

(A) Let That Mongo! (1/2) [5 Points]

Mongo (also known as Nkundo or Lomongo) is a Bantu language spoken by the Mongo Peoples of the central Democratic Republic of the Congo. Presently, there are around 400,000 native speakers spread out over a large area around the Congo River.

Below is a table showing a few verb conjugations in Lomongo. $\widehat{d\text{z}}$ is a consonant pronounced like the **j** in the English word *jump*. η is a consonant pronounced like the *ng* at the end of the English word *sing*.

| <i>Imperative</i> | <i>2nd singular</i> | <i>3rd singular</i> | <i>3rd plural</i> | <i>English</i> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| bota | oota | aota | baota | 'beget' |
| kamba | okamba | akamba | bakamba | 'work' |
| imed $\widehat{z\eta}$ a | wimed $\widehat{z\eta}$ a | imed $\widehat{z\eta}$ a | bimed $\widehat{z\eta}$ a | 'consent' |
| usa | wusa | usa | busa | 'throw' |
| bata | oata | aata | baata | 'get' |
| ena | wena | ena | bena | 'see' |
| isa | wisa | isa | bisa | 'hide' |
| $\widehat{d\text{z}}$ ila | o $\widehat{d\text{z}}$ ila | a $\widehat{d\text{z}}$ ila | ba $\widehat{d\text{z}}$ ila | 'wait' |
| ina | wina | ina | bina | 'hate' |
| bina | oina | aina | baina | 'dance' |
| asa | wasa | asa | basa | 'search' |
| sanga | osanga | asanga | basanga | 'say' |



(A) Let That Mongo! (2/2)

A1. Explain how these Mongo verb forms work by filling in the blanks below in the Answer Sheets.

Each Mongo verb has a root form. The 4 verb forms shown here are formed by adding a prefix before the root form. The prefix for the imperative¹ form is ___(1)___, the prefix for the 2nd singular form is ___(2)___, the prefix for the 3rd singular form is ___(3)___, and the prefix for the 3rd plural form is ___(4)___.

(Note that some of these prefixes may be empty; to note this, write the symbol \emptyset -).

However, we are not done yet: to get the final verb form, we must apply some sound change rules. The relevant rules are:

1. If there are two ___(5)___, in a row, delete ___(6)___.
2. Delete ___(7)___ when it appears between two ___(8)___.
3. Change ___(9)___ to ___(10)___ when it appears before a ___(11)___.

There is one final wrinkle: the order that these rules are applied in matters. The rules must be applied in this order: First apply rule ___(12)___, then rule ___(13)___, then rule ___(14)___.

A2. Fill in the blanks in the table below. Record your answers in the Answer Sheets.

| Imperative | 2nd singular | 3rd singular | 3rd plural | English |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| bakisa | (1) | (2) | (3) | 'add' |
| (4) | wanda | (5) | (6) | 'begin' |
| solola | (7) | (8) | basolola | 'chat' |
| ponama | (9) | aponama | (10) | 'elect' |
| (11) | oowa | (12) | (13) | 'cure' |
| (14) | (15) | aalusa | (16) | 'turn' |
| longa | (17) | (18) | (19) | 'win' |

¹ The imperative form of a verb is used to give a command, warning, advice, or request.

