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Carnegie Mellon University Language Technologies Institute











The Fourteenth Annual North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition 2020 www.nacloweb.org

# Open Round January 23, 2020

Serious language puzzles that are surprisingly fun!

-Will Shortz, Crossword editor of The New York Times and Puzzlemaster for NPR

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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.  $[d_3]$  is a consonant pronounced like the [j] in the English word *jump*. [ŋ] 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'
imed͡ʒa	wimed͡ʒa	imed͡ʒa	bimedīja	'consent'
usa	wusa	usa	busa	'throw'
bata	oata	aata	baata	'get'
ะทล	พะทล	ะทล	bɛna	'see'
isa	wisa	isa	bisa	'hide'
d͡ʒila	od͡ʒila	ad͡ʒila	bad͡ʒila	'wait'
ina	wina	ina	bina	'hate'
bina	oina	aina	baina	'dance'
asa	wasa	asa	basa	'search'
saŋga	osaŋga	asaŋga	basaŋga	'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 (1), the prefix for the 2nd singular form is (2), the prefix for the 3rd singular form is (3), and the prefix for the 3rd plural form is (4). (Note that some of these prefixes may be empty; to note this, write the symbol  $\emptyset$ -).

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 \_\_\_\_(5)\_\_\_, in a row, delete \_\_\_\_(6)\_\_\_.
- 2. Delete \_\_\_\_(7) \_\_\_\_ when it appears between two \_\_\_\_(8) \_\_\_\_.
- 3. Change \_\_\_\_(9) \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_(10) \_\_\_\_ when it appears before a \_\_\_\_(11) \_\_\_\_.

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 \_\_\_\_(12)\_\_\_, then rule \_\_\_\_(13)\_\_\_, then rule \_\_\_\_(14)\_\_\_.

Imperative	2nd singular	3rd singular	3rd plural	English
bakisa	(1)	(2)	(3)	'add'
(4)	wanda	(5)	(6)	'begin'
solola	(7)	(8)	basolola	'chat'
ponama	(9)	aponama	(10)	'elect'
(11)	oowa	(12)	(13)	'cure'
(14)	(15)	aalusa	(16)	'turn'
Іолда	(17)	(18)	(19)	'win'

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



# (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." ŋ is the sound made by the *ng* in *sing*. A 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? yuŋno
- 2. appa chintaŋbe? yuŋno
- 3. sencak sie
- 4. wapaŋa topi wadaŋse
- 5. kok thuktaŋse
- 6. ram harin<del>i</del>ŋ khoŋno
- 7. knp kedadanse
- 8. taŋbe? topi yuŋno
- 9. menwaŋa sencak sede
- 10. tawelbe? uhoŋ yuŋno
- 11. anambaŋa cuwa thuŋno
- 12. mechacha khadaŋse
- 13. jogena citthi hakte
- 14. anamma imse
- 15. hana bajar akha?no
- 16. mechachaŋa wa khedoŋse

- 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.

a , c , l ,

### (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 yuŋno
- b. appa khade
- c. anamma ammaniŋ yuŋno



# (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.		14.	FI TTT+ <e+ivi< th=""></e+ivi<>
2.	(x) ff (EI (fr K)	15.	FI <ii-< td=""></ii-<>
3.	(x) (E) (TT (II) TTT	16.	1≥ <del>1</del> 7 1< ►111 ►11
4.	(i) TT TT	17.	
5.	<ey <<="">&gt; &lt;&lt; &gt;&gt; &lt;&lt; &gt;&gt; &lt;&lt; &gt;&gt; &lt;&lt; &gt;&gt; &lt;&lt; &gt;&gt; <!-- -->&gt;</ey>	18.	
6.	ग गा झ १५ ४ ग ४।	19.	
7.		20.	全市市大
8.	医们们下日	21.	₩
9.		22.	<1 <17 - « <17 «

- 10. 《汉王节王
- <sup>11.</sup> Tr # & # # &
- 12. TT TT « (TT IE
- <sup>13.</sup> →≪ T TT FII

23. 美州 (怀上上)

- 25. 《作出州市许修
- 26. TTY K TT K



### (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 (a, i, and u). Capitalization in transcription is not reflected in the Persian script.

