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I Speak Omushkego Cree

Anastasia Weesk

Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre

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I Speak Omushkego Cree

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Introduction

I Speak Omushkego Cree is an introduction to the Cree language as spoken by the Omushkegowuk (Cree people) on the west coast of James Bay. The Omushkego Cree use the *N* and *L* dialects. This book follows the *N* dialect.

This book is designed for people who wish to learn Omushkego Cree on their own. The learner may proceed at his or her own pace by following each section in order of appearance.

Like learning any other language, pronunciation in Cree may not be exact initially. Correct pronunciation requires listening to fluent Omushkego Cree speakers. However, the following comments are offered as a guide to pronunciation. Consonants have the same pronunciation as in English: *w*, *p*, *t*, *k*, *y*, *m*, and *n*. The *ch* sound is pronounced as in chair and *sh* sound is pronounced as in shy. Vowels have the same pronunciation as in English as well. Short vowel sounds are written with one vowel (*ne-ne-pan*), and long vowel sounds are written with two vowels (*nee-na-nan*). In this book, Cree words are written in italics using the English alphabet to help the learner. The Omushkego Cree use the syllabic writing system that is phonetically-based.

To speak Omushkego Cree properly some basic rules must be observed. These rules are as follows:

1) Verbs must agree with the noun in gender and in number.
2) Demonstratives must agree with nouns in gender and in number.
3) Adjectives must agree with nouns in gender and in number.
4) Verbs must be conjugated according to the group each verb belongs.

Once these basic rules are fully developed, the learner can apply them to form sentences.

There are other rules for inflection, derivation, prefixes, and suffixes. These rules are explained in the appropriate section and must be learned and understood before going on to the next section.

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pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

As mentioned earlier, this book is an introduction to speaking Omushkego Cree. The learner is encouraged to take as much time as he or she needs to master each section. With time and practice, the learner should begin speaking the Cree language with the Omushkegowuk and continue developing his or her understanding of Omushkego Cree.

1. Nouns

There are two genders of nouns: animate and inanimate. Animate refers to possessing life. Inanimate refers to not possessing life. At times, some inanimate objects are considerated as animate. Because of this, the gender of each noun must be memorized.

animate nouns

sock	*a-shi-kun*
spoon	*e-me-kwahn*
pants	*pa-na-chees*
snowshoe	*a-sam*
dog	*a-tim*
playing card	*tay-ha-man*

inanimate nouns

plate	*o-na-kun*
canoe	*chee-man*
hat	*a-sto-tin*
gun	*pa-ske-se-kun*
broom	*way-pa-hee-kun*
book	*ma-see-na-hee-kun*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

2. Number

There are two numbers: singular and plural.

To make an animate noun plural, add *uk* at the end of the noun.

sock	*a-shi-kun*,	socks	*a-shi-ku-nuk*
spoon	*e-me-kwahn*,	spoons	*e-me-kwah-nuk*
pants	*pa-na-chees*	pants	*pa-na-chee-suk*
snowshoe	*a-sam*	snowshoes	*a-sa-muk*
dog	*a-tim*	dogs	*a-ti-mwuk*
playing	*tay-ha-man*	playing cards	*tay-ha-ma-nuk*

To make an inanimate noun plural, add *a* at the end of the noun.

plate	*o-na-kun*	plates	*o-na-ku-na*
canoe	*chee-man*	canoes	*chee-ma-na*
hat	*a-sto-tin*	hats	*a-sto-ti-na*
gun	*pa-ske-se-kun*	guns	*pa-ske-se-ku-na*
broom	*way-pa-hee-kun*	brooms	*way-pa-hee-ku-na*
book	*ma-see-na-hee-kun*	books	*ma-see-na-hee-ku-na*

3. Personal Pronouns – These words are used to indicate the doer.

I	*nee-na*	
you	*kee-na*	
he, she, or it	*wee-na*	
we	*nee-na-nan*	(exclusive - me and him)
we	*kee-na-now*	(inclusive - me and you)
you	*kee-na-wow*	
they	*wee-na-wow*	

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

Personal pronouns by themselves can also be used as answers.

Who is going?	I (am)	*nee-na*
Who is going?	You (are)	*kee-na*
Who is going?	He, she, it (is)	*wee-na*
Who is going?	We (are)	*nee-na-nan* (me and him)
Who is going?	We (are)	*kee-na-now* (you and me)
Who is going?	You (are)	*kee-na-wow*
Who is going?	They (are)	*wee-na-wow*

Whose dog is this?	Mine	*nee-na*
Whose dog is this?	Yours	*kee-na*
Whose dog is this?	His, hers, its	*wee-na*
Whose dog is this?	Ours	*nee-na-nan* (me and him)
Whose dog is this?	Ours	*kee-na-now* (you and me)
Whose dog is this?	Yours	*kee-na-wow*
Whose dog is this?	Theirs	*wee-na-wow*

4. Possessives – These words are used to show ownership.

To make a possessive noun, place the required personal prefix in front of the noun followed by the required personal suffix.

