

Lesson 10

Gaa Zhewebag & Waa Zhewebag It Did Happen & It Will Happen

Nsostamokiiwans

Explanation

There are several ways to indicate when something happened or will happen. One way is to add a prefix to the verb. The chart below shows how “gaa” or “daa” are added to indicate the future. To indicate the past, “gii” is added. Note that in both cases this sometimes changes a “g” sound to “k”.

These prefixes can be added to any of the simple (intransitive) verbs that you have learned so far. When you have done this, the sentence is complete. In English several words are needed to indicate the tense, pronoun, and verb. In Ojibwe, one word can be the equivalent of an entire sentence.

For example: Kaa’bakinaagem. = You all will win.

Pronoun	Past	Future	Verb	Suffix
niin	ngii’	ngaa’	verb	
giin	kii’	kaa’	verb	
wiin	gii’	daa’	verb	
niinwi	ngii’	ngaa’	verb	mi
giinwi	kii’	kaa’	verb	mi
giinwa	kii’	kaa’	verb	m
wiinwa	gii	daa’	verb	oog

When there is no pronoun, the past and future are indicated by “gaa” and “waa”.

Wenesh gaa zhewebag jinaagwa?
What did happen yesterday?

Gaawiin n’gikendasiin jinaagwa gaa zhewebag.
I don’t know yesterday what happened.

Wenesh waabang waa zhewebag?
What tomorrow will happen?

Aabdeg gwa maanda waabang daa zhwebag.
Definitely this tomorrow will happen.

Gonemaa gwa daa zhwebag maanda waabang.
Maybe will happen this tomorrow.

Ezhichigen

You Do it

Bezhiig daapnan ikidowanse maampii. / Choose a word here.

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

Bezhiig daapnan ikidowanse maampii. / Choose a word here.

jinaagwa	yesterday
waaban	tomorrow
noongwa	today
aabdeg	definitely
gonemaa	maybe
gekpii	finally
megwatch	maybe

Midaaswi-shi-ingodwaaswi dibaajimoaansan zhiibiian.
Sixteen little stories / sentences you write

Wiindamoshin pii gaa zhewebak.
Tell me when it happened.