

Congratulations! You are a *BARBARIAN!*

BARBARIANS are an unruly people. They live in the barren, icy, northern lands of Libraria; wield huge lethal-looking axes; and sport nifty horned helmets. Barbarians don't care what anyone thinks of them, especially those snooty Elves. Their favorite possessions are their...actually, their favorite possessions are whatever their neighbor has at any given moment.

Their language is characterized by harsh sounds, hacking, and spitting.

CONLANGING EXERCISE I

Creating a Naming Language

First, you need a name that means something in your language. Here's how to do it...

Step 1. Come up with some barbaric sounding "words."

aka brash krash ash kor gob ako brod tak shag krod dud

Step 2. Match six of those "words" to two columns of English words:

Column A		Column B	
English	"Barbarian"	English	"Barbarian"
NOSE	_____	BITER	_____
HEAD	_____	CRUSHER	_____
STONE	_____	CLEAVER	_____

Step 3. Combine your language's words to form meaningful names...

Example: If *GOB* means NOSE and *KRASH* means CLEAVER, the barbarian name *GOBKRAASH* means NOSE-CLEAVER.

CONLANGING EXERCISE II

Building Words, or “Now, It Starts To Get Tricky”

Step 1: Choose your building blocks:

Phonetic stereotypes are often employed when choosing which sounds to work with in a conlang. For the Barbarians, you'll use rough sounds like k and g and harsh fricatives like sh and z (like Klingon and Tolkien's Black Speech of Mordor)?

The sounds for Barbarian are: b, d, g, k, m, z, s, r, sh, z, t, a, o, u

Step 2: Combine your building blocks (phonemes/letters) into syllables:

Here's where you decide the structure of your language's syllables. Does every syllable need a consonant (C) and a vowel (V)? Can two consonants (CC) occur next to each other (like b and r)? Does every syllable need to end with a vowel (CV)? Or a consonant (VC, CVC)?

Using the online *Conlang Word Maker* (www.fantasist.net), the letters have been combined into the following words and syllables. **These will be your building blocks for all the exercises:**

aka brash krash ash kor gob ako brod tak shag krod dud
oko odo shob sho graz brak shrub krak shod bud gok kroz
ro krum bod kraz roz shu grok rub shok grum grub mug

Step 3: Give the syllables some meaning:

Use ONE or TWO syllables on each line below to assign meanings to them (ex. *kerod* OR *kerodmug*):

_____ BARBARIAN _____ (to) LIKE

_____ AXE _____ (to) HAVE

_____ LANGUAGE _____ (to) SPEAK



CONLANGING EXERCISE IV

Nouns

Now we turn to the nouns. Take the word AXE you created in Exercise II, Step 3:

_____ means "AXE"

Step 1: When there's more than one, or marking Plurals

English uses an -s to mark plurals (except for cases like geese, mice, etc.). You have the power to change this in your language. Do you want to mark your plurals with a suffix or a prefix. Choose another one of the syllables from Exercise II, Step 2, and tack it onto either the front OR the back of AXE. You'll usually use the same position you did for the verb affix you created in Exercise III, Step 1A.

(_____) (+) _____ (+ _____) = _____
AXE AXES
∞ * ∞

CONLANGING EXERCISE V

Bringing It All Together, Or Forming A Sentence

You now can say: AXES, I, and LIKE in your new language. We're now going to form a sentence using these three...

Step 1: Marking The Object

You now have a plural noun (AXES), a verb (LIKE), and a pronoun (I).

We now have one more step. You could choose to mark AXES with something to show it's an object (Step 1A), or just rely on the word order to show which word in your sentence is the subject and which one is the object...

Step 1A: If you decide to mark your object, choose another syllable from Exercise I, Step 2, and add it to the front or back of AXES. You'll usually use the same position you did for the verb affix you created in Exercise III, Step 1A, and the plural marker from Exercise IV...

(_____) (+) _____ (+ _____)
(OBJ) AXES (OBJ)

...then proceed to Step 1B.

Step 1B: Now, put your words for AXES, LIKE, and I in the proper order that you chose in Exercise III, Step 3 (SVO, VSO, etc.):

_____ .
"I LIKE AXES!"

CONGRATULATIONS! You've created a sentence in the language of the Barbarians. You could now say...

