

VAI Past Tense

To indicate an action happened in the past, VAI verbs are conjugated much in the same way VII verbs. The personal prefix precedes the past tense maker (“gii-”):

		VAI ending in -A, -I, -O
I	(n)ingii-<u>maajaa</u>	(n)ingii-<u>wiisin</u>
you (singular)	gigii-<u>maajaa</u>	gigii-<u>wiisin</u>
s/he	gii-<u>maajaa</u>	gii-<u>wiisini</u>
we (exclusive)	(n)ingii-<u>maajaamin</u>	(n)ingii-<u>wiisinimin</u>
we (inclusive)	gigii-<u>maajaamin</u>	gigii-<u>wiisinimin</u>
you (plural)	gigii-<u>maajaam</u>	gigii-<u>wiisinim</u>
they	gii-<u>maajaawag</u>	gii-<u>wiisiniwag</u>

VAI ending in an -M

I	(n)ingii-<u>minwendam</u>
you (singular)	gigii-<u>minwendam</u>
s/he	gii-<u>minwendam</u>
we (exclusive)	(n)ingii-<u>minwendaamin</u>
we (inclusive)	gigii-<u>minwendaamin</u>
you (plural)	gigii-<u>minwendaam</u>
they	gii-<u>minwendamoog</u>

VAI ending in an -N

(n)ingii-<u>tagoshin</u>
gigii-<u>tagoshin</u>
gii-<u>tagoshin</u>
(n)ingii-<u>tagoshinimin</u>
gigii-<u>tagoshinimin</u>
gigii-<u>tagoshinim</u>
gii-<u>tagoshinoog</u>

Prefix order

When constructing sentences using VAI or ANY verb types, bear in mind the order of prefixes:

1. Personal (such as ni-, gi-, o-)
2. Tense (such as gii-, wii-, da-/ga-/ji-, daa-, aano-)
3. Directional (such as ani-, bi-)
4. Relative (such as izhi-, onji-)
5. Preverbs (such as gichi-, nitaa-, ishkwa-, jibwaa-)

Shown are examples of frequently used prefixes, see the dictionary for the exact of classification of other prefixes.

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Initial Consonant Change: all verbs beginning in a soft consonant change to a hard consonant

b – p	d – t
g – k	j – ch
z – s	zh – sh

I	(n)ingii-pakade
you (singular)	gigii-pakade
s/he	gii-pakade
we (exclusive)	(n)ingii-pakademin
we (inclusive)	gigii-pakademin
you (plural)	gigii-pakadem
they	gii-pakadewag

Frequently Used Past Time Particles

Bijiinaago	Yesterday
Awasonaago	The day before yesterday
Dibikong	Last night
Gabe-dibik	All night
Gabe-giizhik	All day
Zhebaa	This past morning

The “gii-” prefix is used to describe the past in both regular and negative verb forms:

Gii-maajaa.	She left.
Gaawiin gii-maajaasiin.	She didn't leave.