








Student's Name:

Course Name: Linguistics 484

Set 23 Feb 2008, Due in class M 28 Feb 2008

Teacher's Name: Chris Brew

1. Hieroglyphic numbers: Here is a table of the way numbers work in Egyptian hieroglyphics. There are six symbols in the right hand tow, corresponding to the six powers of 10 in the left hand row

Value	Symbol
$1 = 10^0$	
$10 = 10^1$	
$100 = 10^2$	
$1000 = 10^3$	
$10,000 = 10^4$	
$100,000 = 10^5$	
$1,000,000 = 10^6$	

In the course of your summer internship with Time Travel Inc., you encounter an ancient Egyptian scribe who offers you a large amount of money to work with him when you graduate. Specifically, he offers you the following number of present day Egyptian pounds



How much is this in US dollars? You will need to interpret the Egyptian numbers correctly, then use some currency converter like <http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic> to get the US dollar equivalent. You decide this isn't enough, but that you would jump ship 12% more. Write down (in Egyptian numerals) your counter offer. You can round to the nearest whole number.

2. Fractions. In hieroglyphics, fractions work a little differently from how they do in US elementary schools. We write fractions in forms like $15/178$, with a numerator (here 15) and a denominator (here 178). Ancient Egyptian fractions have a denominator, but no numerator. Every fraction has an oval on top which simply means "fraction here" and stands for a constant denominator of 1. To express fractions with other denominators, you write two fractions next to each other. The idea is that you say $2/3$ by adding together two separate copies of $1/3$. Here is a table showing how this works.

Roman	Egyptian
$1/3$ (numerator 1) (denominator 3)	
$1/10$ (numerator 1) (denominator 10)	
$1/5$ (numerator 1) (denominator 10), repeated twice, $1/10 + 1/10 = 1/5$	
$3/8$ ($1/4 + 1/8$)	

Write down Egyptian fractions for the following numbers: $1/2$, $2/5$, $13/30$. For the first one, the answer I have in mind is a simple Egyptian fraction. For the second, I want you to use the tens symbol (𐍑) at least once somewhere in the fraction. For the third problem you should write no more than four separate Egyptian fractions (do not simply write out $1/30$ 13 times).

3. Write your name in hieroglyphics using the approach described by Jim Loy at <http://www.jimloy.com/hiero/yourname.htm>. I come out as You may not be able to get an exact match, because the letters in the Egyptian alphabet don't make the same sounds as the English ones. You can choose whether or not to include the determinative that indicates that you are a male/female person. If you have a very long name, you can instead give me the hieroglyphics for the name Kim Binsted (female). Note Loy's careful warnings that the many online name translators are not perfect, My best effort, based on the signs at <http://www.angelfire.com/wi/egypt/hiero.html> is as follows. I think the "oo" vowel at the end would have made Ancient Egyptians go "Ouch, foreign",

because they didn't have anything like that. Jim Loy suggests that they might have just left it out

