

Problem #3

Njuuki

Liam McKnight & Samuel Ahmed



Graded by

- Aleksejs Peguševs
- Bruno L'Astorina
- Daniel Rucki
- David Hultman
- Myself





Some stats

177 of you submitted an answer

169 of you scored above 0...

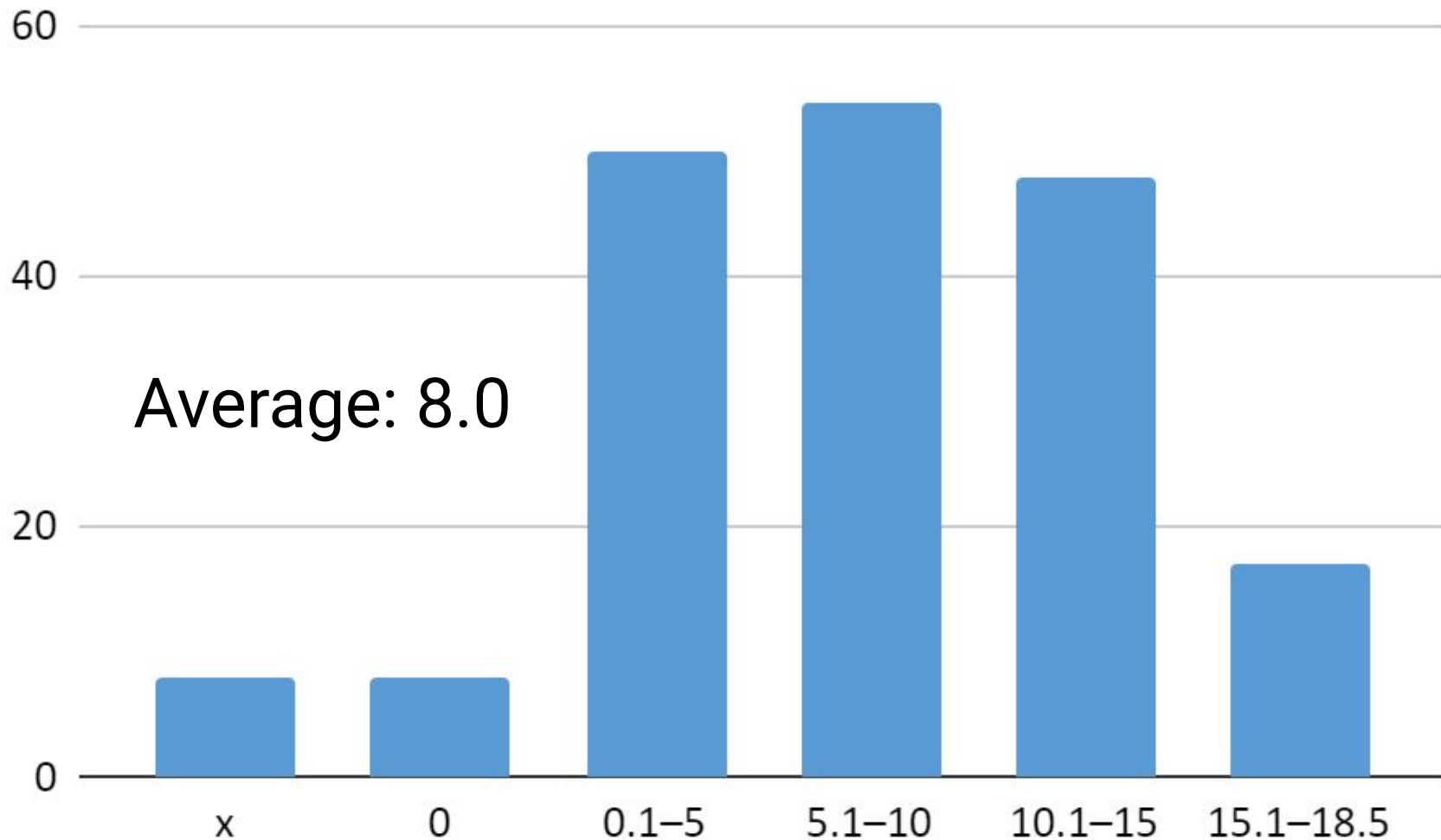
Some stats

177 of you submitted an answer

169 of you scored above 0...

