



# AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad  
*The Problem Solvers' Challenge*

## Preliminary Round / Round One

January 2022

2 Hours

Plus 30 minutes for data entry online

# PROBLEM BOOK

## Individual Paper

*Answer as many of the questions as you can.*

*Follow the instructions if completing this online, or else write your answers in the answer books provided.*

### Questions and credits

A. Incomplete Rotuman	Ethan Chi	15 points
B. Eating out in Tzeltal	Simi Hellstein	20 points
C. Partially Finnish	Babette Newsome	25 points
D. Ethiopian map reading	Harold Somers	20 points
E. Splash to save	Catherine Scanlon	20 points



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## Question A: Incomplete Rotuman

15 points

Rotuman is an Austronesian language spoken by the indigenous people of the South Pacific island group Rotuma, which is part of Fiji. A feature of Rotuman is the use of so-called “incomplete” forms in certain grammatical situations.

Here are some words in Rotuman, along with their incomplete forms. Their English translations are given for your information only.

' and η are consonants; **ä, ö, ü** are versions of the back vowels **a, o, u** respectively, but pronounced at the front of the mouth, like the vowels similarly written in German, also found in French (é, eu, u).



Full form	Incomplete form	Meaning
'uo	'uo	a bony kind of fish
futi	füt	to pull
hoti	höt	to embark
kofi	köf	coffee
masi	mäs	fig tree
mose	mös	to sleep
ηarue	ηarue	work
pepa	peap	paper
pusi	püs	cat
rako	rak	to imitate
seseva	seseav	erroneous
sulu	sul	coconut
tepli	tepel	table
ti'u	ti'	big
tokiri	tokir	to roll
vao	vao	fishing net

A1. Give the incomplete form for the following Rotuman words. (Again the English translation is given only for your information)

- |                                |                          |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) <i>Ranrani</i> (Britain)   | (b) <i>lelei</i> (good)  | (c) <i>soti</i> (shirt)  |
| (d) <i>kesmasi</i> (Christmas) | (e) <i>suka</i> (sugar)  | (f) <i>mafa</i> (eye)    |
| (g) <i>parofita</i> (prophet)  | (h) <i>soge</i> (starve) | (i) <i>hosa</i> (flower) |
| (j) <i>tuturu</i> (after)      | (k) <i>foa</i> (grater)  | (l) <i>asu</i> (steam)   |

## Question B: Eating out in Tzeltal

20 points

Tzeltal is a Mayan language spoken by about 450,000 people in the Mexican state of Chiapas.

Below are some Tzeltal responses to the question *Binti ya a?tun* 'What are you eating?', along with an English translation.



Note: A tamale is a traditional Central American dish made of dough steamed in a corn husk or banana leaf (left), and a tortilla is a kind of flatbread (right).

If your answer requires the ? character, you can use a ?.

	Tzeltal	English
1	<i>ya hti? sehk 'ub</i>	<i>I am eating liver</i>
2	<i>ya hti?tik k'in</i>	<i>We are eating kidney</i>
3	<i>ya hk 'ushtik ?isim</i>	<i>We are eating corn</i>
4	<i>ya hlo? kulish</i>	<i>I am eating boiled cabbage</i>
5	<i>ya hk 'ush kisim</i>	<i>I am eating my corn</i>
6	<i>ya hk 'ush hmantzana</i>	<i>I am eating my apple</i>
7	<i>ya hti?tik chitam</i>	<i>We are eating pork</i>
8	<i>ya hk 'ush tush?ak</i>	<i>I am eating an onion</i>
9	<i>ya hwe?tik hpatz'tik</i>	<i>We are eating our tamale</i>
10	<i>ya hk 'ushtik kulish</i>	<i>We are eating raw cabbage</i>
11	<i>ya hk 'ush ?askal</i>	<i>I am eating a sugar-cube</i>
12	<i>ya hti? kelemut</i>	<i>I am eating my chicken</i>
13	<i>ya hlo?tik kontik</i>	<i>We are eating our avocado</i>
14	<i>ya hlo?tik hlo?baltik</i>	<i>We are eating our banana</i>
15	<i>ya hk 'ush kaskal</i>	<i>I am eating my sugar-cube</i>
16	<i>ya hti?tik ?ok'il</i>	<i>We are eating coyote</i>
17	<i>ya hk 'ushtik hmantzanatik</i>	<i>We are eating our apple</i>
18	<i>ya hlo? hchab</i>	<i>I am eating my honey</i>
19	<i>ya hwe? kashlan wah</i>	<i>I am eating bread</i>
20	<i>ya hk 'ush hmankotik</i>	<i>I am eating our unripe mango</i>
21	<i>ya hti?tik ?ich</i>	<i>We are eating a chili pepper</i>
22	<i>ya hwe? hwah</i>	<i>I am eating my tortilla</i>
23	<i>ya hti?tik kok'iltik</i>	<i>We are eating our coyote</i>
24	<i>ya hk 'ush nues</i>	<i>I am eating a nut</i>
25	<i>ya hlo? manko</i>	<i>I am eating a ripe mango</i>
26	<i>ya hlo? ?on</i>	<i>I am eating an avocado</i>

1. Which Tzeltal word does not behave as would be expected? (You can give either the Tzeltal word or its translation)

Here are some more words in Tzeltal:

*ti?bal* = meat      *chinbak* = marrow      *tsijwit* = carrot      *pastel* = cake

2. Translate into Tzeltal:

- (a) We are eating meat.
- (b) I am eating a (cooked) marrow.
- (c) I am eating my carrot.
- (d) We are eating our chili pepper.
- (e) I am eating cake.
- (f) I am eating chicken.

