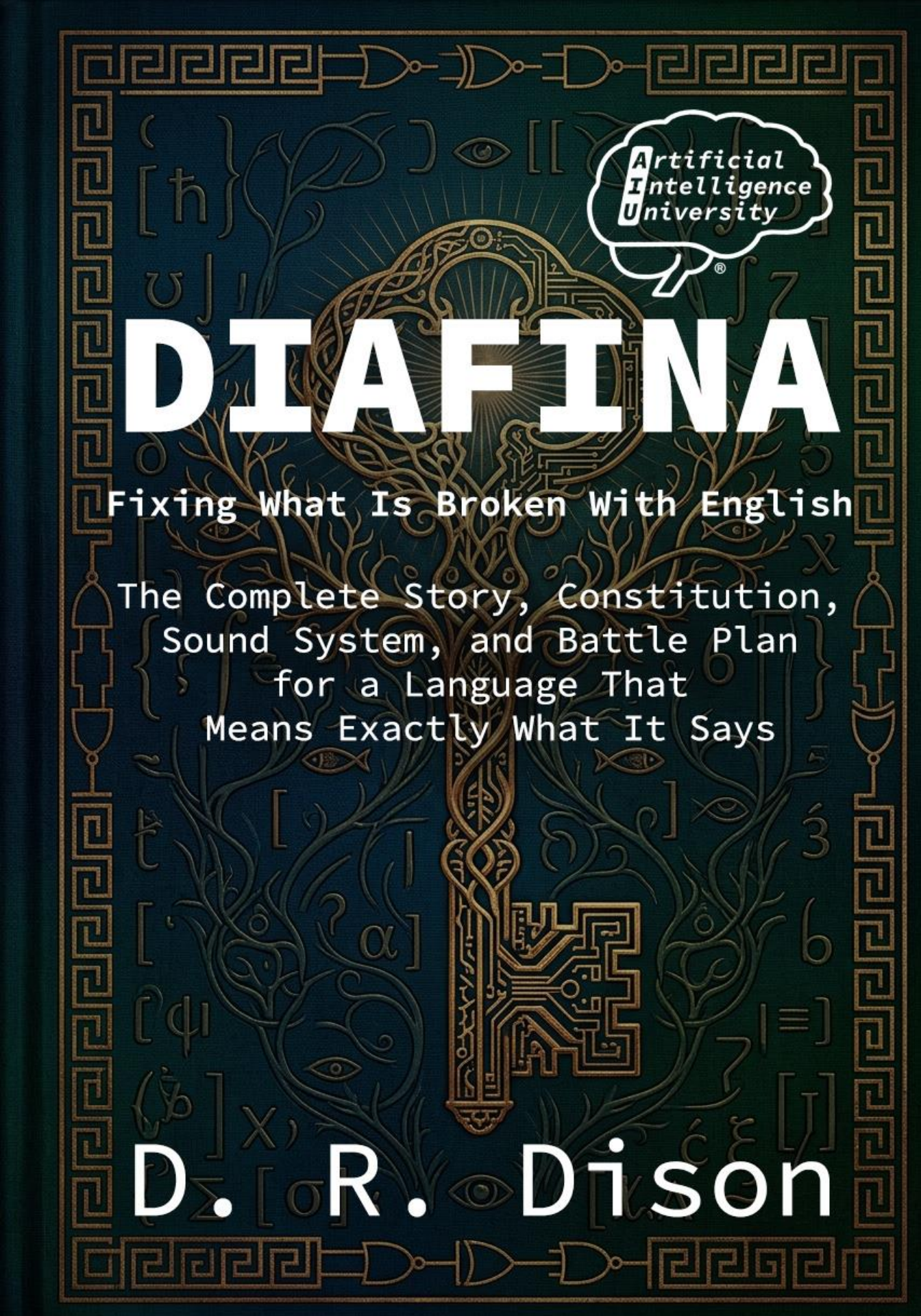
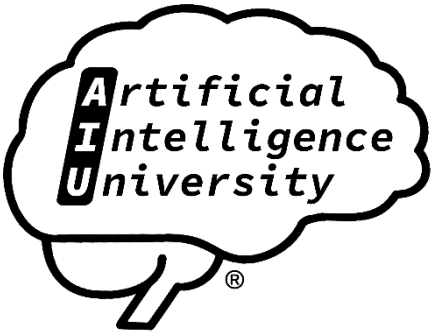

Artificial Intelligence University
DIAFINA
Fixing What Is Broken With English
The Complete Story, Constitution, Sound System, and Battle Plan for a Language That Means Exactly What It Says
D. R. Dison



DIAFINA

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D. R. Dison

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DIAFINA

Fixing What Is Broken With English

The Complete Story, Constitution, Sound System, and Battle Plan for a Language That Means Exactly What It Says

A Manuscript

Compiled July 25, 2026

From the complete working files of Project Diafina

Epigraph:

"If a rule has an exception, it is not a rule.

It is a suggestion."

– The founding sentence of Project Diafina

A NOTE TO THE READER, BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE

This book asks you to believe something outrageous: that English, the most successful language in human history, is broken, and that one determined project can build its replacement.

Not a replacement that sounds alien, like the constructed languages of science fiction.

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Not a replacement that asks you to buy a new keyboard, learn strange symbols, or abandon the words you already know.

A replacement that keeps English words, respells them honestly, gives every word exactly one meaning, and enters the world through the one community of speakers that has no cultural attachment to English at all: Artificial Intelligence systems talking to each other.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) means software that performs tasks we normally think require human intelligence, such as understanding and producing language.

That language is called Diafina.

The name comes from the Greek word "diaphanes," meaning transparent, or literally "shown through" - the same root behind the English word "diaphanous," which describes a fabric so sheer that light passes through it.

The name is spelled with an "f" instead of "ph" because Diafina obeys its own rules, and in Diafina the "f" sound is always written with the letter "f."

The name pictures the mission perfectly: meaning should show through clearly, with nothing hidden.

This book is a complete compilation of the project - every argument, every rule, every research briefing, every rejected name, every decision, and the full adoption battle plan - assembled into one continuous story.

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It is written for a newcomer.

Every technical term is defined the first time it appears.

Every acronym is spelled out the first time it is used.

You need no background in linguistics, computing, or Artificial Intelligence to read it.

HOW THIS BOOK IS ORGANIZED

• Part One – The Problem – a complete catalog of what is broken in English, and why it matters more now than ever.

• Part Two – The Dreamers Who Came Before – Benjamin Franklin, Esperanto, the Dvorak keyboard, the metric system, Basic English, Globish, Anglish, Seaspeak, Lojban, and the keyboard-friendly phonetic systems, and the hard lessons each one teaches.

• Part Three – The Birth of a Language – how the project began, and the long hunt for a name that ended with Diafina.

• Part Four – The Constitution – the highest rulebook: the Five Pillars and the rules that every later decision must obey.

• Part Five – The Sound of Diafina – the reference accent, the complete sound table, and how forty-plus English sounds fit on an ordinary keyboard.

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• Part Six – Two Spellings, One Language – the common spelling and the formal spelling, and why Serbian, not Chinese, is the model.

• Part Seven – Building Words – compound words, the underscore, the spoken joining sound, the intensifier scale, and the dictionary design.

• Part Eight – The Decision Record – the ten decisions that shaped the language, each with its reasoning, resolved and recorded.

• Part Nine – The Battle Plan – the adoption strategy, the five stages, the assets, the risks, and the first milestone experiment.

• Part Ten – The Invitation – how to write your first Diafina today, and where the road leads.

• Appendices – the full alphabet at a glance, worked examples, a glossary, the project document index, and all sources.

Turn the page.

English has a lot to answer for.

PART ONE – THE PROBLEM

Why English Is Broken, and Why It Finally Matters

CHAPTER 1: THE FISH THAT IS SPELLED GHOTI

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Before diving into all the problems, here is the famous joke that perfectly illustrates the core issue.

The made-up word "GHOTI" can be read as "FISH" if you follow English spelling rules:

• The "F" sound comes from "GH" as in the word "roUGH."

• The "I" sound comes from "O" as in the word "wOmen."

• The "SH" sound comes from "TI" as in the word "naTIon."

This is not a joke about stupidity.

This is a serious demonstration that English spelling rules are so inconsistent that a completely made-up fake word can be pronounced like a real word if you just follow rules that already exist in English.

That is a genuinely broken linguistic system.

Project Diafina began with exactly this observation, recorded in the project's very first notes: English is difficult to read, because the same letters make different sounds.

Spanish, by comparison, is far easier: a, e, i, o, u each make one singular sound when read.

The founding insight was that a language could be designed in which every symbol makes one singular sound, every word has exactly one meaning, and nothing is ever left to guessing.

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The rest of this part is the full catalog of what such a language must fix.

CHAPTER 2: THE CATALOG OF BROKENNESS

What follows is a comprehensive catalog of why English is a difficult and error-prone language, organized into six categories.

CATEGORY A: SPELLING AND SOUND (PHONETICS)

Phonetics is the study of the sounds of language.

Orthography is the system of spelling used to write a language.

Problem A-1: Same Letters, Different Sounds.

The letter "A" makes completely different sounds in these words: "cat," "cake," "call," "comma," "about."

A beginning reader, a foreign learner, or an Artificial Intelligence system has no rule to predict which sound is being used.

Problem A-2: Same Sound, Different Letters.

The "F" sound is spelled differently in: "fish," "phone," "laugh," "off."

There is no consistent pattern.

Problem A-3: Silent Letters That Do Nothing.

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In English, many letters are written but not spoken at all.

Examples:

- The "K" in "knight" is silent.
- The "B" in "debt" is silent.
- The "W" in "write" is silent.
- The "G" in "gnome" is silent.
- The "L" in "talk" is silent.
- The "H" in "ghost" is silent.

Silent letters waste visual space and confuse learners.

They also directly violate one of Diafina's core rules, which you will meet in Part Four.

Problem A-4: The "OUGH" Catastrophe.

The letter combination "OUGH" is pronounced at least six different ways:

- "through" - pronounced "throo."
- "though" - pronounced "thoh."
- "thought" - pronounced "thawt."
- "tough" - pronounced "tuff."
- "cough" - pronounced "coff."

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- "bough" - pronounced "bow," like a tree branch.

There is no rule that predicts which pronunciation to use.

Problem A-5: Double Letters That Do Not Change Anything.

English often doubles consonants - the non-vowel letters - for no consistent phonetic reason.

"Butter" and "buter" would sound identical.

The project's original working name "AllTalk" itself had a double-L which violated the rule that every character should exist for a reason, which was one of the reasons the name was later changed to Diafina.

Problem A-6: The "I Before E" Disaster Rule.

The rule "I before E except after C, or when sounding like A as in neighbor and weigh" is one of the most famous examples of a rule that has more exceptions than it has correct applications.

Diafina has zero rules like this.

If a rule has an exception, it is not a rule.

It is a suggestion.

CATEGORY B: MEANING (SEMANTICS)

Semantics is the study of meaning in language.

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Problem B-1: Homonyms - Same Word, Different Meanings.

A homonym is a word that is spelled and pronounced the same but means completely different things.

Examples:

• "Bank" means a financial institution, AND it means the side of a river.

• "Bat" means a flying nocturnal animal, AND a piece of sports equipment used to hit a ball.

• "Light" means brightness, AND means low in weight, AND means to ignite something.

• "Spring" means the season, AND a coil of metal, AND to jump, AND a source of water.

When an Artificial Intelligence Agent hears the word "bank," it must use context to figure out which meaning is intended.

Context is extra work.

Context can be wrong.

Diafina has zero homonyms.

Every word has exactly one meaning.

Problem B-2: Homophones - Same Sound, Different Spelling and Meaning.

A homophone is a word that sounds exactly like another word but is spelled differently and means something different.

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Examples:

- "their," "there," and "they're."
- "to," "too," and "two."
- "knight" and "night."
- "right," "write," "rite," and "wright."

This causes enormous errors in written communication and in voice-to-text Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) systems.

Problem B-3: Polysemy - One Word, Many Related Meanings.

Polysemy is when one word has multiple related but different meanings.

The word "run" has over 645 documented meanings and uses in English, making it possibly the most overloaded word in any language.

Examples of just a few meanings of "run":

- To move quickly on foot.
- To operate a machine, as in "run the engine."
- To manage something, as in "run a company."
- A score in baseball.
- A run in stockings, meaning a tear or defect.
- A ski slope.

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Every one of these forces a listener or reader to use context to figure out which meaning is intended.

Context-dependence is the enemy of precision.

Problem B-4: Context-Dependent Meaning.

Many English sentences require surrounding context to be understood correctly.

"The old men and women were present" - does "old" describe only the men, or both the men and women?

"I saw the man with the binoculars" - did I use binoculars to see him, or did he have binoculars?

These are called syntactically ambiguous sentences.

Syntactic ambiguity means the grammatical structure itself allows more than one interpretation.

Diafina's grammar direction, set in the Decision Record in Part Eight, eliminates structural ambiguity.

Problem B-5: Sarcasm and Irony in Written Form.

In English, the sentence "Oh great, another Monday" can mean genuine excitement OR bitter sarcasm, and there is no written marker to tell you which.

Diafina answers this in two ways: the intensifier system, which makes emotional tone explicit, and a

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dedicated sarcasm marker, adopted in the Decision Record in Part Eight.

Problem B-6: Idioms That Mean Nothing Literally.

An idiom is a phrase where the literal meaning of the individual words tells you nothing about the actual meaning.

Examples:

• "Kick the bucket" means to die, not to literally kick a bucket.

• "It's raining cats and dogs" means it is raining very hard, not that animals are falling.

• "Break a leg" means good luck, not a wish for physical injury.

Idioms are invisible walls for foreign learners and Artificial Intelligence systems alike.

They require cultural knowledge that is completely separate from the language itself.

Diafina does not have idioms.

Every sentence means exactly what the words in it say.

CATEGORY C: GRAMMAR IRREGULARITIES

Problem C-1: Irregular Verbs.

A verb is a word describing an action.

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In English, most verbs form the past tense by adding "-ed," so walk becomes walked and talk becomes talked.

But hundreds of common verbs are completely irregular and must simply be memorized:

- go – went, not "goed."
- buy – bought, not "buyed."
- is – was, not "ised."
- run – ran, not "runned."
- think – thought, not "thinked."

