

(F) Take One Tablet and Call Me in the Morning (1/2)

Hittite is an extinct language that belongs to the Anatolian branch of the Indo-European language family. It was spoken in the ancient Hittite Empire in second millennium BCE. Hittite was written using a script, called cuneiform, composed of many wedge shapes; an example of cuneiform unrelated to this problem is below.



The excerpt below is a (simplified) phonetic rendering of a cuneiform passage found on a tablet. You do not need to know how the text is pronounced to solve this problem.

našta illuyankan hattešnaz šarā kallišta kāšawa ezenan iyami nuwa adanna akuwanna eħu
našta illuyankaš qadu dumumeššu šarā úer nuza eter ekuer našta palħan hūmandan ekuer neza ninkēr
ne namma ħattešnaš kattanta nūmān pānzi ħupaşıyašša úit nu illuyankan išħimanta kalēliēt
imaš úit nukán illuyankan kuenta dingirmesha kattišši ešer

Its translation into English:

And he called up the snake from the hole: “Behold the feast I’m making! Come to eat and to drink!” And the snake came up with his sons. And they ate and drank. And they drank all the kettles. And they could no longer go down into the hole again. And Hupasiyas came and tied the snake with a rope. The Stormgod came and killed the snake; and the gods were with him.”

Answer the questions on the next page.



(F) Take One Tablet and Call Me in the Morning (2/2)

F1. Match the following Hittite word forms with their English translations.

- a. eter
- b. ḥatteššar
- c. úit
- d. illuyankaš
- e. našta
- f. šarā
- g. ekuer

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- (1) snake
- (2) hole
- (3) came
- (4) and
- (5) up
- (6) drank
- (7) ate

F2. Match the following suffixes with their grammatical roles.

- a. -aš
- b. -ša
- c. -meš
- d. -er/ēr
- e. -an
- f. -anna
- g. -it

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- (1) marker of the infinitive (infinitives are verbs translated with *to*, such as “*to sleep*” or “*to walk*”)
- (2) plural marker
- (3) marker of 3rd person plural past tense verbs (these are past tense verbs with a subject of *they* or a plural noun, such as *walked* in “*they walked*” or *drank* in “*the cats drank milk*”)
- (4) marker of the direct object (the direct object is the recipient of the action, such as *him* in “*she hit him*” or *a pizza* in “*he made a pizza*”)
- (5) marker of the subject (the subject is the entity performing the action, such as *the dog* in “*the dog chased the cat*”)
- (6) marker for 3rd person singular past tense verbs (these are past tense verbs with a subject of *he*, *she*, *it*, or a singular noun, such as *walked* in “*he walked*” or *drank* in “*the cat drank milk*”)
- (7) marker denoting “and”

