

Inglesh

I wanted to make an auxlang based solely on English to take advantage of its widely known vocabulary and grammar. The language will use a subset of the vocabulary and massively simplify grammar, while adapting the spelling to a more consistent system. It will look, sound, and be awful, but I want a bit of fun and possibly inspire better attempts.

PHONOLOGY

Phonology is simplified for ease of use. Does not use one-letter-one-sound rule, but is 100% consistent.

A E I O U - IPA equivalents. Any similar vowels are allophonic.

- Same sounds as Spanish or Japanese
- A like in father, E like in bet, I like in ski, O like in more, U like in flu

B D F G H K L M N P S T V W Z - pronounced as IPA equivalents

- Same sound as English

R -

J - makes /dʒ/ sound

- Same sound as J in "judge"

Y - makes /j/ sound

- Same sound as English

CH - makes /tʃ/ sound

- Same sound as CH in "church"

SH - makes /ʃ/ sound

- Same sound as SH in "shoe"

NG - makes /ŋ g / sound normally, but /ŋ/ at the end of words

- Same sound as NG in "mango" normally, but same sound as NG in "sing" at the end of words

Absent letters: Q, X

Avoiding these sounds:

- /ð/ and /θ/ sounds (the TH sounds) are uncommon and can be difficult to pronounce for those unfamiliar
- /ə/ (the -er sound) is uncommon and can be difficult to pronounce for those unfamiliar

Other notes:

- Certain letter distinctions are kept despite being difficult (e.g. L/R) since English words would be difficult to recognize without

GRAMMAR

- Strict Subject-Verb-Object order
- No conjugation
- Capitalization not required except for proper nouns
- Articles (a/de) not required unless you want to convert something to a noun
- Adjectives come before nouns
- If modifying a verb, adverbs come after the verb, and if modifying an adjective, adverbs come before the adjective
- Questions do not affect word order
 - Yes/No questions start with "Du"
- Past tense: precede verb with "was"
- Present tense: precede verb with "es"
- Future tense: precede verb with "wil"
- Conditional tense: precede verb with "wod"
- Verb infinitive is verb by itself, no need to precede with "tu" unless you want to emphasize verb
- Precede with "no" for negative as with other adjectives (not "I do not", but "Mi no du")
- Suffixes should be added with a dash - marker
 - -es is the plural marker. If the word ends in -e, then you can truncate the -e
 - -se is the possessive marker (equivalent to English -'s)
 - -ly turns something into an adjective/adverb
- Compound words can be formed by attaching two words with a dash - marker
 - First word is descriptor for second word (e.g. tut-burash = toothbrush)
- Tonic stress is put on second to last syllable

VOCABULARY

Creating vocabulary follows a few rules:

- Avoid consonant clusters, unless it's an n+consonant combination, or m+p, or uses y/w as a diphthong
 - If a consonant cluster exists, try to either drop one of the consonants or insert a vowel between them, depending on what preserves the sound + the other rules best
 - e.g. To > tu, Two > tuwu
- Diphthongs OK, triphthongs not OK (try not to end words in diphthongs since that can create triphthongs with the suffixes)
- Split homophones through sound, prioritize common words OR switch one to a different form if easy to do so
 - e.g. Them > Dem instead of They > Dey (ambiguous with English "day")
- Choose the most commonly used word for a concept in English, even if the word is more complicated (e.g. sleep VS nap)
- If a word can be sufficiently expressed in a compound word without confusion, use that instead of having a separate word for it
- Loanwords are allowed in Inglesh and should be capitalized, they can be used like normal words but should be adapted using the above rules

*** moving vocabulary here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mcb_Qrxas_4zSv_BdzIEQ_jv6JlwnjRcBC_WmMj-Atg/edit?usp=sharing

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

mi lov yu

mi laik animal-es, but mi no laik birud-es

hi gib fud bikas hi is nais

du mi kan luk it?

– DESIGN NOTES –

This is another attempt at a constructed **international auxiliary language** (or IAL). These are languages that are intentionally designed for the communication of everyone around the world, usually meant as a secondary language that is learned on top of their native language.

While the exact goals of an IAL are hotly debated, these are generally agreed upon:

- It must be easy to learn
 - Otherwise, such a large number of people would not be able to pick it up, especially in adulthood
- It must be capable of expressing a reasonable amount of different ideas
 - Otherwise, it would be incapable of being a substitute for other languages in the areas that the IAL would be needed
- It must be designed in a way that supports people of different backgrounds
 - Otherwise, it would not be an ideal international language

These goals are already **very difficult** to obtain all at the same time, and the rigor is weighed very differently by different people. While most IAL attempts try to fulfill the last point by sourcing from multiple different languages, this IAL has the concept of sourcing only from a single language: English.

To be very clear: **Inglesh is NOT my idea of the ideal international auxiliary language** (after all, it already clearly violates the 3rd design goal listed for IALs). If you would like to see my actual ideal IAL, look into [Dasopya](#).

No, the point of Inglesh is to explore an interesting angle on IALs that I feel has an underrated amount of merit.

Inglesh Design Goals

As we all know, English is the [most widely spoken](#) language in the world, and by a good margin. To put it briefly, the reason for Inglesh is simple: **it's meant to leverage the fact that English is already a popular and highly sought-after language and convert that into an auxlang that has speakers.**

This implies several additional goals:

- Existing English speakers must be able to easily convert their knowledge to Inglesh
 - Otherwise, there is no benefit to building the language around English
- Learning the language must provide tangible benefits for those wanting to learn English
 - Otherwise, we lose the advantage of having the many people who want to learn English

- As an IAL, all the previous goals are inherited

It may be obvious, but this is an incredibly difficult and largely contradictory set of goals.

Difficulties

There is no other way to put it: **this project will be bad no matter how it's approached**. While auxlangs seem to be converging on a lot of aspects, making an English-based IAL is inherently doomed with this set of design goals because they are inherently contradictory.

Starting with an easy topic, any good auxlang will have a consistent letter-sound relationship. However, English does not abide by this.

If we have a fictional word like “zay” it's likely that an English speaker would pronounce it /zeɪ/, to mirror the words like “say” and “day.” However, create a fictional word “zey” and it would also be pronounced /zeɪ/. That means these 2 completely different vowel sounds are pronounced exactly the same. How can this be resolved?

There could be an exception flagged for the -ay and -ey endings to be pronounced differently, but if we went through all of English's exceptions, that would require a very large number of rules to be memorized for all speakers.

We could remove the exception so that it's pronounced /zæ/ instead, but then English speakers would be confused, which again sounds minor until you realize how many words this would apply to.

In this specific case, Inglesh will avoid spelling any words with “-ay” and instead opt for “-ai” or “-ey” since that appears more intuitive for English speakers (compare: mai, mey, may) while also making logical sense.

While I'm satisfied with this solution in particular, almost every conflict in Inglesh will have to be resolved in some type of complex compromise like this, often with less than satisfying results.