

(Q) Better Left Unsaid (1/3) [10 points]

The following mini puzzles deal with five different languages from four different continents. They also deal with various sounds from world languages. In linguistics, sounds are grouped together based on some of their properties. For example, the following chart shows some linguistic sounds:

	Nasal	Voiced stop	Voiceless stop	Voiceless fricative
Bilabial	m	b	p	
Labiodental				f
Alveolar	n	d	t	s
Postalveolar				ʃ
Velar	ŋ	g	k	

So, for example, n, d, t, and s are all alveolar sounds, while b, d, and g are all voiced stops. (The meanings of these linguistic terms are not relevant for this problem).

For this problem, there are five types of sounds that are especially relevant. These are listed in the chart below, along with the sounds used in this problem that fall into each category:

Category	Sounds in the Category
Vowels	a, e, i, o, u
Consonants	m, n, ŋ, b, d, g, j, r, l, ʃ, w, y, p, t, k, f, s, ʒ, h, q, č
Nasals	m, n, ŋ
Voiced Consonants	b, d, g, j, r, l, ʃ, w, y, m, n, ŋ
Voiceless Consonants	p, t, k, f, s, ʃ, h, q, č

Q1. Indonesian, spoken by roughly 200 million people, is the official language of Indonesia. Below are some Indonesian words with their English translations. Fill in the blanks from the chart.

Indonesian	English
menjui	to test
diuji	to be tested
mengeja	to spell
dieja	to be spelled
mengaruk	to scratch
digaruk	to be scratched

Indonesian	English
mendapat	to obtain
didapat	to be obtained
memberi	to give
diberi	to be given
menulis	to write
ditulis	to be written

Indonesian	English
memutus	to cut off
diputus	to be cut off
(a)	to make
dibuat	to be made
(b)	to choose
dipilih	to be chosen

a. b.



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Q2. Mandar is one of many local languages spoken in Indonesia. It has about 480,000 speakers. Below are some Mandar words with their English translations. Fill in the blanks from the chart.

Mandar	English
mambatta	to split
dibatta	to be split
mandenɲeq	to carry on the back
didenɲeq	to be carried on the back
maɲidaŋ	to crave
diidaŋ	to be craved
mappasuŋ	to send out
dipasuŋ	to be sent out

Mandar	English
mattunu	to burn
ditunu	to be burnt
massiraq	to tie
disiraq	to be tied
(c)	to throw
ditimbe	to be thrown
(d)	to feed
dipande	to be fed

c.

d.

Q3. The Quechua languages are a group of languages spoken in South America. Below are some words from the variety of Quechua spoken in Puyo Pungo in Eastern Ecuador, along with their English translations. Fill in the blanks from the chart.

Quechua	English
kam	you
kamba	yours
atam	frog
atambi	in the frog
hatum	the big one
(e)	the big one's
(f)	in the big one

Quechua	English
sinik	porcupine
sinikpa	porcupine's
čilispa	streamless region's
čilis	streamless region
sača	jungle
sačapi	in the jungle
punja	day
punjapi	in the daytime

e.

f.

Q4. The Zoque languages are spoken in southern Mexico. On the next page are some Zoque words with their English translations. Fill in the blanks from the chart.



(Q) Better Left Unsaid (3/3)

Zoque	English
burru	burro
mburru	my burro
pama	clothing
mbama	my clothing
tatah	father
ndatah	my father
faha	belt
faha	my belt
sis	meat
sis	my meat

Zoque	English
flawta	harmonica
(g)	my harmonica
šapun	soap
šapun	my soap
disko	phonograph record
(h)	my phonograph record
kayu	horse
ngayu	my horse
kopak	head
(i)	my head

g.

h.

i.

Q5. Below are some words from the language Lunyole, spoken in Uganda, along with their English translations. Fill in the blanks from the chart.

Lunyole	English
oludaalo	day
endaalo	days
oluboyooboyo	hullabaloo
emboyooboyo	hullabaloo
olufudu	rainbow
efudu	rainbows
olukalala	list
ekalala	lists

Lunyole	English
olusosi	mountain
(j)	mountains
olubafu	rib
(k)	ribs
olupagi	spoke (of a bicycle wheel)
(l)	spokes (of a bicycle wheel)
olutambi	candle
(m)	candles

j.

k.

l.

m.

Q6. Tying it all together

- a. All five of the languages in this problem display processes that avoid a specific type of sound combination. Fill in the blanks in the following sentence to describe this generalization: (HINT: The blanks should be chosen from the following list: Vowel, Consonant, Nasal, Voiced Consonant, Voiceless Consonant.)

Avoid having a (n) directly followed by a (o).

- b. English does not obey the rule from Part 6 (a). **In fact, there is an English word in this bolded sentence that violates this rule.** Write the English word from the previous sentence that violates the rule described in the box above in 6a.

p.

Q7. Explain your answer to (Q6a) by describing how this generalization applies to each of the five languages.

