

Wasaho Ininîwimowin / Fort Severn Cree Web Dictionary fortsevern.atlas-ling.ca

Guide to Using the Fort Severn Web Dictionary

This is the web version of a bilingual *Ininîwimowin*-English dictionary, designed specifically for use in the northern Ontario Cree community of Fort Severn (Wasaho). The dictionary is intended to be a resource for teachers and students of Ininîwimowin (Cree), as an aid to spelling in both Syllabic and Roman writing traditions, as a help in understanding meanings, and as a record of the richness of the Ininîwimowin language and culture as evidenced through its words. The dictionary should also be useful in the development of other language-related materials.

This web version offers two syllabics representations: the one with the w-dot on the left, as in the original print version, and the other with the w-dot on the right, following Western usage. In this guide, however, we only give the traditional w-dot on the left version of the syllabics.

Throughout this guide, grammatical terms are identified with **boldface** type. They are also included in a glossary which follows the guide, so that **grammatical** concepts and terms can be looked up at any time.

History of the Project

In 1989, a group of Native language teachers met in Sioux Lookout to discuss some common concerns, such as the lack of a Native language policy, the lack of teaching materials in the Native languages, problems of dialect diversity, the need for the development of Native language vocabulary for modern terminology, and the lack of effective communication among teachers in different communities. A list of recommendations was developed at the meeting, and used as the basis for drafting a language proposal under the joint cooperation of Shibogama Education, Keewaypinook Okimakanak, Windigo Education Authority, Independent First Nations Alliance, and the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council. In 1991, a Native Language Project steering committee was formed with representatives from each of these First Nations councils. Initially, research was carried out to assess the status of Native language vitality in the Ojibwe, Oji-Cree, and Cree communities in northern Ontario serviced by the participating education authorities. In 1994, the results of this survey were published in a report translated into the language of each of the three groups under consideration. The report showed clearly that there was a great need for Native language materials if these languages were going to survive and flourish.

In 1994, researchers developed plans for canvassing each of the three language areas, and then carried out dictionary work in many of the communities represented by the education authorities involved in the project. The beginning stages of work were greatly aided by the willingness of others to share their materials. For example, the Anishinaabemowin dictionary was based originally on a word list developed by John

Nichols for Oji-Cree, and the Cree dictionary benefited from a word list compiled by the Cree School Board of Québec, representing the speech of Cree communities on the east coast of James Bay and Hudson and points inland. All of these languages are related and share much structure and vocabulary. Having a head start, due to another individual's or group's willingness to share their work, made the task easier to accomplish in the limited time frame for which research funding was available.

Three dictionaries were prepared, for Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), for Anishiniimowin (Oji-Cree), and for Ininîwimowin (Cree), under the direction of Rand Valentine. To compile this Ininîwimowin dictionary, Marguerite MacKenzie first visited Fort Severn in the summer of 1994 to begin collecting terms from bilingual speakers, resulting in a list of over 6,000 Cree words. In the three years following, she offered courses on the structure of Ininîwimowin which included older speakers as resource persons. Through these sessions, she was able to gather more words, especially traditional vocabulary, and have the word list checked a number of times. There are just under 7,000 entries in this version of the dictionary and it is far from complete: the language has an almost limitless stock of words, so no dictionary will ever include every word in the language.

In 2014, funding was obtained from the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada to produce a web version, as part of a project of Algonquian online dictionaries and Algonquian linguistic atlas, co-directed by Dr. MacKenzie: www.atlas-ling.ca. This guide accompanies the web version which can be found at: fortsevern.atlas-ling.ca

Dialect Variation

It is well known that Native languages show much variation from place to place, giving rise to different **dialects** and **languages**. In Fort Severn, and in all the Ontario Cree communities, there is a fair amount of variation in **vocabulary**. In Fort Severn, this variation is the result of people moving in from different communities, such as York Factory, Weenusk (now Peawanuck) and even Big Trout Lake. In Fort Severn it is common to find that there are two words for many items. For example, the word 'scissors' can be ᐃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ *môshitowin* or ᐃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ *mâcishikan*.

There are other reasons for dialect variation as well. Within any given community, elders may pronounce words somewhat differently or use different words than the younger people. Elders usually have a richer and more precise vocabulary than others, especially in areas of traditional life such as hunting and trapping, in part because the elders have had the opportunity to live the traditional life, while younger generations have grown up on reserves or in towns. On the other hand, the youth may have special vocabulary for things of interest to them, such as terms for rock music and hockey gear. And these 'youth' words may show different patterns of variation across communities than the elders' vocabulary does! So the picture is very complex and will never be completely reflected in a dictionary.

The Basic Dictionary Entry

Remember that in the notes which follow, key words appear in boldface type. Many of these words are terms of **grammar**, and are defined as they are introduced. However, all boldface words are also listed and defined in the glossary which follows these notes.

Each word (entry) listed in this dictionary has four types of information, and some have more. A standard, four-part **entry**, consists of: 1. a **syllabic** spelling; 2. a **Roman** spelling; 3. a specification of the word's **part of speech** (also called its **word category**); and 4. a simple **English translation** (also called a **gloss**). The following example shows these components:

$\wedge > \supset$ <i>pipon</i> vii be winter
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Here is a breakdown of the parts:

Part Syllabic Spelling	1	Part Roman Spelling	2	Part Part of Speech	3	Part English Gloss	4
$\wedge > \supset$		<i>pipon</i>		vii		be winter	

Some words have additional information, such as the **plural**, **diminutive**, or **reduplication** of certain **nouns** or the specific kind of pronoun or particle. These elements are described below. We will first address each of the common components of the dictionary entry.

Part 1. Syllabic Spelling

Part Syllabic Spelling	1	Part Roman Spelling	2	Part Part of Speech	3	Part English Gloss	4
$\wedge > \supset$		<i>pipon</i>		vii		be winter	

This is the **Syllabic** spelling of the word. As anyone who uses Syllabics knows, there are many different ways of writing Syllabics. In this dictionary, we offer two representations to choose from.

