

Gekinoo'amaadiiwigamig Ojibwemowin Lesson 7: VAI Negations

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 Kineew

VAI Negation

A negation expresses the opposite or a contradiction to the subject matter at hand.

Ex. “No, I did not go walking yesterday.”

“I am not feeling well today.”

“I am not going to the doctor.”



VAI Negation Process

In Ojibwemowin:

- ▶ The sentence begins with “Gaawiin” which means “no.”
- ▶ The ending -sii or -siin is added to the end of the verb being negated.
- ▶ Ex. Gaawiin nimbakadesii. I am not hungry.

VAI Negation

Gaawiin, ingii-bimosesii bijiinaago.
No, I did not go walking yesterday.

Gaawiin, ingii-nibaasii dibikong.
No, I did not sleep last night.

Gaawiin, gigii-anokiisii zhebaa.
You did not work this morning.



VAI Negation w/ short vowel endings

Important Rule: When negating a VAI that ends with “i” or “o”, keep the short vowels when adding -sii.

Ex. Gaawiin gidayekozisii noongom.
You are not tired today.

*Notice the short “i” remains on the VAI when negated.

VAI Negation w/ short vowel endings

Gaawiin ingii-gawishimosii.

No, I did not lie down to sleep.

Gaawiin, gigii-goshkozisii zhebaa.

You did not wake up this morning.

Gaawiin niwii-namadabisii.

No, I do not want to sit down.



Gaawiin niwii-bimibatoosii noongom.

No, I do not want to run today.



Gaawiin nindojaanimizisii noongom.

No, I am not anxious today.

Gaawiin izhinikaazosii Superman.

He is not called Superman.



Gaawiin ingii-goshkozisi wewiib.

I did not wake up quickly.

Gaawiin giga-bakadesii noongom.

You will not be hungry today.

VAI Negation - 3rd person plural

When negating a 3rd person plural (they) VAI:

- ▶ Begin with Gaawiin ...
- ▶ Attach the -sii to the end of the verb.
- ▶ Attach the -wag to the negation ending.

Bakadewag.

They are hungry.

Gaawiin bakadesiiwag.

They are not hungry.

VAI Negation - 3rd person plural

Gaawiin namadabisiiwag noongom.

They are not sitting right now.

Gaawiin nagamosiiwag noongom.

They are not singing today.

Gaawiin baapisiiwag.

They are not laughing.



Gaawiin bimosesiiwag akeyaa.

They are not walking in that direction.



Gaawiin gii-goshkozisiwag wewiib.

They did not wake up quickly.

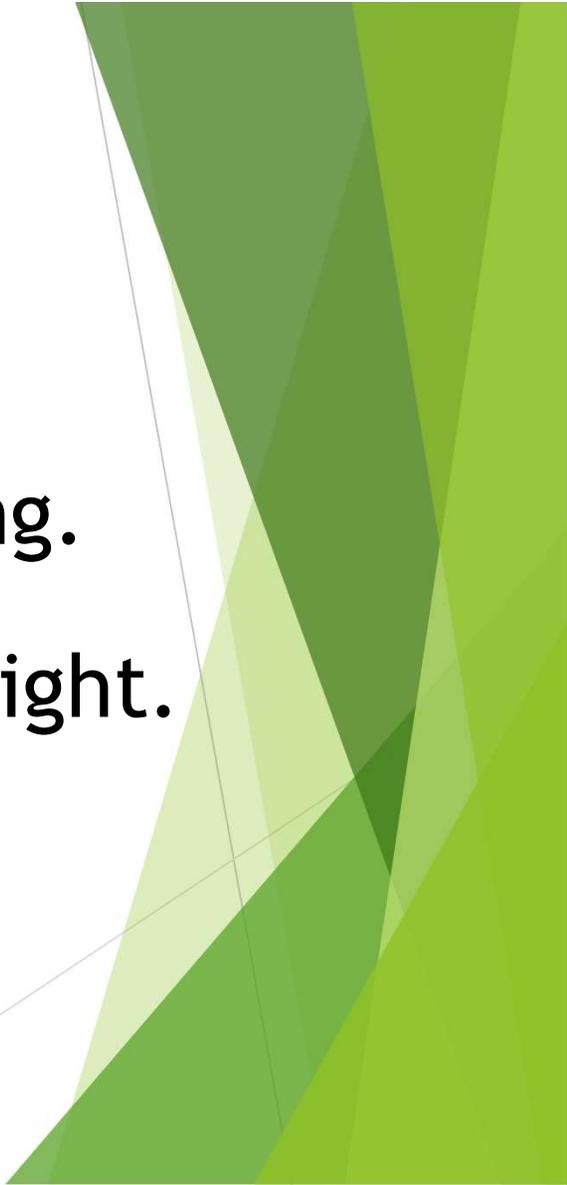


Gaawiin niimisiiwag noongom.

