

Animate Intransitive Verbs (VAI) Plural Forms

There are additional verb forms based on the person performing actions that do not occur in English. These differences apply to all four Ojibwe verb forms.

- 1) There are two different forms for “we.” One is *exclusive*, meaning that the action *excludes* the person being spoken to. The other is *inclusive*, meaning that the action *includes* the person being spoken to.
- 2) There are singular and *plural* verb forms for “you.” Although this doesn’t occur in formal English, some in Ojibwe communities use the term “yous.” Another occurrence of this in English is “y’all” in the Southern dialect of American English.

Personal prefixes and suffixes noted in **bold**. Changes to root verb underlined.

I	n imaajaa
you (singular)	g imaajaa
s/he	maajaa
we (exclusive)	n imaaja amin
we (inclusive)	g imaaja amin
you (plural)	g imaaja am
they	maaja awag

VAI ending in an -M

I	n iminwendam
you (singular)	g iminwendam
s/he	minwendam
we (exclusive)	n iminwenda amin
we (inclusive)	g iminwenda amin
you (plural)	g iminwenda am
they	minwendam oog

VAI ending in an -N

(n) indagoshin
g idagoshin
dagoshin
(n) indagoshin imin
g idagoshin imin
g idagoshin im
dagoshin oog

VAI Plural Conjugation

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

I	niwiisin
you (singular)	giwiisin
s/he	wiisini
we (exclusive)	niwiisinimin
we (inclusive)	giwiisinimin
you (plural)	giwiisinim
they	wiisiniwag

Question form

we(ex)	Aaniin ezhi-ayaayaang?
we(inc)	Aaniin ezhi-ayaayang?
you (pl)	Aaniin ezhi-ayaayeg?
they	Aaniin ezhi-ayaawaad?