



Bode'wadmi Deshe'mwen

The Way We Speak

I am from:

Nin	_____ndochbya I am from
Gin	_____gdochbya You are from
Win	_____wje bye'wak H/s is from
Ninan	_____ndoch byamen We are from (excl.)
Ginan	_____gdoch byamen We are from (incl.)
Ginwa	_____gdoch byam Ya all are from
Winwa	_____wje bye'k They are from

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Ode Bode'wadmi Zeshmowen *This Pottawatomi Language*

The Pottawatomi language, bode'wadmimwen, is one of many distinct but related Native American languages that linguists have collectively termed the Algonquin Language Family. These Algonquin languages have been spoken by indigenous peoples over a large area extending from as far North as Hudson Bay, down the New England Coast and as far west as Manitoba. The closest language relatives to Bode'wadmi are the Ottawa and Chippewa languages. These three languages, Ottawa, Chippewa and Pottawatomi share an ancestral parent language known as Anishnabe'mowen. Bode'wadmi speakers have also, over the years, borrowed numerous words from the Sauk and Fox as well as from other Central Algonquin peoples.

Most linguists, and fluent speakers, agree that there are currently at least two distinct regional dialects of Bode'wadmi. These are referred to as the Northern dialect and the Southern dialect. The Northern dialect is a variation of Bode'wadmi spoken by Pottawatomi in the Great Lakes Region, including Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois, whereas the Southern dialect is used by Kansas and Oklahoma Pottawatomi speakers. It is also worthy to note that there is often some variation of specific words and pronunciation between each of smaller regional community of Bode'wadmi speakers.

Where are you from?

<i>Gin</i>	<i>ni pi je wech byayen</i> <i>Where are you from</i>
<i>Win</i>	<i>ni pi wech byat o</i> <i>Where is h/s from</i>
<i>Ninan</i>	<i>ni pi je wech byaygo</i> <i>Where are we from (excl.)</i>
<i>Ginan</i>	<i>ni pi je wech byaygo</i> <i>Where are we from (incl.)</i>
<i>Ginwa</i>	<i>ni pi je wech byaye'k</i> <i>Where are ya all from</i>
<i>Winwa</i>	<i>ni pi je wech byawat</i> <i>Where are they from</i>



I live in:

Nin _____ *nde da/e'dayan*
I live in

Gin _____ *gde da/e'dayen*
You live in

Win _____ *wdawat/e'dawat*
H/s lives in

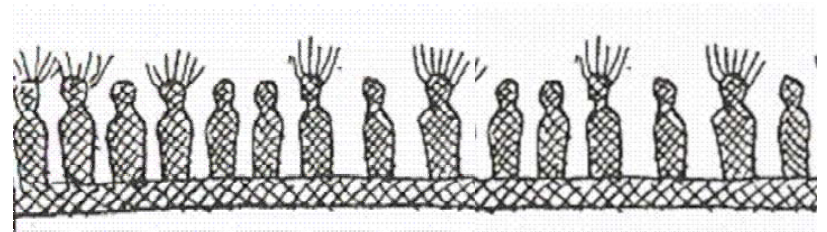
Ninan _____ *nde damen*
We live in (excl.)

Ginan _____ *gde damen*
We live in (incl.)

Ginwa _____ *gde dam*
Ya all live in

Winwa _____ *wdawat/e'dawat*
They live in

It is essential to understand that a language is far more than just a way of communicating. Languages are made of words and concepts, the ideas that make sense out of and illustrate our framework of understanding the world around us. Thus the Pottawatomí language is at the very heart of Pottawatomí identity and culture. It is a gift that has come down across countless generations of speakers to the present generation, and within this language is the understanding, wisdom and ideas of those who have come before us. May we always cherish it and keep it close to our hearts.



Basic Vowel Sounds

It is of great importance for a student to learn to properly pronounce the Bode'wadmi language. Many Bode'wadmi sounds are unique and entirely different from the sounds used by English speakers. Below is a list of the sounds used in Bode'wadmimwen and the corresponding symbols used in this manual to record them.

Bode'wadmi Symbols English Sound As in the English Word

a	ah	as in father
e'	eh	as in bet
i	ee	as in peel
o	oh	as in bowl
e	uh	as in put

Emphatic Pronouns—Whom you are speaking of

<u>Bode'wadi Term</u>	<u>English Term</u>	<u>Can also refer to</u>
Nin	I, Me, Myself	Mine
Gin	You, Yourself	Yours
Win	He/she, Him/Her	His/hers
Ninan ours	We (not you)	Us,
Ginan ours	We (and you)	Us,
Ginwa	You all	Yours
Winwa	They, Them	Theirs

These terms are some of the foundational building blocks of the Bode'wadmi language. Being able to identify and use these terms in their proper context is a crucial part of learning beginning Bode'wadmi. It is important to note that more often than not these terms will appear in the form of particles rather than being used in their complete form. The following are some examples. The particles are underlined

<u>Nshya</u> ibe.	(<i>Nin/ I am going there</i>)
<u>Gde'</u>we'gan	(<i>Gin/ your drum</i>)
<u>Wokmes</u>	(<i>Win/ his grandma</i>)
<u>Nwi Majimen</u>	(<i>Ninan, we are going to leave</i>)
<u>Gwi Majimen</u>	(<i>Ginan, we are going to leave</i>)

Where do you live?

