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Carnegie Mellon University Language Technologies Institute


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## MIDDLE <br> MIDDLE TENNESSEE


 "UTXET VERITASS

## The Fourteenth

 AnmualMorth American Gomputational Linguistics

Open
Gompetition
2020
www.nacloweb.org

## Open Round <br> January 23,2020

Serious language puzzles that are surprisingly fun!
-Will Shortz, Crossword editor of The New York Times and Puzzlemaster for NPR


Welcome to the fourteenth annual North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition! You are among the few, the brave, and the brilliant to participate in this unique event. In order to be completely fair to all participants across North America, we need you to read, understand, and follow these rules completely.

## Rules

1.The contest is three hours long and includes eight problems, labeled A to H .
2.Follow the facilitators' instructions carefully.
3.If you want clarification on any of the problems, talk to a facilitator. The facilitator will consult with the jury before answering.
4. You may not discuss the problems with anyone except as described in items $3 \& 11$.
5.Each problem is worth a specified number of points, with a total of 100 points. In this year's open round, no points will be given for explanations. Instead, make sure to fill out all the answer boxes properly.
6. All your answers should be in the Answer Sheets at the end of this booklet. ONLY THE ANSWER SHEETS WILL BE GRADED.
7.Write your name and registration number on each page of the Answer Sheets. Here is an example: Jessica Sawyer \#850
8.The top $10 \%$ of participants (approximately) across the United States and Anglophone Canada in the open round will be invited to the second round.
9.Some problems are more difficult than others, but all can be solved using ordinary reasoning and some basic analytic skills. You don't need to know anything about linguistics or about these languages in order to solve them.
10. If we have done our job well, very few people will solve all these problems completely in the time allotted. So, don't be discouraged if you don't finish everything.
11. DO NOT DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN POSTED ONLINE! THIS MAY BE A COUPLE OF MONTHS AFTER THE END OF THE CONTEST.

Oh, and have fun!

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## (A) Let That Mongo! (1/2) [5 Points]

Mongo (also known as Nkundo or Lomongo) is a Bantu language spoken by the Mongo Peoples of the central Democratic Republic of the Congo. Presently, there are around 400,000 native speakers spread out over a large area around the Congo River.

Below is a table showing a few verb conjugations in Lomongo. [ $\widehat{d} 3]$ is a consonant pronounced like the [j] in the English word jump. [ n ] is a consonant pronounced like the [ng] at the end of the English word sing.

| Imperative | 2nd singular | 3rd singular | 3rd plural | English |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| bota | oota | aota | baota | 'beget' (to give rise to; to bring about) |
| kamba | okamba | akamba | bakamba | 'work' |
| ime $\widehat{\text { d }}$ a | wimeḑ3a | imeḑa | bimed3a | 'consent' |
| usa | wusa | usa | busa | 'throw' |
| bata | oata | aata | baata | 'get' |
| हna | wena | \&na | bena | 'see' |
| isa | wisa | isa | bisa | 'hide' |
| dzila | odzila | adzila | badzila | 'wait' |
| ina | wina | ina | bina | 'hate' |
| bina | oina | aina | baina | 'dance' |
| asa | wasa | asa | basa | 'search' |
| sanga | osanga | asanga | basanga | 'say' |

## (A) Let That Mongo! (2/2)

A1. Explain how these Mongo verb forms work by filling in the blanks below in the Answer Sheets.
Each Mongo verb has a root form. The 4 verb forms shown here are formed by adding a prefix before the root form. The prefix for the imperative form is $\qquad$ (1) $\qquad$ , the prefix for the $2 n d$ singular form is $\qquad$ (2) $\qquad$ the prefix for the 3rd singular form is $\qquad$ , and the prefix for the 3rd plural form is $\qquad$ (4) $\qquad$ . (Note that some of these prefixes may be empty; to note this, write the symbol $\varnothing$-).

However, we are not done yet: to get the final verb form, we must apply some sound change rules. The relevant rules are:

1. If there are two $\qquad$ (5) $\qquad$ , in a row, delete $\qquad$ (6) $\qquad$ .
2. Delete $\qquad$ (7) when it appears between two $\qquad$ (8) $\qquad$ .
3. Change $\qquad$ (9) $\qquad$ to $\qquad$ (10) $\qquad$ when it appears before a $\qquad$ (11) $\qquad$ .