1) the Syllabic spelling system decided on by the Cree of Ontario at the Syllabic spelling conference held in 1996. The decisions made at this conference are contained

							Finals
▽ e 1401	△ i 1403	◌̇ î 1404	▷ o 1405	◌̇ ô 1406	◁ a 140A	◌̇ â 140B	" h 1426
∨ pe 142F	∧ pi 1431	◌̇ pî 1432	> po 1433	◌̇ pô 1434	< pa 1438	◌̇ pâ 1439	' p 144A
∪ te 144C	∩ ti 144E	◌̇ tî 144F	∪ to 1450	◌̇ tô 1451	∩ ta 1455	◌̇ tâ 1456	/ t 141F
q ke 146B	p ki 146D	◌̇ kî 146E	đ ko 146F	◌̇ kô 1470	b ka 1472	◌̇ kâ 1473	\ k 1420
ɔ ce 1489	ɹ ci 148B	◌̇ cî 148C	ɔ co 148D	◌̇ cô 148E	ɹ ca 1490	◌̇ câ 1491	- c 1428
ɱ me 14A3	ɽ mi 14A5	◌̇ mî 14A6	ɱ mo 14A7	◌̇ mô 14A8	ɽ ma 14AA	◌̇ mâ 14AB	˘ m 14BC
ɳ ne 14C0	ɶ ni 14C2	◌̇ nî 14C3	ɳ no 14C4	◌̇ nô 14C5	ɶ na 14C7	◌̇ nâ 14C8	˘ n 1423
ɽ le 14D3	ɹ li 14D5	◌̇ lî 14D6	ɽ lo 14D7	◌̇ lô 14D8	ɹ la 14DA	◌̇ lâ 14DB	˘ l 142A
ɹ se 14ED	ɱ si 14EF	◌̇ sî 14F0	ɹ so 14F1	◌̇ sô 14F2	ɱ sa 14F4	◌̇ sâ 14F5	˘ s 1422
ʃ she 1510	ɶ shi 1511	◌̇ shî 1512	ʃ sho 1513	◌̇ shô 1514	ɶ sha 1515	◌̇ shâ 1516	˘ sh 1525
ɹ ye 1526	ɱ yi 1528	◌̇ yî 1529	ɹ yo 152A	◌̇ yô 152B	ɱ ya 152D	◌̇ yâ 152E	˘ y 153E

ᑭ	mwe 14AD	ᑭ	mwa 14B7	ᑭ	mwâ 14B9
ᑭ	nwe 14C9	ᑭ	nwa 14CB	ᑭ	nwâ 14CD
ᑭ	nwe 14CA	ᑭ	nwa 14CC	ᑭ	nwâ 14CE
ᑭ	lwe 14DC	ᑭ	lwa 14E6	ᑭ	lwâ 14E8
ᑭ	swe 14F6	ᑭ	swa 1500	ᑭ	swâ 1502
ᑭ	swe 14F7	ᑭ	swa 1501	ᑭ	swâ 1503
ᑭ	shwe 1517	ᑭ	shwa 1521	ᑭ	shwâ 1523
ᑭ	shwe 1518	ᑭ	shwa 1522	ᑭ	shwâ 1524
ᑭ	ywe 152F	ᑭ	ywa 1539	ᑭ	ywâ 153B
ᑭ	ywe 1530	ᑭ	ywa 153A	ᑭ	ywâ 153C
				ᑭ	rwâ 154E
				ᑭ	rwâ 154F

Part 2. Roman Spelling

Part Syllabic Spelling	1	Part Roman Spelling	2	Part Part of Speech	3	Part English Gloss	4
Λ>ᓄ		<i>pipon</i>		vii		be winter	

This is the **Roman** (English-letter) spelling of the word. It is included as a guide to pronunciation for those Cree who no longer speak Ininîwimowin as their first language, and for other people who might want to learn the language. Non-fluent speakers of Cree will not be able to pronounce correctly a word based only on its Syllabic spelling. This difficulty occurs because Syllabics often uses a form of ‘shorthand’ spelling, and many important aspects of pronunciation are often not represented in Syllabic writing, such as the dots on top to mark vowel length and the letter ‘h’. For example, when written without length dots: ᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ could be the word that means ‘screw’, or it could be the word meaning ‘lake’. These two words are often spelled the same way in Syllabics, even though they are actually pronounced differently. In Roman spelling, they are spelled differently in order to capture the difference between pronunciations:

<i>sakahikan</i>	‘screw’	ᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ
<i>sâkahikan</i>	‘lake’	ᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ

The Roman system of writing adopted here is the one used to write Cree by speakers in the west who do not use syllabics, and has been used in many story collections, including the book *atalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimowina: Cree Legends and Narratives from the West Coast of James Bay* by C. Douglas Ellis. By knowing this system, students will have access to a wide variety of materials available in these dialects and can gain a better sense of the diversity of Ininîwimowin linguistic heritage.

The Roman letters used to write Ininîwimowin, their rough English equivalents of pronunciation, and examples of Ininîwimowin words are listed below, organized into sets of **vowels** and **consonants**.

Vowels

Letter	English Equivalent	Example	Translation
a	p <u>u</u> ck	<i>atim</i>	'dog'
â	pa <u>d</u>	<i>mâcîs</i>	'here'
e	be <u>d</u> , ma <u>d</u> e	<i>ehe</i>	'yes'
i	pi <u>t</u>	<i>api</i>	'sit!'
î	pe <u>a</u>	<i>nîna</i>	'I, me, my'
o	pu <u>t</u>	<i>osâm</i>	'too much'
ô	so <u>u</u> p, so <u>ap</u>	<i>pôs</i>	'cat'

Roman Spelling of Vowels in Ininôwimowin

The vowels written with circumflex letters over the letter (*â*, *î*, and *ô*) are **long vowels**. The vowel *e* is also a long vowel but has no accent over it. The vowels *a*, *i*, and *o* are **short vowels**.

