

# Developing Conversation Skills with Pebaamibines

## Video Transcript and Notes



SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPT
FEATURING	<p><b>Pebaamibines</b> (Dennis Jones) <b>Teacher</b>  <b>Waapishki Kiisis Ikwe</b> (Mindy Meyers) <b>Co-Teacher</b>  <b>Binesigichidaakwe</b> (Kate McDonald)  <b>Luke Hildebrand</b>  <b>Giizizwedamok</b> (Whitney Guimond)  <b>Mooshkine Waasigek</b> (Darcy Jones)  <b>Waawaategiizhigok</b> (Shannon King)</p>
VOICE OVER	<p>This project is so fortunate to learn from many teachers about their different styles and techniques.</p> <p>In this video, Pebaamibines and Waapishki Kiisis Ikwe demonstrate how they work with a cohort of students over 4 weeks, to take them from beginner to intermediate speakers of Anishinaabemowin.</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>So when you work with language, then, the whole language movement becomes a spiritual movement because you are starting off with tobacco and you are starting off with ceremony.</b></p>
	<p><b>LESSON NUMBER 1:</b>  <b>Bizindamowin</b>          Become an Ojibwe Eavesdropper</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>The first skill in learning the language all the time is:</b>  <b>bizindamowin</b>          You should always train your ear to listen. You should always listen. You should become what Pat Ningewance calls an Ojibwe eavesdropper. And she wrote a book called that also.</p>
	<p><b>LESSON NUMBER 2:</b>  <b>Inwewin</b>          Learn Perfect Pronunciation</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>In terms of methodology, we measured every sound that comes out of the student's voice, out of their mouth. And every sound was worth a point. And right off the bat, we had oral quizzes, weekly. And they were one on one, they weren't in front of the class, they were one on one.</b></p> <p><b>When you teach proper enunciation, I don't even know if proper is the right word, but if you enunciate every syllable in the language, any fluent speaker will understand you. So all you do is learn what I call Oxford Ojibwe. That's what I call it. I just make up these terms because there is no research on any of this, so I just make up the terms. So when you speak Oxford Ojibwe any fluent speaker can understand you. Then, you can intonate it, then you can slang it, use slangwich, as long as you know the stem and the root word.</b></p>

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	<p><b>LESSON NUMBER 3:</b>  <b>Gizhewaadiziwin</b>            Be supportive</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p>I don't correct people in the classroom. I don't. Because people will automatically correct themselves. All they do is hear each other, they hear each other speak Ojibwe. So in immersion, when we are using immersion, then the immersion method is not to correct anybody but to let people speak the way they speak it and then they correct themselves. That is one of the methodology that we are using because the quickest way to shut down a beginning speaker is to correct them in front of their peers and that doesn't work.</p> <p>Our elders even take it a step further and they shame people and that doesn't work either. That's residential school stuff and that's what we're trying to get away from.</p> <p>So when you do language immersion you'll often hear them:</p> <p><b>Howah, giminotaagoz ge-anishinaabemoyan!</b>            Wow, you sound good when you speak the anishinaabe language!</p> <p>That's more conducive to learning than shutting somebody down. And complimenting the syllable sounds that people make. So no matter what they say:</p> <p><b>Giminotaagoz ge-anishinaabemoyan</b>            You sound good when you speak the anishinaabe language.</p> <p>The attempt that you are making.</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p>So, we are happy to showcase our methodology.</p>
WAAPISHKI KIISIS IKWE	<p>When we moved to an online setting, we worked together to create, like we use google classroom and so everyone here was given resources before they come to our classes so our class was a four week long class and we spent an hour in anishinaabemowin and then we had 15 minutes built in at the beginning and 15 minutes built in at the end for students to ask questions and have conversations in English, but that one hour was dedicated only to Ojibwe.</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>Ahaaw. Gaawiin inga-zhaaganaashiimosii.</b>            OK. I will not speak English.</p> <p><b>Binesigichidaakwe, ginitam.</b>            Binesigichidaakwe, your turn.</p>
BINESIGICHIDAAKWE	<p><b>Gaawiin inga-zhaaganaashiimosii. Inga-gagwe-anishinaabem</b>            I will not speak English. I will try to speak the Anishinaabe language</p>

