

# (0) Don't Sell the House! (1/2)

<b>01.</b> Cáu cháhñ ðày non.	I can truly sleep.
<b>02.</b> Da páy non!	Don't go sleep!
<b>03.</b> Mưhn bô sặm mi slờng hểt hờn mi?	Was she also unwilling to build the house?
<b>04.</b> Mưhn ngám bô sặm páy hờn.	She also went home just now.
<b>05.</b> I wasn't about to eat it just previously.	Cáu náhc-thày ca mi kíhn.
<b>06.</b> She didn't have to eat it alone like that just now.	Mưhn ngám mi slày táhng kíhn.
<b>07.</b> The house truly can't eat you.	Hờn mi cháhñ ðày kíhn mưhng.
<b>08.</b> Then were you also about to go just previously?	Mưhng náhc-thày chớng ca bô sặm páy mi?

Explanation:

In Nung, word order is fixed, meaning that for a given sentence, there is only one correct way to order the words. We can figure out from comparing sentences with the same subject, same adverb, same main verb, or same object that in Nung, sentences are constructed in subject-adverb-verb-object-question.marker order, where there can be many adverbs and 'it' as an object is left unsaid but implied. 'Like that' is treated as an object in terms of word order.

The correct order of adverbs is as follows, listed from first to last:

náhc-thày	just previously
ngám	just now
chớng	then
ca	about to
vửhn nahng	continue to
bô sặm	also
mi	not
cháhñ	truly
slờng / slày / fải / ðày	want / [don't] have to / have to / can
táhng	alone

In addition, we know that da 'don't' and tan ðohc 'only' both occur before the verb, but in our data, no other adverbs occur in the same sentence as da or tan ðohc, so it is unclear what the correct order should be.

The main question and challenge of the problem consists of identifying the correct positioning of adverbs, which always occur in a fixed order. A strategy for discovering this is to list all the orderings attested, and merge those to create a comprehensive order for all the adverbs provided. Crucially, it is necessary to also consider the Nung sentences provided without translations in order to clarify where in the pattern the adverb ngám lies.



# (O) Don't Sell the House! (2/2)

The secondary challenge of the problem is to map Nung sentences onto English ones: not only the word order but also the meaning may differ slightly. For example, in Nung 'build a house' is expressed as 'do house'. For the purposes of this problem, small differences in translation that represent equally valid interpretations of a Nung or English sentence are allowed as long as they follow proper Nung or English word order.

List of words not previously defined:

cáu	I
khái	sell
mưhng	you
hảhn	see
kíhn	eat
non	sleep
hêht	do, build
mi	question marker
páy	go
hơn	house, home
mưhn	she
pehn tế	like that

