

Language Omnibus 230519 Weighted Report

May 26, 2023



Executive Summary



Response Information

This online survey of 1,377 U.S. adults aged 18 and up was conducted from May 19 to 24, 2023. The data were weighted to the U.S. population by nine demographic variables. The credibility interval for questions answered by all respondents is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Topline results presented in this report were weighted to be representative of the overall population by the following variables —

- State: California (12%), Texas (9%), Florida (7%), New York (6%), Pennsylvania (4%)
- Region: South Atlantic (20%), Pacific (15%), East North Central (14%), Mid-Atlantic (14%), West South Central (12%), Mountain (7%), West North Central (6%), East South Central (6%), New England (5%)
- Children in household: Yes (30%), No (70%)
- Marital status: Married (48%), Single (35%), Divorced (12%), Widowed (5%)
- Gender: Woman (51%), Man (49%)
- Age: 18-34 (31%), 35-44 (17%), 45-54 (18%), 55-64 (17%), 65+ (16%)
- Education level: Less than HS (12%), HS graduate (28%), Some college (31%), College graduate (18%), Postgraduate (10%)
- Household income: Under \$50,000 (39%); \$50-\$99,999 (30%); \$100,000+ (30%)
- Ethnicity: White, non-Hispanic (66%); Hispanic (15%); Black, non-Hispanic (12%); Asian (4%); Other race (3%)

