

## Practice Reconstruction

1. Schleicher in his fable reconstructs ‘makes’ as *karnauti*. The others all reconstruct *k<sup>w</sup>meuti*. What three features of currently reconstructed PIE are missing in Schleicher’s version?

Answer: labiovelar stops, syllabic sonorants, and the vowel *e*.

2. Schleicher reconstructs ‘hear!’ (2nd singular imperative) as *krudhi*. Hirt and Adams reconstruct *\*k̑ludhi*, and Kortlandt *kludi*. What explains the discrepancies between these reconstructions? (H&A differ from Schleicher in the first two consonants, and from Kortlandt in the first and last)

Answer: Schleicher was still overly influenced by Sanskrit, so reconstructed *\*r* rather than *\*l*. He did not distinguish “palatal” stops from “plain velars” (i.e. *k̑* from *k*), and neither does Kortlandt. And once again Kortlandt has plain voiced where the others have voiced aspirate (*d* instead of *dh*).

3. I personally reject all attempts to find a further etymology for PIE *\*h<sub>1</sub>ekwo-* ‘horse’. But it is true that it must contain a root plus a suffix. How do we know this?

Answer: it contains **two** vowels. NB: only *\*e*, *\*o* and *\*a* count as vowels for PIE roots. Remember that *i* and *u* belong to the “sonorant” consonants.

4. Vedic Sanskrit *yáśas-* means ‘glory’, while *yaśás-* means ‘glorious.’ What PIE process do these two words reflect?

Answer: another example of “internal derivation”, since there is no suffix.

5. Adams reconstructs the following sentence in the fable:

*h<sub>a</sub>nēr, pótis, h<sub>2</sub>éwyom f w̑néh<sub>a</sub> m sebhi k<sup>w</sup>meuti*  
man master of sheep wool self makes  
‘A man, the master, makes the wool of the sheep for himself.’

*sebhi* ‘self’ is unaccented, but *k<sup>w</sup>meuti* the main verb is accented. What is problematic about this accentuation?

Answer: if *sebhi* was truly unaccented, then it should be up front in the “Wackernagel” position after the first word. But the finite verb of a main clause was not accented (or rather, its high pitch accent was overridden by the falling clause-final intonation).