(J) Marshallese Phonoloji (1/1) [Solution]

J1.

Spelling	Underlying Form	Pronunciation	English translation
bar	/pˠ⚽rˠ/	[pˠɑrˠ]	'rock (object)'
ļābōļ	/lˠ⚽jpˠ👀lˠ/	[lˠɑæbˠʌlˠ]	'level (tool)'
jook	[tʲ👀w👀k]	[tʲɔːk]	'shy'
kewa	/k👀jw⚽ɰ/	[kʌɛwɒ]	'peer'
eor	/j☎️rʷ/	[jeorʷ]	'bleached'

J2. [Note: This solution mentions some technical terminology from linguistics, in case that terminology is of interest, but contestants are not expected to use this terminology in their answers during the contest.] The four emojis represent four underlying vowels; in linguistics terminology, these vowels are at different heights. Each vowel has 3 possible surface forms, based on the type of consonant it is next to. If the consonants beside a vowel are of different types, the vowel will split into a pair of vowels (a diphthong) with the two relevant surface forms. Glides (/j, ɰ,w/) disappear when they are not included in the word's spelling, leaving behind a trace by the quality of the preceding vowel. If the deletion of a glide results in the configuration V1 V2 V2 V3 (i.e., 4 vowels in a row, where the middle 2 are the same), then that sequence of vowels is condensed to V2: (i.e., a long instance of V2). Stops are voiced intervocalically, with tʲ>zʲ.

J3. Postulating the presence of this sound makes it easier to explain the pronunciation of certain words - cases where the vowel is not next to a velarized consonant yet has the form you would expect from it being next to a velarized consonant.

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