Consonants

Letter	English Equivalent	Example	Translation
w	<u>w</u> iggle	<i>wiyâs</i>	‘meat’
p	top <u>p</u> rize	<i>pipon</i>	‘be winter’
t	boat <u>t</u> op	<i>atim</i>	‘dog’
k	pick <u>k</u> orn	<i>mistik</i>	‘tree, stick’
c	beach <u>c</u> hair	<i>mîkwec</i>	‘thank you’
m	<u>m</u> oney	<i>ministik</i>	‘island’
n	<u>n</u> ose	<i>nîna</i>	‘I, me, my’
l	<u>l</u> ike	<i>alikish</i>	‘frog’
s	gas <u>s</u> tation	<i>pîsim</i>	‘sun’
sh	bush <u>sh</u> irt	<i>ashâm</i>	‘feed her/him!’
y	<u>y</u> ellow	<i>yâkwâ</i>	‘look out!’
h	<u>h</u> em	<i>ehe</i>	‘yes’

Roman Spelling of Consonants in Ininîwimowin

For speakers of Ininîwimowin, the sounds associated with *p*, *t*, *k*, and *ch* sometimes have a breath of air before the consonant sound. This breath of air is called **aspiration**. If you are not a fluent speaker of Ininîwimowin, you should listen carefully to the pronunciation of someone who is. This breath of air is written with *h* before the consonant: *hp*, *ht*, *hk*, *hc*.

front of a basic word in order to add some kind of meaning, for example $\sigma\acute{r}\acute{l}\grave{p}$ *nicímán*, ‘my boat’ has the prefix σ *ni-* added to the basic word $\acute{r}\acute{l}\grave{p}$ *címán* ‘boat’. Here this prefix adds the meaning ‘my’. A **suffix** is an element attached to the end of a basic word to add meaning. For example, $\acute{r}\acute{l}\grave{a}$ *címána* ‘boats’, has the suffix \blacktriangleleft *-a*, which adds the meaning ‘more than one’ (plural). A word can have both a prefix and suffix, or more than one prefix or suffix, as in $\sigma\acute{r}\acute{l}\sigma\grave{a}$ *nicímáninána*, ‘our boats’ which has the prefix σ *ni-* and the suffixes $\Delta\grave{a}$ *-inán*, meaning ‘we’, and \blacktriangleleft *-a* meaning ‘more than one’ (plural). The prefixes and suffixes taken together are called the **inflections** of the word.

Here are some forms of the basic word $\acute{s}\acute{s}\acute{a}$ *shîshîp* with different prefixes and suffixes :

Syllabics	Roman	English
$\acute{s}\acute{s}\blacktriangleleft\grave{a}$	<i>shîshîpak</i>	‘ducks’
$\acute{s}\acute{s}\blacktriangleleft$	<i>shîshîpa</i>	‘other duck(s)’
$\sigma\acute{s}\acute{s}\Delta\grave{a}$	<i>nishîshîpim</i>	‘my duck’
$\blacktriangleright\acute{s}\acute{s}\blacktriangleleft$	<i>ushîshîpima</i>	‘her/his duck’

Various Forms of the Word $\acute{s}\acute{s}\acute{a}$ (*shîshîp*) ‘duck’

To look up a simple noun in the dictionary, you must remove any prefixes and suffixes attached to it. So, in these examples, several different elements would have to be removed:

Prefix(es)	Stem	Suffix(es)
	اٰنٰا	اٰ -ak
	اٰنٰا	ا -a
σ ni-	اٰنٰا	اٰا -im
▷ o-	اٰنٰا	اٰاا -ima

These must be removed before looking up this word

Examples of Prefixes and Suffixes to be removed from Nouns before looking them up

Dependent and Independent Nouns

In Ininiwimowin, the words for relatives (family members, kinship terms) and body parts are almost never used without identifying *whose* body part or relative is being referred to, by means of elements (prefixes and suffixes) added to the basic noun. For example, the word **اٰاا** *-spiton* 'arm' never occurs alone, but always occurs with a prefix, such as **σ** *ni-spiton*, 'my arm,' **ρ** *ki-spiton*, 'your arm,' or **▷** *ospiton* 'her or his arm'. In other words, to use this noun, you must say *whose* arm is being talked about. Nouns which *require* such specification of relationship are called **dependent** nouns and those that do not are called **independent** nouns. Nouns whose part of speech is given simply as *na* and *ni* in the dictionary are independent, but dependent nouns have special codes. Just as with independent nouns, dependent nouns can be animate or inanimate. The following codes are used to identify dependent nouns:

nad	noun, animate, dependent
nid	noun, inanimate, dependent

Since dependent nouns must be used with a prefix that specifies relationship, there is a question of what form or forms should be listed in the dictionary. We have chosen to represent body parts with a **third person form**, that is the one meaning 'her/his __,' for example, **▷اٰا** *osit* 'her/his foot', **▷اٰاا** *oskât* 'her/his leg.' This practice means that when you want to look up a word such as **σاٰا** *nisit* 'my foot', you will have to *remove* the prefix **σ** *ni-* meaning 'my' and *add* the prefix **▷** *o* or **اٰ** *w* meaning 'her or his' in order to find the word in the dictionary.

Participial Nouns

Some nouns in Ininîwimowin are made from **verbs**, and keep some of their verbal properties, even though the words are used as nouns. A **participle** is a kind of hybrid word somewhere between a noun and a verb. For example, some speakers refer to a microphone for a bush radio as **ᑲ ᐅ"ᑦ ᐱᑦᑲᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ** *kâohciayaminânimahk*, or a video cassette as **ᑲ ᑦᑲᑲᑦᐱᑦ** *kâsekonikâtek*. Both of these words refer to things and can be used as the subject or object of a verb, so they are nouns, but they also have verbal properties, such as the way they make their plurals. Also, unlike other kinds of nouns, you can't just attach a prefix **e ni** to the front of these words to mean 'my microphone' or 'my video,' because these participles don't behave like simple nouns.

Participial nouns may be animate or inanimate. The following codes are used for each sub-class of participial noun.

nap	noun, animate, participle
nip	noun, inanimate, participle

In Ininîwimowin, participial nouns all begin with the element **ᑲ** *kâ-*. Participles must be distinguished from **abstract nouns**, which are also nouns made from verbs, usually by adding the ending **ᐱᑦ** *-win*, as in **ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ** *ayimiwin* 'word, utterance', and **ᐱᑦᑲᑦᐱᑦ** *atoskewin* 'work.' These words, although they have been made from the verbs **ᐱᑦᐱᑦ** *ayimiv* 'speak' and **ᐱᑦᑲᑦ** *atoskev* 'work' are regular nouns, which you can tell by the fact that they can have a prefix added to them to signal 'my', 'your,' or 'her/his,' for example, **ᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᐱᑦ** *nitatoskewin* 'my work,' **ᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᐱᑦ** *kitatoskewin* 'your work'.