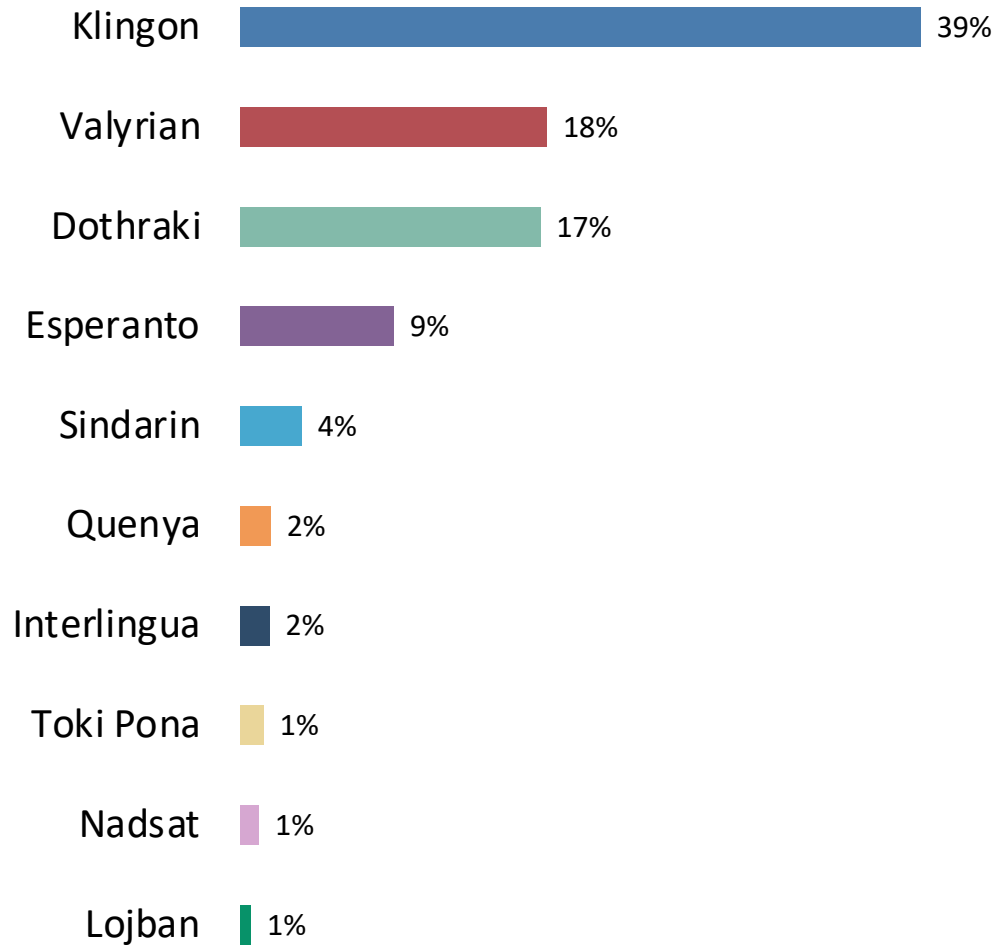


Summary of Results

- Nearly half (47%) of American adults have heard of a fictional or constructed language such as Klingon (39%), Valyrian (18%), Dothraki (17%), or Esperanto (9%).
- Few (5%) have ever studied such a language though: Klingon (2%), Esperanto (1%), Valyrian (1%).
- Of those who have studied a conlang, only one respondent rated themselves “Proficient” in the language. Self-assessments of their skill: Beginner (58%), Elementary (21%), Intermediate (13%), Advanced (7%), Proficient (1%).
- Six out of ten Americans (62%) have reported watching a show or movie where people used fictional languages. One out of five (20%) have read about fictional languages.
- One out of ten Americans have invented a bit of a language themselves (11%), though many of these creations were variants on Pig Latin or ciphers.



Which, if any, of the following fictional or constructed languages are you aware of? - Top 10



Base: 1,377 (All respondents)

Note: Respondents could select multiple options.



Which, if any, of the following constructed languages have you ever studied?

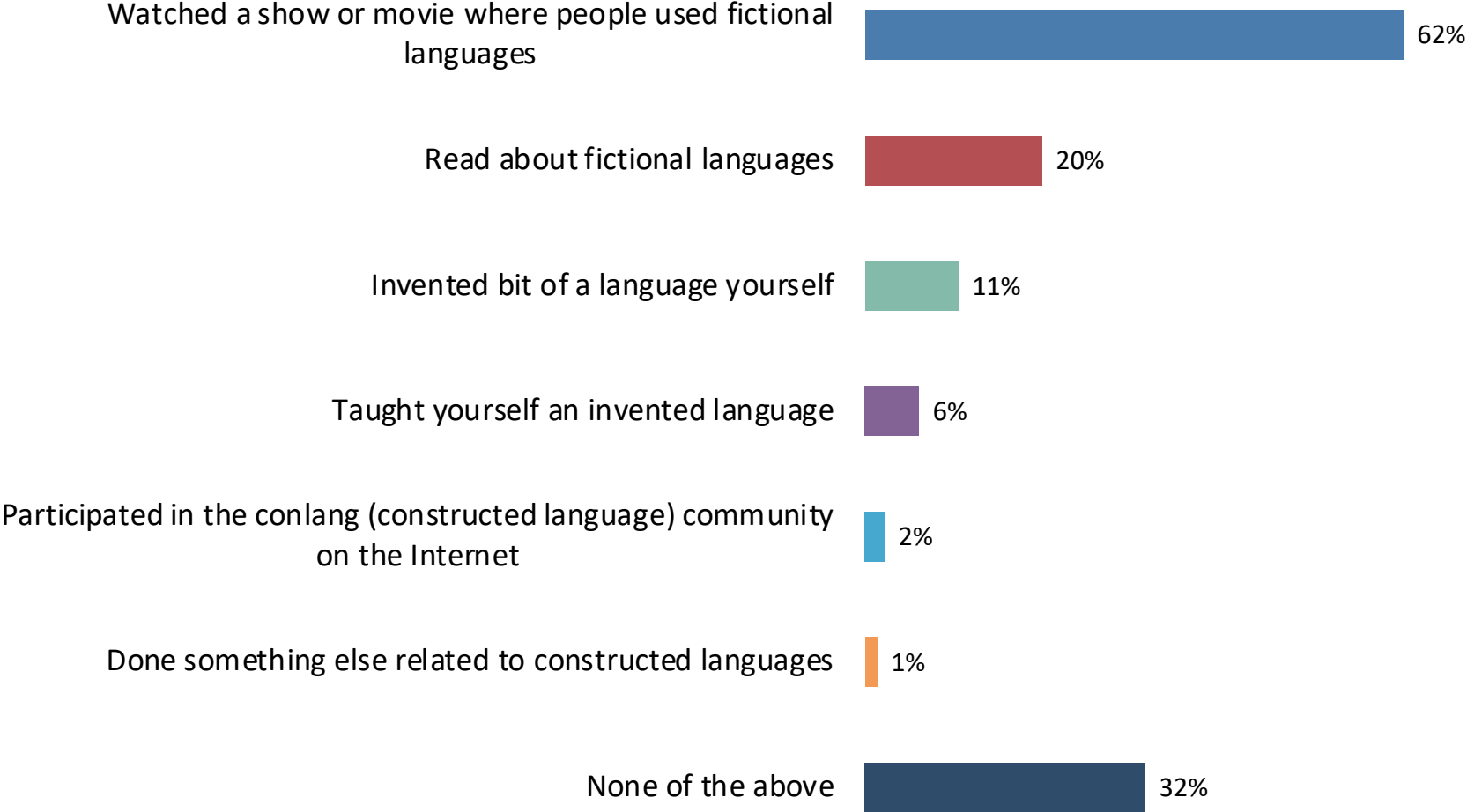
Option	Rank	Response %
None of these	1	95%
Klingon	2	2%
Esperanto	3	1%
Valyrian	4	1%
Interlingua	5	<1%
Dothraki	6	<1%
Quenya	7	<1%
Toki Pona	8	<1%
Nadsat	9	<1%
Sindarin	10	<1%
Lojban	11	<1%
Other	12	1%

