronoun + tense + verb

In + gii + bakade

Ingii-bakade – I was hungry



Verb Tenses – past and future

Niin – 1st Person:

Ingii-bimose. I walked.

Niwii-bimose. I want to walk.

Inga-bimose. I am going to walk.



Verb Tenses – past and future

Giin – 2nd Person:

Gigii-bimose. You walked.

Giwii-bimose. You want to walk.

Giga-bimose. You are going to walk.



Verb Tenses – past and future

Wiin – 3rd Person:

Gii-bimose. He walked.

Wii-bimose. She wants to walk.

Da-bimose. He is going to walk.



Verb Tenses – past and future

Giin – 2nd Person plural

Gigii-**bimosem**. You all walked.

Giwii-**bimosem**. You all want to walk.

Giga-**bimosem**. You all are going to walk.




Verb Tenses – past and future

Wiin – 3rd Person plural

Gii-**bimosewag**. They walked.

Wii-**bimosewag**. They want to walk.

Da-**bimosewag**. They are going to walk.



Rules to Remember when translating
an Ojibwe word.

- 1: Identify the root word.
- 2: What tense is it?
- 3: What is the pronoun?

Start with the root word and work your
way outward.



Ingii-bakade.

I was hungry.



Gigii-bimibattoo.

You ran.



Wii-niimiwag.

They want to dance.



Gii-goshkozi.

He woke up.



Giwii-nibaa na?

Do you want to sleep?



Niwii-gawashim.

I want to lie down to sleep.



Gigii-ayekozim.

You all were tired.



Da-nibaawag.

They are going to sleep.



Gagwejim ina?



Miinabaashkimasijiganibiitoosijiganibakwezhigan.

Miinan - blueberries

Baashkimas – burst or smash berries.

Baashkimasijigan – fruit preserves or pie filling.

Biitoosijigan – something in layers.

Bakwezhigan – something sliced or bread.