

# ANISHINAABEMOWIN

## NOUN ANIMACY

Let's learn a little bit about noun animacy, what it is, why it's important to know, and how you can know the difference.

### QUESTION

### ANSWER

### EXAMPLE

What is noun animacy?

In Anishinaabemowin nouns are not gendered in the typical masculine/feminine way that you may see in other languages such as French, Italian, and Spanish. They are instead classified by being animate or inanimate

#### Animate Nouns:

- Dog - Nimosh
- Potato - Pin
- Tree - Mitig
- Girl - Kwezens
- Marten - Waabizheshi

#### Inanimate Nouns:

- Spoon - Emkwaan
- Shkode - Fire
- Soap - Gaziibiigigan
- Carrot - Jiisens
- Tree stump - Giishkanakad

Whats the difference?

Animate nouns are nouns that are considered to have a spirit, not necessarily always "alive", but can be thought of as animate.

Inanimate nouns are considered to not have a spirit, but are not always "not living". For example, many plants that grow are considered inanimate.

Animate nouns are always: People, animals & trees/shrubs  
Animate nouns are sometimes: food items (roughly 30-40% of all), few articles of clothing (mittens, shawls, etc), few body parts (knees, shoulders, neck), some tools/objects, some Spiritual / ceremonial objects (\*All when used in ceremony).

Inanimate nouns are basically everything else: Most food items, most clothing, most tools/ objects, some spiritual / ceremonial objects (when not in use, ex: strawberries)

Why do we need to know the difference?

It's important to know and understand the difference between animate & inanimate nouns because all of our verbs follow those same rules. We have animate verbs that can only be used with animate nouns and we have inanimate verbs that can only be used with inanimate nouns.

A sentence using an animate object looks like this:

The dog is dirty - Nimosh wiinzi.

A sentence that uses an inanimate object looks like this:

The plate is dirty - Naagan wined.





# NANDAWAABANJIGEDAA - LETS LOOK FOR THINGS

Let's pretend you're going on a nature hike. While you're on the walk you can spot dozens of things all around to talk about. Below is a list of common items that you might see on a hike, and some questions you can ask to extend the learning. On the following page is a picture hunt to look for everything listed. Lets see what you can find!

## Wenesh waabamad? - Who do you see?

### Animate Nouns to look for:

- **Tree(s)** - Mitig(oog)
- **Raspberries** - Mskomin(ag)
- **Raspberry bush** - Miskominaganzh(ag)
- **Rabbit** - Waabooz(oog)
- **Cardinal** - Mskobineshiinh(yag)
- **Rock(s)** - Sin(iig)
- **Mosquito(s)** - Zagime(g)
- **Squirrel(s)** - Jidamoo(g)

### Sentences to say:

I see ____	Niwaabamaa ____
Do you see ____?	Giwaabamaa na ____?
Where is ____?	Aapiish eyaad ____?
What colour is ____?	Aaniish enaanzod ____?
How many ____ are there?	Aaniish mnik ____ eyaawaad?
What is the weather like?	Aaniish ezhiwebak noongom?

## Wegnesh waabandang? - what do you see?

### Inanimate Nouns to look for:

- **Sky** - Giizhig
- **Cloud(s)** - Aanakwad(oon)
- **Grass** - Miishkoons(an)
- **Acorn(s)** - Mitigomin(an)
- **Leaf(s)** - Niibiish(an)
- **Flower(s)** - Waawaaskone(yin)
- **Mushroom(s)** - Waashashkwedoons(an)
- **Mountain(s)** - Wajiw(an)

### Sentences to say:

• I see ____	Niwaabandaan ____
• Do you see ____?	Giwaabandaan na ____?
• Where is ____?	Aapiish eteg ____?
• What colour is ____?	Aaniish enaandek ____?
• How many ____ are there?	Aaniish mnik ____ etegin?
• What is the weather like?	Aaniish ezhiwebak noongom?



# WENESH E-WAABAMAD? - WHO DO YOU SEE?

