

# (O) Don't Sell the House! (1/2)

01. Cáu cháhn đày non.

I can truly sleep.

02. Da páy non!

Don't go sleep!

03. Mưhn bô sảhm mi slòng hěht hơn mi?

Was she also unwilling to build the house?

04. Mưhn ngám bô sảhm páy hơn.

She also went home just now.

05. I wasn't about to eat it just previously.

Cáu náhc-thày ca mi kíhn.

06. She didn't have to eat it alone like that just now.

Mưhn ngám mi slày tâhng kíhn.

07. The house truly can't eat you.

Hơn mi cháhn đày kíhn mưhng.

08. Then were you also about to go just previously?

Mưhng náhc-thày chóng ca bô sảhm páy mi?

Explanation:

In Nung, word order is fixed, meaning that for a given sentence, there is only one correct way to order the words. We can figure out from comparing sentences with the same subject, same adverb, same main verb, or same object that in Nung, sentences are constructed in subject-adverb-verb-object-question.marker order, where there can be many adverbs and 'it' as an object is left unsaid but implied. 'Like that' is treated as an object in terms of word order.

The correct order of adverbs is as follows, listed from first to last:

náhc-thày	just previously
ngám	just now
chóng	then
ca	about to
vǚhn nhahng	continue to
bô sảhm	also
mi	not
cháhn	truly
slòng / slày / fái / đày	want / [don't] have to / have to / can
tâhng	alone

In addition, we know that da 'don't' and tan đohc 'only' both occur before the verb, but in our data, no other adverbs occur in the same sentence as da or tan đohc, so it is unclear what the correct order should be.

The main question and challenge of the problem consists of identifying the correct positioning of adverbs, which always occur in a fixed order. A strategy for discovering this is to list all the orderings attested, and merge those to create a comprehensive order for all the adverbs provided. Crucially, it is necessary to also consider the Nung sentences provided without translations in order to clarify where in the pattern the adverb ngám lies.



# (O) Don't Sell the House! (2/2)

The secondary challenge of the problem is to map Nung sentences onto English ones: not only the word order but also the meaning may differ slightly. For example, in Nung ‘build a house’ is expressed as ‘do house’. For the purposes of this problem, small differences in translation that represent equally valid interpretations of a Nung or English sentence are allowed as long as they follow proper Nung or English word order.

List of words not previously defined:

cáu	I
khǎi	sell
mưhng	you
hǎhn	see
kíhn	eat
non	sleep
hěht	do, build
mi	question marker
páy	go
hởn	house, home
mưhn	she
pehn tẽ	like that

