



Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad
香港語言學奧林匹克

en

Eighth Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad

February 8th, 2026

Problems

- Listen carefully to the invigilators and follow their instructions.
- The contest lasts four hours. The problem set consists of six pages and it contains four problems. You may solve the problems in any order.
- You are not allowed to use any electronic device, written or printed material, or other external sources of information during the contest.
- If you have a question about any of the problems, write it on a piece of draft paper and hand it to an invigilator. The invigilator will consult with the jury and you will receive an answer back written on the same piece of paper.
- Rules for writing out solutions:
 - Do not copy the statements of the problems.
 - Write down your solution to each problem on a separate sheet or sheets.
 - Use only the front side of the answer sheet.
 - On each sheet, indicate your name, the number of the problem, and the page sequence of that sheet within the problem, e.g.:

Name:	...
Problem #	4
Page #	1 / 3

Name:	...
Problem #	4
Page #	2 / 3

Name:	...
Problem #	4
Page #	3 / 3

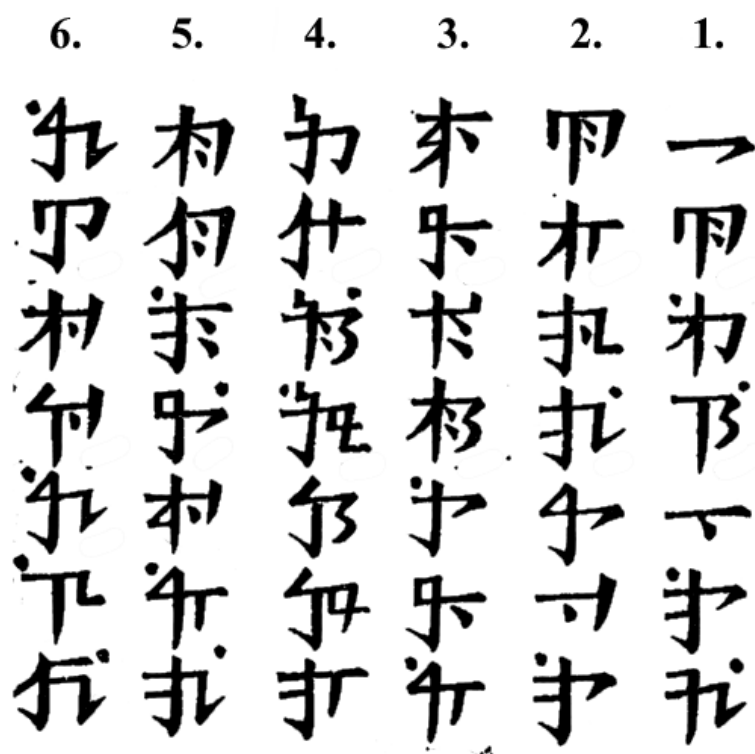
(meaning first, second, and third sheet out of three for the fourth problem.)

Otherwise, your work may be mislaid or misattributed.

- Unless stated differently, you should describe any patterns or rules you identified in the data. Otherwise, your solution will not be awarded full marks.

The problem set must be kept confidential until it is published on the official HKLO website. Do not disclose nor discuss the problems online until that date.

Problem 1 (25 points). Below is a Christian hymn in Shanghainese written in the New Phonetic Character script, as well as the transliterations of each line in Latin script in random order:



- | | |
|---|--|
| A. i ⁴ kyəŋ ⁴ tseu ² ku ³ i? ⁴ li ² pa ³ | D. tsəŋ ⁴ zəŋ ⁴ liŋ ² nyi ³ tho? ⁴ hâ ² la ³ |
| B. fia ² jeu ⁴ tso? ⁴ fo? ⁴ fia ² ke ² zia ³ | E. tshi? ⁴ nyi? ⁴ toŋ ⁴ tsuŋ ⁴ di ² nyi? ⁴ hâ ² |
| C. kyəŋ ⁴ tsâ ⁴ le? ⁴ la ³ fi ⁴ o? ⁴ li ² | F. yeu ⁴ zû ⁴ yuŋ ³ yöh ² vu ⁴ vah ⁴ lâ ⁴ |

- (a) Determine the correct correspondences.
- (b) Write in the New Phonetic Character script:

7. le⁴ tâ³ fi⁴ kha³ we?⁴ di³

8. we³ nyi³ lieu⁴ tshe?⁴ tu⁴ hâ³

(continued on next page)

(c) Write in Latin script:

10.	9.
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗

△ In the 1850s, Tarleton Crawford, a Baptist missionary to China, developed the New Phonetic Character script to write Shanghainese. The hymns featured in this problem come from a hymnbook published in 1859. The script was used for a few decades, particularly for Shanghainese translations of religious books, but has been forgotten.

