

John 1:14

Huautla de Jiménez Mazatec* of Mexico

t a t s e -jiii cjoa tsjoa -le x iii , to nca
t[?]a³ts[?]e⁴ Ni³na¹ qui³tsin³-ni³. 14 Je²
en¹ cho⁴ta⁴² coan³. I⁴ tsa³c[?]e²jna³j³in³-
na¹. (Tsa^{3?}ya³-ni¹⁴j⁴in⁴ cjoa⁴je³ya³-le⁴
jo³-ni³ tsa² xi³ ts[?]e⁴ to⁴jnc³ ?nti¹-
le⁴ N[?]ai³-na¹.) Cjai¹nca³ to⁴tjin¹-le⁴
cjoa⁴nta³ cao⁴ cjoa⁴qui²xi⁴. 15 Je² Juan
? 4 ? ? ? 3, . 3 1 ? 3, ? 4

*In Huautla [WOW-flaw] de Jiménez Mazatec each syllable has a tone or a combination of 2 tones (glide). The alphabet uses a ‘?’ to show a glottal stop, like the sound at the beginning of the English word “uh-oh”.

1. How do you know which tone to use on each syllable?
2. How many different tones and glides do you see in John 1:14?
3. What Mazatec consonant combinations do you see in John 1:14 that English doesn't have?

Answers: 1) Numbers 2) 4 tones (1, 2, 3 and 4) and 2 glides (4-2 and 1-4) 3) jn, cj, and jnc (ts and nt may occur at the end of syllables like “ant” or “acts” in English)