### BEGINNING ANISHINAABEMOWIN (OJIBWE) SERIES

TUESDAYS IN JANUARY (5TH, 12TH, 19TH, 26TH) 5:30pm-7:30pm (CST)

Instructor: Chelsey Commisso, Niijii Indigenous Outreach Coordinator at Lakehead University

## A little bit about me

- Chelsey Commisso Born and Raised in Thunder
  - Bay, Ontario. on the traditional lands of the Fort
  - William FIrst Nation.
- Recently Moved to Pemberton, BC which is on the
- traditional lands of the Lil'wat Nation.
- Bachelors of Arts in Indigenous Learning from
  - Lakehead University.
- Work as an Outreach Coordinator for Niijii
- Indigenous Mentorship Program.
- Love to spend time with my family, love teaching
- and learning new things, camping, hiking, and
- swimming!



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## disclaimer!

### I, CHELSEY COMMISSO IS NOT FLUENT IN THE ANISHINAABEMOWIN LANGUAGE

Think of this class as being similar to a book club, but a learning language club. I am also learning and have take Beginner and Intermediate Anishinaabemowin courses and I want to make this class similar to those!

# Please download these apps from the app store!



Ojibwe learning: it has tons of voice recordings for everyday use and even could be used as a translator!

#### Anishinaabemowin:

The app has over 500 words and phrases under 24 different categories — such as numbers, food and conversation — as well as games and quizzes to test people's knowledge. It also allows users to record themselves and play the audio back!



Kokum's Word Finder: Word searches!!!!



Cat Lake Ojibwe: This app is a flashcard style language learning tool

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Gain a passion for the language and be eager to learn more
- Be able to pronounce words accurately
- Be able to understand the language basics while listening
- Be able to introduce yourself in Anishinaabemowin and be able to have basic conversational dialogue while living and interacting in everyday situations
- Gain a better appreciation and understanding of an Anishinaabe worldview and gain a sense of traditions, customs, and the historical and modern view of Anishinaabe life.



### Introduction

### What is Anishinaabe<mark>mowin?</mark>



- Anishinaabemowin (also called Ojibwemowin, the Ojibwe/Ojibwa language, or Chippewa) is an Indigenous language, which is part of the Central Algonquian language family, which is a group of closely-related Indigenous languages
  - The Anishinaabe speak Anishinaabemowin, or Anishinaabe languages that belong to the Algonquian language family and can describe various Indigenous peoples in North America.
    - The Anishinaabe includes Odawa, the Ojibwe (including Mississaugas),
       Oji-Cree, Fox, Shawnee, and Algonquin peoples with similar sounds, words, and features.
  - The Central Algonquian language is part of the larger Algonquian language family, which spans from the Rocky Mountains (Blackfoot Confederacy territory) to the Eastern Seaboard (where Mi'kmaq is spoken).



### Introduction

What is Ojibwe?

- Though many may use the terms Anishinaabe and Ojibwe interchangeably, they can have different meanings.
  - Ojibwe refers to a specific Anishinaabe nation.
- Anishinaabeg is the plural form of Anishinaabe and consequently, refers to many Anishinaabe people.

#### History of the Written Language



- Historically, there was a specialized form of symbol writing to communicate teachings sacred to the Ojibwe people. While Anishinaabeg continue to honour symbol writing, written forms of Anishinaabemowin using Roman orthography (i.e., the Latin alphabet, such as that used by the English language) is the primary form of written communication.
- Christian priests and missionaries who traveled to Ojibwe territories were the first to write Anishinaabemowin using the Latin alphabet. Slovenian Roman Catholic missionary Frederic Baraga actively learned Anishinaabemowin as a means of promoting the conversion of Indigenous people to Christianity as a tool for fellow missionaries.
- Baraga authored the Dictionary of the Otchipwe Language in 1853.

Anishinaabemowin began as an orally transmitted language.

