

About the Logical Language Group, Inc.

The Logical Language Group, Inc. is a nonprofit organization, the embodiment of the Lojban community. It was founded to complete the language development process, to develop and publish teaching materials, to organize and teach the community, to promote applications of Lojban, and to initiate and lead research efforts in linguistics, language education, and other areas related to Lojban. Simply put, its purpose is to serve you in all manner of things Lojbanic.

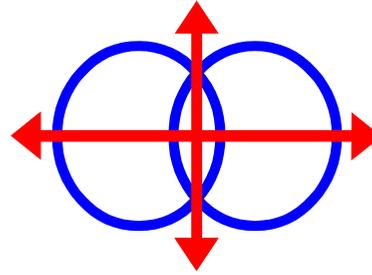
What can the LLG do for me?

The Logical Language Group produces, publishes and sells educational materials related to Lojban. The LLG distributes materials to people and asks that they contribute to cover the costs of those materials. The LLG's main product, however, is *The Complete Lojban Language*, which covers everything you need to reach an intermediate level of competency with Lojban.

How does the LLG serve the community?

The Logical Language Group attempts to foster communication amongst the community. To do so, it sponsors an Internet mailing list, and serves as a clearinghouse for interested Lojbanists to find one another. In addition, it runs an annual meeting called *LogFest*, each year in late summer, in Virginia. In the past, the LLG has operated a newsletter, *le lojbo karni*, and a journal, *ju'i lobypli*. The LLG also oversees work on the upcoming Lojban dictionary, and introductory textbook.

If there is anything we can do to make Lojban more accessible to you and your friends, please, let us know.



Lojban, The Logical Language

For more information, contact the individual or organization which gave you this pamphlet. A space has been provided for local organizations or individuals who distribute this brochure to provide you with contact information, directly below here. Failing that, contact The Logical Language Group via one of the addresses located at the very bottom of this panel.



Lojban

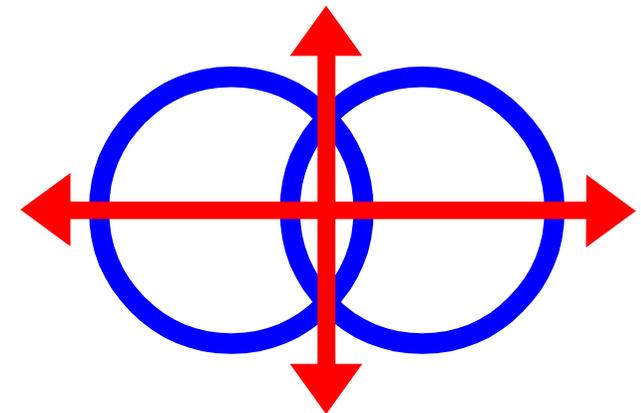
The Logical Language Group
2904 Beau Lane
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

Email: lojban@lojban.org
Website: <http://www.lojban.org/>

Lojban

The Logical Language

e'osai ko sarji la lojban



<http://www.lojban.org/>

Lojban, the Logical Language

Lojban (/LOZH-bahn/) is a constructed language. Made well-known by a 60's Scientific American article and by occasional references in science fiction and computer publications, Lojban has been built over three decades by dozens of workers and hundreds of supporters, led since 1987 by The Logical Language Group, a nonprofit corporation with has earned charity status in the US. There are many artificial languages, but Lojban has been engineered to make it unique in several ways.

Lojban is designed to be *used by people* in communication with each other. (And someday, with computers!)

Lojban is designed to be *culturally neutral*.

Lojban's grammar is based on the *principles of logic*.

Lojban has an *unambiguous grammar*, phonetic spelling, and unambiguous resolution of sounds into words.

Lojban is *simple* compared to natural languages; it *is* easy to learn.

Lojban's 1300 root words can be easily combined to form a vocabulary of *millions of words*.

Lojban is *regular*; the rules of the language are *without exception*.

Lojban *removes restrictions* on creative thought and clear communication.

Lojban has uses ranging from the *creative* to the *scientific*, from the *theoretical* to the *practical*.

Lojban was originally designed to test the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis (Which argues that the language you speak influences the thoughts you're able to have), but it has grown to be far more than an experimental tool since then.

What does it mean to be "Logical"?

Don't worry, just because the language is "Logical" doesn't mean it is some sort of cold emotionless language that an IRS computer would use! All we mean when we say "Logical" is that the sentence structure is based on *predicate logic*. Sentences really just express explicit relationships. When you use Lojban to say that your friend Mary is eating a taco, you'd just be stating a relationship of eating, between Mary, and the taco.

In addition to the predicate logic nature of Lojban, it also possesses a clear, and unambiguous grammar. For instance, when in English you say "The Pretty Little Girl's School" you're being very ambiguous! Think of all the different ways in which those words could be interpreted. It could be an attractive school for little girls, or a school for exceedingly little girls. Just try counting all the different ways you can interpret that sentence. That is grammatical ambiguity, and that is something which Lojban has none of.

Sounds hard! Is it easy to learn?

Have you ever studied Spanish? How about German, Russian, Japanese, or nearly any of the other natural languages? If so, you're probably familiar with things like conjugating verbs, and declining nouns (or adjectives). Even worse, you're familiar with just how irregular those things can be. Lojban doesn't worry you with any of that stuff! Want future tense? Look no further than *ba*, every time! Perfective aspect? *ba'o*! Best yet, you don't even have to bother with a tense if you don't want to.

Now, we know Lojban looks a little odd at first, but that is just because you've grown up being exposed to Romance languages, like French and Latin. So when you see those, they're familiar to your eyes. Lojban just doesn't have that advantage.

You can learn the 1300 root words in about 8 to 12 weeks of study, with just a bit of work. Luckily, you don't even need half of them to be conversational. In Lojban courses taught since 1989, students have managed to learn to be conversational in about 60 course hours. Studies have shown that it can take years to reach the same level of fluency in English.

Ok, so it isn't hard. Why should I learn it?

There are several reasons for learning the language now. Those who are working with the language now are actively consulted for their opinions on how to teach and spread the language. Within a few weeks of work learning the material already written, and some of the vocabulary, you will be able to work with those who have already started. You will be a significant part of a small but rapidly growing community. You will receive personalized attention to any problems you have with the language, from those leading the effort.

Learning any language other than your native tongue broadens your perspectives and allows you to transcend the limited viewpoints of your native language culture. Lojban, being much simpler to learn than natural languages, provides this benefit much more quickly than does the study of other languages. The logical organization embedded in Lojban will aid you in organizing and clarifying your thoughts. Having done so, your new perspective on language, ambiguity, and communication will allow you to express those thoughts more clearly, even when you use an ambiguous natural language.

You needn't learn Lojban for any practical purpose, of course. Many of those learning Lojban are doing so because it is fun. Learning Lojban is intellectually stimulating, providing human interaction and mental challenge. Lojban has all the benefits of games designed for entertainment, with the added prospect of that entertainment possibly developing into a useful skill as a side benefit.