There is one final wrinkle: the order that these rules are applied in matters. The rules must be applied in this order: First apply rule $\qquad$ (12) $\qquad$ , then rule $\qquad$ (13) $\qquad$ then rule $\qquad$ (14) $\qquad$ .

A2. Fill in the blanks (1-19) in the table below. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.

| Imperative | 2nd singular | 3rd singular | 3rd plural | English |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| bakisa | $(1)$ | $(2)$ | $(3)$ | 'add' |
| $(4)$ | wanda | $(5)$ | $(6)$ | 'begin' |
| solola | $(7)$ | basolola | 'chat' |  |
| ponama | $(9)$ | aponama | $(10)$ | 'elect' |
| $(11)$ | oowa | $(12)$ | $(13)$ | 'cure' |
| $(14)$ | $(15)$ | aalusa | $(16)$ | 'turn' |
| longa | $(17)$ | $(19)$ | 'win' |  |

## (B) A Cat in a Hat (1/2) [15 Points]

Chintang (Chintang: छिन्ताङ् Chintān / Chhintang) is an eastern Kiranti language spoken by 5,000 to 6,000 people in Chhintang and Ahale municipalities of Dhankuta District, Koshi Zone, Nepal. Its dialects are Mulgaun and Sambhugaon. A few of the characters used to represent the words in this language may be unfamiliar. ? is a glottal stop, the sound heard in the middle of "uh-oh." n is the sound made by the $n g$ in sing. $\wedge$ is the sound made by the $o$ in won.

Below are 16 sentences in Chintang written in the International Phonetic Alphabet, and their unordered English translations:

1. cuwa uthurumbe? yunno
2. appa chintanbe? yunno
3. sencak sie
4. wapana topi wadanse
5. kok thuktanse
6. ram harinin khonno
7. k^p kedadanse
8. tanbe? topi yunno
9. menwaya sencak sede
10. tawelbe? uhon yunno
11. anambana cuwa thunno
12. mechacha khadanse
13. jogena citthi hakte
14. anamma imse
15. hana bajar akhapno
16. mechachana wa khedonse
a. There is a hole in the towel.
b. The woman has gone away.
c. The rice has been cooked.
d. There is a hat on the head.
e. My mother-in-law slept.
f. You go to the market.
g. The water is in his mouth.
h. Joge sent a letter.
i. The mouse died.
j. The woman has bought a chicken.
k. The cup has been broken.
I. My father is in Chintang.
m. The rooster has put on a hat.
n. A cat killed a mouse.
o. Ram plays with Hari.
p. My father-in-law drinks water.

B1. Match the Chintang sentences (1-16) with their corresponding English translation (a-p). Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.

## (B) A Cat in a Hat (2/2)

B2. Translate the following into Chintang. Note that some English words may be translated as part of a Chintang word. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.
a. There is a cat in a hat.
b. Joge plays with a chicken.
c. My hen is in the market.
d. parent-in-law

B3. Translate the following into English. Your answers should be structurally similar to the English translations given in the data. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.
a. athurumbe? kok yunno
b. appa khade
c. anamma ammanin yunno

## （C）Set in Stone（1／2）［20 Points］

Old Persian，one of the two attested Old Iranian languages，was spoken from 600－300 BCE in Achaemenid Persia．Old Persian was written in cuneiform，a writing system produced using wedge－shaped marks in clay tablets inherited from the Sumerian Empire．

Below are some words written in Old Persian Cuneiform．On the next page are their transcriptions and English translations in no particular order．Note that one word can be written in two different ways in cuneiform！

1．神


4．$\langle 人\langle\overline{Y Y} \widehat{Y}$



8．信
9．TYY㖉 NYKK
10.


12．
13．$r\left\langle\left\langle\overline{Y Y} \widehat{Y Y}{ }^{2}\right|\right.$

14．
15．人 人 人

17．勾检企
18．TYY Y MYY TYY
19．欲 YY気倝 K
20.
21.

22．$\langle\backslash\rangle\rangle\langle\rangle\rangle$
23.

