

Name:

## Problem 2. Jam Sai (5 marks)

Jam Sai (sometimes spelled Jamsay) is a Dogon language spoken in Mali and Burkina Faso, by about 130,000 speakers.

Below are some verb pairs in the Jam Sai language with their meanings.

Note that **y** is a consonant; **ɛ** and **ɔ** are vowels; **ñ** is like the *ny* in *canyon*; **ŋ** the *ng* in *sing*. The superscript <sup>n</sup> indicates that the previous sound is *nasalised* – pronounced with air coming out of the nose. Jam Sai is a tonal language, but tones have not been written as they are not relevant to this problem.



<b>aya</b>	<i>to hear</i>	<b>ayawa</b>	<i>to make hear</i>
<b>dije</b>	<i>to sit</i>	<b>dijiw<sup>n</sup>e</b>	<i>to plant</i>
<b>gɔɔ</b>	<i>to bend</i>	<b>gɔɔɔ<sup>n</sup>ɔ</b>	<i>to unbend</i>
<b>jimnɛ</b>	<i>to go blind</i>	<b>jimniw<sup>n</sup>ɛ</b>	<i>to blind</i>
<b>jugɔ</b>	<i>to know</i>	<b>juguwɔ</b>	<i>to inform</i>
<b>karna</b>	<i>to do</i>	<b>karnaw<sup>n</sup>a</b>	<i>to force</i>
<b>le</b>	<i>to screw</i>	<b>lere</b>	<i>to unscrew</i>
<b>ma</b>	<i>to seal</i>	<b>mar<sup>n</sup>a</b>	<i>to unseal</i>
<b>pere</b>	<i>to jump</i>	<b>perewe</b>	<i>to make jump</i>
<b>pine</b>	<i>to close</i>	<b>pinir<sup>n</sup>e</b>	<i>to open</i>
<b>wɛjɛ</b>	<i>to get used to</i>	<b>wɛjɛwɛ</b>	<i>to accustom</i>
<b>ya</b>	<i>to go</i>	<b>yawa</b>	<i>to let go</i>

Here are a few more simple Jam Sai verbs:

<b>cine</b>	<i>to disappear</i>	<b>pite</b>	<i>to be inflated</i>
<b>ñe</b>	<i>to exist</i>	<b>ko</b>	<i>to eat</i>
<b>domo</b>	<i>to wind up</i>	<b>taya</b>	<i>to wear shoes</i>
<b>pɛgɛ</b>	<i>to insert</i>	<b>muɔ</b>	<i>to tie</i>
<b>ɛrɛ</b>	<i>to be full</i>		

**Q 2.1** Using each of the above words exactly once, translate the following into Jam Sai:

(a) *to untie*


(f) *to appear*


(b) *to feed*

(g) *to unwind*

(c) *to inflate*

(h) *to fill up*

(d) *to remove*

(i) *to create*

(e) *to put on shoes*

## Problem 2. Jam Sai Answers and Explanation (1/1)

*Total: 18 points*

**Q 2.1** 2pt if correct; 1pt if one letter is wrong (treat <sup>n</sup> as a letter). Max 18.

(a) <i>to untie</i>	<b>muɟur<sup>n</sup>o</b>	(f) <i>to appear</i>	<b>cinir<sup>n</sup>e</b>
(b) <i>to feed</i>	<b>kowo</b>	(g) <i>to unwind</i>	<b>domor<sup>n</sup>o</b>
(c) <i>to inflate</i>	<b>pitiwe</b>	(h) <i>to fill up</i>	<b>ɛrɛw<sup>n</sup>ɛ</b>
(d) <i>to remove</i>	<b>pɛgɛrɛ</b>	(i) <i>to create</i>	<b>ñew<sup>n</sup>e</b>
(e) <i>to put on shoes</i>	<b>tayawa</b>		

### Explanation

The data show two types of verb derivation: one causative (to make something happen) and the other negative or opposite.

In both cases, an infix is inserted before the final vowel, consisting of a copy of the first vowel of the stem, then **w** for the causative, **r** for the negative. In addition, if there is a nasal consonant (**m, n, ñ, ŋ**) anywhere in the stem, the **r** or the **w** is nasalised.

Note that this can also be analysed as a suffix that changes the final vowel of the stem.