Specification of Other Categories of Nouns

Certain assumptions are made in the dictionary about the way that nouns work in Ininîwimowin, in the form of normal behaviour. These forms include **plurals**, **locatives**, **possessives**, **diminutives**, and **pejoratives**. Basically, the following ordinary patterns are assumed:

Category	Ordinary Form	Example	Example	Translation
Animate Plural	Add <i>-ak</i>	suffix	ᑲᑲᑦᐱᑦ <i>shîshîpak</i>	'ducks'
Inanimate Plural	Add <i>-a</i>	suffix	ᑲᑲᑦᐱᑦ <i>cîmâna</i>	'boats'
Locative	Add <i>-ihk</i>	suffix	ᑲᑲᑦᐱᑦ <i>cîmânihk</i>	'in the boat'

pro	pronoun	Syllabic	Roman	English Gloss
pro,alt	alternative pronoun	ᑕᑕ	<i>kotak</i>	other
pro,det	determiner pronoun	ᐱᐱ	<i>awa</i>	this
pro,foc	focal pronoun	ᐱᐱᑕ	<i>ewako</i>	the very one
pro,indef	indefinite pronoun	ᐱᐱᑕᑕ	<i>awen</i>	whoever
pro,pausal	pausal pronoun	ᐱᐱᑕᑕᑕ	<i>ayahâw</i>	whoever
pro,intrg	interrogative pronoun	ᑕᑕᑕ	<i>kekwan</i>	what
pro,pers	personal pronoun	ᑕᑕ	<i>nîna</i>	I

Types of Pronouns

Verbs

Verbs are another word category found in all the languages of the world. Verbs refer to actions, states, experiences, and qualities. Verbs answer the questions ‘What is happening?’ or ‘What’s the state of things?’ Verbs in Ininîwimowin are sub classified according to their **transitivity** and the **gender** of their subjects or objects. These concepts are discussed in detail below.

Intransitive Verbs

One way that verbs are classified in Ininîwimowin is on the basis of how many distinct **noun roles** they have associated with them. One class of verbs has only one role associated with the verbal idea. For example, the verb ᐱᐱᑕᑕᑕ *pimohew* ‘s/he walks along’ has only one role, that of the walker; the verb ᑕᑕᑕᑕ *nîmîw* ‘s/he dances’ has only one role, that of the dancer. Verbs that have only one role associated with them are called **intransitive**. Another way of describing intransitive verbs is to say that they have only **subjects**, but no **objects**.

There are also two subclasses of intransitive verbs in Ininîwimowin, based on whether the noun filling the single role of the verb is **animate** or **inanimate**. The following forms show this difference:

animate	ᑦᑦᑦᑎ°	<i>misikitîw</i>	‘s/he is big’
inanimate	ᑦᑦ°	<i>mishâw</i>	‘it is big’
animate	ᐱᐱᑦᑦᑦᑦ°	<i>apishîshishîw</i>	‘s/he is small’
inanimate	ᐱᐱᑦᑦ°	<i>apishâshîw</i>	‘it is small’

Verbs that have a single **animate role** are called **animate intransitive verbs (vai)**; verbs that have a single **inanimate role** are called **inanimate intransitive verbs (vii)**. The codes for these two classes are as follows:

vai	verb, animate intransitive
vii	verb, inanimate intransitive

Transitive Verbs

Other verbs have more than one role associated with them. For example, the verb ᑎᑕᑦᐱᐱ *tipaba* ‘pay him or her’ has both the roles of a payer and a payee; the verb ᐅᑎᑦ *ocem* ‘kiss him or her’ has the role of a giver of a kiss and the role of a receiver of a kiss. Verbs that have more than one role associated with them are called **transitive**. And just as Ininîwimowin divides intransitive verbs into two types on the basis of the animacy of the one playing the role, so too it divides transitive verbs into two classes on the basis of the animacy of one of the roles. The role that is relevant in transitive verbs is the receiver of the action; in the examples above this is the receiver of the pay and the receiver of the kiss. If the receiver of the action is animate, the verb is a **transitive animate verb (vta)**. If the receiver of the action is inanimate, the verb is a **transitive inanimate verb (vti)**, as in ᑦᑦᑦᑎᑦ ᐅᑦᑦᑦ ᐱᐱᑦᑦᑦᑦ *cîmân oshâm nâpesis* ‘The boy is touching the boat’. Here ᑦᑦᑦᑎᑦ *cîmân* ‘boat’, an inanimate noun, is the recipient of the action of touching.

The following codes are used for these two classes.

vta	verb, transitive animate
vti	verb, transitive inanimate

The List Forms of Verbs

Verbs are very rich in **inflection** in Ininîwimowin, that is, in the combinations of prefixes and suffixes which indicate participants in the action, the time of the action, whether the speaker is certain that the action has actually taken place or is guessing, and whether the action takes place towards the speaker or away from the speaker. To list all of the possible forms for each Ininîwimowin verb would fill many hundreds of

books. Rather, a consistent way of representing each subclass of verb must be used, so that with the proper knowledge a dictionary user can derive any needed verb form, with all of the appropriate prefixes and suffixes. Deriving these verb forms can really only be done with native speaker fluency or with access to a very complete **grammar** of the language. For now, we can at least consistently represent and label verbs in the dictionary.

Consider the following list, showing a few of the forms of the verb **ᓄᓂᓂ** *nîmiw* ‘s/he dances’:

Syllabics	Roman	English Gloss
ᓄᓂᓂ	<i>nîmiw</i>	‘s/he dances’
ᓄᓄᓂᓂ	<i>ninîmin</i>	‘I dance’
ᓄᓂᓂᓄᓄ	<i>nîmiwak</i>	‘they dance’
ᓄᓄᓂᓂᓄᓄ	<i>e nîmiyân</i>	‘(that) I dance’
ᓄᓄᓂᓂᓄᓄᓄᓄ	<i>nîmitokwenak</i>	‘perhaps they’re dancing’
ᓄᓄᓂᓂᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ	<i>nîmîpanak</i>	‘when they had danced’
ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ	<i>ekâ nîmik</i>	‘don’t dance!’

