

Klingon, Quenya, Parseltongue...

(some phonetic inventories)

Klingon (/tɫɪŋɑn xol/)

We're going to discuss Klingon today.

Klingon (/tʰɪŋən xol/)

We're going to discuss Klingon today.

I don't speak it very well...

Klingon (/tʰɪŋən xol/)

We're going to discuss Klingon today.

I don't speak it very well...

...so I'm going to stop right now.

Klingon (/tʰɪŋɑn xol/)

We're going to discuss Klingon today.

I don't speak it very well...

...so I'm going to stop right now.

If there are any Klingons in this class,

I don't want to annoy them.

Klingon

Klingon was constructed by linguist Marc Okrand, whose first Star Trek-related job involved Vulcan...

Klingon Consonant Inventory

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
stops	b, p		t	ɖ			q	ʔ
affricates			tʃ		tʃ, dʒ		qχ	
fricatives		v		ʂ		x, ɣ		
liquids			r, l					
nasals	m		n			ŋ		
glides	w				j			

Klingon Consonant Inventory

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fricatives		v		ʂ		x, ɣ		
liquids			r, l					
nasals	m		n			ŋ		
glides	w				j			

(vowels: a, e, i, o, u)

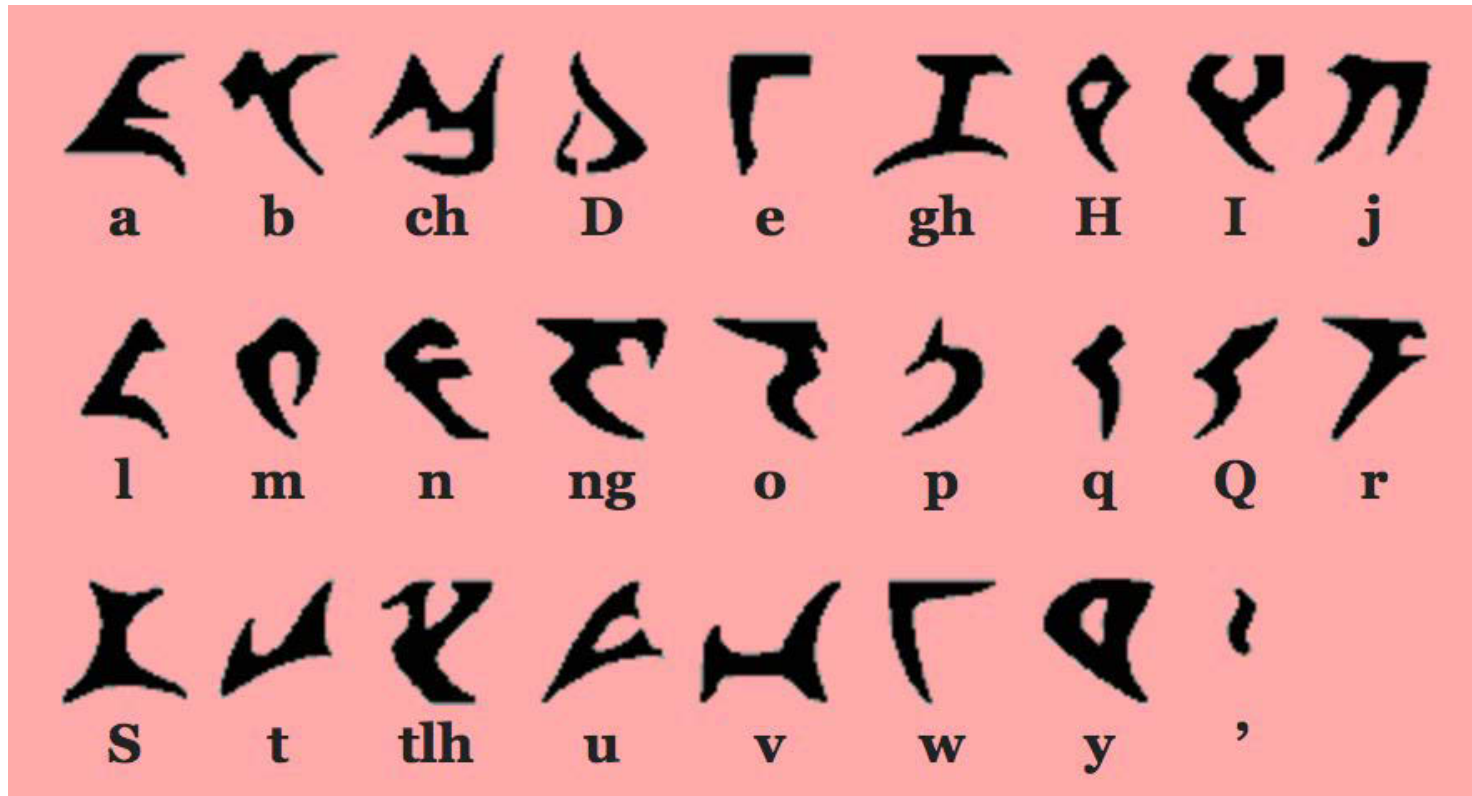
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fricatives		v		ʂ		x, ɣ		
liquids			r, l					
nasals	m		n			ŋ		
glides	w				j			