#### History of the Written Language



- Beginning in the mid-20th century, linguist Charles Fiero helped to develop the double-vowel system that is widely used today.
- Fiero's system is considered easier to use than the folk-phonetic style, in which the spelling of words differs from person to person.
  - An example of the difference between folk-phonetic style and follows:
    - Action conveyed: "He/She is dreaming."
    - Folk-phonetic style: Buh-waa-jih-gay.
    - Fiero's system: Bawaajige.

### Gaainweng - Anish<mark>inaabemowin Alphabet</mark>

<u>a, aa, b, ch, d, e, g, h, ', i, ii, j, k, m, n, 0, oo, p, s, sh, t, w, y, z, zh</u>

SHORT Vowels used: A I O

- → **C** Pronoun<mark>ced "uh" as in BUT</mark>
- → i Pronounc<mark>ed "ih" as in BIT or PIN</mark>
- → O Pronounced "oh" as in BOW or Obey

Letters not used in the language: C, F, L, Q, R, U, V, X

### **Gaainweng - Anishinaabemowin Alphabet**

<u>a, aa, b, ch, d, e, g, h, ', i, ii, j, k, m, n, o, 00, p, s, sh, t, w, y, z, zh</u>

### LONG Vowels use<mark>d: AA II OO E</mark>

- → **aa** Prono<mark>unced "aw" as in SHAWL o</mark>r Father
- → **ii** Pronoun<mark>ced "ee" as in FEET or Seen</mark>
- → **OO** Pronounced "oou" as in BOO
- → *e* Pronounced "eh" as in BET or Cafe'

 Using Fiero's double-vowel system, some vowel sounds may be long (aa, e, ii, oo) and some may be short (a, i, o), and the delivery of each sound can greatly alter the meaning.

For example, zaaga'igan means "lake," whereas the similarly-spelled zaga'igan means "nail."

#### Gaainweng - Anishinaabemowin Alphabet

The consonants are represented below:

**b** - as in "big" **p** - as in "potato" **ch** – as in the "tch" in "stitch" j - as in "jump" **d** - as in "do" t - as in "pit" **g** – as in "goose," and following an "n" sounds the same as "song" **k** – as the "ck" in "sick" **h** – not a common sound but the same as "h" in "hello," some who write Anishinaabemowin also use it for a glottal stop, as in the stop on "uh-" and "oh-" in "uh oh" **m** - as in "man" **n** - as in "name" **s** - as in "miss" **z** - as in "zipper" **sh** - as in "bush" **zh** - as in the "s" in "measure," or the "j" in "bonjour" w - as in "way" **y** – as in "yellow"

### Glottal Stops - '

- The glottal stop is a type of consonantal sound used in many spoken languages, produced by obstructing airflow in the vocal tract.
  - a glottal-stop (represented by an apostrophe (') in the written form).
  - A glottal-stop is a short pause, similar to the English interjectional expression "uh-oh."



### Gaainweng - Anish<mark>inaabemowin Alphabet</mark>

1	aa	ii	00	е	a	i	0
b	baa	bii	boo	be	ba	bi	bo
ch	chaa	chii	choo	che	cha	chi	cho
d	daa	dii	doo	de	da	di	do
g	gaa	gii	goo	ge	ga	gi	go
j	jaa	jii	joo	je	ja	ji	jo
k	kaa	kii	koo	ke	ka	ki	ko
m	maa	mii	moo	me	ma	mi	mo
n	naa	nii	noo	ne	na	ni	no
р	paa	pii	роо	pe	pa	pi	ро
s	saa	sii	soo	se	sa	si	so
sh	shaa	shii	shoo	she	sha	shi	sho
t	taa	tii	too	te	ta	ti	to
w	waa	wii	woo	we	wa	wi	wo
У	yaa	yii	yoo	ye	ya	yi	yo
z	zaa	zii	zoo	ze	za	zi	zo
zh	zhaa	zhii	zhoo	zhe	zha	zhi	zho

 "zh" is an uncommon sound in English, be sure you are not saying "sh".

Another common mistake is to mix up the "g" and "j" sounds. "G" is always pronounced as in "good" or "great". "J" is always pronounced as in "jump."

