

# Speedlang Challenge 5

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A foreign exchange student just started at your school! Your teacher says they won a program in their home country of...Avonia? Something like that, but not quite. She can't read the smudged writing on her hand, but she says she had never heard of the country anyways. This year your school just took one student, but if it works out they'll keep the program going. Who knows, maybe you'll even get to go spend a semester in...Astoria?

You go to introduce yourself to the student. They're confused but shake your hand and say something you can't quite make out. You ask their name and they reply in their mother tongue. You realize they don't speak English, only...Alborian?

But that's no problem for you! You want to make sure the new student feels at home, and decide that in addition to teaching them English, you'll learn some of their language. Plus it can't hurt to speak a bit of...Arconian if you get to study abroad there next semester! After some 'field work,' you get a hang of their language. It's actually quite beautiful! In order to help your new friend as well as any future exchange students you decide to document the language.

For this challenge, I've given you a few things we already know about... Armorian, but it's up to you to document the rest. If this project is a success, then next year they've gotta pick you to study abroad in...Agoria. Happy conlanging!

## Phonology

Your language's phonology must include:

- Harmony of some kind, i.e. some sort of long-distance assimilative process such as vowel harmony or nasal harmony.
- Marginal phonemes, e.g. phonemes that only occur in a small number of words or are only contrastive in certain environments.
- Prenasalization as a feature. Discuss why you analyze it as prenasalization rather than clusters starting with nasals.

## Grammar

Your language's grammar must:

- Include some sort of interaction between morphosyntax and information structure, for example topic-comment constructions or movement to mark focus
- Make at least five different aspectual distinctions
- Encode the semantic space of location and spatial relations in a meaningfully different way from English
- Include some number of two-part morphemes such as circumpositions, circumfixes, separable verbs, bipartite/compound verbs, or whatever floats your boat. The criterion to meet is to have some sort of morpheme that can productively have other lexical or inflectional material come between two distinct and separable parts.

## Tasks

1. Document and showcase your language, explaining and demonstrating how it meets all of the elements of the challenge.
2. Translate and gloss five example sentences. You can either get “syntax test sentences” by asking Leo “=stest”, in which case note down which number sentences you get, or you can pick from recent ‘Just Used 5 Minutes of your Day’ challenges posted by u/mareck\_ on r/conlangs, in which case note which number 5moyds you do.
3. To demonstrate the spatial relations, pick five of the 1992 Topological Relations Picture Series and write sentences speakers of your language might use to describe each one.
4. (Optional) Tell me a bedtime story that your...Asteporian friend’s mom once told them.