

Ojibwe

Pronunciation Guide for the Double Vowel System

For thousands of years, the Anishinaabeg have passed on their knowledge and culture orally in the Ojibwe language. Recently in the language's history, people have begun to write it. There is no standard orthography. This calendar uses the double vowel system, which is about 20 years old. As a writing system, it is gaining popularity in the United States and Canada among language teachers. Although the letters used are taken from the English alphabet, the underlying principle is that the letters or combination of letters represent Ojibwe sounds, not English sounds. In the examples below, Ojibwe sounds and English equivalents of Ojibwe sounds are given. However, these are only approximations. For more accurate pronunciation, consult a native speaker.

Vowels	Ojibwe Sounds	English Equivalents
a	asemaa (tobacco)	about
aa	omaa (here)	father
e	esiban (raccoon)	way
i	gimiwan (it's raining)	pin
ii	niiwan (four)	seen
o	opin (potato)	obey
oo	oodenaang (in/to town)	boot

Consonants	Ojibwe Sounds	English Equivalent
b	bakwezhigan (bread)	big
ch	chi-oginiig (tomatoes)	chin
d	doodooshaaboo (milk)	dog
g	gaag (porcupine)	go
h	hay' (oops)	hi
j	maajaan (go)	jelly
k	mikinaak (turtle)	pick
m	mamoon (take it)	milk
n	bine (partridge)	name
p	baapiwag (they laugh)	pig
s	es (clam)	sun
sh	nishkaadizi (s/he's angry)	bush
t	anit (fish spear)	time
w	waawan (egg)	woman
y	babagiwayaan (shirt)	yell
z	mooz (moose)	zebra
zh	niizh (two)	measure
'	ma'iingan (wolf)	oh-oh (glottal stop)