

(Q) Sea Saw (1/2) [Solution]

Q1.

1. *he saw them*
2. *they saw them*
3. *the whale saw me; the whale saw you*
4. *the shark saw her*

Q2.

5. **ningingarringka**
6. **ngimwiringka mwanngwiyiwanga**
7. **nanakwiringka apwirtha**
8. **ningkwiringkatjingwa**

Q3.

Subjects and objects, excluding pronouns, follow the verb. The verb **-rringka** means *saw*.

All nouns and pronouns belong to a hierarchy:

I/me, you > they/them > she/her, he/him > shark > whale

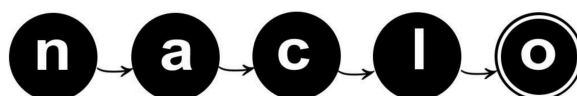
The *shark* and *whale* nouns in this problem are representative of larger noun classes. Each noun belongs to a noun class that is mostly unpredictable given its meaning.

The subject and object are expressed using two prefixes on the verb; the first one represents whichever one comes earlier in the hierarchy, and the second one represents whichever one comes later. If the subject and object are on the same tier of the hierarchy, the subject is represented first.

	1st Prefix		2nd Prefix	
	Subject	Object	Subject	Object
<i>I/me</i>	ningi-	ngi-		
<i>you</i>	ningkwi-	ngi-		
<i>they/them</i>	narri-	narra-	pwi-	arra-
<i>she/her</i>	yingi-	yinga-	nga-	nga-
<i>he/him</i>	na-	nana-	ni-	ni-
<i>shark</i>	(nimwa-)	(nimwa-)	mwi-	mwa-
<i>whale</i>	(niwa-)	(niwa-)	kwi-	∅-

The prefixes used when the subject performs an action on itself are identical to those used in the first position for subjects. In those cases, the verb also takes the suffix **-tjingwa**.

When the combination of two prefixes causes two vowels to come into contact, the first vowel is deleted. For example, **ningi-arra-** → **ningarra-**.



(Q) Sea Saw (2/2) [Solution]

Note: In reality, the vowel changes between prefixes are quite complex. Many of the prefixes are often analysed as lacking a final vowel, and the vowels that appear between prefixes are inserted to make the words easier to pronounce. This inserted vowel tends to be *i* after subject prefixes and *a* after object prefixes, making it easier to distinguish forms like **narrirra-** and **narrarra-**, which would otherwise be identical.

These prefixes combine to form the following:

	<i>me/you</i>	<i>them</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>him</i>	<i>shark</i>	<i>whale</i>	<i>self</i>
<i>I</i>	yirri-*	ningarra-	ninginga-	ningini-	ningimwa-	ningi-	ningi-
<i>you</i>	yi-*	ningkwarra-	ningkwinga-	ningkwinini-*	ningkwimwa-	ningkwi-	ningkwi-
<i>they</i>	ngipwi-	narrirra-*	narringa-	narrini-	narrimwa-	narri-	narri-
<i>she</i>	ngingi-*	narranga-	naninga-*	yingini-	yingimwa-	yingi-	yingi-
<i>he</i>	ngini-	narrani-	nanga-	nani-	nimwa-*	ni-*	ni-*
<i>shark</i>	ngimwi-	narramwi-	yingamwi-	nanamwi-	nimwa-*	nimwa-*	nimwa-*
<i>whale</i>	ngikwi-	narrakwi-	yingakwi-	nanakwi-	niwa-*	niwa-*	niwa-*

*Irregular forms.

Note that the regular forms follow two different consistent, concatenative patterns above and below the thick dividing line. Many equivalent explanations can produce these same regular combined prefixes.