Numbers indicate one of the four tones under the traditional Chinese classification: level, rising, departing and checked.

Shanghainese is a Wu Chinese language of the Sino-Tibetan language family. In the mid-1800s, Shanghainese is described to have eight tones. Modern Shanghainese has only five tones.

ky $\approx$ *ch* in *cherry*, **ts** = *ts* in *Tsim Sha Tsui*, **ny** = *ny* in *canyon*, **ŋ** = *ng* in *sing*. **ɦ** is pronounced like **h** but with vocal cords vibrating.

—Farhan Ishraq

Problem 2 (25 points). Here are a few sentences in Guaraní and their English translations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Ñande ñamoñe'ẽ nde rai vai ne retymáme. | <i>We read your_{sg} ugly writing in your_{sg} leg.</i> |
| 2. Ñande jaguereko guyrakuéra porã che rógape. | <i>We have beautiful birds in my house.</i> |
| 3. Pe óga ha pe tetyma ivai. | <i>That house and that leg are ugly.</i> |
| 4. Kuñanguéra ha kuimba'ekuéra ohai okẽme. | <i>The women and the men write in the door.</i> |
| 5. Umi guyra oĩ pépe. | <i>Those birds are there.</i> |
| 6. Nde reĩ che memoranduhápe. | <i>You_{sg} are in my newspaper.</i> |
| 7. Tetã oguereko heta tape. | <i>The country has a lot of roads.</i> |
| 8. Nde reipytyvõ heta sýpe hetãme. | <i>You_{sg} help a lot of mothers in his country.</i> |
| 9. Pe kuña róga ivai. | <i>That woman's house is ugly.</i> |
| 10. Hokẽ oipytyvõ nde guyrápe. | <i>His door helps your_{sg} bird.</i> |
| 11. Mitãnguéra vai ohecha yvyra retyma. | <i>The ugly children see the leg of the tree.</i> |
| 12. Ñande javeve ha jahecha ne kuimba'ekuérape oñondive. | <i>We fly and see your_{sg} men together.</i> |

Here are a few more words in Guaraní and their English translations:

ogaygua = family

kavaju = horse

ñarõ = to bark

(a) Translate into English:

13. **Hogaygua oĩ ñande yvyrápe.**
14. **Ñane rokẽ iporã.**
15. **Nde reñarõ heta pépe.**
16. **Che amoñe'ẽ ne kuñáme ha aipytyvõ hape.**
17. **Ñande ñaipytyvõ kavajukuérape umi sy retãme.**

(b) Translate into Guaraní:

18. *We see the newspaper in his house.*
19. *I have his leg in that family.*
20. *The mothers read a lot together.*
21. *Those children see the horse in your_{sg} road.*
22. *The man's family helps the child and his writing.*

△ The Guaraní language belongs to the Tupi-Guarani family. It is spoken by approx. 6.5 million people in South America.

ñ, mb, nd, ng, ' are consonants. **y** is a vowel. The signs **ó** and **õ** above vowels indicate stress and nasalisation respectively.