I SPEAK (the) LANGUAGE: (I) + (SPEAK with present tense marking) + (LANGUAGE as an object).

I LIKE BARBARIANS: (I) + (LIKE in the present tense) + (BARBARIANS as an object)

or even....I LIKE NOSE-CLEAVER!!

And this is just the beginning...Welcome to the Wonderful World of Conlanging!

Congratulations! You are an *ELF!*

ELVES are an ancient, self-important people. They live in the deep forests in ornate treehouses, wear flowers in their hair, and are always talking about how good times were before the Gnomes, Barbarians, and Dragons showed up. Their favorite possessions are their books, wherein lies the Knowledge of the Ages (or at least the important Elvish bits).

Their language is lyrical, flowing, and apt to put one to sleep.

CONLANGING EXERCISE I

Creating a Naming Language

First, you need a name that means something in your language. Here's how to do it...

Step 1. Come up with some Elvish sounding "words."

hali yava fili lisa heva fasi kweth ama vini yata esa yiva nili

Step 2. Match six of those "words" to two columns of English words:

Column A		Column B	
English	"Elvish"	English	"Elvish"
SUPERIOR	_____	ARCHER	_____
EXCELLENT	_____	CALLIGRAPHER	_____
ELEGANT	_____	HAIRDRESSER	_____

Step 3. Combine your language's words to form meaningful names...

Example: If *FILI* means ELEGANT and *YAVA* means HAIRDRESSER, the Elvish name *FILYAVA* means ELEGANT-HAIRDRESSER.

CONLANGING EXERCISE II

Building Words, or “Now, It Starts To Get Tricky”

Step 1: Choose your building blocks:

Phonetic stereotypes are often employed when choosing which sounds to work with in a conlang. For Elvish, you’ll want to use soothing sounds like l and m and unvoiced fricatives like s and th (like Tolkien’s Quenya and Elgin’s Laáadan)?

The sounds for Elvish are: a, e, i, f, h, l, m, n, p, kw, r, s, t, v, w, y, th

Step 2: Combine your building blocks (phonemes/letters) into syllables:

Here’s where you decide the structure of your language’s syllables. Does every syllable need a consonant (C) and a vowel (V)? Can two consonants (CC) occur next to each other (like b and r)? Does every syllable need to end with a vowel (CV)? Or a consonant (VC, CVC)?

Using the online *Conlang Word Maker* (www.fantasist.net), the letters have been combined into the following words and syllables. **These will be your building blocks for all the exercises:**

For Elvish, the following “syllables” are at your disposal:

hali	yava	fili	lisa	heva	fasi	kweth	ama	vini	yata	esa	yiva	nili
pith	yin	nas	rith	neth	tim	sel	kwa	yeth	mit	fam	ta	ne
ya	kwi	reth	kwa	ri	path	pith	elen	sila	om	elvo	kwen	sin

Step 3: Give the syllables some meaning:

Use ONE or TWO syllables on each line below to assign meanings to them (ex. *yata* OR *yatanili*):

_____	BOOK	_____	(to) LIKE
_____	ELF	_____	(to) READ
_____	LANGUAGE	_____	(to) SPEAK



CONLANGING EXERCISE III Verbs and Word Order

Agglutinating, isolating, or inflecting?

This is where you decide how your syntax is going to work. *Agglutination* refers to the adding of affixes (prefixes, suffixes, and infixes) to reflect syntactical meaning. *Isolation* uses separate words and particles. *Inflection* changes the words themselves to reflect changes in grammar. We'll use an agglutinating system for this exercise:

Step 1: The Verb:

Take the word meaning "(to) LIKE" that you created in Exercise II, Step 3:

_____ means (to) LIKE

Step 1A: Present Tense...

Take one of the syllables from Exercise II, Step 2, and tack it onto either the front OR the back of your verb. This will indicate that a verb is in the present tense in your language:

(_____+) _____ (+_____) = _____
LIKE meaning "am/are/is liking" or "like"

Step 2: First Person Nominative Pronoun, also known as "I"...

