

YOUR NAME:

REGISTRATION #

(B) A Case of Pali (1/2) [10 points]

Pali is a dead language, like Latin. It was a literary language related to Sanskrit, the ancestor of modern languages spoken in Northern India, such as Hindi. Pali was first written down around 100 BCE in Sri Lanka by Buddhist monks to preserve the teachings of the Buddha. Pali used to be written in the Brāmī script, but it is also written in the Roman alphabet (which we'll be using here). Pali is still used by Buddhist monks and scholars (just as Latin is still used in the Vatican by Catholic priests and theologians).

Pali is a highly inflected language, which means that the main words such as nouns and verbs get a range of endings (called “suffixes”) or beginnings (called “prefixes”) attached to make it clear what role the word is playing in the sentence.

English also has some inflections, just not as many as Pali. Here are some examples of English inflections:

- *house – houses*. The –s added to the end of a noun like “house” indicates that there is more than one you are talking about.
- *John – John’s coat*. The ’s is used after a noun to indicate possession.
- *I walk. You walked. He walks. She has been walking*. The suffixes added to the verb “walk” give you sense of a different person doing the walking, or the walking taking place at a different time – the past as opposed to the present.

Pali has different consonant and vowel sounds, which explains the use of diacritics (special symbols) on particular letters. These do not matter for solving this puzzle. Also, Pali texts do not use capital letters or punctuation.

Here are some sentences in Pali with their English translations:

Pali	English Translation
mahāmatto nisīdati	The minister sits down.
mahāmattam upasam̄kamanti	They visit the minister.
samaṇo tathāgato hoti	The philosopher is enlightened.
samaṇe attam̄ pucchanti	They ask the philosophers the meaning.
upāsako pucchatī	The disciple asks.
loko mahāmattassa	The minister’s world.



(B) A Case of Pali (2/2)

B1. Translate the following English sentences into Pali:

1. The minister asks the philosophers.												
2. The philosopher sits down.												
3. They sit down.												

B2. Translate the following into English, using the vocabulary given here in its dictionary form (which is the same as the subject form, without any suffixes):

Pali	English Translation
rājo	king
devo	god
gāmo	village

1. rājo nisīdati												
2. rājo gāmassa devo hoti												

B3. Translate the following into Pali, entering one letter in each box, ignoring the diacritics:

1. The minister asks the kings.												
2. The lay disciple's village.												
3. The meaning of the world is god.												

