

The Expanse

What is Belter Creole (Lang Belta)?

Belter Creole is the constructed language spoken by Belters in **The Expanse** series.

Origin	Mixed Earth languages + Belter evolution
Status	Working-class lingua franca
Creator	Nick Farmer (linguist)
Users	Asteroid Belt & Outer Planet inhabitants

- Key characteristics:
- Simplified grammar structure
 - Creole mixing of English, Spanish, Chinese, and other languages
 - Reflects Belter cultural identity and independence from Earth/Mars

How do you say “Hello” and “Goodbye” in Belter?

Greetings are essential for any spacer!

Belter	English	Usage
Hoy!	Hello/Hey	Casual greeting
Oye	Hey/Listen	Getting attention
Sabe ke?	You know?	Informal greeting/tag
Welwala	Goodbye	Standard farewell

Example: “Hoy, pensa ke welwala!” (“Hey, I think goodbye!”)

What does “Inyalowda” mean and why is it significant?

Inyalowda: “Inners” (people of inner planets)

Etymology Breakdown:
 “Inya” (inner) + “lowda” (people)

“Inner People”
 (derogatory)

- Cultural significance:
- Reflects Belter resentment toward inner planet oppression
 - Shows how language embodies political tensions
 - Used to “other” those with gravity privilege
 - Related terms: **Tumang** (Earther) and **Pomang** (Martian)
 Chinese: 土 / tǔ — “earth” + mang — “man” or “person”
 Portuguese: pó — “dust”

How does Belter grammar work compared to English?

Belter grammar is **wonderfully simplified** compared to Earth languages!

Feature	English	Belter
Articles	the, a, an	Optional/dropped
Verb tenses	Complex system	Context-based
Word order	Subject-Verb-Object	More flexible
Plurals	Add -s/-es	Context or dem

Mathematical elegance:

$$\text{Grammar complexity} \propto \frac{1}{\text{survival needs}}$$

What are some common Belter curse words and expressions?

Every spacer needs to know how to swear in vacuum!

Belter	Meaning	Intensity
Pashang	Damn/Shit	★★
Ke	What/Fuck	★
Bera	Damn	★★
Sabez ke?	Know what?	Neutral
Da pashang	The damn thing	★★★★

Popular phrase: “Pashang fong, oye!” (“Damn it, hey!” - general frustration)

How do you express family relationships in Belter?

Family bonds are crucial in the harsh Belt environment

Belter	English	Notes
Pabos	Boss/Father	Authority figure
Mamas	Mother	Caregiver
Boya	Boy/Son	Young male
Tumang	Friend/Brother	Close bond
Kewe	Family/Crew	Extended family concept

Cultural insight: Belter families often extend beyond blood relations to include crew members and close associates - survival depends on community!

What numbers and basic counting look like in Belter?

Essential for trade and navigation!

Number	Belter	Number	Belter
1	Won	6	Sikis
2	Tu	7	Sevin
3	Tri	8	Eit
4	Fo	9	Nain
5	Faiv	10	Ten

Example: “Mi get tu rock, yu get tri rock” (“I get two rocks, you get three rocks”)

Belter numbers = simplified Earth cognates

How do you ask questions in Belter?

Information gathering is survival in space!

Question Word	Belter	Example
What	Ke	Ke dis? (What’s this?)
Who	Hu	Hu da? (Who’s that?)
Where	We	We yu go? (Where are you going?)
When	Wen	Wen ship come? (When does ship come?)
Why	Fo wa	Fo wa yu do dis? (Why do you do this?)
How	How	How yu sabe? (How do you know?)

Tip: Questions often end with rising intonation, just like English!

? What are common Belter terms for spacecraft and technology?

Technology defines Belter life 🚀⚙️

Belter	English	Context
Ship	Spacecraft	Any vessel
Skiff	Small ship	Personal transport
Torch	High-acceleration ship	Fast transit
Rock	Asteroid	Mining target
Kibble	Processed food	Standard rations
Vac suit	Space suit	Life support gear

🔧 **Cultural note:** Belters name ships like family members - "Da Cant" (The Canterbury) becomes deeply personal.

? What does "Coyo" mean and how is it used?

The most versatile word in Belter! 🎯

"Coyo" = Friend/Buddy/Pal

Usage contexts:

- Casual address: "Hoy, coyo!"
- Affection: "Mi coyo"
- Group address: "Coyo dem"

Cultural importance:

- Creates instant camaraderie
- Shows Belter egalitarian values
- Used across all social levels
- Can defuse tense situations

🤝 **"Coyo"** bridges the gap between strangers in the vast emptiness of space.

? How do you express emotions and feelings in Belter?

Emotional expression in the cold void ❄️💙

Belter	English	Usage
Gut	Good/Well	General positive
Pensa	Think/Feel	Mental state
Loda	Love	Strong affection
Tili	Tired	Physical exhaustion
Fong	Fucked/Broken	Negative state
Belta	Beautiful	Aesthetic appreciation

❤️ **Example:** "Mi loda yu, koyo" ("I love you, friend")

? How do Belters express possession and ownership?