Choose a different syllable from Exercise II, Step 2 to mean "I."

_____ = "I"

Step 3: Word Order:

English uses a subject-verb-object word order (SVO) (*The cat chased the mouse.*), Japanese uses subject-object-verb (SOV) (*The cat the mouse chased.*), and Klingon uses the rare object-verb-subject order (OVS) (*The mouse chased the cat.*). Which one will your language be? There are 6 possibilities. Choose one:

SVO SOV OVS OSV VSO VOS

Step 4: Put "I" (Subject (S)) and your verbs+present tense verb marker (V) in the order you chose (VS or SV) (We'll add the object (O) later), and you can say (in your language):

I LIKE... _____ I SPEAK... _____

I READ... _____



CONLANGING EXERCISE IV

Nouns

Now we turn to the nouns. Take the word BOOK you created in Exercise II, Step 3:

_____ means "BOOK"

Step 1: When there's more than one, or marking Plurals

English uses an -s to mark plurals (except for cases like geese, mice, etc.). You have the power to change this in your language. Do you want to mark your plurals with a suffix or a prefix. Choose another one of the syllables from Exercise II, Step 2, and tack it onto either the front or back of BOOK. You'll usually use the same position you did for the verb affix you created in Exercise III, Step 1A.

(_____) (+) _____ (+ _____) = _____
BOOK BOOKS
✿ * ✿

CONLANGING EXERCISE V

Bringing It All Together, Or Forming A Sentence

You now can say: BOOKS, I, and LIKE in your new language. We're now going to form a sentence using these three.

Step 1: Marking The Object

You now have a plural noun (BOOKS), a verb (LIKE), and a pronoun (I).

We now have one more step. Are you going to mark BOOKS with something to show it's an object (Step 1A), or are you just going to rely on the word order to show which word in your sentence is the subject and which one is the object (Step 1B).

Step 1A: If you decide to mark your object, choose another syllable from Exercise II, Step 2, and add it to the front or back of BOOKS. You'll usually use the same position you did for the verb affix you created in Exercise III, Step 1A, and the plural marker from Exercise IV...

(_____) (+) _____ (+ _____)
(OBJ) BOOKS (OBJ)

...then proceed to Step 1B.

Step 1B: If you're going to use word order only put your words for BOOKS, LIKE, and I in the proper order (SVO, VSO, etc.):

_____ .
"I LIKE BOOKS!"

CONGRATULATIONS! You've created a sentence in Elvish. You could now say...

I SPEAK (the) LANGUAGE: (I) + (SPEAK with present tense marking) + (LANGUAGE as an object).

I READ BOOKS: (I) + (READ in the present tense) + (BOOKS as an object)

or even....I LIKE ELEGANT-HAIRDRESSER!!

And this is just the beginning... Welcome to the Wonderful World of Conlanging!

Congratulations! You are a *GNOME!*

GNOMES are a hardy, squat people. They live in great halls carved beneath the mountains, forge steel weapons and golden jewelry, and are always talking about how annoying the Elves are. Their favorite possessions are their beards, which they groom incessantly (especially the female gnomes).

Their language is a cross between Elvish and Barbarian.

CONLANGING EXERCISE I

Creating a Naming Language

First, you need a name that means something in your language. Here's how to do it...

Step 1. Come up with some "Gnome-sounding" "words."

wahu brani fark marg samu bruti grivi grasi tirk muvu nuva grali

Step 2. Match six of those "words" to two columns of English words:

Column A		Column B	
English	"Gnome"	English	"Gnome"
SHINING	_____	FORGE	_____
BEAUTIFUL	_____	SWORD	_____
FLAMING	_____	BEARD	_____

Step 3. Combine your language's words to form meaningful names...

Example: If *SAMU* means FLAMING and *GRASI* means BEARD, the Gnome name *SAMUGRASI* means FLAMING-BEARD.

CONLANGING EXERCISE II

Building Words, or “Now, It Starts To Get Tricky”

Step 1: Choose your building blocks:

Phonetic stereotypes are often employed when choosing which sounds to work with. For the Gnomes, you’ll use sounds between the harsh Barbarian and lilting Elvish ones (like Tolkien’s Khuzdul).