24．点俭俭



## (C) Set in Stone (2/2)

Here are the transcriptions and English translations of the words on the previous page in no particular order. Note that $y$, š and č are consonants; $\bar{a}, \bar{i}$, and $\bar{u}$ are long versions of their corresponding vowels $(\mathrm{a}, \mathrm{i}$, and u$)$. Capitalization in transcription is not reflected in the Persian script.

| A. paruvam | previously | N. Kuruš | Cyrus |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| B. hadugā | record, statue | O. asmā | sky |
| C. āyadana | sanctuary | P. Bagadāta | (a male name) $^{1}$ |
| D. dāruv | wood | Q. Hiduš | India |
| E. duruxta | lie | R. hača | from |
| F. Čišpaiš | Tespes (a king of Persia) | S. bājim | tribute, toll |
| G. saiymam | silver | T. Arabāya | Arabia |
| H. bar | to bear | U. Haraiva | (a female name) |
| I. Skudra | Thrace | V. daiva | false god |
| J. baga | god | W. Ūvja | Elam (a place name) |
| K. pasāva | after | X. hakaramčīy | once |
| L. Ākaufačiyā | a tribe of southeastern Iran | Y. Dārayauš | Darius (a king of Persia) |
| M. radīy | because of |  |  |

C1. Determine the correct correspondences. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.
${ }^{1}$ Equivalent to the Greek name Theodoros ("God-given")
n
(a) c

## (D) Pay Attention (1/2) [10 Points]

The meaning of a word depends on its context. For example, in the sentence "The farmer seeded the field with corn," the word seeded means "added seeds to." However, in the sentence "The chef seeded the tomato," the word seeded means "took seeds away from."

If you were building a model of language, how would you get it to to recognize the way that a word's meaning depends on context? One popular technique for achieving this goal is a mechanism called attention. In the way that attention is implemented in current state-of-the-art models of language, the model has a large number of attention heads, each of which is denoted by a pair of numbers (for examples, 8-10). When the model processes a sentence, for every pair of words in the sentence, each head calculates the "relatedness" of the two words.

The one wrinkle is that we do not know what exactly "relatedness" should mean, so instead of telling the model how to define "relatedness," we let the model learn its own definition of relatedness. Recently, computer scientists have started to analyze what these attention heads have learned, and this analysis shows that they often reflect linguistic information! For example, here's the output of one attention head (head 8-10) when we feed the following sentence into BERT, which is one of the most popular models that uses attention heads:

Example: $I_{1}$ see $_{2} \mathrm{my}_{3}$ sister $_{4}$, but $_{5}$ she $_{6}$ can't $_{7}$ see $_{8}$ me $_{9}$ because $_{10}$ she $_{11}$ is $_{12}$ reading $_{13}$ a $_{14}$ linguistics ${ }_{15}$ book $_{16}$.

Output: $4 \rightarrow 2,9 \rightarrow 8,16 \rightarrow 13$

This output signifies that head 8-10 connects word \#4 (sister) to word \#2 (see), as well as word \#9 (me) to word \#8 (see) and word \#16 (book) to word \#13 (reading). If you consider what all of those pairs of words have in common, you'll see that each one is a verb and its direct object: sister is the direct object of the first instance of see, me is the direct object of the second instance of see, and book is the direct object of reading. It appears that head 8-10 has learn to connect verbs to their objects! (Note that these activations are directional; for example, word \#2 is not connected to word \#4.)

Why is this information useful? If we go back to the example with the verb seed, this sort of information can help the model figure out which version of seed is being used: If its direct object is something like field or lawn, then it probably means "to add seeds to;" if its direct object is something like tomato or watermelon, then it probably means "to take seeds away from." Of course, one sentence isn't enough to draw strong conclusions. Instead, computer scientists tend to use a corpus, or a database, of example sentences to find patterns in the data. On the next page is a small corpus, the NacloWeb Corpus ${ }^{1}$, which has 7 sentences.
${ }^{1}$ Some sentences derived from data in the English Web Treebank.


