

Michif Verb Rummy

The purpose of this game is to have fun and learn about how some Michif verbs are “put together”. It is very much like gin rummy except that there are only “runs”. (There are no threes or fours of a kind!)

It is good for 3-4 pairs of players to work as teams, but 3-4 individuals could play it as well.

Each team or member is dealt seven cards; the rest of the pack is placed in a pile face down in the middle of the table with one card dealt face up. Using the verb chart as a guide (for beginners), each team or member has the opportunity to put down short complete sentences that they “build” into “runs”.

Before the game starts, if someone notices that the sentence or the verb in the sentence isn’t formed correctly, then the team or member with the incorrect “run” simply returns the cards to their hand. There is no penalty at this point in the game. However, if a member or team puts down an incorrect “run” during the game, they must return the cards to their hand and immediately discard the card that they had just picked up. They effectively lose their turn, and the next team or member gets to play.

Teams or members can pick up a card from the central “unknown” pile, or if they can use it immediately to make a sentence from the discard pile. They can even pick one that is under others in the discard pile. However, if they do that they must also take ALL the others that are on top of it as well! (This isn’t as bad an idea as it sounds, though! The more cards you have the more runs you can make and the higher the score that can be achieved.)

The game is set up so that there are 11 sets of complete questions. Eight consist of five cards and three consist of four cards. There also two blank “Nanabush” or wild cards. There are three, four and even some two-card possibilities as well. Please look at the verb charts.

Other teams having the appropriate card can complete two-card, three-card and four-card sentences. For example, the two-card “run”

ki + mitsho +n (“you eat”) could be completed by inserting the helping verb **nohtee** (“want”) between **ki** and **mitsho**, making the one-verb sentence **ki+nohtee-mitshon** (“You want to eat”). Or, you could add **chiiñ** after the verb to make the question: **Ki-mitshon chiiñ?** (“Are you eating?”). The five-card option would add both **nohtee** and **chiiñ**, making the question: **Ki-nohtee+mitshon chiiñ?** (“Do you want to eat?”).

When a team successfully uses up all of their cards the game is over. Points are awarded as follows: 1 point for each card successfully used in a sentence, and -1 point for each card remaining in the team’s hand. It is therefore possible for a team to receive negative points.

Note: Instructors/developers can make additions and changes the following list of prefixes, suffixes and verb cores depending on what verb conjugations to be practiced.

<u>Prefixes</u>	<u>Verb Cores</u> 1 each		
Ni- “I” (& we excl.) 4	-wanishikaa-	“wake up”	-meetawee- “play”
Ki- “You” (& we incl.)4	-wiiki-	“reside”	-nipaa- “sleep”
<u>Suffixes</u>	-mitsho-	“eat”	-nakamoo- “sing”
-n for “I” & “You”(sing.) 8	-nimii-	“dance”	-niipawi- “stand up”
-w for “s/he” 3	-weepahikee-	“sweep”	-moochikishi- “have fun”
			-wanihkee- “forget”
-nohtee- 11	chiiñ 11	Tii zhañ 2	

Patterns

Ni- (verb) –n
 Ni- (verb) –n chiiñ?
 Ni- (helping verb)+(verb) –n
 Ni-(helping verb)+(verb) –n chiiñ?

Ki- (verb) –n
 Ki- (verb) –n chiiñ?
 Ki- (helping verb)+(verb) –n
 Ki-(helping verb)+(verb) –n chiiñ?

(verb) –w
 (verb) –w chiiñ
 (helping verb) + (verb)
 (helping verb)+(verb) –w chiiñ?

Example Sentences

Ni-mitshon I eat.
 Ni-mitshon chiiñ? Am I eating?
 Ni-nohtee-mitshon. I want to eat.
 Ni-nohtee-mitshon chiiñ? Do I want to eat?

Ki-mitshon You eat.
 Ki-mitshon chiiñ? Are you eating?
 Ki-nohtee-mitshon. You want to eat.
 Ki-nohtee-mitshon chiiñ? Do you want to eat?

Mitshow S/he eats.
 Mitshow chiiñ? Is s/he eating?
 Nohtee-mitshow. S/he wants to eat.
 Nohtee-mitshow chiiñ? Does s/he want to eat?

Note: Verb stems ending in “ee” change to “aa” for I, you (singular), we (both inclusive and exclusive) and you (plural).

Partial Chart for Verbs with Animate Subjects and no Object (VAI and VAIt)

<i>Michif</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Pronom. Prefixes <ni-> & <ki> for d, l, m, n, w & y; <d-> and <kit> for vowels</i>	<i>(Helping Verb (s) +) VAI and VAIt Verb Cores</i>	<i>Pronom. Suffixes</i>
niiya	I	ni-; d-		-n
kiiya	you	ki-*; kit		-n
wiiya	s/he; AN it	----		-w
wiiya 2	2 nd , 3 rd , " etc. s/he; "animate" it	----		-yiwa
niiyanaan	we, Exclusive	ni-; d-		-naan
kiiyanaan	we, inclusive	ki-*; kit		-naan
kiiyawaaw	you, plural	ki-*; kit		- naawaaw
wiiyawaaw	they	----		-wak
wiiyawaaw 2	2 nd , 3 rd , " etc. "animate" they	----		-yiwa