CAMEROONIAN PIDGIN

1. [a, datwan go gud pas mak, tröki, yu go kam, e]  
   “Oh, that would be great, tortoise. You will come, won’t you?”

2. [a go glad dat dey we yu go kam fọ ma haws]  
   “I’ll be glad the day when you come to my house.”

3. [i tāk so, i tōn i bak, i go]  
   She said this, turned her back, and left.

4. [i di laf fọ i bele. i tāk sey:]  
   She was laughing inside and said:

5. [ha! so tröki tingk sey i tu fit go flay ọp stik. i go si]  
   “Ha! So Tortoise thinks he too can fly up trees. We’ll see.”

[The tortoise notices the hawk’s disdain and tricks her into carrying him to her nest where he eats the hawk’s young. She tries to kill him by dropping him from the sky.]

6. [bọt tröki get trong nkanda. nọting no fit du i.]  
   But the tortoise has strong skin. Nothing could hurt him.

7. [i wìkọp, i shek i skin, muf ọl dọs fọ i skin].  
   He got up, shook himself, removed all the dust from his body.

8. [i go, i sey: a! a dọn du yu wel!]  
   and left, saying: “Oh! I have taught you a good lesson!”

9. [ọl dis pipul we dem di prawd!]  
   “All these people who are proud!”

10. [dem tingk sey fọ sèka sey]  
    “They think that because

11. [a no get wing a no fit du as dem tu di du]  
    I don’t have wings I can’t do as they do.”

12. [a no fit flay, bọt mi a dọn sho yu sey sens pas ọ.]  
    “I can’t fly, but I’ve shown you that intelligence beats everything.”
Language Files, File 111.

Mock finals question: Cameroonian Pidgin (English-based lexicon)

List six differences between English and Cameroonian Pidgin English, preferably giving two examples of phonological differences, two of morphological differences, two of semantic differences, and two of syntactic differences. Note: In some cases it will not be obvious which category a change belongs in. However, categorizing the differences is not as important as understanding them. Pick a category that a difference seems to fit into and put it there and say what it is that makes it different; just don’t use the same example more than once.

Stupid answers: There are such things as stupid answers. Typically, these mean that someone is simply making it up.

For example, noting that the “spelling” is different is one such answer. Noting that the spelling is wrong is even stupider. Why? First, the language is not English so how can the spelling be “wrong”; second, there is no spelling, but rather the language has been transcribed, not spelled.

For another example, stating that Cameroonian Pidgin has a different word for turtle (or for whatever) is clearly a dumb answer. Of course it does but so what? Find something a little less obvious.