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BINESIGICHIDAAKWE	<p><b>(CONTINUED)</b>  <b>eta go. Niminwendaan anishinaabemoyaan.</b>  only. I like to speak the Anishinaabe language.</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>Howah.</b>  Wow.</p>
BINESIGICHIDAAKWE	<p><b>Ginitam, ginitam Luke Hildebrand.</b>  Your turn, your turn Luke Hildebrand.</p>
LUKE HILDEBRAND	<p><b>Howah. Miigwech. Gaawiin inga-zhaaganaashiimosii.</b>  Wow. Thank you. I will not speak English.  <b>Inga-gagwe-anishinaabem. Ginitam Giiziswedamok.</b>  I will try to speak the Anishinaabe language. Your turn Giiziswedamok.</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>Ahaaw. Ay'ii... gagwedwewinan giga-aabajitoomin noongom.</b>  Ok. Uh... questions we will use today.  <b>Nashke.</b>  Look.  <b>Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan?</b>  What is your name?  <b>Awenen gidoodem?</b>  Who is your clan?  <b>Aandi wenjiiyan?</b>  Where are you from?  <b>Aaniin apii debishkaman?</b>  What month were you born?  <b>Aaniin endaso-biboonagiziyan?</b>  How old are you?  <b>Aaniin ezhi-giizhigak noongom?</b>  What day is it today?  <b>Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiing noongom?</b>  What is the weather like outside today?  <b>Aaniin endaso-gonagizid noongom giizis?</b>  What numbered day of the month is it today?  <b>Mii na midaaswak agindaasowin?</b>  Is that ten in number?</p>

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PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>(CONTINUED)</b></p> <p><b>Ahaaw. Gagwedwen bezhig gagwedwewin!</b> Ok. You ask one question!</p> <p><b>Giin na Waawaategiizhigok? Gagwedwewin.</b> Is it you Waawaategiizhigok? Ask a question.</p>
WAAWAATE-GIZHIGOK	<p><b>Hmmm. Awenen gidoodem, Binesigichidaakwe?</b> Hmmm. Who is your clan, Binesigichidaakwe?</p>
BINESIGICHIDAAKWE	<p><b>Miigwech gagwejimiyan, “Awenen gidoodem?”.</b> Thank you for asking me “who is your clan”.</p> <p><b>Mikinaak dash ma’iingan ni-niizho-doodem.</b> Snapping turtle and wolf are my two clan.</p> <p><b>Ay’ii... Aan ezhiwebak agwajiing noongom iwedi?</b> Umm... What is the weather like outside today over there?</p> <p><b>Giiziswedamok. Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiing noongom iwedi?</b> Giiziswedamok. What is the weather like outside today over there?</p>
GIIZISWEDAMOK	<p><b>Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajing noongom? Omaa mizhakwad.</b> What is the weather like outside today? Here the sky is clear.</p> <p><b>Miinawaa zaagaate agwajing noongom.</b> And the sun is shining outside today.</p> <p><b>Aaniin.... Aaniin izhinikaazod Anishinaabemong?</b> What... What is their (singular) name in Anishinaabemowin?</p> <p><b>Mooshkine Waasigek.</b> Mooshkine Waasigek.</p>
MOOSHKINE WAASIGEK	<p><b>Miigwech. Mooshkine Waasigek ezhinikaazo Anishinaabemong.</b> Thank you. Mooshkine Waasigek is her name in the Anishinaabe language.</p> <p><b>Eya? Miigwech.</b> Yes? Thank you.</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>...indizhinikaaz.</b> ...is my name.</p>
MOOSHKINE WAASIGEK	<p><b>Oh, miigwech, ...indizhinikaaz zhaaginashimong. Eya?</b> Oh, thank you, ...is my name in English. Yes?</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>Geget.</b> That’s it.</p>