The sounds for Gnomes are: a, u, i, f, h, l, s, v, w, m, n, t, b, g, r, k

Step 2: Combine your building blocks (phonemes/letters) into syllables:

Here’s where you decide the structure of your language’s syllables. Does every syllable need a consonant (C) and a vowel (V)? Can two consonants (CC) occur next to each other (like b and r)? Does every syllable need to end with a vowel (CV)? Or a consonant (VC, CVC)?

Using the online *Conlang Word Maker* (www.fantasist.net), the letters have been combined into the following words and syllables. **These will be your building blocks for all the exercises:**

For Gnome, the following “syllables” are at your disposal:

wahu brani fark marg samu bruti grivi grasi tirk muvu nuva grali
larg fumi uli bri brumi unu isu ima hark brivi ita isi
ami ihu lavi tufi lina sark mafu path sel win grog mud

Step 3: Give the syllables some meaning:

Use ONE or TWO syllables on each line below to assign meanings to them (ex. *bruti* OR *gralinuva*):

_____ SWORD _____ (to) LIKE
_____ RING _____ (to) HAVE
_____ LANGUAGE _____ (to) SPEAK



CONLANGING EXERCISE IV

Nouns

Now we turn to the nouns. Take the word BEARD you created in Exercise I, Step 2:

_____ means "BEARD"

Step 1: When there's more than one, or marking Plurals

English uses an -s to mark plurals (except for cases like geese, mice, etc.). You have the power to change this in your language. Do you want to mark your plurals with a suffix or a prefix. Choose another one of the syllables from Exercise II, Step 2, and tack it onto either the front or back of BEARD. You'll usually use the same position you did for the verb affix you created in Exercise III, Step 1A.

(_____) (+) _____ (+ _____) = _____
BEARD BEARDS
✎ * ✎

CONLANGING EXERCISE V

Bringing It All Together, Or Forming A Sentence

You now can say: BEARDS, I, and LIKE in your new language. We're now going to form a sentence using these three.

Step 1: Marking The Object

You now have a plural noun (BEARDS), a verb (LIKE), and a pronoun (I).

We now have one more step. Are you going to mark BEARDS with something to show it's an object (Step 1A), or are you just going to rely on the word order to show which word in your sentence is the subject and which one is the object (Step 1B).

Step 1A: If you decide to mark your object, choose another syllable from Exercise II, Step 2, and add it to the front or back of BEARDS. You'll usually use the same position you did for the verb affix you created in Exercise III, Step 1A, and the plural marker in Exercise IV...

(_____) (+) _____ (+ _____)
(OBJ) BEARDS (OBJ)

...then proceed to Step 1B.

Step 1B: If you're going to use word order only put your words for BEARDS, LIKE, and I in the proper order (SVO, VSO, etc.):

_____ .
"I LIKE BEARDS!"

CONGRATULATIONS! You've created a sentence in the language of the Gnomes. You could now say...
I SPEAK (the) LANGUAGE: (I) + (SPEAK with present tense marking) + (LANGUAGE as an object).
I HAVE (a) SWORD: (I) + (HAVE in the present tense) + (SWORD as an object)
or even....I LIKE FLAMING-BEARD!!

And this is just the beginning... Welcome to the Wonderful World of Conlanging!

Congratulations! You are a *DRAGON!*

DRAGONS are the fire-breathing serpents of the east of Libraria. They love gold and jewels (which makes difficulties for the Gnomes). They mostly keep to themselves except when ravaging a village or attending a party with the Barbarians. Their favorite possessions are usually the cheapest item in their treasure, usually a cup, bowl, or something they got out of a cereal box.

Their language includes many hisses, snarls, growls, and assorted ssssnake-like sounds.

CONLANGING EXERCISE I

Creating a Naming Language

First, you need a name that means something in your language. Here's how to do it...

Step 1. Come up with some "Dragon-sounding" "words."

flez asha hassa drish sass drez avi seza hiss flash eshi zif six

Step 2. Match six of those "words" to two columns of English words:

Column A		Column B	
English	"Dragon"	English	"Dragon"
GOLD	_____	TAIL	_____
SILVER	_____	FANG	_____
BROKEN	_____	NOSE	_____

Step 3. Combine your language's words to form meaningful names...