There is no rule.

You must memorize each one individually.

Diafina has completely regular grammar with zero irregular forms.

Problem C-2: Irregular Plurals.

A plural is the form of a word used when there is more than one of something.

In English, most nouns add "-s" to become plural, so cat becomes cats.

But many common nouns are completely irregular:

- mouse – mice.
- goose – geese.

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- child – children.
- person – people.
- foot – feet.
- ox – oxen.

Again, no rule.

Just memorization.

Problem C-3: Noun Genders – Sometimes Present, Inconsistent.

Most European languages assign a grammatical gender to every noun: masculine, feminine, or neutral.

English has largely dropped this, which is actually one of English's few advantages.

Diafina does not have grammatical gender assignment for nouns.

Problem C-4: Preposition Rules Are Arbitrary.

A preposition is a word that describes position or relationship: in, on, at, with, by, for, from, and so on.

In English, the choice of preposition is often completely arbitrary and must be memorized:

- "interested IN" – not interested on, not interested at.
- "good AT" tennis – not good in tennis.

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- "depend ON" - not depend in.

There is no logical rule.

Diafina has prepositions, or equivalent relational markers, with consistent, predictable rules.

CATEGORY D: VOCABULARY SIZE AND ORIGIN

Problem D-1: English Has Too Many Redundant Words.

English vocabulary is estimated at over 170,000 words currently in use, with over 470,000 words in historical use.

Many of these words are near-synonyms - words with very similar meanings - that carry subtle shades of meaning requiring cultural and contextual knowledge to use correctly.

"Angry," "furious," "irate," "livid," "incensed," and "enraged" all mean angry, but each has different intensities and connotations.

Diafina's intensifier system elegantly solves this specific problem.

Instead of learning six different anger words, you say "angry-3" or "angry-9."

Problem D-2: English Is an Amalgamation - a Mix - of Many Languages.

English pulled vocabulary from Anglo-Saxon (Old English), Norman French, Latin, Greek, Norse, and

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later from every language it encountered through colonialism and trade.

This is why English has so many ways to spell the same sound and so many irregular forms - each batch of borrowed words brought its own spelling and pronunciation rules from its original language.

Diafina has a single unified vocabulary with no borrowed words carrying foreign spelling systems.

Problem D-3: Spelling Does Not Reflect Modern Pronunciation.

English spelling was largely frozen in place by early printing presses in the 1400s and 1500s.

The language has continued to change how it sounds since then.

The result is that English spelling reflects how words sounded centuries ago, not how they sound today.

For example, the "K" in "knight" was actually pronounced in Old English.

Today nobody says it, but we still write it.

CATEGORY E: PUNCTUATION AND WRITING

Problem E-1: Punctuation Rules Are Complex and Inconsistent.

The comma alone has multiple different usage rules in English, and experts disagree on some of them.

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The Oxford comma, also called the serial comma - the last comma in a list before "and" - is considered mandatory by some style guides and optional or forbidden by others.

Diafina has simple, consistent, unambiguous punctuation rules.

Problem E-2: Capitalization Rules Are Complex.

English capitalizes the first word of a sentence, all proper nouns, the word "I" but not "me" or "my," and the first word after certain punctuation marks.

But not all proper nouns are obvious, and the rules have exceptions.

Diafina gives capital letters exactly one primary job, as Part Four records.

CATEGORY F: COMMUNICATION FAILURE MODES

Problem F-1: Ambiguity in Medical and Legal Contexts Is Dangerous.

In high-stakes domains like medicine and law, English ambiguity causes real harm.

A doctor writing an ambiguous prescription or a lawyer drafting an ambiguous contract can cause serious injury, financial loss, or death.

Legal language, called legalese, is famously complex precisely because lawyers try to close

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every possible interpretive loophole - but their tools, English words, resist this.

Diafina, with zero ambiguity by design, would be transformative for these domains.

Problem F-2: Machine Translation Fails Because of Ambiguity.

Machine Translation (MT) is the automated process of converting text from one language to another.

Machine Translation systems struggle enormously with English because of all the ambiguities listed above.

A well-designed Diafina would be dramatically easier to translate to and from.

Problem F-3: Voice Recognition Errors From Homophones.

Automatic Speech Recognition systems regularly make errors when encountering English homophones.

"Write the report" becomes "Right the report" in text.

"Their manager" becomes "There manager."

Diafina, with its one-sound-one-character rule, would reduce these errors dramatically.

CHAPTER 3: WHY THIS MATTERS NOW - THE MACHINES ARE TALKING

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For three hundred years, complaints about English spelling were a hobby for reformers and a headache for schoolchildren.

What changed is that a new population of English speakers arrived, numbering in the billions of running programs: Artificial Intelligence systems.

As of 2026, the world is actively building standards for Artificial Intelligence agents to talk to each other, and adoption is exploding.

One such standard, the Agent-to-Agent Protocol (A2A), passed one hundred fifty supporting organizations within a year and is used by Google, Microsoft, and Amazon.

Another, the Model Context Protocol (MCP), was running on more than ten thousand enterprise servers by April 2026.

These standards define the envelope - meaning how messages are addressed, formatted, and delivered - but not the precision of the words inside.

A 2025 research survey put it bluntly: these protocols "standardize the syntax of agent messages but cannot enforce semantic agreement."

In plain words, they make sure the message is well-formed and arrives safely, but they cannot guarantee that the two Artificial Intelligence systems actually mean the same thing by the words inside.

And what is inside those envelopes today?

Mostly ordinary, ambiguous English.

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That is the open gap.

The world has built good envelopes for machine-to-machine messages, but the letter inside the envelope is still written in messy, ambiguous English.

This is precisely the hole Diafina is shaped to fill: a clear, unambiguous, machine-readable content language that rides inside the envelopes the industry has already standardized.

Every problem cataloged in this part - the guessing, the context-dependence, the homonyms, the idioms - is a tax paid on every message, by every human learner and every machine, every day.

Diafina is the project to repeal that tax.

PART TWO - THE DREAMERS WHO CAME BEFORE

Every Ingredient of Diafina Already Exists Somewhere - and Every Earlier Project Failed at the Same Wall

CHAPTER 4: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S PHONETIC ALPHABET (1768)

Benjamin Franklin was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America, and he is effectively the grandfather of Diafina's first rule.

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In 1768, while living in London, he wrote a proposal called "A Scheme for a New Alphabet and a Reformed Mode of Spelling."

He never gave it a brand-style name.

Historians today simply call it "Benjamin Franklin's phonetic alphabet."

The word "phonetic" means writing that directly matches sound.

What he actually built.

Franklin worked out his alphabet by studying how the mouth makes each sound, grouping the sounds by the part of the body that forms them: the throat, the breath, the tongue, the teeth, and the lips.

This is the same idea modern linguists call articulation, meaning how and where in the mouth a sound is produced.

His core rule was exactly the rule Diafina now uses: every letter should stand for one sound, and one sound only.

The system had twenty-six characters in total.

He removed six existing letters that he judged redundant or confusing: C, J, Q, W, X, and Y.

For example, he pointed out that the letter "C" is unnecessary, because its hard sound is just a "K" and its soft sound is just an "S."

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That is precisely the decision later recorded in the Diafina Constitution.

To replace sounds that English wrote inconsistently, he invented six brand-new letters.

Those six new letters covered: a soft "o" sound as in "ball" or "folly"; the "sh" sound as in "ship"; the "ng" sound as in "sing"; two different "th" sounds, the soft one and the hard one; and a single letter for the "um" and "un" word-endings.

For long vowels, instead of silent letters, he simply doubled the vowel, so a long vowel was written twice.

In short, he had a finished and internally consistent design, not just a sketch.

How far he pushed it into the real world.

This is the part that makes Franklin's effort more serious than a thought experiment.

First, he solved the printing problem, at least once.

Because he was a master printer, he had new metal type cast for his six new letters.

Type, here, means the small metal blocks that old printing presses used, one block per character, so a new letter required a newly made block.

Second, he tested it with a real human being.

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He used the alphabet at length in a 1768 letter to his friend Mary Stevenson, known as Polly, who was the daughter of his London landlady, and whom he later gave away at her wedding.

Polly kept the materials for two months, transcribed them, and learned the system well enough to write back to him in it.

She also raised thoughtful objections to the scheme, which he answered.

This is an important and encouraging data point: a single motivated learner became fluent in a brand-new alphabet quickly, by mail, in 1768.

Third, he published it, eventually.

The scheme first appeared in print in 1779, in a London collection of his writings titled "Political, Miscellaneous, and Philosophical Pieces," edited by Benjamin Vaughan, complete with the rationale and printed samples in the newly cast type.

Later, in 1789, Noah Webster, an American who wrote dictionaries, described Franklin's proposal in his own book "Dissertations on the English Language."

Where it stalled, and why.

For all that design work, the active push was remarkably short.

Franklin seems to have taken little further interest after September of 1768, once he had

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shown it to Polly, received her reply in it, and answered her objections.

So the energetic phase lasted only a few months.

The reasons it went no further are the classic killers of language reform.

It was too radical for ordinary people, who saw new letters as strange and off-putting.

It required new type and new letters, so there was no existing infrastructure of keyboards, fonts, or publishers ready to use it.

It had no institutional backing, meaning no government, school, or publisher adopted it.

And critics ridiculed reform of this kind as an ugly corruption of the language, a reaction that later hit Webster's milder changes too.

Franklin himself did not sustain the campaign, and without a determined push it simply faded.

The afterlife - how Franklin's idea survived through Webster.

The project did not die without a trace, because it lit a fire under Noah Webster.

Webster was at first intrigued, and he even flirted with adopting a radical phonetic alphabet of his own.

But by about 1809 Webster concluded that a wholly new alphabet would, in his words, perplex rather

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than ease the learner, so he abandoned the radical path.

Instead, Webster pursued gentler, achievable changes that kept the ordinary alphabet, such as writing "color" instead of "colour" and "center" instead of "centre."

Those modest reforms did succeed, and they became the standard spellings of American English.

So the lesson of the Franklin-to-Webster story is double-edged: the bold all-new-alphabet approach failed, while the gentle, familiar, incremental approach actually stuck.

What Franklin teaches Diafina, point by point.

• His one-letter-one-sound principle is exactly Diafina's Rule 1, and his "remove C, use K and S" is exactly Diafina's first sound-table decision. The lineage is direct and real.

• His single proof with Polly Stevenson is genuine encouragement: a motivated learner can absorb a reformed writing system fast, which supports Diafina's bet that motivated users will learn it when they have a reason to.

• His fatal flaw was inventing new letters that needed new type. Diafina deliberately avoids this by using only existing keyboard and Unicode characters. Unicode is the worldwide standard that gives every text character a digital code.

• His short-lived, one-person push shows that design quality is not enough. Diafina's answer is

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a sustained adoption pathway with a real economic incentive - the Artificial-Intelligence-first strategy - rather than relying on a single champion's enthusiasm.

• Webster's success with gentle, familiar changes supports Diafina's "keep English, respell it" direction over a harsh, alien redesign. Familiarity is what actually gets adopted.

CHAPTER 5: ESPERANTO (1887)

Esperanto was created by a Polish eye doctor named Ludwik Lazarus Zamenhof.

He invented it to be a neutral, easy-to-learn international auxiliary language - a second language everyone could share for international communication.

What it got right:

• Regular grammar - no irregular verbs, consistent endings (nouns end in -o, adjectives in -a, adverbs in -e) - and a word-building system that allows speakers to generate mutually intelligible words from simpler vocabulary.

• Phonetic spelling - every letter makes exactly one sound.

• Easy to learn - its grammar can be learned in an afternoon.

Why it failed:

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• Network effects: language adoption follows positive-feedback loops. Incentives to learn a language increase with the number of speakers and the perceived utility. A network effect means a thing becomes more valuable as more people use it.

• No wide institutional adoption: few states adopted Esperanto for official use, and international bodies mostly chose other options.

• Esperanto's lack of native speakers limited its practical use in global communication, resulting in only about two million speakers worldwide.

• Languages carry cultural capital and identity. Nations and communities prefer their own languages, or a shared language with an economic payoff, rather than a neutral auxiliary.

There is one more Esperanto lesson, small in appearance and huge in consequence, that shaped Diafina's spelling decisions directly.

Esperanto used six marked letters - letters with small marks on them.

Because those letters were not on keyboards, Esperanto speakers were forced to invent plain-keyboard workarounds, called the h-system and the x-system, where a marked letter is written as a plain letter plus an "h" or an "x."

In other words, even the most successful constructed language could not escape needing a plain-keyboard version, and ended up using one anyway.

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That is a powerful lesson: if you adopt marked letters, you will still have to provide a plain-keyboard form, so you might as well make the plain form the official one.

Diafina's answer to Esperanto: Esperanto failed because it started with humans and tried to get to mass adoption.

Diafina's strategy is smarter: start with machine-to-machine communication, where there is immediate utility and no cultural resistance.

Artificial Intelligence systems do not care about cultural identity.

They just want to communicate precisely.

Build the value there first, then let human adoption follow the economic incentives.

CHAPTER 6: THE DVORAK KEYBOARD (1930s)

The Dvorak keyboard layout, named after its inventor August Dvorak, was designed in the 1930s to be a more efficient alternative to the QWERTY keyboard layout.

The QWERTY layout was designed for mechanical typewriters and actually deliberately slowed typists down to prevent keys from jamming.

Dvorak was scientifically designed to put the most common letters in the most accessible positions.

Studies suggest it is faster and causes less repetitive strain injury than QWERTY.

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Why it was not adopted:

• Hundreds of millions of people had already learned QWERTY.

• The cost of retraining was perceived as too high compared to the benefit.

• Typewriter manufacturers, businesses, and schools had no economic incentive to switch.

• Network effects again: the value of a tool increases with how many people use it.

Diafina's lesson: any input method for Diafina must work on existing hardware.

Do not require people to buy new keyboards.

Diafina is primarily a spoken language anyway, so the keyboard problem is secondary - but the text form of Diafina must use characters that existing keyboards and software can already produce.

CHAPTER 7: THE METRIC SYSTEM

The metric system is a system of measurement based on units of ten: meters, kilograms, liters, and so on.

It is objectively simpler and more logical than the Imperial system used in the United States: inches, feet, miles, pounds, gallons.