animate

my playing card	*ne-tay-ha-man*
your playing card	*ke-tay-ha-man*
his playing card	*o-tay-ha-ma-na*
our playing card	*ne-tay-ha-ma-ne-nan* (exclusive)
our playing card	*ke-tay-ha-ma-ne-now* (inclusive)
your playing card	*ke-tay-ha-ma-ne-wow*
their playing card	*o-tay-ha-ma-ne-wow*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

inanimate

my canoe	*ne-chee-man*
your canoe	*ke-chee-man*
his or her canoe	*o-chee-man*
our canoe	*ne-chee-ma-ne-nan* (exclusive)
our canoe	*ke-chee-ma-ne-now* (inclusive)
your canoe	*ke-chee-ma-ne-wow*
their canoe	*o-chee-ma-ne-wow*

note: "*T*" is added to the prefix before a vowel for euphony (smooth pleasing sound).

snowshoe	*a-sam*	dog	*a-tim*
my snowshoe	*ne-ta-sam*	my dog	*ne-tem*
your snowshoe	*ke-ta-sam*	your dog	*ke-tem*
his snowshoe	*o-ta-sa-ma*	his dog	*o-te-ma*

5. Demonstratives – These are pointing words telling which one or thing.

this, *a-wa*
that, *a-na*

these, *o-ko* (used with animate nouns)
those, *a-ne-ke* (used with animate nouns)

this, *o-ma*
that, *a-ne-ma*

these, *o-ho* (used with inanimate nouns)
those, *a-ne-he* (used with inanimate nouns)

Demonstrative pronouns must agree with the noun in gender and in number.

this mitten, *a-wa* *a-stis*
that mitten, *a-na* *a-stis*

these mittens, *o-ko* *a-sti-suk*
those mittens, *a-ne-ke* *a-sti-suk*

this knife, *o-ma* *mo-ko-man*
that knife, *a-ne-ma* *mo-ko-man*

these knives, *o-ho* *mo-ko-ma-na*
those knives, *a-ne-he* *mo-ko-ma-na*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

6. Verbs – These words are used to indicate the action.

Verbs can be impersonal, intransitive, or transitive.

Impersonal verbs are statements of condition.

it is raining	*ki-mo-wun*
it is cold	*ta-ka-ya-o*
it is snowing	*me-spon*
it is windy	*no-tin*

Intransitive verbs are statements of fact with no objects.

I sleep	*ne-ne-pan*
you sleep	*ke-ne-pan*
I laugh	*ne-pa-phin*
you laugh	*ke-pa-phin*
I cry	*ne-ma-toon*
you cry	*ke-ma-toon*

Transitive verbs are statements of fact with objects.

I see a snowshoe	*ne-wa-pa-ma-o a-sam*
you see a snowshoe	*ke-wa-pa-ma-o a-sam*
I see a canoe	*ne-wa-pa-ten chee-man*
you see a canoe	*ke-wa-pa-ten chee-man*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

7. Verb Agreement – Verbs must agree with the noun in gender and in number.

For animate nouns

I see a dog	*ne-wa-pa-ma-o a-tim*
I see dogs	*ne-wa-pa-ma-wuk a-ti-mwuk*
you see a dog	*ke-wa-pa-ma-o a-tim*
you see dogs	*ke-wa-pa-ma-wuk a-ti-mwuk*
the dog falls	*pa-ke-shin a-tim*
the dogs fall	*pa-ke-shi-nuk a-ti-mwuk*

For inanimate nouns

I see a canoe	*ne-wa-pa-ten chee-man*
I see canoes	*ne-wa-pa-ten chee-ma-na*
you see a canoe	*ke-wa-pa-ten chee-man*
you see canoes	*ke-wa-pa-ten chee-ma-na*
the book falls	*pa-ke-tin ma-see-na-hee-kun*
the books fall	*pa-ke-ti-nwa ma-see-na-hee-ku-na*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

8. Verb Tenses – These words are used to indicate time of happening.

To make the present tense, take the personal pronoun prefix, add the verb stem of third person singular followed by the suffix. There is no prefix for the third person singular or plural.

he sleeps	*ne-paw*	stem: *ne-pa*
I sleep		*ne-ne-pan*
you sleep		*ke-ne-pan*
he sleeps		*ne-paw*
we sleep (exclusive)		*ne-ne-pa-nan*
we sleep (inclusive)		*ke-ne-pa-na-now*
you sleep		*ke-ne-pa-na-wow*
they sleep		*ne-pa-wuk*

To make the past tense, take the personal pronoun prefix, add *kee* to verb stem of the third person singular followed by the suffix.

he sleeps	*ne-paw*	stem: *ne-pa*
I slept		*ne-kee-ne-pan*
you slept		*ke-kee-ne-pan*
he slept		*kee-ne-paw*
we slept (exclusive)		*ne-kee-ne-pa-nan*
we slept (inclusive)		*ke-kee-ne-pa-na-now*
you slept		*ke-kee-ne-pa-na-wow*
they slept		*kee-ne-pa-wuk*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

To make the future tense, take the personal pronoun prefix, add *ka* to the verb stem of the third person singular followed by the suffix. For the third person singular and plural, add *ta* after the *ka*.

he sleeps	*ne-paw*	stem: *ne-pa*

I shall sleep	*ne-ka-ne-pan*
you will sleep	*ke-ka-ne-pan*
he will sleep	*ka-ta-ne-paw*
we shall sleep (exclusive)	*ne-ka-ne-pa-nan*
we will sleep (inclusive)	*ke-ka-ne-pa-na-now*
you will sleep	*ke-ka-ne-pa-na-wow*
they will sleep	*ka-ta-ne-pa-wuk*

9. Voluntive Tense – It indicates intended or desired action.

To make the present tense, add *wee* after the personal prefix and in front of the verb stem of the third person singular followed by the required suffix. There is no prefix for the third person singular or plural.

he sleeps	*ne-paw*	stem: *ne-pa*

I want to sleep	*ne-wee-ne-pan*
you want to sleep	*ke-wee-ne-pan*
he wants to sleep	*wee-ne-paw*
we want to sleep (exclusive)	*ne-wee-ne-pa-nan*
we want to sleep (inclusive)	*ke-wee-ne-pa-na-now*
you want to sleep	*ke-wee-ne-pa-na-wow*
they want to sleep	*wee-ne-pa-wuk*

note: There is also a past tense and a future tense, but for now the present is sufficient.

