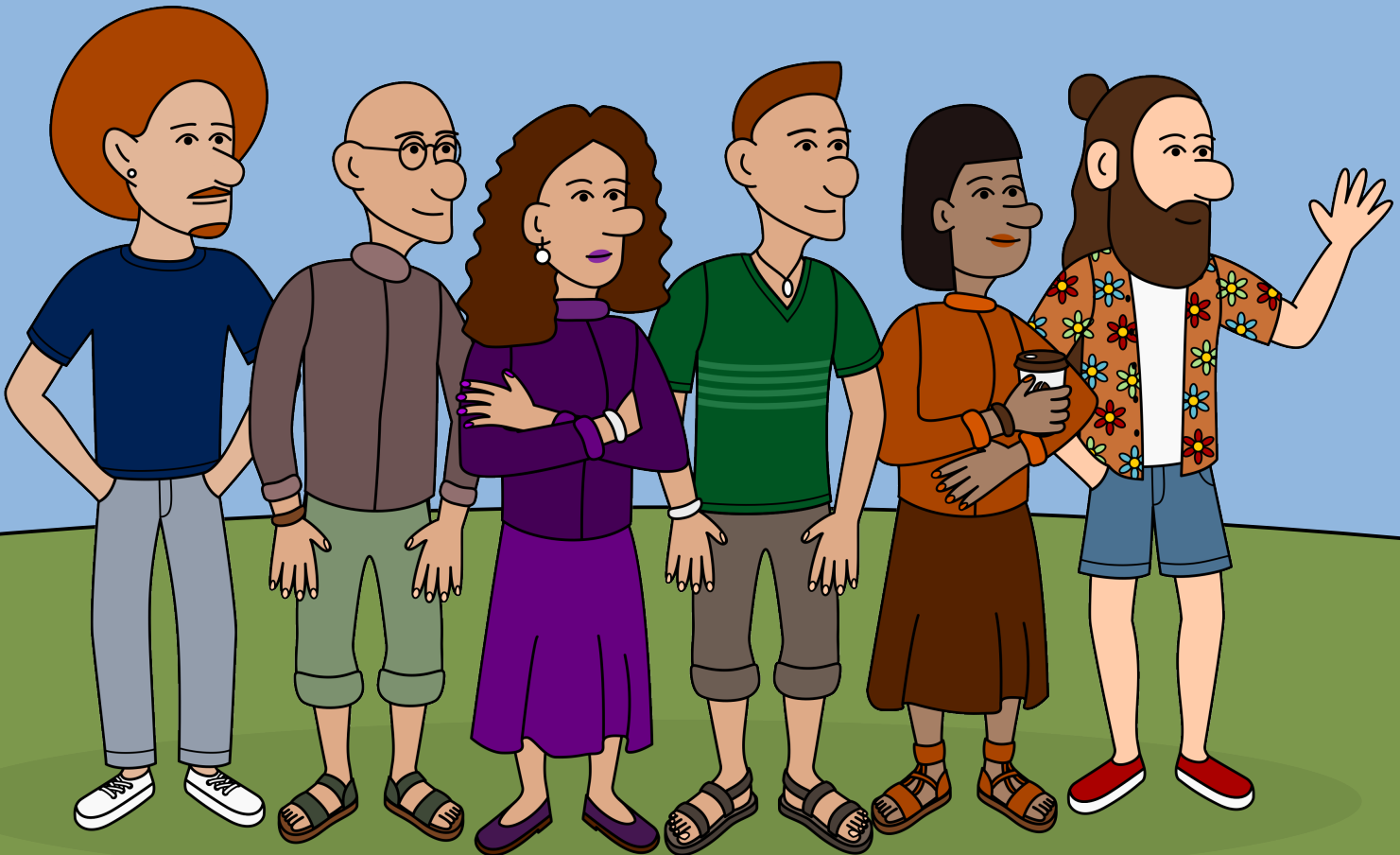
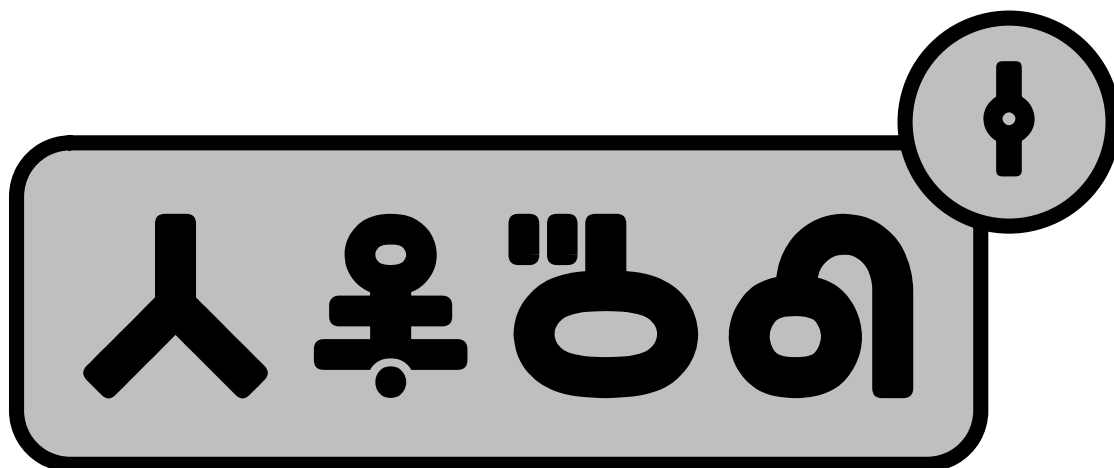