(vowels: a, e, i, o, u)

...and a pretty restricted syllable structure, mostly CVC, with a restricted set of possible final clusters, maybe just **ry** (**tjory** ‘eight’)

Klingon alphabet (piqaq)



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Tolkien's *Quenya*

Ai! Laurië lantar lassi súrinen,
inyar únóti nar ve rámar aldaron!
inyar ve linté yulmar vánier
mi oromardi lisse-miruvóreva
Andúnë pella, Vardo tellumar
nu luine yassen tintilar i eleni
ómaryo airetári-lírinen.

*Ah! like gold fall the leaves in the wind,
long years numberless as the wings of trees!
The years have passed like swift draughts
of the sweet mead in lofty halls beyond the West,
beneath the blue vaults of Varda
wherein the stars tremble
in the song of her voice, holy and queenly.*

(here's some Finnish, for comparison...)

The young Joukahainen,
Mouth awry and visage sneering,
Shook his golden locks and answered:
“Whoso fears his blade to measure,
Fears to test his strength at broadswords,
Into wild-board of the forest,
Swine at heart and swine in visage,
Singing I will thus transform him;
I will hurl such hero-cowards,
This one hither, that one thither,
Stamp him in the mire and bedding,
In the rubbish of the stable.”

(Excerpt from John Martin Crawford's 1910 translation of the *Kalevala*. This text is in the public domain.)

Quenya Consonant Inventory

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
stops	p		t, d		c	k, g (k ^w , g ^w)		
affricates								
fricatives		f, v	s					
liquids			r, l		ʎ			
nasals	m		n (n ^w)		ɲ			
glides	w, <u>w</u>				j, ɰ			

Quenya Consonant Inventory

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
stops	p		t, d		c	k, g (k ^w , g ^w)		
affricates								
fricatives		f, v	s					
liquids			r, l		ʎ			
nasals	m		n (n ^w)		ɲ			
glides	w, <u>w</u>				j, j̥			

(Vowels: long and short versions of a, e, i, o, u)

No consonant clusters at the beginnings or ends of syllables: clusters only across syllable junctures, with a restricted set of possibilities (gemimates, homorganic nasal-stop sequences...)

Ai! Laurië lantar lassi súrinen,
inyar únóti nar ve rámar aldaron!
inyar ve linté yulmar vánier
mi oromardi lisse-miruvóreva
Andúnë pella, Vardo tellumar
nu luine yassen tintilar i eleni
ómaryo airetári-lírinen.

â| τ̄ōyí τ̄h̄m̄ τ̄z̄ ḡj̄ȳm̄m̄
ēj̄m̄ j̄m̄j̄p̄m̄ é ȳj̄m̄m̄ īτ̄ȳm̄s̄
ēj̄m̄ é τ̄h̄m̄ ēīτ̄m̄ īm̄j̄m̄m̄m̄
m̄ īȳm̄ȳ τ̄z̄m̄ȳm̄j̄ȳm̄
īj̄m̄j̄m̄ p̄τ̄. m̄ȳ p̄τ̄m̄m̄
m̄ τ̄h̄m̄ ēīz̄m̄ p̄h̄m̄τ̄m̄ ī īτ̄m̄
j̄m̄ȳ âȳp̄j̄ȳτ̄j̄ȳm̄m̄:

Parseltongue (Francis Nolan)

Parseltongue Inventory

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Pharyngeal	Glottal
stops			t̪, t		c	k	ʕ	ʔ
clicks			ǀ, ǃ		ǁ			
fricatives			θ, s̪, s	ɽ	ç	x	ħ	h
liquids			ɹ̥					
nasals			n̪, n̥		ɲ̥	ŋ̥		
glides					j̥	w̥		

