

Every language has its flaws and limitations. The vast majority of invented languages have disappeared almost as soon as they were created. For example, some language inventors have wanted to invent a simple and easy-to-learn language, some have wanted to create a gender-neutral language, and some have wanted to make language more mathematical or scientific. Zamenhof lived in an area populated by four different ethnic groups that spoke many different languages. The hope was that a neutral second language would break down language barriers and build a sense of equality and brotherhood between nations. Some people have been so frustrated with the imperfections of existing languages that they have actually tried to create better languages themselves! While none of these invented languages has ever become widely spoken, there are a couple that have been learned and spoken by a surprisingly large number of people. Zamenhof wanted as many people as possible to learn Esperanto, so he made the language extremely simple, with no irregularities or exceptions to the basic rules. The rules for verbs are equally simple, with no irregular verbs and no conjugation. Klingon, which was invented over 25 years ago, was not created with the noble intention of promoting the peaceful coexistence of people from different cultures. It was created in 1984 by a linguist named Marc Okrand for use in the Star Trek series. The characters who speak this language are the Klingon, a fictitious race of people from outer space. The Klingon Dictionary, which is copyrighted by the television studio, has sold more than 300,000 copies, and has made quite a bit of money. Unlike Esperanto, Klingon is an extremely complicated language with complex grammar, making it an immensely difficult language to learn. Yet interestingly, Okrand intentionally made Klingon difficult to learn. While the most successful invented languages, like Esperanto and Klingon, have caught the imagination of a community of people, these languages are spoken more as a novelty than as a practical, everyday language. There have been more than 500 attempts at creating such languages. Each of these invented languages, complete with a vocabulary and grammar of its own, has had a specific goal. Because Zamenhof's goal was clearly a humanitarian one, he was not interested in making any money from Esperanto. All nouns can be made plural by simply adding a -j.