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The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2021

Round 1



Problem 7. Latvian (20 marks)

Winnie-the-Pooh is one of the most popular children's book in the world with translations into more than 30 languages, including Armenian, Greek, Bulgarian, Icelandic, Croatian, Urdu, and even Latin. Below is an excerpt from *Winnie-the-Pooh* in English.



Edward Bear, known to his friends as Winnie-the-Pooh, or Pooh for short, was walking through the forest one day, humming proudly to himself. He had made a little hum that very morning, as he was doing his Stoutness Exercises in front of the glass: Tra-la-la, tra-la-la, as he stretched up as high as he could go, and then Tra-la-la, tra-la – oh, help! – la, as he tried to reach his toes. Then he suddenly came to a sandy bank, and in the bank was a large hole.

“Aha!” said Pooh. “If I know anything about anything, that hole means Rabbit,” he said, “and Rabbit means Company,” he said, “and Company means Food.”

So he bent down, put his head in the hole, and called out:

“Is anybody at home?”

There was a sudden scuffling noise from inside the hole, and then silence.

“What I said was, ‘Is anybody at home?’” called out Pooh very loudly.

“No!” said a voice; and then added, “You needn’t shout so loud. I heard you quite well the first time.”

“Bother!” said Pooh. “Isn’t there anybody here at all?”

“Nobody.”

Winnie-the-Pooh took his head out of the hole, and thought for a little, and he thought to himself, “There must be somebody there, because somebody must have said ‘Nobody.’”

And again he put his head back in the hole, and said:

“Hallo, Rabbit, isn’t that you?”

“No,” said Rabbit, in a difference sort of voice this time.

“But isn’t that Rabbit’s voice?”

“I don’t think so,” said Rabbit. “It isn’t meant to be.”

“Oh!” said Pooh.

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Latvian is an Indo-European language spoken by over a million inhabitants of Latvia, which is on the East of the Baltic Sea. The Latvian passage is a translation of the same excerpt, but some Latvian words have been replaced by little boxes containing a letter A-K.



Edvards Lācis, pazīstams starp draugiem kā Lācītis Pū jeb, īsākī Pū, kādu dienu gāja pa mežu un lielīgi pie sevis dziedāja. Šo pašu rītu, spoguļa priekšā mēģinādams savus attaukošanās vingrojumus, bija izdomājis vienkārši meldiju: Tra-la-la, tra-la-la, kad izdomājis vienkāršu meldiju: Tra-la-la, tra-la-la, kad vai! – la, kad pūlējās aizsniegt kāju pirkstu galus. Tad pēkšņi tas iznāca uz smilšaina klajuma un ieraudzīja lielu alu.

“Tā, tā!” noteica Pū. “Ja es vispār kaut ko zinu, tad šī ala nozīmē Trusīti,” tas , “un Trusītis nozīmē sabiedrību, un nozīmē mielastu.

Viņš piecēlās, iebāza alā un sauca:

“Vai ir kāds mājās?”

No alas iekšienes atskanēja steidzīga čabēšana, tad palika atkal klusi.

“Es jautāju, vai ir kāds mājās!” Pū ļoti skaļi iekliedzās.

“Nē!” kāda teica. “Tev nevajaga kliegt tik stipri. Es dzirdēju tevi gluži labi jau pirmo reizi.”

“Ak tu piķis!” Pū rūca. “Vai tad vispār te neviena nav?”

“Neviena!”

Lācītis Pū izvilka galvu no un brītiņu pie sevis domāja, “Tur ir jābūt kādam, jo taču teica ‘Neviena.’”

Un viņš iebāza galvu alā un sauca:

“ Trusīt, vai tas esi tu?”

“Nē,” Trusītis atbildēja šoreiz pārmainītā balsī.

“Bet vai tā nav Trusīša balss?”

“Es nedomāju vis,” atbildēja. “Tai nav jāiklausās pēc balss.”

“Tā!” noteica Pū.

