

This is important to remember, as it is not just applied to singular Animate Intransitive Verbs, but also plural forms in *all four* verb forms as well as the possession of nouns.

The indicator also changes in the second person based on the first letter of the verb. Use **gi-** before *all* consonants:

Gibimose.	You are walking.
Gigiwe.	You are going home.
Gijiibaakwe.	You are cooking.

Use **gid-** before *all* vowels:

Gidabwez.	You are sweating.
Gidoojaanimiz ina?	Are you busy?

Note that when a VAI ends in -A, -I, -O, the final vowel drops off in the first and second person singular forms only:

Niwiisin.	I am eating.
Giwiisin.	You are eating.
Wiisini.	She or he is eating.

And

Use “miinawaa” to connect two verbs, as in “and” in English.

Indayekoz miinawaa nibakade.	I am tired and hungry.
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Questions

“Ina” is used to ask a yes/no question. In a sentence, “ina” is ALWAYS SECOND:

Gidabwez ina?	Are you sweating?
Erik ina manoominike?	Is Erik ricing?
Asemaa na gigii-adaawen?	Did you buy tobacco?

Note that the initial vowel in “ina” is often dropped, especially when the preceding word ends in a vowel.

Word Order

Word order in Ojibwe is more flexible than in English. There are a few hard and fast rules, such as that “ina,” is always second, but generally the order of words is less important in Ojibwe than in English. However, a good way to construct your sentences in Ojibwe is putting the verb before the subject of the sentence.

Giikaji Erik.

Erik is cold.

This is roughly the opposite of English sentences, but again not following this pattern does not make the sentence incorrect. Saying “Erik giikaji” does not sound as funny in Ojibwe as “Cold Erik is” sounds in English (unless you are Yoda).

Examples of Time Particles

Apane	Always
Endaso-dibik	Every night
Endaso-giizhik	Every day
Noongom	Today, now

Common Prefixes

aano-	in vain	
Aano-wewebanaabii.		He is fishing in vain.

nitaa-	have ability	
Nitaa-jiibaakwe.		He knows how to cook.

Common Suffixes

-kaazo	pretends to	
Anokiikaazo.		He is pretending to work.

-(i)maagozi	smell like
-(i)naagozi	appear like
-(i)pogozi	taste like
-(i)taagozi	sound like

These suffixes can be attached to a noun or a verb.

Bakadenaagozi.	He looks hungry.
Ma'iinganinaagozi.	He looks like a wolf.