

Lesson 6

Gawiin daa Zhewebsinon It's Not Happening

Nsostamokiiwans To Understand Little Things Explanation

There are several ways to explain that something is not happening. The most common way is to add “gaawiin” at the start of the statement and “sii” after the root verb.

Here is the pattern to use when using “gaawiin” and “sii”.

- choose the verb
- determine the pronoun prefix and suffix
- add “gaawiin” at the start
- insert “sii” before the pronoun suffix

Negative Prefix	Pronoun Prefix	Verb	Neg. Suffix	Pronoun Suffix
gaawiin			sii	

For example:

Gaawiin nd'ayekozisii. = I am not tired.

Gaawiin g'debwesiim. = You all are not correct.

Root Verbs:

ayekozi	tired
bakade	hungry
bgizo	swim
bi dagoshin	arrive here
bizindam	to listen
bmose	walk
bmpto	run
damina	to play
debwe	true
gichinendam	happy
giigido	talk
giwe	go home
minikwe	drink
niimi	dance
taataashagaase	split wood
wiisini	eat
zhibiige	to write

Shki-kidowinan - New Words

Enh - Yes

Kaa - No

Nahow - OK

Aambe - Let's Go (not a specific place)

Baa maampii, nagaj. See you later.

Kaa waabamin. - I will see you later.

As you begin hearing and reading more Ojibwe, notice how different the syntax is from English. It is important to always try thinking of what you are saying in Ojibwe first rather than translate it from English. Always remember to think of the verbs you will use and keep in mind that by adding to the verbs you will use less words in Ojibwe than in English. For instance the sentence below has 11 words in English, but only 5 in Ojibwe.

Naadaamaadig	nindan	ikidowansan	waa	ezhi-kidyeg.
Help each other	these	words	(to - as in the future)	how you all say them.
Help each other to know how you should say these words.				