

Lesson 1. The language at a glance

Alphabet

The basic thing you need to know about Lojban is the alphabet.

Lojban uses the Latin alphabet (vowels are colored):

a b c d e f g i j k l m n o p r s t u v x y z ' .

Words are pronounced as they are written.

There are 10 vowels in Lojban:

a	as in <i>f<u>a</u>ther</i> (not as in <i>f<u>a</u>ce</i>)
e	as in <i>g<u>e</u>t</i>
i	as in <i>ma<u>ch</u>ine</i> (not as in <i>h<u>i</u>t</i>)
o	as in <i>ch<u>o</u>ice</i> , <i>no<u>t</u></i> or <i>ou<u>gh</u></i> in <i>th<u>o</u>ugh<u>t</u></i> (not as in <i>so</i> , o should be a "pure" sound).
u	as in <i>co<u>o</u>l</i> (not as in <i>bu<u>t</u></i>)
y	as in <i>comm<u>a</u></i> (not as in <i>m<u>is</u>ty</i> or <i>cy<u>cl</u>e</i>)

4 vowels are written using combinations of letters:

au	as in <i>co<u>w</u></i>
ai	as in <i>hi<u>gh</u></i>
ei	as in <i>wei<u>gh</u></i>
oi	as in <i>bo<u>y</u></i>