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pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

10. Imperatives – These words are used to make a command or an order. They can be used in the past tense and in the future tense.

To make the command, drop the ending of the 3rd person singular of all verbs except for verbs ending in *um* and *shin*.

For verbs ending in *um*, drop the *um*, add *a* to the verb stem for present tense and for the future tense, add *no-kun*.

For verbs ending in *shin*, simply add *e* to the third person singular for the present tense, and for the future tense, add *o-kun*.

3rd person singular		present tense	
he sits	*a-piw*	sit	*a-pi*
he sleeps	*ne-paw*	sleep	*ne-pa*
he walks	*pe-mo-te-o*	walk	*pe-mo-te*
he cries	*ma-too*	cry	*ma-to*
he dives	*ko-keew*	dive	*ko-kee*
he knows	*ke-skay-ne-tum*	know	*ke-skay-ne-ta*
he arrives	*ta-ko-shin*	arrive	*ta-ko-shi-ne*

3rd person singular		future tense	
he sits	*a-piw*	sit (later)	*a-pee-kun*
he sleeps	*ne-paw*	sleep (later)	*ne-pa-kun*
he walks	*pe-mo-te-o*	walk (later)	*pe-mo-te-kun*
he cries	*ma-too*	cry (later)	*ma-to-kun*
he dives	*ko-keew*	dive (later)	*ko-kee-kun*
he knows	*ke-skay-ne-tum*	know (later)	*ke-skay-ne-ta-mo-kun*
he arrives	*ta-ko-shin*	arrive (later)	*ta-ko-shi-no-kun*

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

These imperatives can be used to make a suggestion in the first person plural inclusive (you and me).

Drop the ending of the third person singular of all verbs and add *ta* to the verb stem except for verbs ending in *um* and *shin*.

For verbs ending in *um*, drop the *um* and add *e-ta* to the verb stem. For verbs ending in *shin*, simply add *e-ta* to the third person singular.

he sit	*a-piw*	let's sit	*a-pi-ta*
he sleeps	*ne-paw*	let's sleep	*ne-pa-ta*
he cries	*ma-too*	let's cry	*ma-to-ta*
he walks	*pe-mo-te-o*	let's walk	*pe-mo-te-ta*
he dives	*ko-keew*	let's dive	*ko-kee-ta*
he knows	*ke-skay-ne-tum*	let's know	*ke-skay-ne-te-ta*
he arrives	*ta-ko-shin*	let's arrive	*ta-ko-shi-ne-ta*

11. Verb Conjugations – There are 7 groups of verbs (conjugations).

Every verb has a stem, variable vowel and an ending. The variable vowel indicates which group the verb belongs to. The variable vowel is at the end of the stem.

To conjugate a verb, take the verb stem of the third person singular and add the required personal prefix and suffix. There is no prefix for the third person singular or plural.

reminder: To make a smooth sound (euphony), a *t* is placed in front of the vowel.

1st conjugational verbs end in *iw,* variable vowel is *i.* To conjugate, drop the *w* from the third person singular.

he sits	*a-piw*	stem: *a-pi*
I sit		*ne-ta-pin*
you sit		*ke-ta-pin*
he sits		*a-piw*
we sit (exclusive)		*ne-ta-pi-nan*
we sit (inclusive)		*ke-ta-pi-na-now*
you sit		*ke-ta-pi-na-wow*
they sit		*a-pi-wuk*

2nd conjugational verbs end in *aw,* variable vowel is *a.* To conjugate, drop the *w* from the person singular.

he sleeps	*ne-paw*	stem: *ne-pa*
I sleep		*ne-ne-pan*
you sleep		*ke-ne-pan*
he sleeps		*ne-paw*
we sleep (exclusive)		*ne-ne-pa-nan*
we sleep (inclusive)		*ke-ne-pa-na-now*
you sleep		*ke-ne-pa-na-wow*
they sleep		*ne-pa-wuk*

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

3rd conjugational verbs end in *eo,* variable vowel is *e*. To conjugate, drop the *o* from the third person singular.

he walks	*pe-mo-te-o*	stem: *pe-mo-te*
I walk		*ne-pe-mo-tan*
you walk		*ke-pe-mo-tan*
he walks		*pe-mo-te-o*
we walk (exclusive)		*ne-pe-mo-ta-nan*
we walk (inclusive)		*ke-pe-mo-ta-na-now*
you walk		*ke-pe-mo-ta-na-wow*
they walk		*pe-mo-te-wuk*

4th conjugational verbs end in *oo,* variable vowel is *o*. To conjugate, drop the *o* from the third person singular.

he cries	*ma-too*	stem: *ma-to*
I cry		*ne-ma-toon*
you cry		*ke-ma-toon*
he cries		*ma-too*
we cry (exclusive)		*ne-ma-to-nan*
we cry (inclusive)		*ke-ma-to-na-now*
you cry		*ke-ma-to-na-wow*
they cry		*ma-to-wuk*