Base: 1,377 (All respondents)

Note: Respondents could select multiple options.



Have you ever done any of the following?



Base: 1,377 (All respondents)
Note: Respondents could select multiple options.



Tell us about what kinds of fictional languages you invented.

commonality remember form
saying gibberish understand
like based
Elvish code letter Made One created people
middle school worked
alphabet called words kid put things
sister used friends talk replacing sounds
fun basically
communicate fictional language



Tell us about what kinds of fictional languages you invented.

Word	Count	%	Example Quote
Words	9	11%	"My friends and I would put 'op' in the middle of a word so others couldn't understand what we were saying."
Friends	9	11%	"My friends and I came up with a secret language when I was about 8. I don't remember much of it, but it was probably mostly gibberish."
Made	7	9%	"Made a local language only certain people understand with hand signs also in case of deaf."
School	6	7%	"Squish-molion. In grade school me and my best friend would talk this language around my sister and her friends. They hated it."
Called	6	7%	"It was called Hechish. I created it for a novel I wrote."
One	6	7%	"My sister and I invented languages during pretend games. One night when we'd been talking and our parents told us to be quiet, and we invented our own sign language that we used a lot."
Letter	6	7%	"We pronounce the original word, but by replacing the first letter with a letter N."
Kid	6	7%	"As a kid we made a simple code language for our 'club'. It didn't work so well."
Used	5	6%	"Never had a formal name for it, but my brother and I essentially made our own makeshift 'Wingdings' of sort. We had a symbol for each letter in the English alphabet, although we literally never used the language."
Gibberish	5	6%	"The kind of fictional language I have invented was basically gibberish. Like as a child which you basically couldn't even understand it and that's because it made absolutely no sense whatsoever. That's all really for that matter though."



Tell us about what kinds of fictional languages you invented.

Anecdotes

"I worked on inventing a language when I was in junior high to go with the book I was writing. In the end I wound up with an alphabet with 32 characters and sounds. I didn't know enough about languages to construct word roots and variants. I just had some translations for a few words."

"Friends and I created a language that was similar to Tolkien's Elvish so we could 'hide' our intentions from adult. Years later I can't remember any of it. During a reunion we discussed a dictionary one of us had saved."

"I didn't have a name but we worked with these vowels, 'a,e,i,o,u' where A was 1, E was 2, I was 3, O was 4, and U was 5. So for every word, wherever these vowels they get replaced with the numbers. And wherever a consonant is, an 'a' is added as a suffix. Example, 'crazy' is going to be 'cara1zaya'."

"Languages for *alien* aliens. By that, I mean aliens so alien to us that there is almost no commonalities we can lean on to help us understand each other... Perhaps biology so different that the lifespan of one is button instant to the other. How would species like these communicate at all, how would they become aware of each other or how could they become aware of each other. And perhaps as importantly could they have anything meaningful to say to each other?"

"There were several for Dungeons and Dragons campaigns for tailormade characters and some when I was younger so quite complex for fun, mostly with runes for letters."



What is your native language? - Top 8



Base: 1,377 (All respondents)



What is your native language?

