

Rotokas (East Papuan)

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1) avaravere.....I'll go.' | 13) avaraepa..... 'I went.' |
| 2) avauvere..... 'You'll go.' | 14) avauropa..... 'You went.' |
| 3) avarovere..... 'He'll go.' | 15) avaroepa..... 'He went.' |
| 4) pauravere..... 'I'll sit.' | 16) pauraepa..... 'I sat.' |
| 5) pauvere..... 'You'll sit.' | 17) pauropa..... 'You sat.' |
| 6) pauovere..... 'He'll sit.' | 18) pauropa..... 'He sat.' |
| 7) vokaavere..... 'I'll walk.' | 19) vokaava..... 'I walked.' |
| 8) vokarivere..... 'You'll walk.' | 20) vokariva..... 'You walked.' |
| 9) vokarevere..... 'He'll walk.' | 21) vokareva..... 'He walked.' |
| 10) pauavere..... 'I'll build (it).' | 22) pauava..... 'I built (it).' |
| 11) paurivere..... 'You'll build (it).' | 23) pauriva..... 'You built (it).' |
| 12) paurevere..... 'He'll build (it).' | 24) paureva..... 'He built (it).' |

Hints for this puzzle.

- 1) Rotokas is a **root** language, like Turkish (in some ways), and there are roots for a number of verbs in this problem. Roots are unchanging parts of a word to which **inflections** (the kind of process that gets done to the roots; in this case, suffixes) are attached.
- 2) There can be several different kinds of verb root in a language that each take different sets of endings. These are called **inflection classes**; inflection classes of verbs are sometimes called **conjugations**, and inflection classes of nouns are sometimes called **declensions**.
- 3) For future reference, the pattern of inflectional endings is called a **paradigm**; we'll be using that word a lot this term (the adjective form of *paradigm* is **paradigmatic**). And the short statement of "meaning" in English that appears after the verb is called a **gloss**. Don't expect glosses to indicate all the meaning; they're quick and dirty labels, nothing more.
- 4) Notice that there are separate pronouns (*he, I, etc.*) in the English glosses, but only one word in the Rotokas examples. This is because English doesn't have much inflection, and has to use a lot of words to express things that other languages do much more simply in one word by inflection.
- 5) There's a pronoun (*it*) in numbers 10-12 and 22-24, with the verb that translates English *build*. That's because English makes that verb transitive and requires it to have a direct object, whereas it's not necessarily transitive in Rotokas. You get a lot of kludges like this in short glosses; they're intended to give you some information, but they can't possibly give you all of it.