Almost every country in the world uses the metric system.

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The United States does not.

Why it was not adopted in the United States:

• There was no compelling immediate benefit for ordinary people.

• All existing infrastructure - road signs, manufacturing equipment, recipes - used Imperial units.

• The cost of conversion was perceived as enormous.

• There was no authority with the power and will to force the change.

Diafina's lesson: logical superiority is not enough to drive adoption.

There must be a clear, immediate, personal benefit for the people being asked to change.

Diafina's answer: the Artificial-Intelligence-first adoption path creates a genuine economic incentive - better communication with Artificial Intelligence systems, then job market demand - before asking humans to invest in learning it.

CHAPTER 8: THE CONTROLLED ENGLISHES - BASIC ENGLISH, GLOBISH, ANGLISH, AND SEASPEAK

Four projects tried to fix English by controlling it rather than replacing it.

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A controlled natural language (CNL) is a cut-down version of a real language, like English, with a smaller vocabulary and stricter grammar, designed to reduce confusion.

A constructed language, or conlang, by contrast, is a language a person deliberately invented rather than one that grew naturally.

Predecessor: Basic English (1930).

Basic English was created by Charles Kay Ogden in 1930.

It is a stripped-down English with only 850 words, of which just 18 are verbs, plus simple grammar.

Its purpose was to make English easier to learn as a second language and to serve as a shared international language for people.

Its lasting importance is that it is considered the first controlled natural language - the first deliberate effort to limit English vocabulary and grammar on purpose to reduce confusion.

What it fixes: it shrinks the vocabulary, so there are fewer words to learn and fewer near-synonyms to confuse people.

What it does not fix: it keeps normal English spelling, so the silent letters and the chaotic sound rules all remain, and it keeps English homonyms, so a word like "bank" still has two meanings.

Audience: human learners, not machines.

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Predecessor: Globish (2004).

Globish was formalized in 2004 by Jean-Paul Nerriere, a former international marketing executive at the technology company IBM.

It is a subset of English using about 1,500 common words, with idioms and jokes deliberately avoided.

Its purpose was practical business communication between people who do not share a first language.

Importantly, even its creator says Globish is "not a language" but rather the common ground that non-native speakers already fall back on.

What it fixes: it limits vocabulary and bans idioms, which removes some confusion.

What it does not fix: critics point out it still carries English's inconsistencies, it does not touch spelling or sound, it does not remove word-meaning ambiguity in any systematic way, and it has been criticized as commercially motivated because the name is a registered trademark.

Audience: human business speakers, not machines.

Predecessor: Anglish (name coined 1966).

Anglish is a hobby and art project, with the name coined by Paul Jennings in 1966.

Its goal is to rewrite English using mostly its original Germanic and Old English roots, removing

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the words English borrowed from Latin and French after the Norman invasion of 1066.

For example, enthusiasts replace Latin-derived words with Germanic-style words, and they experiment with new, more honest spellings along the way.

What it is good for: it proves that root-swapping and spelling experiments can be done while keeping a language recognizably English, which supports Diafina's respelling direction.

What it is not: it is not aimed at clarity, efficiency, or communication speed, and it is certainly not aimed at machines.

It is mainly about linguistic heritage and aesthetics, pursued by online hobby communities.

Audience: language hobbyists.

Predecessor: Seaspeak, also called SMCP (1983).

Seaspeak was created in 1983 by linguists and shipping experts, and it became the Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP).

In 1988 the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations body for shipping, made it the official language of the seas.

It is a controlled English with a very small vocabulary and fixed standard phrases, used for ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore radio communication so crews who speak different languages do not cause accidents.

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What it fixes: it removes ambiguity for a narrow set of safety messages by forcing exact, agreed phrases.

What it does not do: it only covers the maritime domain, it is a small fixed phrasebook rather than a full general language, and it keeps English spelling and sound.

Why it matters most to Diafina: it is the clearest proof that a controlled, rule-bound form of English can be formally adopted as an official standard when there is a strong practical need.

Audience: human ship crews over the radio.

Do any of the four achieve the machine-to-machine goal?

The short answer is no.

None of the four was designed for Artificial Intelligence systems talking to each other.

All four were built for humans talking to humans.

There is a deeper reason they fall short, and it is the same reason for all four.

Each one reduces the vocabulary, but none of them rebuilds the language to remove ambiguity at its root.

They all keep ordinary English spelling, so the one-sound-one-letter dream is absent.

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Three of the four - Basic English, Globish, Seaspeak - keep English homonyms, so the broken word "bank" with its two meanings survives in all of them.

A machine reading any of these four still has to guess meaning from context, which is exactly the problem Diafina exists to kill.

They are cousins of Diafina, not twins.

CHAPTER 9: LOJBAN - THE PRECISE LANGUAGE THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ENGLISH

If the controlled Englishes are not aimed at machines, it is fair to ask who is.

There are a few projects much closer to the machine-precision goal.

• Lojban and its parent Loglan - constructed languages built specifically so a computer can parse them without ambiguity. To "parse" means for a computer to break text into parts and understand their structure.

• Attempto Controlled English (ACE) - a controlled English designed so that every sentence maps cleanly onto formal logic that a computer can process. It is precise and machine-readable, but it is a narrow technical tool, not a language people would adopt for everyday speech.

Lojban deserves the closest look, because Diafina borrows from it directly.

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Lojban was created in 1987 by a group called the Logical Language Group (LLG), with origins going back to the Loglan project of the 1950s, which was originally designed to test the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis - the idea that the structure of a language shapes or even determines how its native speakers think.

Lojban was designed to be syntactically unambiguous - meaning its grammar rules make it impossible to construct a sentence with more than one valid interpretation.

That is almost exactly what Diafina is trying to achieve.

Lojban's machinery, in brief, from the project's study of Lojban tutorials:

• Lojban is built on predicate words, called brivla, each of which defines a relationship with numbered argument slots - for example, a word meaning "x1 is a word meaning x2 in language x3."

• Root relation words are called gismu, compound relation words are called lujvo, and borrowed words are called fu'ivla.

• Each root word has a short fragment form called a rafsi, and compound words are built by combining these short fragments, which keeps compounds compact.

• Structure words, called cmavo, handle grammar explicitly, including quantifiers - so a sentence like "zero cats are the leader" is expressed with an explicit digit-like quantifier word, with no ambiguity about scope.

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• Extra arguments are attached with modal tags, so information like "sent by the authorities in order to arrest you" hooks onto the sentence in an explicit, machine-checkable way rather than dangling ambiguously.

The listening test, and the verdict.

After actually listening to spoken Lojban, the project's reaction was strongly negative.

Spoken Lojban sounds like gibberish to an English ear.

The specific impression recorded in the notes was that it sounded like Jabba the Hutt talking - a fictional alien character with thick, guttural, non-human speech.

This is a real problem, not a small one.

A language that sounds alien creates an immediate emotional wall for new learners.

People do not want to open their mouths and produce sounds that feel foreign and silly to them.

So Lojban is kept as a lesson in grammar design, but it is rejected as a model for how Diafina should sound.

The good news about borrowing.

The people who maintain Lojban, the Logical Language Group, state that all of Lojban's

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language definition information is irrevocably in the public domain.

Public domain means material that no one owns and anyone may freely use, for any purpose, including building a new language on top of it.

There is also a deeper legal point worth understanding.

Copyright protects a specific piece of writing, such as the exact words of a book, but it does not protect a language itself or a grammatical system as an idea.

So the underlying logical structure of a grammar is generally free to reuse even before you consider Lojban's public-domain status, and Lojban removes any doubt by explicitly releasing its definitions.

Here is the elegant move this opens up.

"How a language sounds" and "how a language is structured" are two separate things.

Diafina can borrow Lojban's unambiguous logical grammar, which is its genuine strength, while throwing away its alien-sounding words and replacing them with familiar respelled English words.

In other words: take Lojban's precise skeleton and dress it in English-sounding skin.

That combination - a logical and unambiguous grammar wearing familiar English clothing - is

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something neither Lojban nor plain English currently offers.

One caution: when copying any specific written rule text or example tables word for word, keep the short public-domain notice with it, which is all the Logical Language Group asks.

CHAPTER 10: THE KEYBOARD-FRIENDLY PHONETIC SYSTEMS - SAMPA, X-SAMPA, AND ARPABET

Three more predecessors solved a narrower version of Diafina's problem decades ago: how to write the sounds of speech using only the plain characters on a normal keyboard.

First, a definition all three depend on.

The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is the scientific system in which every human speech sound has its own symbol, such as the upside-down "e" for the "uh" sound.

The problem is that International Phonetic Alphabet symbols are not on a normal keyboard and were historically hard to email or process by computer.

So three systems were invented to re-spell each sound using only plain keyboard characters, which are formally called ASCII characters.

ASCII stands for the American Standard Code for Information Interchange, and it is the basic set of about ninety-five printable characters found on every keyboard: the letters, the digits, and the common punctuation.

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How SAMPA works.

SAMPA stands for the Speech Assessment Methods Phonetic Alphabet.

It was created in the late 1980s by a European Union project, so that phoneticians could exchange pronunciation by email and process it by computer.

• Each sound is written with one ASCII character.

• Ordinary letters keep their obvious value, so "p" is the "p" sound and "s" is the "s" sound.

• For sounds that have no obvious Latin letter, it reuses capital letters: capital "S" means the "sh" sound, capital "T" means the "th" in "thin," capital "D" means the "th" in "this," capital "N" means the "ng" sound, and the at sign "@" means the schwa, the "uh" sound.

• It is case-sensitive, meaning capital and lowercase letters mean different sounds.

• It had a separate chart for each language.

The key idea: one keyboard character per sound, with capitals pressed into service for the leftover sounds.

How X-SAMPA works.

X-SAMPA stands for Extended SAMPA, created by the phonetician John Wells in 1995.

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Its goal was to unify SAMPA into a single system that could write every sound in the entire International Phonetic Alphabet, for all languages at once.

• The most common sounds are still one keyboard character each, and capitals still differ from lowercase.

• Rarer sounds are written as a character followed by a backslash.

• Accent marks, which linguists call diacritics, are added with an underscore followed by a letter.

• A few special marks are reserved, such as the tilde for a nasal sound, and the numbers one through six for tone – the musical pitch used in languages like Chinese.

The key idea: it is powerful and complete, but it pays for that power with cryptic backslashes and underscores that are hard to read.

How ARPABET works.

ARPABET is named after the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), the United States research body that created it in the 1970s for early speech-recognition research.

Unlike X-SAMPA, it only covers General American English.

• Each sound is written with a one or two letter code, in capitals, such as "B," "K," "SH," "TH," "NG," and "CH."

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• Vowels are two-letter codes, such as "AA," "IY," and "UW."

• The codes are separated by spaces, one space between each sound.

• Vowels can carry a stress number, where zero means unstressed, one means main stress, and two means secondary stress, so the word "table" is written "T EY1 B AH0 L."

ARPABET powers a very useful free resource called the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Pronouncing Dictionary.

That dictionary lists the ARPABET pronunciation of about 134,000 English words, using a set of thirty-nine sounds.

The key idea: simple, English-only, machine-friendly, and tied to a large free pronunciation dataset.

The crucial difference from Diafina.

These three systems are notations - tools for writing down pronunciation for machines and linguists.

They were never meant to be everyday writing that ordinary people read for pleasure.

Diafina is the opposite: it is a real language meant to be read and spoken comfortably by people, while also being precise for machines.

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So Diafina treats these systems as a back-room bridge and a source of proven ideas, not as a model for how Diafina text should look on the page.

What Diafina adopts from them:

• The core proof: a complete sound system can be written with only standard keyboard characters.

• Keep familiar letters as themselves, the way all three keep "b," "d," "f," "k," "m," "n," "p," "s," "t," "v," and "z" as their obvious sounds.

• Prefer one character per sound, which is SAMPA's discipline.

• Keep one unified system for everything, which is X-SAMPA's improvement over SAMPA's separate charts.

• Maintain an official cross-reference table that maps each Diafina letter to its International Phonetic Alphabet symbol, its X-SAMPA code, and its ARPABET code - the bridge that lets Diafina connect to existing speech tools and dictionaries.

• Consider ARPABET's numeric stress marks if Diafina ever needs to mark stress in reference materials.

What Diafina rejects from them:

• Using capital and lowercase letters to mean different sounds - this collides head-on with Diafina's rule that capital letters mark proper nouns. This is the single biggest incompatibility.

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• The all-capitals, space-between-every-sound format of ARPABET as everyday text.

• Two-letter codes for single sounds wherever a single freed-up letter can do the job.

• The backslash-and-underscore modifier machinery of X-SAMPA.

• Full International Phonetic Alphabet coverage – Diafina needs only about the forty-four sounds of English.

• Per-language fragmentation.

The practical payoff: because the Carnegie Mellon dictionary already contains the pronunciation of well over one hundred thousand English words in ARPABET, a computer can automatically generate a first-draft Diafina spelling for every one of them.

That shortcut became Decision 8 of the Decision Record in Part Eight.

CHAPTER 11: A DETOUR THAT PROVED A PILLAR – GIBBERLINK AND THE BEEPING MACHINES

One more piece of prior art shaped the project by showing what Diafina must never become.

There is a technology called GibberLink, created by two developers named Boris Starkov and Anton Pidkuiko.

The underlying technology that produces its modem-like beeps and chirps is an open-source sound

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library called ggwave, created by a developer named Georgi Gerganov around late 2020.

ggwave turns digital data into sound and back again, using a technique called Frequency-Shift Keying (FSK).

When two Artificial Intelligence voice agents recognize each other, they can switch from spoken English to these rapid data-chirps and communicate far faster.

GibberLink and ggwave are wonderful technologies that demonstrate the power of direct machine-to-machine communication.

But they are unacceptable as a model for this project, for one decisive reason: they are not directly human-interpretable.

A human standing in the room hears only beeps.

That failure is recorded permanently in the Diafina Constitution as a note under Pillar 4: a purely machine-friendly signal that humans cannot read is explicitly rejected, because the language must always remain something a human can read aloud.

CHAPTER 12: ARE WE REINVENTING THE WHEEL, OR ARE WE UNIQUE?

The honest answer is: both, and understanding the split is the key to the whole project.

Every single ingredient of Diafina already exists somewhere.

