

AILO 2017 Training sample set #2

(A) Big dog, old bull, strong horse

Danish, spoken in Denmark, and Swedish, spoken in Sweden, are closely related languages. This means that they have many similarities.

Read the Danish and Swedish phrases below, and look for patterns, similarities and differences. In particular, look at how articles (the words *the* and *a*) are used. Then complete the exercises below.

English

a dog
a big dog
the dog
the big dog

Swedish

en hund
en stor hund
hunden
den store hund

Danish

en hund
en stor hund
hunden
den stora hunden

A1. Identify which of these phrases are Danish and which are Swedish.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| a. <i>en tyr</i> | a bull |
| b. <i>en gammal tjur</i> | an old bull |
| c. <i>tyren</i> | the bull |
| d. <i>en gammel tyr</i> | an old bull |
| e. <i>den gamle tyr</i> | the old bull |
| f. <i>tjuren</i> | the bull |
| g. <i>den gamla tjuren</i> | the old bull |
| h. <i>en tjur</i> | a bull |

A2. If the words for 'horse' are *häst* (Swedish) and *hest* (Danish), and the words for 'strong' are *stark* (Swedish) and *stærk* (Danish), complete the table below.

English

a horse
a strong horse
the horse
the strong horse

Swedish

hästen

Danish

(B) Intuitive Inuit

The Inuit live in the Arctic regions of Canada and Greenland, and speak a language called Inuktitut. The Inuit used to be known as Eskimos, but this term is now considered insulting. The writing system used for the Inuktitut language is based on the one devised for writing Cree, a Native American language not related to Inuktitut. The writing system is highly regular and systematic, which should make your task all the easier. The area of Canada where Inuktitut is spoken is called Nunavut and its capital is Iqaluit. Here is how these two words are written:

Nunavut ᓄᓇᓴᑦ
Iqaluit Δᑦᓴᓄᓴᑦ

English has borrowed some words from the Inuit, such as ‘igloo’ which in Inuktitut is written as $\Delta\zeta$ and is pronounced *ihlu*: the *hl* is a lateral fricative, like the LL sound in Welsh, a bit like an ‘s’ combined with an ‘l’, also found in Zulu and some other languages. The *hl* sequence is treated as a single sound.

B1. Your first task is to look at the text below – it’s the first part of the Declaration of Human Rights – and to transcribe the underlined words into Roman letters. The first line has been done for you.

Note that Inuktitut uses the same numerals as English, and has the same punctuation marks (only commas and fullstops in this text) as in English. There is no distinction between upper case (capitals) and lower case letters.

A dot above a symbol indicates a long vowel, which can be represented in transcription by doubling the vowel letter.

The sequence *rk* is used for the [q] sound, a uvular plosive (like a 'k', but further back in the throat) and should be transcribed as a 'q'.

The sequence *ng* should be thought of as a single sound (a velar nasal, as in English). The letter *j* represents a 'y' sound.

[illegible]

<i>Arkadaşlarım şehirde mutlu.</i>	My friends [are] happy in [the] city.
<i>Baban İstanbul'u seviyor mu?</i>	Does your father like Istanbul?
<i>Fakirler Ankara'dan İstanbul'a gelmek istiyor.</i>	Poor [people] want to come from Ankara to Istanbul.
<i>İstanbul en büyük şehir.</i>	Istanbul [is the] biggest city.
<i>Eve geliyorlar.</i>	They come home.
<i>Babam "Merhaba! Gel, arkadaşımız ol", diyor.</i>	My father says "Hello! Come [and] be our friend".
<i>Evimizde büyük pencereler var.</i>	There are big windows in our house.
<i>Pencereden atlıyoruz.</i>	We jump from [the] window.
<i>Bir ev almak mı istiyorsun?</i>	Do you want to buy a house?

C1. How would you translate the following into English?

