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Julian Williams

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The Song of Ducks and Dragons [2025]

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Quest 1: Whispers in the Shell

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Part I

There's something remarkable about the eggshell you hatched from. Faintly glowing dots and lines cover its entire surface. Even stranger is the fact that you understand what they mean! Is it a unique language that all members of your species are born knowing?

After taking a closer look, it turns out that the eggshell has three separate sections. Each section contains a list of names and a list of instructions specifying how to navigate through the list of names. Before executing the first instruction, you are at the first name of the list. Each instruction begins with the letter **R** or **L**, followed by a certain number, which simply indicates how many positions to move to the (R)ight or to the (L)eft from your current position.

You're taking a closer look at the first section (your notes). The description says that if you can't follow the full instruction without going off the list, you do as many moves as you can to stay on it. For example, if the next instruction is **L3** and you are at the second name of the list, you move only one position to the left. The description additionally states that the name you land on at the end of the entire process represents the name of the dragonduck inside the egg! So, you're a dragonduck, and you'll find out your name soon!

Example based on the following notes:

Vyrdax, Drakzyph, Fyrryn, Elarzris

R3, L2, R3, L1

Start at the first name on the list: Vyrdax:

↓
Vyrdax Drakzyph Fyrryn Elarzris

The first instruction is **R3**, so you move three positions to the right, landing on Elarzris:

↓
Vyrdax Drakzyph Fyrryn Elarzris

The next instruction is **L2**, so you move two positions to the left, landing on Drakzyph:

↓
Vyrdax Drakzyph Fyrryn Elarzris

The next instruction is **R3**, but the list is too short for that move. Instead, you move as far as possible - to Elarzris:

↓
Vyrdax Drakzyph Fyrryn Elarzris

The final instruction is **L1**, moving one position left to **Fyrryn**. This is where the process ends:

↓
Vyrdax Drakzyph Fyrryn Elarzris

What is your name?

Everybody Codes is possible thanks to:

Jane Street

Jane Street is a quantitative trading firm with offices worldwide. We hire smart, humble people who love to solve problems, build systems, and test theories. Will our next great idea come from you?

Your notes for this part:

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Part 1 solved with answer: Vanendris

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Part II

Your given name and your place within the dragonduck species has become clear. As you move on to the next part, your curiosity grows and a sense of purpose stirs within you.

This time, the challenge presents you with a list of names to arrange in a closed circle. Each name connects to the next, and the final name loops back to the first, forming an unbroken ring. You can move around the circle as you like, going clockwise or counterclockwise and completing multiple laps if needed.

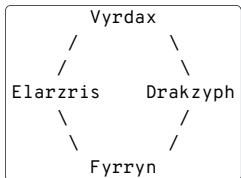
The instructions say that you will find one of your parents' names by correctly navigating this circular arrangement.

Example based on the following notes:

Vyrdax, Drakzyph, Fyrryn, Elarzris

R3, L2, R3, L1

The names create the following shape when placed in a closed circle:



Start at the first name on the list: Vyrdax. The first instruction is **R3**, so you move three positions to the right (clockwise), landing on Elarzris.

The next instruction is **L2**, so you move two positions to the left (counterclockwise), stopping at Drakzyph.

The following instruction is **R3**, moving you three places to the right, bringing you back to Vyrdax.

The final instruction is **L1**, shifting you one position to the left, ending the process at **Elarzris**. This would be the name of your first parent for this example.

What is the name of your first parent?

Your notes for this part:

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Part 2 solved with answer: Gaerpyr

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Part III

The final section also requires arranging the list of names in a closed loop. However, this time, the instructions work in a different way. The indicator **R** or **L** points to the name relative to the one at the top of the circle (the first on the list) that must swap places with it.

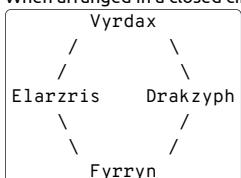
The name at the top of the circle after all the instructions is your second parent's name.

Example based on the following notes:

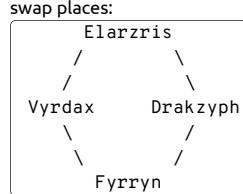
Vyrdax, Drakzyph, Fyrryn, Elarzris

R3, L2, R3, L3

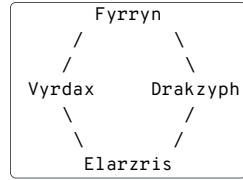
When arranged in a closed circle, the names form this shape:



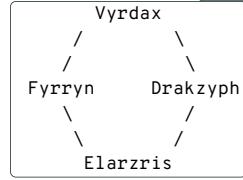
The first instruction is **R3**, which points to the third name to the right of the top: Elarzris. Therefore, Elarzris and Vyrdax



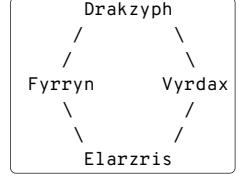
The next instruction is **L2**, which points to the second name to the left of the top: Fyrryn. So, Elarzris and Fyrryn swap places:



The next instruction is **R3**, so Fyrryn swaps places with Vyrdax:



The final instruction is **L3**, which swaps Vyrdax with Drakzyph:



The name at the top of the list at the end is **Drakzyph**.

What is the name of your second parent?

Your notes for this part:

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Part 3 solved with answer: Sorgaz

Check your progress

Puzzle solved! Don't stop now!

Post your solution, compare ideas, and help others grow on Reddit