

Q49. Lalana Solution

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This is another syntax problem, in a model we call *Rosetta Stone*: some sentences are presented with translations and, with that, we can understand part of the grammar of the language.

In this case, the word order is not so obvious. We can start by marking the substantives: corn (x4) and pineapples (x2). After this, we can easily identify the pronoun “my” (x3). We can even paint the words, like this:

kalakwa: kwi: li:ʔ

The beautiful corn grew.

miladʒö mo:h kya

My pineapples have turned out well.

li:ʔ kalane kwi: kwa: kya

My tall corn yellowed beautifully.

ʒö kalaro:h mo:h ne kya

My yellow pineapples ripened well.

kaladʒö kwi:

The corn turned out well.

milakwa: kwi:

The corn has grown

Then the verbs. From the last two sentences, it is obvious that they have internal structure: verbs in the past simple receive **kala-**; verbs in the present continuous receive **mila-**.

The adjectives come after the substantives, as in **mo:h ne** / pineapple yellow and **kwi: li:ʔ** / corn beautiful. To use an adjective as a verb, one just have to use a verb prefix, as in **ne – kalane** / yellow – yellowed and **kwa: – kalakwa: – milakwa:** / tall – grew – has grown.

The adverb comes in the beginning of the sentence, as in **li:ʔ** / beautifully and **ɔʒö** / well. (Don't mistake: the "well" in *turned out well* is part of the verb). Adverbs, adjective and verb nucleus have all the same form.

So the general word order is: (Adverb) Verb – Subject (Adjective) (Possessive)

And the answers are:

1. **li:ʔ** is beautiful(ly). 2. **ro:h** is ripe.

3.

a) **kalali:ʔ mo:h ɔʒö** PAST-(become beautiful) **pineapples** (good/well)ADJ

b) **ɔʒö mila ne mo:h ro:h kya** (well)ADV [PRES.PERF-(yellow) **corn** (ripe)ADJ (my)]

4.

c) The yellow corn has ripened.

d) The corn grew beautifully.