

OJIBWE VERB TYPES

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VAI (verb animate intransitive): These are verbs with an animate subject but no object. These verbs are the 'he or she' verbs that do not need an o-prefix. The plural form is usually, but not always –*wag*, i.e., *wiisiniwag*, *jiikendamooag*. **Examples** (according to the citation form in the dictionary): *ayekozi* 's/he is tired', *bakade* 's/he is hungry', *baabii'o* 's/he is waiting around', *wiisini* 's/he is eating', etc.

VII (verb inanimate intransitive): These are verbs with an inanimate subject and no object. These are the 'it is...' verbs. These are common for describing inanimate things (like English adjectives) and talking about the weather. **Examples** (according to their citation form in the dictionary): *michaa* 'it is big', *miskwaa* 'it is red', *minopogwad* 'it tastes good', *gisinaa* 'it is cold', *aabawaa* 'it is mild weather', *onizhishin* 'it is beautiful; great', *nitam-anokii-giizhigad* 'it is Monday', *aabitoose* 'it is Wednesday', etc.

VTI (verb transitive inanimate): These are verbs with an animate subject but an inanimate object. These are common for 's/he does something to something.' When saying 's/he is...' these verbs need an o-prefix. The plural form is not –*wag* but –*naawaa*, i.e., *ogii-aabajitoonaawaa* 'they used it'. **Examples** (according to their citation form in the dictionary which is in the command form): *minwendan* 'like it', *gikendan* 'know it', *miijin* 'eat it', *bimiwidoon* 'carry it along', *mikwendan* 'remember it', *baninan* 'drop it from hand', etc.

VTa (verb transitive animate): These are verbs with an animate subject and an animate object. These are common for 's/he does something to him/her.' These are the most complex of the four verb types since every possible combination of possible participants has its own form, i.e., *nigikenimaa* 'I know h/', *giishpin gikenimag* 'if I know h/', *nigikenimig* 's/he knows me', *giishpin gikenimid* 'if s/he knows me', *nigikenimaag* 'I know them', *giishpin gikenimagwaa* 'If I know them', *nigikenimigoog* 'They know me', *giishpin gikenimiwaad* 'If they know me', etc. **Examples** (according to their citation form in the dictionary which is in the command form): *wiidoonkaw*, *miizh*, *waabam*, *gikenim*, *bizindaw*, *biizh*, etc.

INFLECTIONAL FORMS

You have probably heard other students talk about the A-form and B-form. These are as follows:

A-form: This is the complete sentence form, it stands alone. *vai nagamowag* 'they are singing', *vii gisinaa* 'it is cold outside', *vti ingii-miijin* 'I ate it', *vta ingii-wananimaa* 'I forgot h/'. This form typically occurs in statements and answers to questions. **Gidizhinikaaz** '**you** are called ...' A form uses a combination of prefixes and suffixes.

B-form: This is the dependent or incomplete form, it needs something else. It gets translated as 'when, if, as...' *vai nagamowaad* 'if/when they sing', *vii gisinaag* 'if/when it is cold outside',

vti *gii-miijiyaan* ‘when/if I ate it’, *gii-wanenimag* ‘if/when I forgot about h/’. This form typically occurs in complex sentences and informational (*Aaniin* types) content questions (along with the vowel change we will discuss later), i.e., *Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan*? ‘What is your name?’ B-form consists of only suffixes!