## (D) Pay Attention (2/2)

## NacloWeb Corpus

1. My $y_{1}$ experience $_{2}$ with $_{3}$ Gelda $_{4}{ }_{5}$ S $_{5}$ ouse $_{6}$ of Gelbelgarg $_{8}$ has $_{9}$ been $_{10}$ extremely ${ }_{11}$ wonderful $_{12}$
2. We ${ }_{1}$ use $_{2}$ Google $_{3}$ 's $_{4}$ models $_{5}$ to $_{6}$ delve $_{7}$ into $_{8}$ the $_{9}$ inner $_{10}$ workings $_{11}$ of ${ }_{12}$ language $_{13}$
3. At this $_{2}$ corporation $_{3}$ 's $_{4}$ meeting $_{5}$ people $_{6}$ are $_{7}$ concerned $_{8}$ about $_{9}$ the ${ }_{10}$ company $_{11}$ 's s $_{12}$ plans $_{13}$
4. In July $_{2}$ we $_{3}$ will $_{4}$ interview $_{5}$ the $_{6}$ candidate $_{7}$ and $_{8}$ review ${ }_{9}$ her $_{10}$ resumé $_{11}$ again $_{12}$
5. The ${ }_{1}$ platypus $_{2}$ is $_{3} a_{4}$ strange $_{5}$ animal, $_{6}$ with $_{7}$ its $_{8}$ eggs $_{9}$ and ${ }_{10}$ its it $_{11}$ webbed $_{12}$ feet $_{13}$
6. $I_{1}$ think $_{2}$ that $_{3}$ although $4_{4}$ my $_{5} \mathrm{NACLO}_{6}$ exam $_{7}$ was $_{8}{\text { difficult, }{ }_{9} \text { it }}_{10}$ was $_{11} a_{12}$ lot $_{13}$ of $f_{14}$ fun $_{15}$
7. Linguistics ${ }_{1}$ is $_{2} a_{3}$ beautiful $_{4}$ science $_{5}$ that $_{6}$ provides $_{7}$ interdisciplinary ${ }_{8}$ insight $_{9}$ into $_{10}$ the $_{11}$ human $_{12}$ experience ${ }_{13}$

Note that the NacloWeb corpus treats the possessive clitic 's as a separate word. (So in Sentence \#1, word \#5 is 's and word \#6 is House.)

In our experiment on the NacloWeb Corpus, we ran each of the corpus' sentences through BERT and recorded the outputs of four attention heads (8-11, 7-6, 9-6, and 5-4). Unfortunately, due to some extremely sloppy experimental procedure, we don't remember which order we ran them through the model; in addition, we forgot to record some data. Your job is to fill in the blanks! Note that some blanks may have more than one connection, and some may have none at all.

| Sentence | $\mathbf{8 - 1 1}$ | $7-6$ | $9-6$ | $\mathbf{5 - 4}$ |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Sentence A | $12 \rightarrow 13$ | $5 \rightarrow 6$ | $14 \rightarrow 13$ | $10 \rightarrow 6$ |
| Sentence B | (a) | $8 \rightarrow 9,11 \rightarrow 12$ | None | $8 \rightarrow 2,11 \rightarrow 2$ |
| Sentence C | $2 \rightarrow 3,10 \rightarrow 11$ | $4 \rightarrow 5,12 \rightarrow 13$ | (b) | $11 \rightarrow 3$ |
| Sentence D | (c) | $4 \rightarrow 5$ | $12 \rightarrow 13$ | None |
| Sentence E | $3 \rightarrow 4,11 \rightarrow 12$ | (d) | $10 \rightarrow 12$ | $5 \rightarrow 1$ |
| Sentence F | (e) | $1 \rightarrow 2,5 \rightarrow 6$ | $7 \rightarrow 8$ | None |
| Sentence G | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) |

D1. Identify sentences A-G. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.
D2. Fill in the missing data, labelled (a) to (i), in the table above. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.

## (E) Breton Numbers (1/1) [15 Points]

Breton is a language spoken by approximately 200,000 people in Brittany, France. Part of the Celtic family of the Indo-European languages, it is distantly related to English, as well as other European languages such as French and Russian.

Below are some equations in Breton:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { trizek }+ \text { daouzek }=\text { pemp warn ugent } \\
& \text { unan ha pevar-ugent } \div \text { nav }=\text { nav } \\
& \text { pevar ha tri-ugent }- \text { ugent }=\text { pevar ha daou-ugent } \\
& \text { seizh warn ugent }+ \text { pevarzek }=\text { unan ha daou-ugent } \\
& \text { daou } \times \text { seizh }=\text { pevarzek } \\
& \text { kant } \div \text { daou }=\text { hanter kant } \\
& \text { nav } \times \text { c'hwec'h }^{\prime}=\text { pevar ha hanter kant } \\
& \text { c'hwec'h ha tri-ugent } \div \text { tri }=\text { daou warn ugent } \\
& \text { c'hwezek } \times \text { c'hwec'h }^{\prime}=\text { c'hwezek ha pevar-ugent } \\
& \text { daouzek } \times \text { pemp }=\text { tri-ugent }
\end{aligned}
$$

