

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

01. Cáu chǎhn ðày non.	I can truly sleep.
02. Ða páy non!	Don't go sleep!
03. Mữhn bô sǎhm mi slờng hểht hờn mi?	Was she also unwilling to build the house?
04. Mữhn ngám bô sǎhm páy hờn.	She also went home just now.
05. I wasn't about to eat it just previously.	Cáu náhc-thày ca mi kỉnh.
06. She didn't have to eat it alone like that just now.	Mữhn ngám mi slày tǎhng kỉnh.
07. The house truly can't eat you.	Hờn mi chǎhn ðày kỉnh mữhng.
08. Then were you also about to go just previously?	Mữhng náhc-thày chớng ca bô sǎhm páy mi?

Explanation:

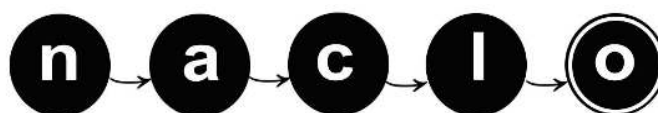
In Nung, word order is fixed, meaning that for a given sentence, there is only one correct way to order the words. We can figure out from comparing sentences with the same subject, same adverb, same main verb, or same object that in Nung, sentences are constructed in subject-adverb-verb-object-question.marker 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
chớng	then
ca	about to
vữhn nahng	continue to
bô sǎhm	also
mi	not
chǎhn	truly
slờng / slày / ỉải / ðày	want / [don't] have to / have to / can
tǎhng	alone

In addition, we know that *da* 'don't' and *tan ðohc* 'only' both occur before the verb, but in our data, no other adverbs occur in the same sentence as *da* or *tan ðohc*, 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
khải	sell
mưhng	you
hảhn	see
kíhn	eat
non	sleep
hẻht	do, build
mi	question marker
páy	go
hơn	house, home
mưhn	she
pehn tế	like that

