

(C) The Curious Case of Estonian (1/2)

Estonian is a Uralic language closely related to Finnish; it is spoken by over a million people in Estonia. In Estonian, as in many languages around the world, nouns (and adjectives) take different forms (called "cases") according to their role in the sentence. For example, in the sentence below, there are three forms of the word *horse*. This is similar to the difference between *he*, *him*, and *his* in English.

Hobune	nägi	hobust	hobusega.
horse.nominative	saw	horse.partitive	horse.comitative
'A horse saw a horse with a horse.'			

Estonian nouns have a lot of different forms depending on their case and their number (singular or plural). The table below illustrates various forms for different nouns and adjectives; the exact meaning of these different cases is not relevant to this problem. Be careful, however: exactly four of the forms in the table below are mistakes! Note that õ, ä, ö, and ü are vowels.

<i>English translation</i>	<i>Genitive Singular</i>	<i>Partitive Singular</i>	<i>Adessive Singular</i>	<i>Nominative Plural</i>	<i>Genitive Plural</i>	<i>Adessive Plural</i>
'house'	maja	maja	majal	majad	majade	majadel
'nest'	pesa	pesa	pesal	pesad	pesade	pesadel
'singer'	laulja	laulja	lauljal	lauljad	lauljate	lauljatel
'restaurant'	söökla	sööklat	sööklal	sööklad	sööklate	sööklatel
'name'	nime	nime	nimel	nimed	nimede	nimedel
'ice'	jää	jääd	jääl	jääd	jääde	jäädel
'summer'	suve	suve	suvel	suved	suvede	suvedel
'white'	valge	valget	valgel	valged	valgete	valgetel
'sister'	õe	õde	õdel	õed	õdede	õdedel
'road'	tee	teed	teel	teed	teede	eedel
'big'	suur	suurt	suurel	suured	suurte	suurtel
'yellow'	kollase	kollaset	kollasel	kollased	kollaste	kollastel
'man'	mehe	meest	mehel	mehed	meeste	meestel
'bean'	oa	uba	oal	oad	ubade	ubadel
'reason'	põhjuse	põhjust	põhjusel	põhjused	põhjuste	põhjustel
'story'	loo	lugu	lool	lood	lugude	lugudel
'island'	saare	saart	saarel	saared	saarte	saartel



(C) The Curious Case of Estonian (2/2)

C1. Write down the *correct* forms of the four incorrect words.

C2. Fill in the blanks in the table below.

<i>English translation</i>	<i>Genitive Singular</i>	<i>Partitive Singular</i>	<i>Adessive Singular</i>	<i>Nominative Plural</i>	<i>Genitive Plural</i>	<i>Adessive Plural</i>
'moon'		kuud	kuul			
'human'	inimese				inimeste	
'fish'		kala		kalad		