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<b>MOOSHKINE WAASIGEK</b>	<p><b>Aaniin enamanji’oyan, Luke?</b> How are you feeling, Luke?</p>
<b>LUKE HILDEBRAND</b>	<p><b>Miigwech gagwejimiyan. Nimino-ayaa noongom.</b> Thank you for asking. I feel good today.</p> <p><b>Miinawaa nindayekoz, miinawaa ningitim.</b> Also I feel tired, also I feel lazy.</p>
<b>PEBAAMIBINES</b>	<p><b>Dazhingan idash niin, giin, wiin.</b> Talk about me, you, him/her/them.</p> <p><b>Gemaa, “Aaniin ezhinikaazoyaan?”, “Aaniin ezhinkaazoyan?”</b>, Maybe, “What is my name?”, “What is your name?”</p> <p><b>“Aaniin ezhinikaazod, a’aw?”</b>. “What is his/her/their name, that one?”</p> <p><b>Miinawaa dash “Aaniin ezhi-giizhigak noongom?”</b>, Also then, “What day of the week is it today?”</p> <p><b>“Aaniin waa-ezhi-giizhigak waabang?”</b>, “What day of the week will it be tomorrow?”</p> <p><b>Aaniin gaa-ezhi-giizhigak bijiinaago?”</b>. <b>Miinawaa dash, ay’ii</b>, “What day of the week was it yesterday?”. Also then, umm,</p> <p><b>“Aaniin ezhiwebak noongom?”</b>, “How is the weather like today?”</p> <p><b>“Aaniin waa-ezhiwebak waabang?”</b>, “What will the weather be like tomorrow?”</p> <p><b>“Aaniin gaa-ezhi-giizhi... -ezhi-giizhi...”</b>, <b>Gaawiin.</b> “How will... ezhi-giizhi... ezhi-giizhi...”, No.</p> <p><b>“Aaniin gaa-ezhiwebak bijiinaago?”</b> <b>Agwajiing iwedi, eyaayin.</b> “What was the weather like yesterday?”, Outside there, where you are.</p> <p><b>Ahaaw. Anishinaabemodaa! Awenen waa-maajitaad?</b> Ok. Let’s speak the Anishinaabe language. Who will start?</p> <p><b>Awenen nitam? Ahaaw. Mooshkine Waasigek. Maajiitaadaa giin.</b> Whose turn? Ok. Mooshkine Waasigek. Let’s start with you.</p> <p><b>Ahaaw.</b> Ok.</p>

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MOOSHKINE WAASIGEK	<b>Awenen odoodeman a'aw Giiziswedamok, Waawaategiizhigok?</b> Who is her clan, that one Giiziswedamok, Waawaategiizhigok?
WAAWAATE- GIIZHIGOOK	<b>Ikidon miinawaa, daga.</b> Say it again, please.
MOOSHKINE WAASIGEK	<b>Awenen odoodeman a'aw Giiziswedamok?</b> Who is her clan, that one Giiziswedamok?
WAAWAATE- GIIZHIGOOK	<b>Onh. Awenen odoodeman, Giiziswedamok? Hmm. Amanj.</b> Oh. Who is her clan, Giiziswedamok? Hmm. I don't know.
PEBAAMIBINES	<b>Gagwejim.</b> Ask her.
WAAWAATE- GIIZHIGOK	<b>Giiziswedamok, awenen gidoodem?</b> Giiziswedamok, who is your clan?
GIIZISWEDAMOK	<b>Makwa nindoodem.</b> Bear is my clan.
WAAWAATE- GIIZHIGOK	<b>Ahaaw. Miigwech. Makwawan odoodeman a'aw Giiziswedamok.</b> Ok. Thank you. Bear is her clan, that Giiziswedamok. <b>Umm. Aandi wenjiiyaan, Binesigichidaakwe?</b> Umm, Where am I from, Binesigichidaakwe? <b>Aandi wenjiiyaan?</b> Where am I from?
BINESIGICHIDAAKWE	<b>Aandi wenjiiyaan? Aandi wenjiyan? Nikiksimi...</b> Where am I from? Where are you from? Nikiksimi... <b>Aandi wenjiyan, Waawaategiizhigok? Nikiksimin... gaawiin.</b> Where are you from, Waawaategiizhigok? Nikiksimin... no. <b>Aandi wenjiyan? Waawaate...</b> Where are you from? Waawaate...
WAAWAATE- GIIZHIGOK	<b>Nigigoonsiminikaaning ndoonjii.</b> Nigigoonsiminikaaning is where I am from.
BINESIGICHIDAAKWE	<b>Ah. Miigwech. Nigigoonsiminikaaning, nigigoonsiminikaaning,</b> Ah. Thank you, Nigigoonsiminikaaning, nigigoonsiminikaaning, <b>gi.... gidoonjii. Eya? Gidoonjii? Nindabwez. Nindabwez.</b> is where you're from. Yes? Gidoonjii? I am sweating. I am sweating. <b>Howah. Mmm. Ay'ii... Aaniin... aaniin waa-ezhiwebak waabang?</b> Wow. Mmm. Umm... What will the weather be like tomorrow?

