CAMEROONIAN PIDGIN

1. [a, datwan go gud pas mak, trɔki, 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 fɔ ma haws]  “I’ll be glad the day when you come to my house.”

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

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

5. [ha! so trɔki tingk sey i tu fit go flay ɔp 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. [bɔt trɔki get trɔŋ nkanda. nɔting no fit du i.]  But the tortoise has strong skin. Nothing could hurt him.

7. [i wikɔp, i shek i skin, muf ɔl dɔs fɔ i skin].  He got up, shook himself, removed all the dust from his body.

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

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

10. [dem tingk sey fɔ sɛka 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, bɔt mi a dɔn sho yu sey sens pas ɔl.]  “I can’t fly, but I’ve shown you that intelligence beats everything.”
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.