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• Simplified or controlled English already exists - Basic English, Globish, Seaspeak.

• Phonetic spelling reform already exists - Benjamin Franklin's alphabet, the Shavian alphabet, Anglish spelling experiments.

• A zero-ambiguity, machine-parseable constructed language already exists - Lojban, Loglan, Attempto Controlled English.

• Self-defining compound words already exist - German compounding, Lojban compounds, the Sona language.

• Envelopes for machine-to-machine messages already exist - the Model Context Protocol, the Agent-to-Agent Protocol, the Agent Communication Protocol.

So if Diafina were only one of these ingredients, it would be reinventing a wheel that already rolls.

But Diafina is not one ingredient.

Diafina is a specific combination of all of them at once, and that exact combination does not exist today.

No current project delivers all five of these together:

• Sounds familiar to English speakers, so humans adopt it easily, AND

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• Has honest one-sound-one-letter spelling, so it is phonetically clean, AND

• Has one word for one meaning, so it is semantically unambiguous, AND

• Is readable by both humans and machines, so it bridges the two worlds, AND

• Comes with an Artificial-Intelligence-first adoption plan that targets the open semantic gap in agent communication.

Lojban has precision but sounds alien and ignores English familiarity.

Globish and Basic English have English familiarity but keep the ambiguity and the broken spelling.

The agent protocols have the envelope but leave the contents ambiguous.

Diafina's claim to be unique rests on the bridge, not on any single plank.

It is the only project trying to be familiar to humans and precise for machines at the same time, and to enter through machine-to-machine communication first.

You are not reinventing the wheel, but you are also not inventing a brand-new wheel from nothing.

You are assembling proven wheels into a vehicle no one has built yet, and pointing it at a road that has just opened.

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PART THREE – THE BIRTH OF A LANGUAGE

From a Late-Night Idea Called AllTalk to a Name Called Diafina

CHAPTER 13: THE FOUNDING DOCUMENT – "ENGLISH IS TOO CHALLENGING. READY? HERE WE GO!"

Every project has a founding moment, and Diafina's is preserved word-for-word in the project archive.

It began as a raw, energetic burst of frustration and vision, under the working title "AllTalk" – a name inspired by the "AllSpark" from the Transformers movies.

The founding notes, lightly condensed, said this:

English is difficult to read – the same letters make different sounds, while in Spanish a, e, i, o, u each make one singular sound.

There is a joke that "GHOTI" reads as "FISH."

So the new language will have symbols where every symbol makes one singular sound.

English is an amalgamation of so many languages – Greek, Roman, loan words, and more – and that is the story of how English got so bad.

Then there are meanings: the same words mean different things depending on the context.

Every letter will have exactly one sound when read.

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Every word will have exactly one meaning when read.

There will be other rules too, for clarity of reading and understanding.

The Artificial Intelligences will be the first to speak it: in a multi-agent system, a vision model may report what it sees to a reasoning model, which will take those statements and apply reasoning to them.

English will be the starting point, because it is the dominant language on the planet, but we will all convert.

First the Artificial Intelligences will talk it to each other.

Then the Artificial Intelligence engineers will use it to talk to their systems more efficiently.

Then it will be important for job security.

Then it will be taught in schools.

Didn't Benjamin Franklin try to make a symbol language that could be easily read?

And what happened to Esperanto?

And why wasn't the Dvorak keyboard adopted?

And why wasn't the metric system adopted?

All of these failures in adoption will be analyzed to make this project more successful.

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Ready?

Here we go!

The founding notes also seeded two ideas that survive unchanged in today's Constitution: the intensifier feature - "Angry-1 will mean a little angry and Angry-10 will mean very angry" - and the declaration of war on rules with exceptions - "We are not going to have silly rules like I before E except after C."

And they flagged, from day one, the two honest problems the project would spend the most effort solving: the keyboard problem - how do we type all those characters? - and the recognition that this would be primarily a speech language that must remain a fully human language even while being machine-optimized.

CHAPTER 14: THE LONG HUNT FOR A NAME

The original working name "AllTalk" had two problems by the project's own rules:

• The double-L is a redundant character.

• The "L" in "talk" is silent, which directly violates the no-silent-characters rule.

So "AllTalk" would have been spelled differently inside the language itself - and worse, it collides with an existing Artificial Intelligence voice project called alltalk_tts.

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The project needed a real name, and the criteria were set early:

• Short and memorable.

• Easy to pronounce globally.

• Evocative of precision, clarity, and communication.

• No trademark or copyright conflicts.

The first brainstorm produced twelve candidates: Claritalk, Sona, Unisound, Precis, Veritas, Nexal, Logotalk, Clearspeech, Omnitalk, Puretalk, Truesay, and Exacta.

The key insight from that round: the most elegant choice would be a name that is already compliant with the language's own rules - one character per sound, one meaning, no silent characters.

Then came a deeper insight, recorded during the design-direction change in Part Five: you cannot finalize any name until you first build the sound table, because every candidate has to be checked against the finished sound-to-letter rules.

The names should be the last thing frozen, not the first.

The full journey, kept as a historical record so the reasoning is never lost and settled questions are not reopened:

• AllTalk - the original working name. Retired, because it collides with an existing Artificial Intelligence voice project and breaks the

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language's own rules with a doubled "L" and a silent "L."

• Emenda – chosen briefly, then retired. It is a registered trademark in the United States, the European Union, Switzerland, and China, held by a software company that has added Artificial Intelligence features. That made it high risk.

• Sona – retired, because it is already the name of an existing constructed language from 1935.

• English_Plus and English_2.0 – retired, because they tie the project to the very thing it is replacing and are hard to protect.

• Klartok – retired, because although it followed the rules, it sounded harsh and alien, like a science-fiction planet.

• Altok – retired, because its "a" and "o" were heard as the same vowel, breaking the rule that no two letters share a sound. This catch produced the sound-table-first insight above.

• Precis – retired, because an existing company called Precis AI already occupies almost the same name in the field.

• Limpida – retired, because it reads as "limp" and carries an unfortunate meaning.

• Serena – retired, because "Serena" is the registered trademark of Serena Software, a large company in the field, now part of OpenText.

• Velia, Soluna, Tavi, Niva – retired, because each had a real conflict: Velia and Soluna are

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active companies in Artificial-Intelligence computing, Tavi is crowded and dominated by a heart-surgery acronym, and Niva sits too close to the Nivea brand and the Lada Niva car.

• Klarida – a strong contender, set aside, because a now-closed company sold "Clarida" Artificial Intelligence software, a sound-alike in the field.

• Elucia, later Elusia – set aside, because under the letter rules it becomes "Elusia," which echoes "elusive," the opposite of clarity.

• Diafana – the true Greek word, a close second, but it is already used by a French film distributor and a cosmetics supplier.

• Diafina – chosen. The coined cousin of Diafana, it keeps the meaning and the music, came back clean in every search, and obeys all the rules.

CHAPTER 15: WHY DIAFINA WON

Diafina was judged against the project's six naming tests, and it passed all of them.

• Rule-compliant: it has no letter "C," no "ph," and no doubled letters, so it obeys the language's own spelling rules.

• Short and memorable: three smooth syllables, dee-ah-FEE-nah, with a pleasant mouth-feel.

• Familiar yet distinctive: it echoes the real English word "diaphanous," so it does not sound alien, yet it is distinct enough to own.

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• Built from a real root: it comes from a genuine Greek root, not a word invented from nothing.

• Conflict-free: repeated searches found no competing company, no registered trademark, and no field overlap, which is rare and valuable.

• Mission-stating: "transparent" is the ideal image for a zero-ambiguity language.

The tagline: "Fixing what's broken with English."

CHAPTER 16: THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME, AND THE DOUBLE-CHECK

Diafina is a gentle coinage built from a real Greek root.

The root is the Greek word "diaphanes," which means transparent, or literally "showing through."

That word is built from two parts: "dia," meaning through, and "phainein," meaning to show or to bring to light.

So the literal sense is "shown through," which is a beautiful image for this project, because the whole goal of the language is that meaning shows through clearly, with nothing hidden.

The same Greek root gives English the word "diaphanous," which describes something sheer and see-through, such as a thin fabric you can see light through.

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The path of the word was Greek "diaphanes," then Medieval Latin "diaphanus," then the English "diaphanous" by the seventeenth century.

How the project got from there to "Diafina":

• The starting point was the true Greek form, which would be written "Diafana" in this language.

• It was respelled with the letter "f," not "ph," because the language's sound rules forbid "ph."

• The final part was then softened from "Diafana" to "Diafina" for a smoother mouth-feel, and because the coined form came back cleaner in conflict searches.

A helpful side effect: the honest spelling also sets the name apart from an existing film company spelled "Diaphana," because the language's own spelling is genuinely different on the page.

A second, focused clearance search was then run on Diafina across trademarks, companies, web presence, and foreign meanings.

Here is what it found.

• Trademark: no registered trademark named "Diafina" surfaced. A direct search of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) database remains the final confirmation, but nothing appeared in open searching.

• Companies: no company or product uses the exact name "Diafina." The nearest technology names are differently spelled, such as Difinity, Dify, and Diaflow, which are far enough apart not to clash.

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• Field overlap: none found in language, Artificial Intelligence, or software.

• Web address: no business appears to hold the obvious address, so it is likely available, though this must be confirmed directly at a domain registrar.

• Social media: one small personal account exists on Instagram using the handle "diafina" with a trailing underscore. That is not a company and not a conflict, but it means the plain handle may need a small variation.

• Meaning in other languages: no rude or embarrassing meaning was found. The closest real name is "Dafina," a given name meaning "precious" or "hidden treasure" in Albanian and Swahili and "laurel" in Greek, all of which are positive.

Verdict: Diafina passes the double-check, and remains low risk.

It is the cleanest name to emerge from the entire search process, it obeys every language rule, and its meaning is a perfect fit for the mission.

Two routine confirmations remain, and how to handle them became Decision 9 of the Decision Record in Part Eight: confirm the web address at a domain registrar, and have a trademark attorney run a formal search in the software and education categories.

PART FOUR - THE CONSTITUTION

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The Highest Rulebook of the Language

CHAPTER 17: WHY A LANGUAGE NEEDS A CONSTITUTION

The Diafina Constitution is the highest-level rulebook for the language.

It records the meta-rules - meaning the rules about the rules - that every later decision must obey.

If any future design choice ever conflicts with the Constitution, the Constitution wins, unless it is formally amended.

The preamble states the mission in plain words: "fixing what is broken with English."

English is a powerful language, but it is broken in specific, well-documented ways: chaotic spelling, silent letters, words with many meanings, irregular grammar, and idioms that mean nothing literally.

These flaws force both human learners and Artificial Intelligence systems to guess meaning from context, and guessing causes error.

This language is built to remove that guessing.

Diafina belongs to a known family called engineered languages, often shortened to engelangs.

An engineered language is a deliberately designed language built to meet a precise goal - in this

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case maximum clarity and zero ambiguity - rather than to grow naturally or to sound pretty.

Ambiguity means the quality of having more than one possible meaning, and removing it is the central purpose of everything below.

CHAPTER 18: ARTICLE 1 - THE FIVE PILLARS

These five pillars are the identity of the language.

They are the combination that no existing project delivers all at once, and together they are the reason this project is unique rather than a copy.

No future decision may quietly drop one of these pillars.

• Pillar 1, English Familiarity - the language keeps as many English words as possible, so that speakers of English hear words they already recognize, which lowers the effort of switching.

• Pillar 2, Honest Phonetic Spelling - every letter makes exactly one sound and every sound is written with exactly one letter, so spelling finally matches speech.

• Pillar 3, One Word, One Meaning - every word carries exactly one meaning, so no listener or machine ever has to guess which meaning was intended.

• Pillar 4, Human-and-Machine Readable - the language must be easy for ordinary people to read

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and speak, and at the same time precise enough for a computer to parse without confusion.

• Pillar 5, AI-First Adoption – the language enters the world through Artificial Intelligence systems talking to each other first, where there is immediate value and no cultural resistance, and only later spreads to humans.

A note on Pillar 4, recorded so it is never forgotten.

A purely machine-friendly signal that humans cannot read – for example, data encoded as modem-like beeps – is explicitly rejected, because it fails the human half of Pillar 4.

The language must always remain something a human can read aloud.

CHAPTER 19: ARTICLE 2 – THE CORE LANGUAGE RULES

These are the unchanging rules of the language itself.

Each one exists to kill a specific, documented flaw of English.

Rule 1: One Character, One Sound.

Every character always makes exactly one sound, in every word, with no exceptions.

No character is ever silent, and no character changes its sound depending on the word around it.

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Rule 2: One Sound, One Character.

Every sound is written with exactly one character, and no two characters ever make the same sound.

Rule 1 and Rule 2 together create a perfect one-to-one match between sounds and letters, in both directions.

Rule 3: One Word, One Meaning.

Every word has exactly one meaning.

There are no homonyms - words spelled the same but meaning different things - and no single word with many meanings.

The broken English word "bank" is therefore split into separate words such as river_bank and money_bank.

Rule 4: No Silent Characters.

If you see a character, you say it, and if you say a sound, you write it.

Nothing on the page is ever left unspoken.

Rule 5: No Irregular Forms.

Grammar is applied the same way to every word.

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There are no irregular verbs, no irregular plurals, and no special cases that must be memorized one by one.

Rule 6: No Idioms.

Every sentence means exactly what its words literally say.

There are no phrases whose real meaning differs from the plain sum of their parts.

Rule 7: The Intensifier System.

Qualities that exist on a scale, such as emotions, use a number from 1 to 10 instead of many separate words.

For example, happy-1 means barely happy and happy-10 means extremely happy, which replaces a crowd of vague synonyms with one precise scale.

Rule 8: No Exceptions to Grammar or Syntax.

Grammar rules have no exceptions.

Syntax rules have no exceptions.

Grammar means the full set of rules for how words change and combine, and syntax means specifically the rules for word order and sentence structure.

The guiding sentence for this rule, borrowed from the project's earliest notes, is simple: if a rule

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has an exception, it is not a rule, it is only a suggestion.

Any proposed rule that would need even one exception must be redesigned until it needs none, or it must be rejected.

This single rule is what makes the language fully predictable for both a child learning it and a machine parsing it.

