

The Three Verbal Inflectional Orders of Anishinaabemowin

Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) has three distinct **orders**, or sets of prefixes and suffixes for indicating who is doing what (to whom). The **set** that we have already learned is called the **independent order** (some people call it the A form). We have also learned the **imperative order** (which some people call the C form). The last set to learn is called the **conjunct order** (or B form). Here is an example of the different forms:

Independent	gi manoominike	'you (sg.) are making wild rice'
Conjunct	manoominike yan	'when you (sg.) make wild rice'
Imperative	manoominike n !	'(you sg.) make wild rice!'

In the independent, 2nd person singular (you) is indicated with a prefix, **gi-**; in the conjunct it is indicated with a suffix, **-yan**; in the imperative, it is indicated with a suffix, **-n**. Remember that there are only imperative forms when there is a second person included in the subject.

The verb paradigm charts that you have been given throughout the semester provide the forms for independent, imperative, and conjunct.

When Do You Use the Conjunct Order?

The following notes lay out the grammatical contexts in which the conjunct is used.

1. In asking a question corresponding to a wh-question in English:

who?	<u>Who left me these roses?</u>
what?	<u>What did you tell Mary?</u>
when?	<u>When are you going to leave?</u>
where?	<u>Where do you want to eat?</u>
why?	<u>Why didn't you tell me?!</u>
how?	<u>How are you?</u>
how many?	<u>How many ducks did you see?</u>
how much?	<u>How much flour did you buy?</u>

2. When the verb is in a secondary clause that provides information about what, when, where, why, how, purpose, reason, etc.

I saw you when you left.
I was happy as I walked along.
I know where you left your hat.
I wonder why the door is open.
I chopped the wood in order to make a fire.
I went home because I was sleepy.
You'll never guess how I got home!
You'll never know how many times I tried!
You have no idea of how much I love you!

3. With so-called participles (relative clauses), that is, verbs used as nouns (note: these are verbal in Ojibwe, but not always in English):

That's the guy who ate my pizza!
Those who lead have great responsibilities.
What you see is what you get.
What becomes of the broken-hearted?

4. Commonly with the discourse particle *mii* (but there is lots of variation).

5. In sentences that are the "objects" (also called complements) of "main" verbs. Often these start (at least optionally!) with "that" in English

I hope (that) you have a good trip.
I know (that) you are very smart.
I'm afraid (that) they'll drown.
Mary said (that) you were looking for me.

6. With certain particles and preverbs corresponding to English conjunctions.

giishpin	`if'	<u>If it rains</u> , I won't go.
apii	`when'	<u>When I get home</u> , I'll cook.
jibwaa-	`before...'	<u>Before it rained</u> , I was dry.
ishkwaa-	`after...'	<u>After it rained</u> , I was wet.

7. With verbs expressing orientational (background, auxiliary) information, such as the season, time of day, etc.

We left in the evening.

We will arrive in the afternoon.

I'm going south next winter.

I'm going home on Tuesday.

8. Often in stories, even with main verbs, to show continuity and tight linkage of the events or ideas being presented in the story.

(Can't really be demonstrated with English examples.)

Some Examples of Independent and Conjunct

In the examples below, independent forms are in **red**, and conjunct forms are in **blue**. The conjunct forms are being used because the verb is occurring in a "dependent" clause that is started with **giishpin**, 'if.' Notice that there is a way to indicate every kind of subject in the conjunct, just as there is with the independent.

1. I won't be hungry if I eat.

Gaawiin **inga-bakadesii** giishpin **wiisiniyaan**.

2. You won't be hungry if you eat.

Gaawiin **giga-bakadesii** giishpin **wiisiniyan**.

3. ANsg won't be hungry if ANsg eats.

Gaawiin **da-bakadesii** giishpin **wiisinid**.

4. Mary's daughter(s) won't be hungry if she/they eat(s).

Gaawiin **da-bakadesiiwan** Maanii oidaanisan giishpin **wiisininid**.

5. We (excl) won't be hungry if we eat.

Gaawiin **inga-bakadesiimin** giishpin **wiisiniyaang**.

6. We (incl) won't be hungry if we eat.

Gaawiin **giga-bakadesiimin** giishpin **wiisiniyang**.

7. You guys won't be hungry if you eat.

Gaawiin **giga-bakadesiim** giishpin **wiisiniyeg**.

8. ANpl won't be hungry if they eat.

Gaawiin **da-bakadesiiwag** giishpin **wiisiniwaad**.

Some Practice

1. If you're hungry, you should eat.

2. If that duck is hungry, it should eat.

3. If Anna's duck is hungry, it should eat.

4. If we (excluding you) are hungry, we should eat.

5. If we (including you) are hungry, we should eat.

6. If you guys are hungry, you should eat.

7. If the ducks are hungry, they should eat.

8. If I'm hungry, I should eat.

Now try this with:

ayekozi, 'be tired' and nibaa, 'sleep'

If I'm tired, I should sleep (do the whole set)

If I sleep, I won't be tired. (do the whole set)