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<u>http://imp.lss.wisc.edu/~jrvalent/ais 301/Grammar/Phonology/PhonolOO 8b.html</u>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSwWAvaXYsI&list=PLYJlkFZt8R2UufgKtxqSWelgig7vi\_l6k

## **Consonant Clusters**

→ Can be discouraging but here are some examples to calm those nerves!

→ sk and/or kw	→ Mi <b>skw</b> aa	→ 'is red'
→ shp	→ i <b>shp</b> iming	→ "up above, in heaven"
→ sht	→ shtigwaan	→ "head"
→ gw	→ memen <b>gw</b> aa	→ "a butterfly"
→ kw	→ ma <b>kw</b> a	→ "a bear"
→ nd	→ aa <b>nd</b> eg	→ "a crow"
→ ng	→ maang	→ "a loon"
→ nj	→ nininj	→ "hand/finger"

### Numbers

Please take notes!

#### ashi - plus in counting.

#### Note.

With *shi* all compound numbers are formed,

#### e.g.: midaaswi shi niiwin - 14, niishtana shi niizhwaaswi - 27, etc.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_TEngE3a564&feature=emb\_logo

#### Activity 1: Introduction to Numbers

Aaniin Aminik? = How much or How many?

Please open the Google Drive where you will find Activity# 1 -Introduction to Numbers

I will announce the letter for the row and I will call a number in Anishinaabemowin and you circle the number that you hear

A – 6 10 1 15 4	L-92 26 19 40 400
B – 2 16 19 22 6	M–500 785 63 729
C – 20 8 12 9 5	N - 13 2 34 4
D – 8 4 11 20 21	0 - 47 50 1000 999 78
E – 3 12 9 1 5	P–44 55 66 77 88
F – 18 2 1 11 32	Q–15 1819 17 200
G – 44 70 5 3 12	
H – 30 50 60 70 80	R – 48 68 58 99 98
I – 50 55 70 90 100	S–45 46 47 48 49
J – 12 82 73 96 29	T – 1000 200 800 500 600 -
K – 37 12 13 74 823	U-1 68 99 200 400 -

## <u>Nouns</u>

Nouns name things, beings, and abstractions. • waaka'igan = house • animosh = dog

- → Nouns are inflected; that is, they take on affixes prefixes and/or suffixes that give grammatical information about them.
  - For example, affixes can indicate whether a noun is animate or inanimate (gender), whether it is plural (number), and how it is related to other parts of a phrase or sentence (e.g., locative form).
- → The overall pattern of an inflected noun is shown in the following word diagram: inflectional prefixes + NOUN STEM + inflectional suffixes (noun ending)
- → Words that share a common stem, but have different inflections are considered different forms of the same noun. To illustrate the principle, a few of the many forms that the noun boat can take are given below.

jiimaan	boat
jiimaanan	boats
gijiimaaning	in your boat
nijiimaaninaan	our boat

http://imp.lss.wisc.edu/~jrvalent/ais301/ Grammar/InflMorphology/nouns001.htm

R



## INANIMATE

→ ALIVE OR LIVING
→ HAS A HEARTBEAT
→ OR IT MOVES ON ITS OWN
◆ EXAMPLE:
● IKWE (WOMAN)

ANIMATE

vender Nouns

IF IT DOES NOT HAVE THESE 3 QUALIFIERS THEN IT IS INANIMATE • EXAMPLE: • MAKAK (BOX)



NO DISTINCTION OF MALE OR FEMALE IN ANISHINAABEMOWIN

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## Gender Nouns



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- Nouns referring to people, animals, trees, and spirits belong to the animate class of nouns.
- → Some non-living things are also included in the animate class, although most nouns referring to non-living things are classified as inanimate.
- → From the learner's point of view, the gender of a noun is often unpredictable and puzzling.
  - For example, while it is easy enough to understand why such words are dog and birch tree are animate, it is difficult to understand why star, mitten, and net are animate, and earth, shoe, water, and boat are inanimate.