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

5th conjugational verbs end in *ew,* variable vowel is *e*. To conjugate, drop the *w* from the third person singular.

he dives	*koo-keew*	stem: *koo-kee*

I dive	*ne-koo-keen*
you dive	*ke-koo-keen*
he dives	*koo-keew*
we dive (exclusive)	*ne-koo-kee-nan*
we dive (inclusive)	*ke-koo-kee-na-now*
you dive	*ke-koo-kee-na-wow*
they dive	*koo-kee-wuk*

6th conjugational verbs end in *um,* variable vowel is *u*. To conjugate, drop the *um* from the third person singular and add *e*, then add the personal suffix.

he is happy	*me-nway-ne-tum*	stem: *me-nway-ne-t*

I am happy	*ne-me-nway-ne-ten*
you are happy	*ke-me-nway-ne-ten*
he is happy	*me-nway-ne-tum*
we are happy (exclusive)	*ne-me-nway-ne-te-nan*
we are happy (inclusive)	*ke-me-nway-ne-te-na-now*
you are happy	*ke-me-nway-ne-te-na-wow*
they are happy	*me-nway-ne-tu-mwuk*

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

7th conjugational verbs end in *shin* or *tin,* no variable vowel. To conjugate, simply add *in* to the third person singular of verbs ending in *shin*.

Verbs ending in *shin* are used with animate nouns.

he falls	*pa-ki-shin*

I fall	*ne-pa-ki-shi-nin*
you fall	*ke-pa-ki-shi-nin*
he falls	*pa-ki-shin*
we fall	*ne-pa-ki-shi-ni-nan* (exclusive)
we fall	*ke-pa-ki-shi-ni-na-now* (inclusive)
you fall	*ke-pa-ki-shi-ni-na-wow*
they fall	*pa-ki-shi-nwuk*

Verbs ending in *tin* are used with inanimate nouns of third persons only.

it falls	*pa-ki-tin*
they fall	*pa-ki-ti-nwuk*

12. Gerunds – A gerund is a verbal noun that is used as a subject.

present tense

(There is) dancing.	*nee-me-na-ne-wun*
(There is) sleeping.	*ne-pa-ne-wun*
(There is) feasting.	*ma-ko-sha-ne-wun*

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

past tense

(There was) dancing.	*kee-nee-me-na-ne-wun*
(There was) sleeping.	*kee-ne-pa-ne-wun*
(There was) feasting.	*kee-ma-ko-sha-ne-wun*

future tense

(There will be) dancing.	*ka-ta-nee-me-na-ne-wun*
(There will be) sleeping.	*ka-ta-ne-pa-ne-wun*
(There will be) feasting.	*ka-ta-ma-ko-sha-ne-wun*

13. Locatives – These words are used to indicate a location. This is accomplished by adding a suffix to the noun.

For nouns ending in *k* add *ok*.

hospital	*a-ko-see-wee-ka-mik*
to, in, at the hospital	*a-ko-see-wee-ka-mi-kok*

For nouns ending in a vowel add *hk*.

river	*seepee*
to, in, at the river	*see-peehk*

For nouns ending in any other consonant add *ihk*.

canoe	*chee-man*
to, in, at the canoe	*chee-ma-nihk*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

14. Diminutives – These words are used to describe something small. A diminutive form is made by adding *ish* to the noun.

knife	*mo-ko-man*	small knife	*mo-ko-ma-nish*
canoe	*chee-man*	small canoe	*chee-ma-nish*
plate	*o-na-kun*	small plate	*o-na-ku-nish*
snowshoe	*a-sam*	small snowshoe	*a-sa-mish*

15. Pejoratives – These words indicate poor condition, disfavour or endearment.

For poor condition or disfavour, add *e-shkeesh* to the noun.

plate	*o-na-kun*	an old plate	*o-na-ku-ne-shkeesh*
canoe	*chee-man*	a no good canoe	*chee-ma-ne-shkeesh*

For an endearment, add *ish* to the noun.

my grandmother	*no-koom*	my small grandmother	*no-koo-mish*
John	*John*	little John	*John-ish*

16. Preterits – These words indicate the person is deceased, or that something did not exist back then or is no longer used today.

my late grandfather	*nee-mo-shoo-me-pan*
there was no canoe	*na-ma-ta-kwa-no-pan cheeman*
the dog was used	*a-tim a-pa-tee-see-pan*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

17. Obviatives – These words are used to distinguish the persons that are being talked about.

In English, there is a first person, second person, and a third person both in singular and in plural. In Cree, there is a fourth person, a noun called obviate. Obviation is a system used to distinguish between nouns or pronouns being talked about. The obviate noun must also agree with demonstratives and verbs that go with the obviate noun.

