

# Gekinoo' amaadiwigamig Ojibwemowin Lesson 44: VTI Plurals

MICHAEL WAASEGIIZHIG PRICE

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE SPECIALIST

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION



'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



# Plurality in English Language

I see a cat.

Animate object

I see two cats.

Animate objects

I see a car.

Inanimate object

I see two cars.

Inanimate objects.

Notice the verb 'see' does not change regardless of animate/inanimate or singular/plural objects.

Not true with Ojibwemowin!

# Plurality in Ojibwemowin

Niwaabmaa gaazhagens.

I see a cat.

Niwaabamaag niizh gaazhagensag.

I see two cats.

Niwaabandaan odaabaan.


I see a car.

Niwaabandaanan niizh odaabaananan.

I see two cars.

Both the verb and the object must be conjugated to reflect animate/inanimate and singular/plural.





Niwaabandaan giwaakaa'igan.  
I see your house.

Niwaabandaanan niizh giwaakaa'iganan.  
I see your two houses.

Niwaabandaanan niizh giwaakaa'iganan ziibiing.  
I see your two houses on the river.



Gidozhitoon apabiwin.  
You are making a chair.

Gidozhitoonan niizh apabiwinan.  
You are making two chairs.

Gidozhitoonan niizh apabiwinan wiisiniyaan.  
You are making two chairs while I eat.



# 'We' and plural objects

**Important Rule:** Both forms of 'we' do not change when referring to singular or plural objects.

Nindozhitoomin apabiwin.

We are making a chair.

Nindozhitoomin niizh apabiwinan.

We are making two chairs.

# 'You all' and plural objects

For 'you all,' only an 'n' is added to the end of the verb for plural objects.

Gidozhitoonaawaa apabiwin.

You all are making a chair.

Gidozhitoonaawaan niizh apabiwinan.

You all are making two chairs.



# 'They' and plural objects

For 'they,' only an 'n' is added to the end of the verb for plural objects.

Odozhitoonaawaa apabiwin.

They are making a chair.

Odozhitoonaawaan niizh apabiwinan.

They are making two chairs.



Niwaabandaanan niizh amikwiishan.  
I see two beaver lodges.





Ingii-waabandaanan niizh waakaa'iganan  
bimibatooyaang.

I saw two houses while we were running.



Ingii-waabandaamin niizh amikwiishan  
zaaga'iganing.

We saw two beaver lodges on the lake.





Ogii-waabandaanaawaan niiwin  
amikwiishan noongom.

They saw four beaver lodges today.

Niiwin = four



Giwaabandaanaawaan ina niiwin  
amikwiishan noongom?

Did you all see four beaver lodges today?





Ingii-nanaa'itoonan niizh gidodaabaanan.

I fixed your two cars.



Ogii-nanaa'itoonaawaan niswi odaabaanan  
noongom.

They fixed three cars today.

Niswi = three





Ingii-nanaa'itoomin niizh odaabaanan  
noongom.

We fixed two cars today.



Nimiigwechiwendaanan an niizh ziibiin.

I am thankful for the two rivers.





gii-mikwendaanan iniw ziibiin.

I remembered those rivers.

iniw = those



Nimiigwechiwendaamin niizh wajiwanan  
beshu niinawind.

We are thankful for the two mountains near us.

Beshu = near

Wajiw = mountain





Nimiigwechiwendaanan niiwin noodinan.

I am grateful for the four winds.

niiwin = four



Nimikwendaanan niiwin zaaga'iganan  
mewinzha. Noongom dash bezhig zaaga'igan  
ayaamagad.

I remember four lakes long ago.

And now there is one lake.

niiwin = four

Bezhig = one





Ingii-mikwendaamin ziibiin gaye  
zaaga'iganan niibowa.


We remembered many lakes and rivers.



Nimikwendaanan niiwin waakaa'iganan  
iwe miikanang.

I remember four houses on that road.





Ingii-nanaa'itoon gidodaabaan niiskaadak  
agwajiing.

I fixed your car while it was nasty outside.



Ingii-bookobidoonan iniw apabiwinan  
bijiinaago.

I broke those chairs yesterday.

Adoopowinan miinawaa dash.

And, the tables too.

iniw = those





Ogii-maawanjitoonaawaan miinan bijiinaago  
gimiwang.

They gathered blueberries yesterday in the rain.

miin = blueberry; miinan = blueberries.



Ingii-waabandaanan niizh gabeshiwinan  
ziibiing bijiinaago.

I saw two camps on the river yesterday.

gabeshiwin = camp





Gagwejim ina?