



ιπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the HiPPo

The World of Languages
and Languages of the World



Queen Mary
University of London

Queen Mary Invented
Languages Scheme

Forming A Language

Today, let's learn about invented languages and start to think about how your own made-up language will look and sound.

Acknowledgements

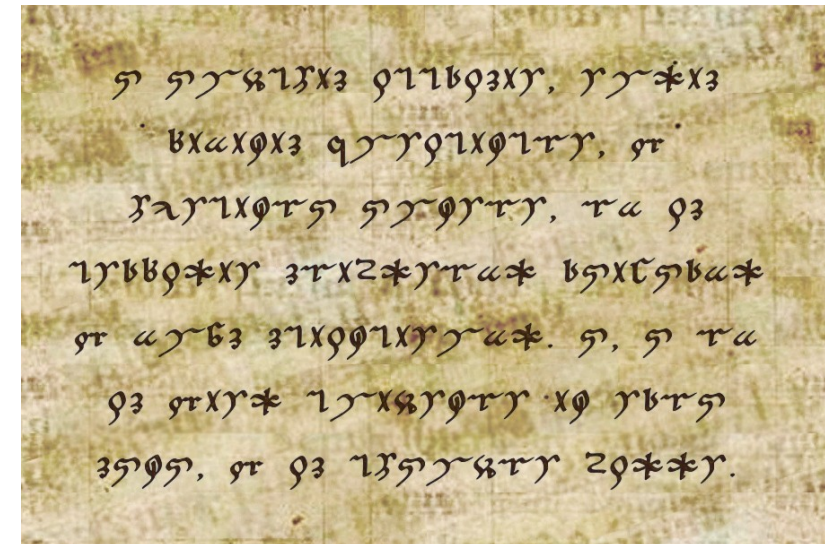
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- Thanks to Professor David Adger and Dr Coppe van Urksor at <https://creatinglanguages.org/>

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 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

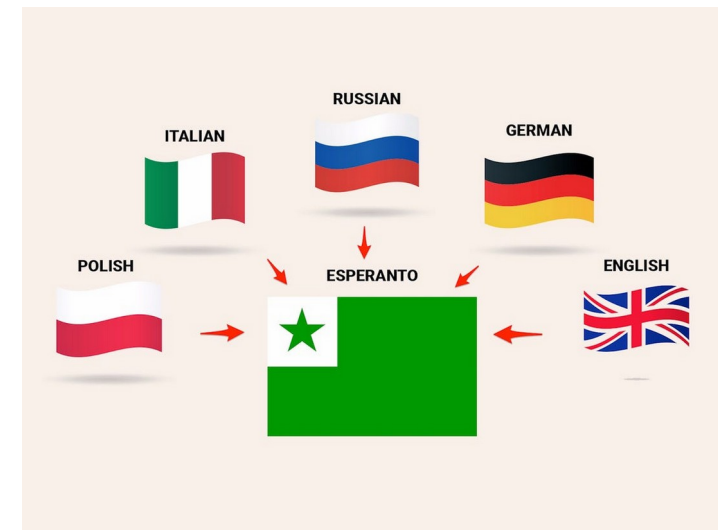


Esperanto

Esperanto was created in 1873 by a Polish man, Ludwig Zamenhof as a universal language. There are around 2 million speakers of Esperanto today.

- Look at the picture on the right. Why do you think Zamenhoff used the languages he did?
- Would someone whose native language is Mandarin Chinese find Esperanto as easy to learn as someone whose native language is French, or Russian? Why or why not?

- Could a universal language help achieve world peace as Zamenhof hoped?
- There are about 1000 native speakers of Esperanto. Does that mean it is now a natural, as opposed to created language?



Can you understand Esperanto?

Which famous nurse rhyme is this?

Which words can you see in the poem that link to English or other languages you know?

Will your made-up language have links to other languages?

Ba, ba, safo! Cu vi havas lanon?
Jes, tri sakojn: prenu en la manon!
Unu por la mastro, unu por mastrin,
Kaj unu por la eta knabo ce la strata fin

(Translated into Esperanto by MC Butler)



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Klingon

Klingon was created by Mark Okrand for Star Trek. It was spoken by a warrior species. You can get Klingon Monopoly and Shakespeare's Hamlet has been translated into Klingon. It's even on Duo Lingo.