John (3rd)	sees	a girl (4th person)		crying.
John	*wapamao*	*ee-shkway-shee-sha*		*e-ma-too-ne-chi.*
John (3rd)	sees	this	girl (4th person)	crying.
John	*wapamao*	*o-ho*	*ee-shkway-shee-sha*	*e-ma-too-ne-chi.*

He (3rd) sees	a girl (4th person)	crying.
Wa-pa-mao	*ee-shkway-shee-sha*	*e-ma-too-ne-chi.*

He (3rd) sees	this	girl (4th person)	crying.
Wapamao	*o-ho*	*ee-shkway-shee-sha*	*e-ma-too-ne-chi.*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

18. Derivatives – These are words that are created by adding affixes to the verb stem.

Nouns can be made by adding the required prefix or suffix to the stem of the third person singular. This is a partial list of the same verb.

he shoots it *pa-ski-sum* stem: *pa-ski*

shoot him	*pa-skis*
shoot it	*pa-ski-sa*
gun	*pa-ski-si-kun*
my gun	*nee-pa-ski-si-kun*
his gun	*o-pa-ski-si-kun* (3rd person singular)
his gun	*o-pa-ski-si-ka-ne-new* (4th person)
you shot a gun	*ke-kee-pa-ski-si-kan*
they are shooting a gun	*pa-pa-ski-si-kay-wuk*
I am capable of shooting a gun	*ne-ne-ta-pa-ski-si-kun*

19. Adjectives – These words describe a noun.

An adjective must agree with the noun in gender and in number.

the red shoe (inanimate, sing.)	*ka-me-kwak ma-ski-sin*
the red shoes(inanimate, pl.)	*ka-me-kwa-ki ma-ski-si-na*
the big shoe (inanimate, sing.)	*ka-me-shak ma-ski-sin*
the big shoes (inanimate, pl.)	*ka-me-sha-ki ma-ski-si-na*
the big snowshoe (animate, sing.)	*ka-me-shi-ki-tit a-sam*
the big snowshoes (animate, pl.)	*ka-me-shi-ki-ti-chik a-sa-muk*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

the white dog (animate, sing.)	*ka-wa-pi-sit a-tim*
the white dogs (animate, pl.)	*ka-wa-pi-shi-chik a-ti-muk*

20. Quantifiers – These are words that are used to indicate the number of things.

The quantifier must agree with the noun in gender and in number.

there are two socks	*nee-shoo-wuk a-shi-ku-nuk*
there are two cups	*nee-shi-nwa mi-ni-kwa-ka-na*
there are many dogs	*me-che-te-wuk a-ti-muk*
some boys	*a-tit na-pay-she-shuk*
there are many of us	*ne-mi-che-ti-nan*
there are many of them	*mi-che-ti-wuk*

21. Dependent Possessive Nouns – These are words that are used dealing with body parts, kinship, and some clothing.

A noun changes when a personal possessive pronoun is used with that noun. To accomplish this, drop the first syllable and add the personal pronoun prefix.

older sister	*o-mi-si-mi-mow* (animate)
stocking	*mi-tas* (inanimate)
head	*mi-sti-kwan* (inanimate)
my older sister	*ne-mis*
your older sister	*ke-mis*
his older sister	*o-mi-sa*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

my stocking	*ne-tas*
your stocking	*ke-tas*
his stocking	*o-ta-sa*

	singular	plural
my older sister	*ne-mis*	*ne-mi-suk*
your older sister	*ke-mis*	*ke-mi-suk*
his sister	*o-mi-sa*	*o-mi-sa*
our older sister	*ne-mi-si-nan*	*ne-mi-si-na-nuk*
our older sister	*ke-mi-si-mow*	*ke-mi-si-na-wuk*
your older sister	*ke-mi-si-wow*	*ke-mi-si-wa-wuk*
their older sister	*o-mi-si-wow*	*o-mi-si-wa-wa*

my head	*ne-sti-kwan*
your head	*ke-sti-kwan*
his head	*o-sti-kwan*
our heads	*ne-sti-kwa-ne-na-na* (exclusive)
our heads	*ke-sti-kwa-ne-na-wa* (inclusive)
your heads	*ke-sti-kwa-ne-wa-wa*
their heads	*o-sti-kwa-ne-wa-wa*

22. Interrogatives – These words are used to introduce a question.

where	*tan-tay*
who (singular)	*a-way-ne-kun*
who (plural)	*a-way-ne-ku-nuk*
what (singular)	*kay-kwan*
what (plural)	*kay-kwa-na*
how many	*tan-ta-to*
when	*ta-ne-spee*
which	*kay-ko*
why	*kay-kwan o-che*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

23. Question Markers – There is no question mark in the Cree language. The question is noted by placing *na* at the end of the sentence or in the middle depending on the sentence structure.

are you hungry?	*ke-shee-wa-tan na*
did you see my sock?	*ke-kee-wa-pa-mao na ne-ta-shi-kun*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

Appendixes

Appendix 1: Numbers

one	*pay-yuk*	eleven	*pay-yu-ko-shap*
two	*nee-shoo*	twelve	*nee-shoo-shap*
three	*ne-stoo*	thirteen	*ne-stoo-shap*
four	*nay-o*	fourteen	*na-o-shap*
five	*nee-a-nan*	fifteen	*nee-a-no-shap*
six	*ko-twas*	sixteen	*ko-twa-so-shap*
seven	*nee-swas*	seventeen	*nee-swa-so-shap*
eight	*nee-a-na-na-o*	eighteen	*nee-a-na-ne-o-shap*
nine	*shang*	nineteen	*shang-o-shap*
ten	*me-ta-taht*		

twenty	*nee-shi-ta-na*
twenty-one	*nee-shi-ta-na pay-yuk*
twenty-two	*nee-shi-ta-na nee-shoo*
...	
thirty	*ne-sto-mi-ta-na*
thirty-one	*ne-sto-mi-ta-na pay-yuk*
thirty-two	*ne-sto-mi-ta-na nee-shoo*
...	
forty	*nay-mi-ta-na*
fifty	*nee-a-no-mi-ta-na*
sixty	*ko-twa-so-mi-ta-na*
seventy	*nee-swa-so-mi-ta-na*
eighty	*nee-a-na-ne-mi-ta-na*
ninety	*shang-ko-mi-ta-na*
hundred	*mee-ta-too-mee-ta-na*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