"Whose rock is it anyway?" 🗿🔨

Structure	Belter	English
Basic possession	Mi ship	My ship
Complex possession	Ship fo mi	Ship for me/Ship of mine
Group possession	Dem ship	Their ship
Questioning ownership	Hu ship dis?	Whose ship is this?
Claiming ownership	Dis mi ship	This is my ship
Shared ownership	Oso ship	Our ship

⚖️ **Legal note:** Belter possession concepts often clash with Earth/Mars property laws, leading to conflicts over asteroid mining rights.

? What are Belter terms for food and drink?

Sustenance in space is precious 🍄🥤

Belter	English	Type
Kibble	Processed food bars	Standard nutrition
Gilly water	Recycled water	Basic hydration
Mushroom	Fungi protein	Grown in ship
Hooch	Alcohol	Recreational drink
Stimulant	Coffee/drugs	Performance enhancer
Nutri-pak	Meal replacement	Emergency ration

🍄 **Fun fact:** Mushrooms are a Belter delicacy because they're one of the few "real" foods that grow well in space!

? What are common Belter work and labor terms?

Work defines identity in the Belt ♂🔨

Belter	English	Context
Work	Work/Job	General labor
Mining	Rock extraction	Primary industry
Hauling	Transport work	Moving cargo
Fix	Repair	Maintenance work
Pilot	Ship operation	Navigation specialist
Bossmang	Boss/Manager	Authority figure
Union	Worker collective	Labor organization

🔨 **"Good work, coyo!"** = High praise in Belter culture **"No work, no air"** = Basic survival principle

? How do you express time and duration in Belter?

Time moves differently in space ⌚🚀

Belter	English	Example
Now	Now/Currently	Now mi go
Den	Then/Later	Den yu come
Bera	Before/Earlier	Bera mi sabe
After	After/Following	After ship dock
Long time	Long duration	Long time no see
Quick	Fast/Soon	Quick-quick!

🕒 Belters often measure time by:

- Ship cycles (artificial day/night)
- Transit duration between rocks
- Work shifts in mines or stations

? How do you express agreement and disagreement in Belter?

Consensus matters in space crews ✅❌

Agreement	Belter	Disagreement	Belter
Yes	Ya	No	Nah
Absolutely	Fo sho	No way	No way
I agree	Mi agree	I disagree	Mi no agree
Exactly	Dat right	Wrong	Dat wrong
Of course	Course	Never	Never
True	True dat	False	Bullshit

👥 **Crew dynamics:** Quick, clear agreement prevents dangerous miscommunication during critical operations.

? What are Belter terms for money and trade?

Economics of survival 💰📦

Belter	English	Usage
Scrip	Company money	Controlled currency
Credit	Universal currency	Standard exchange
Trade	Barter/Exchange	Direct swapping
Deal	Agreement	Business arrangement
Debt	Owed money	Financial obligation
Price	Cost	Exchange value

📈 Economic reality:

$$\text{Belter wealth} = \text{Rock value} \times \text{Transport cost} - \text{Corporate cut}$$

Most Belters live in perpetual debt to the companies that “own” them.

? How do you express gratitude and requests in Belter?

Politeness in a harsh universe 🙏🌟

Purpose	Belter	English
Thank you	Tenk yu	Thanks
Please	Pliz	Please
You're welcome	No problem	No problem
Excuse me	Scuze mi	Excuse me
I'm sorry	Mi sorry	I'm sorry
Help me	Help mi	Help me

👉 **Cultural note:** Belters value direct communication over elaborate politeness - survival doesn't have time for fancy manners.

“**Tenk yu, coyo**” goes a long way in building crew loyalty!

? How do you describe physical appearance in Belter?

Adapted to life in low gravity 🦸🏿🦴

Belter	English	Description
Tall	Tall/Long	Belter height advantage
Thin	Skinny	Low-gravity physique
Boney	Bony	Reduced bone density
Ink	Tattoos	Cultural markings
Welwala head	Bald head	Common style
Big	Large/Fat	Unusual for Belters

🦸🏿 **Biological fact:** Belters are genetically adapted to low gravity - tall, thin, with weaker bones but excellent fine motor control.

“**Earther**” bodies look **unnaturally thick and short to Belter eyes!**

? What are common Belter expressions of surprise and excitement?

Emotional outbursts in the void 🤪🎉

Belter	English	Intensity
Oye!	Hey!/Whoa!	★★
Pashang!	Damn!/Shit!	★★★★
No way!	No way!	★★
Dat crazy!	That's crazy!	★★★★
Amazing!	Amazing!	★★★★★
Holy!	Holy shit!	★★★★★

🗣️ **Example conversation:** “Ship got new drive!” “Oye! Dat amazing, coyo!” “Ya, now we fly quick-quick to Ceres!”