

# Ninth International Olympiad in Linguistics

## Pittsburgh (United States of America), July 24–31, 2011

### Individual Contest Problems

**Problem #1 (20 points).** Given are verb forms of the Menominee language as well as their English translations:

<b>kewæpeqtaq</b>	we <sub>1+2</sub> begin
<b>kawāham</b>	he fells it by tool
<b>nepītohnæm</b>	I walk here (to this place)
<b>kēskenam</b>	he breaks it through by hand
<b>pahkæsam</b>	he cuts it off
<b>kekætohnæq</b>	we <sub>1+2</sub> walk out
<b>pītenam</b>	he passes it here
<b>kewæpānæhkæq</b>	we <sub>1+2</sub> begin to dig
<b>tawæsam</b>	he cuts a hole in it
<b>nekætahan</b>	I pry it out by tool
<b>pāhkaham</b>	he opens it by tool (by raising a lid or opening a door)
<b>kekēskahtæq</b>	we <sub>1+2</sub> bite it through
<b>wackōhnæw</b>	he walks roundabout, by a detour
<b>newāckesan</b>	I cut around it
<b>ketānam</b>	he takes it out by hand
<b>ketāwahtæq</b>	we <sub>1+2</sub> bite, gnaw a hole in it
<b>wæpohnæw</b>	he begins walking
<b>nekāweqtam</b>	I lie down
<b>pāhkeqtaw</b>	he opens up
<b>kepītahtæq</b>	we <sub>1+2</sub> come eating it; we <sub>1+2</sub> bring it in our mouths
<b>nekāwāhpem</b>	I fall over laughing

(a) Translate into English: **kekēskahæq**, **nepāhkenan**, **wæpāhpew**. If in some cases you believe that more than one translation is possible, give them all.

(b) Translate into Menominee:

- I begin to eat it
- we<sub>1+2</sub> lay it flat by hand
- he digs a hole
- he walks out

⚠ The Menominee Indians live in Wisconsin, USA. They number 5 000–10 000 people, but the eponymous language of the Algonquian family is only spoken by a few dozen of the oldest among them, although effort has been put lately into expanding its teaching and use.

“we<sub>1+2</sub>” = ‘we and you’. æ ≈ *a* in *crack*, **c** = *ch* in *church*, **q** is a consonant (the so-called glottal stop). The mark “<sup>~</sup>” denotes vowel length.

—*Ivan Derzhanski*