

Question 22 The house can't eat you Solution

E1. Translate into English:

- (a) **I can truly sleep**
- (b) **Don't (go (to)) sleep!**
- (c) **Is she also unwilling to {build/do} {a/the} house?**
- (d) **She also went (to) (the) {house/home} just now**

E2. Translate into Nung.

(18 points)

- (a) **Cáu náhc-thày ca mi kíhn.**
- (b) **Muhn ngám mi slày táhng kíhn pehn té.**
- (c) **Hơn mi cháhñ đày kíhn mưhng.**
- (d) **Mưhng náhc-thày chóng ca bô sạhm páy mi?**

Explanation

In Nung, word order is fixed, meaning that for a given sentence, there is only one correct way to order the words. We can figure out from comparing sentences with the same subject, same adverb, same main verb, or same object that in Nung, sentences are constructed in the following order:

subject – adverb – verb – object – question.marker

where there can be many adverbs and 'it' as an object is left unsaid but implied. 'Like that' is treated as an object in terms of word order.

The correct order of adverbs is:

<i>náhc-thày</i>	<i>ngám</i>	<i>chóng</i>	<i>ca</i>	<i>vữhn nhahng</i>	<i>bô sạhm</i>	<i>mi</i>	<i>cháhñ</i>	<i>slòng / slày / fài / đày</i>	<i>táhng</i>
just previously	just now	then	about to	continue to	also	not	truly	want / [don't] have to / have to / can	alone

In addition, we know that *da* 'don't' and *tan đohc* 'only' both occur before the verb, but in our data, no other adverbs occur in the same sentence as *da* or *tan đohc*, so it is unclear what the correct order should be.

The main question and challenge of the problem consists of identifying the correct positioning of adverbs, which always occur in a fixed order. A strategy for discovering this is to list all the orderings attested, and merge those to create a comprehensive order for all the adverbs provided. Crucially, it is necessary to also consider the Nung sentences provided without translations in order to clarify where in the pattern the adverb *ngám* lies.