



THE ABENAKI ROOT SOUNDS

Initial Roots: Add attributes to objects and events.

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ô-/a- usually, continually, living

ôb- been, returning, from doing; white, light, sight; raise, lift

ôd- rest, repose

ôg- shade, shadow

ôh- repeated

ôlm-, alm- continuing in time, space, or action; later on

ôpt- becoming, act of doing

adass- (azi-) each, each time

ag- direct, guide

agwô- decaying, deteriorating, rusting, spoiling

agwan- hidden because covered, out of sight

agwda- upstream; dirty

agwim- blame, accuse

ahaza- transparent

ajali- impossible

akho- hang

anak- spread out

anig- become covered with plant growth

aod- fight

apch- (apt-) against, opposed

apkw- cover

asigel- loose, widely spaced, coarse

asin- enclose, shut in

asp- of a certain size; wide open

ass- encourage, influence by teaching, by example

asta- prick, stab

atsakh- lock

awakôt- barely, hardly, in a small amount or degree, of little importance

awam- put on shoes, dress feet
awas- beyond, on the other side, over; heat, warm
awig- write, draw, mark
az-/asi- cover; each; encourage; dip water
azwa- moving backwards, returning
azow- trade, change, exchange
chachag- divide
chajal- incapable, terrible
chajig- persistent, contrary, against
chakwa- divide
chesak- scrape
chibag- ugly, terrible
chibat- cross, crossing
chigôl- bend over, put your head down
chigôw- continue against opposition or difficulties, persist
chiga- silent, quiet
chigi- let, allow; leave, abandon
chik- sweep
chil- mean, peevish, bad tempered; injured
chit- more and more, further; tight fitting, tight, compressed, close together, tough
cho- to be sure, need, want, should
izigan- on one side
kôgô- call, cry, scream
kôgôg- (kakat-) saw toothed, dentate
kôksk- (kakk-) brittle wood; solid material
kôt- (kôj-) hide, hidden
kad-, kadaw- want to; about to be
kadka- dig
kagôw- angry
kagaki- choose
kagaps- deaf
kaj- (kad-) remove, take away
kak- more and more, over and over, increasingly
kam- out of sight
kamg- dive, enter water, sink
kiki- troubled, disturbed
kash- wipe
kasp- accidentally, suddenly, unexpectedly
kata- prepared, ready

kaw- tip over, lean
kawakw- gather by picking, pulling, plucking
kawho- win, acquire, gain
kdemôg- low, miserable, pitiful, poor
kedow- (kadow-) sound, noise
kejaw- joking, not serious
kejeg- scratch, tickle
kejok- careless
kel- hold
kelab- tie
kelabs- grab, grip
kelad- freeze
kem- act secretly, do without being seen
kez- quick, hot, intense; abundant, strong
kikô- curse
kikômki- at the base or foot of something
kikaj- close on the ground, near to on the ground
kikh- insult, berate, injure by words
kiki- pay attention, observe
kim- secretly, stealthily
kin- brave, strong, much, very
kinohom- (kikinohom-) preach
kiw- around, about, wander
kiz- already, has, finished, complete; can, able to
klami- amuse, enjoy, take pleasure
klo- speak, talk
knesk- unimportant, worthless, slight, cheap, spoil
kokkw- humpy, in mounds
kska- short cut
kskim- numb, paralyzed
kwôgwen- jealous
kwôz- (kôz-) away, remove, elsewhere
kwagw- push; try; scratch at
kwakwah- shout, holler, yell
kwalagw- concave
kwan- during; long; tall
kwikws- , **kikws-** whistle
kwil- search, look for
kws-i- (kwasi-) respect

