

# The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2017



## Round 2 Problem 1. Nepali possessions

Nepali is the official language of Nepal, in the Himalayan region, and is also spoken in Northern India and Bhutan. It is an Indo-European language, so it is distantly related to European languages such as English, and is more closely related to Indian languages such as Hindi and Bengali.

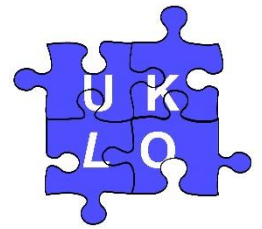
Nepali is usually written in Devanagari script, which has been transliterated here using the English alphabet with some special marks to indicate particular pronunciations. Because Nepali has many more sounds (especially different consonant sounds such as four distinct ways of pronouncing a “d”), you will see accents on vowels (such as ī) and dots under consonants (such as ḍ) in the transliteration used here. In your answer, you need to include these special marks where necessary.

Here are some Nepali sentences, phrases and words with their English translations.

timīsāga paisā cha?	Do you have money?		
timīsita paisā chaina.	You do not have money.		
Anilki āmā cha.	Anil has a mother.		
masāga paisā cha.	I have money.		
Anilsāga tīnvatā churoṭ chan.	Anil has three cigarettes.		
Anilko buvā cha.	Anil has a father.		
Anilsita paisā cha.	Anil has money.		
Rameshsita duiṭā kalam chan.	Ramesh has two pens.		
Binduki āmā chaina.	Bindu does not have a mother.		
Bindusāga churoṭ cha?	Does Bindu have a cigarette?		
Rameshko moṭar cha?	Does Ramesh have a car?		
Binduka duiṭā ghar chan.	Bindu has two houses.		
Bindusita churoṭ cha.	Bindu has a cigarette.		
Binduko moṭar cha.	Bindu has (a) car.		
Gitasāga sābun chaina.	Gita does not have soap.		
Gitaka duiṭā moṭar chan.	Gita has two cars.		
ek baṭṭā churoṭ	one packet of cigarettes		
das rupiyā	ten rupees (Nepal’s currency)		
kāpī	notebook	nātini	granddaughter
miṭhāi	sweets, candies	parivār	family
pēnsila	pencil	koṭhaharu	rooms
śrīman	husband	sāco	key

Q.1. Using the table in your answer sheet, translate these sentences into Nepali.

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- a. I have a notebook.
- b. Bindu does not have one packet of cigarettes.
- c. Gita has a husband.
- d. Ramesh has a granddaughter.
- e. Do you have ten rupees?
- f. The house has three rooms.
- g. The family does not have a granddaughter.
- h. Do you have sweets?
- i. Anil does not have a key.
- j. I do not have a pencil.

In some cases, two different translations are possible. In such cases, you should provide **both** translations.

## Problem 2.1. Nepali possessions (Answer blank)

a	
b	
c	
d	
e	
f	
g	
h	
i	
j	

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## Solution and marking.

Scoring: 1 point for each correct word. (Max 40)

- When two translations are possible, only credit unrepeated words.

a	masita / masāga kāpī cha.	4
b	Bindusita / Bindusāga ek baṭṭā churoṭ chaina.	6
c	Gitako śrīman cha.	3
d	Rameshki nātini cha.	3
e	timīsāga / timīsita das rupiy* chan? (*= a mixture of ã and ā)	5
f	Gharka tīnvatā koṭṭaharu chan.	4
g	parivārki nātini chaina.	3
h	timīsāga / timīsita miṭhāī chan?	4
i	Anilsita / Anilsāga s*co chaina. (*= a mixture of ã and ā)	4
j	masita / masāga pēnsila chaina.	4

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## Commentary

Possession is expressed in Nepali with the possessed as subject, as though we said ‘A bike belongs to me’ instead of ‘I have a bike’. More precisely, the verb used is ‘be’, so a literal translation into English would be ‘A bike is (to) me’, where ‘to’ corresponds to the ending on the possessor noun, explained below. These suffixes are added to the possessor, which in these examples is either a name or a pronoun.

Suffix	explanation
-sita	Can be used interchangeably with – sāga. Both are used when the possessed is a small item that a speaker / person can carry with them, on their person, such as money, pens, cigarettes etc.
-sāga	See above.
-ko	Used when the possessed is too big to be carried by a person (such as houses or cars) or to refer to friends / family “belonging” to a person. The “ko” suffix is used when the possessed is masculine.
-ki	Used when the possession is too big to be carried by a person (such as houses or cars) or to refer to friends / family “belonging” to a person. The “ki” suffix is used when the possessed is feminine.
-ka	Used when the possession is too big to be carried by a person (such as houses or cars) or to refer to friends / family “belonging” to a person. The “ka” suffix is used for nouns (in possession) that are plural.