

Sixth International Olympiad in Theoretical, Mathematical and Applied Linguistics

Bulgaria, Sunny Beach, 4–9 August 2008

Solutions of the Problems of the Individual Contest

Problem #1. Rules:

1. The apostrophe indicates length if it follows a vowel, and is read as [ə] if it follows a consonant.
2. The letter **w** stands for a rounding of the lips after a consonant and for the sound [w] otherwise.
3. [ə] is pronounced, though not written, between any consonant and a following sonorant consonant ([l m n]).
4. [ə] is also pronounced before a consonant cluster at the beginning of a word.
5. **p t j g gw q qw** are pronounced as voiced consonants ([b d j g g^w ʝ ʝ^w]) at the beginning of a word or between vowels and as voiceless consonants ([p t c k k^w x x^w]) at the end of a word or next to another consonant.

Answers:

(a) 12 [əksən̩xōʝon], 13 [ət̩kəbox], 14 [gəm̩ūjəmin], 15 [emtoʝ^watk], 16 [dēbəl̩c];

(b) 17 *tp'te'sn*, 18 *mtesgm*, 19 *alapt'g*, 20 *glamen*.

Problem #2. (a) Rules:

1. Number of syllables. Each line contains 6 syllables.
2. Alliteration. See the statement of the problem.
3. Internal rhyme. Let us denote the vowels (and diphthongs) in each line by V_1, V_2, \dots, V_6 . At least one consonant immediately following V_5 must immediately follow V_n ($n = 1, 2$ or 3). Also, in even lines $V_n = V_5$.

For instance, cf. lines IV, 1–6 (alliteration is marked in boldface, internal rhyme by underlining):

IV

- 1 háð**i** gramr, þars gnúðu,
- 2 geira hregg við seggi,
- 3 (rauð fnýsti ben blóð*i*)
- 4 bryngögl í dyn Skoglar,
- 5 þás á raun̩ fyr ræsi
- 6 (réð eggliuðr) seggir ...

(b) Leftover words: **hœgra**, **smíði**.

V

- 1 ^a ríks (þreifsk reiddra øxa
- 2 ^b rymr ; knóttu spjór ^c glymja)
- 3 ^d svartskyggð bitu seggi
- 4 ^e sverð þjóðkonungs ferðar,
- 5 þás (^f hugfylðra hólða)
- 6 ^g hlaut ^h andskoti ⁱ Gauta
- 7 (hór vas ^j söng of ^k svírum)
- 8 ^l sigr (flugbeiddra ^m vígra).