*A Few of the Many Forms of the Verb **ᓄᓂᓂ** *nîmiw* ‘s/he dances’*

The list here represents only a *very* small portion of the possible distinct forms of this verb. We have chosen to list the form that means ‘she or he is ___’ in the dictionary for **animate intransitive verbs** (vai), **transitive animate verbs** (vta) and **transitive inanimate verbs** (vti). In the case of **inanimate intransitive verbs** (vii), we have used the form that means ‘it is ___’, as in **ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ** *kimiwan*, ‘it is raining.’ However, the words ‘she, he’ and ‘it’ have been left out of the English glosses, in order to save space and so that there is an emphasis on the meaning of the stem of the verb. As well, instead of writing ‘her, him, it’ for the object of transitive verbs, s.o. and s.t. are used as abbreviations for the more general words ‘someone’ and ‘something’, which usually refer to animate and inanimate goals.

Verb Class	Code	Form	Syllabics	Roman	Meaning
Animate Intransitive	vai	3rd person singular, present tense	ᓄᓂᓂ	<i>nîmiw</i>	‘dance’
Inanimate Intransitive	vii	3rd person singular, present tense	ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ	<i>kimiwan</i>	‘rain’

indicate the possessor of the noun. The most common prefixes are **ᄒ** *ni-* ‘first person’, **ᄃ** *ki-* ‘second

person’ and **ᄄ** *o-*, ‘third person.’ The third person prefix is used only with nouns, never with verbs. Prefixes are identified with the code *prefix*.

Prenouns are elements which attach to the front of nouns and describe them or pick them out in some way, such as **ᄆᄇ** *nôshe-* ‘female’ and **ᄆᄈ** *nâpe-* ‘male,’ as in **ᄆᄇᄉᄈ** *nôshe-môswa* ‘female moose’ and **ᄆᄈᄉᄈ** *nâpe-môswa* ‘male moose’, as well as **ᄃᄉᄈ** *kibci-* ‘big’ as in **ᄃᄉᄈ ᄉᄉᄈ** *kibci-čmân* ‘big boat’. Prenouns are identified with the code *prenoun*.

Preverbs are like prenouns, except they are attached to the front of verbs. Preverbs include elements such as **ᄃ** *ki-* ‘past tense,’ **ᄆ** or **ᄇ** *ka-* or *ta-* ‘will (future preverb)’, and **ᄈᄉ** *peci-* ‘towards speaker,’ among many others. Preverbs are indicated with the code *preverb*.

Particles

The class of particles includes all of the items that do not belong to any of the other classes named. Particles include single words that indicate place (**ᄉᄉᄈᄉᄈᄈ** *pâbtikamihk* ‘inside’), time (**ᄉᄉᄈᄈ** *nîpac* ‘recently’), quantity and repetition (**ᄉᄉᄈᄈᄈ** *nîsmâw* ‘twice’), negation (**ᄉᄉᄈ** or **ᄉᄉᄈ** *nama* or *ekâ* ‘not’), and many other concepts. We have tried to list the different types of particles by giving each a sub-code, such as ‘time’ or ‘space’ for prepositions and ‘manner’ for words which act like English adverbs. Also included are **interjections**, words that express strong emotion or surprise, and are usually capable of standing alone, such as Ugh! or Wow! in English. Particles are identified with the following abbreviations:

p	particle	p,cnj	conjunction
p,intrg	interrogative / question	p,man	manner
p,neg	negative	p,num	number
p,quan	quantity	p,space	space
p,time	time	p,intj	interjection

Part 4. English Gloss (Translation)

Part Syllabic Spelling	1 Part Roman Spelling	2 Part Part of Speech	3 Part Part of Speech	4 Part English Gloss
ᄉᄉᄈᄈ	<i>pipon</i>	vii		be winter

Glossary

This glossary contains entries for all of the grammatical concepts introduced in the notes on the dictionary. At the end of each entry, cross-references to related entries are given.

ABSTRACT NOUN. A **noun** made from a verb, usually by adding the **suffix** **·Δ** *win*, as in **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *sâkibiwewin* ‘love’, made from the verb **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *sâkibiwew* ‘s/he loves’. These nouns are called abstract because they do not refer to physical objects, such as trees, animals, or people, but rather to general ideas and principles, concepts, or actions in a very general sense. Nouns that refer to physical objects, such as **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *nâpew* ‘man’ and **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *sâkabikan* ‘lake’, are called concrete nouns. See Noun, Verb.

ALGONQUIAN. The family of languages that Ininîwimowin belongs to. This family includes Abenaki, Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), Arapaho, Atikamekw-Cree-Montagnais-Naskapi, Blackfoot, Delaware, Fox, Kickapoo, Malecite-Passamaquoddy, Menomini, Micmac, Potawatomi, and many others. See Language.

ANIMATE. One of the two **gender classes** of Ininîmowin **nouns**, consisting mostly of words referring to living things and some other nouns as well. Animate nouns have plurals that end in **ᐱᐱ** *-ak*, such as **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *mabkesimak* ‘foxes’. Compare Inanimate. See Gender, Noun.

ANIMATE INTRANSITIVE VERB. A verb which has only one role associated with it, a subject, and that role is filled by an animate noun. Examples: **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *takosbin* ‘s/he arrives’ (single role of ‘one arriving’); **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *atoskew* ‘s/he works’ (single role of ‘one working’); **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *wanibikew* ‘s/he traps’ (single role of ‘one trapping’). Compare VII. See Transitivity, Verb.

ASPIRATION. A very brief puff of air that can be heard in the pronunciation of Ininîwimowin speakers when saying the sounds spelled *hp*, *ht*, *hk* and *hc* as in **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ**

akohp ‘dress’, **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *mihti* ‘firewood’ and **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *atihk* ‘caribou’. The aspiration occurs before the consonant. Although it is marked in the dictionary, many people do not write the symbol when using Syllabics. See Consonant.