l- how, the way, to, towards, true
môlh- curious, odd, queer, strange
mômôg- quick, expedient, hasty
môt- (mamôt-, môj-, mamôj-) move
maasa- early, beforehand, premeditate
magôl- shovel
magwi- swell
mahôdo- be active, go about; supernatural
namesan- mock, ridicule, revile
mamhlaw- great, much
mamil- away from shore, in the deep, in the middle
mamilg- many
man- (men-, min-) separate, isolated; berry, fruit
mann- slow, slowly; starve
mano- buy, purchase
mao- contact
masakw- clear many trees, a clearing
medas- baby, youngest
medaw- (môtaw-) acceptable, fine, good, passable
megen- choose
mejej- internal
mejes- last, final
melô- smell
melisj- (malisj-) weep, cry
menon- smooth
mesk- (mask-) find
mez- find, get, obtain
miga- fight, war
mika- discover, find something new
mil- give; many, much; many different things, kinds or ways
miw- clear away, repel, banish
mois- mold, moldy
molô- deep
mosk- emerge
mozema- cut hair
msk- (mask-) grass
mska- (maska-) to the side, aside
mskaw- (maskaw-) esteem, praise
mski- dead, quiet, still
mt- exposed, in sight, in the open

mza- freeze, frozen
mzen- (mezn-) get, catch
nôb- like, similar; male; put through
nôd- going to do, about to do, in the process of; lack
nôk- almost, soon to be
nôpko- encircle the neck
nôw- long ago, far away; middle
na- see
nab- quick
nadaw- scout around; rare
nad- lack
nagô- unanimous, all of a group
nagak- sand, soil
nagw- under
nah- the current
nahai- downstream
nahas- get out of the way
nakaza- (nkaza-) switch off; extinguish, put out
nakihl- falling
nakwal- one is a series, the next
nakwh- sneeze
nalaw- everywhere, all over, here and there, this and that; strange, awkward
nanôdgv- blind
nana- awkward, incomplete, poorly
nanam- shake, sway, tremble, rock back and forth
nananhi- by chance, unintentionally
nanawôb- be on the lookout, stand watch, watch for
nanawal- care for, take care of
nanazôw- disturbing, unsafe
nanazaw- conserve, save
nani- common, ordinary; by chance
nansa- between
noas- pursue game
naot- hither, to here, towards the speaker
naskwa- comb
naton- cut card
nawad- rest, stop or pause in a journey
nawaskw- bow head, bent head
nbask- drown, choke
nbow- death

nehnis- match, mate
nesk- disagreeable, disturbing, troublesome, unpleasant
nkag- all day
nskaz- angry
nhl- kill
nibô- night
niba- marry, join together, union
nigidaw- divided, forked
nikôn- (negôn-) ahead in space or time; old, long ago
nihlô- by self, automatically, naturally
nod- lack; go do professionally, a profession
nono- nurse
pôb- thoroughly, throughout
pôk- (pak-) bump, strike
pôl- proud, vain
pôw- happy, joyful
pôzid- above, beyond, over
pa- approach
pabô- about, roughly, approximately, around
pabahw- tin
pabal- smooth
pabam- overtake, pass
pabas- half
pabask- explode, shoot
pabat- very like
pad- (paji) arrive, come, approach, bring
pag- (pak-) hit, smash, strike
paga- a part, a piece
pagad- coming back, returning
pagit- abandon, leave
pakôg- bent, crooked
pakwsa- dry
pap- continual, lasting, ongoing; automatic; play
papiz- automatic; useless
pas- swollen, puffy, full
pask- bare, naked, nude, open, uncovered
paskh- shoot, burst, explode
pasod- near in space or time
pasos- puff up, rise
pat- useless, harmful