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MAY I SPEAK KEP 1

with Husniou and Motsel

Bryan C.
Sam Uam Library

ᄒᆞᆫᄂᆞᆫᄂᆞᆫ - MAY I SPEAK KEP 1

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Introduction

Welcome to the first tome of ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝ ᱫᱷᱟᱥᱱᱟ - MAY I SPEAK KEP with Husniou **and Motsel** which is a series of learning books for the Kep language, a constructed language which I created in 2024.

Kep is intended to be a simple and minimalistic language written with ideograms, and spoken in Sam Uam, a fictional country.

Throughout this book, you will follow Husniou and Motsel, and their encounters, conversations and adventures will accompany you on your learning journey. By the end of this first book, you will have discovered a lot about Sam Uam people and culture, and you will also have learned 300 Kep ideograms, meaning that you will approximately have reached an A1 level in Kep.

From a methodological perspective, I tried to apply the principles of communicative language learning in this book, this is why it includes 50 dialogues based on real-life situations and all the lessons are based on them and designed to encourage active participation from learners.

This book is intended both for independent learners and for use in groups, language clubs, or teacher-led classes. Its dialogues, exercises, and tasks can be adapted to individual study, pair work, or classroom activities.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy your journey through ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝ ᱦᱚᱱᱚᱛ ᱥ - MAY I
SPEAK KEP with Husniou and Motsel and that you will have fun learning Kep.

♀ ♂ 乙 癸 巳 午 申 酉 戌 亥



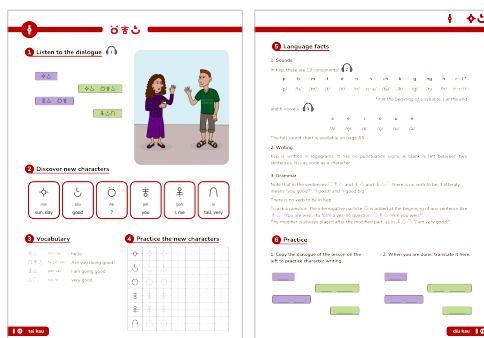
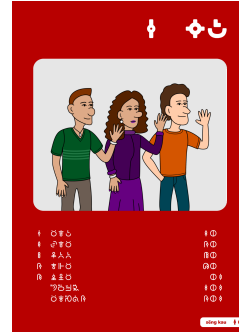
Bryan C.
Creator of Kep

How to use this book

The book consists of 10 units, each identified by a different colour. Each unit focuses on a specific theme and is structured as follows:

A landing page

to see all the lessons included in the unit with a thematic illustration



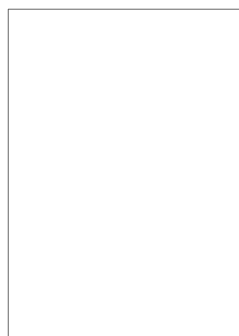
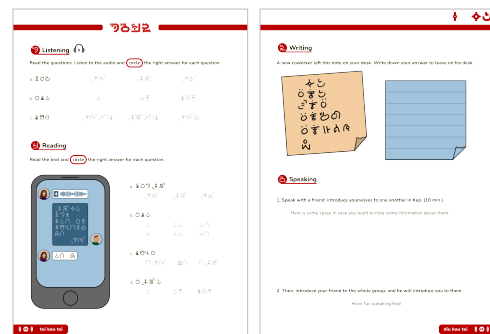
5 lessons

each on a double page

The lesson structure is always the same and it is detailed on the right page.