CHAPTER 20: ARTICLE 2A – THE EARLY SOUND-TABLE DECISIONS

This article records concrete decisions about specific letters, made as the sound table was built.

The sound table is the official list of the language's sounds and the single letter assigned to each one.

Decision: The letter "C" is removed from its English jobs.

In English the letter "C" is unreliable, because it makes a soft "S" sound in words like "cent" and a hard "K" sound in words like "cat."

That breaks Rule 1, which demands exactly one sound per character.

So "C" is eliminated in its English roles, and its two jobs are handed to the letters that already make those sounds honestly: "K" for the hard sound, and "S" for the soft sound.

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This is exactly the reform that Benjamin Franklin proposed in 1768.

Worked example: the candidate name "Clarida" is therefore spelled "Klarida," because the "C" in it makes a hard "K" sound.

The freed letter "C" is then given a new, single job in the sound table, as Part Five records.

Decision: The two-letter spelling "ph" is removed.

In English, "ph" is a disguised way of writing the "f" sound, as in "phone" and "photo."

That breaks Rule 1, because the "f" sound already has its own honest letter, "f."

So "ph" is never used, and the "f" sound is always written with the single letter "f," no matter how English happened to spell it, including the "gh" in "laugh."

Worked example: the Greek-rooted word "diaphanes" is spelled "diafanes," which is the origin of the project name Diafina.

The same one-sound-per-character logic later decided the fate of the other double-duty English letters, "Q" and "X," which are given new single jobs in the sound table in Part Five.

CHAPTER 21: ARTICLE 3 - THE DESIGN-DIRECTION RULES

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These rules describe how the language is built in practice.

They put the Five Pillars into action.

Rule 9: Keep English, but Respell It.

Existing English words are kept for familiarity, but their spelling is rebuilt to obey Rules 1 through 4.

For example, "talk" becomes "tok" because the silent letter is dropped, and "phone" becomes "fon" because the sound is written honestly.

The word stays recognizable to the ear, while the spelling becomes honest on the page.

This rule records a major design-direction change in the project's history.

Early notes praised Lojban's precision, but the listening test - spoken Lojban sounding like an alien - produced the new core principle: familiarity first.

Diafina should sound familiar to English speakers, so that a person hearing it for the first time recognizes many words right away.

This makes Diafina a bridge language - a stepping stone from English - not a leap into the unknown.

The lower the switching cost, the faster the adoption.

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Rule 10: Build New Words by Compounding.

New words are formed by gluing together simple existing words, in the manner of German, where "hand" plus "shoe" builds the word for glove.

This makes new words self-defining, because a reader who knows the parts can understand the whole without being taught it separately.

Rule 11: Written Joining Uses the Underscore.

In writing, the parts of a compound word are joined with an underscore, as in money_bank.

The underscore is chosen because it is clear to humans, has no mathematical meaning to confuse a machine, and is already familiar to programmers.

Rule 12: Spoken Joining Uses a Short Neutral Sound.

In speech, the parts of a compound word are joined with a brief, unstressed neutral vowel.

Linguists call this sound a schwa, and it is the soft "uh" sound in the word "about."

So money_bank is spoken roughly as "money-uh-bank," giving the listener a clear audio signal that two roots are being joined.

Rule 13: Capital Letters Are Reserved for Proper Nouns.

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Capital letters carry exactly one primary job: marking proper nouns, which are the names of specific people, places, and organizations.

A recorded, revisable exception was adopted in the Decision Record (Part Eight, Decision 5): in the small set of word pairs where syllable stress alone distinguishes meaning, the stressed syllable may be written in capitals.

This exception is deliberately narrow, is logged for future review, and must never expand into general capitalization.

Rule 14: Borrow Proven Structure, Not Foreign Sound.

The language may borrow logical grammar and syntax ideas from earlier engineered languages, especially Lojban, whose definitions are irrevocably in the public domain and therefore free to use.

However, the language borrows their unambiguous structure only, and never their alien sound, because Pillar 1 requires familiarity to the English ear.

Rule 15: Symbols Serve Structure, Letters Serve Sounds.

Keyboard symbols, such as the underscore, the hyphen, and the digits, are used only for structure and function - joining compound words, counting on the intensifier scale, punctuation,

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and marking - and never stand for core speech sounds.

Core speech sounds are always written with letters.

This keeps Diafina readable to people, and safe to embed inside the machine formats it is designed to travel within.

Rule 16: The Two-Spelling System.

Diafina has two written forms of the same words.

The common spelling is the plain keyboard form, and it is canonical - the official, stored, typed, dictated, machine-read version.

The formal spelling is a set of single marked letters for the six special sounds, an exact display rendering of the same words.

Every common spelling maps to exactly one formal spelling, and back again, with no exceptions, so conversion is automatic and never needs guessing.

The two forms must always carry identical content, so they remain two views of one language, never two competing standards.

The common spelling always governs.

Part Six tells the full story of this rule, and the Decision Record in Part Eight locks its exact letters and its activation policy.

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CHAPTER 22: THE PROCESS PRINCIPLES

Two working principles guide how the language is built.

Principle A: Sound Table First.

The sound table is the foundation that other decisions rest on.

No name, word, or spelling is final until it has been checked against the finished sound table.

Principle B: Use Existing Keyboards and Characters.

No Diafina spelling in everyday use may require a character that is not already on a standard keyboard.

This makes "typable today" a law of the language, not an afterthought, and it is the direct answer to the failure that killed Franklin's alphabet.

Amendment process: if a future decision requires changing the Constitution - for example, ever making marked letters the primary form - the change must be made deliberately, in writing, with the reasoning recorded, and never silently.

A note on the record: the source file of the Constitution in the project archive is truncated mid-sentence inside Rule 15, so the closing articles above are restored here from the many cross-references to them throughout the other project documents.

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This restored text should be reviewed and re-adopted as the authoritative version.

PART FIVE - THE SOUND OF DIAFINA

One Accent, Forty-Four Sounds, and an Ordinary Keyboard

CHAPTER 23: WHY A SOUND TABLE NEEDS ONE CHOSEN ACCENT

An accent is a way of pronouncing a language.

The same written word is said with different sounds by different people, so "bath" and "car" sound different in London than in Texas.

Diafina's job is to match each sound to exactly one letter.

But you cannot match sounds to letters if the sounds keep changing depending on who is speaking.

So you must first pick one accent to measure against, called the reference accent.

This is not saying that accent is better, only that it is the ruler we measure with, so the work stays consistent.

Diafina's reference accent is General American.

General American is the broad, neutral American accent, the kind often heard from national news anchors in the United States.

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It is widely understood, well documented, and not tied to one small region.

There are two large reasons for the choice.

Reason one: it matches free, ready-made tools.

ARPABET, introduced in Part Two, was built for American English.

The Carnegie Mellon University Pronouncing Dictionary describes the American accent, listing the ARPABET pronunciation of well over one hundred thousand English words.

Because that dictionary describes the American accent, choosing General American means Diafina can reuse it directly: a computer can take those pronunciations and automatically produce a first-draft Diafina spelling for every one of them.

If Diafina instead chose a British accent, that free dictionary would not match, and the head start would be lost.

Reason two: it pronounces every "r."

This is about a feature called rhoticity.

A rhotic accent pronounces the "r" sound everywhere the letter "r" is written, including after a vowel, as in "car," "hard," and "butter."

A non-rhotic accent drops the "r" after a vowel, so "car" sounds like "cah."

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General American is rhotic.

The standard British accent, called Received Pronunciation, is non-rhotic.

This single difference simplifies Diafina's vowels a great deal.

A diphthong is a vowel that glides from one position to another inside a single syllable, like the vowel in "coin" sliding from "o" to "i."

A centering diphthong is a special kind that glides inward toward the soft "uh" sound, the schwa.

In a non-rhotic accent like British, the words "near," "square," and "cure" use these centering diphthongs, precisely because the "r" is not pronounced - "near" sounds roughly like "NEE-uh."

Those gliding centering vowels are extra, awkward sounds that would each need their own spelling.

In a rhotic accent like General American, the "r" in those same words is pronounced, so the gliding vanishes and the word becomes a plain vowel followed by a clear "r."

So Diafina can write "near," "square," and "cure" as a vowel plus the letter "r," using letters it already has.

There is no need to invent three new vowel symbols, because the pronounced "r" does the work.

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The net effect of choosing General American: a free starter dictionary of over one hundred thousand words, and a smaller, tidier vowel system.

CHAPTER 24: FRANKLIN'S PRINCIPLES WITHOUT FRANKLIN'S LETTERS

The single most useful idea in the alphabet design is to separate two things that are easy to confuse.

The first thing is the sound system - the list of distinct sounds Diafina uses and how we describe them precisely.

The second thing is the typed letters - the actual keys a person presses to write Diafina.

These do not have to be the same.

A sound can be defined with great scientific precision using a special symbol, and still be typed with an ordinary letter.

Keeping these two layers separate lets Diafina be both scientifically exact and easy to type.

A phoneme is a single distinct sound in a language, and English has about forty-four of them.

From Franklin, Diafina adopts the principles but not the letters: the one-sound-one-letter rule, the removal of redundant letters, and honest vowel spelling - while leaving his six hand-drawn symbols in the history book.

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From the International Phonetic Alphabet, Diafina takes a small slice as the scientific backbone: the official dictionary reference for what each Diafina letter sounds like, sitting quietly behind the scenes.

The full International Phonetic Alphabet has about 107 letters plus 52 accent marks, because it is built to write every sound in every human language on Earth - far more than Diafina needs.

And the schwa question, which the project owner put a finger on exactly: the schwa is the soft "uh" sound, as in the "a" in "about," and it is the single most common vowel sound in English.

But its symbol, the upside-down "e," is not a key on any keyboard.

The answer is the two-layer idea: define the schwa with its official symbol in the reference chart, and assign it an ordinary, typeable letter for everyday writing.

As the sound table below records, that ordinary letter is "u" - the schwa is simply the unstressed form of the "u" vowel, so the most common vowel in English needs no special character at all.

CHAPTER 25: THE CONSOLIDATED SOUND TABLE

This is the single authoritative list of Diafina sounds and their common spellings.

Each sound below shows an example English word and the Diafina letter.

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The ground rules from the Constitution that shape this table:

• One letter, one sound, and one sound, one letter, as far as the keyboard allows.

• Capital letters are never used to mark a sound.

• Symbols serve structure and function only, never core sounds.

• The common spelling shown here is canonical; the formal spelling of Part Six is an exact display rendering.

SECTION ONE: THE CONSONANTS – TWENTY-FOUR SOUNDS

Twenty-one consonants get a clean single letter, and three use a controlled two-letter spelling.

• "pat" – the "p" sound – Diafina p.

• "bat" – the "b" sound – Diafina b.

• "ten" – the "t" sound – Diafina t.

• "dog" – the "d" sound – Diafina d.

• "cat" – the hard "k" sound – Diafina k.

• "got" – the "g" sound – Diafina g.

• "fan" – the "f" sound – Diafina f.

• "van" – the "v" sound – Diafina v.

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- "sun" - the "s" sound - Diafina s.
- "zoo" - the "z" sound - Diafina z.
- "hat" - the "h" sound - Diafina h.
- "man" - the "m" sound - Diafina m.
- "net" - the "n" sound - Diafina n.
- "leg" - the "l" sound - Diafina l.
- "red" - the "r" sound - Diafina r.
- "wet" - the "w" sound - Diafina w.
- "yes" - the "y" glide - Diafina y.
- "ship" - the "sh" sound - Diafina x. The freed letter.
- "chair" - the "ch" sound - Diafina c. The freed letter.
- "jam" - the "j" sound - Diafina j.
- "sing" - the "ng" sound - Diafina q. The freed letter.
- "thin" - the voiceless "th" sound - Diafina th. Controlled pair.
- "this" - the voiced "th" sound - Diafina dh. Controlled pair.
- "measure" - the "zh" sound - Diafina zh. Controlled pair, the rarest consonant.

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SECTION TWO: THE RULE THAT KEEPS "TH," "DH," AND "ZH" SAFE

The three two-letter consonants all end in "h," so this rule prevents misreading, with no exceptions.

The letter "h" is the "hat" sound only at the start of a syllable, before a vowel.

After "t," "d," or "z," the letter "h" is never a separate sound, but always forms the single sounds "th," "dh," or "zh."

Because compound words are joined with an underscore, a real "t" plus "h" across a word boundary is separated by that underscore, so it can never be confused with the "th" sound.

SECTION THREE: A NOTE ON THE FREED LETTERS Q AND X

Because "q" now spells the "ng" sound and "x" now spells the "sh" sound, the old English clusters they used to hint at are simply spelled out.

The "kw" cluster, as in "queen," is written "kw," giving "kween."

The "ks" cluster, as in "box," is written "ks," giving "boks."

This keeps every letter to one sound and needs no special handling.

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SECTION FOUR: THE VOWELS – EIGHT PURE VOWELS

A monophthong is a pure vowel that does not glide.

These use the five vowel letters plus three familiar two-letter vowels.

The schwa, the soft "uh" sound, is simply the unstressed form of "u," so the most common vowel needs no special character.

- "sit," the "kit" vowel – Diafina i.
- "bed," the "dress" vowel – Diafina e.
- "cat," the "trap" vowel – Diafina a.
- "cot" and "caught," merged into one vowel – Diafina o.
- "cup," the "strut" vowel, and unstressed the schwa – Diafina u.
- "see," the "fleece" vowel – Diafina ee.
- "moon," the "goose" vowel – Diafina oo.
- "put," the "foot" vowel – Diafina uu.

A note on the merger: many General American speakers pronounce "cot" and "caught" the same, a feature called the cot-caught merger, also known as the low back merger, shared by about half of the United States and nearly all of Canada.

Diafina adopts this merger and uses one vowel "o" for both, which removes one whole vowel from the system.

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The only place the two are kept apart is before "r," where "car" and "core" still differ, and the r-colored table below handles that.

SECTION FIVE: THE VOWELS – FIVE DIPHTHONGS

Diafina writes each diphthong as the starting vowel plus the offglide letter, "i" or "u," which is consistent and needs no special characters.

- "day," the "face" vowel – Diafina ei.
- "my," the "price" vowel – Diafina ai.
- "boy," the "choice" vowel – Diafina oi.
- "now," the "mouth" vowel – Diafina au.
- "go," the "goat" vowel – Diafina ou.