CLASS. See Gender.

CONSONANT. One of the two basic types of speech sounds (the other is **Vowels**). Consonants begin or end syllables, while vowels occupy the middle (core) of a syllable. Most consonants are not pronounced alone, but only with an accompanying vowel. The consonants of Ininîwimowin are *c*, *b*, *k*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *s*, *sh*, *t*, *w*, and *y*. Compare Vowel.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN. A **pronoun** which singles out or picks out a particular member or members of a class of nouns. For example, **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *awa cîmân* ‘this boat’ picks out a particular boat that the speaker is referring to. See Pronoun.

DEPENDENT NOUN. A **noun** that must have a **possessor** prefix indicating the possessor, owner, or person in relationship to the noun, for example **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *nisit* ‘my foot’, with possessor prefix **ᐱᐱ** *ni-* ‘my’, and **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ** *kikosis* ‘your son’, with possessive prefix **ᐱᐱ** *ki-* ‘your’. Nouns for body parts and relatives (family relations) are dependent, as well as a few others. Compare Independent Noun. See also Noun.

DIALECT. A distinctive variety of a language used by speakers in a particular geographical region or in a particular social group. The dialects of Ininîmowin include Plains Cree, Woods Cree, Swampy Cree, Moose Cree, Atikamekw, East Cree, Montagnais (Innu) and Naskapi. See Language.

DIMINUTIVE. A **noun** having an ending which indicates that the word refers to someone or something that is a young, immature, or an especially small member of the group identified by the noun. For example, ᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ *shíshípisís* ‘young or small duck’ is the diminutive of ᓂᓂᓂ *shíshíp* ‘duck’; ᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ *címánisis* ‘small boat’ is the diminutive of ᓂᓂᓂ *címán* ‘boat.’ See Noun, Suffix.

EASTERN SYLLABICS. One of the two basic **Syllabic** traditions. Eastern Syllabics uses **finals** which resemble smaller versions of the basic syllable characters, for example, final ᓂ *n* corresponds to basic syllable character ᓂ *na/naa*. Also in the Eastern tradition, the **w-dot** symbol precedes the symbol for the syllable it is associated with, for example, ᓂᓂᓂᓂ *wáwí* ‘egg’, and ᓂᓂᓂᓂ *iskwew* ‘woman’. Compare Western Syllabics. See Syllabics.

ENDING. See Suffix.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION. See Gloss.

ENTRY. An individual word, as listed separately in the dictionary.

FINALs. In Syllabic writing, the small, raised letters used to represent an isolated consonant sound at the end of a syllable, as in ᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ *nípáhpin* ‘I laugh’, or ᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ *askíhk* ‘pail, kettle’. See Syllabics.

FIRST PERSON. One of the three ‘persons’ or speech roles in language communication. First person refers to the one or ones speaking. In English, the **pronouns** ‘I’, ‘me’ and ‘my’ are all first person singular, and ‘we’, ‘us’ and ‘our’ first person plural. In Ininiwimowin first person pronouns include ᓂᓂ *nín* ‘I’, ᓂᓂᓂ *nínán*, ‘we, us (but not you)’ and ᓂᓂᓂᓂ *kínán* ‘we, us (you and I),’ among others. Compare Second Person, Third Person.

GENDER. The **grammatical noun** groups or classes in a language. Ininiwimowin groups nouns into two genders, **animate** and **inanimate**. Members of the animate class include people, animals, spirits, trees,

many plants, and many other objects, such as pipes, spoons, and the sun and moon. Members of the inanimate class include non-living things and a few plants. Each class requires verbs of the appropriate type. See Noun.

GLOSS. The simple English translation associated with an Ininiwimowin word in the dictionary. For example, the gloss for ᓂᓂᓂ *shíshíp* is simply ‘duck’.

GRAMMAR. The patterns and rules of a language, including pronunciation, how words are made from parts of words, and how words are put together to make new words, phrases and sentences.

GRAMMATICAL. Anything having to do with **grammar**. See Grammar.

INANIMATE. One of the two **genders** of Ininiwimowin **nouns**, referring to non-living things and some plants. Inanimate nouns have plurals ending in ᓂ *-a*, such as ᓂᓂᓂᓂ *címána* ‘boats’. Compare Animate. See Gender, Noun.

INANIMATE INTRANSITIVE VERB (VII). One of the four main subclasses of verbs. An inanimate intransitive verb is a verb that has a single role associated with it, and the noun filling the single role is **inanimate**, as in ᓂᓂᓂᓂ ᓂᓂᓂ *mishán címán* ‘The boat is big’. See also Verb, Transitivity. Compare Animate Intransitive Verb (**vai**).

INDEFINITE PRONOUN. A pronoun used when the identity of a thing or individual is not fully known, for example, ᓂᓂᓂᓂ *awena* ‘someone’ and ᓂᓂᓂᓂ *kekwán* ‘something’. See Pronoun.

INDEPENDENT NOUN. A noun which can be used without a possessor; a noun which can stand alone, independently. Independent nouns are contrasted with dependent nouns, which require a possessor. Examples: ᓂᓂᓂ *címán* ‘boat’, ᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ *wáskabíkan* ‘house’. See Noun. Compare Dependent Noun.

INFLECTION. Any **prefix** or **suffix** added to a word in order to add a meaning, such as who or what the subject is, who or what the object is or the plurality of the subject or object. Example: $\sigma\text{C}^{\circ}\text{b}^{\circ}\text{a}^{\circ}$ *nitatoskânân*, ‘we are working’ has the inflectional prefix σ^{\prime} *nit-* and the inflectional suffix a° *-nân*. See Noun, Prefix, Suffix.

INTERJECTION. A word that expresses strong emotion or surprise, and is usually capable of standing alone, such as Ugh! or Wow! in English.

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN. A pronoun used in asking questions, such as $\text{q}^{\circ}\text{b}^{\circ}$ *kekwan* ‘what?’ (inanimate) or $\text{a}^{\circ}\text{v}^{\circ}\text{a}$ *awena* ‘who’. See Pronoun.

