

H14058: Make Your Own Language: Linguistics and Conlanging
HSSP 2020

Steps to Creating a Conlang

Step	Details	Resources
Purpose	Determine goals/aims in constructing a language Note types of conlangs introduced originally: engelang, auxlang, artlang Who is the intended audience? Yourself, friend group, conworld, int'l use, niche field, etc. Major features that contribute to purpose	Conlang types https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Conlang/Types Examples of conlangs from Reddit https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nQOVNKXkHyqfr8pkGp-zGv3iwve4JMv iTcQ6X8sJl0/edit#gid=844152522
Context	Design conworld Create proto-language or language family	Types of sound change http://grammar.ucsd.edu/courses/ling150/lgchng.pdf Index Diachronica https://chridd.nfshost.com/diachronica/ Sound Changer (http://www.zompist.com/sca2.html)
Phonology	Choose phonemic inventory and fill out IPA chart Keep in mind your desired aesthetic and audience; in general, stick to sounds you can pronounce	IPA Chart (https://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/charts/IPALab/IPALab.htm) Example phonemic inventories https://www.asha.org/practice/multicultural/Phono/
Morphology	Choose morphological type Decide what information will be codified in inflections Create affixes (prefixes, suffixes, infixes, etc.)	Greenberg's Linguistic Universals https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenberg%27s_linguistic_universals
Grammar	Pronouns Table of correlatives Articles Adjectives, numbers Questions/negation Other parts of speech	Greenberg's Ling. Univ's (see above) Language grammars https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B9QDHej9UGAdcDhWVEllMzJBSEk Valency classes http://www.arthaey.com/conlang/valency-verbs.html
Orthography	Determine how sounds match up to graphemes	Complex orthography for conlangs http://aveneca.com/cbb/viewtopic.php?f=6&t=4126
Lexicon	Reference vocabulary lists Translate literary materials	Swadesh list (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swadesh_list) Thematic word lists http://www.enchantedlearning.com/wordlist/ Universal Language Dictionary (http://www.uld3.org/) Conlanger's Thesaurus (http://fiatlingua.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/fl-000024-00.pdf) Polyglot (software) (http://fiatlingua.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/fl-000024-00.pdf)
Syntax	Relative clauses Word order Syntax test cases	Greenberg's Ling. Univ's (see above) Syntax test cases (http://www.potterpcs.net/gsfa/)
Semantics/ Pragmatics	Naming Semantic metaphors Registers of speech Idioms Standard interactions (e.g. greetings, farewells)	Personal naming conventions https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_name Language registers http://www.genconnection.com/English/ap/LanguageRegisters.htm
Writing system	If your language is set in a conworld, decide on their writing technology Create standard letter forms and writing rules Create handwritten or cursive forms Make a personalized font for your language	How to design a script http://cbb.aveneca.com/viewtopic.php?f=31&t=4502 How to create fonts (https://www.reddit.com/r/conlangs/comments/2d6zkg/a_guide_to_highquality_fonts_for_conlangs/) Calligraphr (https://www.calligraphr.com/en/)
Testing, usage, and sharing	Try translating more complex source documents Begin writing your own material in your language to gain practice Attempt to teach other people or write instructional materials	Leipzig Glossing Rules https://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/resources/glossing-rules.php Translation exercises http://www.arthaey.com/conlang/translationex.html Lingua Descriptive Questionnaire http://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/tools-at-lingboard/questionnaire/linguaQ.php

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