

Speedlang Challenge #25

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Start: Friday, August 8th, 2025
Due: Monday, August 25th, 2025

i should host a splang

—Maxine ‘maru’ M.N.H.

A speedlang hosted by me. As per usual, the allotted timeframe is given above, with some leeway due to the existence of timezones. Please send all submissions to me (Reddit, Discord, and e-mail listed above) by the given deadline. [PDF](#) format is encouraged, but whatever works (something readable, please).

Note: links are in [blue](#) (but not all [blue things](#) are links).

Phonological constraints:

- Have a secondary articulation that either applies to all but one phoneme or features, or only two phonemes (justify its behavior either way)¹.
- Have a class of phonemes that undergoes Obligatory Contour Principle² effects. This could be, like, geminates or aspirated consonants or voiced stops or whatever. Anything, really.

Grammatical constraints:

- Have no plural marking xor have more than two (≥ 3) plurals (e.g., dual, trial, quadral, paucal, lesser/greater plurals, associative plural, &c.³).
 - (*bonus*) Have both. Note that there is no restraint on having all nouns or verbs or whatever is number-marked take number morphology, so this should be easy.
- Have periodic tense marker(s)⁴.

¹Courtesy of Verne.

²“Obligatory contour principle”, Wikipedia

³*Nominal number morphology* (Hofherr 2021)

⁴*Periodic tense markers in the world’s languages and their sources* (Jacques 2023)

- Have multiple negation morphemes based on TAM or something⁵.
 - Have them differ in form.

Tasks:

- Make a 'lexicon showcase' of a minimum of five (5) lexemes, in which you detail specific lexical items. Some ideas:
 - Explore [colexification](#) and [collocation](#).
 - Provide an overview of a certain semantic space, such as smell⁶, emotions⁷, or events of putting and taking⁸.
 - Make a semantic division tree/web/cloud/thing⁹, and detail some members and how they differ.
 - For verbs, you could detail some subset like in [ValPaL](#), (examples from Japanese) showing their [forms](#), [coding frames](#), [alternations](#), and so on. [For example](#).
- Translate and gloss at least five (5) example sentences from acceptable sources: syntax tests from [Zephyrus](#) (z!stest &c.) or sentences from [5MOYDs](#) (make sure to note which ones).
- Document and showcase the language.
- Submit to me.

Challenges:

- (*bonus*) Submit (good) sentences to the [5MOYD Sentence Submission Form](#)!

⁵*The typology of negation* (van der Auwera and Krasnoukhova 2020)

⁶*Totonac Categories of Smell* ([Aschmann 1946](#)), *Odors are expressible in language, as long as you speak the right language* ([Majid & Burenhult 2013](#)), *Revisiting the limits of language: The odor lexicon of Maniq* ([Wnuk & Majid 2013](#))

⁷*A Note on Emotion Words Translation in Different Cultures* ([Widhiarso 2009](#))

⁸*Events of Putting and Taking* ([Kopecka & Narasimhan 2012](#))

⁹excerpts from [Barnwell \(1980\)](#) and [Staden \(2007\)](#)