Example: If *ESHI* means BROKEN and *HASSA* means FANG, the Dragon name *ESHIHASSA* means BROKEN-FANG.

CONLANGING EXERCISE II

Building Words, or “Now, It Starts To Get Tricky”

Step 1: Choose your building blocks:

Phonetic stereotypes are often employed when choosing which sounds to work with. For the Dragons, you’ll use hissing sounds that remind one of serpents or fire, like s, z, sh, and f. A language usually has a ratio of consonants to vowel sounds of about 2:1 (although this is one of the rules that one can play with when conlanging).

The sounds for Dragons are: f, s, z, g, r, sh, x, p, l, t, e, i

Step 2: Combine your building blocks (phonemes/letters) into syllables:

Here’s where you decide the structure of your language’s syllables. Does every syllable need a consonant (C) and a vowel (V)? Can two consonants (CC) occur next to each other (like b and r)? Does every syllable need to end with a vowel (CV)? Or a consonant (VC, CVC)?

Using the online *Conlang Word Maker* (www.fantasist.net), the letters have been combined into the following words and syllables. **These will be your building blocks for all the exercises:**

For Dragon, the following syllables and words are at your disposal:

fez	asha	hassa	drish	sass	drez	avi	seza	hiss	flash	eshi	zif	six
shesh	lesh	shex	slish	fish	tex	slix	les	pex	slez	slit	ef	tis
fel	slep	tet	sex	zip	grex	dress	fluss	shahi	friz	if	grif	ex

Step 3: Give the syllables and words some meaning:

Use ONE or TWO syllables on each line below to assign meanings to them (ex. *zip* OR *zipslix*):

_____	_____
DRAGON	(to) LIKE
_____	_____
DIAMOND	(to) HAVE
_____	_____
LANGUAGE	(to) SPEAK



CONLANGING EXERCISE IV

Nouns

Now we turn to the nouns. Take the word DRAGON you created in Exercise II, Step 3:

_____ means DRAGON

Step 1: When there's more than one, or marking Plurals

English uses an -s to mark plurals (except for cases like geese, mice, etc.). You have the power to change this in your language. Do you want to mark your plurals with a suffix or a prefix. Choose another one of the syllables from Exercise II, Step 2, and tack it onto either the front or back of DRAGON. You'll usually use the same position you did for the verb affix you created in Exercise III, Step 1A.

(_____) (+) _____ (+ _____) = _____
DRAGON DRAGONS
✿ * ✿

CONLANGING EXERCISE V

Bringing It All Together, Or Forming A Sentence

You now can say: DRAGONS, I, and LIKE in your new language. We're now going to form a sentence using these three.

Step 1: Marking The Object

You now have a plural noun (DRAGONS), a verb (LIKE), and a pronoun (I).

We now have one more step. Are you going to mark DRAGONS with something to show it's an object (Step 1A), or are you just going to rely on the word order to show which word in your sentence is the subject and which one is the object (Step 1B).

Step 1A: If you decide to mark your object, choose another syllable from Exercise II, Step 2, and add it to the front or back of DRAGONS. You'll usually use the same position you did for the verb affix you created in Exercise III, Step 1A, and plural marker in Exercise IV...

(_____) (+) _____ (+ _____)
(OBJ) DRAGONS (OBJ)

...then proceed to Step 1B.

Step 1B: If you're going to use word order only put your words for DRAGONS, LIKE, and I in the proper order (SVO, VSO, etc.):

_____ .
"I LIKE DRAGONS!"

CONGRATULATIONS! You've created a sentence in the language of the Dragons. You could now say...
I SPEAK (the) LANGUAGE: (I) + (SPEAK with present tense marking) + (LANGUAGE as an object).
I HAVE DIAMONDS: (I) + (HAVE in the present tense) + (DIAMOND+plural as an object)
or even....I LIKE BROKEN-TAIL!!

And this is just the beginning... Welcome to the Wonderful World of Conlanging!