E1. In the Answer Sheets, fill in the gaps in the following equations.
a. pevar-ugent $\div$ pemp $=$ $\qquad$
b. pemp ha hanter kant $\boldsymbol{-}$ daouzek $=$ $\qquad$
c. nav warn ugent + $\qquad$ = tri ha daou-ugent
d. kant $\div$ $\qquad$ $=$ pemp

E2. As well as an interesting numbering system, Breton has an unusual method of forming the plurals of some nouns, which is partly connected to the numbering system. Here are three plural nouns in Breton: which of them means "(one person's) eyes"? Record your answer in the Answer Sheets.
(a) elerc'h
(b) daoulagad
(c) perennoù

E3. An "irregular" number in the Breton system is triwec'h. It represents a number between 10 and 20. Which one? Record your answer in the Answer Sheets.

## (F) Coming into Focus (1/2) [15 Points]

Paiwan is an Austronesian language spoken by around 66,000 people in southern Taiwan. One of the major components of Paiwan sentence structure is "focus," which marks a new piece of information conveyed by the sentence. In English, we might represent this through phrasing, such as in sentence "It is the dog which the man likes". In this example, the dog is focused.

Below are some sentences in Paiwan with their English translations. Sentence elements in italics are focused.

| Paiwan | English |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1. kanan nua uqatay tua kuka a quma nua tsakaw | The man eats the chicken in the thief's field. |
| 2. tjmalaw tua vavuy a kuvatu | My dog angers the pig. |
| 3. djavisen nua tsemas a kukama | The spirit snatches my father. |
| 4. sitarang nua uqatay a vuluq | The man protects (it) with the spear. |
| 5. tjalawen nua suvavuy i tua umaq a atak nua vavaian | Your pig angers the woman's child in the house. |
| 6. kman tua kuka a tsemas | The spirit eats the chicken. |
| 7. djavisan nua pulingaw tua vuluq a gadu | The shaman snatches the spear in the mountain. |
| 8. langedaen nua sivitay a qaya-qayam | The soldier hears the bird. |

F1. How would you say these sentences in Paiwan? Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.
a. The man protects the field with the dog.
b. Your shaman angers my bird in the spirit's mountain.
c. The woman snatches the pig.

## (F) Coming into Focus (2/2)

Now look at the following question-answer dialogues. The first answer has been translated for you.

| Question | Answer |
| :--- | :--- |
| 9. inu a tmarang a tsakaw? | tmarang a tsakaw i tua quma <br> The thief who protects (it) is in the field. <br> 10. anema a sitjalaw nua sukama tua vatu? <br> 11. anema a sudjavisen? <br> 12. inu a kanan nua uqatay? |
| sitjalaw nua kukama tua vatu a kuvuluq |  |
| kudjavisen a qaya-qayam nua vavaian |  |
| kanan nua uqatay a gadu |  |

F2. Based on these examples, translate the following responses into English, underlining focused elements, and saying what questions (in Paiwan) could have prompted them. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.
a. susitarang tua qaya-qayam nua pulingaw a tsemas
b. kanen nua uqatay a vavuy i tua gadu
c. kutjalawan tua suvatu a kuquma
(The letter pairs $d j$ and $t j$ each represent a single sound. The word langedaen in sentence 8 is actually langedain, but this was edited for the sake of simplicity.)

## (G) Password Confusion (1/3) [10 Points]

Mary, Larry, and Harry are three friends sharing an apartment. Unfortunately, their nosy neighbor Perry is always trying to use their wifi, so Mary changes their wifi password frequently to thwart Perry's efforts. Whenever she changes the password, Mary texts the new password to Larry and Harry.

