



The World of Languages and Languages of the World

Made-up Languages

Let's investigate Esperanto and other made-up languages.

People have always
made up
languages.

Let's have a tour through history...



Who Makes Up Languages?

Hildegard von Bingen's Lingua Ignota

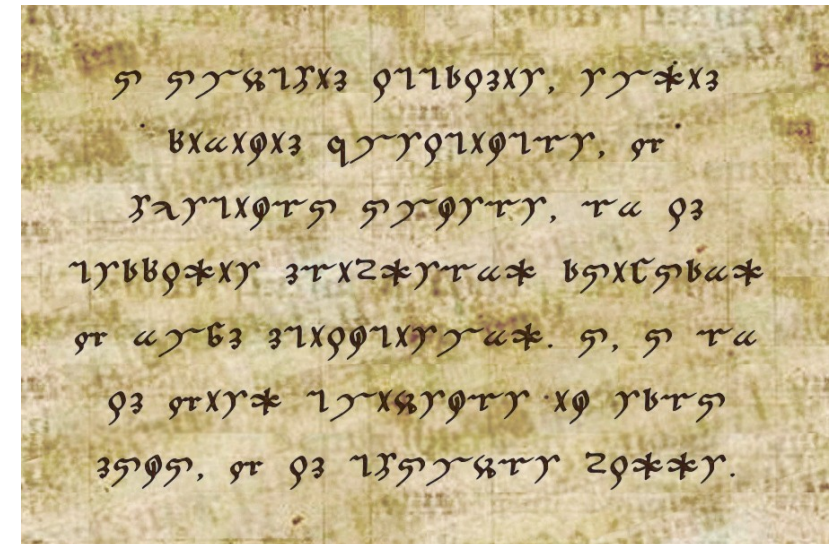
Nearly a thousand years ago, the Benedictine Abbess, lecturer, composer, and visionary, Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) created her own language, the Lingua Ignota.

Her language has genders and compound words and elements of German sounds (her mother tongue). She also made her own alphabet.

- Aigonz – God
- Aieganz – Angel
- Inimois – Human
- Korzinthio – Prophet
- Peueriz – Father
- Maiz – Mother



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A bit of background information...

Esperanto is a made-up language created by Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof in 1887 and designed for international communication.



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Watch and listen (up to 3 mins 40).
How much can you already
understand?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KztcTvSveEI>

(by Lang Focus)



Esperanto puzzle



1. La kapro manĝintas.	The goat has eaten.
2. La hundo ĉasis la katon.	The dog chased the cat.
3. La kapro manĝis.	The goat ate.
4. La kapro manĝitos.	The goat will have been eaten.
5. La kapron ĉasintis la hundo.	The dog had chased the goat.
6. La kapro manĝas.	The goat eats.
7. La kapro manĝotas.	The goat is going to be eaten.
8. La kato manĝantas.	The cat is eating.
9. La kapro manĝontis.	The goat was going to eat.
10. La kapro manĝintos.	The goat will have eaten.
11. La kato ĉasas la hundon.	The cat chases the dog.

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. La kapro manĝontos.
2. La kapro manĝitas.
3. La kato ĉasitis.

Translate the following sentences into Esperanto:

4. The goat was eating.
5. The dog is being eaten.
6. The dog will chase the goat.

Klingon

Klingon was created by Mark Okrand for Star Trek. It was spoken by a warrior species. The duolingo language-learning app now has Klingon. You can get Klingon Monopoly and Shakespeare's Hamlet has been translated into Klingon.

Klingon has lots of hard sounds. Listen to the youtube clip.

- Which sounds are harsh?
- Why did Okrand use these sounds for Klingon?

We are Klingon = **Tlingam maH!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xf2cwqIPFMA>



JRR Tolkien

J. R. R. Tolkien constructed many **Elvish languages**; the best-known are Quenya and Sindarin. These were the various languages spoken by the Elves of Middle-earth as they developed as a society throughout the Ages.

Quenya is used in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Quenya is also known as Qenya or High-Elven, and its grammar is similar to Finnish, with some similarities to Greek and Latin

Tengwar script

Tolkien also created a number of different alphabets to write his languages - Tengwar, or Feanorian letters, is the one which appears most frequently in his work, and is used to write Quenya, and other languages he invented, such as Sindarin and Black Speech.

[https://
www.youtube.com/watch?
v=SR7pg3ucnpc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR7pg3ucnpc)



Parseltongue from Harry Potter

Parseltongue is the language of snakes, that Harry speaks as part of his magical powers

J.K. Rowling didn't actually put any actual Parseltongue in the books but for the films, Frances Nolan, a linguist from Cambridge created the language.

- Parseltongue sounds snakey. What kinds of sounds are used to do this?
- Why, even though Rowling didn't have the language in her books, did the film producers as Nolan to create one?



Ssssahya hhas i hheth

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Leave him alone

Joining words together to make new words

In English, we join lots of bit of words that mean something (morphemes) together to make new words.

Zulu, a South African language, has lots of words that are based on already existing words.



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Listen to the sounds of isiZulu

Zulu or isiZulu is a Southern Bantu **language** of the Nguni branch spoken in Southern Africa.

It is the **language** of the **Zulu** people, with about 12 million native speakers, who primarily inhabit the province of KwaZulu-Natal of South Africa.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS6wLr_4CLo



Here are some examples of Zulu:

ukucula = to sing – this gives Zulu the following words:

umculi = singer

umculo = singing, music

isiculi = person who sings often

ukudlala = to play – this gives Zulu the following words:

umdlali = player

umdlalo = game

isidlali = playful person

isidlalo = toy, thing to play with

Can you see the patterns in the examples above?

Give the Zulu words for the English words, using the original verb that gave Zulu all the new words.

1. ukubhula = to thrash – this gives Zulu the following word:
thrashing stick (literally: thing to thrash with) =

2. ukuthula = to inspect – this gives Zulu the following word:
inspector =

3. ukucabanga = to think – this gives Zulu the following word:
thought =

4. ukubuza = to ask – this gives Zulu the following word:
question =

5. ukuthunga = to sew – this gives Zulu the following word:
tailor =



How did you get on?

ukubhula = to thrash – this gives Zulu the following word:
thrashing stick (literally: thing to thrash with) = isibhulo

ukuthula = to inspect – this gives Zulu the following word:
inspector = umthuli

ukucabanga = to think – this gives Zulu the following word:
thought = umcabango

ukubuza = to ask – this gives Zulu the following word:
question = umbuzo

ukuthunga = to sew – this gives Zulu the following word:
tailor = umthungi



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Plenary

- From what you now know about codes, ciphers, made-up languages and made-up words, do you think you could create your own simple language?
- We will begin this task next week!



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