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## Maasai

by Doris L. Payne

Maasai is a language spoken by about 800,000 people in East Africa, mostly in Kenya and Tanzania.

As with many languages in East Africa, "tone" is very important in Maasai. The different tones are written as marks above some letters. For example, the letters á, í and ó are all pronounced with high tone. The letters à, ì and ò are all pronounced with low tone. If there is no mark over a letter, it is pronounced with "mid tone," half way in between high and low.

There are also some letters in the Maasai alphabet that are not used in English. For example, "ɔ" is a sound like the English word "awe." "ɛ" is similar to the vowel sound in "let," "u" is like the vowel sound in "hood" and "ɪ" is like the vowel sound in "lit." You don't need to be able to pronounce these words in order to solve the problem, however, you should pay very close attention to the letters and the tone marks.

The following are some sentences in Maasai, and the English translations in random order. Indicate which translation goes with each Maasai sentence by placing the letter of the correct translation in the space provided:

- |                                    | English translations in <i>random order</i> |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. éósh ɔlmuraní ɔlásuráì _____    | A. 'The warrior cuts me.'                   |
| 2. áadól ɔlásuráí _____            | B. 'The warrior cuts the tree for me.'      |
| 3. áaósh ɔlmuraní _____            | C. 'The warrior cuts it.'                   |
| 4. ídól ɔlmurání _____             | D. 'I cut the tree for the warrior.'        |
| 5. íóshokí ɔlmurání ɔlásuráì _____ | E. 'The warrior hits me.'                   |
| 6. ádúŋokí ɔlmurání ɔlcetá _____   | F. 'You see the warrior.'                   |
| 7. ádúŋ ɔlcetá _____               | G. 'The warrior hits the snake.'            |
| 8. áaduŋokí ɔlmuraní ɔlcetá _____  | H. 'The snake sees me.'                     |
| 9. áadúŋ ɔlmuraní _____            | I. 'You hit the snake for the warrior.'     |
| 10. édúŋ ɔlmuraní _____            | J. 'I cut the tree.'                        |

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## Hawaiian

*Puzzle by V. Belikov. English adaptation by Valentin Vydrin and Thomas E. Payne*

Hawaiian is a Polynesian language, spoken fluently by about 2000 people.

The following Hawaiian sentences, with their English translations, are about a girl named Mele and a boy named Keone:

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. He has seven elder brothers.   | Ehiku ona kaikuaana.     |
| 2. Mele has one brother.          | Ekahi o Mele kaikunane.  |
| 3. Keone has one younger brother. | Ekahi o Keone kaikaina.  |
| 4. Mele has no elder sisters.     | Aohe o Mele kaikuaana.   |
| 5. Keone has no sisters.          | Aohe o Keone kaikuahine. |
| 6. I have one canoe.              | Ekahi ou waa.            |
| 7. Mele has no younger sisters.   | Aohe o Mele kaikaina.    |

A: There are two possible English translations for the following Hawaiian sentence. What are they?

Aohe ou kaikuaana.

B: Translate the following sentence into English and indicate who is speaking, Mele or Keone:

Aohe ou kaikuahine.

C. The following English sentences would be difficult to translate directly into Hawaiian. Explain why this is true.

Keone has one brother.

Mele has one younger brother.