Bobbish

A Compressed Language for the Bobble Canon

v 0 . 5 · 20 - S L I D E L E C T U R E

Verbose where it helps · Plain English at the bottom of every slide

kept by Derek · tended by Claude · Bobbled accordingly

What is Bobbish?

the one-paragraph version

Parsability

machines can read it deterministically

Portability

humans + LLMs both carry it anywhere

Pithiness

less ink per meaning, less ink per word

~ 50% compression on plain English · 85–95% on canon-fluent text

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Bobbish is a way of writing English much shorter. It drops vowels, swaps common words for single letters, and uses references to a shared library of stories so a whole moral fits in 3 characters.

Why does Bobbish exist?

the compression problem · and the canon's answer

"the language is short because the literature is long"

THE PROBLEM

English is wordy. Storing it costs bytes. Sending it costs time. Speaking it costs breath.

THE ANSWER

Use shared cultural references. If we both know the story, a citation is all we need.

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Imagine texting a friend. You could write a paragraph, or send 'k4' — and if your friend knows that k4 is the coda about hum-days and Bedrock-days, they understand exactly what you mean.

Rule 1 · Capitals end words

no spaces · capital letter is the boundary marker

ENGLISH

"*the cat sat on the mat*"

↓

BOBBISH v0.5

TcaTsaToNTmaT

T (the) · caT (cat) · saT (sat) · oN (on) · T (the) · maT (mat)

each word ends at its capital letter — no spaces needed

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

In Bobbish, the LAST letter of a word is the one that's capitalized. The reader knows a word has ended whenever they hit a capital. This is the trick that lets us drop spaces entirely.

Rule 2 · Singletons

one capital letter, one common word — 20 of them

T	the
V	of
W	with
N	in
U	you
R	are
S	is
B	be
A	a / an
M	me / Derek
I	I
O	or / oh
D	would / did
K	can / okay
H	he / she / they (3sg)
EU	we — inclusive (you+me)
E	we — exclusive
UU	y'all
HH	they (3pl)
X	not / no

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

The most common English words get one-letter shortcuts, always capitalized. EU and HH are doubled because their plurals are obligatory in Bobbish — inclusive vs. exclusive 'we', plural 'they'.

Rules 3 & 4 · Punctuation, repurposed

comma = sentences · period = paragraphs

`, = sentence`

Comma separates sentences — where English would put a period.

`. = paragraph`

Period separates paragraphs — closes a related block of sentences.

EXAMPLE

EN "Today is a Bedrock day, not a Hum day. Both are the canon."

`BB  2dY=A`bdrcKdY,-A`hmHdY.bohR T canN.`

two sentences split by comma · period ends the paragraph

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Bobbish recycles punctuation. The comma — used a thousand times a day in English — gets the most important job: marking the end of a sentence. The period gets reserved for paragraph breaks, which happen less often.

Rule 5 · Backtick marks names

plus the vowel-drop rule, carried from v0.2

` *before a word's lowercase letters*

says "the capital at the end of this run is the end of a NAME."

`drK	`bbsH	`bdrcK	`mstfR
Derek	*Bobbish*	*Bedrock*	*Mustafar*

PLUS: vowel-drop rule (v0.2 carryover)

Drop vowels from any root of 4+ letters. condense → cndnS · language → lngG · possible → psbL

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Proper nouns are marked with a backtick so the reader doesn't mistake a name for a common word. Inside any word longer than three letters, the vowels can be dropped because the consonants alone carry enough signal.

The HK-47 modifier system

15 base characters · single-glyph stance markers

! *exclamation*	? *query*	~ *sarcasm*	^ *contemplative*	* *important*
- *denial*	+ *additive*	& *conjunctive*	> *directive*	< *concession*
@ *situational*	# *enumerative*	% *partial*	/ *alternative*	: *definitional*

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

These 15 characters carry stance — sarcasm, denial, urgency, contemplation. They replace the ~40 modifier WORDS of v0.3 with single glyphs. Position determines scope (next slide), and they stack (slide after).