Numbers can also be used as modifiers and come in genders

	animate	inanimate
one	*pay-yu-ko*	*pay-yu-kwun*
two	*nee-shoo-wuk*	*nee-she-nwa*
three	*ne-stoo-wuk*	*ne-ste-nwa*
four	*nay-o-wuk*	*nay-o-nwa*
five	*nee-a-na-no-wuk*	*nee-a-na-no-wa-nwa*
six	*ko-twa-so-wuk*	*ko-twa-si-nwa*
seven	*nee-swa-so-wuk*	*nee-swa-si-nwa*
eight	*nee-a-na-nay-o-wuk*	*nee-a-na-nay-o-nwa*
nine	*shang-ki-wuk*	*shang-ki-nwa*
ten	*me-ta-ta-shi-wuk*	*mi-ta-ta-ti-nwa*

Appendix 2: Days of the Week

Days of the week can be used in the past tense form and future tense form.

present

Monday	*o-shki kee-shee-kow*
Tuesday	*nee-shoo kee-shee-kow*
Wednesday	*a-pe-ta-wun*
Thursday	*nay-o kee-shee-kow*
Friday	*chee-pa-ya-tee-ko kee-shee-kow*
Saturday	*ma-tee-na-way kee-shee-kow*
Sunday	*a-ya-mee-hay kee-shee-kow*

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

past

(last) Monday	*ka-kee-o-shki-kee-shee-kag*
(last) Tuesday	*ka-kee-nee-shoo-kee-shee-kag*
(last) Wednesday	*ka-kee-a-pe-ta-wuk*
(last) Thursday	*ka-kee-nay-o-kee-shee-kag*
(last) Friday	*ka-kee-chee-pa-ya-tee-ko-kee-shee-kag*
(last) Saturday	*ka-kee-ma-tee-na-way-kee-shee-kag*
(last) Sunday	*ka-kee-a-ya-mee-hay-kee-shee-kag*

future

(coming) Monday	*o-shki-kee-shee-ka-kay*
(coming) Tuesday	n*ee-shoo-kee-shee-ka-kay*
(coming) Wednesday	*a-pe-ta-wa-kay*
(coming) Thursday	*nay-o-kee-shee-ka-kay*
(coming) Friday	*chee-pa-ya-tee-ko-kee-shee-ka-kay*
(coming) Saturday	*ma-tee-na-way-kee-shee-ka-kay*
(coming) Sunday	*a-ya-mee-hay-kee-shee-ka-kay*

Appendix 3: Time of Day

today	*a-nooch ka-kee-shee-kuk*
tonight	*a-nooch ka-tee-pee-skuk*
this morning	*a-nooch ka-kee-kee-shay-pa-yuk*
this evening	*a-nooch ka-o-ta-ko-shick*
this noon	*a-nooch ka-a-pee-ta-kee-shee-kuk*
afternoon	*ka-kee-shkwa a-pee-ta-kee-shee-kuk*
yesterday	*o-ta-ko-sheehk*
last night	*tay-pe-skuk*
tomorrow	*wa-pa-kay*
in the morning	*key-shay-pa-ya-kay*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

at noon	*a-pee-ta-kee-shee-ka-kay*
before noon	*pwa-ma-she a-pee-ta-kee-shee-kuk*
sunset	*pa-kee-shee-moon*
sunrise	*sa-ka-sta-wao*

Appendix 4: Months

January	*kee-shay-pa-wa-ta-kee-nam*
February	*kee-shay-pee-sim*
March	*mee-kee-see-wee-pee-sim*
April	*nee-skee-pee-sim*
May	*a-nee-kee-pee-sim*
June	*sa-kee-pa-ka-wee-pee-sim*
July	*o-pa-sko-wee-pee-sim*
August	*o-pa-o-wee-pee-sim*
September	*whe-hayo-pee-sim*
October	*o-pe-ma-ha-mo-wee-pee-sim*
November	*ka-shka-tee-nee-siw*
December	*pa-wa-ta-kee-na-shees*

Appendix 5: Seasons – In Cree, there are six seasons.

spring	*see-kwan*
late spring (thawing)	*mee-no-ska-min*
summer	*nee-pin*
autumn (fall)	*ta-kwa-kin*
late fall (freezing)	*me-ke-skow*
winter	*pe-pon*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

last late spring	*mee-no-ska-meehk*
last spring	*see-kwa-nok*
in the spring	*see-kwa-kay*
last summer	*nee-pee-nok*
in the summer	*nee-pee-kay*
last fall (autumn)	*ta-kwa-kok*
in the fall (autumn)	*ta-kwa-ke-kay*
last late fall (autumn)	*me-ke-skok*
in the early fall (autumn)	*me-ke-ska-kay*
last winter	*pe-po-nok*
in the winter	*pe-po-kay*

Appendix 6: Conjugations

1st conjugational verbs end in *iw*

he is sick	*a-ko-siw*
he is tired	*a-yeh-sko-siw*
he dies	*ne-piw*
he sits on it	*tay-ta-piw*
he talks	*a-ya-miw*
he lives	*pee-ma-ti-siw*
he is angry	*kee-shee-wa-siw*
he jumps	*kwa-shko-tiw*
he awakens	*ko-sko-siw*
he sails	*pi-ma-siw*
he is poor	*ki-te-ma-kee-siw*

