



The way we sound and convey Anishinaabe meaning

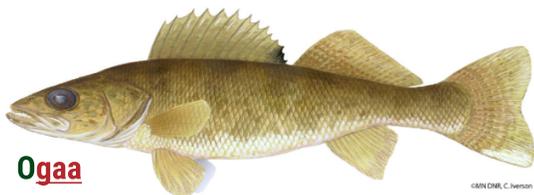
Languages are made of phonemes and morphemes. Phonemes are sounds and morphemes are combinations of sounds that make meaning. Sometimes when we are learning Anishinaabemowin we make the sounds but we don't know the meaning and other times we know the meaning but we can't make the sounds. As you start learning Anishinaabemowin, recognizing morphemes can help you understand and remember the words that you hear, even when you don't know the exact meaning (yet).

Note: Morphemes are a good starting point but like most language structures they are not *always* consistent and different speakers will have different perspectives.



Let's try it: can you guess what the "gaa" morpheme means?

What fish is this?



Gaag



What animal is this?

Gaawaandag

What plant is this?



"Gaa" morpheme meaning:





Find and match the morphemes (Answers)

Look at the word groupings below. In each word, find the morpheme and underline it. Then try to guess the meaning of each morpheme group. Note: Some of the words are from the words posted around this powwow and some are extra words to practice with.



1. JIG

- Wedaawejig - traders/vendors
- Nayaadamaagejig - volunteers
- Dibaajimojig - storytellers

Morpheme meaning:

2. ENS

- Wiigwaamens - little house; bathroom
- Babagiwayaanens - little shirt; youth T-shirt
- Esibanens - little raccoon

Morpheme meaning:

In addition to "ens" some variations include "oons" or "iins" or "aans"

3. ING

- Ziibiwing - to be the location of the river
- Pinconning - a city in MI (from Opinikaaning - potato place)
- Ishpeming - to be up high; a city in MI

Morpheme meaning:

4. AAJIM

- Dibaajimo - storytelling
- Minwaajimo - s/he tells good news, tells a good story
- Inaajimo - s/he tells a certain way

Morpheme meaning:

5. GIIZHO

- Giizhobagweyaan - sweatshirt
- Giizhoozi - s/he is warm [person]
- Giizhoodaawangaa - there is warm sand

Morpheme meaning:

6. ONG

- Giiwedionong - north
- Waabanong - east
- Agindaasoowigamigong - library

Morpheme meaning:

