

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2020

Round 2



Problem 4. Utterly Ute (20 marks)

Ute is spoken by 1640 people in an area extending from California to Colorado in the United States. It is part of the Uto-Aztecan language family, which also has speakers in Central America.



Here are some Ute sentences and their translations in English. The transcription is explained on the next page.

	English	Ute
1	The workers imitated the boy.	wáʔkaqhamitʉmʉ 'umʉ 'áapachi 'uway navutigikyaqha
2	The boys are writing.	'áapachiu 'umʉ pə'əqway
3	The goat kicked the dog.	sivaatuchiu 'umʉ sarichi 'uway táaqha
4	The woman hunted the goats.	mamachǵ 'u sivaatuchiu 'umʉ tənəvəʔəqwa
5	The farmer is singing.	ʔamitʉ 'u káay
6	The child killed the goats.	tuachǵ 'u sivaatuchiu 'umʉ pəqhaqhaqha
7	The writer is imitating the farmer.	pə'əmitʉ 'u 'ʔamitʉ 'uway navutigi
8	The worker is drinking.	wáʔkamitʉ 'u 'ivi
9	The women taught the worker.	mamachiu 'umʉ wáʔkamitʉ 'uway pə'ətikyaqha
10	The dog is kicking the children.	sarichǵ 'u tuachiu 'umʉ táay
11	The farmers hunted the goat.	'ʔaqhamitʉmʉ 'umʉ sivaatuchi 'uway tənəvəʔəqwaqha
12	The writers are singing.	pə'əqwamitʉmʉ 'umʉ káaqhay

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Round 2



Explanation of the transcription:

- ʊ is pronounced like u, but with the lips not rounded.
- ø is pronounced as in French *jeu*, with the lips rounded.
- q is similar to k, but further back in the mouth.
- qh is pronounced as in German *Bach*, but further back in the mouth.
- ' denotes the glottal stop, the sound in the middle of *uh-oh*.
- ch is as in *church*.
- An underlined vowel (v) denotes a vowel pronounced with no voicing (vibration of the vocal folds).
- An acute accent (´) denotes a vowel which is stressed.

Q4.1. On your answer sheet, translate into Ute:

- The women worked.
- The singers are killing the dog.
- The hunters taught the child.

Q4.2. On your answer sheet, translate into English:

- ´ivikyamitʊmʊ ´umʊ ´áapachi ´uway táaqhaqa
- wʊkʊkamitʊ ´u sivaatuchiu ´umʊ ´ʊaqha

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The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2020

Round 2



Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 32)

- 8.1: 2 points for each correct word; 1 point with one wrong syllable. (max 26)
- Insist on correct accents and underlining or strike-through.
- 8.2: 1 point for each correct sentence-part (subject, verb, object). (max 6)
- Insist on correct tense.

8.1a.	mamachiu 'um <u>ʃ</u> w <u>ʃ</u> kaqhaqa 6
b.	káaqhamit <u>ʃ</u> 'um <u>ʃ</u> sarichi 'uway p <u>ə</u> qhay 10
c.	tənavəɾeqwamit <u>ʃ</u> 'um <u>ʃ</u> tuachi 'uway pə'ətikyaha 10
8.2a.	The drunkards/drinkers/equivalent + kicked + the boy. 3
b	The worker + farmed + the goats. 3

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Commentary

Word order: SOV

Verbs:

Stem+Num+tense

Num: -Q₁a-

Tense:

Past: -Q₂a-

Pres. cont.: -y-

Phonological rules:

Q > qw / ə _

> ky / i _

> qh / a _

Except: aQ₁aQ₂a > aqhaqa

(i.e. -qhaqha forbidden when both are inflectional, but -qhaqha allowed if first qha is in stem, as in 6.)

y > ø / i _

Noun phrases:

Regular nouns (non-nominalized): pl -u

Subject: devoiced final vowel unless it is -u

Article¹ follows noun:

Art.	Subj.	Obj.
Sg.	'u	'uway
Pl.	'umu	'umu

Nominalization of verb:

Sg: stem+mitu

Pl: stem+Q₁a+mitu+mu²

¹ Technically no way to determine this is an article so any explanation for it is fine, e.g. syntactic/semantic role marker.

² Explanation: -mi-tu- are a relativizer + nominalizer. -Q₁a- is the normal plural verb marker, -mu is plural marker for some nouns including those derived from verbs. X-Q₁amitumu is therefore "the ones(pl) who do(pl) X" with plural marked twice in the morphology.