



Linguistics

Language construction

Invent a new language and translate **one** of the paragraphs given in the end of this page into your own language. When constructing the language, think about who communicates using this language (they can be imaginary creatures). Consider what sounds they are able to produce (for example, do they have long necks or swollen tongues, how does it impact the sounds they can produce?). If they use other body parts for communication, think about what movements they can make. How do the language users put their speech and thoughts into writing – do they have a specific writing system? How do they communicate meaning? What is the structure of words and sentences?

For some help with how to get started, have a look at The Language Construction Kit (<https://zompist.com/kit.html>). For further reading on invented languages, you might want to read *In The Land of Invented Languages* by Arika Okrent.

TASK:

Choose ONE of the following passages and translate it into the language you invented. In your answer, please include 1) a short description of the speakers of the language and the language itself, 2) the translated passage, and 3) an English – Invented Language dictionary for the words that you used in your translation.

1. **PASSAGE 1.** *Kurt Vonnegut, God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*

Hello babies. Welcome to Earth. It's hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It's round and wet and crowded. On the outside, babies, you've got a hundred years here. There's only one rule that I know of, babies - "God damn it, you've got to be kind."

2. **PASSAGE 2.** *Khodabakhsh and colleagues (2015)*

Automatic diagnosis and monitoring of Alzheimer's disease can have a significant impact on society as well as the well-being of patients. The part of the brain cortex that processes language abilities is one of the earliest parts to be affected by the disease. Therefore, detection of Alzheimer's disease using speech-based features is gaining increasing attention.

3. **PASSAGE 3.** *The Guardian 18/04/2021*

At twilight on New Year's Eve, 2020, Placido Montoya, 35, a plumber from Fort Morgan, Colorado, was driving to work. Ahead of him he noticed blinking lights in the sky. He'd heard rumours of mysterious drones, whispers in his local community, but now he was seeing them with his own eyes.