Option	Rank	Response %		Option	Rank	Response %
English	1	88%		Khmer	18	<1%
Spanish	2	6%		Japanese	19	<1%
Armenian	3	1%		Persian	20	<1%
French	4	<1%		Hindi	21	<1%
Tagalog	5	<1%		Bengali	22	<1%
Vietnamese	6	<1%		Hebrew	23	<1%
Chinese	7	<1%		Greek	0	0%
German	8	<1%		Gujarati	0	0%
Creole, Haitian	9	<1%		Hmong	0	0%
Italian	10	<1%		Navajo	0	0%
Polish	11	<1%		Punjabi	0	0%
Arabic	12	<1%		Tamil	0	0%
Korean	13	<1%		Telugu	0	0%
Serbo-Croatian	14	<1%		Urdu	0	0%
Sign language	15	<1%		Yiddish	0	0%
Portuguese	16	<1%		Other	24	1%
Russian	17	<1%				

Base: 1,377 (All respondents)



Top Crosstabs



Which, if any, of the following fictional or constructed languages are you aware of?

	Generation				
%	Silent Generation	Baby Boomers	Generation X	Millennials	Generation Z
Dothraki	0	↓ 6	16	↑ 24	20
Esperanto	18	↑ 14	6	7	9
Interlingua	0	2	2	2	1
Lojban	0	0	0	↑ 1	0
Klingon	23	42	40	37	↓ 28
Nadsat	0	0	1	2	<1
Quenya	0	<1	1	↑ 3	2
Sindarin	5	1	3	3	2
Toki Pona	0	<1	<1	↑ 2	1
Valyrian	0	↓ 7	15	↑ 25	19
Other	0	↓ 1	3	3	4
None of the above	68	54	55	54	55
Base (N=1,377)	n=22	n=272	n=378	n=502	n=203

Which, if any, of the following fictional or constructed languages are you aware of?

	Household Income Summary		
%	Under \$50,000	\$50-\$99,999	\$100,000+
Dothraki	↓ 13	20	↑ 25
Esperanto	↓ 7	10	11
Interlingua	1	2	2
Lojban	0	<1	↑ 2
Klingon	↓ 29	↑ 42	↑ 52
Nadsat	1	2	1
Quenya	1	2	3
Sindarin	↓ 2	3	↑ 6
Toki Pona	1	1	↑ 3
Valyrian	↓ 13	↑ 21	↑ 24
Other	↑ 4	2	1
None of the above	↑ 62	↓ 49	↓ 41
Base (n=1,372)	n=710	n=429	n=233

Which, if any, of the following fictional or constructed languages are you aware of?

	Education Level					
	%	Less than HS	HS graduate	Some college	College graduate	Postgraduate
Dothraki		↓ 6	↓ 11	17	↑ 24	↑ 32
Esperanto		5	↓ 4	8	↑ 15	↑ 15
Interlingua		1	2	1	2	2
Lojban		0	0	1	<1	1
Klingon		↓ 20	↓ 27	38	↑ 50	↑ 54
Nadsat		1	1	1	1	1
Quenya		3	1	2	1	↑ 4
Sindarin		2	3	3	2	↑ 7
Toki Pona		1	1	<1	1	3
Valyrian		↓ 5	↓ 13	20	↑ 22	23
Other		2	3	3	4	2
None of the above		↑ 74	↑ 64	54	↓ 42	↓ 36
Base (n=1,376)		n=116	n=415	n=426	n=302	n=117

Which, if any, of the following fictional or constructed languages are you aware of?

	Have you ever done any of the following?							
	%	Watched a show or movie where people used fictional languages	Read about fictional languages	Taught yourself an invented language	Invented bit of a language yourself	Participated in the conlang (constructed language) community on the Internet	Done something else related to constructed languages	None of the above
Dothraki		1 27	1 41	21	22	31	26	↓ 1
Esperanto		11	1 18	18	16	17	26	↓ 4
Interlingua		2	3	4	3	1 11	0	↓ <1
Lojban		1	1	1 2	1	3	0	0
Klingon		1 52	1 65	46	44	56	52	↓ 13
Nadsat		1	2	4	2	1 17	0	↓ <1
Quenya		3	1 5	6	4	1 11	9	↓ <1
Sindarin		4	1 8	6	5	1 11	9	↓ 1
Toki Pona		2	3	1 6	3	1 11	0	↓ <1
Valyrian		1 27	1 42	19	26	36	35	↓ 2
Other		3	5	1 9	5	1 11	22	↓ 2
None of the above		↓ 38	↓ 21	39	40	↓ 14	26	1 83
Base (N=1,377)		n=826	n=288	n=80	n=146	n=36	n=23	n=468

Which, if any, of the following constructed languages have you ever studied?

