

High school students with a keen interest in English, languages, maths or computing who enjoy solving puzzles or have a knack for logic and languages are invited to test their skills against fiendish and fun linguistic problems in the **18th Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad (OzCLO)**.

Junior (7-10) and senior (11-12) students within each school work together in teams of four on a range of analytical problems based on data from real languages or invented scenarios. Teams are provided with enough information to solve the problems. No prior knowledge of languages other than English is required, but you will learn some fascinating information about languages and cultures from across the world.

Round 1 is held online and the top three teams for each State and Territory will go through to Round 2 held in person in each region. The two top teams from Round 2 are offered the opportunity to represent Australia at the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL), which will be held in the second half of July 2026 in Bucharest.

OzCLO has been held since 2008 and now has over 2500 students across more than 90 schools. The competition is run by a team of volunteer linguists, academics and teachers from across Australia. A training package and past problems with solutions (plus lots of other information) can be found on the OzCLO website: www.ozclo.org.au. We are excited this year to have students on the OzCLO Organising Committee who participated in recent IOL competitions (2024/5) to help us develop our training materials

Competition dates

Round 1: 4 March 2026 (online)
Round 2: 25 March 2026 (in person)

Registration

21 January – 27 February 2026
\$40 per team

<https://ozclo.org.au/registration/>

More details on the website:

www.ozclo.org.au

**Do your students enjoy
solving problems and
cracking codes?**

**Get involved in OzCLO
2026!**



Australian Computational
and Linguistics Olympiad

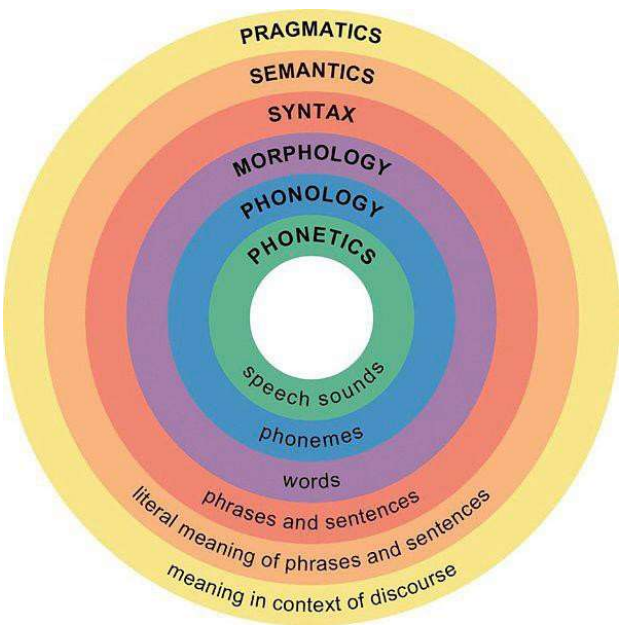
www.ozclo.org.au

Try this problem! Answer below

Tohono O'odham, formerly known as Papago, is spoken in south central Arizona in the south west of the United States of America and in northern Sonora in neighbouring Mexico.¹

The following are eight Tohono O'odham sentences and their English translations in random order.

Pronunciation notes: A colon (:) after a vowel means that the vowel is long. The apostrophe (') denotes a consonant called a glottal stop, like the stopping of air flow in the throat between the syllables of the English exclamation *uh-oh*. The letter *c* is pronounced like *ch* in English *chair*. The letter *ñ* is pronounced as it is in Spanish, corresponding to the *ni* sound in the English word *onion*. A hyphen (-) is used to connect a prefix to a word.



1. Ha-cecposid 'o g wakial g wipsilo. A. I am speaking.
2. Pi 'ac ñeñok 'a:cim. B. The man is speaking.
3. Cepsid 'o g wakial g wisilo. C. I am working.
4. Pi 'o cickpan g cecoj. D. The cowboys aren't branding the calf.
5. Pi 'o cepsid g wapkial g wisilo. E. We are not speaking.
6. Cikapn 'añ 'a:ñi. F. The men are not working.
7. Ñeok 'o g ceoj. G. The cowboy is branding the calf.
8. Ñeok 'añ 'a:ñi. H. The cowboy is branding the calves.

1A. Match each Tohono O'odham sentence with its English translation by writing the appropriate sentence letter under each sentence number.

Tohono O'odham sentences	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
English Translations								

THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (2005)

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	LABIAL		CORONAL				DORSAL			LABIAL		GLOTTAL
	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Epiglottal	Glottal
Nasal	m	ɱ		n	ɲ	ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ			
Fricative	p b	ɸ β	f v	t d	ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ			ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Approximant			ɸ	ɹ		ɻ	ɣ	ɰ				ʁ
Trill												
Tap, Flap												
Lateral fricative												
Lateral approximant												
Lateral flap												

CONSONANTS (NON-PULMONIC)

Anterior click releases (require posterior stops)	Voiced implosives	Ejectives
◌ ɓ Bilabial fricated	ɓ Bilabial	◌ ɛ Example:
◌ ɗ Labiodental fricated ("dental")	ɗ Dental or alveolar	◌ ɗ Bilabial
◌ ɠ Apical postalveolar alveolar ("retroflex")	ɠ Palatal	◌ ɠ Dental or alveolar
◌ ɡ Labiodental postalveolar alveolar ("palatal")	ɡ Velar	◌ ɡ Velar
◌ ɣ Lateral alveolar fricated ("lateral")	ɣ Uvular	◌ ɣ Alveolar fricative

VOWELS

	Front	Near front	Central	Near back	Back
Close	i	y		ɨ	ɯ
Near close	ɪ	ʏ		ɤ	ɯ
Close mid	e	ø	ɘ	ɤ	o
Mid			ɘ		
Open mid	ɛ	œ	ɜ	ɞ	ɔ
Near open	æ		ɶ		ɔ
Open	a		ɶ		ɔ

vowels at right & left of bullets are rounded & unrounded.

DIACRITICS Diacritics may be placed above a symbol with a descender, as ɥ. Other ɤs symbols may appear as diacritics to represent phonetic details: ɸ (fricative release), ɸ (breathy voice), ʔ (glottal onset), * (epenthetic schwa), ɔ (diphthongization).

SYLLABICITY & RELEASES	PHONOLOGY	PRIMARY ARTICULATION	SECONDARY ARTICULATION
◌ ɲ Syllabic	◌ ɲ	◌ ɲ Dental	◌ ɲ Labialized
◌ ɳ Non-syllabic	◌ ɳ	◌ ɳ Alveolar	◌ ɳ Palatalized
◌ ɰ (Pre)nasalized	◌ ɰ	◌ ɰ Laminar	◌ ɰ Velarized
◌ ɠ Nasal release	◌ ɠ	◌ ɠ Advanced	◌ ɠ Pharyngealized
◌ ɣ Lateral release	◌ ɣ	◌ ɣ Strident	◌ ɣ Velarized or pharyngealized
◌ ɹ No audible release	◌ ɹ	◌ ɹ Lingsolabial	◌ ɹ Not centralized
◌ ɰ Lowered (ɰ is a bilabial approximant)	◌ ɰ	◌ ɰ Raised (ɰ is a voiced alveolar non-sibilant fricative, ɸ a fricative trill)	

If you enjoyed this problem try OZCLO

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	English Translations
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Tohono O'odham sentences