Α.	paruvam	previously	N.	Kuruš	Cyrus
В.	hadugā	record, statue	0.	asmā	sky
C.	āyadana	sanctuary	Ρ.	Bagadāta	(a male name) <sup>1</sup>
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	Т.	Arabāya	Arabia
Н.	bar	to bear	U.	Haraiva	(a female name)
I.	Skudra	Thrace	V.	daiva	false god
J.	baga	god	W.	Ūvja	Elam (a place name)
К.	pasāva	after	Х.	hakaramčīy	once
L.	Ākaufačiyā	a tribe of southeastern Iran	Υ.	Dārayauš	Darius (a king of Persia)
M.	radīy	because of			

**C1**. Determine the correct correspondences. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.

<sup>1</sup> Equivalent to the Greek name *Theodoros* ("God-given")



# (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<sub>1</sub> see<sub>2</sub> my<sub>3</sub> sister<sub>4</sub>, but<sub>5</sub> she<sub>6</sub> can't<sub>7</sub> see<sub>8</sub> me<sub>9</sub> because<sub>10</sub> she<sub>11</sub> is<sub>12</sub> reading<sub>13</sub> a<sub>14</sub> linguistics<sub>15</sub> book<sub>16</sub>.

**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<sup>1</sup>, which has 7 sentences.

<sup>1</sup> Some sentences derived from data in the English Web Treebank.



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

#### NacloWeb Corpus

- 1.  $My_1$  experience<sub>2</sub> with<sub>3</sub> Gelda<sub>4</sub> 's<sub>5</sub> House<sub>6</sub> of<sub>7</sub> Gelbelgarg<sub>8</sub> has<sub>9</sub> been<sub>10</sub> extremely<sub>11</sub> wonderful<sub>12</sub>
- 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<sub>1</sub> this<sub>2</sub> corporation<sub>3</sub> 's<sub>4</sub> meeting<sub>5</sub> people<sub>6</sub> are<sub>7</sub> concerned<sub>8</sub> about<sub>9</sub> the<sub>10</sub> company<sub>11</sub> 's<sub>12</sub> plans<sub>13</sub>
- 4.  $In_1 July_2 we_3 will_4 interview_5 the_6 candidate_7 and_8 review_9 her_{10} resumé_{11} again_{12}$
- 5. The<sub>1</sub> platypus<sub>2</sub> is<sub>3</sub>  $a_4$  strange<sub>5</sub> animal,<sub>6</sub> with<sub>7</sub> its<sub>8</sub> eggs<sub>9</sub> and<sub>10</sub> its<sub>11</sub> webbed<sub>12</sub> feet<sub>13</sub>
- 6.  $I_1$  think<sub>2</sub> that<sub>3</sub> although<sub>4</sub> my<sub>5</sub> NACLO<sub>6</sub> exam<sub>7</sub> was<sub>8</sub> difficult,<sub>9</sub> it<sub>10</sub> was<sub>11</sub> a<sub>12</sub> lot<sub>13</sub> of<sub>14</sub> fun<sub>15</sub>
- 7. Linguistics<sub>1</sub> is<sub>2</sub>  $a_3$  beautiful<sub>4</sub> science<sub>5</sub> that<sub>6</sub> provides<sub>7</sub> interdisciplinary<sub>8</sub> insight<sub>9</sub> into<sub>10</sub> the<sub>11</sub> human<sub>12</sub> experience<sub>13</sub>