## Iwo lypes of Nouns

## SINGULAR

B

- PLURAL
- - MAKAKOON (MORE THAN ONE BOX)

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In Anishinaabemowin nouns become plural in a very consistent manner and also show gender along with number:

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- Animate words that end
  - o In a vowel: "wag" or "g"
  - o In a consonant: "ag" or "oog"
- Inanimate words that end
  - o In a consonant: "n", "oon", or "an" at the end
  - o In a vowel: "wan"



### Bring \_\_\_\_\_

If a noun is Animate you say Biizh If a noun is Inanimate you say Biidoon

- 1. Plate: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Cup:\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Knife:\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Spoon: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Fork: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Salt:
- 7. Pepper: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Water: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. TeaKettle:
- 10. Pot: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Frying Pan: \_\_\_\_\_

- 12. Bannock: \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Partridge:\_\_\_\_\_
- 14. Rabbit:
- 15. Meat: \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Duck: \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Egg: \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Milk: \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. Fish: \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. Potato:
- 21. Carrot: \_\_\_\_\_

How to use numbers in verb form:

Q: Aaniin endasiwaad? How many (animate?)

A: Bezhigo waabooz There is one rabbit, the rabbit is alone

### Animate

- 1. Bezhigo waabooz
  - a. There is one rabbit
- 2. Niizhiwag binewag
  - a. There are two partridges
- 3. Nisiwag giigooyag
  - a. There are three fish
- 4. Niiwiwag emikwaansag
  - a. There are four spoons

Q: Aaniin endasingin? How many (inanimate)

A:Bezhigwan waawan There is one egg, the egg is alone

Inanimate

- 1. Bezhigwan waawan
  - a. There is one egg
- 2. Niizhinoon onaaganan
  - a. There are two plates
- 3. Nisinoon mookomaanan
  - a. There are three knives
- 4. Niiwinoon badaka'iganan
  - a. There are four forks

#### Aaniin endasingin?



#### Aaniin endasiwaad?



Aaniin endasingin?



#### Aaniin endasiwaad?



#### Aaniin endasiwaad?



#### Aaniin endasingin?



### NANABOZO

- Nanabozo (Nanabozho or Nanabush) is a culture hero, creator and trickster of various Indigenous oral histories.
- He is known by a variety of names and appears prominently in many origin tales.
- Nanabozo is the embodiment of life, with the power to create life in others. In some Anishinaabe and Cree stories, Nanabozo is a main player in the creation of Turtle Island.
- In the modern era, Nanabozo, like other Indigenous culture heroes, has proved useful to Indigenous peoples seeking a return to traditional approaches to learning and storytelling.
- Traditional knowledge holders share that Anishinaabemowin was born and created by Nanabozo after Gizhe Manidoo (Great Spirit & Giver of Life) gave him life, lowered him to the Earth, and gave him the responsibility to name everything in existence.



### NANABOZO

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- Nanabozo is also a shape-shifter. He appears as diverse personalities and forms – including a raven, a coyote and a hare – which represent the various phases and conditions of the life cycle in some Indigenous cultures.
- Known as a trickster, Nanabozo plays a dual role in Indigenous oral traditions. On the one hand, he protects and even creates life. On the other, he is associated with mischief and breaking the rules. His adventures and misadventures are meant to teach right from wrong and how to live a good life.
  - Nanabozo is a seagull, a nighthawk, and a bingo master in Tomson Highway's play *The Rez Sisters*. In the foreword to this play, Highway describes him as being "as pivotal and important a figure in the Native world as Christ is in the realm of Christian mythology."





### <u>Hello - Nanaboozhoo/Boozhoo</u>

Cultural protocols and understandings are built into Anishinaabemowin communication.