—Daniel Lin Cheuk Hang, Tam Lok Hang

Problem 3 (25 points). Below are some Maltese words, their corresponding Classic Arabic forms, and their English translations:

Maltese	Arabic	Translation	Maltese	Arabic	Translation
baqar	baqar	<i>cows</i>	ħadem	xadam	<i>(he) worked</i>
kobor	kubr	<i>old age</i>	seħer	siħr	<i>spell</i>
nagħal	naʕl	<i>horseshoes</i>	meraq	maraq	<i>broth</i>
jaħdem	yaxdim	<i>(he) is working</i>	borom	buram	<i>cooking pots</i>
wited	watid	<i>peg</i>	maħžen	maxzan	<i>warehouse</i>
kelb	kalb	<i>dog</i>	jidfen	yadfin	<i>(he) is burying</i>
qorob	qarub	<i>(he) approached</i>	joqrob	yaqrub	___(1)___
qamel	qaml	<i>lice</i>	għelem	ʕalim	___(2)___
bint	bint	<i>daughter</i>	jindem	___(3)___	___(4)___
nidem	nadim	<i>(he) repented</i>	jegħleb	___(5)___	<i>(he) is defeating</i>
jegħlem	yaʕlam	<i>(he) is marking</i>	lewm	___(6)___	<i>blame</i>
reħem	raħim	<i>womb</i>	___(7)___	ʕilk	<i>resin</i>
libes	labis	<i>(he) wore</i>	___(8)___	ʕumr	<i>age</i>
għerq	ʕirq	<i>root</i>	___(9)___	sikak	<i>ploughs</i>
qedem	qidam	<i>prehistory</i>	___(10)___	qafal	<i>(he) closed</i>
qalb	qalb	<i>heart</i>	___(11)___	___(12)___	<i>(he) is closing</i>
jilbes	yalbas	<i>(he) is wearing</i>			

(a) Fill in the blanks (1–12).

(b) One of the verb tenses in Maltese is formed in such a way that it cannot be derived from the Classical Arabic form based on regular sound changes. Identify this verb tense.

△ Maltese is a Semitic language spoken by around 570,000 speakers. It is mainly spoken in the nation of Malta and by the Maltese diaspora. Classical Arabic is a standardised form of the Arabic language. It is mostly, but not entirely, identical to the ancestor of all modern Arabic languages such as Maltese.

q, x, ħ, ʕ, għ are sounds pronounced at the back of the mouth.

—Henry Wong

The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.

Problem 4 (25 points). Here are some phrases in Chiquitano and their English translations in random order. Some phrases in Chiquitano have different forms depending on the gender of the speaker. Hence, there are some cases of more than one phrase in Chiquitano corresponding to the same translation in English. For these phrases, all their possible ways of being spoken in Chiquitano are provided.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. apaõtomo | A. <i>plantain</i> |
| 2. avaich na church | B. <i>water</i> |
| 3. avaich na tokórch | C. <i>my head hurts</i> |
| 4. church | D. <i>my arm</i> |
| 5. hóchó nitchãana | E. <i>arm skin</i> |
| 6. kuri aipiãtomo sãtiarch | F. <i>to split, to crack</i> |
| 7. kuri utcha tuurch | G. <i>let's break the watermelon!</i> |
| 8. ma paõtomono soise | H. <i>it's very cold</i> |
| 9. nio noriórch | I. <i>long snake</i> |
| 10. nipia | J. <i>animal skin</i> |
| 11. nochourch | K. <i>tree bark</i> |
| 12. nosaũrch | L. <i>bananas</i> |
| 13. pakauka | M. <i>bullet ant</i> |
| 14. pakaurch vavaikia | N. <i>is chopping wood</i> |
| 15. saũrch | O. <i>let's drink water!</i> |
| 16. tarikapaé na urchurchkich | P. <i>to clear the undergrowth/underbrush</i> |
| 17. tarikapaé nochokórch | Q. <i>egg</i> |
| 18. tchikich | R. <i>bare, skinned</i> |
| 19. tchikikia | S. <i>it hurts too much</i> |
| 20. tiaki nipia | T. <i>animal tail</i> |
| 21. tiaki noriórch | U. <i>snake</i> |
| 22. tiaki soise | V. <i>long bench</i> |
| 23. tiakiórch | W. <i>eggs</i> |
| 24. tuurch | X. <i>cold</i> |
| 25. urchurchkich | |
| 26. vario sóise | |

(continued on next page)

(a) Determine the correct correspondences.

(b) Translate into English:

27. **tiakich**

28. **tarikapaé**

If multiple translations are possible, provide only one.