<i>Gin</i>	<i>ni pi je e'je dayen</i> <i>Where do you live</i>
<i>Win</i>	<i>ni pi je e'je dat</i> <i>Where does h/s live</i>
<i>Ninan</i>	<i>ni pi je e'je ndaygo</i> <i>Where do we live (excl.)</i>
<i>Ginan</i>	<i>ni pi je e'je gdaygo</i> <i>Where do we live (incl.)</i>
<i>Ginwa</i>	<i>ni pi je e'je daye'k</i> <i>Where do ya all live</i>
<i>Winwa</i>	<i>ni pi je e'je wda wat</i> <i>Where do they live</i>



Berries for clans:

De'men strawberry

Mskomen *raspberry*

Minen *blueberry*

Mkede'men *blackberry*

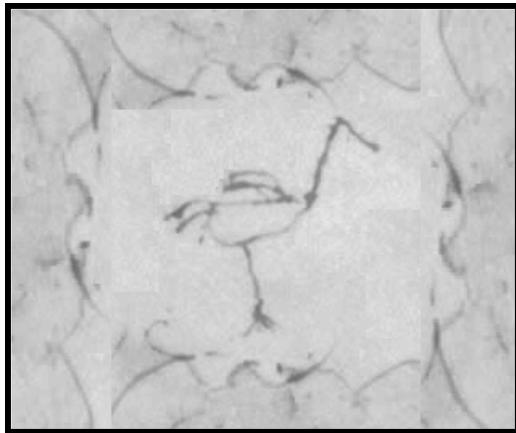
Draw A Picture of your Clan Dotem

Helpful Suggestions for Learners

- Bsentage'n! Listen! Pay careful attention to pronunciation details. How does the language sound? Can you pick out any words you know?
- Learn the Pronunciation System. Refer to it frequently as you are reading new words.
- Practice away from class as much as you can. Choose to try to say words or phrases Bode'wadmi rather than in English, even if it is not a full sentence. If you intend to become a speaker you will have to choose to start speaking it at some point, why not now?
- Decide that you can learn. Set yourself to do it and chip away at it bit by bit, maybe even one word or concept a day.
- After you learn something use it. Use it immediately. If you just learned to count to ten, throughout the day count things, stop signs, peas on your plate, whatever you can. If you use it, you will remember it.
- Set aside some time to study and practice. Even an hour a week will go a long way.

What is your clan?

<i>Gin</i>	<i>we ni je (o) gdote'm</i> <i>What is your clan</i>
<i>Win</i>	<i>we ni je (o) wdote'men</i> <i>What is h/h clan</i>
<i>Ninan</i>	<i>we ni je (o) ndote'mnan (excl.)</i> <i>What is our clan</i>
<i>Ginan</i>	<i>we ni je (o) gdote'mnan (incl.)</i> <i>What is our clan</i>
<i>Ginwa</i>	<i>we ni je (o) gdote'mwa (ya all)</i> <i>What is ya alls' clan</i>
<i>Winwa</i>	<i>we ni je (o) wdotemwan</i> <i>What is their clan</i>



Match-E-Be-Nash-E-Wish; the chief whom our tribe was named after, was a member of the “Jijak” or Crane clan. The Crane clan were traditionally leaders among our people. Pictured above is his treaty mark.

I je ye' i e'mno bmadziyan
So it is that I am doing well

Get makes ma she na anwe e'bmadziyan
Doing poorly, but still alive

Gin je and you?

Gin je na gmno bma des ne
And you, are you well?

Some simple commands:

<i>Nibwen</i>	<i>stand (sing.)</i>
<i>Nibwek</i>	<i>stand (pl.)</i>
<i>Bsetage'n</i>	<i>listen</i>
<i>Bsetweshen</i>	<i>listen to me</i>
<i>Bsetweshek</i>	<i>listen to us</i>
<i>Bsetwe' a o</i>	<i>listen to him/her</i>
<i>Bset we' a shek</i>	<i>all of you listen</i>
<i>Kye'knotoshen</i>	<i>repeat after me</i>
<i>Kye'knotoshek</i>	<i>repeat after us</i>
<i>Nemetsena</i>	<i>I don't know</i>
<i>Win nato</i>	<i>ask him/her</i>
<i>Dokem</i>	<i>quiet</i>
<i>Dokmeben</i>	<i>sit quietly (sing.)</i>
<i>Dokmebek</i>	<i>sit quietly (pl.)</i>

Daḍokmeben
Daḍokmebek

behave yourself
behave yourselves

Jibḍeben
Jibḍebek

sit (sing.)
sit (pl.)

