

Week 2: Setting Intention

- **Posteriori languages** are created from borrowings of existing, natural languages.
- **Priori languages** are created as completely original languages.
- **Engineered languages (Eng[e]langs)** aim to meet some objective criteria.
 - **Logical languages** are made to imitate something like formal logic, such as *Loglan* or *Ithkuil*
 - **Philosophical languages** are made to the end of some philosophical goal, such as *Wilkins' philosophical language* or *toki pona*.
- **Auxiliary languages (Auxlangs)** are made with the goal to be adopted by speakers in addition to their native language, and usually focus on international communication, like *Solresol* or, famously, *Esperanto*.
- **Artistic languages (Artlangs)** are artistic creations which use linguistic systems as their medium.
 - **Fictional languages** are usually for worldbuilding purposes, like *Klingon* or *Dothraki*.
 - **Personal languages** are conlangs that the conlanger makes for personal use!

- **The Swadesh List** is a list of “universal” concepts that most languages have words for.

I	stick	to smell	sand
you (singular)	fruit	to fear	dust
they (singular)	seed	to sleep	earth
we	leaf	to live	cloud
you (plural)	root	to die	fog
they (plural)	bark (of a tree)	to kill	sky
this	flower	to fight	wind
that	grass	to hunt	snow
here	rope	to hit	ice
there	skin	to cut	smoke
who	meat	to split	fire
what	blood	to stab	ash
where	bone	to scratch	to burn
when	fat (noun)	to dig	road
how	egg	to swim	mountain
not	horn	to fly	red
all	tail	to walk	green
many	feather	to come	yellow
some	hair	to lie (as in a bed)	white
few	head	to sit	black
other	ear	to stand	night
one	eye	to turn (intransitive)	day
two	nose	to fall	year
three	mouth	to give	warm
four	tooth	to hold	cold
five	tongue (organ)	to squeeze	full
big	finger nail	to rub	new
long	foot	to wash	old
wide	leg	to wipe	good
thick	knee	to pull	bad
heavy	hand	to push	rotten
small	wing	to throw	dirty
short	belly	to tie	straight
narrow	guts	to sew	round
thin	neck	to count	sharp (as a knife)
woman	back	to say	dull (as a knife)
man (adult male)	breast	to sing	smooth
man (human being)	heart	to play	wet
child	liver	to float	dry
wife	to drink	to flow	correct
husband	to eat	to freeze	near
mother	to bite	to swell	far
father	to suck	sun	right
animal	to spit	moon	left
fish	to vomit	star	at
bird	to blow	water	in
dog	to breathe	rain	with
louse	to laugh	river	and
snake	to see	lake	if
worm	to hear	sea	because
tree	to know	salt	name
forest	to think	stone	

Via Wikipedia

4. Are you taking inspiration from any real-world language? In what capacity?

5. Make your own swadesh list—that is, words that YOUR conlang must have a translation for, taking the list from today’s handout as inspiration.