

Ninth International Olympiad in Linguistics
Pittsburgh (United States of America), July 24–31, 2011

Individual Contest Problems

Problem #1 (20 points). Given are verb forms of the Menominee language as well as their English translations:

kewāpeqtaq	we ₁₊₂ begin
kawāham	he fells it by tool
nepītohnæm	I walk here (to this place)
kēskenam	he breaks it through by hand
pahkāesam	he cuts it off
kekātohnæq	we ₁₊₂ walk out
pītenam	he passes it here
kewāpānæhkæq	we ₁₊₂ begin to dig
tawāesam	he cuts a hole in it
nekātahan	I pry it out by tool
pāhkaham	he opens it by tool (by raising a lid or opening a door)
kekēskahæq	we ₁₊₂ bite it through
wackōhnæw	he walks roundabout, by a detour
newāckesan	I cut around it
ketāenam	he takes it out by hand
ketāwahhtæq	we ₁₊₂ bite, gnaw a hole in it
wāepohnæw	he begins walking
nekāweqtam	I lie down
pāhkeqtaw	he opens up
kepītahtæq	we ₁₊₂ come eating it; we ₁₊₂ bring it in our mouths
nekāwāhpem	I fall over laughing

(a) Translate into English: **kekēskahæq**, **nepāhkenan**, **wāepāhpew**. If in some cases you believe that more than one translation is possible, give them all.

(b) Translate into Menominee:

- I begin to eat it
- we₁₊₂ lay it flat by hand
- he digs a hole
- he walks out

⚠ The Menominee Indians live in Wisconsin, USA. They number 5 000–10 000 people, but the eponymous language of the Algonquian family is only spoken by a few dozen of the oldest among them, although effort has been put lately into expanding its teaching and use.

“we₁₊₂” = ‘we and you’. **æ** ≈ *a* in *crack*, **c** = *ch* in *church*, **q** is a consonant (the so-called glottal stop). The mark “–” denotes vowel length. —*Ivan Derzhanski*