Kwiwe'bye'wimen
We are going to begin

Kwi kwe'n washmomen
We are going to take a break

Nomek kwi we'n wash momen
A little while, we are going to rest

Nomek

a little while

Gaga

soon

Bwamshe

before

I ye' i

that's it, that's right

Wi ye' i

that's it, that's right



We ni je o Gdote'm?

















Some questions:

Ni je e'she ne kasyen
What is your name/what are you called?

Ni pi je we'ch byayen
Where are you from?

Ni je o gdote'm
What is your clan?

Ni je e'neshnabe' ne kasyen
What is your Indian name?

Ni pi je e'dayen
Where do you live?

Ni pi je e'ndebe'ndagziyen
Where are you enrolled?
Literally: where do you belong?

Ni je pi ne gi byayen
When did you arrive/come?

Neshnabe' ne gdaw
Are you Indian?



Ni je e'niyen
What tribe/what kind?

Bode'wadmi ne gdaw
Are you Pottawatomis?

Ni je e'neshnabe' ne kasot o
What is that person's Indian name?

Ni je e'neshnabe' ne kasye'k
What are your Indian names?

Ni je e'neshnabe' ne kaswat
What are their Indian names?

Ni je e'shne ka sot
What is her/his name?

Ni je e'shne kaswat
What are their names?

Mshike' turtle

Bkoj bsheke buffalo

Kno eagle (gen.)

Me'gisi golden

Mge'shwash bald

Mbeshkno bald

Mshiwe' elk

Wawashkeshi deer

Seksi

Wasi bullhead/catfish

Nabe man

mshkwabiskeno red tailed hawk

Name' sturgeon

Negdosh horse

Bezhgoshi

Dotemnek Clans

The clan systems establish leadership for both external and internal affairs, provides for extended family structures, roles and responsibilities as well as social interactions within Tribal groups.

The Anishnabe clan system is follows the paternal lineage, children will take the clan of the father. The word for clan “dotem” is literally translated as “From whence breast do I come from”.

The clan is one of our statements when we introduce ourselves in the language. Their our four sacred statements when we announce ourselves to the Creator. Our clan is one of them....

Clans

Mko/mkwa

bear

Jigwe'k

thunder

Gigo

fish

Nanimwe'

coyote

Moewe'

wolf

Some responses:

Nin (I) Gin (you) Win (he/she)

_____ *ndesh ne kas*
I am called/my name is

_____ *gdesh ne kas*
you are called/your name is

_____ *shen ka na ye*
he/she is called/his/her name is

_____ *shen kaso* *same*

_____ *shne kaso* *same*

_____ *nde shen kan gomen*
We are called/our names are (excl.)

_____ *nde shen kan gomen*
we are called/our names are (incl.)

_____ *gde shen kan gom*
Ya all are called/ya all's names are

_____ *shen ka na wik*
They are called/their names are

Nin (I) Gin (you) Win (he/she)
Additional Questions

<i>Ni je na gin wa</i>	<i>how are ya all?</i>
<i>Ni je na ge win wa</i>	<i>how are they?</i>
<i>Ni je na o</i>	<i>how is he/she?</i>
<i>Ni je na gde wenmagnek</i>	<i>how are your relatives?</i>
<i>Ni je na ggetsimnanek</i>	<i>how are your parents?</i>
<i>Ni je na ga zhikayen</i>	<i>how did you make out?</i>
<i>Ni je e'zhechkeyen</i>	<i>what are you doing?</i>
<i>Ni je e'zhechkeye'k</i>	<i>what are ya all doing?</i>

Response: I am good/well/fine.

<i>Nin</i>	<i>nde mno bmaɗes</i>	<i>I am g/w</i>
<i>Gin</i>	<i>gde mno bmaɗes</i>	<i>you are g/w</i>
<i>Win</i>	<i>mno bmaɗse</i>	<i>s/h is g/w</i>
<i>Ninan</i>	<i>mno bmaɗsemen</i>	<i>we are g/w</i>
<i>Ginan</i>	<i>gmno bmaɗsemen</i>	<i>we are g/w</i>
<i>Ginwa</i>	<i>gmno bmaɗsem</i>	<i>ya all are g/w</i>
<i>Winwa</i>	<i>mno bmaɗsik</i>	<i>they are g/w</i>

