(E) Shaw Business (1/2) [10 points]

The author George Bernard Shaw (author of *Pygmalion*,[1] which was later adapted as the musical *My Fair Lady*) saw the use of the Latin (or Roman) alphabet for English as a waste of time – the alphabet simply was not suited to write English.

An infamous example of English pronunciation being at odds with its use of the Roman alphabet is the sequence *–ough*. Consider the different pronunciations of *ough* in the following words: *rough*, *through*, *hiccough*, *though*, and *bough*. This should give you an idea why a spelling reform may be needed.

Shaw left money in his will to the inventor of a new (and better) script for English. Kingsley Read, among many others, entered the competition, and his alphabet was chosen as the best response to Shaw's challenge in 1958. Read named his invention the "Shavian Alphabet" in honor of Shaw.

Some of the rules of Shavian:

- The majority of its characters simply represent an individual English sound. However, a few can be used as abbreviations for a word.

- Shavian is based on a Rhotic English accent – an accent in which all the r symbols are pronounced (such as American English where the word "rarer" is pronounced with 3 r-sounds).

- There are no capital "letters" in Shavian.

E1. On the left below are some phrases rendered in Shavian, while on the right are their transliterations in the Roman alphabet, except they have been reordered. Work out which Roman transliterations match the Shavian phrases.

	Shavian alphabet		Roman Alphabet
1.	ρ ᑰ1 Ꮪcᴜ11	A.	this is Shavian
2.	/ʜ ૪ᴊſ ᑰ1Ꮪ	B.	the cat slept
3.	Ꭻ ᴊſᴆ	C.	to learn
4.	ριꙄ ιꙅ ·ᑕᴄſſι	D.	we have cats
5.	1 cᴆι	E.	for ever

[1]*Pygmalion* is about a linguistics professor trying to correct the pronunciation of a Cockney flower seller called Eliza (Cockney being a dialect of British English used by Dick van Dyke in *Mary Poppins*). One of the first artificial intelligence programs, a chatbot, was named Eliza, after the character in *Pygmalion*.

(E) Shaw Business (2/2)

E2. Using your knowledge of Shavian so far, transliterate the following English phrases into Shavian alphabet. Instead of writing out the symbols yourself, refer to the table provided (e.g. for C enter 3 in one cell):

Eve

Ian

turn left to sit

sleep for Steve

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
)	1	८	J	ð	S	C	८	\	৭	⊃	⊋	/	४	c	⌠	I	ᒲ	J	⌐

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
५	⊏	⊐	�	ₒ	⋀	⋋	ℇ	♫	℧	♪	⋂	℘	⟨	∨	Ν	↳	⌠	℧	⌐

41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
⌐	⊃	♫	ੲ	∖	⌐	∪	⊃	·

You may have noticed that Shavian has characters that are like the Roman alphabet's ascenders (letters that stick out in an upwards direction from the line of writing such as "f" and "h") and descenders (letters that go below the line of writing such as "g"). Ascenders are known as "tall characters" and descenders as "deep characters" in Shavian. Some tall and deep characters make deliberate pairs, such as:

S and ℥

J and ⌠

E3. Work out what sounds the symbols in the pairings above represent. How would you write this sound using the Roman alphabet?

S [   ]   ℥ [   ]   J [   ]   ⌠ [   ]

E4. What is the Shavian symbol for "b" (enter the code): [   ]