

(15 points)

(D) Double or Quit in Caterpillar Country (1/2)

Arrernte is an Australian Aboriginal language, spoken mainly in and around Alice Springs, in the center of the country. It is one of the largest Aboriginal languages, spoken by both adults and children and taught in schools such as the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs.¹

When written, Arrernte uses the same alphabet we use for English. Some combinations of letters signal special sounds, in the same way that English 'th' represents a sound that is *not* a combination of the 't' and 'h' sounds. For example, 'rr' represents the single sound of a rolled r, 'rl' indicates an l with the tongue tip touching higher and further back, and 'th' indicates a t-like sound with the tongue further forward, touching the back of the upper teeth.

Consider the following examples of Arrernte verbs:²

Arrernte	English gloss	Arrernte	English gloss
atherreme	'is laughing'	areme	'is looking'
atherreke	'was laughing'	areke	'was looking'
atherreperreme	'keeps laughing'	arerlpareme	'starts to look'
atheme	'is grinding'	atakeme	'demolish something'
atheke	'was grinding'	atakepakeme	'keeps demolishing something'
athelpatheme	'starts to grind'	aterlpatakeme	'starts to demolish something'
mpwareme	'is making'	untheme	'is going along'
mpwareke	'was making'	unthepuntheme	'keeps going along'
mpwarepareme	'keeps making'	unthepuntheke	'kept going along'
mpwelppempwareme	'starts to make'		

- DI.** (i) What meaning is expressed by -eme or -eke suffixed (i.e., added) to the stem of each of these words? The stem is the part of the word which is common to all of its inflected forms (e.g., in English, the stem of the words *does* and *doing* is *do*). Tick your answer from the following choices:

- A. Type of action B. Time of action C. Duration of action
- D. Start of action

¹ Yipirinya is the Arrernte word for 'caterpillar', the symbol of the Arrernte people of Alice Springs.

² Examples from:

A Learner's Guide to Eastern and Central Arrernte by Jenny Green.

Eastern and Central Arrernte to English Dictionary by John Henderson and Veronica Dobson.

www.ling.upenn.edu/Events/PLC/plc25/schedule/raimy.pdf



(D) Double or Quit in Caterpillar Country (2/2)

(ii) Indicate (by completing the answer with a single entry in each blank) which two aspects of a word indicate that an action is:

- (a) frequent ('keeps on doing X')

Add _____ to the verb stem followed by duplication of the _____ vowel and consonant(s) of the verb stem.

- (b) commencing ('starts to do X')

Add _____ or _____ (the latter after r or t) after the _____ consonant(s) of the verb stem followed by the whole _____.

(iii) Which 'commencing' verb in the above list needs an additional 'tweak' in order to produce the correct attested form? (Write the Arrernte verb in the box below.)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(iv) What sort of sound or sequence of sounds must always follow -ep, -elp or -erlp? (Tick the correct answer.)

- A. consonant B. vowel C. consonant plus vowel
- D. vowel plus two consonants

D2. Here are three new words in Arrernte:

arlkweme	'is eating'
kwerneme	'is swallowing'
itirreme	'is thinking'

How would you say the following?

- (a) was eating

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- (b) kept swallowing

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- (c) starts to think

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

