

AILO Team question – Answer grid

1 China	India	USA	Indonesia	Pakistan
Brazil	Nigeria	Bangladesh	Russia	Mexico
11 Japan	Ethiopia	Philippines	Egypt	Vietnam
DR Congo	Germany	Turkey	Iran	Thailand
21 UK	France	Italy	South Africa	Tanzania
Myanmar	Kenya	South Korea	Colombia	Spain
31 Argentina	Uganda	Ukraine	Algeria	Sudan
Iraq	Poland	Afghanistan	Canada	Morocco
41 Saudi Arabia	Uzbekistan	Peru	Malaysia	Angola
Mozambique	Yemen	Ghana	Nepal	Venezuela
51 Madagascar	North Korea	Ivory Coast	Cameroon	Australia
Taiwan	Niger	Sri Lanka	-	Mali
61 Romania	Chile	Kazakhstan	Malawi	Zambia
Guatemala	Ecuador	Netherlands	Syria	Cambodia
71 Senegal	Chad	Somalia	Zimbabwe	Guinea
Rwanda	Tunisia	Benin	Belgium	Bolivia
81 Cuba	Haiti	South Sudan	Czech Republic	Dominican Rep
Burundi	Greece	Portugal	Jordan	Sweden
91 Azerbaijan	Hungary	UAE	Honduras	Belarus
Tajikistan	Austria	Serbia	PNG	Switzerland
101 Israel	Togo	Sierra Leone	Hong Kong	Laos
Bulgaria	Paraguay	Lebanon	Libya	Nicaragua
111 El Salvador	Kyrgyzstan		Singapore	Denmark
Finland	Slovakia	Congo	Norway	Costa Rica
121 Palestine	Oman	Liberia	Ireland	New Zealand
CAR	Mauritania	Panama	Croatia	Kuwait
131 Moldova	Georgia	Eritrea	Uruguay	Bosnia&Herzegovina
Mongolia	Armenia	Jamaica	Albania	Qatar
141 Lithuania	Namibia	Gambia	Botswana	Gabon
Lesotho	N Macedonia	Slovenia	Guinea-Bissau	Latvia
151 Bahrain	Trinidad & Tob	Equatorial Guinea	Estonia	East Timor
	Cyprus	Eswatini	Djibouti	Fiji

161	Guyana	Bhutan	Solomon Islands	Montenegro
Luxembourg	Western Sahara	Suriname	Cape Verde	Maldives
171 Malta	Brunei	Belize	Bahamas	Iceland
Vanuatu	Barbados		Samoa	Saint Lucia
181 Kiribati	Grenada		St Vincent & Grenadines	Seychelles
	Andorra	Dominica	Bermuda	Marshall Islands
191 St Kitts & Nevis	Monaco	Turks & Caicos Is	Liechtenstein	-
Palau		Tuvalu		Vatican City

1. Several of the country names are given in English. What do you think their Burmese names will be? Write your answers in Burmese script:

- 59 Burkina Faso ဘရူနီနာ ဖဆို or ဖစို 6
- 113 Turkmenistan တူရကမေနီစ္စတန် (-stan ending as elsewhere) 9
- 156 Mauritius မော်ရီဆွစ် 5
- 161 Comoros ကိုမိုရစ် 4
- 178 Sao Tome and Principe စိန့် တိုမို နှင့် ဟရီန်ချီပီ (Sao as in other St names) 12
- 183 Tonga တိုငံဂါ (use tall a as က ga looks like က k) 3
- 186 Antigua and Barbuda အန်တီဂွာ နှင့် ဘားဘျဒါ (translate 'and') 11
- 195 San Marino စိန့် မာရီနို (San as in other St names) 5
- 197 Anguilla အင်ဂွီလာ 5
- 199 Nauru နာအူရူ 3

2. What are the following words in Burmese? Write your answer in Burmese script. Also indicate how you think it may be pronounced, as far as you can tell.

- and နှင့် nung 4
- north မြောက် m'ak 4
- south တောင် တ၅ 4
- republic သမ္မတနိုင်ငံ θamm^at^hno၅ 6

3. Describe what you have discovered about the Burmese writing system. As well as a list of the characters and their pronunciation, describe the general way the writing system works.
4. Similarly, describe any major differences you think you can discover from this list about the differences between the English and Burmese sound systems, notably (a) any sound contrasts or combinations that occur in English but not Burmese, or (b) vice versa (ie contrasts in Burmese that do not occur in English).

Left to right 1

Syllables are made up of a consonant letter with diacritics to indicate vowels. 3

The vowel ‘a’ is assumed if no diacritic is present. 4

Consonant symbols: 16

Labials: ဝ p ဘ b ဖ f ဝ v မ m

Dentals တ t ဒ d ထ θ စ s ဇ z န n

Aspirated ထ t^h ဆ s^h

Palatals ခ ch ဂျ j (=g^j) ယ y ည n^j

Velars က k ဂ g
 င ဂ

Others လ l ရ r အ ?

Vowels and other diacritics: 6

 ေ့ ေ့ (the vowel in ‘onion’) ေ့ေ့ ေ့ (= ‘aw’) ဥ ယ
 ် no vowel ဘ ဝါ a ဝီ i ဝီ ဝ ဝီ ဝ ဝ ဝီ ဝ
 ် palatalizer^j ဂျ j ဝ ဝ w

Comments: There is no ‘h’, so ဝ (p) is used, e.g. 82 Haiti 2

The ‘r’ sound is also used for ‘sh’ and ‘zh’ as in ‘Asia’; see 9 Russia which uses the same letter twice. 2

Note ph = f 2

It will appear that Burmese has two ‘t’ sounds and two ‘s’ sounds, which may be difficult to distinguish. 2

Consonant clusters simplified, eg '-land' = [lan]