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

2nd conjugational verbs end in *aw*

he sleeps	*ne-paw*
he runs	*pee-mee-pa-taw*
he comes ashore	*ka-paw*
he can (is able)	*ka-shkee-taw*
he paddles	*pe-me-shkaw*
he arrives (by water)	*mee-sha-kaw*
he gets up (from lying down)	*wa-nee-shkaw*
he runs fast	*kee-see-pa-taw*

3rd conjugational verbs end in *eo*

he chops	*chee-ka-hee-ke-o*
he says	*e-twe-o*
he works	*a-to-ske-o*
he goes away	*ke-to-te-o*
he shoots a gun	*pa-ski-si-ke-o*
he enters	*pee-to-kwe-o*

4th conjugational verbs end in *oo*

he reports	*tee-pa-chee-moo*
he sews	*ka-shki-kwa-soo*
he gives thanks	*na-na-sko-moo*
he sings	*nee-ka-moo*
he cries	*ma-too*
he rises (from sitting)	*pa-see-koo*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

5th conjugational verbs end in *ew*

he is fast	*kee-nee-peew*
he is quick	*kee-ta-sta-peew*
he has a bow	*o-ta-cha-peew*
he is moving (stirring)	*a-ya-cheew*
he is arriving (from travelling)	*ta-ko-pee-cheew*

6th conjugational verbs end in *um*

he is happy	*mee-no-way-nee-tum*
he is jealous	*o-tay-nee-tum*
he is doing	*e-too-tum*
he is pondering	*ma-mee-to-nay-nee-tum*
he wishes	*mo-stay-yeh-nee-tum*
he knows	*kee-skay-nee-tum*

7th conjugational verbs end in *shin* (animate) or *tin* (inanimate)

he is lying down	*pe-me-shin*
he falls through the ice	*ta-we-shin*
he sprains himself	*ko-ti-ko-shin*
he is lying down	*ma-shko-shin*
he fall down	*pa-ki-shin*
he stumbles	*pe-so-shin*
it breaks through falling	*pee-ko-tin*
it is lying (laying)	*ma-sko-tin*
it stumbles	*pe-so-tin*
it is falling	*pa-ke-tin*

Appendix 7: Body Parts – Most body parts are inanimate nouns.

back	*mi-pe-skwan*
blood	*mi-koo*
bone	*mis-skan*
chest	*ma-ski-kun*
chin	*mi-ta-mi-kun*
elbow	*mi-to-skun*
eye	*mi-shkee-shik*
face	*mi-ta-sta-mi-kwan*
finger	*nee-nee-kee-chee-chan*
foot	*mi-sit*
forehead	*mi-ska-tik*
hair	*mi-pee-way-ya*
hand	*mi-chi-schee*
head	*mi-sti-kwan*
heart	*mi-tay-hee*
heel	*mi-to-tun*
hip	*mi-to-kwun*
knee	*mi-ki-tik* (animate)
lap	*mi-schi-kwun*
leg	*mi-skat*
liver	*mi-skoon*
lung	*mi-phan* (animate)
mouth	*mi-toon*
nail	*mi-shka-shee* (animate)
neck	*mi-kwa-yeow*
nose	*mi-koot* (animate)
nostril	*mi-chash* (animate)
shoulder	*mi-ti-ti-man*
shoulder blade	*mi-ti-nee* (animate)
skin	*mi-sha-kai* (animate)
spine	*mi-shoo-kun*

---

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

stomach	*ma-tai*
thigh	*mi-pwam*
throat	*mi-ko-twa-shkwai*
thumb	*mi-chi-schun*
toe	*nee-nee-kee-si-tan*
tongue	*mi-tay-na-nee*
tooth	*mee-pit*
vein	*mee-ko-ya-pee*
does your foot hurt?	*ke-ta-ko-sin na ke-sit*
my foot hurts	*ne-ta-ko-sin ne-sit*

Appendix 8: Animals — All animals are animate nouns.

(Canada) goose	*ni-ska*
bear	*ma-skwa*
beaver	*a-misk*
cat	*poosh*
dog	*a-tim*
duck	*she-sheep*
fish	*na-mess*
fox	*ma-khay-shoo*
frog	*a-nee-kish*
moose	*moose*
partridge	*pe-nayo*
rabbit	*wa-push*
snake	*ki-nay-pegk*
wolf	*ma-hee-kan*

Appendix 9: Clothing

animate

mitten	*a-stis*
pants	*pa-na-chees*
sock	*a-shi-kun*

inanimate

blouse	*mi-pi-skwun*
coat	*pee-see-ska-kun*
dress	*a-koof*
hat	*a-sto-tin*
shirt	*pa-kwa-yan*
shoe	*ma-ski-sin*
sweater	*shee-pa-stway-wa-yan*

Appendix 10: Household Items

animate

frying pan	*pa-na-skik*
pot/pail	*a-skihk*
soap	*soap*
spoon	*e-mi-kwan*

inanimate

bed	*ni-pe-win*
book	*ma-see-na-hee-kun*

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pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

chair	*te-ta-pi-win*
cup	*mi-ni-kwa-kun*
fork	*chee-sta-hee-kun*
table	*mee-chee-soo-wee-na-tik*