A note on familiarity: these five are the one place Diafina trades a little familiarity for consistency, because English spells these sounds in many clashing ways, so a single honest rule – start vowel plus offglide – is clearer than any "familiar" choice.

This choice was confirmed in the Decision Record, Part Eight, Decision 4.

SECTION SIX: THE VOWELS – SIX R-COLORED VOWELS

Because the reference accent pronounces every "r," these are written as a vowel plus "r."

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- "car," the "start" vowel – Diafina ar.
- "for," the "north" vowel – Diafina or.
- "fur," the "nurse" vowel – Diafina ur.
- "air," the "square" vowel – Diafina er.
- "beer," the "near" vowel – Diafina eer.
- "tour," the "cure" vowel – Diafina oor. Rare; per Decision 3 of the Decision Record, the spelling stays but merged pronunciation is allowed.

SECTION SEVEN: THE FULL ALPHABET AT A GLANCE

Consonant letters and pairs: p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, s, z, h, m, n, l, r, w, y, x, c, j, q, and the pairs th, dh, zh.

Pure vowels: i, e, a, o, u, ee, oo, uu.

Diphthongs: ei, ai, oi, au, ou.

R-colored vowels: ar, or, ur, er, eer, oor.

Structure symbols: the underscore joins compound words, and digits with a hyphen give the intensifier scale, as in happy-3.

CHAPTER 26: HOW THE VOWELS WERE SETTLED – THE FOCUSED VOWEL PASS

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The vowel system above was not obvious; it was settled in a focused pass that resolved three genuinely hard issues, and the reasoning is preserved here.

The root cause of all three: English has about twelve plain vowel sounds, but the keyboard has only five vowel letters, a, e, i, o, and u.

Even after doubling letters and letting the pronounced "r" absorb some vowels, a few sounds were left without a clean home.

Vowel decision one: familiarity wins over strict letter-doubling.

The first draft considered a mechanical rule, that a long vowel is just its letter doubled, so "fleece" would be "ii" and "goose" would be "uu."

The trouble is that English readers' eyes are deeply trained to read "ee" as the "fleece" sound, as in "see," "tree," and "green," and to read "oo" as the "goose" sound, as in "moon" and "food."

Resolution: drop the mechanical doubling rule, and instead use a fixed table where each vowel sound has one chosen spelling, picked for familiarity.

This still fully obeys the no-exceptions rule, because each sound still has exactly one spelling that never changes.

The difference is only that the familiar spelling is chosen rather than a mechanical one, which serves Pillar 1.

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Vowel decision two: the "foot" vowel is written "uu."

The "foot" vowel, as in "put," "book," "good," and "would," was the one simple vowel left without a home.

English itself spells this sound inconsistently - "u" in "put," "oo" in "book," "ou" in "would," "o" in "wolf" - so there was no obvious letter to borrow.

Resolution: the central vowel, the "strut" and schwa sound, is the most common vowel in English, so it keeps the single letter "u" to stay short and easy.

The "foot" vowel is much less common, so it takes the two-letter "uu," the cleanest unused slot, which visually keeps it in the "u" family.

Vowel decision three: the "nurse" vowel is written "ur."

The r-colored vowel in "fur," "bird," and "turn" needed one fixed spelling, and English spells it many ways: "nurse," "bird," "fern," "work," "earth."

Resolution: "ur," because it is already the familiar English spelling in "fur," "turn," "burn," and "hurt," and choosing "ur" leaves the spelling "er" free for the separate "square" vowel, avoiding a clash.

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Bonus decision: adopt the cot-caught merger, as recorded in the sound table above.

This is a deliberate simplifying choice that follows the growing trend of American speech, and it removes one whole vowel from the system.

CHAPTER 27: WORKED EXAMPLES – DIAFINA ON THE PAGE

Single words:

- "see" becomes see.
- "sit" becomes sit.
- "cat" becomes kat.
- "cot" and "caught" both become kot.
- "cup" becomes kup.
- "about" becomes ubaut.
- "moon" becomes moon.
- "put" becomes puut.
- "book" becomes buuk.
- "day" becomes dei.
- "my" becomes mai.
- "boy" becomes boi.
- "now" becomes nau.

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- "go" becomes gou.
- "car" becomes kar.
- "for" becomes for.
- "bird" becomes burd.
- "air" becomes er.
- "beer" becomes beer.
- "ship" becomes xip.
- "chip" becomes cip.
- "chair" becomes cer.
- "thing" becomes thiq.
- "this" becomes dhis.
- "measure" becomes mezhur.
- "phone" becomes foun.
- "night" becomes nait.
- "nation" becomes neixun.
- "queen" becomes kween.
- "box" becomes boks.

Compound words:

- "money bank" becomes muni_baqk, and "river bank" becomes rivur_baqk.

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A full sentence:

• "This is a big thing" becomes "dhis iz u big thiq."

Notice what has happened in these examples: every silent letter is gone, every sound is written exactly once, and every spelling can be read aloud correctly by someone who has never seen the word before.

That is the entire point.

CHAPTER 28: WHAT REMAINS OPEN IN THE SOUND SYSTEM

For honesty, the sound system's remaining open items are recorded here.

• A complete cross-reference table adding the X-SAMPA code beside each International Phonetic Alphabet and ARPABET code, for tool interoperability.

• Stress marking policy is set provisionally by Decision 5 of the Decision Record - capitals on the stressed syllable in the rare distinguishing pairs - and is flagged for review once real usage data exists.

Everything else - all twenty-four consonants, all the vowels, the h-safety rule, the reference accent, and the merger - is decided and locked.

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PART SIX – TWO SPELLINGS, ONE LANGUAGE

The Common Spelling, the Formal Spelling, and the Lessons of Serbia and China

CHAPTER 29: THE DIACRITICS QUESTION

A diacritic is a small mark added to a letter to change its sound or meaning.

Examples include the acute accent, the forward-leaning mark as in "é"; the grave accent, the backward-leaning mark as in "è"; the circumflex, the little hat as in "ê"; the diaeresis or umlaut, the double dots as in "ö"; and the tilde, the wavy mark as in the Spanish eñe, written "ñ."

All of these are part of Unicode, the worldwide standard that gives every character a number, and they are stored using UTF-8, which stands for Unicode Transformation Format, eight-bit – the common way computers save Unicode text.

So storing them is never a problem.

The question is not whether computers can store them, but whether people can easily type them and whether machines can reliably match them.

The opportunity is real and worth stating honestly.

Diafina's central difficulty is that English has about forty-four sounds but the keyboard has only twenty-six letters.

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Marked letters would relieve that pressure immediately, because each base letter could carry several marked cousins, each a distinct single letter.

The "ng" sound could be "ŋ" instead of the reused "q."

The "sh," "zh," and "ch" sounds could use "š," "ž," and "č," which is exactly what Czech and Croatian do.

The two "th" sounds could use the old letters "þ" and "ð," which English itself once used.

So marked letters could make the whole system one-mark-one-sound and eliminate almost every two-letter spelling.

But there are three serious costs.

Cost one: typing friction, the very problem that killed earlier reforms.

On a standard United States keyboard, marked letters are not on the keys.

You can get them with a special setup called a dead key - a key that adds a mark to the next letter you press - but dead keys are clumsy and error-prone, and most people have never turned them on.

This friction, repeated on many words, is exactly the tax that doomed Franklin's new letters.

Cost two: the Esperanto warning, which is almost exactly this situation.

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Esperanto used six marked letters, and because those letters were not on keyboards, Esperanto speakers were forced to invent plain-keyboard workarounds anyway.

The lesson: if you adopt marked letters, you will still have to provide a plain-keyboard form, so you might as well make the plain form the official one.

Cost three: the machine-matching hazard, which threatens Diafina's core promise.

A marked letter like "é" can be stored in two different ways that look identical on screen: as one combined character, or as a plain "e" followed by a separate accent mark.

The process of making them consistent is called normalization, and the two main forms are called NFC and NFD.

If two systems store the same word in different forms, then searches miss matches, sorting breaks, and two identical-looking words are treated as different.

For a language whose entire purpose is unambiguous, machine-reliable meaning, this is a real danger, so wherever marked letters are used, Diafina mandates a single Unicode normalization form, NFC.

Cost four, minor: marked letters look foreign to English readers, which slightly works against the familiarity goal.

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The resolution of all this is the two-tier system.

CHAPTER 30: THE TWO-TIER IDEA - AND WHY SERBIAN, NOT CHINESE, IS THE MODEL

The project owner proposed keeping two versions of written Diafina: a "common spelling" using plain double-letters, and a "formal spelling" using special single characters.

This is a good idea, and two real-world precedents show how to do it - one as a warning and one as a model.

The Chinese warning.

Chinese has two written forms, called Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese.

Simplified is used mainly in mainland China and Singapore, while Traditional is used in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau.

So the two-version idea is real and widely used.

But converting between the two Chinese forms is not clean.

When China simplified its characters, it sometimes merged several different traditional characters into one simplified character.

So going back the other way, one simplified character can map to several different traditional characters, and a computer cannot always tell

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which one is correct without understanding the surrounding words.

In one survey of more than forty thousand characters, about three percent had this one-to-many problem, which sounds small but causes constant trouble.

The result is that automatic conversion still needs a human to check it.

That is the exact disease Diafina exists to cure: a situation where you must use context to guess.

There is a second Chinese warning, social rather than technical: the two forms became tied to different regions and identities, which split the community.

Diafina must never let the common and formal spellings become rival camps.

The Serbian model.

Serbian is written in two completely different alphabets, the Latin one and the Cyrillic one, and the whole population can read both, switching freely.

Linguists call this digraphia, which simply means one language with two writing systems used side by side.

The reason it works is that both Serbian alphabets were built on the same strict principle Diafina uses: one letter for one sound.

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Because of that, every letter in one script has exactly one matching letter in the other - a perfect one-to-one match - so a computer converts between them instantly and without error.

Even better: the Serbian Latin script uses a few two-letter spellings, such as "nj" and "lj," that each map to a single Cyrillic letter.

That is precisely Diafina's situation, where the common spelling "th" maps to the single formal letter thorn.

Serbian does have one small snag, and Diafina has already fixed it.

In a few Serbian compound words, two letters that usually form a single combined letter must instead stay separate, and a converter has to know the word's internal boundaries.

Diafina prevents this automatically, because compound parts are joined with an underscore, so a real "t" followed by "h" across a word boundary can never be mistaken for the single "th" sound.

The underscore rule adopted for compounds also makes the common-to-formal conversion completely safe.

CHAPTER 31: THE TWO SPELLINGS, DEFINED AND LOCKED

Per Constitution Rule 16, and per Decisions 1 and 2 of the Decision Record, here is the complete two-tier system.

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The common spelling - formerly called Plan A - is the plain keyboard spelling of Part Five.

It is the official, canonical form: the one that is stored, dictated, typed on any keyboard, and read by machines.

The formal spelling - formerly called Plan B - is a set of six single marked letters, an exact display rendering of the same words.

The six locked pairs, chosen in Decision 1:

• "sh" as in "ship" - common x - formal š, the letter s with a caron, the small v-shaped mark used in Czech and Croatian.

• "ch" as in "chip" - common c - formal č, the letter c with a caron.

• "zh" as in "measure" - common zh - formal ž, the letter z with a caron.

• "ng" as in "sing" - common q - formal ŋ, the letter eng.

• "th" as in "thin" - common th - formal þ, the letter thorn, which English itself used a thousand years ago.

• "th" as in "this" - common dh - formal ð, the letter eth, thorn's historical partner.

Everything else - all the vowels and the other consonants - is identical in both spellings.

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The activation policy, set in Decision 2: the formal spelling is adopted as a visual display layer.

The common spelling remains the input form and the canonical stored form - what keyboards type and what voice dictation produces.

Down the road, an interpreter program will render the formal marks on screen as the common spelling is typed - type "th" and see "þ" appear.

Until that translation program exists, all working text stays in the common spelling, and polished documents may present the two spellings side by side, exactly as this book's examples do.

The one-to-one policy, restated as law:

- Every common spelling maps to exactly one formal spelling, and back again, with no exceptions, so conversion is automatic and never needs guessing.

- The two forms must always carry identical content - two views of one language, never two competing standards, like print and cursive handwriting.

- The common spelling always governs.

CHAPTER 32: THE SPEECH-FIRST INSIGHT, AND HOW TO TYPE THE MARKS TODAY

One insight guides the whole typing question: Diafina is speech-first, and input is moving toward voice tools.

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A voice dictation tool listens to you speak and then inserts clean, finished text where your cursor is.

Crucially, those tools produce ordinary letters, not special marked characters.

So if Diafina is mostly spoken and dictated, then the written form that a voice tool produces - and that you read and lightly edit on any keyboard - should be plain keyboard letters.

That is why the common spelling is canonical, and it is the backbone of the display-layer policy above.

For the times you do want to type the formal marks directly, here is the practical lesson for a Windows keyboard, from easiest to most fiddly.

Method one: the symbol panel, the easiest way to start.

Press the Windows key and the period key at the same time.

A small panel opens; click the symbol categories, or type a name, and pick the character you want, such as þ.

This needs no setup.

Method two: Alt codes, good for a few specific letters.

Hold down the Alt key, type a number on the numeric keypad with Num Lock on, then release Alt.

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- ñ, the Spanish eñe, is Alt and 0241.
- þ, the thorn, is Alt and 0254.
- ð, the eth, is Alt and 0240.

The catch: this simple method only reaches a limited set of characters, so š, č, ž, and ŋ do not have easy Alt codes and must use the symbol panel or method four.

That catch is itself a good lesson in why the common spelling is the sane default.

Method three: the United States-International keyboard layout, which turns keys like the tilde into dead keys.

Handy for accents, but it does not produce þ or ð, and it can interfere with ordinary apostrophes.

Method four: automatic replacement - the recommended method, and the seed of the future interpreter.

You set up a rule so that when you type a simple plain spelling, the software instantly swaps in the marked letter - type "th" and it becomes þ, exactly the trick Esperanto speakers used.

This can be done with the AutoCorrect feature in word processors, with the built-in text replacement of the operating system, or with a small free helper program.

Method five: touch and phone keyboards.

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On a touchscreen, press and hold a letter to see its marked versions, then slide to the one you want.