3. Only one of the following is the correct translation of "I am eating an orange". Which one?

- (a) *ya hti? naranxa*
- (b) *ya hkus'h naranxa*
- (c) *ya hlo? naranxa*
- (d) *ya hwe? naranxa*

## Question C: Partially Finnish

25 points

Finnish is spoken by almost 5 million people mostly in Finland. It is one of the official languages of the EU. Here are some sentences in Finnish with their English translations.

<i>He ampuivat kahta karhua.</i>	They shot at two bears.
<i>Hän ampui kaksi karhua.</i>	She shot two bears.
<i>Hän luki kirjaa.</i>	He read some of the book.
<i>Minä luin artikkelin.</i>	I read (all) the article.
<i>Hän söi pizzaa.</i>	She ate some pizza.
<i>Me joimme soijajuoman.</i>	We drank the soy drink.
<i>Kaksi kissaa joivat soijajuomaa.</i>	Two cats drank some of the soy drink.
<i>Minä kirjoitin kirjan.</i>	I wrote a book.
<i>Hän kirjoitti artikkelia.</i>	He wrote some of the article.
<i>Me maalasimme taloa.</i>	We painted some of the house.
<i>Kissa tarkkaili talon.</i>	The cat watched the house.
<i>Hän kutoi villatakin.</i>	He knitted a sweater.

1. Translate into Finnish

- (a) He ate all the pizza.
- (b) I read two books.
- (c) She knitted some of the sweater.
- (d) I painted a cat.
- (e) She started to paint a cat.

2. Translate into English

- (a) *Minä join soijajuoman.*
- (b) *Me tarkkailimme kissan.*
- (c) *Hän luki kaksi kirjaa.*
- (d) *He ampuivat karhun.*

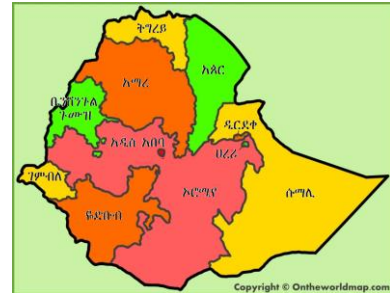
Here are some more Finnish verbs (given in the 3rd person singular past tense) and nouns (nominative/subject form).

<i>avasti</i>	he/she opened	<i>elokuva</i>	film, movie
<i>kunnosti</i>	he/she renovated	<i>ikkuna</i>	window
<i>rakasti</i>	he/she loved		

3. Translate into Finnish
- (a) She watched some of the film.
  - (b) We opened the window a bit.
  - (c) I loved the pizza.
  - (d) I (fully) opened the window.
  - (e) They renovated the house.

## Question D: Ethiopian map reading 20 points

This map shows the regions of Ethiopia, written in the Ge'ez script which is used to write several of the different official languages of Ethiopia, including Amharic.



1. Match up the names with their English transliterations, given here in a different order.

(a)	ቸግረይ	1	Adis Ababaa
(b)	ቤንሸንጉል ጉምዝ	2	Afar
(c)	አሮሚያ	3	Amaara
(d)	ሀረሪ	4	Beenshangul Gumuz
(e)	ዲርዲቋ	5	Diredawa
(f)	ሱማሌ	6	Gambela
(g)	አዳር	7	Harari
(h)	አዲስ አበባ	8	Oromiya
(i)	ዬድቡብ	9	Sumaali
(j)	አማራ	10	Tegray
(k)	ገምታ	11	Yeedebub

2. The following are the names of some European countries in Amharic. Can you guess which they are?

- (a) አይርላንድ
- (b) ጅርመን
- (c) ራሽያ
- (d) ብሪታንያ
- (e) ስዊዘሪላንድ

## Question E: Splash to save

20 points

This problem is about Ende, a Pahoturi language spoken by 500-600 people in Western Province, Papua New Guinea.

The first part of an Ende story is given below, with the English translation of each sentence alongside.

<i>Ankom a tärko ubi eragwe ddoxae aiabal nag dagwe.</i>	Ant and Small Fish, they were really very good friends.
<i>Ankom obo ma mede llo toko me dan.</i>	Ant was in his house on top of a tree.
<i>Tärko walle me de ddox kollba nagnag oba peyang.</i>	Small Fish was in the river with some fish friends.
<i>Ttongo ag me däbe ttängäm a säresäremang gogon.</i>	One morning (in) that place (it) was about to rain.
<i>Yäbäd de ddapall käkan da dakonewän.</i>	Clouds covered the sun.
<i>Malla wätali gogon, wel ulle da gongkamän.</i>	It wasn't long before a big wind began.

1. The English translation for the rest of the story is presented below. The Ende sentences follow, in scrambled order. Your job is to match the sentences with their translations.

- (1) It blew down and broke the tree.
- (2) The wind tore Ant's house and threw Ant into the river.
- (3) When Small Fish saw, he moved closer to him.
- (4) But some big fish were trying to kill him.
- (5) A catfish was about to swallow him.
- (6) Small Fish quickly splashed with water (with his tail) and threw Ant on top of the grass, and he was saved.

- (A) *Bunkuttang da mäse ngänygänye dängkamän.*
- (B) *Tärko da mängalae källagokätaemän a ine peyang ankom bom towall toko me daspunän a ttam gogän.*
- (C) *Ankom bo ma de wel a dapisamän a ankom bom daspunän walle me.*
- (D) *Be ddox kollba ulleulle da gäz e de ada däganeyo.*
- (E) *Llo de duduaibnegnän a dattkaemnegän.*
- (F) *Tärko da angde ikop dägagän, obo dowae e guinggolän.*

2. Provide English translations for the following Ende words:

- (a) *tärko*      (b) *walle*      (c) *daspunän*      (d) *bunkuttang*

3. Provide Ende translations for the following words:

- (a) ant      (b) and      (c) tree      (d) on top of

**END OF PAPER**