A practice double page

with reading, listening, writing and speaking exercises to review the contents of the whole unit.



A cultural focus

in Kep only, so you can learn more about Sam Uam and its people, while practicing reading and listening!

Lesson structure

Each lesson consists of 6 different parts.

On the left page:

1 Listen to the dialogue



All audio files are identified by this symbol including the track number.

You can access them by scanning the QR code or by following this link: thisisalink.com/audio

This is a QR code

This section is the most important part of the lesson. It features a dialogue and an illustration based on an everyday situation.

Take the time to listen, to read along, and to familiarise yourself with the dialogue. The rest of the lesson is based on it.

2 Discover new characters

This section introduces the six new characters featured in the lesson's dialogue. It clearly shows the new characters, their meanings and their pronunciation.

3 Vocabulary

The vocabulary section mainly contains compound words featured in the dialogue, along with their pronunciation and meaning.

4 Practice the new characters

This section includes a grid for practising how to write the new characters from the lesson.

On the right page:

5 Language facts

This section covers aspects of grammar, phonetics and vocabulary to help you understand the structure and functioning of the Kep language.

6 Practice

This final section includes exercises such as fill-in-the-blank, matching and translation exercises, amongst others, to consolidate the elements covered in the previous section.

Table of Contents



Unit 1 - Hello!

Communication: say hello, thank you, introduce yourself, ask questions, talk of your origins

Grammar: basic sentences, basic questions, negation

Vocabulary: identity, names

Culture: Sam Uam



Unit 2 - Going to the city

Communication: find your way around, ask for and giving directions, use public transport

Grammar: basic sentences, basic questions, negation

Vocabulary: city places, streets, transportation, numbers

Culture: Transit in Sam Uam, Siong lo



Unit 3 - In a shop

Communication: ask for things, state your size, describe an object, express preferences, buy and pay

Grammar: basic sentences, basic questions, negation

Vocabulary: clothing, colors, money

Culture: Traditional clothes of Sam Uam



Unit 4 - I am hungry!

Communication:

Grammar:

Vocabulary:

Culture:



Unit 5 - Family

Communication:

Grammar:

Vocabulary:

Culture:



Unit 6 - At home

Communication:

Grammar:

Vocabulary:

Culture:



Unit 7 - Working hard

Communication:

Grammar:

Vocabulary:

Culture:



Unit 8 - Free time

Communication:

Grammar:

Vocabulary:

Culture:



Unit 9 - At the hospital

Communication:

Grammar:

Vocabulary:

Culture:



Unit 10 - Going to las Cham

Communication:

Grammar:

Vocabulary:

Culture:



Appendix

Final exam

Phonetics

Grammar

Transcription of audio recordings

Answers to the exercises

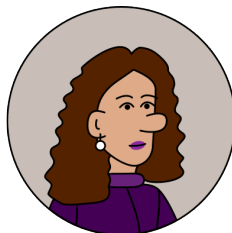
Map of Sam Uam

Map of Siong lo

The characters



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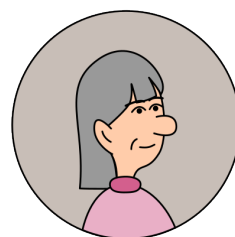
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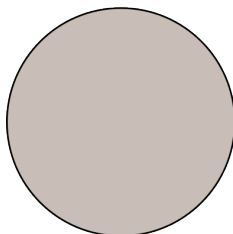
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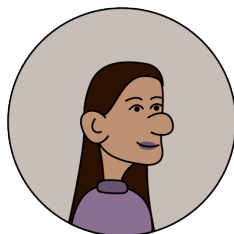
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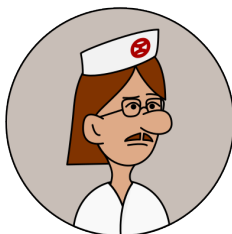
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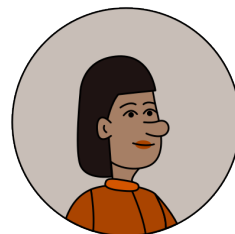
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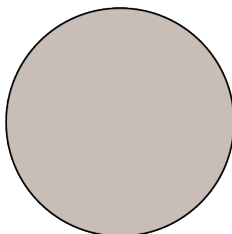
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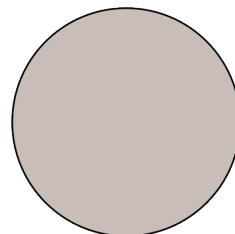
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1 Listen to the dialogue



