Linguistic Structures

The following module assesses verbal abilities that are important for successfully dealing with linguistic structures and acquiring or improving language skills.

The tasks present expressions in invented foreign languages and their translations. From these, you can deduce the meaning of individual and grammatical rules of the foreign language. With the help of this information, you can answer the questions that follow. One or two tasks refer to a specific language. There are no exceptions to the rules (e.g. irregular verbs) and only those rules that can be deduced from the given expressions apply.

Example:
koloa = I lie
kolOe = he lay
satoe = he stands

"I stood" means in the foreign language:
(A) satoa
(B) kolOa
(C) satoe
(D) satOa

Answer (D) is correct because:

I. The expressions for "I lie" and "he lay" differ only in the last two letters; thus "kol" must be the word stem of the verb "lie".

II. The expressions for "he lay" and "he stands" both have "e" as their last letter; consequently, an appended "e" means "he".

III. The two present tense forms ("I lie" and "he stands") both have "o" as their penultimate letter; thus "O" in the penultimate position must indicate the past tense and an "a" in the last position must mean "I".

From this follows: "I stood" must mean "satOa" in the foreign language.

You have 15 minutes to complete the following 8 sample tasks.

Language for question 1:

palo ko	=	I sit
palo tu	=	she sits
karo tu	=	she stands

1. „I stand“ means in the foreign language:

(A) tu ko
(B) ko karo
(C) karo ko
(D) karo palo

Language for question 2:

Gremu kragir	=	The man eats.
Grema kragirda	=	The woman ate.
Grela kragir	=	The girl eats.

2. „The boy ate” means in the foreign language:

(A) Gremu kragirda
(B) Grelu kragirda
(C) Gremu kragir
(D) Grelu kragir

Language for questions 3 and 4:

Abak jebek	=	nice house
Abakao rulakao smurra	=	I buy the big house.
AbakXao rulakXao knarri	=	You see the big houses.
Tolumao jebekao knarra	=	I see the nice horse.

3. „I see the nice house“ means in the foreign language:

(A) Abakao jebekao smurra
(B) Abakao jebekao knarra
(C) Abak jebek smurra
(D) Abak jebek knarra

4. „You buy the big horses“ means in the foreign language:

(A) TolumXao rulakXao smurri
(B) TolumXao rulakXao smurra
(C) Tolumao jebekao smurri
(D) Tolumao jebekao smurra

Language for question 5:

tundo ramodopo novot	=	The pupil called his uncle.
namidu kavino suvavot	=	The queen greeted the teacher.
tundu kavinopu tetavosir	=	The pupil asks her teacher.
hidamo tundo nosir	=	The caretaker criticizes the pupil.

5. „The uncle greeted his caretaker“ means in the foreign language:

(A) ramodo hidamopu suvasir
(B) namidu hidamopu suvavot
(C) namidu hidamopo suvasir
(D) ramodo hidamopo suvavot

Language for question 6:

rumpulöpp	=	The child sleeps.
renguming tschik löppzi	=	The person protects his child.
rumpilemp gum	=	The goat is fast asleep.
yanitzorr lempzi	=	The lion kills the goat.

6. „The child protects his goat“ means the foreign language:

(A) rumpulemp tschik rengzi
(B) rengilöpp tschik lempzi
(C) rumpilemp tschik löppzi
(D) rengulöpp tschik lempzi

Language for questions 7 and 8:

puna selveui	=	The child comes out of the house.
puna tipveu	=	The cat goes to the house.
lom fanveui	=	The farmer comes from the field.
borro selveu	=	The child goes to the meadow.

7. „The child goes to the field“ means in the foreign language:

(A) lom selveui
(B) lom selveu
(C) lom fanveu
(D) puna selveu

8. „The cat comes from the meadow“ heißt in der fremden Sprache:

(A) borro tipveu
(B) puna tipveu
(C) borro tipveui
(D) puna tipveui

Correct answers

1. C
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. D
7. B
8. C