

Re: If you were to design a language, how many vowels and consonants would you use?

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- *From:* Nathan Sanders <[nsanders@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nsanders@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 14 Dec 2007 17:40:23 -0500
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In article

<4a92dd81-0b76-42e9-8c88-f4887c3671cf@xx>, "Jens S. Larsen" <[jens\\_s\\_larsen@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:jens_s_larsen@xxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Nathan Sanders:

rather than (fruitlessly) try to impose your own idiosyncratic jargon on the field.

Is it only my jargon that's idiosyncratic? I hoped my ideas would be so too.

I'm not sure what's so idiosyncratic about thinking that all human languages have commonalities.

What *\*is\** idiosyncratic is claiming that since some commonalities exist, there therefore aren't any differences.

I have a lot in common with a gorilla (quite possibly *more* so than English has in common with Mandarin, but I'm not about to define a metric for computing the comparison), but that doesn't mean I *\*am\** a gorilla.

Nathan

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