Luiseño is a Uto-Aztecan language spoken in southern California. Although it has only about 30 or 40 first-language speakers now, there is an active campaign to teach it to children. It has no standard written form, and is not widely used in writing except in schools. One way to represent it is to use the International Phonetic Alphabet, as in the following examples. The pronunciations don’t matter for the problem, but you may like to know that:

[ʔʔ ʔʔ] is a glottal stop, the sound in the middle of “uh-oh”.
[q] is like a k but made further back in the mouth.
[jj] is a ‘sh’ sound as in ‘shout’
[jj] is a ‘y’ sound as in ‘yellow’.
[ʃʃ ʃʃ] is a ‘sh’ sound as in ‘shout’
[j] is a ‘ch’ sound as in Scottish ‘loch’ or German ‘Bach’.
[n] is the nasal ‘n’ sound that we make before ‘g,’ as in ‘finger’.
[ː] indicates a long vowel.

This transcription shows how words are pronounced, but when we speak we don’t normally pause between words so it is reasonable not to show word-breaks in a phonetic transcription.

1 This data set is based on Ronald Langacker’s Fundamentals of Linguistic Analysis (1972), p. 39, 50. All the stress accents in Langacker’s data have been omitted. Langacker’s transcription has been modified in various ways.
L. Who is good? (2/3)

Here are some sentences in Luiseño and their English translations.

[nawitmalqawukalaqpolok] ‘The girl does not walk home.’

[ja?apolo:v] ‘The man is good.’

[hu?unikatqajtipomkat] ‘The teacher is not a liar.’

[haxšuxetqisunaj] ‘Who hits the woman?’


[to:wqisunajlhu?unikat] ‘Does the teacher see the woman?’

[ivišunajnonajixetq] ‘This woman hits my father.’

[nona:jišuxetqiqivišunaj] ‘Does this woman hit my father?’

[ivišunajixetqiqnonaj] ‘This woman hits my father.’

[hu?unikattipomkat] ‘The teacher is a liar.’

[ivihu?unikatnonajito:wq] ‘This teacher sees my father.’

[hu?unikatšuto:wqisinaj] ‘Does the teacher see the woman?’
L. Who is good? (3/3)

L-1 Translate the following into English:

1. [jaʔawukalaqpoːki:k]

2. [xeʧiqʃuʃuːnaːlinonaji]

3. [haxʃuqajʃipomkat]

4. [ʃuːnaːliʃutoːwqhuʔunikat]

L-2 Translate the following into Luiseño, however, use vertical lines to represent word spaces, e.g. a|b.

1. 'Is the teacher a liar?'

2. 'The teacher sees the woman.'

3. 'This girl does not see my father.'

4. 'Who is good?'