Swahili is the mother tongue of about 5 million people, and is the common language of trade and political communication along the east coast of Africa. Here are six dates in Swahili. Match them with their English translations, given in random order on the right.

___ tarehe tatu Disemba jumamosi  
a. Monday, October 5th
___ tarehe pili Aprili jumanne  
b. Wednesday, October 5th
___ tarehe nne Aprili jumanne  
c. Sunday, October 5th
___ tarehe tano Oktoba jumapili  
d. Tuesday, April 2nd
___ tarehe tano Oktoba jumatatu  
e. Tuesday, April 4th
___ tarehe tano Oktoba jumatano  
f. Saturday, December 3rd


There are 3,344,720 speakers of Tajik in Tajikistan (one of the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union) and another million speakers in surrounding countries.

dуюсти хуби хамсоай сумо  
a good friend of your neighbor
хамсоай дуусти хуби сумо  
a neighbor of your good friend
хамсоай хуби дуусти сумо  
a good neighbor of your friend

Above are three phrases in Tajik with their English translations. Your task is to give the English translations of all four Tajik words. The possibilities are simply "good," "friend," "neighbor," and "your." The order of the words – which is not the same order as in English! – does the rest.

dуюсти _____  
хуби _____
хамсоай _____  
сумо _____

Problem by Adriana Solovyova.

The following are 17 arithmetic equations in Indonesian. Knowing that satu means “one”, can you work out the rest? Beware: one of the statements contains an intentional error!

Satu ditambah satu menjadi dua.  
Delapan belas dikurangi satu menjadi tujuh belas.
Dua ditambah dua menjadi empat.  
Tiga ditambah empat menjadi ___________.
Satu ditambah dua menjadi tiga.  
Tiga dikalikan tiga menjadi sembilan.
Dua dikalikan dua menjadi empat.  
Sepuluh ditambah empat menjadi ___________.
Enam dikurangi tiga menjadi tiga.  
Dua puluh dibagi dua menjadi ___________.
Sepuluh dikurangi enam menjadi empat.  
Tiga puluh dibagi dua menjadi ___________.
Dua dikalikan tiga menjadi lima.  
Tujuh puluh dibagi dua menjadi ___________.
Sepuluh dibagi dua menjadi lima.  
Enam belas dibagi dua puluh empat menjadi dua per tiga.
Tiga dikalikan enam menjadi delapan belas.

Now write out these numbers (and one fraction) in Indonesian:

7  ________________ 12  ________________ 19  ________________
23  ________________ 39  ________________ ¾  ________________

Rewrite the incorrect statement so that it’s correct: ___________________________________________________

Problem by Raymond Weisling.

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**Yaqui** is an American Indian language currently spoken by about 16,400 people in Northern Mexico and southern Arizona.

The following are eight emphatic sentences in the Yaqui language. Your task is to match the correct English translations, given below in random order, to each Yaqui sentence.

1. __ Inepo siika.  
   a. You helped me.

2. __ Empo nee aniak.  
   b. You danced.

3. __ Inepo apo’ik aniak.  
   c. I saw you.

4. __ Inepo apo’ik vichak.  
   d. I saw him.

5. __ Inepo enchi vichak.  
   e. I helped you.

6. __ Inepo enchi aniak.  
   f. I helped him.

7. __ Empo ye’ek.  
   g. He saw you.

8. __ Aapo enchi vichak.  
   h. I left.

*Problem by Tom Payne.*

The following are inscriptions in hieroglyphic *Luvian*, an ancient Anatolian language related to (and once thought to be) Hittite. These writings were totally incomprehensible until one scholar discovered the key: many of the words were names of regions, cities, and kings.

1. ![Inscription 1]
2. ![Inscription 2]
3. ![Inscription 3]
4. ![Inscription 4]
5. ![Inscription 5]
6. ![Inscription 6]

Above are six inscriptions that correspond to the names of two regions (*Khamatu, Palaa*), two cities (*Kurkuma, Tuvarna*), and two kings (*Varpalava, Tarkumuva*). Your job is to match each inscription with the name that it represents. The process you use to solve this puzzle is very similar to what archeological linguists actually do when they discover writings and inscriptions in unknown languages.

*Original problem by A. N. Zhurinskij. English adaptation by Valentin Vydrin.*

**Hawaiian** is a Polynesian language, spoken fluently by about 2000 people. The following Hawaiian sentences, with their English translations, are about a girl named Mele and a boy named Keone:

- *Ehiku ona kaikuaana.*: He has seven elder brothers.
- *Ekahi o Mele kaikumane.*: Mele has one brother.
- *Ekahi o Keone kaikaina.*: Keone has one younger brother.
- *Aohe o Mele kaikuaana.*: Mele has no elder sisters.
- *Aohe o Keone kaikuahine.*: Keone has no sisters.
- *Ekahi ou waa.*: I have one canoe.
- *Aohe o Mele kaikaina.*: Mele has no younger sisters.

1. There are two possible English translations for the following Hawaiian sentence: “*Aohe ou kaikuaana.*” What are they?

2. Translate the following sentence into English and indicate who is speaking, Mele or Keone: “*Aohe ou kaikuahine.*”

3. The English sentences “*Keone has one brother*” and “*Mele has one younger brother*” would be difficult to translate directly into Hawaiian. Explain why this is true.

*Original Problem by V. Belikov. English adaptation by Valentin Vydrin and Thomas Payne*

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