☉ ㄣ

☉ ㄣ ㄣ ㄣ ㄣ

ㄣ ㄣ ㄣ ㄣ

ㄣ ㄣ ㄣ



2 Discover new characters



min
sun, day



sau
good



hě
?



pěl
you



gah
I, me



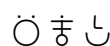
io
tall, very

3 Vocabulary



min sau

hello



hě pěl sau

Are you doing good?



gah sau

I am going good



sau io

very good

4 Practice the new characters

☉	☉	☉				
ㄣ	ㄣ	ㄣ				
ㄣ	ㄣ	ㄣ				
ㄣ	ㄣ	ㄣ				
ㄣ	ㄣ	ㄣ				
ㄣ	ㄣ	ㄣ				

5 Language facts

1. Sounds

In Kep, there are 13 consonants:  2

p	b	m	t	d	n	s	ch	k	g	ng	h	r - l*
/p/	/b/	/m/	/t/	/d/	/n/	/s~ɛ/	/tɕ/	/k/	/g/	/ŋ/	/h/	/r~r~l/

* r at the beginning of a syllable, l at the end

and 6 vowels:  3

a	e	i	o	u	ë
/ä/	/ɛ/	/i/	/o/	/u/	/ə/

The full sound chart is available on page **XX**.

2. Writing

Kep is written in logograms. It has no punctuation signs. A blank is left between two sentences. It is as wide as a character.

3. Grammar

Note that in the sentences $\ddot{\text{O}} \text{ 𐄂 𐄃}$ and 𐄂 𐄃 and 𐄂 𐄃 𐄂 there is no verb *to be*. It literally means "you good?", "I good" and "I good big".

There is no verb *to be* in Kep.

To ask a question, the interrogative particle $\ddot{\text{O}}$ is added at the beginning of any sentence like 𐄂 𐄃 "You are well." to form a yes-no question, $\ddot{\text{O}} \text{ 𐄂 𐄃}$ "Are you well?".

The modifier is always placed after the modified part, as in 𐄂 𐄃 𐄂 "I am very good".

6 Practice

1. Copy the dialogue of the lesson on the left to practice character writing.

2. When you are done, translate it here.



1 Listen to the dialogue



ting pël hë

ting gah ... hus niou

ting gah ... mot sel

sau uat



2 Discover new characters

ting

name

hus

child

niou

mountain

mot

flower

sel

purple

uat

to listen

3 Vocabulary

ting pël hë What is your name?

ting gah ... My name is ...

hus niou Husniou

mot sel Motsel

sau uat beautiful (to the ear)

4 Practice the new characters

ting	ting	ting				
hus	hus	hus				
niou	niou	niou				
mot	mot	mot				
sel	sel	sel				
uat	uat	uat				

5 Language facts

1. Grammar

The words 𐌺𐌹 and 𐌺𐌹𐌺 can be used as a possessive mark when placed after a noun.

𐌺𐌹 a name

𐌺𐌹𐌺 my name

𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹 your name

When the character 𐌺 is used somewhere else than the beginning of a sentence, it usually means *what*.

𐌺𐌹𐌺 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹 What is your name?

Proper names are written in between two special characters like in 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹.

2. Vocabulary

There is no word for *beautiful* in Kep. Instead, expressions like 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹 can be said. Literally, it means "good to listen".

6 Practice

1. Match each sentence with the right answer

- a. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹 .
- b. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹 .
- c. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹 .
- d. 𐌺𐌹𐌹 .
- e. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌹𐌹 .

- 1. 𐌺𐌹𐌹
- 2. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹
- 3. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌹
- 4. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌹
- 5. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌹

2. Translate these sentences in English.

a. 𐌺𐌹𐌹 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹

b. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹

c. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌹

d. 𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌹𐌹

3. Translate these sentences in Kep.

a. Hello. My name is Motsel. And you?

b. The name Husniou is beautiful.

c. Is my name beautiful?

d. Is Husniou doing well?

၉ ၁၉၄၇



Discover new characters

kum
house, home

Vocabulary

to go home

4 Practice the new characters

ㄌ	ㄌ	ㄌ				
ㄍ	ㄍ	ㄍ				
ㅇ	ㅇ	ㅇ				
ㅏ	ㅏ	ㅏ				
ㅑ	ㅑ	ㅑ				
ㅓ	ㅓ	ㅓ				
ㅕ	ㅕ	ㅕ				
ㅗ	ㅗ	ㅗ				

5 Language facts

1. Grammar - modifiers

The word ስ can be used after another word to amplify its meaning.

