

(J) It's True: The Truth About Chalcatongo Mixtec (1/2)

[10 points]

Chalcatongo Mixtec is a language spoken by just under 6,000 people in Oaxaca State of South-Central Mexico. It is famous among linguists for its many unusual characteristics, but it is an endangered language, at risk of extinction.

J1. Here are some sentences in Chalcatongo Mixtec. Their English translations have been given in scrambled order on the right. Match the Chalcatongo Mixtec sentences to their English translations.

Note: Chalcatongo Mixtec (when written in the Roman alphabet) has some letter symbols and accents that we do not use in English—these are not relevant for solving this problem. Whenever a word or phrase is bold and underlined (**like this**), it means that the word or phrase is emphatic, but otherwise it is not emphatic. Finally, here is a hint to help you get started: Chalcatongo sentence (1) corresponds to English choice (a).

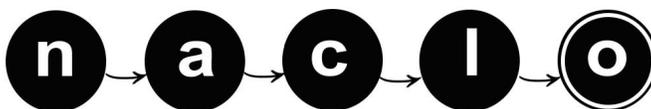
| | Chalcatongo sentences |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1. | Nduča kaa ñí?ní. |
| 2. | Maria kúu ï xasúčí. |
| 3. | Ñí?ní nduča. |
| 4. | Juan kaa lúlí. |
| 5. | Ndežu kaa ža?u. |
| 6. | Súčí Maria. |
| 7. | Juan kúu xažiirí. |
| 8. | Pedro kúu xalúlírí. |
| 9. | Kaa kwíí. |

| | English translations |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| a. | <u>The water</u> is hot. |
| b. | Pedro is my child. |
| c. | Juan is my husband. |
| d. | <u>It</u> is green. |
| e. | Maria is a young person. |
| f. | The water is hot. |
| g. | Maria is young. |
| h. | <u>The food</u> is expensive. |
| i. | <u>Juan</u> is small / short. |

1. 2. 3.
 4. 5. 6.
 7. 8. 9.

Here are some words in Chalcatongo Mixtec. The English translation for each word is given on the right.

| Chalcatongo | English translation |
|-------------|---------------------|
| ndáa | true |
| bíší | sweet |
| bèè | heavy |
| tûû | black |
| nde?é | brave |
| kûnú | deep |
| ñí?ní | hot |
| kwa?á | red |
| súkú | tall |



(J) It's True: The Truth About Chalcatongo Mixtec (2/2)

J2. Translate the following into Chalcatongo Mixtec:

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|--|
| a. | depth | |
| b. | heat | |
| c. | Maria is brave. | |
| d. | Pedro is tall. | |
| e. | Pedro is a tall person. | |
| f. | The fruit is red. | |
| g. | My fruit is the green one. | |
| h. | It is true. | |
| i. | It is true. | |
| j. | It is the truth. | |

J3. Explain your answers by describing how Chalcatongo Mixtec words and sentences are structured.

