Gekinoo’amaadiiwigamig
Ojibwemowin Lesson 6: VAI Review

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
Review of VAls Pronouns - Singular

3rd Person: Bakade. He/She is hungry.

2nd Person: Gibakade. You are hungry.

1st Person: Nimbakade. I am hungry.
Review of VAI's Pronouns - Singular

3rd Person: Wiisini. He/She is eating.

2nd Person: Giwiisin. You are eating.

1st Person: Niwiisin. I am eating.
Important Rule: Drop “i” or “o”

- When using a VAI in singular form, drop the “i” or “o” when speaking in 1st or 2nd person.

- Keep the “i” or “o” when speaking in any other VAI form.
Review of VAI Pronouns - Plural

3rd Person (plural): Bakadewag. They are hungry.

2nd Person (plural): Gibakadem. You all are hungry.

1st Person (we inclusive): Gibakademimin. We are hungry.

1st Person (we exclusive): Nimbakademimin. We are hungry.
Review of VAI Pronouns - Plural

3rd Person (plural): $\text{Wiisiniwag.}$ They are eating.

2nd Person (plural): $\text{Giwiisinim.}$ You all are eating.

1st Person (we inclusive): $\text{Giwiisinimimin.}$ We are eating.

1st Person (we exclusive): $\text{Niwiisinimimin.}$ We are eating.
Important Rule: -wag or -oog for 3rd person plural ending

- If the VAI 3rd person ends with a vowel, use -wag at the end of the verb to pluralize.
  Ex. Ayekoziwag. - They are tired.

- If the VAI ends with a consonant, use -oog at the end of the verb to pluralize.
  Ex. Minwendamoog - They are happy.
Nagamo. He/She is singing.

Nagamowag. They are singing.

Ginagam. You are singing.

Ginagamomin. We (inclusive) are singing.
Ayekoz.  She/He is tired.

Nindayekoz.  I am tired.

Gidayekoz.  You are tired.

Gidayekozim.  You all are tired.
Bimibatoo. She/He is running.

Gibimibatoo. You are running.

Gibimibatooomin. We (incl.) are running.

Bimibatoowag. They are running.

Gibimibatoom. You all are running.
Review of VAI verbs - Tenses

Nimbakade. I am hungry.
Ingii-bakade. I was hungry.
Niwii-bakade. I want to be hungry.
Inga-bakade. I will be hungry.
Review of VAI verbs - Tenses

Gigii-wiisin. You ate.
Giga-wiisin. You will eat.
Giwii-wiisinim. You all want to eat.
Niwii-wiisin. I want to eat.
Review of VAI verbs - Sentences

Gii-bimibatoo makwa. Noongom nibaa makwa.
The bear was running. Now, he is sleeping.

Bijiinaago migiziwag gii-bimisewag. Noongom namadabiyiwig.
Yesterday, the eagles were flying. Today, they are sitting.
Inga-bimibatoo, aapiji miinawaa niwii-namadab.
I am going to run, but I really want to sit.
Review of VAI verbs - Sentences


The Thunderbirds are flying overhead right now.

They are nervous. I am nervous. Are you nervous?
Gagwejim ina?
The Thunderbirds

Animikii - Thunderbird
Animikiig - Thunderbirds

anim - to hit or strike
akii - earth, ground

Binesii - Thunderbird
Binesiiwag - Thunderbirds