



Say it in Abma (15 marks)

Abma is an Austronesian language spoken in parts of the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu by around 8,000 people. Carefully study these Abma sentences, then use the answer sheet to answer the questions. Note that there is no separate word for ‘the’ or ‘he’ in these Abma sentences.

Mwamni sileng.	He drinks water.
Nutsu mwatbo mwamni sileng.	The child keeps drinking water.
Nutsu mwegau.	The child grows.
Nutsu mwatbo mwegalgal.	The child keeps crawling.
Mworob mwabma.	He runs here.
Mwerava Mabontare mwisib.	He pulls Mabontare down.
Mabontare mwisib.	Mabontare goes down.
Mweselkani tela mwesak.	He carries the axe up.
Mwelebte sileng mwabma.	He brings water.
Mabontare mworob mwesak.	Mabontare runs up.
Sileng mworob.	The water runs.

Now, here are some new words in Abma: *sesesrakan* (teacher), *mwegani* (eat), *bwet* (taro, a kind of sweet potato), *muhural* (walk), *butsukul* (palm-tree)

3.1 (10 marks)

Translate the following sentences into Abma.

- The teacher carries the water down.
- The child keeps eating.
- Mabontare eats taro.
- The child crawls here.
- The teacher walks downhill.
- The palm-tree keeps growing upwards.
- He goes up.

3.2 (5 marks)

Translate these Abma sentences into English:

- Sesesrakan mweselkani bwet mwabma.
- Sileng mworob mwisib.
- Mwelebte bwet mwesak.



Answer sheet

3.1a	
b	
c	
d	
e	
f	
g	
3.2a	
b	
c	



Answers

3.1a	Sesesrakan mweselkani sileng mwisib.
b	Nutsu mwatbo mwegani.
c	Mabontare mwegani bwet.
d	Nutsu mwegalgal mwabma.
e	Sesesrakan muhural mwisib.
f	Butsukul mwatbo mwegau mwesak.
g	Mwesak.

3.2a	The/a teacher carries (the) taro here. Or: The/a teacher brings (the) taro.
b	(The) water runs down/downwards/downhill.
c	He carries (the) taro up/upwards/uphill.