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	8-11	7-6	9-6	5-4
Sentence A	12 → 13	$5 \rightarrow 6$	14 → 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 → 13	None
Sentence E	$3 \rightarrow 4, 11 \rightarrow 12$	(d)	10 → 12	$5 \rightarrow 1$
Sentence F	(e)	$1 \rightarrow 2, 5 \rightarrow 6$	7 → 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:

trizek + daouzek = pemp warn ugent
unan ha pevar-ugent ÷ nav = nav
pevar ha tri-ugent – ugent = pevar ha daou-ugent
seizh warn ugent + pevarzek = unan ha daou-ugent
daou × seizh = pevarzek
kant ÷ daou = hanter kant
nav × c'hwec'h = pevar ha hanter kant
c'hwec'h ha tri-ugent ÷ tri = daou warn ugent
c'hwezek × c'hwec'h = c'hwezek ha pevar-ugent
daouzek × pemp = tri-ugent

**E1.** In the Answer Sheets, fill in the gaps in the following equations.

- a. pevar-ugent ÷ pemp = \_\_\_\_\_
- b. pemp ha hanter kant daouzek = \_\_\_\_\_
- c. nav warn ugent + \_\_\_\_\_ = tri ha daou-ugent
- d. kant ÷ \_\_\_\_\_ = 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 uqaŧay tua kuka a quma nua tsakaw	The man eats the chicken in <i>the thief's field</i> .
2.	tjmalaw tua vavuy a kuvatu	My dog angers the pig.
3.	djavisen nua tsemas a kukama	The spirit snatches <i>my father</i> .
4.	sitarang nua uqaŧay a vuluq	The man protects (it) with <i>the spear</i> .
5.	tjalawen nua suvavuy i tua umaq a a <del>l</del> ak nua vavaian	Your pig angers <b>the woman's child</b> in the house.
6.	kman tua kuka a tsemas	<i>The spirit</i> eats the chicken.
7.	djavisan nua pulingaw tua vuluq a gadu	The shaman snatches the spear in <b>the mountain</b> .
8.	langedaen nua sivitay a qaya-qayam	The soldier hears <b>the bird</b> .

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?	<i>tmarang a tsakaw i tua quma</i> The thief who protects (it) is in the field.
10. anema a sitjalaw nua sukama tua vatu?	sitjalaw nua kukama tua vatu a kuvuluq
11. anema a sudjavisen?	kudjavisen a qaya-qayam nua vavaian
12. inu a kanan nua uqa <del>l</del> ay?	kanan nua uqa <del>l</del> ay 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 uqa<del>l</del>ay a vavuy i tua gadu
- c. kutjalawan tua suvatu a kuquma

(The letter pairs **dj** and **tj** 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 a question	Decoded password
Deciphering each Alaskan license plate abbreviation is lovely.	Is deciphering each Alaskan license plate abbreviation lovely?	IDEAL PAL
A new German exchange rate beneath a newspaper did assist national ambassadors.	Did a new German exchange rate beneath a newspaper assist national ambassadors?	DANGER BANANA
Every industrial geographer hired through your legal action was yelling enthusiastic random stuff.	Was every industrial geographer hired through your legal action 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 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 BATCH	CLOUD BATH	CLOUD BATH	CLOUD BATH
Horned owls should endure every modern orange tree iguanas can offer next summer.	HOSE EMOTICONS	CHOSE EMOTIONS	shoe emoticons	shoe 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 elic- ited 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 waltz into Greenland.	Charming refrigerator operators will not waltz into Greenland.	CROWN WIG
Quiet utilitarians in crowded Kenyan city halls are talking.	Quiet utilitarians in crowded Kenyan 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 password	Larry's password guess	Harry's password guess	Correct password
Denmark's emptiest factory is exporting some pasta Russia is cooking each Saturday.	DEFIES PRICES			
Unions Nepal is forbidding over recent major events during breakfast are keeping exceptional records.	UNIFORMED 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:

≚业⊦᠀₣≟₩₩⊦≟≌₩ᡗ业ᡗՉℿ₩ӜӺӾҼѰ҂҆ϮҖӀѰ ӾӺӾӝ҆+ӂӯҘѩ҅ӏѡӾӺӂҬѴӅҨҀ҆≢ѽ҄҄ҞѰѴ⊦ѽӂ ӯ҄҄ҘѰҼѰӾӯӺ≟ѰӾ⊦≟ӾӀҎӾѷӅѩӂҬѽ+ѩ҅ӺѷҬ ѽӂӯҘѩӺѯӯѡҨѩҼѰӺѰ҈ѽ҂҈ѩӺѰӾӯѴ⊦ӾӺѰӾ ӺҘӳѰӺѰӾ⊦ӾӜ҈ҼӾӾӡ҇҃ӜҲѷѰӾѩ҅ҀѽѽӺѩ

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.





The North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad www.nacloweb.org

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Name:		
Contest Site:	 	
Site ID:	 	
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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.

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### **Demographics**

Gender: 
Female 
Male 
Other: 
Prefer not to respond

If you are competing for the US, please fill out this box: Do you consider yourself Hispanic/Latinx? Yes No Prefer not to respond Which of the following categories describe you? Select all that apply. American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander White Other: 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         Métis         First Nations         Inuit         Other:         Prefer not to respond         Which of the following categories describe you?         Select all that apply         Arab         Black         Chinese         Filipino         Japanese         Korean         Latin American         South Asian         Southeast Asian         West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
	□ White □ Other:
	□ 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)	(14)	

2.	Imperative	2nd singular	3rd singular	3rd plural	English
	bakisa	(1)	(2)	(3)	ʻadd'
	(4)	wanda	(5)	(6)	'begin'
	solola	(7)	(8)	basolola	'chat'
	ponama	(9)	aponama	(10)	'elect'
	(11)	oowa	(12)	(13)	'cure'
	(14)	(15)	aalusa	(16)	'turn'
	Іолда	(17)	(18)	(19)	'win'



YOUR NAME:

### Answer Sheet (2/7)

### (B) A Cat in a Hat





 3. a.

 b.

 c.



### Answer Sheets (3/7)

#### (C) Set in Stone



### (D) Pay Attention

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







#### 2. Fill in the blanks:

Sentence	8-11	7-6	9-6	5-4
Sentence A	12 → 13	$5 \rightarrow 6$	14 → 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 → 3
Sentence D	(c)	4 → 5	12 → 13	None
Sentence E	$3 \rightarrow 4, 11 \rightarrow 12$	(d)	10 → 12	$5 \rightarrow 1$
Sentence F	(e)	$1 \rightarrow 2, 5 \rightarrow 6$	7 → 8	None
Sentence G	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)

### Answer Sheets (4/7)

#### (E) Breton Numbers



#### (F) Coming into Focus

#### 1. Translate into Paiwan:

- 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.

### 

YOUR NAME:

**REGISTRATION #** 

### Answer Sheets (5/7)

#### (F) Coming into Focus (continued)

2. a. susitarang tua qaya-qayam nua pulingaw a tsemas

English translation of response (<u>underline</u> focused elements):

Paiwan question that prompted the response:

kanen nua uqałay a vavuy i tua gadu
 English translation of response (<u>underline</u> focused elements):

Paiwan question that prompted the response:

c. kutjalawan tua suvatu a kuquma

English translation of response (<u>underline</u> focused elements):

Paiwan question that prompted the response:



### Answer Sheets (6/7)

### (G) Password Confusion

#### 1. Fill in the blanks:

Text message	Distractor password	Larry's password guess	Harry's password guess	Correct password
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 elic- ited a response that has satisfied.	ARMS HEARTHS			

#### 2. Fill in the blanks:

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

a , c ,

n

0

YOUR NAME:

**REGISTRATION #** 

### Answer Sheets (7/7)

### (H) The Idalion Tablet

1. Write in the Cypriot script:

helei	
athanas	
katethiyan	
dowenai	

2. Write in the Cypriot script:

(a)	and	
(b)	king	
(c)	instructed	

