



World's Geekiest Crossword Puzzle by Kevin Kosbab Think foreign languages end at French, Spanish, and Japanese? Think again! Allow us to introduce you to the world of constructed languages, tongues developed deliberately for purposes of communication, science (fiction), or just for the fun of it—and not bogged down with pesky things like native speakers or lengthy historical development. Fill in the crossword by translating the English phrases in each clue below into the specified conlang. If you're able to complete this puzzle without any help, that's scary. But if you need to cheat like the rest of us, check out the answer choices below to help you fill the puzzle in.

ANSWERS

For simplicity, Mental_Floss linguists have transliterated alien writing systems into the boring old Latin alphabet. Skip spaces, punctuation, and accents when filling in the blanks.

Hab SoSII' Quch!

U nye way loh nee way.

Unu bieron, mi petas.

No, raba goi, ba brili noa aurmo.

Tu aseta la cartas de credito?

Linnon am meleth vîn.

Wua ga ma uma ahuma ooma.

Omnu balde lernos Ido.

Non me tocca illac!

War bine der Strand?

ACROSS

- 2 Esperanto, perhaps most famous of the conlangs, was developed to aid communication across national boundaries. How would you use it to order a beer from a foreign bartender?
- 4 As a gruff warrior race, *Star Trek's* Klingons are not above a good "yo mamma" jibe: How would you express the extremely insulting "Your mother has a smooth forehead!" in their native language?
- 6 In Tolkein's *Lord of the Rings* series, elves in Middle Earth's Third Age speak Sindarin. Were you to catch the eye of a man with a distinct resemblance to Viggo Mortensen, how would you tell him that you sing because you love him?
- 7 A group of various Western Europeans—with very Euro ideas of personal space—is edging uncomfortably close to you. Since Interlingua is based on vocabulary from several Western European languages, you decide it's your best linguistic bet for keeping your distance. How do you say, "Don't touch me there!"?
- 8 A vacation takes you to the England, the Netherlands, Germany, and Scandinavia. The northern cold might lead you to despairingly ask in *Folkspraak*, a blend of Germanic languages, "Where's the beach?"

- 9 You find a Furby in an abandoned toy shop. You quickly get annoyed with its antics but can't shut it off. Try speaking its own language, Furbish—how would you say, "Go to sleep now"?
- 10 Ask the barman from 2 Across if he will accept a credit card in *Lingua Franca Nova*, an international language developed in the sixties (about the time credit cards were becoming established).

DOWN

- 1 The developers of Loglan sought to create a language based on logic, which turns the aphorism "All that glitters is not gold" into this phrase, which could be more literally translated as "It is not the case that, for all x, if x glitters, then x is gold."
- 3 You meet a group conversing in Esperanto about the superiority of their language. Your international auxiliary language of choice, however, is Ido, an offshoot from Esperanto. How do you snobbishly tell them (in Ido) that everyone will soon learn Ido?
- 5 You get into a brawl with a Wookiee. Things naturally get a bit ugly, but the hairy *Star Wars* creature is oblivious to the damage he's done to you. How would you tell him in *Shyriiwook* that you thought your arm had been pulled out of its socket?