They are not dancing today.



Gaawiin gii-gawishimosiiwag dibikong.
They did not lie down to sleep last night.



Gaawiin gii-nibaasiwag bijiinaago.

They did not sleep yesterday.



Gaawiin ayekoziisiiwag noongom.

They are not tired today.



Tom: Gibakade na noongom?

Are you hungry now?

Jen: Gaawiin nimbakadesii noongom.

No, I am not hungry right now.

Tom: Gigii-ayekoz ina bijiinaago?

Were you tired yesterday?

Jen: Gaawiin ingii-ayekozisii bijiinaago.

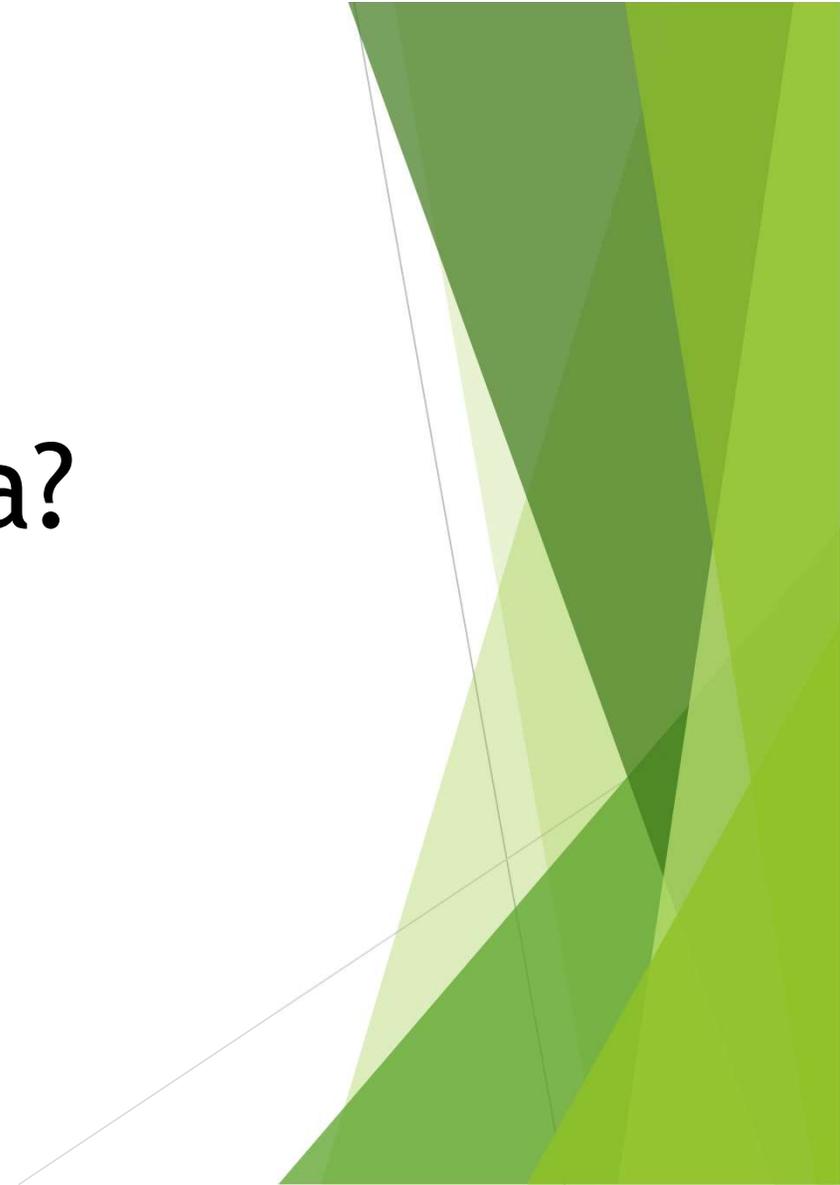
No, I was not tired yesterday.

Gaawiin ina nagamosiiwag noongom?

Are they not singing today?



Gagwejim ina?



Manoomin Conjugations

- ▶ Manoominaatig wild rice stalk
- ▶ Manoominijiibik wild rice root
- ▶ Manoominibag wild rice leaf
- ▶ Manoominibagaa many wild rice leaves
- ▶ Manoominigamaa wild rice lake
- ▶ Manoominike harvesting wild rice (VAI)
- ▶ Manoominikeshiinh “bird that harvests wild rice”
(mud hen, king rail, bobolink, snipe)