(c) Translate into Chiquitano:

29. *let's go!*

30. *my arm hurts*

31. *banana peel*

(d) Knowing that **tipikia** = *ants* and **kuvitchióka** = *sweet potatoes*, translate into Chiquitano in all possible ways:

32. *ant*

33. *long ant*

34. *sweet potato*

(e) Knowing that **taanurch** = *hair* is spoken by a female speaker, provide the Chiquitano translation of *hair* that is spoken by a male speaker.

(!) No additional explanation besides the answers is required, nor will be marked.

△ The Chiquitano language is an endangered language isolate spoken by a small number (approx. 2000) of the Chiquitano people, who are indigenous people of Bolivia with also a small number living in eastern Brazil.

ch, tch, rch, ' are consonants. ã, é, ó, õ, ü are vowels.

A *plantain* is a fruit of the same family as bananas. They appear similar to but are larger than bananas. Plantain is also the singular form of the noun. *Undergrowth* or *underbrush* refers to bushes or small trees growing under large trees in a forest. The *bullet ant* is a type of ant which is found in South and Central America. The *sweet potato* is a type of plant native to tropical Central and South America.

—Cao Jenny

Editors: Cao Jenny, Farhan Ishraq (editor-in-chief), Daniel Lin Cheuk Hang, Vlad A. Neacșu (technical editor), Tung-Le Pan, Tam Lok Hang, Henry Wong

Good luck!



Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad

香港語言學奧林匹克

zh-tr

第八屆香港語言學奧林匹克選拔賽

2026年2月8日

題目

- 仔細聆聽並遵循監考人員的指示。
- 競賽持續四小時。本份試題共有六頁、四題。你可以以任何順序解題。
- 在競賽進行中，請勿使用任何電子設備、手寫筆記、印刷品或是其他的資料來源。
- 如果你對於題目有任何疑問，請將疑問寫在草稿紙上，舉手並將其交給監考人員。監考人員詢問評審委員後會把答覆寫在同一張紙並交回給你。
- 作答規則：

- 毋須抄題。
- 將不同問題的解答分述於不同的答題紙上。
- 請只使用答題紙的正面。
- 請在每張紙上註明姓名、題號以及其為該題目的第幾張答題紙，例如：

姓名：	...	姓名：	...	姓名：	...
題號：	4	題號：	4	題號：	4
頁碼：	1 / 3	頁碼：	2 / 3	頁碼：	3 / 3

(表示第四題的第一、第二及第三張答題紙。)

以避免考卷遺失或分數誤記。

- 除非特別註明，各題解答應同時包含你在資料中所找到的任何規律或規則。否則你的答案將不會獲得滿分。

在 **HKLO** 官方網站上被公佈前，題目卷必須保密。到該日為止，請勿透過網路公開或討論本次競賽題目。

第一題 (20 分) 以下是一首以上海土音字寫出的上海話聖詩及每一行的拉丁字母音譯，以亂序排列。

6.	5.	4.	3.	2.	1.
𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	一
𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿
𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿
𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿
𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿
𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿	𠵿

A. i⁴ kyəŋ⁴ tseu² ku³ i?⁴ li² pa³

B. fia² jeu⁴ tso?⁴ fo?⁴ fia² ke² zia³

C. kyəŋ⁴ tsâ⁴ le?⁴ la³ fi⁴ o?⁴ li²

D. tsəŋ⁴ zəŋ⁴ liŋ² nyi³ tho?⁴ hâ² la³

E. tshi?⁴ nyi?⁴ toŋ⁴ tsuŋ⁴ di² nyi?⁴ hâ²

F. yeu⁴ zû⁴ yuŋ³ yôh² vu⁴ vah⁴ lâ⁴

(a) 一一對應之。

(b) 轉寫成上海土音字：

7. le⁴ tâ³ fi⁴ kha³ we?⁴ di³

8. we³ nyi³ lieu⁴ tshe?⁴ tu⁴ hâ³

(下頁續)

(c) 轉寫成拉丁字母：

10.	9.
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗
𪛗	𪛗

△ 在1850年代，浸信會傳教士高第丕（Tarleton Crawford）制定了上海土音字書寫上海話。此題目中出現的聖詩出自一本1859年出版的聖詩詩集。這種寫法曾被使用過幾十年，特別是用於宗教書的上海話翻譯，但後來被遺忘了。

