

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2020

Round 2



Problem 4. Utterly Ute (20 marks)

Ute is spoken by 1640 people in an area extending from California to Colorado in the United States. It is part of the Uto-Aztec language family, which also has speakers in Central America.



Here are some Ute sentences and their translations in English. The transcription is explained on the next page.

	English	Ute
1	The workers imitated the boy.	wúukhamitum <u>ú</u> 'um <u>ú</u> 'áapachi 'uway navutigikyaqha
2	The boys are writing.	'áapachiu 'um <u>ú</u> pe'eqway
3	The goat kicked the dog.	sivaatuchi 'um <u>ú</u> sarichi 'uway taaqha
4	The woman hunted the goats.	mamachij 'u sivaatuchi 'um <u>ú</u> tñavereqwa
5	The farmer is singing.	uamit <u>ú</u> 'u káay
6	The child killed the goats.	tuachij 'u sivaatuchi 'um <u>ú</u> paqhaqhaqa
7	The writer is imitating the farmer.	pe'emit <u>ú</u> 'u 'uamit <u>ú</u> 'uway navutigi
8	The worker is drinking.	wúukamit <u>ú</u> 'u 'ivi
9	The women taught the worker.	mamachiu 'um <u>ú</u> wúukamit <u>ú</u> 'uway pe'etikyaqha
10	The dog is kicking the children.	sarichi 'u tuachiu 'um <u>ú</u> taaqha
11	The farmers hunted the goat.	'uaqhamitum <u>ú</u> 'um <u>ú</u> sivaatuchi 'uway tñavereqwaqha
12	The writers are singing.	pe'eqwamitum <u>ú</u> 'um <u>ú</u> káaqhay

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Explanation of the transcription:

- ʉ is pronounced like u, but with the lips not rounded.
- ə is pronounced as in French *jeu*, with the lips rounded.
- q is similar to k, but further back in the mouth.
- qh is pronounced as in German *Bach*, but further back in the mouth.
- ' denotes the glottal stop, the sound in the middle of *uh-oh*.
- ch is as in *church*.
- An underlined vowel (ꝑ) denotes a vowel pronounced with no voicing (vibration of the vocal folds).
- An acute accent (ꝑ) denotes a vowel which is stressed.

Q4.1. On your answer sheet, translate into Ute:

- a. The women worked.
- b. The singers are killing the dog.
- c. The hunters taught the child.

Q4.2. On your answer sheet, translate into English:

- a. 'ivikyamitꝑmꝑ 'umꝑ 'áapachi 'uway taqhaqa
- b. wukamitꝑ 'u sivaatuchiu 'umꝑ 'uaqha

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Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 32)

- 8.1: 2 points for each correct word; 1 point with one wrong syllable. (max 26)
- Insist on correct accents and underlining or strike-through.
- 8.2: 1 point for each correct sentence-part (subject, verb, object). (max 6)
- Insist on correct tense.

8.1a.	mamachiū 'um <u>ʉ</u> w <u>ʉ</u> kaqhaqa	6
b.	káaqhamit <u>ʉmʉ</u> 'um <u>ʉ</u> sarichi 'uway p <u>ʉ</u> qhay	10
c.	t <u>ʉ</u> nav <u>ʉ</u> eqwamit <u>ʉmʉ</u> 'um <u>ʉ</u> tuachi 'uway p <u>ʉ</u> 'etikyaqha	10
8.2a.	The drunkards/drinkers/equivalent + kicked + the boy.	3
b	The worker + farmed + the goats.	3

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Commentary

Word order: SOV

Verbs:

Stem+Num+tense

Num: -Q,**a**-

Tense:

Past: -Q₂**a**-

Pres. cont.: -y-

Phonological rules:

Q > **qw** / e_

> **ky** / i_

> **qh** / a_

Except: **aQ,aQ₂a > aqhaqa**

(i.e. -qhaqha forbidden when both are inflectional, but -qhaqha allowed if first qha is in stem, as in 6.)

y > ø / i_

Noun phrases:

Regular nouns (non-nominalized): pl -u

Subject: devoice final vowel unless it is -u

Article¹ follows noun:

Art.	Subj.	Obj.
Sg.	'u	'uway
Pl.	'um <u>u</u>	'um <u>u</u>

Nominalization of verb:

Sg: stem+mitu

Pl: stem+Q,**a**+mitu+mu²

¹ Technically no way to determine this is an article so any explanation for it is fine, e.g. syntactic/semantic role marker.

² Explanation: -mi-tu- are a relativizer + nominalizer. -Q,**a**- is the normal plural verb marker, -mu is plural marker for some nouns including those derived from verbs. X-Q,**a**mitumu is therefore "the ones(pl) who do(pl) X" with plural marked twice in the morphology.