INTRANSITIVE. See Animate Intransitive Verb and IIV.

LANGUAGE. A system of communication used by human beings, in which meanings are associated with combinations of sounds. Sounds group together to form word parts and words, and words group together to form sentences. There are believed to be approximately 5,500 languages spoken in the world today.

LENGTH-DOT. See page 5 and Long Vowels.

LOCATIVE. The locative form of a noun expresses the noun as a location, for example, $\sigma^{\prime}\text{N}^{\text{a}}$ *nisitibk* means ‘on my foot’ from the basic word σ^{\prime} *nisit* ‘my foot.’ Another example is $\text{b}^{\circ}\text{b}^{\circ}\text{N}^{\text{a}}$ *oskâtibk* ‘on his or her leg’. The locative is formed by adding a suffix (ending) to the noun stem. The ordinary locative suffix is A^{a} *-ibk*, as in $\text{r}^{\circ}\text{L}^{\circ}\sigma^{\text{a}}$ *cîmânibk* ‘in the boat’. See Noun.

LONG VOWELS. The long vowels in Ininimowin are v° , A° , b° , a° (*e*, *é*, *ô* and *â*). See Vowels.

NOMINAL. Having to do with a noun. See Noun.

NOUN. One of the main parts of speech of Ininimowin. Nouns are words for living and non-living things, such as $\text{a}^{\circ}\text{v}^{\circ}\text{r}^{\circ}$ *nâpesis* ‘boy’, and $\text{L}^{\circ}\text{p}^{\circ}\text{r}^{\circ}$ *maskisin* ‘shoe’. Nouns answer the question ‘who’ or ‘what’. There are two **genders** or classes of nouns, **animate** and **inanimate**. Nouns can be **singular** or **plural**. Nouns in Ininimowin are also marked for **obviation**, that is, whether they are in focus in the story being told, or not. Nouns can also be **diminutive** or **pejorative**, as well as **locative**. See all of these categories for additional notes.

NOUN PHRASE. A **noun** along with any associated helping words, such as **demonstrative pronouns** ($\text{a}^{\circ}\text{v}^{\circ}$ *ama nâpew* ‘that man’), or a number ($\text{v}^{\circ}\text{b}^{\circ}$ $\text{a}^{\circ}\text{v}^{\circ}$ *peyak naapew* ‘one man’). See Noun.

OBJECT. The **noun**, **noun phrase**, or **pronoun** in a sentence that expresses the receiver of the action, that is, the one whom the action is done *to*. Also called a Direct Object. Only transitive verbs have objects, and a few exceptional animate intransitive verbs. Compare Subject.

OBVIATIVE. In Algonquian languages, **third persons** (nouns and pronouns) are distinguished as being more prominent or less prominent in the discourse. Only one noun or third person pronoun may be in focus at any given time. Nouns which are less prominent (out of focus) have a special ending, called the obviative by linguists. Take, for example, the sentence $\text{a}^{\circ}\text{v}^{\circ}\text{a}^{\circ}$ $\text{a}^{\circ}\text{v}^{\circ}\text{a}^{\circ}$ $\text{a}^{\circ}\text{v}^{\circ}\text{a}^{\circ}$ *nâpewa wâpamew iskenew* ‘The woman saw a man’ Here the word for man, which in its basic form is $\text{a}^{\circ}\text{v}^{\circ}$ *nâpew*, has an ending a° *-a* attached which designates it as being out of focus (obviative). The noun $\text{a}^{\circ}\text{v}^{\circ}\text{a}^{\circ}$ *iskenew* ‘woman’, however, has no such ending, and so is in focus, or highlighted in this sentence.

PART OF SPEECH. Also called Word Category. Any of the small number of classes or types into which the words of a

REDUPLICATION. A repetition of the first syllable of a word, usually a verb, to indicate repeated or continuous action or state. For example, ᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *pimobten* ‘s/he walks’ and <<ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *papámobten* ‘s/he walks around’.

ROLE. A relationship which a noun has to a verb. For example, in the sentence ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅ *atoskew nâpew* ‘The man is working’— the noun ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *nâpew* ‘man’ has the role of worker. In the sentence ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *Wâposba kânîpahâw nâpew* ‘The man killed the rabbit.’— the noun ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *nâpew* ‘man’ has the role of killer, and the noun ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *wâposba* ‘rabbit’ has the role of the one(s) killed. See Verb, Transitivity.

ROMAN WRITING. Writing based on the letters of the Latin alphabet, such as the writing system used by English. Compare Syllabics. See Consonant, Vowel.

SECOND PERSON. One of the three ‘persons’ or **speech roles** in communication. Second person refers to whoever is being spoken to at the time of speaking. In English, the word ‘you’ is used to represent second person. In Ininîwimowin, there are many second person pronouns, such as ᐅᐅᐅ *kîna* ‘you’ (singular), ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *kînanâw*, ‘you (plural)’ and ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *kînanân* ‘we, us (you and I)’. Compare First Person, Third Person.

SHORT VOWELS. The short vowels of Ininîwimowin are *a, i, o*. See Vowels.

SINGULAR. One of a thing, for example, the word ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *shîshîp* refers to one duck. **Singular** (one item) is contrasted with **Plural** (more than one item). Compare Plural.

STEM. A word or word part to which other parts may be added in building words. For example, to make the **plural** of ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *shîshîp* ‘duck’ a suffix ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *-ak* is added to the **stem** ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ, producing ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *shîshîpak*.

SUFFIX. A word-element attached to the end of the main word. For example, the word ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *masinabikana* ‘books’ has the inanimate plural suffix ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *-a* attached to the main word ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *masinabikan* ‘book’ to produce the word with the meaning ‘books.’ See also Stem, Prefix.

SUBJECT. The **noun, noun phrase, or pronoun** in a sentence that represents the doer of the action. In sentences with intransitive verbs, the subject is the noun or pronoun filling the verb’s single **role**. Compare Object. See Animate Intransitive Verb.

SYLLABARY. 1. A writing system in which the basic letters stand for syllables, that is, groupings of consonants and vowels. 2. A list of the symbols making up the Syllabic writing system.

