



# OJIBWEMOWIN VOCABULARY



## Key for Pronunciation:

- Broken into syllables, each one starts with a consonant and ends with a vowel
- If the syllable ends with a lower-case “h” or “H” that indicates a nasal sound
- Capital letters in the pronunciation guide indicate the usage of long vowel sounds
- Lower case letters in the pronunciation guide indicate the usage of short vowel sounds

waanzhibiiyaa	WAWN – zhih – BEE – YAW	pond or puddle
zaaga’igan	ZAH – guh – ih – gun	lake
gichigami	gih – chih – guh – mih	sea or large lake
nibi	nih – bih	water (as a substance, not a body)
manidoons/manidoosh	muh – nih – DOONS/ muh – nih – DOOSH	a bug, insect, worm
agonjin	uh – gon – jin	s/he or it (animate) is in or on the water, floats, soaks (v)
apakweshkway	uh – puh – KWAY – SHKWAY	cattail or cattail mat
zhiishiib	ZHEE – SHEEB	duck
noozheshib	NEW – ZHAY – shib	female duck
ininishib/aninishib	ih – nih – nih – shib	mallard

nika	nih – kuh	Canada goose
oboodashkwaanishiinh	oh – BOO – dush – KWAA – nih – SHEENH	dragonfly
zhaashaawanibiisi	ZHAW – SHAW – wuh – nih – BEE – sih	swallow (bird)
zhashagi	zhuh – shuh – gih	great blue heron
obiigomakakii	oh – BEE – goh – muh – kuh – KEE	toad
omagakii/omakakii	oh – muh – guh – KEE oh – muh – kuh – KEE	frog
zagime	zuh – gih – MAY	mosquito
esiban	AY – sih – bun	raccoon
ashigan	uh – shih – gun	largemouth bass
amik	uh – mik	beaver
mikinaak/mishiikenh	mih – kih – NAAK/ mih – SHEE – KENH	snapping turtle
nigig	nih – gig	otter
noozheyaakig	NEW – ZHAY – YAW – kig	female otter
naabeyaakig	NAW – BAY – YAW – kig	male otter
ashaageshiinh	uh – SHAW – GAY – SHEENH	crayfish



Please visit the Ojibwe People's Dictionary website for audio to help with pronunciation!

**\*Disclaimer\***

While a good base-guide for the pronunciation of Southwest Ojibwe, pronunciation is locally bound. Look into the Ojibwe dialect of your area.

*Many thanks to Michael Waasegiizhig Price for his work creating this orthography.*

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