

The LANG language specifications

English
Version 0.0.1

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Document Goals and Non-Goals	1
2	Philosophy and Purpose	2
2.1	Reason of Existence	2
2.2	Principles	2
2.3	Examples	3
3	Module 1 - Orthography and Phonology	4
3.1	Letters	4
3.2	Syllables	4
3.3	Words	4
3.3.1	Spelling	5
4	Module 2 - Syntax	6
5	Module 3 - Grammar	7
6	Module 4 - Pragmatics	8
7	Module 5 - Lexicon	9
7.1	Core words	9
8	Module 6 - Accessibility	10
9	Module 7 - Encoding	11
10	Example texts	12
11	To go further	13

1 Introduction

This document is the English version of the specifications for the LANG [constructed language](#)¹.

1.1 Document Goals and Non-Goals

The goal of this document is to provide a clear, detailed and self-contained explanation of the LANG language.

The in-depth justification of the choices that lead to design the language as it is are beyond the scope of this document. This document is purely descriptive and informative on how to understand and use the language for those who wish to learn it.

This document does not aim to be the most intuitive way to learn the LANG language. It is the technical specifications document that define everything about the language

¹Constructed language: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructed_language

2 Philosophy and Purpose

This section explains the philosophy and purpose of the LANG language. It aims to describe the core values of the language and what sets it apart from natural languages.

2.1 Reason of Existence

Language lies at the heart of humanity, shaping our thoughts, connections, and daily lives through communication, introspection and knowledge management. Yet, natural languages, born of organic evolution, carry flaws and inconsistencies that often hinder the clear expression of ideas. Their irregularities in grammar, syntax, and pronunciation makes them hard to grasp and often very difficult to learn.

Those inherent issues often lead to ambiguities and misunderstandings. While tools like mathematics or music provide structured and universal methods of expression for specific domains, no such universal system exists for everyday human communication.

Beyond immediate communication, such a language would play a crucial role in preserving and transferring humanity's collective knowledge. Education, scientific research, entertainment, and historical documentation could all benefit from the clarity and accessibility such a language might bring. These advancements could democratize knowledge and make it available to a broader audience while avoiding translations and content duplication.

The goal the language LANG is not to erase the rich diversity of existing languages, which are deeply intertwined with human culture and history. It is instead an optimistic initiative to improve human communication and collaboration, ensuring that ideas are shared with clarity and minimal distortion in a global society.

2.2 Principles

The following list represents the principles that govern the language's construction and use, ordered from most important to least important.

1. **Usability** - The language must provide humans with a way to communicate with others (spoken, written, encoded, signed, tactile forms), and support language based thought process.
2. **Simplicity** - The language must follow clear, straightforward rules and structures, making it easy to learn and use.
3. **Consistency** - The language must adhere to uniform and predictable rules, avoiding irregularities and contradictions to minimize its cognitive overhead.
4. **Efficiency** - The language must fulfill its purpose with clarity (avoiding vague or overly complex expressions) in a concise and intelligible way.
5. **Completeness** - The language must be capable of expressing any idea or concept, ensuring no gaps in its expressive capacity.

Additionally, the language is constructed with some degree of modularity to allow the modification of some parts without affecting the language as a whole, making it easier to shape and evolve. Therefore, its construction is split into multiple modules (see further in the document) that aim to be somewhat independent.

2.3 Examples

Below are a few examples of how the language's core philosophical principles impact the language as a whole.

- Each letter is associated with a single sound, and each sound with a single letter. There are no silent letters.
- Each word has a single form (no [inflection](#)²). There are no plural form of words, no verb conjugaison, words have neutral gender, etc.
- Each word aims to have a single meaning, avoiding drastically different definition of a word based on context.
- There is no [diacritic](#)³: letters have a single form (no accent, no capitalization).
- No special character like dashes and aostrophe.
- There are no [homophones](#)⁴, ensuring that every spoken word corresponds uniquely to a written word.
- The vocabulary is constructed to avoid synonym redundancy.
- There is a single language register (no formal vs. informal).

²Inflection: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflection>

³Diacritic: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diacritic>

⁴Homophones: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homophone>

3 Module 1 - Orthography and Phonology

This module is the root of the language. It defines how words are formed from its most basic elements: letter and syllables.

The orthography of the LANG language is designed to be as simple as possible, adhering to the principle of one-to-one correspondence between written and spoken forms.

3.1 Letters

The language is composed of 8 consonants and 8 vowels, making a total of 16 letters in the alphabet.

The consonants are symbols from C_1 to C_8 and vowels from V_1 to V_8 . Each letter has its unique (manuscrit) written form along with a [Latin Alphabet](#)⁵ equivalent, and its [IPA](#)⁶ pronunciation.

LANG consonants	C_1	C_2	C_3	C_4	C_5	C_6	C_7	C_8
Written	ර	ඡ	ජ	ඖ	඙	ඟ	ක	ඇ
Latin	p	k	t	s	l	m	f	h
IPA	[p]	[k]	[t]	[s]	[l]	[m]	[f]	[h]

LANG Vowels	V_1	V_2	V_3	V_4	V_5	V_6	V_7	V_8
Written	අ	ඔ	ඩ	ඥ	ඨ	ඪ	ධ	න
Latin	a	e	i	o	u	x	y	z
IPA	[a]	[e]	[i]	[o]	[u]	[ə]	[ɪ]	[ɛ]

- There are no capital letter in the LANG language.
- There are no letters that have context-dependent sound values.

3.2 Syllables

In the LANG language, every syllable is formed of two letters: a consonant followed by a vowel (of the form $C_i V_i$).

Therefore, there are a total of 64 possible syllables in LANG.

Note - The alphabet is said by enumerating syllables made of the same number letters ($C_1 V_1$, $C_2 V_2$, ...): "[pa ke ti so lu nx fy hz](#)".

3.3 Words

A word in the LANG language is made by concatenating from 1 up to 3 syllables.

The 64 words that are made of a single syllable are called core words (see Section 7.1).

⁵Latin Alphabet: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_alphabet

⁶IPA: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Phonetic_Alphabet

3.3.1 Spelling

By design the need to spell words out loud in the LANG language is quite rare:

- Each letter is assigned to a single sound/pronunciation: no silent letter.
- Each sound is assigned to a single letter: no new sound by combining letters.
- There are only 16 letters/sound: not many possibilities.
- Sounds have been chosen to be relatively distinct: no letter makes a sound close to another one
- You always expect the interleaving of consonants and vowels: no difficult sound like those formed by multiple consonants, reduce the set of expected letters you could hear to 8 per character

However, if you end up still needing to spell a word out loud (e.g. over the radio), do so simply by repeating the word: to spell “[tali](#)” we would say “[tali tali](#)”.

4 Module 2 - Syntax

5 Module 3 - Grammar

6 Module 4 - Pragmatics

7 Module 5 - Lexicon

7.1 Core words

8 Module 6 - Accessibility

9 Module 7 - Encoding

10 Example texts

11 To go further