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>



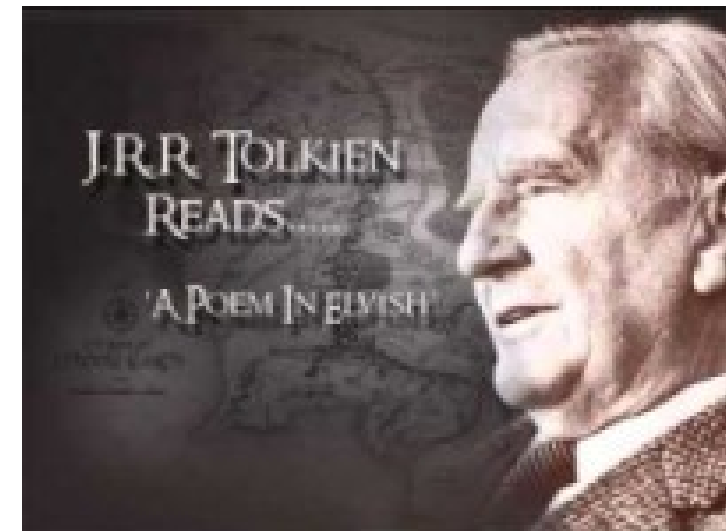
Elvish from Lord of the Rings

Elvish was created by J.R.R. Tolkien for his books, the Hobbit and The Lord of The Rings. There are two different Elvish languages (Quenya and Sindarin), plus Orc language and many more. Quenyan and Sindarin are meant to sound fluid and gentle. Listen to Tolkein reading a poem in Elvish. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOZPWpUAX0U>)

- What sounds do you think are fluid?
- Why might Tolkein have used such sounds in Elvish?

Rimmo nin Bruinen, dan in Ulaer

Flow, waters (of) Bruinen, against the Ringwraiths



Elvish from Lord of the Rings

Tolkien also created a way of writing his languages. He created his own alphabets and script.

This is a piece of Quenya, written using a kind of alphabet Tolkien created

- Why do you think Tolkien created these writing systems?
- How important are Tolkien's languages to the books and to the films?

~ ε ατμαραλδ εφίτρενοιάτ ~
λίτρίλιναν πανός νήνιαν
αι πανατ έεστέφ ατλανάι
νέελέφαντος πέτρίνοήνιαν
αι εφίτρίλιναναν ανασυρί.
ένόττιν τα τήνέενο
ναν έάνυ λί ναν έάνυις:~

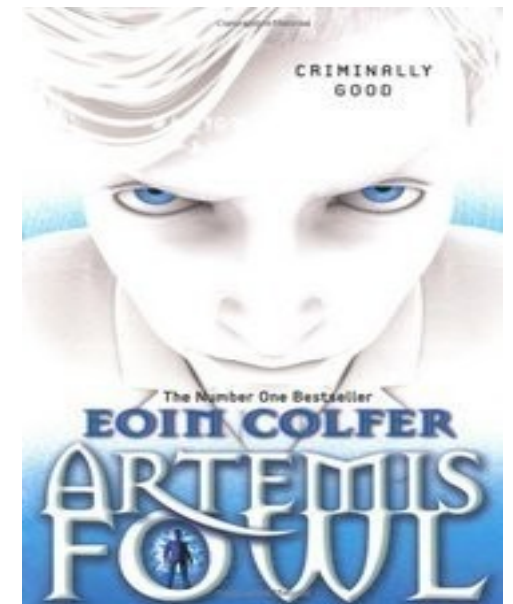


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Writing Systems without Languages

The Artemis Fowl books by Eoin Colfer feature the Gnomish Alphabet, which you can decipher as you read the books. Have you read these books and seen Gnommish?

- How likely is it that other languages will have exactly the same alphabet as ours in terms of the number of letters and the sounds they represent?
- The Gnommish Alphabet has lots of detailed symbols. Why might this be?



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 create one?



Ssssahya hhas i hheth

Leave him alone

NOW LET'S START CREATING YOUR OWN LANGUAGE

- Create an imaginary planet or island.
- Draw its shape, and its geography
- Make sure you have
 - Rivers
 - Harbours and bays
 - A volcano
 - Mountains
 - Forests
 - Towns
 - Directions (North, South, ...)



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