What's Yours Is Yours, What's Mine Is Mine



By Alex Bellos

Rapa Nui is the Polynesian language spoken on the islands of the same name, the Chilean territory also known as Easter Island. A feature of some Polynesian languages, such as Rapa Nui, is that there is more than one way to describe possession.

Here are some phrases in Rapa Nui and their translations in English.

tā'aku hau	my rope
tō'ona mata	his/her eye
vak 'a Taka	Taka's canoe
'iŋoa o Puakiva	Puakiva's name
tō'oku vārua	my spirit
kete 'a Kava	Kava's basket
tā'aku kūmara	my sweet potato
tō'ona māramarama	his/her wisdom
kōkoma o Tiare	Tiare's intestine

Your challenge is to determine which of the choices below show how to say the following three phrases in Rapa Nui:

	his/her microphone	Orohe's body	my smell
a.	tā'ana microfono	hakari o 'Orohe	tā'aku 'eo
b.	tō'ona microfono	hakari 'a 'Orohe	tō'oku 'eo
c.	tā'ana microfono	hakari o 'Orohe	tō'oku 'eo
d.	tō'ona microfono	hakari 'o 'Orohe	tā'aku 'eo