Translate It Back

Student handout · about 40 minutes

Names: Class: Date:

A machine translated each sentence below through eight languages and then back into English. Your job is to work out what it originally said. **Tip:** start with the words that usually survive (things, names, numbers), then rebuild the rest around them.

WORK IT OUT

WHAT CAME BACK	WHAT WE THINK THE ORIGINAL SAID	HOW SURE? (1 TO 5)	OUR CLUES
A.			
B.			
C.			
D.			

AFTER THE REVEAL: YOUR TWO HARDEST SENTENCES

SENTENCE	WHAT COULDN'T YOU HAVE WORKED OUT? WAS IT REALLY GONE, OR JUST HIDDEN?

COMPARE HOW YOU DID IT

1. What worked best for your group: starting from concrete nouns, spotting a familiar phrase, or working from grammar and word order?

2. When you got one wrong, was it still a fair guess from the clues? What would have helped?

3. Next time *you* translate something, which parts of the sentence will you be most careful with?