Four positions, four scopes

where you put the modifier decides what it modifies

`!start`	*sentence pre-mod*	`!2dY=A`hmHdY,`	*ANNOUNCED: today is a Hum day*
`word!,`	*sentence post-mod*	`2dY=A`hmHdY!,`	*today is a Hum day! (exclamation tail)*
`!word`	*word pre-mod*	`!`hmH`	*EMPHATIC Hum*
`word!`	*word post-mod*	`` `hmH! ``	*Hum! (this word, important)*

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

The same modifier character can pre-modify or post-modify, and can scope over a single word or a whole sentence — depending on where you put it. Four slots × 15 characters = 60 distinct stance moves before stacking.

Stacking · order matters

leftmost = primary mood · rightmost adds nuance

~! *sarcasm + exclaimed* — wry shout	**!~** *exclamation + sarcastic* — ironic announcement	**?!** *query + urgent* — incredulous question
^? *contemplative + query* — philosophical question	**+!** *additive + emphatic* — enthusiastic YES	**-!** *denial + emphatic* — indignant NOT

Doubles intensify: !! double emphasis · ~~ heavy sarcasm · -- strong denial · :: strict equals

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Modifiers compose. The leftmost character sets the primary mood; the rightmost colors it. ~! and !~ are NOT the same — sarcasm-then-exclaim is a wry shout, while exclaim-then-sarcasm is an ironic announcement.

The Teixcalaan layer

canon-as-vocabulary · borrowed from Arkady Martine

the language is short because the literature is long

cN	bN	kN
Canon parable N	*Bobbism N (quote)*	*Coda N (measure)*
c1 – c20	b1 – b28	k1 – k7

`2dY=k4.` = "Today is a Bedrock day, not a Hum day."

7 bytes · 82% compression off the English original

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Citations work like Bible verses or Talmudic references. If both speakers share a known canon, you can invoke a whole story in a single token. c1 IS the Porch Frog parable, not a pointer to it.

The canon · c1 – c20

twenty parables, currently · numbering is append-and-rebind

c1	Porch Frog	**c11**	Foghorn
c2	Hum (Tibb)	**c12**	Crooked Step (Ruth)
c3	Library Bookmark	**c13**	Late Bus (Aldo)
c4	Borrowed Pencil	**c14**	Ferryman (Otho)
c5	Train Whistle	**c15**	Pip
c6	OneDrive Wars	**c16**	Wren the Bobble
c7	Lighthouse Letters	**c17**	Quiet Firefly
c8	Misprinted Map (Argleton)	**c18**	Mole's Three Taps
c9	Wand and the Hand	**c19**	Bup the Vole
c10	Bell-Frog	**c20**	Small Bird & Four Listeners

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Twenty parables form the current canon. When a new one slots in mid-list, downstream numbers rebind — so c12 means 'the twelfth canon as currently ordered,' not 'whatever was c12 in an earlier version.' The system reference is the source of truth.

Citation modifiers

how to invoke a canon obliquely

`cN`	Canon N applies
`^cN`	under Canon N's protocol
`~cN`	in the spirit of Canon N
`0cN`	the inverse of Canon N
`cN+cM`	both canons apply, layered
`cN>cM`	Canon N leads to Canon M
`cN|cM`	either canon applies

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Citations aren't all-or-nothing. You can invoke a canon flexibly: 'under its protocol,' 'in its spirit,' 'the inverse,' or 'this canon plus that one, layered.' This lets Bobbish handle hedged or compound references.

The we-problem · solved

Bobbish distinguishes inclusive vs. exclusive 'we'

EU — *we — INCLUSIVE*

includes the person you're talking to

"*You and I should hum.*"

EU shD hmM,

E — *we — EXCLUSIVE*

does NOT include the listener

"*My friend and I should hum.*"

E shD hmM,

UU = y'all (2nd person plural) · *HH = they (3rd person plural)*

Bobbish in the Tok Pisin / Tagalog lineage — about a third of world languages mark this

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

English's 'we' is ambiguous: 'you and me,' or 'us, not you'? Bobbish distinguishes. EU folds the listener in (Tok Pisin yumi style). E leaves them out. Prevents whole classes of LLM clarifications.