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPT
BINESIGICHIDAAKWE	<p><b>(CONTINUED)</b>  <b>Aaniin waa-ezhiwebak waabang iwedi? Ay’ii...</b>            What will the weather be like tomorrow over there? Umm...</p> <p><b>Mooshkine Waasigek, aaniin waa-ezhiwebak agwajing waabang?</b>            Mooshkine Waasigek, what will the weather be like outside tomorrow?</p>
MOOSHKINE WAASIGEK	<p><b>Wii-mino-giizhigad waabang. Miinawaa aab... wii.. Wii-aabawe...</b>            It is going to be a nice day tomorrow. Also aab...wii... wii-aabawe...</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>Aabawaa.</b>            It is warm.</p>
MOOSHKINE WAASIGEK	<p><b>Aabawaa! Miigwech. Wii-aabawaa waabang omaa.</b>            It is warm! Thank you. It is going to be warm tomorrow here.</p>
PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>Howah, ginitam.</b>            Wow, your turn.</p>
WAAPISHKI KIISIS IKWE	<p><b>Giminotaagoz.</b>            You sound well.</p>
(UNKOWN)	<p><b>Miigwech.</b>            Thank you.</p>
BINESIGICHIDAAKWE	<p><b>Ninitam. Aaniin enaman... Aaniin enamanji’od?</b>            My turn. How enaman... How is he feeling?</p> <p><b>Aaniin enamanji’od a’aw Baby Yoda? Waawaategiizhigok.</b>            How are they feeling that one Baby Yoda? Waawaategiizhigook.</p> <p><b>Aaniin enamanji’od a’aw Baby Yoda?</b>            How are they feeling that one Baby Yoda?</p>
WAAWAATE- GIIZHIGOOK	<p><b>Aaniin enamanji’od a’aw Baby Yoda? Hmm... amanj.</b>            How are they feeling that one Baby Yoda? Hmm... I don’t know.</p> <p><b>Aaniin enamanji... oh no. Aaniin enamanji’oyan Baby Yoda?</b>            How enamanji... oh no. Aaniin enamanji’oyan Baby Yoda?</p>
BABY YODA	<p><b>Miigwech gagwejimiyan. Nindabwez dash... Boozhoo Harold!</b>            Thank you for asking me. I am sweaty also... Greetings Harold!</p> <p><b>Nindabwez dash... gaawiin onjida. Nindabwez dash ninzegiz</b>            I am sweaty also... not on purpose. I am sweaty also I am scared</p> <p><b>bangi eta. Miigwech gagwejimiyan.</b>            a little bit only. Thank you for asking me.</p>
WAAWAATE- GIIZHIGOOK	<p><b>Ahh. “Nindabwez miinawaa nin...” Ikidon miinawaa!</b>            Ahh. “I am sweaty and nin...” Say it again!</p>