- Nanaboozhoo (Traditional Hello): This was a typical greeting to nearby tribes. If they did not say it back then they knew to be wary of these newcomers.
  - was shortened to Boozhoo due to the french colonizers who frequently used Bonjour (hello) and it was similar to Boozhoo and was understood by both cultures.
    - For instance, the word boozhoo ("hello") not only acknowledges the original spirit of Nanaboozhoo and guides relationships based upon respect, but conveys the process of using the breath of life ("boo") to express the feeling of life ("zhoo").
- **Aaniin (Common Greeting similar to hi):** which can be used as a greeting, conveys acknowledging the light within another person that is the same light within oneself.
  - (or "Aanii" in Odawa and some nearby communities) is often used as a greeting. In this instance, it
    essentially means "how" (e.g., short for "how are you" / "how is your life going"). "Aaniin" can also be used as
    a question, like "which" or "what."
- Good Morning: Mino-Gigizheb: Gigizheb = In the morning



There is not an exact translation for the word goodbye, but there are similar words

- → Baamaapii (Later) also means (after a while, eventually)
- → Miinwaa (again)
- → Kaawaabmin (I see you)
- → Gigawaabamin miinwaa (See you again)
- → Wiingezin (Take it easy casual)
- you could say: Baamaapii, Miinwaa, Kaawaabmin See you again Later.

but what most people say is:

Baamaapii, gigaawaabamin miinwaa," which means "until later, see you again."

### How to introduce yourself in Anishinaabemowin

Aaniin, \_\_\_\_\_ ndizhnikaaz (Hello, I am called \_\_\_\_\_)

• <u>Aaniin, Chelsey ndizhnikaaz</u> if you have a clan name you

state that instead of your english name.

\_\_\_\_Nindoonjibaa (I am from \_\_\_\_\_)

Thunder Bay Nindoonjibaa

 onjibaa = comes from a certain place

\_\_\_\_\_nindoodem ...or dodem ninda'aw

- if you were from the Bear clan you would say:
  - Makwa (bear) nindoodem or
  - Makwa dodem ninda'aw

#### <u>What is your name? =</u> Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan?

It is common for speakers to ask about your clan in a first conversation.

This complex system, based on the animal world, has given Anishinaabe people a way to connect communities and share roles in society for many thousands of years.

It is the Anishinaabe custom for people to be part of their father's clan, but not everyone today knows their clan.

Some are adopted into clans and some do considerable research to find their clan.

Most importantly, when you meet someone and find out their clan you now know if you can marry that person. If the clan is the same, elders would say "try again."

#### SOME USEFUL PHRASES:

- 1. Yes Eya' or Ehn
- 2. No Gaawin or Kaa Gaawiin
- 3. Thank You Miigwech
- 4. What is your name? Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan
- 5. **My name is** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ Ndizhinkaas
- 6. Where are you from? Aandi wenjiiyan? OR Aanii pish enjebayin?
- 7. I am from \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_Nindoonjibaa
- 8. **Me too** Geniin
- 9. How about you? Giin dash (wiin)
- 10. Say it again Miinawaa ikidon!
- 11. Please say that again Ikidon miinawa
- 12. Say it slowly Bekaa ikidon!
- 13. Do you understand? Ginisidotaan ina?
- 14. Yes, I understand Eya, Ninisidotaan
- 15. I do not understand Gaawiin Ninisidotanziin

### Print out #1 - Anishinaabemowin Gaainweng (Alphabet)

#### Anishinaabemowin Alphabet

Ojibwe is most often used with the Double Vowel system. The seven vowels, seventeen consonants, and the glottal stop make up the Ojibwe alphabet.

#### a, aa, b, ch, d, e, g, h, ', i, ii, j, k, m, n, o, oo, p, s, sh, t, w, y, z, zh

The consonants ch, sh, and zh are treated as one letter. The glottal stop is an important part of Ojibwe and when we use it, it is almost as if we cut our breath short very quickly.

Sometimes it is easier to understand the Ojibwe sounds when we compare them to what we know in English.