One day, Mary opens their wifi bill and can tell from the exorbitant charge that Perry has been using it again. Since this can only mean that Perry is somehow reading their texts, Mary hires a company called the Rearranging Expressions Organization (or REOrganization for short) to give her advice on making her messages more secure. REOrganization advises her to send messages that can be decoded by the following 2-step process:

1. Convert the sentence to a question;
2. Read the first letter of each word in the question to yield the password.

As it turns out, Larry and Harry are not very inquisitive people, so they have never encountered questions before. Therefore, Mary gives them the following example messages to show how the system works:

| Text message | Text message converted to <br> a question | Decoded password |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Deciphering each Alaskan license <br> plate abbreviation is lovely. | Is deciphering each Alaskan license <br> plate abbreviation lovely? | IDEAL PAL |
| A new German exchange rate <br> beneath a newspaper did assist <br> national ambassadors. | Did a new German exchange rate <br> beneath a newspaper assist <br> national ambassadors? | DANGER BANANA |
| Every industrial geographer hired <br> through your legal action was <br> yelling enthusiastic random stuff. | Was every industrial geographer <br> hired through your legal action <br> yelling enthusiastic random stuff? | WEIGHTY LAYERS |

Why have this extra step of forming a question? The idea is that the initial letters from the original text messages can also spell two-word chunks (DEAL PAIL, ANGER BANDANA, and EIGHTY LAWYERS), so perhaps Perry will be thrown off the scent by these distractor phrases.

## (G) Password Confusion (2/3)

G1. Larry and Harry both seemed to understand the examples Mary showed them, so she began using this system to encode the new passwords. It went swimmingly for the first few weeks, but then Larry and Harry occasionally began to get the password wrong. Below are all of the messages Mary sent out, along with the passwords that her roommates extracted from the messages. A few cells of the table have been left blank; in the Answer Sheets, fill them in.

| Text message | Distractor password | Larry's password guess | Harry's password guess | Correct <br> password |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Uplifting tales told extremely rapidly in New Guinea and Romania may reveal each storyteller's trade secrets. | UTTERING ARMRESTS | MUTTERING ARRESTS | MUTTERING ARRESTS | MUTTERING ARRESTS |
| Lively orangutans using discarded branches as tambourines can harmonize. | LOUD <br> BATCH | CLOUD <br> BATH | CLOUD BATH | CLOUD BATH |
| Horned owls should endure every modern orange tree iguanas can offer next summer. | HOSE <br> EMOTICONS | CHOSE EMOTIONS | SHOE <br> EMOTICONS | SHOE <br> EMOTICONS |
| Every loud electronic creature that interesting odd numbers should provide at reunions should escape. | ELECTION SPARSE | SELECTION SPARE | SELECTION PARSE | SELECTION SPARE |
| Alligators that can launch airplanes may prosper. | AT CLAMP | MAT CLAP | CAT LAMP | MAT CLAP |
| Unions should identify novel geometric systems that one may possibly seek. | USING STOMPS | MUSING STOPS | SUING STOMPS | SUING STOMPS |
| Happy animals that will investigate telescopes can hop. | HAT WITCH |  |  |  |
| All North Dakotan deviled eggs should seem especially radiant today. | AND DESSERT |  |  |  |
| Aardvarks may publicly label each spanning tree algorithm talented unicorns should enthusiastically see. | AMPLE STATUSES |  |  |  |
| Anyone rabbits might surprise has elicited a response that has satisfied. | ARMS HEARTHS |  |  |  |

## (G) Password Confusion (3/3)

Mary does not want all this confusion about the password scheme, so she switches to a different encoding scheme: She will still send out a message, but her roommates will now need to negate the message so that it means the opposite of its original meaning, rather than turning it into a question as previously. Shockingly, Larry and Harry are such positive people that they have never encountered negation before, so Mary sends them the following examples of how the encoding scheme works:

| Text message | Negated text message | Decoded password |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Charming refrigerator operators will <br> waltz into Greenland. | Charming refrigerator operators will not <br> waltz into Greenland. | CROWN WIG |
| Quiet utilitarians in crowded Kenyan <br> city halls are talking. | Quiet utilitarians in crowded Kenyan <br> city halls are not talking. | QUICK CHANT |

G2. Larry and Harry understood these examples just fine, but once again Mary found them making some errors in future weeks when she sent out the actual encoded passwords! The following table contains some of the messages Mary sent out; in the Answer Sheets, fill in the blank spaces.

| Text message | Distractor <br> password | Larry's password <br> guess | Harry's password <br> guess | Correct <br> password |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Denmark's emptiest factory is <br> exporting some pasta Russia is cooking <br> each Saturday. | DEFIES <br> PRICES |  |  |  |
| Unions Nepal is forbidding over recent <br> major events during breakfast are <br> keeping exceptional records. | UNIFORMED <br> BAKER |  |  |  |

At this point, Mary decides to simply tell Larry and Harry the passwords in person.