數字表示傳統漢語音韻學的聲調分類中的四種聲調之一：平、上、去、入。

上海話屬於漢藏語系的吳語。在19世紀中葉，上海話曾被描述為有八種聲調。現代上海話只有五種聲調。

ky ≈ 英文「cherry」的ch，**ts** = 粵語「尖（tsim⁴）」的ts，**ny** = 英文「canyon」的ny，**ŋ** = 粵語「我（ngo⁵）」的ng，**ɦ**是像**h**但以聲帶振動。—穆法罕

第二題 (20 分) 以下是一些瓜拉尼語句子及其中文翻譯：

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Ñande ñamoñe'ẽ nde rai vai ne retymáme. | 我們在你的腿中讀你的醜的字。 |
| 2. Ñande jaguereko guyrakuéra porã che rógape. | 我們在我的屋中有美的鳥（複數）。 |
| 3. Pe óga ha pe tetyma ivai. | 那屋和那腿很醜。 |
| 4. Kuñanguéra ha kuimba'ekuéra ohai okême. | 女人（複數）和男人（複數）在門中寫。 |
| 5. Umi guyra oĩ pépe. | 那些鳥在那裏。 |
| 6. Nde reĩ che memoranduhápe. | 你在我的報紙中。 |
| 7. Tetã oguereko heta tape. | 國家有很多路。 |
| 8. Nde reipytyvõ heta sýpe hetãme. | 你在他的國家中幫很多母親。 |
| 9. Pe kuña róga ivai. | 那女人的屋很醜。 |
| 10. Hokẽ oipytyvõ nde guyrápe. | 他的門幫你的鳥。 |
| 11. Mitãnguéra vai ohecha vyvra retyma. | 醜的小孩（複數）看樹的腿。 |
| 12. Ñande javeve ha jahecha ne kuimba'ekuérape oñondive. | 我們一起飛和看你的男人（複數）。 |

以下是更多瓜拉尼語詞語及其中文翻譯：

ogaygua = 家

kavaju = 馬

ñarõ = 吠（動詞）

(a) 請翻譯成中文：

13. **Hogaygua oĩ ñande yvyrápe.**
14. **Ñane rokẽ iporã.**
15. **Nde reñarõ heta pépe.**
16. **Che amoñe'ẽ ne kuñáme ha aipytyvõ hape.**
17. **Ñande ñaipytyvõ kavajukuérape umi sy retãme.**

(b) 請翻譯成瓜拉尼語：

18. 我們在他的屋中看報紙。
19. 我在那家中有他的腿。
20. 母親（複數）很多時候一起讀。
21. 那些小孩在你的路中看馬。
22. 男人的家幫小孩和他的字。

△ 瓜拉尼語屬圖皮-瓜拉尼語族，在南美有約650萬人使用該語言。

ñ、mb、nd、ng、' 是子音，y 是母音。母音上的◌◌分別標示重音及鼻音化。

—練卓桁、談樂行

第三題 (20 分) 以下是一些馬爾他語的詞語，對應的古典阿拉伯語語形及其中文翻譯：

馬爾他語	阿拉伯語	翻譯	馬爾他語	阿拉伯語	翻譯
baqar	baqar	奶牛 (複數)	ħadem	xadam	(他) 工作了
kobor	kubr	老年	seher	sihr	咒語
nagħal	naʕl	馬蹄鐵 (複數)	meraq	maraq	湯
jahdem	yaxdim	(他) 正在工作	borom	buram	煲 (複數)
wited	watid	衣夾	mahžen	maxzan	貨倉
kelb	kalb	狗	jidfen	yadfin	(他) 正在埋葬
qorob	qarub	(他) 靠近了	joqrob	yaqrub	__(1)__
qamel	qaml	蟲子 (複數)	ghelem	ʕalim	__(2)__
bint	bint	女兒	jindem	__(3)__	__(4)__
nidem	nadim	(他) 後悔了	jegħleb	__(5)__	(他) 正在打敗
jegħlem	yaʕlam	(他) 正在標記	lewm	__(6)__	責任
reħem	raħim	子宮	__(7)__	ʕilk	樹脂
libes	labis	(他) 穿了	__(8)__	ʕumr	年齡
għerq	ʕirq	根	__(9)__	sikak	犁 (複數)
qedem	qidam	史前時代	__(10)__	qafal	(他) 關閉了
qalb	qalb	心臟	__(11)__	__(12)__	(他) 正在關閉
jilbes	yalbas	(他) 正在穿			