patkwa- facing someone
paw- wish with power, exert personal power by wishing; tremble, shake
ped- (pid-) enter, go into, put in
pedg- come back, return
pegd- smoke
pegik- roast, toast, brown by heat
pelag- (palag-) peel, remove bark, remove rind, remove scales, remove skin
pem- grease, oil, fat; during, when, where, along, throughout, this, continue
pen- (pan-, pôn-) down, downward
pez- (piz-) thick, dense; useless
pezag- slimy, soft and wet, thick liquid
pezg- dark
pia- crumbly, mealy, powdery
pib- murky, decayed
pid- (ped-) enter, go into; put in, catch
pidm- shoot with a bow or sling
pigd- spurt, puff
pij- (pid-) put in, fill
pikôg- crooked, bent
pika- fold, double
pikag- cross, make a crossing
pikw- open, hollow; blow; erode, lose a piece
pil- new, strange, different, foreign
pils- numb
pim- (pem-) twisting
pimskw- put aside
pit- double; froth
piw- small, fine, little
piz- (bez-) useless, unimportant, wild
pkwa- peel (bark), wear away, remove a part
poda- blow (as air or water)
podawaz- talk over, confer, council
pok- short
pokja- sting, prick, pierce
pon- set, place; abandon, put away, leave, free
posk- bury
poskw- sever, break
ps- numerous, several
psah- smell
psakw- shine, reflect light, flash

psi- divide, open up, split
pska- aside, branching off, to one side
pskwa- open, swell
pskwl- catch fire, ignite
sôg- appear, sprout, emerge
sab- lukewarm; noise, disturbance
sabag- watery, thin liquid mixture
sag- (sak) fright, fear, afraid
saga- bite; on the ground, near the ground
sagi- injure, hurt physically
sahag- hard, difficult
sakh- the forest
sakoz- win, triumph, conquer
sakwi- deep (as tide water)
salk- abrupt, sudden, steep
sam- feed
sapkw- put away, hide
sasag- straight
sasi- weep, cry
sasib- brittle, fragile
saw- leave, go out, run out
sawa dress, clothing, clothe
sazôgw- unintelligent, not sensible, not intelligent
sazôm- weak
tagas- a little, small amount
tal- engaged in doing, there
talpô- contend, berate, scold, argue, reprimand, quarrel
taza- having clear space, clear of obstructions; reject, refuse, push back
taw- an open space
tbask- observe, watch, pay attention to
tk- cold
tsk- mix up, tousled, tangle
tkw- (tagwôk-) uphill
tkwen- arrest, make prisoner
tm- (tem-, tam-) cut, sever transversely
tmiskw- figure with straight sides and square corners
tod - by, pass; so much
tozgo- spend the night
wôg- bend, curve
wôl- hollowed out, hallow

wa- someone; them; this one; here
waask- shallow (water)
waba- trouble
wag- injure, destroy, damage
wajapk- root
wakas- a few
wakwô- shut in, enclose
wam- fit; enough
wanôk- arise from lying or sitting position
wanas- meet, encounter
wanask- an end
wanta- lose, interrupt, disturb
waol- good, nice, appropriate
waot- put together, collide, make contact, join
wasas- slippery
wassa- light, clear, clean, shining
wawap- upwards, up high, in the air
wawas- holy, sacred
wawi- often, everywhere, all over, frequent in space or time
wazab- thin
wazaz- the edge of a place
wazw- return, reverse
wd- (wad-, wj-, waj-) for, from
wdag- damp, moist
wdam- disturb, trouble
wdow- distinguished, of high quality
wesôgen- a tail; pour out, empty
wi- tell, say, name, call
wiag- rejoicing, pleasurable, glad
wid- together with
wig- live, dwell, camp; like
wigwa- piece of birchbark
wigwe- lacking something
wigwi- until, as far as, far
wika- fat
wilawi- rich, wealthy
wini- unassured, indecisive
winwa- petition, ask for, supplicate
wisse- thoroughly, completely
wiwiz- hurriedly, quickly

wiwn- encircling, all around
wiz- be named, be called; quick, hurry
wiza- tidy, pick up, make neat; become narrow
wjeb- narrow, shriveled, shrunken, small
wjib- fall, stagger
wjibel- curl, curly
wlôm- be correct, be right
wlawi- calm
wsag- bitter
wskwa- pointed

Medial Roots: Offer shape classifications and causal means

MEANS:

- po-** (taste of)
- nô-** (appearance of)
- mô-** (odor of)
- tô-** (sound of)
- dahô-** (perception of)
- mam-** (feeling of)
- alem-** (thought of)
- ôbam-** wander around / similar to
- ôpt-** leave tracks
- ôwz-** living, life, alive
- gôb-** stand, in the standing position
- osad-** carry something
- osal-** carry someone
- owam-** carry someone
- gis-** potential, ability to
- gwen-** process, over time

SHAPE:

- ôlag-** hollow, removed object, like a hole
- ômk-** granular mass like sand, gravel, or earth
- ak-** non-rigid objects such as a skin, a peel, a hide, cloth, or clothing
- akw-** object that is rigid, metal, wood
- apsk-** lump or rock
- bag-** a liquid object, water, damp, moist, wet
- jag-** wet sticky mass, dirt, mud, clay
- tag-** non-rigid object, cord, or string like

Final Roots: Establish relationships.

(Many finals are similar, if not the same as initials).

- ôdwa (lôdwa-) speak
- ôg (lôgi-) bend; related
- ômpti (lômpt-) make tracks
- ômpsi (lômpsi-) decorate
- ôwzi (lôwz-) live, be alive, life
- agi (lagi-) scrape or work to soften hide; direct, order, send, teach
- agibo (lagibo-) rub
- agw (lagw-) direction, vicinity, region
- akamigw (lakamig-) nature or manner in the home or family
- egwasi (legwaz-) dream
- emi (lemi-) coax, lure by hearing, wheedle
- esi (lesi-) lie down flat
- eskani (leskan-) weave
- ezi (lez-) cut
- ibia (libia-) paddle, row; they paddles
- igbai (ligba-) lengthwise, in longitudinal strips
- ig dai (ligda-) jump
- igwônsa (ligwôs-) sew
- igwa (ligw-) roll
- igwagi (ligwag-) bleed
- ihla (lihl-) move to or towards
- malsi (lamals-) health
- aski, -eski (be of a certain nature)
- gisgat the day
- ogwenagat so many days ago)
- ogweniwi in so many days from now
- kaden the year
- lawa by heart/gut
- osa by walking
- ka by work/doing
- ômahlô run
- ôlo tail
- ôjigw uncle

-**ôka** land, hill, bank
-**ômka** sandy
-**ôwigan** backbone
-**ada** lean, incline
-**aden** mountain
-**agen** leather, hide (on an animal)
-**agwiji** swim
-**aka** throw
-**aksi** sail
-**aloka** work, do
-**bakw** leaf
-**beskwan** the back of the body
-**bi** water, liquid
-**bia** paddle
-**chat**, -**jat** sinew, tendon
-**cho** muscle, fleshy lump
-**deli** shoulder blade
-**dep** head
-**dezi** gizzard
-**idoi** fly
-**dolka** chest, breast
-**dollo** kidney
-**don** mouth
-**dos** daughter
-**ega** dance
-**gôkw** hill
-**gamikw** home, building, wigwam, earth
-**gen**, -**sen** vegetable, grow, it is
-**gisgad** day
-**go**, -**so** they grow, they are
-**gwat** it is (w/medial)
-**gwzo** they are (w/medial)
-**hôdo** spirit
-**haga** body

-**hla** become; fly
-**hlakw** metal, iron
-**hlas** bird
-**iawi** originate
-**ibia** paddle
-**ibit** tooth
-**ibitôgw** toothache
-**idôbso** sibling of the opposite sex
-**idokan** elder brother
-**igawes** mother
-**igwzi** crawl
-**ihlô** come
-**ijôn** child
-**ijônit** parent
-**ijia** brother
-**ikkwa** ham, hindquarter, thigh
-**ilalo** tongue
-**ilem** sister-in-law
-**ili** navel
-**ilitbôn** brain
-**into** sing
-**itkwa** thumb
-**ito** fur, beard, mustache
-**itsagwaso** twin sister
-**itsakaso** sister, female cousin
-**itsemis** younger sibling
-**izigan** on one side
-**jôl** nose
-**jo** container
-**kani** calm
-**kanni** travel
-**kha** cause
-**kôjo** vein
-**kôd** leg