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Q7.1. The table below shows all the missing words, as well as four extra words. Your task is to write one of the letters A-K beneath each Latvian word that is missing from the excerpt to show where it was before it was removed.

alā	alas	atkal	balss	galvu	hallo	kāds	kāda
kādam	sabiedriba	teica	Trusīti	Trusītis	Trusīša	viņš	

Q7.2. Answer the following questions about Latvian based on what can be concluded from the translation of this excerpt from English to Latvian.

a.	What is the Latvian word for <i>and</i> ?	
b.	What does the Latvian word <i>atkal</i> mean?	
c.	Are the words <i>iekliedzās</i> and <i>kliedt</i> two grammatical forms of the same word? (Write <i>yes</i> or <i>no</i> .)	
d.	What is the Latvian word for <i>then</i> ?	
e.	The words <i>klusī</i> and <i>skaļi</i> are antonyms. What are their likely meanings?	klusī
		skaļi

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Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 16)

- 5.1. 1 point for each correct letter. (max 11)
 - Ignore case, e.g. *a* for *A*.
- 5.2. 1 point for each correct answer. (max 5)
 - Accept *soft*, *silent* or *silence* for *quiet/quietly*.
 - Accept *loud*, *loudly* or *noise* for *loud/loudly*.

Q7.1.

alā	alas	atkal	balss	galvu	hallo	kāds	kāda
	F	H	E	D	I	G	
kādam	sabiedriba	teica	Trusīti	Trusītis	Trusīša	viņš	
	C	B		J	K	A	

Q7.2.

a.	What is the Latvian word for <i>and</i> ?		un
b.	What does the Latvian word <i>atkal</i> mean?		again
c.	Are the words <i>iekliedzās</i> and <i>kliedt</i> two grammatical forms of the same word? (Write <i>yes</i> or <i>no</i> .)		yes
d.	What is the Latvian word for <i>then</i> ?		tad
e.	The words <i>klusī</i> and <i>skaļi</i> are antonyms. What are their likely meanings?	klusī	quiet/quietly
		skaļi	loud/loudly

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Commentary

Edvards Lācis, pazīstams starp draugiem kā Lācītis Pū jeb, īsākī Pū, kādu dienu gāja pa mežu **un** lielīgi pie sevis dziedāja. Šo pašu rītu, spoguļa priekšā mēģinādam savus attaukošanās vingrojumus, **viņš** bija izdomājis vienkārši meldiju: Tra-la-la, tra-la-la, kad izdomājis vienkāršu meldiju: Tra-la-la, tra-la-la, kad vai! – la, kad pūlējās aizsniegt kāju pirkstu galus. **Tad** pēkšņi tas iznāca uz smilšaina klajuma un ieraudzīja lielu alu.

“Tā, tā!” noteica Pū. “Ja es vispār kaut ko zinu, **tad** šī ala nozīmē Trusīti,” tas **teica**, “un Trusītis nozīmē sabiedrību, un **sabiedrība** nozīmē mielastu.

Viņš piecēlās, iebāza **galvu** alā un sauca:

“Vai ir **kāds** mājās?”

No alas iekšienes atskanēja steidzīga čabēšana, **tad** palika **atkal klusi**.

“Es jautāju, vai ir **kāds** mājās!” Pū ļoti skaļi **ieklīdzās**.

“Nē!” kāda **balss** teica. “Tev nevajaga **kliegt** tik stipri. Es dzirdēju tevi gluži labi jau pirmo reizi.”

“Ak tu piķis!” Pū rūca. “Vai **tad** vispār te neviena nav?”

“Neviena!”

Lācītis Pū izvilka galvu no **alas un** brītiņu pie sevis domāja, “Tur ir jābūt **kādam**, jo **kāds** taču teica ‘Neviena.’”

Un viņš **atkal** iebāza galvu alā **un** sauca: (AND HE AGAIN PUT HEAD CAVE-loc AND SAID)

“Halo Trusīt, vai tas esi tu?”

“Nē,” Trusītis atbildēja šoreiz pārmainītā balsī.

“Bet vai tā nav Trusiša balss?”

“Es nedomāju vis,” **Trusītis** atbildēja. “Tai nav jāiklausās pēc **Trusiša** balss.”

“Tā!” noteica Pū.

he

said

friend (nominative)

friend (accusative)

head (accusative)

somebody

again

voice (locative)

voice (nom.)

Rabbit
Nominative - Subject
Genitive - Possessive

a. What is the Latvian word for **and**?

un

The word appears in red in Latvian text for reference.

b. What does the Latvian word **atkal** mean?

again

The word appears in green in the Latvian text for reference. The tricky thing is that they have to recognize that in the English translation, the word isn't translated in its first instance (tad

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palika atkal klusi = then remained again silent), but it is translated in its second instance (Un viņš atkal iebāza galvu alā un sauca = And he again put (his) head cave-in and called)

- c. Are the words *iekliedzās* and *kliedt* two grammatical forms of the same word?