Appendix 11: In the Bush

animate

stone	*a-see--nee*
tree	*mi-stik*

inanimate

flower	*wah-pe-kwun*
grass	*ma-shko-shee*
lake	*sa-ka-hee-kun*
moss	*aski*
river	*see-pee*
water	*a-ni-see-pee*

Appendix 12: Food

animate

bacon	*koo-koosh*
beans	*a-nee-chee-min-nuk*
bread	*a-na-ko-now*
bannock	*a-na-ko-now*
butter	*pa-ta*

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pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

flour	*pa-kway-shee-kun*
rolled oats	*a-no-min*
rice	*o-che-shee-shuk* (pl)

inanimate

baking powder	*o-pi-si-kun*
egg	*wa-we*
eggs	*wa-wa*
lard or oil	*pi-mee*
meat	*wee-yas*
milk	*choo-choo-shee-na-poee*
salt	*shee-we-ta-kun*
jam	*pa-shki-mi-ni-si-kun* or *jam*

Appendix 13: Extra Vocabulary

animate nouns

baby	*chee-cheesh*
ball	*to-han*
boss	*o-ki-maw*
boy	*na-pay-shis*
brother (my older)	*ni-stes*
chief	*o-ki-ma-kun*
child	*a-wa-shis*
dentist	*mee-pit n'to-ko-noon*
doctor	*n'to-ko-noon*
father (my)	*no-ta-wee*
girl	*ee-shkwhe-shis*
man	*na-payo*
money	*shoo-nee-yan*

pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

mosquito	*sa-kee-mao*
mother (my)	*ni-ka-wee*
nurse	*n'to-ko-no-nee-skway-o*
paddle	*a-poee*
pipe	*o-spwa-kun*
police	*o-kee-pa-oh-wa-se-o*
shovel	*ee-spet*
sibling (my younger)	*ni-sheem*
teacher	*o-kee-skee-no-ha-ma-ke-o*
teapot	*tee-wa-skik*
tobacco	*chee-ste-ma-o*
toothbrush	*kee-chee-sta-pee-tay-o-na-tick*
woman	*ee-skway-o*

inanimate nouns

ax	*chee-kah-hee-kun*
bag	*mee-wat*
bank	*shoo-nee-ya-nee-ka-mik*
belt	*pa-kwa-te-hoon*
blanket	*wa-po-yan*
broom	*way-pa-hee-kun*
building	*wa-ska-hee-kun*
candy	*see-wee-tees*
comb	*shee-ka-hoon*
cradle board	*tee-kee-na-kun*
church	*a-ya-mee-hay-wee-ka-mik*
door	*ee-shkwa-tem*
hammer	*o-ta-ma-hee-kun*
hospital	*a-ko-see-wee-ka-mik*
jail	*kee-pa-oh-to-we-ka-mik*
leaf or leaves	*nee-peesh* or *nee-pee-sha*
nail	*chee-sta-skwan*

pencil or pen	*ma-see-na-hee-ka-na-tick*
pepper	*pa-pa-o*
pillow	*a-pee-shkway-shee-moo-win*
road	*me-ska-now*
school	*kee-ski-no-ha-ma-to-wee-ka-mik*
restaurant	*mee-chee-so-wee-ka-mik*
skating rink	*pa-ma-ta-hee-wee-ka-mik*
store	*a-ta-way-ka-mik*
toy	*me-ta-wa-kun*
train	*o-ta-pan*
sand	*nay-ka-o*
sugar	*shoo-kow*
tea towel	*pa-ko-ni-kun*
tea	*tee*
towel	*pa-ki-kwan*
washroom	*wa-na-wee-ka-mik*
and	*nes-ta*
but	*sha-kooch*
don't	*ka-wi-na*
or	*nes-ta pi-koo*
really	*ta-pway*
really?	*ta-pway na*
since	*a-spin*

Appendix 14: Sentences

are you sick?	*ke-ta-ko-sin na*
what do you want	*kay-kwan n'ta-way-ne-ta-man*
what is your name	*ta-nay-shi-ne-ka-so-yan*
my name is John	*John n'te-shi-ne-ka-soon*
Where is John?	*tan-tay John*
is John (here)?	*e-ta-o na John*

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pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

open the door	*a-pa-ha ee-shkwa-tem*
close the door	*ke-pa-ha ee-shkwa-tem*
where are you going	*tan-tay e-to-tay-yan*
come	*a-stam*
do you want to drink tea?	*kee-wee-mee-nee-kwan na tee*
do you want to eat?	*kee-wee-mee-chee-soon na*
I want to see the boss	*nee-wee-wa-pa-ma-o o-kee-mao*
what month is it now?	*kay-ko pee-sim anooch*
What time is it?	*ta-nay-spa-nick*
is it open?	*a-pa-hee-ka-ta-o na*
the house is on fire	*pa-see-tay-o wa-ska-hee-kun*
that's it for now	*e-kwa-ni pi-ta-ma*
thank you	*meegwetch*
good-bye	*wa-chee-yeh*

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pronunciation: *e* as in pet, get; *ee* as in see, bee; *u* as in up, utter; *a* as in pan, am; *i* as in timid, in; *o* as in so, tomato, *oo* as in soon; *ow* as in wow, now; *ay* as in may, nay; *aw* as in out, couch; *eo* as in Theo, theoretical, *iw* – i followed by w sounds like view, yew; *ew* as in pew, hew

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I Speak Omushkego Cree is an introduction to the Cree language for people who wish to learn Omushkego Cree on their own. This book provides an overview of basic grammar structures and rules for the beginning learner of Cree.

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