

## Question 37: Harmongolian

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Here are some words in the Khalkha dialect of Mongolian, a language spoken by approximately 5.2 million people in Mongolia and parts of China. Normally, Mongolian is written in either Cyrillic or a native Mongolian script. However, for ease of reading, all words have been transcribed into Roman script.

For each word, the forms for the singular, plural, and directive (meaning ‘towards’) are given, as well as the pronunciation of the singular form. Some forms are missing.

Note: in the Pronunciation column, a colon (:) after a vowel indicates that the vowel is long. The ' symbol indicates that the following syllable is stressed. [ɢ] denotes a consonant that sounds like a *g* but pronounced farther back in the mouth, [ŋ] denotes the *ng* sound of *sing*, [tʃ] is the *ch* sound as in *church*, [ʃ] is the *sh* sound as in *ship*, [x] is the *ch* sound as in German, Scottish or Irish, [ø] is a vowel pronounced like the *e* in *pet*, but with rounded lips, similar to French *eu* or German *ö*; [y] is a vowel pronounced like *ee* but with rounded lips, similar to French *u* or German *ü*.

Singular	Plural	Directive	Pronunciation	Translation
<i>havčaar</i>	<i>havčaaruum</i>	<i>havčaarluu</i>	[xav'tʃa:r]	dog
<i>örh</i>	<i>örhүүд</i>	<i>örhrүү</i>	[ørx]	household
<i>mangar</i>	<i>mangar nar</i>	<i>mangarluu</i>	['mangar]	fool
<i>hun</i>	<i>hun nar</i>	<i>hunruu</i>	[xuŋ]	man
<i>övs</i>	<i>övsүүд</i>	<i>övsrүү</i>	[øvs]	grass
<i>heer</i>	<i>heerүүд</i>	<i>heerlүү</i>	[xe:r]	field
<i>neg</i>	<i>negүүд</i>	<b>(a)</b>	[neg]	ace (playing card)
<i>denlүү</i>	<i>denlүүчүүд</i>	<i>denlүүрүү</i>	[den'ly:]	lamp
<i>zutan</i>	<i>zutuum</i>	<i>zutanruu</i>	['zutaŋ]	cream soup
<i>sugar</i>	<i>suguum</i>	<i>sugarluu</i>	['sugar]	Venus (planet)
<i>šüleg</i>	<b>(b)</b>	<b>(c)</b>	['ʃyleg]	poem
<i>gal</i>	<i>galuum</i>	<i>galruu</i>	[gal]	fire
<i>nuguu</i>	<i>nuguučuum</i>	<i>nuguuruu</i>	[nu'gu:]	back (body part)
<i>nökör</i>	<b>(d)</b>	<b>(e)</b>	['nøkør]	husband
<i>darga</i>	<b>(f)</b>	<b>(g)</b>	<b>(h)</b>	mouth

<i>gölög</i>	<i>gölögүүд</i>	<i>gölөгрүү</i>	['gələg]	puppy
<i>aav</i>	<i>aav nar</i>	<i>aavruu</i>	[a:v]	father
<i>hүүhen</i>	<i>hүүhen nar</i>	<i>hүүhenрүү</i>	['xy:xen]	woman
<i>ovog</i>	<b>(i)</b>	<b>(j)</b>	['ovog]	surname

**B1.** Fill in the missing forms (a-j).

**B2.** One of the following Mongolian words was originally a loanword from another language: *nutag*, *künda*, *šoron*, *ehner*. Which one is it and how do you know?

**B3.** Give the plural, directive, and pronunciation (including stress where necessary) of the following words:

- (a) *haančlah* 'king'
- (b) *gürvel* 'lizard'
- (c) *delgүүr* 'shop'
- (d) *zuun* 'century'
- (e) *čanar* 'quality'

**B4.** Explain the rules for forming the plural and directive forms of a word, the rules for placement of stress, and any rules indicating alternative pronunciations of letters (do not mention letters for which the pronunciation is always the same).  
o means 'bundle'. Which one is it?