Yes

The words appear in blue in the Latvian text for reference. The students must notice that the same word is used (in two different forms) in “Pooh called out” and in “You needn’t shout.” The first form is “shouted” and the next form is “shout.” The words in the Latvian text share a common verb stem.

- d. What is the Latvian word for *then*?

tad

The word appears in orange in the Latvian text. The clearest context for identifying it is in the phrase **tad** palika **atkal** klusi = then remained again quiet/silent.

- e. The words *klusi* and *skaļi* are antonyms. What are their likely meanings?

This question follows from d above. If they have sorted out the meaning of klusi, they can answer the question. The answer can be either the adjective or the adverb. The Latvian forms stand for both.

klusi quiet/quietly (silent)

skaļi loud/loudly

Additional information relevant to the choice of forms in the case of nouns

Nouns in Latvian belong to different categories and have the declensions shown in the chart below. In this problem, students will see the following words in the following forms (explained in chart):

'cave/hole'	tad šī ala nozīmē Trusīti = that hole means Rabbit → ala Nominative Un viņš atkal iebāza galvu alā un sauca = And he again put head in hole and called = alā Locative Lācītis Pū izvilka galvu no alas = Bear Pooh pulled (his) head out-of the cave = alas Genitive
rabbit	Trusītis, Trusīša, Trusīt
friend	sabiedrība, sabiedrību
voice	balss, balsī

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A palatalization change in the preceding consonant before the ending occurs in the sing., present forms of the following 3rd conjugation verbs: **locīt, slaucīt, mocīt, mēcēt, slodzīt, raudzīt**

Exception: **zināt** -- Present is formed: zinu, zini, zina, zinām, zināt, zina

Nouns

	1. dekl.	2. dekl.	2. dekl. exc.*	3. dekl.	4. dekl.**	5. dekl.	6. dekl.
vsk.							
Nom. Kas?	-s, -š	-is	-s	-us	-ā	-e	-s
Gen. Kā?	-a	-a	-s	-us	-as	-es	-s
Dat. Kam?	-am	-im	-im	-um	-ai	-ei	-ij
Acc. Ko?	-u	-i	-i	-u	-u	-i	-i
Inst. Ar ko?	ar -u	ar -i	ar -i	ar -u	ar -u	ar -i	ar -i
Loc. Kur?	-ā	-ī	-ī	-ū	-ā	-ē	-ī
dsk.							
Nom. Kas?	-i	-i	-i	-i	-as	-es	-is
Gen. Kā?	-u	-u	-u	-u	-u	-u	-u
Dat. Kam?	-iem	-iem	-iem	-iem	-ām	-ēm	-īm
Acc. Ko?	-us	-us	-us	-us	-as	-es	-is
Inst. Ar ko?	ar -iem	ar -iem	ar -iem	ar -iem	ar -ām	ar -ēm	ar -īm
Loc. Kur?	-os	-os	-os	-os	-ās	-ēs	-īs

* Exceptions are: **akmens, asmens, ūdens, rudens, zibens, mēness, suns** (and possibly **sāls**).

** **Puika** is masc. even though in a fem. declension.

Possible Consonant Changes

n.	c	→	č	lācis	→	lāči
v.	c	→	k	mācēt	→	māku
n.	dz	→	dž	dadzis	→	dadžis
v.	dz	→	g	slodzīt	→	slogu
l	→	ļ	cālis	→	cāļi	
n	→	ņ	dzenis	→	dzeņi	
s	→	š	lasis	→	laši	
z	→	ž	vēzis	→	vēži	
t	→	š	bite	→	bišu	
d	→	ž	briedis	→	brieži	
p	→	pj	ziepes	→	ziepju	
b	→	bj	gulbis	→	gulbji	
m	→	mj	kurmīšs	→	kurmji	
v	→	vj	zivis	→	zivju	
sl	→	šļ	šķērlis	→	šķērļi	
zl	→	žļ	zizlis	→	zizļi	
sn	→	šņ	alksnis	→	alksni	
zn	→	žņ	zvaigzne	→	zvaigzņi	
ln	→	ļņ	vīlnis	→	vīļņi	

Cori Rozentāle, learninglatvian.rozentali.com