Note: The problem that these three friends face is that the examples Mary sent out were consistent with multiple possible rules. In linguistics, this type of problem is called the poverty of the stimulus, and it is a central topic in language acquisition: How is it that all children with English-speaking parents learn essentially the same version of English, even though the sentences that they hear are consistent with many possible rules for defining the structure of the language?

## (H) The Idalion Tablet (1/1) [10 Points]

In 1850, a farmer from a village in Cyprus discovered a tablet dating from the 5th century BCE, which recorded an endowment from the city of Idalion to a family of physicians. Now known as the Idalion Tablet, this document was of enormous importance for the decipherment of the Cypriot script in which it was written. The tablet is in the Cypriot dialect of ancient Greek.

Here is a portion of the inscription, with a transliteration below:
ote ta ptolin edalion kateworgon madoi kas ketiēwes i tōi philokuprōn wetei tō onasagorau basileus stasikupros kas ha ptolis edaliēwes anōgon onasilon tononasikuprōn toniyatēran kas tos kasignētos iyasthai tos athrōpos tos i tai makhai ikhimamenos aneu misthōn

H1. Here are four other words from the Idalion Tablet. Write them in the Cypriot script. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.
helei athanas kathethiyan dowenai

H2. Here is the English translation of this section of the text:
"When the Medes and the Kitions subdued the city of Idalion in the year of Philokypros son of Onasagoras, King Stasikypros and the city of the Idalians instructed Onasion the son of Onasikypros the physician, and his brothers, to heal the men wounded in the battle, without a fee."

What are the Cypriot Greek for (a) and, (b) king, (c) instructed? Write them in the Cypriot script. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.
n $\rightarrow$ a $\rightarrow$ (1) 0

The Merth American Gemputational Lincuistics Olympiad WWWhaclowebore

## Contest Booklet



Name: $\qquad$
Contest Site: $\qquad$
Site ID: $\qquad$
City, State: $\qquad$
Grade: $\qquad$

Please also make sure to write your registration number and your name on each page that you turn in.

SIGN YOUR NAME BELOW TO CONFIRM THAT YOU WILL NOT DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS WITH ANYONE UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY POSTED ON THE NACLO WEBSITE IN APRIL.

Signature: $\qquad$

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## Demographics

Gender: $\square$ Female $\square$ Male $\square$ Other: $\qquad$ $\square$ Prefer not to respond

If you are competing for the US, please fill out this box:
Do you consider yourself Hispanic/Latinx?
$\square$ Yes
$\square$ No
$\square$ Prefer not to respond
Which of the following categories describe you? Select all that apply.
$\square$ American Indian or Alaskan Native
$\square$ Asian
$\square$ Black or African American
$\square$ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
$\square$ White
$\square$ Other: $\qquad$
$\square$ Prefer not to respond

If you are competing for Canada, please fill out this box:
Which of the following categories describe you?
Select all that apply.
Non-Indigenous
$\square$ Métis
$\square$ First Nations
$\square$ Inuit
$\square$ Other: $\qquad$
Prefer not to respond
Which of the following categories describe you?
Select all that apply
Arab
Black
Chinese
Filipino
Japanese
$\square$ Korean
Latin American
$\square$ South Asian
$\square$ Southeast Asian
$\square$ West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
$\square$ White
Other: $\qquad$
Prefer not to respond

## Answer Sheets (1/7)

## (A) Let That Mongo!

1. 

| $(1)$ |  | $(8)$ |  |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :--- |
| $(2)$ |  | $(9)$ |  |
| $(3)$ |  | $(10)$ |  |
| $(4)$ |  | $(11)$ |  |
| $(5)$ |  | $(12)$ |  |
| $(6)$ |  | $(13)$ |  |
| $(7)$ |  |  |  |


| Imperative | 2nd singular | 3rd singular | 3rd plural | English |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| bakisa | $(1)$ | $(2)$ | $(3)$ | 'add' |
| $(4)$ | wanda | $(5)$ | (6) | 'begin' |
| solola | (7) | aponama | (10) | 'chat' |
| ponama | (9) | (12) | (13) | 'cure' |
| $(11)$ | oowa | aalusa | $(15)$ | 'turn' |
| (14) | (17) | $(18)$ | $(19)$ | 'win' |
| longa |  |  |  |  |

## Answer Sheet (2/7)

(B) A Cat in a Hat
1.

