

(J) It's True: The Truth About Chalcatongo Mixtec (1/2)

[10 points]

Chalcatongo Mixtec is a language spoken by just under 6,000 people in Oaxaca State of South-Central Mexico. It is famous among linguists for its many unusual characteristics, but it is an endangered language, at risk of extinction.

J1. Here are some sentences in Chalcatongo Mixtec. Their English translations have been given in scrambled order on the right. Match the Chalcatongo Mixtec sentences to their English translations.

Note: Chalcatongo Mixtec (when written in the Roman alphabet) has some letter symbols and accents that we do not use in English—these are not relevant for solving this problem. Whenever a word or phrase is bold and underlined (like this), it means that the word or phrase is emphatic, but otherwise it is not emphatic. Finally, here is a hint to help you get started: Chalcatongo sentence (1) corresponds to English choice (a).

	Chalcatongo sentences		English translations
1.	Nduča kaa ñí?ní.	a.	<u>The water</u> is hot.
2.	Maria kúu iñ xasúčí.	b.	Pedro is my child.
3.	Ñí?ní nduča.	c.	Juan is my husband.
4.	Juan kaa lúlí.	d.	<u>It</u> is green.
5.	Ndežu kaa ža?u.	e.	Maria is a young person.
6.	Súčí Maria.	f.	The water is hot.
7.	Juan kúu xažiirí.	g.	Maria is young.
8.	Pedro kúu xalúlirí.	h.	<u>The food</u> is expensive.
9.	Kaa kwíí.	i.	<u>Juan</u> is small / short.

1. 2. 3.
4. 5. 6.
7. 8. 9.

Here are some words in Chalcatongo Mixtec. The English translation for each word is given on the right.

Chalcatongo	English translation
ndáa	true
bíší	sweet
bèè	heavy
tûû	black
nde?é	brave
kúnú	deep
ñí?ní	hot
kwa?á	red
súkú	tall



(J) It's True: The Truth About Chalcatongo Mixtec (2/2)

J2. Translate the following into Chalcatongo Mixtec:

a.	depth	
b.	heat	
c.	Maria is brave.	
d.	<u>Pedro</u> is tall.	
e.	Pedro is a tall person.	
f.	The fruit is red.	
g.	My fruit is the green one.	
h.	<u>It</u> is true.	
i.	It is true.	
j.	It is the truth.	

J3. Explain your answers by describing how Chalcatongo Mixtec words and sentences are structured.