-**kamigw** house
-**kaz** claw, nail, hoof
-**kedekw** knee
-**keji** rump, buttocks
-**keskwan** elbow
-**ki** land, earth; hidden, mystery; partial event emphatic final
-**kika** plant, sow, earth work
-**kwam** stick, pole, wood
-**lôkw** kettle
-**lagezi** belly, abdomen, stomach
-**leso** bird
-**lokan** hip
-**mahom** grandfather
-**messis** elder sister
-**mosom** ancestor, remote male
-**mosomis** old man, little old man
-**naga** shore
-**nakw** stump
-**niga** carry
-**nikigo** parents
-**ol** watercraft
-**olekwi** armpit
-**olhaga** waist
-**oses** grandchild
-**pan** lung
-**pedin** arm
-**pigasen** rib, a
-**po** winter
-**sôboan** eyelashes
-**sakw** a room, enclosure, sky
-**sem** daughter in law; animal
-**sin** lay, drag
-**sizekw** eye
-**skadegwa** forehead

-**skwen** liver
-**tôgan** Adam's apple
-**tôlo** tail
-**itan**, -**ijoan** current
-**tegw** river, flow
-**tta** emphatic
-**inno** person
-**zegwes** mother in law
-**zi** self
-**zid** foot

Opposite Adverbs.

tagasiwi (a little) / **mamlawiwi** (much, abundantly)
sasagiwi (straight, directly) / **pikôgiwi** (crooked)
sôwaiwi (often) / **nadawiwi** (rarely/seldom)
kwajemiwi (outside) / **alômiwi** (inside)
nagwiwi (under) / **ôbtawiwi** (over)
kwelbiwi (behind) / **nikôniwi** (in front)
pônjiwi (left) / **alnakaiwi** (right)
nopaiwi (far) / **pasojiwi** (near), **pasodawiwi** (near in time, nearby)
negôniwi (formerly, long ago) / **nônaojiwi** (recently)
nikôniwi (ahead in time or space; yet to come) / **kwelbiwi** (behind in time or space)
nodôwi (less) / **pahamiwi** (more)
sipkiwi (late) / **spôwzwiwi** (early)
nabiwi (soon) / **sipkiwi** (late)
chitôwi (worse) / **maôwiwi** (better)
wigawôjiwi (usually) / **majimiwi** (frequently)
sawi (sometimes) / **waijiwi** (always)
nalawiwi (everywhere) / **paliwi** (elsewhere)
wazwawi (backward) / **nikôniwi** (forward)
maôwiwi (exactly) / **pabômiwi** (about/around)
pôzijiwi (above) / **nagwiwi** (under/below)
kassiwi (together) / **awasiwi** (beyond, furthermore, over)
tatebeskawiwi (opposite) / **tatebiwi** (the same)
tasiwi (upon) / **nagwiwi** (under/below)
nansawiwi (between)
nanôwiwi (in the middle)
chebiwi (besides)
agômiwi (across/on the other side)
askamiwi (forever)
kikajiwi (against)
lagwiwi (towards, in the direction of)
sôbiwi (through)
wiwniwi (around)
wskijiwi (upon)
sôgnawiwi (peacefully)

Opposite Adjectives

ligen (it is to/how) / **wjigen** (it is from/for)

wligen (it is good) / **majigen** (it is bad)

wskigen (it is new) / **negônigen** (it is old)

negemigen (it is easy) / **sahagigen** (it is hard)

sôgligen (it is solid, stout) / **sazibigen** (it is brittle, weak)

adagigen (it is dishonest) / **sôbigen** (it is true, honest)

pizwigen (it is futile) / **kwesilawigen** (it is worthy)

kpagigen (it is thick) / **wazabigen** (it is thin)

tkwigen / **twigwan** (it is heavy in weight) / **nanôgigen** (it is light in weight)

