

## GROWING THE IOL

We are continually striving to help countries / territories around the world set up their own national olympiad with a view to joining the IOL community. If you / your organisation is interested in setting up a national contest and sending a team, contact us via <http://www.Ioling.Org/participation/>.

“I wouldn’t exchange this opportunity I had to represent Ireland for anything. It was an honour and nothing short of phenomenal.”

Claire O’Connor (Bronze Medallist, IOL 2016)



## CONTACT US

Contact details for new countries / territories interested in setting an olympiad or sending a team to the IOL can be found at: <http://www.ioling.org/participation>



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## SPONSORSHIP

The IOL has several sponsorship opportunities. Please get in touch on <https://ioling.org/sponsorship/> if you / your organisation would like to sponsor the International Linguistics Olympiad or support your local Olympiad.

[www.ioling.org](http://www.ioling.org)

## ABOUT US

The International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) is one of the 12 International Science Olympiads for secondary / high school students and has been held annually since 2003. Each year, teams of young linguists from around the world gather and test their minds against the world's toughest puzzles in language and linguistics. No prior knowledge of linguistics or languages is required: even the hardest problems require only logical ability, patient work, and willingness to think around corners.

The goal is to inspire young people to consider the fascinating range of careers at the intersection of language, linguistics and Science Technology Engineering Maths (STEM)

## HOW IT WORKS

Currently 36 countries / territories take part (with more joining every year) in the one-week event in July. It consists of an individual competition, where students work on their own, and a team problem, where the four students put their heads together to solve a much tougher problem together.

The IOL has an independent problem committee that sets the problems and makes equivalent versions in all the participants' own languages (currently, 23 different languages). The IOL jury does all the marking at the event.

## QUALIFICATION

Country / territory Olympiads are organised independently and accredited by the IOL. Each participating country sends 1-2 teams of four contestants each. The methods of choosing these contestants and composing the teams differ from country to country; in most cases a country's contestants are chosen from the winners of their national Linguistics Olympiad.

More information on qualification is at: [www.ioling.org](http://www.ioling.org).

## WHY TAKE THE CHALLENGE?

- Most importantly, because it's great fun! Students enjoy solving problems while learning about the languages of the world.
- Students sharpen their problem-solving skills taking part. This will benefit students whatever career path they take.
- Learning outcomes are closely linked with the OECD PISA (2014/7) Creative and Collaborative problem-solving competencies.
- Students will enhance their CV or university application.
- Taking part in their national Olympiad, students can go on to represent their country / territory at IOL level and meet like-minded students from across the globe.







## TRY A PUZZLE – JAPANESE BRAILLE

**Braille** is a tactile writing system, based on a series of raised dots, that is widely used by the blind. It was invented in 1821 by Louis Braille to write French, but has since been adapted to many other languages. English, which uses the Roman alphabet just as French does, required very little adaptation, but languages that do not use the Roman alphabet, such as Japanese, Korean, or Chinese, are often organized in a very different manner!

Below is a Japanese word written in the *tenji* ("dot characters") writing system. The large dots represent the raised bumps; the tiny dots represent empty positions.

karaoke 

1. The following *tenji* words represent *atari*, *haiku*, *katana*, *kimono*, *koi*, and *sake*. Which is which? You don't need to know either Japanese or Braille to figure it out; you'll find that the system is highly logical.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_  B. \_\_\_\_\_ 
- C. \_\_\_\_\_  D. \_\_\_\_\_ 
- E. \_\_\_\_\_  F. \_\_\_\_\_ 

2. What are the following words?

- G. \_\_\_\_\_  H. \_\_\_\_\_ 

3. Write the following words in *tenji* characters:

- i. samurai \_\_\_\_\_ j. miso \_\_\_\_\_