

# Speedlang Challenge 6

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Under lock and key in the basement of the Miskatonic University Library sit thousands of undeciphered tablets and manuscripts. As part of the Classics program, all the Juniors have to translate a tablet and all the Seniors a manuscript. Most of these end up being regular old dead languages like Sumerian, Sogdian, and Ugaritic. You know, normal stuff. But occasionally you find a gem!

After struggling to identify what language your tablet was in, you asked for help. Even the department chair Professor Rice couldn't figure it out! It looks like an unidentified isolate. Your professors agree that if you work to decode the language and document it as best as you can, they'll let you out of the Senior project, so do your best to get credit! Here's what you've figured out so far.

## Phonology

Your language's phonology must include:

- Neutralization of some phonemes in certain environments. Bonus points if you can use a morphological test to figure out which of the neutralized phonemes is present in a particular word!
- A productive morphophonological process involving suprasegmental features like stress or tone.
- Sound symbolism or sound iconicity of some sort.

## Grammar

Your language's grammar must:

- Show some kind of unusual agreement phenomenon.
- Clearly distinguish factive and non-factive complement clauses, either syntactically or morphologically.
- Incorporate noun classifiers or measure words in some construction.

## 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. Explain your conlang’s kinship terms and how they’re used.
4. (Extra credit) What was the tablet about? Write part of the text in your new conlang!