Ojibwe letter	Phonetic	Ojibwe examples	English equivalents
a	[0]-[^]	agim - 'count someonel'	about
		namadabi - 'sits down'	
		baashkizigan - 'gun'	
aa	[a:]	aagiim - 'snowshoe'	father
		maajaa - 'goes away'	
e	[e:]~[ɛː]	emikwaan - 'spoon'	café
		awenen - 'who'	
		anishinaabe - 'person, Indian, Ojibwe'	
i	[1]	inini- ' man'	pin
		mawi - 'cries'	
	[1:]	nHn - 'l'	seen
		googii - 'dives'	
0	[0]~[U]	ozid - 'someone's foot'	obey, book
		anokii - 'works'	
		nibo - 'dies, is dead'	
00	[0:]~[u:]	oodena - 'town'	boat, boot
		anookii - 'hires'	
		goon - 'snow'	
		bimibatoo - 'runs along'	

Available to download or print on Google Drive.

### Print out # 2 & Assignment # 1

- Please fill out this sheet (which is on the google drive) and create an introductory paragraph about yourself.
- 2. You will be presenting this next week over zoom.
  - a. I know this can be nerve wracking but it is good to start speaking the language, especially these basic introductory phrases and also we can get to know eachother better!

#### Awenen Giin?

#### Who Are You?

Introducing ourselves is one of the most important skills we need to begin our language learning journey. Here are the basics to introducing yourself:

Boozhoo	l
<u>en a possa</u>	indigoo.
	nindizhinikaaz.
	nindoodem.
	nindoonjii.

Hello	1	
My spirit name is	<u> </u>	
My English name is _		
My clan is	· ·	
am from	<u> </u>	

Here are some extra pieces you can add to your introduction:

nindinawemaaganidak	all my relations		
gakina awiiya.	everyone		
Gaawiin indaxaawaasii nindoodem,	I don't have a clan.		
Gaawiiin mashi ningikenimaasii indoodem.	l don't know my clan ye		
indaa.	l live in		
indanakiiwin,	My job is		
indaso-biboone.	I am years old.		

### What's on the kitchen table?





## Please watch this video after class!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=43&v=qktLJ4EUn7w&feature=emb\_logo



## Please watch this video after class!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=43&v=qktLJ4EUn7w&feature=emb\_logo



#### <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGWjUjT1BIU&feature=emb\_logo</u>

Please watch this

video after class!

### Anishinaabemowin TABOO!

- The objective of the game is to get your team to win with the most points.
   Each player on each team will get a chance to be the "clue-giver"
  - The Clue-giver must try to get his or her team to guess the word in ANISHINAABEMOWIN and as many words as possible in the allotted time.
  - the guessers can use google search to look up the english word in ANISHINAABEMOWIN - unless they already know it!
- Each card has "TABOO" (forbidden) words listed on the card that cannot be spoken.
- If the clue-giver does say one of these taboo words, I will know and I will buzz with my buzzer that the word doesn't count and the giver must move onto the next card.



- For example, the giver might have to get his or her team to guess the word "baseball" without offering the words "sport," "game," "pastime," "hitter," "pitcher," or "baseball" itself as clues. The giver may not say a part of a "taboo" word;<sup>[4]</sup> for example, using "base" in "baseball" is taboo. Nor may they use a form of a word; for example, if the word was "wedding" and the taboo words are "marriage," "bride," "groom," "nuptials," or "honeymoon," the words "marry" and "bridal" would not be allowed. The giver may only use speech to prompt his or her teammates; gestures, sounds (e.g. barking), or drawings are not allowed. Singing is permitted, provided the singer is singing words rather than humming or whistling a tune. The giver's hints may rhyme with a taboo word, or be an abbreviation of a taboo word.
- While the giver is prompting the teammates they may make as many guesses as they want with no penalties for wrong guesses. Once the team correctly guesses the word exactly as written on the card, the giver moves on to the next word, trying to get as many words as possible in the allotted time. When time runs out, play passes to the next adjacent player of the other team.

#### **IMPORTANT LINKS**

ANISHINAABEMOWIN DICTIONARY: https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/

Another video from Barbra Nolan going over Introductions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FL5C8YX8b7l&list=PLY1lkF t8R2UufgKtxqSWelgig7vi\_l6k&index=3