...but nobody scored 20/20

(maximum 18.5)



Njuuki

g!ari (Upington)

Population: 75,000

Njuuki speakers: 1



N|uuki

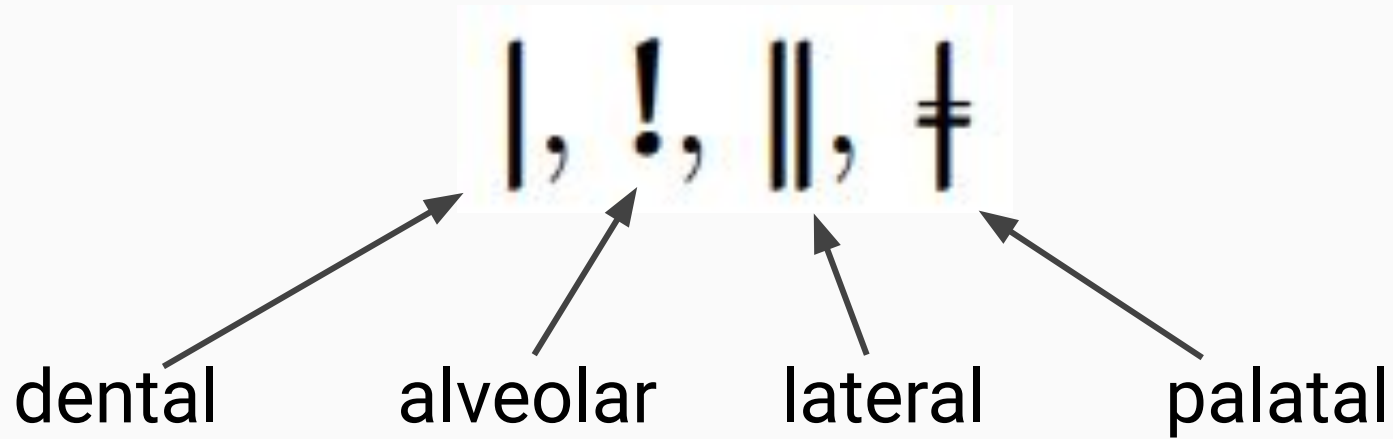
ŋ|uu means “to speak N|uuki”

ŋ|uu-ki is a derived noun - “that which is spoken, when one speaks N|uuki”

Click consonants

|, !, ||, †, g|, g!, ɲ|, ɲ||, !h, ||h, †h, |qh, †qh, !? and †?

Click consonants



Solution

Word order



Word order in Nluku seems to be similar to English's word order, but there are a few rules and phenomena to stay aware of.

Sentence types

Simple statement

Simple yes-no question

Focus question

Wh-question

Focus statement

Simple statement

S ke V (0) (X)



Marks simple declarative

‡hun ke !aukea ŋ g|i

dog DECL fear ŋ us

The dog is afraid of us.

Simple yes-no question

S V (O) (X)

g|a ŋ|i i a ŋ||ŋ

you see you house

Do you_{sg} see your_{sg} house?

Focus

Provides emphasis
to some part of the
sentence

η kee si !?ai a

It is I who will call you

Ich werde dich rufen

將叫你的的是我

Focus statement

Foc **kee** (S) V O



ŋ kee si !?ai a

I will call you.

I FOC FUT call you

Focus statement

Foc **kee** S V (0)



u kee |eeki †?ii ŋ||a

The woman thinks about you_{pl}

you FOC woman think **ŋ**

Focus question

Foc **xae** (S) V O



janasa xae †qheeke

Does the thief sing?

thief FocQ sing

Focus question

Foc **xae** S V (0)



ŋ|ŋ xae a !?ai

Do you call me?

