

Sample Puzzles from NACLO

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Swahili is the mother tongue of about 5 million people, and is the common language of trade and political communication along the east coast of Africa. Here are six dates in Swahili. Match them with their English translations, given in random order on the right.

___ tarehe tatu Disemba jumamosi	a. Monday, October 5 th
___ tarehe pili Aprili jumanne	b. Wednesday, October 5 th
___ tarehe nne Aprili jumanne	c. Sunday, October 5 th
___ tarehe tano Oktoba jumapili	d. Tuesday, April 2 nd
___ tarehe tano Oktoba Jumatatu	e. Tuesday, April 4 th
___ tarehe tano Oktoba Jumatano	f. Saturday, December 3 rd

There are 3,344,720 speakers of **Tajik** in Tajikistan (one of the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union) and another million speakers in surrounding countries.

дуусти хуби ҳамсоай сумо	a good friend of your neighbor
ҳамсоай дуусти хуби сумо	a neighbor of your good friend
ҳамсоай ҳуби дуусти сумо	a good neighbor of your friend

Above are three phrases in Tajik with their English translations. Your task is to give the English translations of all four Tajik words. The possibilities are simply "good," "friend," "neighbor," and "your." The order of the words – which is not the same order as in English! – does the rest.

дуусти	_____
ҳамсоай	_____
ҳуби	_____
сумо	_____

The following are 17 arithmetic equations in **Indonesian**. Knowing that *satu* means “one”, can you work out the rest? Beware: one of the statements contains an intentional error!

<i>Satu ditambah satu menjadi dua.</i>	<i>Delapan belas dikurangi satu menjadi tujuh belas.</i>
<i>Dua ditambah dua menjadi empat.</i>	<i>Tiga ditambah empat menjadi _____.</i>
<i>Satu ditambah dua menjadi tiga.</i>	<i>Tiga dikalikan tiga menjadi sembilan.</i>
<i>Dua dikalikan dua menjadi empat.</i>	<i>Sepuluh ditambah sembilan menjadi _____.</i>
<i>Enam dikurangi tiga menjadi tiga.</i>	<i>Dua puluh dibagi dua menjadi _____.</i>
<i>Sepuluh dikurangi enam menjadi empat.</i>	<i>Tiga puluh dibagi lima menjadi enam.</i>
<i>Dua dikalikan tiga menjadi lima.</i>	<i>Tujuh puluh dibagi dua menjadi _____.</i>
<i>Sepuluh dibagi dua menjadi lima.</i>	<i>Enam belas dibagi dua puluh empat menjadi dua per tiga.</i>
<i>Tiga dikalikan enam menjadi delapan belas.</i>	

Now write out these numbers (and one fraction) in Indonesian:

7	_____	12	_____	19	_____
23	_____	39	_____	$\frac{3}{4}$	_____

Rewrite the incorrect statement so that it's correct: _____







Yaqui is an American Indian language currently spoken by about 16,400 people in Northern Mexico and southern Arizona.

The following are eight emphatic sentences in the Yaqui language. Your task is to match the correct English translations, given below in random order, to each Yaqui sentence.

- ___ *Inepo siika.*
- ___ *Empo nee aniak.*
- ___ *Inepo apo'ik aniak.*
- ___ *Inepo apo'ik vichak.*
- ___ *Inepo enchi vichak.*
- ___ *Inepo enchi aniak.*
- ___ *Empo ye'ek.*
- ___ *Aapo enchi vichak.*

- a. You helped me.
- b. You danced.
- c. I saw you.
- d. I saw him.
- e. I helped you.
- f. I helped him.
- g. He saw you.
- h. I left.

The following are inscriptions in hieroglyphic **Luvian**, an ancient Anatolian language related to (and once thought to be) Hittite. These writings were totally incomprehensible until one scholar discovered the key: many of the words were names of regions, cities, and kings.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1.  | 4.  |
| 2.  | 5.  |
| 3.  | 6.  |

Above are six inscriptions that correspond to the names of two regions (*Khamatu, Palaa*), two cities (*Kurkuma, Tuvarnava*), and two kings (*Varpalava, Tarkumuva*). Your job is to match each inscription with the name that it represents. The process you use to solve this puzzle is very similar to what archeological linguists actually do when they discover writings and inscriptions in unknown languages.

Hawaiian is a Polynesian language, spoken fluently by about 2000 people. The following Hawaiian sentences, with their English translations, are about a girl named Mele and a boy named Keone:

- Ehiku ona kaikuaana.*
- Ekahi o Mele kaikunane.*
- Ekahi o Keone kaikaina.*
- Aohe o Mele kaikuaana.*
- Aohe o Keone kaikuahine.*
- Ekahi ou waa.*
- Aohe o Mele kaikaina.*

- He has seven elder brothers.
- Mele has one brother.
- Keone has one younger brother.
- Mele has no elder sisters.
- Keone has no sisters.
- I have one canoe.
- Mele has no younger sisters.

1. There are two possible English translations for the following Hawaiian sentence: “*Aohe ou kaikuaana.*” What are they?
2. Translate the following sentence into English and indicate who is speaking, Mele or Keone: “*Aohe ou kaikuahine.*”
3. The English sentences “*Keone has one brother*” and “*Mele has one younger brother*” would be difficult to translate directly into Hawaiian. Explain why this is true.