ስ bad	ስ ስ very bad
ህ good	ህ ስ very good, great

Reduplication is used to attenuate the meaning of a word.

ስ bad	ስ ስ a little bad
ህ good	ህ ህ a little good

2. Grammar - cause

The word ብ means *from*, but it can be used as well to express a cause.

ዳ ህ ብ ዳ ህ	I am good because I am going home.
ዐ ቆ ማ ህ ብ ቆ ህ	Do you want to go home because you are feeling bad?

6 Practice

1. Complete each sentence with these characters. You can use each only once.

ገ ህ ስ ማ ብ ስ

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| a. ዐ ቆ _____ | b. ዳ ህ _____ |
| c. ህ ህ ስ ህ _____ | d. ዳ _____ |
| e. ዳ ህ _____ | f. ህ ስ _____ |

2. Match the two parts of the sentence.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a. ዳ ህ | 1. ብ ዳ ማ ህ |
| b. ዐ ቆ ህ | 2. ብ ዳ ህ |
| c. ቆ ህ | 3. ብ ህ ስ ህ |
| d. ዳ ህ ህ | 4. ብ ቆ ህ |
| e. ህ ስ ህ ህ | 5. ብ ቆ ማ ህ |

3. Translate these sentences in English.

a. ዐ ቆ ህ

b. ዳ ማ ህ ቆ

c. ህ ቆ ህ ህ ብ ዐ

4. Translate these sentences in Kep.

a. My child is feeling great.

b. Why is your house big?

c. Husniou wants to listen to me.



ᑭᑭᑭ

1 Listen to the dialogue



ᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭ

ᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭ

ᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

ᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭ



2 Discover new characters



sam
island



uam
four



tam
come



siong
city



gu
know



hei
gratitude

3 Vocabulary

ᑭᑭᑭ	up hə	from where
ᑭᑭᑭ	sam uam	Sam Uam
ᑭᑭᑭ	siong io	Siong lo
ᑭᑭᑭ	niou io	Niou lo
ᑭᑭ	hei	Thank you!

4 Practice the new characters

ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ				
ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ				
ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ				
ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ				
ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ				
ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ	ᑭᑭᑭ				

1 Listen to the dialogue



ሆሙ ማሕደሩ

የሆነው ማሕደሩ

ማሕደሩ

ማሕደሩ

ማሕደሩ

ሆነው ማሕደሩ

ሆነው ሆነው ማሕደሩ

ሆነው ሆነው



2 Discover new characters

ሆ

muë
person

ደ

dë
this, that

ቸ

ui
no, not

ሆ

heu
he, she

ደ

dang
speak

ባ

kep
language

3 Vocabulary

ሆ ደ	muë dë	this person
የሆነው	gu ui	don't know
ሆ ሆ	muë hë	who
ሆሙ	hus sam	Hussam
ባ	kep	language, Kep
ደ ባ	dang kep	speak Kep
ሆ ሆ	sau io uat	very beautiful

4 Practice the new characters

ሆ	ሆ	ሆ				
ደ	ደ	ደ				
ቸ	ቸ	ቸ				
ሆ	ሆ	ሆ				
ደ	ደ	ደ				
ባ	ባ	ባ				
ባ	ባ	ባ				

5 Language facts

1. Grammar - gender

Gender is not expressed in Kep. The pronoun 𐄂 is neutral and used both for female and male.

2. Grammar - negation

The character 𐄂 is used to negate the word before.

𐄂 know 𐄂𐄂 don't know
𐄂 good 𐄂𐄂 not good

It works the same to answer a question:

𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 Do you know this person?

short answer:

𐄂 Yes.

𐄂𐄂 No.

complete answer:

𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 I know him.

𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 I don't know him.

3. Grammar - modifiers placement

As seen in the first lesson, the word 𐄂 means *tall* but it is often used to intensify as the word *very* in English. Pay attention to its placement in the following examples.

𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 I am very good.

𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 Your name is very beautiful. (lit. very good to hear)

6 Practice

1. Answer the questions in both short and complete, affirmative and negative forms.

Question	short affirmative	short negative	complete affirmative answer	complete negative answer
𐄂 𐄂 𐄂				
𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂				
𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂				
𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂				
𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂				

2. Translate these sentences in English.

a. 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂

b. 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂

c. 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂 𐄂

3. Translate these sentences in Kep.

a. I don't speak Kep.

b. Is your house big?

c. Why don't you go to Sam Uam?