I FocQ you call

Wh-question

Foc **xae** S V (O)



cuu xae u ŋ|ii

Who do you_{pl} see?

who FocQ you see?

Wh-question

Foc **xae** S V (X)



kija xae ʃoo s̃isen ŋ||a

Where does the man work?

where FocQ man work **ŋ**

Movement

Some languages have “movement” in questions, focus, etc.

English: you see **me**

Who do you see?

Movement

Some languages don't have this movement!

Chinese: 你喜歡**我**

You like me

你喜歡**誰**？

You like who?

ŋ

ŋ appears to have a lot of functions...

ŋ/ŋ si sīisen ŋ !haeke

g/a !aukea ŋ ŋ/ŋ

a xaŋki ke kacuu?i ŋ g/a ts'aa?a ŋ

η

η is called the “linker”, and here is used:

- After some verbs (*afraid of, think about, ask if*)
- Before time and location words (*tomorrow, in Upington*)

ηlla

ηlla is the alter ego of η - it replaces η *at the end of the sentence*

This happens when *movement* occurs

ηlla

You think about me

a ʔii η η|η

cuu xae a ʔii ηlla

Who do you think about?

Pronouns

	Regular form	Click form
I	η	η η
you _{sg}	a	gla
we	i	gli
you _{pl}	u	glu

Click form is used:

- To start a question
- After **η**

η + ke → na

Assignments

17. na kacuu?i η glu xae η !uu !
I ask if my grandfather calls you (pl).
18. na llu si sīisen η g!ari
I will not work in Upington.
19. leeki ke !aukea η ηη ηhun
The woman is afraid of my dog.
20. η kee si !?ai a
I will call you (sg).
21. cuu xae u ηlii
Who do you (pl) see?
22. cuu xae ts'aa?a η
Who likes me?
23. Our mother will not call your brother
i xaŋki ke llu si !?ai a lläu
24. My dog is afraid of you.
a kee η #hun !aukea ηlla
25. Where will you sing?
kija xae u si #qheeke ηlla
26. I ask if you think about our grandfather.
na kacuu?i η gli !uu xae a #?ii ηlla
27. Who will dance tomorrow?
cuu xae si lqhōŋo η !haeke
28. Do you see us?
glu ηlii i

Best Solution

Best Solution

Best Solution

Problem #3

Matouš Šafránek

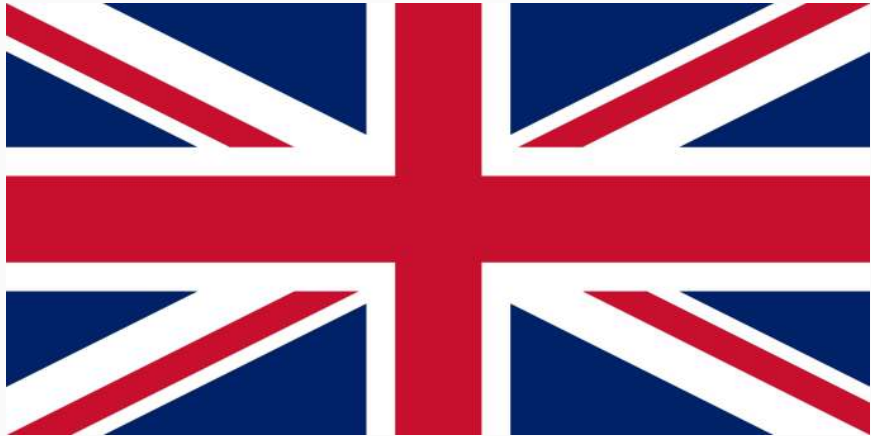


Czechia

Best Solution

Problem #3

William Thomson



UK K

Sources

Collins, Chris & Levi Namaseb. 2011. *A Grammatical Sketch of Njuuki with Stories*. Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag

Collins, Chris. 2019. *The Linker in the Khoisan Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.