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BABY YODA	<p><b>Gaawiin. Nindabwez dash... nindabwez dash ninzegiz bangi eta.</b> No. I am sweaty and... I am sweaty and I am scared a little bit only.</p> <p><b>Ninzigiz bangi eta. Ninzigiz.</b> I am scared a little bit only. I am scared.</p>
WAAWAATE-GIIZHIGOOK	<p><b>Aaniin enamanji'od a'aw, Baby Yoda? Mmm.</b> How are they feeling that one, Baby Yoda? Mmm.</p> <p><b>Abwez... abwezo miinawaa zegizi a'aw, Baby Yoda.</b> Abwez... they are sweaty and scared that one, Baby Yoda.</p>
BINESIGICHIDAAKWE	<p><b>Giminotaagoz.</b> You sound good.</p>
CLOSING WORDS FROM PEBAAMIBINES	<p><b>Always include that spiritual aspect of it because it is a spiritual movement. Language, relearning... we are rebuilding a nation. That's what we are doing by... through the language, through the culture, through each individual and through the spirit. And the spirit is always there to help us. The spirit is helping us rebuild a nation. Wow, I didn't know I was going to say all that. What a great conclusion.</b></p>

# Developing Conversation Skills with Pebaamibines

## Notes

### SESSION DESCRIPTION

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Pebaamibines, Waapishki Kiisis Ikwe and the learners they work with showcase the methods they have been using in their level one and level two immersion classes. Each learner commits to staying in the language for the full immersion hours as they work to speak, listen, understand and reply to each other. This session highlights questions and answers from Pebaamibines' book, *Daga Anishinaabemodaa* in (Minnesota dialect) adapted to reflect the Rainy Lake dialect found in Fort Frances, Ontario. The group also touches briefly on materials developed by Waapishki Kiisis Ikwe, with the mentorship of Pebaamibines, for their *Anishinaabemodaa 2.0* immersion class.

### Bios

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**Pebaamibines** (Dennis Jones), Lynx clan from Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, is a well known Anishinaabemowin language teacher committed to teaching in immersion. He is a retired Ojibwe Language instructor who taught in American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota and in the Ojibwe Specialist Program at Rainy River Community College and holds a Master in Education Degree. Drawing upon more than 25 years of experience teaching in his classes and language camps, he authored *Daga Anishinaabemodaa - Let's Speak Ojibwe: An Ojibwe Word List and Phrase Book*, a book and audio resources that helps beginning language students lay a foundation for a lifetime of learning. Pebaamibines guides learners through immersion as part of a broader spiritual, cultural and political revitalization movement.

**Waapishki Kiisis Ikwe** (Mindy Meyers), Wolf clan from Esibanbaawitigong, is a dedicated language learner, apprentice and an academic auntie who holds a Master in Education Leadership degree. Day to day, she works as an Indian Education Advisor at Coon Rapids Middle School and High School. She is a graduate of the Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang Biboong Program and a part of cohorts 2019 and 2020. She has been mentoring with Pebaamibines, developing materials for language learners as she learns both the language and immersion teaching methods in their work together.

## RESOURCES FROM PEBAAMIBINES

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Jones, Pebaamibines Dennis, Daga Anishinaabemodaa - Let's Speak Ojibwe: Ojibwe Word List and Phrasebook (Minneapolis, Minn.: Wiigwaas Press, 2011), illustrated by Aza Erdrich. The audio that accompanies this book is available on soundcloud from Wiigwaas Press.

<https://soundcloud.com/wiigwaas-press/sets/daga-anishinaabemodaa-lets>

Daga Anishinaabemodaa Parts 1 & 2, Waking Up Ojibwe Anishinaabemodaa Pebaamibines introduces learners to his book “Daga Anishinaabemodaa - Let's Speak Ojibwe”. In Anishinaabemowin, Pebambines will show participants ways in which they can use the book to learn or to teach Anishinaabemowin. Available on Waking Up Ojibwe Anishinaabemodaa's YouTube channel. May 14th, 2020.

<https://youtu.be/6rn7JcTwE5w> & <https://youtu.be/Tqmdl8yzC8Q>

Ojibwe Stories: Gaganoonididaa “The World Needs a Spiritual Way of Living” August 21, 2017.

<https://tinyurl.com/y4v6jcyx>

## RESOURCES RECOMMENDED BY PEBAAMIBINES

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Leanne Hinton, Matt Vera, Nancy Steele, How to Keep Your Language Alive: A Commonsense Approach to One-on-One Language Learning (2002: Heyday Books, Berkeley, CA) describes a master-apprentice language program, a one and one approach that has been remarkably successful in ensuring new speakers will take the place of those, often elderly, who are fluent in an endangered language.