1. $\square$
2. 


4. $\square$
5. $\square$
6.


8. $\square$
9.

10.

11.


13.

14.

15.

16.

2. $\square$
b. $\qquad$
c. $\qquad$
d. $\qquad$
3. a. $\square$
b. $\square$
c. $\square$

## Answer Sheets (3/7)

(C) Set in Stone
1.

1. $\square$
2. 


3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8. $\square$
9. $\square$
10. $\square$
11. $\square$
12. $\square$
13. $\square$
14.

15.

16. $\square$
17. $\square$
18. $\square$
19. $\square$
20.

21. $\square$
22. $\square$
23. $\square$
24.

25. $\square$
26. $\square$

## (D) Pay Attention

1. Write one number from 1 to 7 per box:
A

B

C

D $\square$
2. Fill in the blanks:

| Sentence | $8-\mathbf{1 1}$ | $7-6$ | $9-6$ | $5-4$ |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Sentence A | $12 \rightarrow 13$ | $5 \rightarrow 6$ | $14 \rightarrow 13$ | $10 \rightarrow 6$ |
| Sentence B | (a) | $8 \rightarrow 9,11 \rightarrow 12$ | None | $8 \rightarrow 2,11 \rightarrow 2$ |
| Sentence C | $2 \rightarrow 3,10 \rightarrow 11$ | $4 \rightarrow 5,12 \rightarrow 13$ | (b) | $11 \rightarrow 3$ |
| Sentence D | (c) | $4 \rightarrow 5$ | $12 \rightarrow 13$ | None |
| Sentence E | $3 \rightarrow 4,11 \rightarrow 12$ | (d) | $10 \rightarrow 12$ | None |
| Sentence F | (e) | $1 \rightarrow 2,5 \rightarrow 6$ | $7 \rightarrow 8$ | (i) |
| Sentence G | (f) | (g) | (h) |  |

## Answer Sheets (4/7)

(E) Breton Numbers

1. $\square$
b. $\square$
c. $\square$
d. $\qquad$
2. Circle the word:
(a) elerc'h
(b) daoulagad
(c) perennoù
3. Write the number:

(F) Coming into Focus
4. Translate into Paiwan:
a. The man protects the field with the dog.
$\square$
b. Your shaman angers my bird in the spirit's mountain.
c. The woman snatches the pig.


## Answer Sheets (5/7)

(F) Coming into Focus (continued)
2. a. susitarang tua qaya-qayam nua pulingaw a tsemas

English translation of response (underline focused elements):
$\square$
Paiwan question that prompted the response:
$\square$
b. kanen nua uqałay a vavuy i tua gadu

English translation of response (underline focused elements):
$\square$
Paiwan question that prompted the response:
$\square$
c. kutjalawan tua suvatu a kuquma

English translation of response (underline focused elements):
$\square$
Paiwan question that prompted the response:
$\square$

## Answer Sheets (6/7)

## (G) Password Confusion

1. Fill in the blanks:

| Text message | Distractor <br> password | Larry's password <br> guess | Harry's password <br> guess | Correct <br> password |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Happy animals that will investigate <br> telescopes can hop. | HAT WITCH |  |  |  |
| All North Dakotan deviled eggs <br> should seem especially radiant today. | AND DESSERT |  |  |  |
| Aardvarks may publicly label <br> each spanning tree algorithm talented <br> unicorns should enthusiastically see. | AMPLE <br> STATUSES |  |  |  |
| Anyone rabbits might surprise has elic- | ARMS <br> Ated a response that has satisfied. | HEARTHS |  |  |

2. Fill in the blanks:

| Text message | Distractor <br> password | Larry's password <br> guess | Harry's password <br> guess | Correct <br> password |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Denmark's emptiest factory is <br> exporting some pasta Russia is cooking <br> each Saturday. | DEFIES <br> PRICES |  |  |  |
| Unions Nepal is forbidding over recent <br> major events during breakfast are <br> keeping exceptional records. | UNIFORMED <br> BAKER |  |  |  |

## Answer Sheets (7/7)

(H) The Idalion Tablet

1. Write in the Cypriot script:

2. Write in the Cypriot script:
(a) and $\square$
(b) king $\square$
(c) instructed $\square$