- (a) *Baban mutlu mu?*
- (b) *"Şehrimize gel" diyoruz.*
- (c) *Arkadaşım doktor olmak istiyor.*
- (d) *Fakir evimi seviyorlar mı?*
- (e) *İstanbul'dan mı geliyorsun?*

C2. The following examples are a bit different. What do you think they mean?

- (a) *Geldiğimde "merhaba" diyorlar.*
- (b) *Baban geldiğimizden mutlu mu?*
- (c) *Fakir olduğunu diyorlar.*
- (d) *Geldiğin şehir büyük mü?*
- (e) *En mutlu olduğum şehir, Ankara.*
- (f) *Fakir olduğumuz halde mutluyuz.*

(D) Navajo's great chain of being

Navajo (sometimes written "Navaho") is a Native American language from the Southwest United States. Navajo has more speakers than any other Native American language in the US and Canada, with the number of speakers estimated at between 120,000 and 170,700.

Here are some Navajo sentences with their English translations, and alternative ways of saying the same thing in Navajo. The Navajo alphabet includes some unfamiliar letters, but how they are pronounced is not relevant to the problem.

The asterisk * before a sentence indicates that it is ungrammatical, that is, not allowed in Navajo.

Navajo sentence	English translation	Alternative Navajo sentence
Diné ashkii yiztał.	The man kicked the boy.	Ashkii diné biztał.
Ashkii diné yiztał.	The boy kicked the man.	Dine ashkii biztał.
Ashkii lééchaqáʼí yiztał.	The boy kicked the dog.	* Lééchaqáʼí ashkii biztał.
* Dóola diné yizgoh.	The bull gored the man.	Diné dóola bizgoh.
Dóola shash yizgoh.	The bull gored the bear.	Shash doola bizgoh.
Shash mósí yishxash.	The bear bit the cat.	*Mósí shash bishxash.
*Mósí shash yishxash.	The cat bit the bear.	Shash mósí bishxash.
Mósí tazhii yinoólchééł.	The cat is chasing the turkey.	Tazhii mósí binoołchééł.
Mósí naʼazízí yinoólchééł.	The cat is chasing the gopher. ²	*Naʼazízí mósí binoołchééł.
Naʼazízí wóláchíí yinoólchééł.	The gopher is chasing the ant.	*Wóláchíí naʼazízí binoołchééł.
*Dibé awééchíʼí yiztał.	The sheep kicked the baby.	Awééchíʼí dibé biztał.
Dibé tazhii yiztał.	The sheep kicked the turkey.	Tazhii dibé biztał.
*Awééchíʼí diné yiztał.	The baby kicked the man.	Diné awééchíʼí biztał.
Shash awééchíʼí yinoólchééł.	The bear is chasing the baby.	Awééchíʼí shash binoołchééł.
Tsísʼná naʼashjéʼii yishish.	The bee stung the spider.	Naʼashjéʼii tsísʼná bishish.
Naʼashjéʼii wóláchíí yiisxí.	The spider killed the ant.	Wóláchíí naʼashjéʼii biisxí.
*Tsísʼná naʼastsʼqoosí yishish.	The bee stung the mouse.	Naʼastsʼqoosí tsísʼná bishish.

D1. Indicate which of the following Navajo sentences is grammatical, translate them into English, and if ungrammatical, suggest the simplest correction(s).

- (a) Lééchaqáʼí awééchíʼí yinoólchééł.
- (b) Tsísʼná ashkii bishish.
- (c) Mósí dibé yinoólchééł.
- (d) Naʼastsʼqoosí naʼashjéʼii bishxash.
- (e) Wóláchíí diné yiisxí.

² A gopher is an American rodent, a bit like a large hamster.

D2. The following two sentences, which include a previously unseen word, are both grammatical and mean the same thing. Give an English translation including a suggestion for a possible meaning for the new word.

Gah mósí biisxí. Mósí gah yiisxí.

D3. Explain as concisely as you can the rules of Navajo grammar that emerge from these sentences, concentrating particularly on the rules relevant to the ungrammatical sentences. Your explanation should cover word order, and the reason behind alternate forms of the 'same' word.