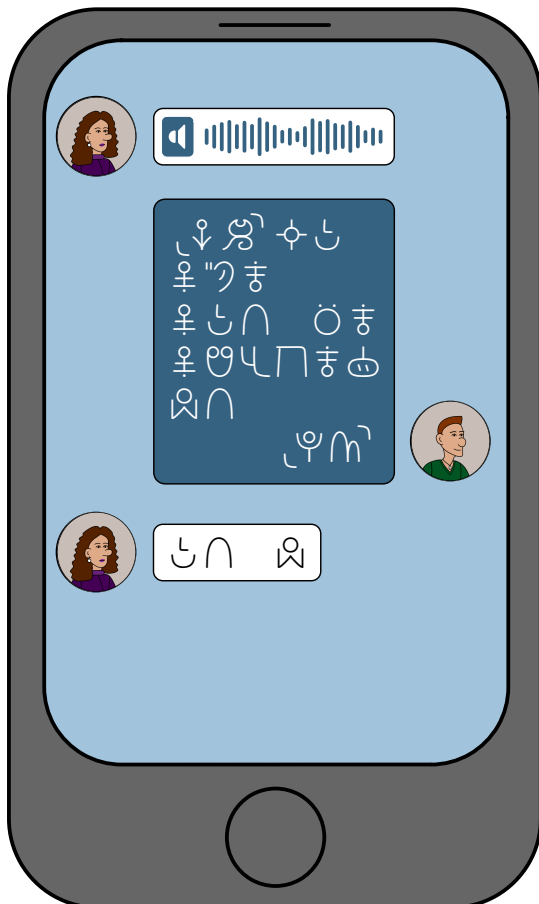
ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Listening 8

Read the questions. Listen to the audio and **circle** the right answer for each question.

- a. ᑭᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ
- b. ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ
- c. ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ

ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Reading

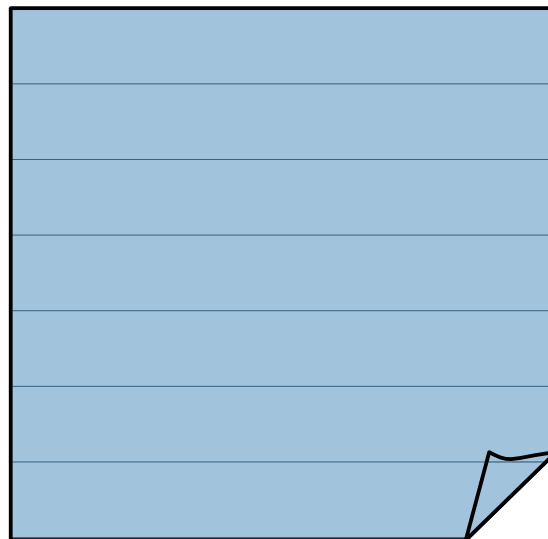
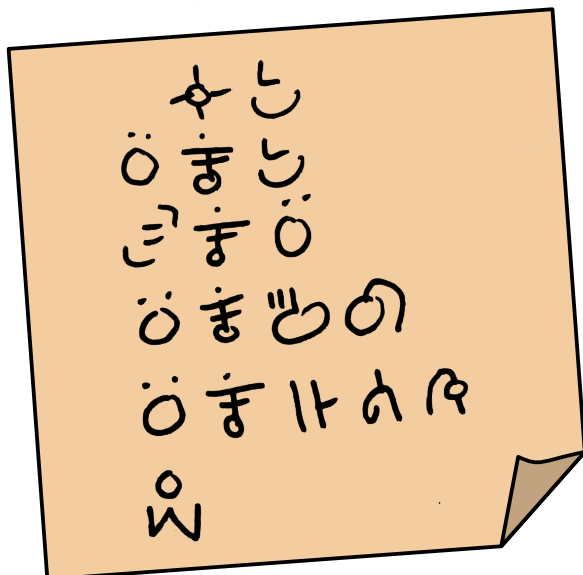
Read the text and **circle** the right answer for each question.



- a. ᑭᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ
- b. ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ
- c. ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ
- d. ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ

Writing

A new coworker left this note on your desk. Write down your answer to leave on his desk.



Speaking

1. Speak with a friend: introduce yourselves to one another in Kep. (10 min.)

Here is some space in case you want to note some information about them:

2. Then, introduce your friend to the whole group, and he will introduce you to them.

Have fun speaking Kep!

To be continued