		Which, if any, of the following fictional or constructed languages are you aware of?					
	%	Dothraki	Esperanto	Klingon	Sindarin	Valyrian	Other (please specify)
Dothraki		13	1	1	15	2	0
Esperanto		<1	111	1	3	2	0
Interlingua		<1	13	↓ <1	3	1	0
Lojban		<1	1	<1	3	<1	0
Klingon		3	4	15	8	4	3
Nadsat		<1	2	<1	3	<1	0
Quenya		1	2	1	15	1	0
Sindarin		1	2	<1	15	1	0
Toki Pona		<1	2	↓ <1	3	1	0
Valyrian		3	2	1	5	13	0
Other		<1	0	2	3	1	147
None of these		92	↓ 83	92	↓ 82	89	↓ 53
Base (N=1,377)		n=234	n=118	n=513	n=38	n=237	n=38

Which, if any, of the following constructed languages have you ever studied?

	Have you ever done any of the following?						
	%	Watched a show or movie where people used fictional languages	Read about fictional languages	Taught yourself an invented language	Invented bit of a language yourself	Participated in the conlang (constructed language) community on the Internet	Done something else related to constructed languages
Dothraki		1	1	2	1	16	0
Esperanto		↓ 1	14	19	3	111	9
Interlingua		<1	1	12	1	16	0
Lojban		<1	<1	1	1	13	0
Klingon		3	16	19	4	122	13
Nadsat		<1	1	1	1	13	0
Quenya		↓ <1	1	14	13	18	4
Sindarin		<1	1	1	1	13	4
Toki Pona		<1	1	12	1	3	0
Valyrian		1	2	2	1	3	0
Other		1	2	16	2	18	13
None of these		193	↓ 85	↓ 76	88	↓ 58	65
Base (N=1,377)		n=826	n=288	n=80	n=146	n=36	n=23

Have you ever done any of the following?

	Generation				
	Silent Generation	Baby Boomers	Generation X	Millennials	Generation Z
Watched a show or movie where people used fictional languages	23	↓ 48	59	↑ 64	↑ 72
Read about fictional languages	5	↓ 11	19	↑ 26	↑ 28
Taught yourself an invented language	0	↓ 3	5	7	↑ 10
Invented bit of a language yourself	5	↓ 6	9	12	↑ 17
Participated in the conlang (constructed language) community on the Internet	0	↓ <1	2	4	↑ 5
Done something else related to constructed languages	0	<1	2	↑ 3	1
None of the above	77	↑ 47	37	↓ 28	↓ 20
Base (N=1,377)	n=22	n=272	n=378	n=502	n=203

Have you ever done any of the following?

	Are you working full or part time, going to school, keeping house, or doing something else?								
%	Working full time	Working part time	Contract, freelance, or temporary employee	Not employed but looking for work	Not employed and not looking for work	In school	Homemaker	Disabled	Retired
Watched a show or movie where people used fictional languages	↑ 64	62	67	67	67	↑ 77	56	50	↓ 45
Read about fictional languages	↑ 23	22	67	11	33	↑ 32	0	0	↓ 12
Taught yourself an invented language	6	8	0	11	0	9	0	0	4
Invented bit of a language yourself	10	↑ 18	33	11	0	↑ 25	0	0	↓ 6
Participated in the conlang (constructed language) community on the Internet	2	4	33	11	0	↑ 7	0	0	↓ <1
Done something else related to constructed languages	1	2	0	0	0	4	11	0	<1
None of the above	↓ 30	30	33	33	33	↓ 14	44	50	↑ 51
Base (n=1,162)	n=699	n=168	n=3	n=9	n=3	n=57	n=9	n=2	n=212

Have you ever done any of the following?

	Which, if any, of the following fictional or constructed languages are you aware of?					
%	Dothraki	Esperanto	Klingon	Sindarin	Valyrian	Other (please specify)
Watched a show or movie where people used fictional languages	1 96	1 79	1 83	1 89	1 95	66
Read about fictional languages	1 50	1 43	1 36	1 58	1 51	34
Taught yourself an invented language	7	1 12	7	13	6	1 18
Invented bit of a language yourself	14	1 19	12	18	16	21
Participated in the conlang (constructed language) community on the Internet	5	5	4	1 11	5	1 11
Done something else related to constructed languages	3	1 5	2	5	3	1 13
None of the above	↓ 3	↓ 15	↓ 12	↓ 11	↓ 3	21
Base (N=1,377)	n=234	n=118	n=513	n=38	n=237	n=38

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