kejawigen (it is for fun) / **ksinigen** (it is boring, lonesome, tiresome)

keneskigen (it is worthless/unimportant) / **kezôwigen** (it is important/valuable)

pakigen (it is clean/neat) / **neskejagigen** (it is messy)

tadebigen (it is the same, even, alike) / **piligen, pildowigen** (it is different/new)

sasagigen (it is straight) / **lôgigen** (it is bent)

piwsesen (it is small) / **msagigen** (it is big)

paligen (it is wrong) / **maôwigen** (it is right)

wdagigen (it is moist) / **adepigen** (it is puckery, rolled up, dry)

nokigen (it is smooth) / **kôwigen** (it is rough)

molôgigen (it is deep) / **pôgwaigen** (it is shallow)

pôgwigigen (it is pure) / **kottligen** (it is mixed)

sokwaigen (it is broken up, separate) / **ônkawigen** (it is linked, brought together)

chachagigen (it is divided) / **noskigen** (it is connected/added to)

temigen (it is divided/cut) / **kagaligen** (it is held/fastened)

negwichigen (it is alone) / **adowigen** (it is together)

sawigen (it goes out/exits) / **pijigen** (it goes in/enter)

môwigen, mawigen, (it is grouped) / **menigen, minigen** (it is separated)

nagwigen (it is under) / **ôptawigen** (it is over)

tabsigen (it is low) / **nospigen** (it is high)

melikigen (it is strong) / **nojimigen** (it is weak)

kaskigen (it is wide) / **chichigwigen** (it is narrow)

alnigen (it is common) / **ôshagigen** (it is unusual)

almigen (it is continuing) / **akwigen** (it is ending)

kwenigen (it is tall/long) / **pokwigen** (it is short)

sôkhigen (it is approaching, coming into sight) / **nkamigen** (it is out of sight)

pajigen (it arrives, comes, approaches, brings) / **môjigen** (it departs, brings)

pedgigen (it comes back, returns) / **mosigen** (it emerges)

waswigen (it reverses) / **sôsasagigen** (it goes straight)
nikônigen (it is ahead, in front) / **kwelebigen** (it is behind)
ôshagigen (it is strange, bitter, hard) / **alnigen** (it is ordinary, common, usual)
sowigen (it is slanted/off) / **wligen** (it is good/correct)
ajigen (it is askew) / **tabigen** (it is even)
saskigen (it is unusual) / **alnigen** (it is usual, common)
ôsaskigen (it is really new) / **nônegonigen** (it is really old)
msalijebigen (it is many kinds, sorts, varieties, types) / **tatebigen** (it is the same)
pahakwigen (it is familiar, anew, renewed) / **wanigen** (it is forgotten)
kelajigen (it freezes) / **sogebasigen** (it melts)
kwetigen (it lowers, sinks, it is sunk) / **pemagwaigen** (it floats, it is floating)
madôlawziigen (it is thin, lean) / **wikaigen** (it is fat)
kejokigen (it is careless) / **nsatowigen** (it is careful)
alômigen (it is inside; underwater) / **kipigen** (it is moving away from the water)
asponigen (it is parsimonious, stingy, frugal) / **magaskigen** (it is generous, a giving nature)
ômigen (it is raised up, lifted) / **ponigen** (it is put down, placed)
agajigen (it is shy, ashamed, bashful) / **palôbaigen** (it is proud, boisterous)
chajakigen (it is spotted) / **mômôligen** (it is striped)
sôgnawigen (it is peaceful, flowing, strong) / **neskigen** (it is noisy, disturbed, troubled)

Shapes:

abagigen (it is flat)
pedegwigen (it is round)
azawaskwigen (it is square)
kwalagwigen (it is concave)
tmiskwigen (it is rectangular)

Colors:

mkwigen (it is red)
askaskwigen (it is green)
mkazawigen (it is black)
wlôwigen (it is blue)
wibgwigen (it is grey)
menôbowigen (it is purple)
wôbigen (it is white)
pegwigen (it is brown)