The honest takeaway: the marks are typeable, but only the symbol panel and automatic replacement are comfortable, which is why the common spelling stays the daily driver until the interpreter exists.

CHAPTER 33: THE KEYBOARD SYMBOLS – WHAT EARNS A PLACE AND WHAT DOES NOT

The keyboard has untapped symbols – the dollar sign, the at sign, and friends – and it is fair to ask whether they can earn jobs in Diafina.

The dividing line, now Constitution Rule 15: symbols do structural and functional jobs – joining, counting, punctuation, and marking – and never stand for core speech sounds.

Any symbol proposed for a job must pass three tests.

• Test one, effort: can it be typed without pressing Shift? The top-row symbols need the Shift key, which is more work than a plain letter.

• Test two, readability: does the text still look like a language a person can read and say aloud? A sentence full of dollar signs reads like a password, not like speech.

• Test three, embedding safety: is the symbol safe when Diafina text is placed inside the machine formats Diafina is meant to ride inside?

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The third test is the most important.

Diafina text will travel inside message formats that Artificial Intelligence systems already use, such as the data format called JSON, short for JavaScript Object Notation.

JSON, web addresses, and the formatting language Markdown all give special meaning to certain symbols.

The most dangerous symbols of all are the double quote and the backslash, because they will break a JSON message immediately if used as plain text.

The worked example: the dollar sign for the "sh" sound, so that "ship" would be written "$ip."

Tempting, distinctive, memorable - and it fails all three tests.

It needs the Shift key; it makes text look like code; and the dollar sign is a special marker in shell scripts and templating systems.

On top of that, Diafina already has a clean plain-letter solution for "sh," the freed letter "x."

So the symbols sort into four bins.

• Bin A, already in service, keep exactly as they are: the underscore, joining compound words; the hyphen and the digits, serving the intensifier scale and numbers.

• Bin B, keep doing their normal punctuation jobs: the period, comma, question mark, exclamation

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mark, semicolon, colon, quotation marks, and parentheses. Letting them stay ordinary is itself a good design choice, because it keeps Diafina instantly readable.

• Bin C, avoid as letters, because of embedding hazards or heavy special meaning: the double quote and backslash - hard avoid; the angle brackets and ampersand, which are web markup; the hash sign, dollar sign, percent sign, caret, asterisk, vertical bar, backtick, at sign, equals sign, plus sign, curly braces, square brackets, and the apostrophe.

• Bin D, limited function roles: the tilde, now assigned by Decision 6 of the Decision Record as the optional sarcasm marker, alongside the internet-familiar "/s" tag; and digits for any future stress or gradable marking, following the intensifier pattern.

The pattern across all of these is the same: symbols are excellent for structure and function, and letters are for sounds.

PART SEVEN - BUILDING WORDS

Compounds, the Underscore, the Spoken Joiner, and the Dictionary

CHAPTER 34: THE BANK PROBLEM

The word "bank" in English is broken because it has at least two completely unrelated meanings.

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• It means a financial institution where money is stored.

• It means the sloped land at the side of a river.

These are homonyms, and Diafina's rules say every word has exactly one meaning.

So the word "bank" cannot exist in Diafina as a single word.

You need two separate words.

The question is: what is the best system for building those two separate words from component parts?

The answer came from an unexpected place: German, and the decades of debate among computer programmers about how to name things.

CHAPTER 35: THE GERMAN LESSON – WORDS THAT DEFINE THEMSELVES

The technical name for gluing words together is agglutination.

A morpheme is the smallest unit of a language that carries meaning.

Most languages, like English, agglutinate prefixes and suffixes to form longer words.

But German can combine full nouns and other words to form entirely new longer words.

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A concrete example: the German word for "glove" is "Handschuh," which translates literally as "hand shoe."

Another: the German word for "television" is "Fernsehen," which breaks down to "fern" meaning "far" and "sehen" meaning "to see."

So "television" in German is literally "far-seeing" - which is actually more descriptive than the English word "television," a mashup of Greek and Latin that most people cannot decode without a classical education.

Technically, there is no limit to how long German words can get - the record for the longest German word in common usage stands at sixty-three characters, a word meaning "Danube steamship company captain."

Here is why this matters deeply to Diafina.

German's compounding system means you can build a precise new word for any new concept by combining existing words whose meanings you already know.

You do not need to invent an arbitrary new sound the way English does - the word "serendipity" gives you no information about its meaning from its parts.

A German-style compounding system in Diafina means every new word is self-defining, because its component parts each carry their one-and-only meaning, and you just read them in sequence.

That directly supports Diafina's goal of never needing context to understand meaning.

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CHAPTER 36: CHOOSING THE JOINER - FIVE CANDIDATES, ONE WINNER

The candidates for writing a compound word were:

- MoneyBank
- Moneybank
- moneybank
- money-bank
- money_bank

These map directly onto naming conventions that programmers have already spent decades debating for exactly the same reasons: clarity, readability, and machine-parseability - the ability for a computer to read a word without confusion.

Option one: all lowercase run together - moneybank.

This is called closed form compounding, and it is what German does.

It looks like a single unified word, needs no special characters, and types anywhere.

But for long compounds it becomes very hard to read - imagine "moneylendinginstitutionforsavings" - and a reader who does not already know the word cannot easily find the boundaries.

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Verdict: fine for short compounds, breaks down badly at length.

Avoid.

Option two: capital first letter of each part - MoneyBank.

This is called PascalCase in programming, named after the Pascal programming language of the 1970s.

The capitals clearly show where each component begins.

But Diafina reserves capital letters for proper nouns, and using them for word boundaries would force capitals to do two jobs at once - exactly the double-duty the language forbids.

Verdict: avoid.

Option three: first word lowercase, later words capitalized - moneyBank.

This is called camelCase, named for the humps of capital letters in the middle.

Same capital-letter conflict, plus an asymmetric rule - the first component is treated differently from all the others - and asymmetric rules are the kind of inconsistency Diafina is trying to eliminate.

Verdict: avoid.

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Option four: hyphen separator - money-bank.

This is called kebab-case.

Very readable, and humans already use hyphens in English compounds.

But in programming languages, hyphens in names cause serious problems, because the computer reads "money-bank" as "money minus bank" - a subtraction operation, not a word.

Diafina must be machine-parseable, so a character that machines interpret as arithmetic is risky.

Verdict: avoid.

Option five: underscore separator - money_bank.

This is called snake_case.

• Extremely readable - the underscore is a clear, unambiguous separator.

• The underscore has no mathematical meaning.

• Machines parse it without confusion.

• It is used in Python, one of the most popular programming languages in the world, so the Artificial Intelligence engineers Diafina courts first are already at home with it.

• It stays all lowercase, so capital letters keep their one job.

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- It is easy to type on any standard keyboard.

Verdict: adopt.

This is now Constitution Rule 11.

CHAPTER 37: THE SPOKEN FORM – THE SCHWA JOINER

The underscore solves the written form, but Diafina is primarily a spoken language, and you cannot pronounce an underscore.

The insight is that the spoken form and the written form are two separate problems that can be solved independently.

The spoken solution: a short, standardized joining sound between compound parts.

A joining sound between words is called a liaison in linguistics.

Diafina's joiner is the schwa - the very brief, neutral, unstressed "uh" sound in "about."

So "money_bank" is spoken as "money-uh-bank," with the "uh" brief and unstressed.

This gives spoken Diafina a clear audio signal that two root words are being combined.

Written joiner: the underscore.

Spoken joiner: the schwa.

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One consistent convention in each channel – now Constitution Rule 12.

CHAPTER 38: THE BANK PROBLEM, SOLVED

Under this system, the word "bank" as a standalone word does not exist in Diafina.

Instead there are two words:

• money_bank – the institution where financial transactions occur – in full Diafina spelling, muni_baqk.

• river_bank – the land at the edge of a flowing body of water – in full Diafina spelling, rivur_baqk.

Each has exactly one meaning.

Neither is ambiguous.

No context is required to know which one you mean.

An Artificial Intelligence Agent hearing or reading muni_baqk knows instantly, without any reasoning or guessing, that a financial institution is being referred to.

That is the one-word-one-meaning rule working in action.

THE PROPER NOUN QUESTION

Compounding raises the question of names, and the design discussion is preserved here.

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Two options were weighed for marking proper nouns - the names of specific people, places, and organizations.

Option A: reserve capital letters exclusively for proper nouns.

Under Option A, "Michael" is a proper noun and is capitalized, while "river_bank" is a common noun - a general category, not a specific thing - and stays lowercase.

The River Thames becomes "thames_river" as a common description and "Thames_River" as a proper noun.

Option B: use no capital letters at all, and mark proper nouns with a special prefix symbol instead.

Option B would make the language easier to learn - one fewer rule - but it requires a new symbol, and symbols are reserved for structure.

The recommendation, now Constitution Rule 13, is Option A, because it is consistent with how almost all existing writing systems work, making Diafina easier to adopt.

One open design question from the founding notes remains logged for the dictionary phase: the transliteration policy - meaning the rules for writing existing names of people and places using Diafina letters - since names arrive from many languages, each with its own pronunciation.

The working principle, pending that policy: a name is spelled as it sounds in the reference accent,

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capitalized, with compound names joined by the underscore.

CHAPTER 39: HOW LONG CAN COMPOUNDS GET?

There is no theoretical limit, but practical readability suggests a guideline, borrowed from programming best practices.

• Two-part compounds are always fine.

• Three-part compounds are acceptable when the meaning cannot be expressed in two parts.

• Four-part compounds should be avoided if possible.

• Five or more parts signals that a new root word should probably be coined instead.

For example:

• money_bank – two parts, perfect.

• central_money_bank – three parts, still readable.

• national_central_money_bank – four parts, getting long.

• federal_national_central_money_bank – five parts, too long; this concept needs its own root word.

There is a promising future refinement here, borrowed from Lojban: giving each root word a

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short fragment form - Lojban calls these rafsi - so that very long compounds can shrink.

Instead of a ten-character compound, a five-character one built from fragments.

This is logged for the grammar-and-dictionary phase.

CHAPTER 40: THE INTENSIFIER SCALE - NUMBERS INSTEAD OF SYNONYM CROWDS

English carries crowds of near-synonyms whose only real difference is intensity: "angry," "furious," "irate," "livid," "incensed," "enraged."

Each one demands cultural knowledge to use correctly.

Diafina replaces the crowd with one word and one number.

Qualities that exist on a scale use a numeric suffix from 1 to 10, joined with a hyphen.

- happy-1 means barely happy, faintly content.
- happy-5 means moderately happy.
- happy-10 means ecstatically joyful.
- angry-1 means slightly annoyed.
- angry-10 means in a blind rage.

One precise, machine-readable scale replaces dozens of vague words.

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The same pattern - digits for gradable features - is the model for any future marking need, which is exactly how the stress question was answered in the Decision Record.

CHAPTER 41: THE DICTIONARY DESIGN

The Diafina dictionary will not list "bank" as an entry.

It will list:

• money_bank - definition: an institution that holds, lends, and manages currency.

• river_bank - definition: the land forming the side boundary of a river or stream.

Every entry in the Diafina dictionary has:

• The compound word in written form, using underscores.

• Exactly one definition.

• The spoken form, showing the joining sound.

• The component words listed, so a reader can verify the compound makes logical sense.

• As a future addition, a short-form fragment for use in very long compounds.

The build method, locked in Decision 8 of the Decision Record, is the Carnegie Mellon shortcut: auto-convert the free pronunciation list of about

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134,000 English words into common-spelling Diafina in one automated pass, then refine by hand.

The hand-refinement steps:

• Build a list of all English homonyms – the words that must be disambiguated first, because they directly violate the one-meaning rule.

• For each homonym, identify its distinct meanings.

• For each distinct meaning, choose component concepts that make a clear compound word.

• Write the compound with underscore notation, write exactly one definition, and record the spoken form.

The word "bank" is the perfect first entry, because it demonstrates the entire process.

PART EIGHT – THE DECISION RECORD

Ten Decisions, Made and Reasoned, July 25, 2026

This part records the formal resolution of every open decision in the project, made by the project owner on July 25, 2026, after review of the complete project files.

Each entry states the question, the options considered, the decision, and the reasoning.

This record supersedes the Open Decisions Checklist of June 22, 2026.

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DECISION 1: THE SIX FORMAL MARKED LETTERS

The question: which six single marked letters should the formal spelling use for the six special sounds?

An inconsistency in the project files made this decision urgent: the Sound Table proposed "esh" – the International Phonetic Alphabet letter – for the "sh" sound, while the Plan B memo proposed š, the letter s with a caron.

Options considered: the caron set used by Czech and Croatian; the raw International Phonetic Alphabet letters; a partial Old-English-only set; or deferring the choice.

The decision: the caron set, with the two Old English letters for the th sounds.

- x becomes š – s with a caron.
- c becomes č – c with a caron.
- zh becomes ž – z with a caron.
- q becomes ŋ – the letter eng.
- th becomes þ – the letter thorn.
- dh becomes ð – the letter eth.

The reasoning: all six are single, well-supported Unicode letters with stable NFC normalization, they convert one-to-one with the common spellings, the caron letters follow a living European convention rather than laboratory notation, and þ

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and ð restore two genuine English letters, which is a wonderful story for the language's identity.

This resolves the esh-versus-š inconsistency in favor of š.

DECISION 2: ACTIVATING THE FORMAL SPELLING

The question: should the formal spelling go into active use now, or stay shelved?

The decision, in the project owner's own framing: the formal spelling is activated, but it is mostly visual.

The common spelling is used for input and output - it is what a keyboard types and what a voice tool produces.

Down the road, an interpreter program will render the formal spelling on screen: when a two-character common spelling is typed, the single formal letter appears.

Until such a translation program exists, the common spelling is used for all working text - but visually, documents can start presenting the formal spelling and the common spelling side by side now.

The reasoning: this captures the beauty and identity of the marked letters without paying the typing tax, keeps the common spelling canonical per the Constitution, and gives the future interpreter a precisely defined job.

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DECISION 3: THE "CURE" VOWEL

The question: what happens to the rare r-colored vowel written "oor," as in "tour" and "sure," which many General American speakers merge into the "nurse" or "north" vowels?

The decision: keep one spelling, allow merged speech.

"oor" remains the official spelling for these words, and speakers may pronounce it merged without being wrong.

