

(A) Let That Mongo! (1/2) [Solution]

A1. Two solutions are possible. One solution is:

Each Mongo verb has a root form. The 4 verb forms shown here are formed by adding a prefix before the root form. The prefix for the imperative form is ∅- (i.e., no prefix), the prefix for the 2nd singular form is o-, the prefix for the 3rd singular form is a-, and the prefix for the 3rd plural form is ba-.

However, we are not done yet: to get the final verb form, we must apply some sound change rules. The relevant rules are:

1. If there are two vowels, in a row, delete the first one.
2. Delete b when it appears between two vowels.
3. Change o to w when it appears before a vowel.

There is one final wrinkle: the order that these rules are applied in matters. The rules must be applied in this order: First apply rule 3, then rule 1, then rule 2.

Same solution, in table format:

(1)	∅-	(8)	vowels
(2)	o-	(9)	o
(3)	a-	(10)	w
(4)	ba-	(11)	vowel
(5)	vowels	(12)	3
(6)	the first one	(13)	1
(7)	b	(14)	2

The other possible solution is:

Each Mongo verb has a root form. The 4 verb forms shown here are formed by adding a prefix before the root form. The prefix for the imperative form is ∅- (i.e., no prefix), the prefix for the 2nd singular form is w-, the prefix for the 3rd singular form is a-, and the prefix for the 3rd plural form is ba-.

However, we are not done yet: to get the final verb form, we must apply some sound change rules. The relevant rules are:

1. If there are two vowels, in a row, delete the first one.
2. Delete b when it appears between two vowels.
3. Change w to o when it appears before a consonant.

There is one final wrinkle: the order that these rules are applied in matters. The rules must be applied in this order: First apply rule 1, then rule 3, then rule 2.

(see next page table format of this second solution)



(A) Let That Mongo! (2/2) [Solution]

Table format of second solution (cells marked with * are those that differ from the first solution):

(1)	∅-	(8)	vowels
(2)*	w-	(9)*	w
(3)	a-	(10)*	o
(4)	ba-	(11)*	consonant
(5)	vowels	(12)*	1
(6)	the first one	(13)*	3
(7)	b	(14)	2

A2. The completed table is:

<i>Imperative</i>	<i>2nd singular</i>	<i>3rd singular</i>	<i>3rd plural</i>	<i>English</i>
bakisa	(1) oakisa	(2) aakisa	(3) baakisa	'add'
(4) anda	wanda	(5) anda	(6) banda	'begin'
solola	(7) osolola	(8) asolola	basolola	'chat'
ponama	(9) oponama	aponama	(10) baponama	'elect'
(11) bowa	oowa	(12) aowa	(13) baowa	'cure'
(14) balusa	(15) oalusa	aalusa	(16) baalusa	'turn'
longa	(17) olonga	(18) alonga	(19) balonga	'win'