Vowels (all voiceless):

i	ɯ
ɪ	ʊ̥
e	ɤ
ɛ	ʌ
æ	a

Na'vi (Paul Frommer)

Na'vi Inventory

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
stops	p', p		t', t			k', k	ʔ
affricates			ts				
fricatives		f, v	s, z				h
liquids			r, l				
nasals	m		n			ŋ	
glides	w				j		

Vowels: i, ɪ, u, ʊ, ε, o, æ, a

Dothraki (David Peterson)

Dothraki Inventory

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
stops	p, b		t̪, d̪			k, g	q	ʔ
affricates					tʃ, dʒ			
fricatives		f, v	θ, s, z, ʃ, ʒ			x		h
liquids			r, ɾ, l					
nasals	m		n					
glides	w				j			

Vowels: i, e, o, a

Back to Klingon...

Qagh ‘error’

Back to Klingon...

Qagh ‘error’

QaghHom ‘minor error’

Back to Klingon...

Qagh ‘error’

QaghHom ‘minor error’

QaghHommey ‘minor errors’

Back to Klingon...

Qagh ‘error’

QaghHom ‘minor error’

QaghHommey ‘minor errors’

QaghHommeyHey ‘apparent minor errors’

Back to Klingon...

Qagh ‘error’

QaghHom ‘minor error’

QaghHommey ‘minor errors’

QaghHommeyHey ‘apparent minor errors’

QaghHommeyHeyllj ‘your apparent minor errors’

Back to Klingon...

Qagh ‘error’

QaghHom ‘minor error’

QaghHommey ‘minor errors’

QaghHommeyHey ‘apparent minor errors’

QaghHommeyHeyllj ‘your apparent minor errors’

QaghHommeyHeylljmo’

‘due to your apparent minor errors’

Back to Klingon...

jIQong 'I sleep'

bIQong 'you sleep'

Qong 'he/she/it sleeps' ...

Back to Klingon...

qalegh ‘I see you’

cholegh ‘you see me’

vIlegh ‘I see him/her/it/them’

Dalegh ‘you see him/her/it/them

...

Back to Klingon...

qIp 'he/she/it/they hit him/her/it/them'

Back to Klingon...

qIp ‘he/she/it/they hit him/her/it/them’

qIpchuq ‘they hit each other’

Back to Klingon...

qIp ‘he/she/it/they hit him/her/it/them’

qIpchuq ‘they hit each other’

qIpchuqrup ‘they are ready to hit each other’

Back to Klingon...

qIp ‘he/she/it/they hit him/her/it/them’

qIpchuq ‘they hit each other’

qIpchuqrup ‘they are ready to hit each other’

qIpchuqrupchoH ‘they are getting ready to hit e.o.’

Back to Klingon...

qIp ‘he/she/it/they hit him/her/it/them’

qIpchuq ‘they hit each other’

qIpchuqrup ‘they are ready to hit each other’

qIpchuqrupchoH ‘they are getting ready to hit e.o.’

qIpchuqrupchoHlaH ‘they can get ready to hit e.o.’

Back to Klingon...

qIp ‘he/she/it/they hit him/her/it/them’

qIpchuq ‘they hit each other’

qIpchuqrup ‘they are ready to hit each other’

qIpchuqrupchoH ‘they are getting ready to hit e.o.’

qIpchuqrupchoHlaH ‘they can get ready to hit e.o.’

qIpchuqrupchoHlaHbej

‘they can undoubtedly get ready to hit e.o.’

Back to Klingon...

qIp ‘he/she/it/they hit him/her/it/them’

qIpchuq ‘they hit each other’

qIpchuqrup ‘they are ready to hit each other’

qIpchuqrupchoH ‘they are getting ready to hit e.o.’

qIpchuqrupchoHlaH ‘they can get ready to hit e.o.’

qIpchuqrupchoHlaHbej

‘they can undoubtedly get ready to hit e.o.’

qIpchuqrupchoHlaHbejneS

‘...sir/ma’am’

Back to Klingon...

Klingon is *agglutinative*.

Back to Klingon...

Klingon is *agglutinative*.

Poster child for agglutinative languages here on earth: Turkish.

ev-ler-im-den

house-plural-my-from

‘from my houses’

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