

(O) Seeing the Future (1/3) [Solution]

Explanation

The present tense prefixes and suffixes are shown in the table (grey cells are not given anywhere in the problem). Vertical axis is the subject person. Number is not distinctive in the third person.

	Object person				
	1sg	2sg	1pl	2pl	3
1sg		a-		a- -et†	a-
2sg	si-		kasi-		hi-
1pl		a- -a		a- -ahat†	a- -a
2pl	si- -et†		kasi- -et†		hi- -et†
3	si-	in-	kasi-	in- -et†	

From this, we get:

There is a person hierarchy, $1 > 2 > 3$, which is seen in the prefixes: whatever argument is higher is expressed. The prefixes are:

1st person singular subject: a-

1st person singular object: si-

1st person plural subject: a-

1st person plural object: kasi-

2nd person subject (singular and plural): hi-

2nd person object (singular and plural): in-

(We don't identify 3rd person prefixes because there is no 3rd person acting on 3rd person example shown in the problem; since it is lowest in the hierarchy we will always use the 1st or 2nd person prefix.)

The suffixes are:

1st person plural subject: -a

2nd person plural (subject or object): -et†

The 2nd person plural suffix is not affected by the hierarchy. (We don't have enough information yet to say for the 1st person plural subject suffix.)

Morphophonology: -a + -et† = -ahat†.



(O) Seeing the Future (2/3) [Solution]

In the future, the affixes given in the data pattern as follows (future stem is 'wehnayi'):

	Object person				
	1sg	2sg	1pl	2pl	3
1sg		si-			si-
2sg	si-				
1pl					
2pl					in- -et
3	si-			in- -et	

The main pattern to be deduced from this: the distinct subject and object forms for prefixes merge into one form each (the object form) in the future, i.e., si- takes the place of both si- and a- (1st person singular); in- takes the place of both hi- and in- (2nd person). The distribution of the 2pl suffix -et is unaffected. A few more cells of the table can be filled:

	Object person				
	1sg	2sg	1pl	2pl	3
1sg		si-		si- -et	si-
2sg	si-				in-
1pl					
2pl	si- -et				in- -et
3	si-	in-		in- -et	

The plurals are a bit tricky. The important observation (this is tested in question (e)) is that -et is independent of the subject/object function of the person it pluralizes, while in the first person there is an alternation between kasi- (1st person plural object), where person and number are both expressed in the prefix, and a- -a (1st person plural subject), where two distinct elements appear. Presumably, if 1st person singular and 2nd person are merging into the object form of the prefixes in the future paradigm, 1st person plural will be expressed as kasi- throughout the future paradigm, and there will be no trace of the suffix -a. So the complete table looks like (next page):



(O) Seeing the Future (3/3) [Solution]

	Object person				
	1sg	2sg	1pl	2pl	3
1sg		si-		si- -e†	si-
2sg	si-		kasi-		in-
1pl		kasi-		kasi- -e†	kasi-
2pl	si- -e†		kasi- -e†		in- -e†
3	si-	in-	kasi-	in- -e†	

Morphophonology: 'wehnayi' + e† = 'wehnayiwe†

Answers

O1.

- a. you (sg.) are going to see him/her/them in'wehnayi'
- b. he/she/they are going to see you (sg.) in'wehnayi'
- c. you (sg.) are going to see us kasi'wehnayi'
- d. you (pl.) are going to see us kasi'wehnayiwe†
- e. we are going to see you (pl.) kasi'wehnayiwe†