(a) 填寫空格 (1-12)。

(b) 某馬爾他語時態型態並不能只以規律性音變從對應的古典阿拉伯文時態型態演變出來。列出該時態。

△ 馬爾他語屬於閃米特語系。在馬爾他以及全球有約570,000人使用。古典阿拉伯語是阿拉伯語的標準語。它與現代阿拉伯語系（包括馬爾他語）的共同祖先大致，但不完全，吻合。

q、x、ħ、ʕ、gh為在口腔後部發出的音。

—黃拓承

此處留白。

第四題 (20 分) 以下是一些奇基塔諾語的單字和片語及其中文翻譯，以亂序排列。奇基塔諾語中某些短語會根據說話者的性別而有所不同。因此，在某些詞條中同一個中文翻譯可能對應多個奇基塔諾語短語。本題已提供這些短語在奇基塔諾語中所有可能的表達方式。

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. apaõtomo | A. 大蕉 |
| 2. avaich na church | B. 水 |
| 3. avaich na tokórch | C. 我頭痛 |
| 4. church | D. 我手臂 |
| 5. hóchó nitchãana | E. 手臂皮膚 |
| 6. kuri aipiãtomo sãtiarch | F. 劈開/裂開 |
| 7. kuri utcha tuurch | G. 我們打破西瓜吧！ |
| 8. ma paõtomonono soise | H. 很冷 |
| 9. nio noriórch | I. 長蛇 |
| 10. nipia | J. 獸皮 |
| 11. nochourch | K. 樹皮 |
| 12. nosaũrch | L. 香蕉 (複數) |
| 13. pakauka | M. 子彈蟻 |
| 14. pakaurch vavaikia | N. 正在砍柴 |
| 15. saũrch | O. 我們喝水吧！ |
| 16. tarikapaé na urchurchkich | P. 清除灌木叢/雜草 |
| 17. tarikapaé nochokórch | Q. 蛋 |
| 18. tchikich | R. 裸露的 |
| 19. tchikikia | S. 太痛了 |
| 20. tiaki nipia | T. 動物尾巴 |
| 21. tiaki noriórch | U. 蛇 |
| 22. tiaki soise | V. 長椅 |
| 23. tiakiórch | W. 蛋 (複數) |
| 24. tuurch | X. 冷 |
| 25. urchurchkich | |
| 26. vario sóise | |

(a) 一一對應之。

(b) 請翻譯成中文：

27. **tiakich**

28. **tarikapaé**

如可能存在多種翻譯，只須提供一種。

(c) 請翻譯成奇基塔諾語：

29. 我們走吧！

30. 我手臂痛

31. 香蕉皮

(d) 已知 **tipikia** = 「螞蟻（複數）」，**kuvitchióka** = 「番薯（複數）」。請以所有可能方式翻譯成奇基塔諾語：

32. 螞蟻

33. 長螞蟻

34. 番薯

(e) 已知 **taanurch**（翻譯：「頭髮」）是由女性說話者說的，請提供由男性說話者說的「頭髮」的奇基塔諾語翻譯。

(!) 除了答案之外,不需要其他的解釋,而這些解釋也不會算分。

⚠ 奇基塔諾語是一種瀕危的孤立語言。只有少量（約2000人）奇基塔諾人使用該語言。奇基塔諾人是玻利維亞的一個原住民群體，也有少數居住在巴西東部。

ch、**tch**、**rch**、' 是子音。**ã**、**é**、**ó**、**õ**、**ü** 是母音。

大蕉是一種與香蕉同科的水果。它看似香蕉，但比香蕉大。灌木叢/雜草是森林中生長在大樹下的灌木或小樹。子彈蟻是一種生活在南美洲和中美洲的螞蟻。番薯是一種原產於熱帶中美洲和南美洲的植物。

—曹真旖

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加油！