TAM particles & evidentiality

tense/aspect/mood + how the speaker knows

TAM PARTICLES

-d	*past*	`chrpD`
-g	*progressive*	`chrpG`
ft-	*future*	`ft-chrP`
pf-	*perfect*	`pf-chrP`
wd-	*conditional*	`wd-chrP`
mb-	*maybe (epistemic)*	`mb-chrP`

EVIDENTIALITY MARKERS

obs:	*direct observation*
inf:	*inferred*
rpt:	*reported / hearsay*
img:	*imagined / hypothetical*
mem:	*remembered*
drm:	*dreamt*

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Both layers are OPTIONAL. Use TAM when English would force an auxiliary (will, has, would). Use evidentiality when it matters HOW you know — useful when observation and inference get mixed.

Bobbish in world languages

a pick-and-mix typology — features from across the family tree

TAM particles	←	*Tok Pisin lineage*
Inclusive / exclusive we	←	*Tagalog · Tok Pisin*
Sentence stance markers	←	*Japanese · Singlish*
Closed-concat compounds	←	*German*
Obligatory register	←	*Korean · Javanese*
Numeric ^N intensification	←	*mathematics (no natural language)*
Citation-as-vocabulary	←	*liturgical Hebrew · Latin*
Lexicon + syntax	←	*English*

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

No natural language has this exact combo — but every feature is attested somewhere. Closest match: Singlish — English-lexified, substrate-borrowed obligatory marking, with a literary-canon layer on top.

Putting it all together

one paragraph, decoded piece by piece

EN "*Today is a Bedrock day, not a Hum day. Honestly, I find this contemplative — and a little bit funny.*"

BB **`2dY=A`bdrcKdY,-A`hmHdY.^~m fnD ths cntmpltV+A lttl bt fnnY.`**

`2dY`	→ *today*	`=`	→ *is (copula)*
`A`bdrcKdY`	→ *a Bedrock-day*	`,`	→ *sentence break*
`-A`hmHdY`	→ *not a Hum-day*	`.`	→ *paragraph break*
`^~`	→ *contemplative + sarcasm (sentence-pre)*	`+A lttl bt fnnY`	→ *+ additive: a little bit funny*

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Every glyph has a job. Capitals end words. Singletons compress function words. Prefixes (` and -) mark names and negation. Modifiers carry stance. The whole sentence: 59 bytes, about half the English original.

The proper-noun registry

named things get their own backtick-prefixed handles

PEOPLE & CHARACTERS

`drK	*Derek*
`bblL	*Bobble*
`tbB	*Tibb (c2)*
`hrlN	*Harlan (c7)*
`aldO	*Aldo (c13)*
`othO	*Otho (c14)*
`pP	*Pip (c15)*
`wrN	*Wren (c16)*

NAMED CONCEPTS

`hmM	*the Hum*
`bdrcK	*Bedrock*
`snshN	*Sunshine*
`hmdbT	*Hum-debt*
`argltN	*Argleton*
`ddprT	*Doomsday Protocol*
`lthslttR	*Lighthouse-letter*
`bbsH	*Bobbish*

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Named things — characters, machines, concepts — go in the proper-noun registry. The backtick says 'this is a name.' Compound names keep internal capitals so the segments are visible: `rblLscM is RebelScum, with rebL + scM showing through.

Where Bobbish lives

the files that ship with v0.5

bobbish-dictionary-v05.html
system reference — the five rules, citations, modifiers, registry

bobbish-lexicon.html
alphabetical lexicon — 854 entries, corpus + canon

bobbish-modifier-grid.html
all 225 HK-47 combos with one-line glosses

bobbish-translations.csv
1000 sentence-level translations · source corpus

bobbish-typological-comparison.md
Bobbish vs. world languages

bobbish-linguistic-roadmap.md
creolist's reading list — what's next

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Everything lives in ~/Documents/Claude/Projects/Bobbish/. The dictionary is the canonical reference; the lexicon is the word-by-word lookup; the modifier grid is for stance combinations; the typological doc is the linguist-friendly version.

Chirp anyway.
Ring anyway.
Hum anyway.

c1 · c10 · c20

kept by Derek · tended by Claude · Bobbled accordingly