SYLLABICS. A writing system used to write Ininîwimowin in which each basic letter stands for a syllable, that is, a combination of a consonant and a vowel sounded together. There are two main ways of writing Syllabics, an Eastern tradition and a Western tradition. These traditions differ in the way small Consonant value letters are written and in the position of the dot used to write the sound *w*. This Dictionary uses the Western system. Compare Roman Writing.

SYLLABLE. A sound grouping of 1. a single vowel, as in ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *ebe* ‘yes; 2. a consonant followed by a vowel, as in ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *ôma* ‘that’; 3. a consonant followed by a vowel, followed by one or more additional consonants, as in ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *amisk* ‘beaver’. See Syllabics, Consonant, Vowel.

THIRD PERSON. One of the three ‘persons’ or **speech roles** in communication. Third person refers to whoever or whatever is being spoken about. In English, the words ‘he’, ‘she’ and ‘it’, and many others, are used to represent third person. In Ininîwimowin, there are many third person **pronouns**, such as ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ *wîn* ‘she/her, he/him, it (animate)’, and ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ

wînanâw ‘they’. In English, third persons are grouped into three **genders**, masculine (he), feminine (she), and neuter (it). In Ininîwimowin, third person divides into two genders or groups, animate and inanimate. So, for example, there are different third person pronouns meaning ‘this’ when referring to animate things as opposed to inanimate: ᐃᐤ *ôma* ‘that’ (inanimate), ᐃᐃ *awa* ‘that’ (animate). Compare First Person and Second Person.

TRANSITIVITY. Transitivity is a property of **verbs**. Verbs express actions, states, experiences. Each verb has one or more roles associated with it. The roles are filled by nouns or pronouns. Some actions have only a single role involved, for example, in ᐱᐱᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃ *kimotîw atim* ‘the dog is stealing’ the verb ᐱᐱᐃᐃ *kimotîw* ‘steal’ has only the role of the one stealing, in this case filled by the noun ᐃᐃᐃᐃ *atim* ‘dog’. However in ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ (*nâpewa kimotamanew atim*, ‘the dog steals from the man’ there are two roles: the role of the one stealing, filled by the dog, and the role of the one being stolen from, filled by the man. Verbs which have only one role are **intransitive**. Verbs that have two or more roles are **transitive**. Intransitive verbs are sub classified according to whether their one role is filled by an animate noun or an inanimate noun. When the noun filling the single role is **animate**, the verb is an **animate intransitive verb (vai)**, for example, ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ *misikîîw nâpew* ‘the man is big’. When the noun filling the single role is **inanimate**, the verb is an **inanimate intransitive verb (vii)**, for example ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ *mishâw cîmân* ‘the boat is big’. Transitive verbs are sub classified on the basis of the animacy of their objects: when the object is animate, the verb is a **transitive animate verb (vta)**, as in ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ *môswa kê-wâpamew nâpew* ‘the man saw a moose’. Here the object is ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐃᐃᐃ *môswa* ‘moose’, which is animate. In ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ *cîmân kê-wâpabtam nâpew* ‘the man

saw a boat’ the object is inanimate, ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ *cîmân* ‘boat’. Verbs used with inanimate objects are called **transitive inanimate verbs (vti)**.

TRANSITIVE ANIMATE VERB (VTA). A **transitive** verb having an **animate object**, as in ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ *môswa kê-wâpamew nâpew* ‘the man saw a moose’. Here the object is the animate noun ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐃᐃᐃ *môswa* ‘moose’. Compare Transitive Inanimate Verb. See Verb, Transitivity.

TRANSITIVE INANIMATE VERB (VTI). A **transitive** verb having an **inanimate object**, as in ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ *cîmân kê-wâpabtam nâpew* ‘the man saw a boat’. Here the object is inanimate, ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ *cîmân* ‘boat’. Compare Transitive Animate Verb. See Verb, Transitivity.

TRANSLATION. SEE GLOSS.

VERB. One of the major parts of speech in Ininîwimowin. Verbs refer to actions, states, experiences, and qualities. Verbs answer the questions ‘What is happening?’ or ‘What’s the state of things?’ or ‘What does it look like?’ Two very important properties of verbs are their **transitivity** and the **gender** of their **subjects** and **objects**. Based on these properties, there are four main subclasses of verbs, **animate intransitive**, **inanimate intransitive**, **transitive animate**, and **transitive inanimate**. See these topics for additional information.

VOCABULARY. 1. An individual word in a language. 2. All the words of a language taken together. See Word.

VOWELS. One of the two basic types of speech sounds. (The other is **Consonants**). Vowels occupy the middle (core) of a syllable. The vowels of Ininîwimowin are *a â e i î o* and *ô*. The vowels *â, e, î* and *ô* are long vowels. The vowels *a, i,* and *o* are short vowels. Compare Consonants.

W-DOT. The symbol in Syllabics used to represent the sound *w*, as in **·ᑭ·ᐃ** *wâwi* ‘egg’. See Syllabics.

WORD. The smallest unit of meaning in a language that is spoken by itself. For example, in answer to the question, **ᑭ·ᐃ** **ᐃ** **·ᑭ·ᐃ** **"ᑕᐃ** *Kekwân kâwâpâhtaman?* ‘What do you see?’, one can answer **ᑭ·ᐃ** *cîmân* ‘boat’, or **ᑭ·ᐃ** **ᑭ·ᐃ** *kicîmân* ‘your boat’, but not just **ᑭ** *ki-* ‘your...’, because **ᑭ·ᐃ** and **ᑭ·ᐃ** are words, but **ᑭ** is only part of a word. The basic, core part of a word is called the **stem**. Elements added to the

front of the stem in order to give additional meaning are called **prefixes**. Elements added to the end of the stem in order to give additional meanings are called **suffixes**. The prefixes and suffixes together are the inflections of the word. Some words consist of a stem alone, such as **ᑭ·ᐃ** *cîmân* ‘boat’; other words have inflections as well, such as **ᑭ·ᐃ** **ᑭ·ᐃ** **ᑭ·ᐃ** *kicîmâninân* ‘our boat’ have prefixes and suffixes. See Prefix, Suffix, Stem.

WORD CATEGORY. See Part of Speech.

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