
Maasai

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Maasai is a language spoken by about 800,000 people in East Africa, mostly in Kenya and Tanzania.

As with many languages in East Africa, "tone" is very important in Maasai. The different tones are written as marks above some letters. For example, the letters á, í and ó are all pronounced with high tone. The letters à, ì and ò are all pronounced with low tone. If there is no mark over a letter, it is pronounced with "mid tone," half way in between high and low.

There are also some letters in the Maasai alphabet that are not used in English. For example, "ɔ" is a sound like the English word "awe." "ɛ" is similar to the vowel sound in "let," "ɔ" is like the vowel sound in "hood" and "ɪ" is like the vowel sound in "lit." You don't need to be able to pronounce these words in order to solve the problem, however, you should pay very close attention to the letters and the tone marks.

The following are some sentences in Maasai, and the English translations in random order. Indicate which translation goes with each Maasai sentence by placing the letter of the correct translation in the space provided:

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| 1. éósh ɔlmɔraní ɔlásuráì | _G___ | English translations in <i>random order</i> |
| 2. áadól ɔlásuráí | _H___ | A. 'The warrior cuts me.' |
| 3. áaósh ɔlmɔraní | _E___ | B. 'The warrior cuts the tree for me.' |
| 4. ídól ɔlmɔránì | _F___ | C. 'The warrior cuts it.' |
| 5. íóshokí ɔlmɔránì ɔlásuráì | _I___ | D. 'I cut the tree for the warrior.' |
| 6. ádúŋokí ɔlmɔránì ɔlcetá | _D___ | E. 'The warrior hits me.' |
| 7. ádúŋ ɔlcetá | _J___ | F. 'You see the warrior.' |
| 8. áaduŋokí ɔlmɔraní ɔlcetá | _B___ | G. 'The warrior hits the snake.' |
| 9. áadúŋ ɔlmɔraní | _A___ | H. 'The snake sees me.' |
| 10. édúŋ ɔlmɔraní | _C___ | I. 'You hit the snake for the warrior.' |
| | | J. 'I cut the tree.' |