

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2020

Round 2



Problem 4. Utterly Ute (20 marks)

Ute is spoken by 1640 people in an area extending from California to Colorado in the United States. It is part of the Uto-Aztecan language family, which also has speakers in Central America.



Here are some Ute sentences and their translations in English. The transcription is explained on the next page.

	English	Ute
1	The workers imitated the boy.	wáɰkaqhamitɨmɨ 'umɨ 'áapachi 'uway navutigikyaqha
2	The boys are writing.	'áapachiu 'umɨ pə'əqway
3	The goat kicked the dog.	sivaatuchiu 'umɨ sarichi 'uway táaqha
4	The woman hunted the goats.	mamachj 'u sivaatuchiu 'umɨ tɛnavəɾəqwa
5	The farmer is singing.	ɰamitɨ 'u káay
6	The child killed the goats.	tuachj 'u sivaatuchiu 'umɨ pəqhaqhaqa
7	The writer is imitating the farmer.	pə'əmitɨ 'u 'ɰamitɨ 'uway navutigi
8	The worker is drinking.	wáɰkamitɨ 'u 'ivi
9	The women taught the worker.	mamachiu 'umɨ wáɰkamitɨ 'uway pə'ətikyaqha
10	The dog is kicking the children.	sarichj 'u tuachiu 'umɨ táay
11	The farmers hunted the goat.	'ɰaqhamitɨmɨ 'umɨ sivaatuchi 'uway tɛnavəɾəqwaqha
12	The writers are singing.	pə'əqwamitɨmɨ 'umɨ káaqhay

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Explanation of the transcription:

- ʊ is pronounced like u, but with the lips not rounded.
- ø is pronounced as in French *jeu*, with the lips rounded.
- q is similar to k, but further back in the mouth.
- qh is pronounced as in German *Bach*, but further back in the mouth.
- ʔ denotes the glottal stop, the sound in the middle of *uh-oh*.
- ch is as in *church*.
- An underlined vowel (v) denotes a vowel pronounced with no voicing (vibration of the vocal folds).
- An acute accent (´) denotes a vowel which is stressed.

Q4.1. On your answer sheet, translate into Ute:

- The women worked.
- The singers are killing the dog.
- The hunters taught the child.

Q4.2. On your answer sheet, translate into English:

- ʔivikyamitʊmʊ ʔumʊ ʔapachi ʔuway táaqhaqa
- wʊkamitʊ ʔu sivaatuchiu ʔumʊ ʔaqha

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Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 32)

- 8.1: 2 points for each correct word; 1 point with one wrong syllable. (max 26)
- Insist on correct accents and underlining or strike-through.
- 8.2: 1 point for each correct sentence-part (subject, verb, object). (max 6)
- Insist on correct tense.

8.1a.	mamachiu 'um <u>ɨ</u> w <u>ɨ</u> kaqhaqa 6
b.	káaqhamit <u>ɨ</u> 'um <u>ɨ</u> sarichi 'uway p <u>ɨ</u> qhay 10
c.	t <u>ɨ</u> navəɾəqwamit <u>ɨ</u> 'um <u>ɨ</u> tuachi 'uway pə'ətikyaha 10
8.2a.	The drunkards/drinkers/equivalent + kicked + the boy. 3
b	The worker + farmed + the goats. 3

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Commentary

Word order: SOV

Verbs:

Stem+Num+tense

Num: -**Q₁a**-

Tense:

Past: -**Q₂a**-

Pres. cont.: -**y**-

Phonological rules:

Q > **qw** / **ə**_

> **ky** / **i**_

> **qh** / **a**_

Except: **aQ₁aQ₂a** > **aqhaqa**

(i.e. -**qhaqha** forbidden when both are inflectional, but -**qhaqha** allowed if first **qha** is in stem, as in 6.)

y > **∅** / **i**_

Noun phrases:

Regular nouns (non-nominalized): pl -**u**

Subject: devoice final vowel unless it is -**u**

Article¹ follows noun:

Art.	Subj.	Obj.
Sg.	' u	' uway
Pl.	' um<u>u</u>	' um<u>u</u>

Nominalization of verb:

Sg: stem+**mitu**

Pl: stem+**Q₁a+mitu+mu²**

¹ Technically no way to determine this is an article so any explanation for it is fine, e.g. syntactic/semantic role marker.

² Explanation: -**mi-tu**- are a relativizer + nominalizer. -**Q₁a**- is the normal plural verb marker, -**mu** is plural marker for some nouns including those derived from verbs. **X-Q₁amitumu** is therefore "the ones(pl) who do(pl) X" with plural marked twice in the morphology.