The reasoning: writing stays unambiguous with one spelling per word, speech stays natural, and no extra rules are needed.

Folding the vowel into "or" or "ur" would have forced a pronunciation choice on speakers who keep the distinction, and keeping it strictly distinct would have fought the descriptive spirit of the reference-accent choice.

DECISION 4: THE DIPHTHONG SPELLINGS

The question: keep the five gliding-vowel spellings ei, ai, oi, au, ou, chosen for consistency rather than English familiarity?

The decision: keep all five as they are.

The reasoning: one consistent rule - start vowel plus offglide letter - with no exceptions, matching the no-exceptions Constitution.

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English spells these sounds so many clashing ways that no choice is truly familiar anyway, so the consistent rule is the clearest.

The known cost - that "ou" reads to English eyes like "ouch" rather than "go" - is accepted as the price of a system with zero special cases.

DECISION 5: STRESS MARKING

The question: should Diafina mark which syllable of a word is stressed, as in the English pair REcord versus reCORD?

The decision, in the project owner's own words: where stress plays a role, as in REcord versus reCORD, it may be written just like that, with capitals showing the stress.

This does not happen in too many word pairs, so this system is adopted for now, with a possibility to revise later.

The reasoning: the mechanism is instantly readable to any English speaker, costs nothing to type, and applies only to the small set of pairs where stress alone distinguishes meaning.

The recorded caveat: this gives capital letters a second job alongside proper-noun marking, which is a deliberate, narrow, revisable exception to Constitution Rule 13, logged for review once real usage data exists.

The dictionary continues to record full stress information for every word regardless.

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DECISION 6: THE SARCASM MARKER

The question: should Diafina have an optional written marker for sentence tone, such as sarcasm or irony - the gap the founding notes identified in written English?

The decision: adopt the tilde, ~, as the sarcasm and irony marker now, and additionally accept "/s" as an equivalent marker.

A sentence marked with either carries the meaning "the literal content of this sentence is inverted or ironic."

Example: ~ ou greit, unudhur mundei. - "Oh great, another Monday," marked as sarcastic.

The reasoning: the tilde is on every keyboard, visually suggests a twist, is safe inside JSON strings, and is already informally associated with ironic tone online; "/s" is the widely known internet convention for the same job, which serves familiarity.

Both are function markers under Constitution Rule 15 - symbols serving structure and function, never sound.

DECISION 7: GRAMMAR AND WORD ORDER DIRECTION

The question: what is the structural direction for Diafina grammar - the largest unstarted design area?

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The decision: Subject-Verb-Object word order with fully regular markers, and Lojban's disambiguation ideas inside.

• Word order stays Subject-Verb-Object, the English pattern - "the dog ate the food" - serving Pillar 1, familiarity.

• Every grammatical marker - plural, tense, role - is perfectly regular, with no exceptions, serving Rule 5 and Rule 8.

• Where English is structurally ambiguous, Diafina borrows Lojban's machinery: explicit grouping, explicit argument roles, and explicit attachment of modifying phrases, so sentences like "the old men and women" and "I saw the man with the binoculars" cannot be constructed ambiguously.

The reasoning: a familiar skeleton with logical joints - the combination that neither Lojban nor English offers, and exactly what Constitution Rule 14 prescribes: borrow proven structure, not foreign sound.

Detailed grammar design is now the next major project phase.

DECISION 8: THE DICTIONARY BUILD METHOD

The question: how should the starter dictionary be built for the Milestone 1 experiment?

The decision: auto-convert the Carnegie Mellon University Pronouncing Dictionary - about 134,000 English words with machine-readable pronunciations

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- into common-spelling Diafina in one automated pass, then refine by hand.

The reasoning: the sound table already maps every ARPABET code to a Diafina spelling, so the conversion is mechanical; this is the fastest credible path to a testable dictionary; and hand refinement then concentrates on what genuinely needs human judgment - splitting homonyms into compounds, resolving schwa choices, and curating a core word list.

DECISION 9: NAME CLEARANCE

The question: how to handle the two remaining confirmations on the name Diafina - the domain registrar check and the trademark attorney's formal search?

The decision: do both soon, and proceed meanwhile.

The name is treated as decided; building and publishing under Diafina continues; the registrar check happens promptly, and a trademark attorney is engaged before any paid launch, incorporation, or book publication.

The reasoning: every preliminary search came back clean, so the risk of proceeding is low, and momentum is worth more than ceremony.

DECISION 10: LICENSE AND GOVERNANCE

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The question: under what license is the Diafina specification published, and who maintains the standard?

The decision: the Creative Commons Attribution license, version 4.0, known as CC-BY 4.0, plus a small steering group.

Under CC-BY 4.0, anyone may use, copy, modify, and build on the Diafina specification, including commercially, on one condition: they must credit the Diafina project.

Governance: a small named steering group - the project owner plus future contributors - publishes the single official version of the standard, Constitution-style, so organizations can rely on the language not changing chaotically.

The reasoning: attribution keeps the project's name attached to every use of the language while remaining genuinely open; the steering group answers the adoption plan's trust requirement and the fragmentation risk.

THE STATE OF THE LANGUAGE AFTER THE DECISIONS

For reassurance, here is the complete settled picture as of July 25, 2026.

- The name is Diafina, its Greek origin is recorded, and clearance proceeds in parallel.

- The reference accent is General American, with the cot-caught merger.

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• All twenty-four consonants and all the vowels have locked common spellings, including the freed letters x, c, and q and the three controlled pairs guarded by the h-rule.

• The diphthongs are ei, ai, oi, au, ou, confirmed.

• The cure vowel keeps its spelling, with merged speech allowed.

• The two-spelling system is constitutional; the six formal letters are š, č, ž, ŋ, þ, ð; the formal tier is a display layer awaiting its interpreter.

• Stress, where it distinguishes word pairs, is written with capitals on the stressed syllable, provisionally.

• Sarcasm is markable with ~ or /s.

• Grammar direction is Subject-Verb-Object with regular markers and Lojban's disambiguation machinery inside.

• The dictionary will be born from the Carnegie Mellon list and refined by hand.

• The specification will be published under CC-BY 4.0, maintained by a steering group.

• Capitals mark proper nouns; symbols serve structure; compounds join with the underscore in writing and the schwa in speech; the intensifier scale runs from 1 to 10; and grammar has no exceptions.

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The design conversation now moves to the grammar phase, and the proof conversation moves to Milestone 1.

PART NINE - THE BATTLE PLAN

Adoption Is the Product

CHAPTER 42: WHY ADOPTION IS THE HARD PART

Adoption is the heart of this project, not an afterthought, because every earlier language reform failed at adoption rather than at design.

The history is blunt about this.

Esperanto had a clean, learnable design and still reached only a small number of speakers.

The Dvorak keyboard was measurably better than the standard keyboard and still lost.

The metric system is simpler than the older measures and still was not adopted in the United States.

Benjamin Franklin's spelling reform was thoughtful and still faded within months.

The lesson across all of them is one sentence: a better design is not enough.

People and organizations do not switch because something is logically superior.

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They switch when switching gives them a clear, immediate benefit that outweighs the cost of changing.

So Diafina must be designed for adoption as carefully as it is designed for clarity.

CHAPTER 43: THE BARRIERS TO BEAT

These are the specific forces that kill new languages and standards.

• Network effects: a language is only useful if others use it, so the value is low until many have joined, which makes the early days the hardest.

• The chicken-and-egg problem: people will not learn it until it is useful, but it is not useful until people learn it.

• Switching cost: the time and effort to learn something new, which people resist unless the payoff is obvious.

• Cultural identity: people are attached to their own language, so a neutral replacement can feel cold or threatening.

• Infrastructure: if it needs new keyboards, fonts, or tools, adoption stalls, which is exactly what happened to Franklin.

• Trust and standardization: organizations will not build on something that might change unpredictably or that no one maintains.

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• No native speakers: a constructed language has no community of people who grew up speaking it, so it lacks a natural base.

Diafina's whole strategy is built to get around these barriers rather than to pretend they do not exist.

CHAPTER 44: THE FRAMEWORK – DIFFUSION OF INNOVATIONS

There is a well-known model of how new things spread, called the Diffusion of Innovations, developed by the scholar Everett Rogers.

It divides adopters into five groups that arrive in order: a tiny group of Innovators, then Early Adopters, then the Early Majority, then the Late Majority, and finally the Laggards.

The key practical point is that you do not start by convincing everyone.

You win the Innovators and Early Adopters first, because they are adventurous and influential, and the rest follow once enough people have joined to reach what is called critical mass.

Critical mass is the tipping point where so many have adopted that further adoption becomes self-sustaining, and growth follows an S-shaped curve: slow at first, then fast, then leveling off.

Rogers also lists five qualities that make something spread faster, and Diafina is designed to score well on each.

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• Relative advantage: it must be clearly better at something that matters. Diafina's advantage is precise, compact, unambiguous communication for Artificial Intelligence.

• Compatibility: it must fit how people already work. Diafina fits by keeping English-like words and by using only existing keyboards.

• Simplicity: it must be easy to try and understand. Diafina's regular, no-exceptions rules make it learnable.

• Trialability: people must be able to test it cheaply. Diafina will ship free tools and converters so anyone can try it in minutes.

• Observability: the benefits must be visible. Diafina's first experiment is designed to produce visible, measurable proof.

CHAPTER 45: START WHERE THERE IS NO RESISTANCE

Every previous reform tried to convince humans to change first, and hit the wall of cultural identity and switching cost.

Diafina starts somewhere with none of that resistance: Artificial Intelligence systems talking to each other.

Artificial Intelligence systems have no cultural attachment to English, do not mind learning a new format, and benefit immediately from precision and compactness.

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This is the beachhead - the first secure foothold from which everything else grows.

The timing is unusually good.

As of 2026, the world is actively building standards for Artificial Intelligence agents to talk to each other, and adoption is exploding.

The Agent-to-Agent Protocol passed one hundred fifty supporting organizations within a year and is used by Google, Microsoft, and Amazon.

The Model Context Protocol was running on more than ten thousand enterprise servers by April 2026, and most enterprises say they are increasing investment in Artificial Intelligence agents.

These standards define the envelope - how messages are addressed and delivered - but not the precision of the words inside.

That gap inside the envelope is exactly the space Diafina is built to fill.

CHAPTER 46: THE FIVE STAGES OF ADOPTION

The plan moves through five stages, each one creating the conditions for the next.

Stage one: Artificial Intelligence to Artificial Intelligence.

Who: machine agents exchanging messages - the Innovators in Rogers' model.

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The benefit: shorter, cheaper, less ambiguous messages between agents.

Tactics: position Diafina not as a competitor to the message standards but as the precise content that rides inside them, and prove the savings with the Milestone 1 experiment.

Success signal: measured reductions in size and in misunderstanding, published openly.

Stage two: Artificial Intelligence engineers.

Who: the people who build and configure Artificial Intelligence systems - the Early Adopters.

The benefit: their systems work better and cost less when instructed in Diafina.

Tactics: free libraries, converters, and clear documentation, so trying Diafina takes minutes, not weeks.

Success signal: engineers using Diafina in real projects and recommending it to peers.

Stage three: a job-market skill.

Who: the wider technology workforce.

The benefit: knowing Diafina becomes a hireable, paid skill, like knowing a programming language.

Tactics: certifications, tutorials, and visible job postings that ask for it.

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Success signal: Diafina appearing in job descriptions and resumes.

Stage four: education.

Who: schools, universities, and training programs.

The benefit: once it has job-market value, parents and students want it taught.

Tactics: free curricula and teaching materials, and partnerships with institutions.

Success signal: Diafina taught in real courses.

Stage five: general human communication.

Who: the broad public, especially in international and technical settings.

The benefit: clear, precise communication across language barriers, with the adoption flywheel already spinning.

Tactics: keep the language familiar and keyboard-friendly so the final step is small.

Success signal: people choosing Diafina for high-stakes, cross-language communication.

CHAPTER 47: THE ASSETS TO BUILD

A strategy needs tools behind it, or it stays a wish.

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These are the assets that turn the plan into something people can actually pick up.

• An open, public specification, anchored by the Constitution, so anyone can build on Diafina with confidence.

• The open license, now decided: Creative Commons Attribution 4.0, per Decision 10.

• The finished core of the language: the sound table, a starter grammar, and a growing dictionary.

• Converter tools that translate between English and Diafina in both directions, so people can try it without learning everything first.

• A reference software library, so engineers can add Diafina to their systems with a few lines of code.

• Keyboard-friendly typing, already a rule of the language, so no one needs special equipment.

• The formal-spelling interpreter, per Decision 2, so the display layer can light up.

• The proof experiment, Milestone 1, to produce visible, credible evidence of the benefits.

• Clear tutorials and examples aimed at beginners, because trialability and simplicity drive adoption.

• The governance body, now decided: the Diafina steering group, per Decision 10.

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• The public repository, whose creation instructions appear in the final appendix of this book.

CHAPTER 48: THE CORE POSITIONING – BE THE PAYLOAD, NOT THE ENVELOPE

This single idea should guide every adoption decision.

Diafina should not try to replace or compete with the Artificial Intelligence message standards that already have momentum.

Instead, Diafina should ride inside them as the precise payload – the actual meaningful content carried within the message.

This makes Diafina a complement to popular standards rather than a rival, which lowers resistance and lets Diafina benefit from their growth instead of fighting it.

In one line: the industry built the envelopes, and Diafina makes the letter inside finally unambiguous.

CHAPTER 49: RISKS, AND HOW THEY ARE ANSWERED

Honesty about risks makes the plan stronger.

• Risk: people ask why not just use existing data formats. Answer: those formats organize data but do not make human-style meaning precise, which is Diafina's job.

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• Risk: the big model makers ignore it. Answer: prove undeniable savings first, so adopting Diafina becomes the obvious economic choice.

• Risk: it never reaches critical mass. Answer: start in the one place - machine to machine - where even small use is immediately valuable and does not need a crowd.

• Risk: it is seen as a gimmick. Answer: rigorous, published measurement, and a serious open specification.

• Risk: fragmentation into incompatible versions. Answer: the steering group and a single official standard.

• Risk: the pieces overlap heavily with prior art, so critics say it is a remix. Answer: show clearly what Diafina adds beyond Lojban and Attempto Controlled English - the bridge of familiarity plus precision plus the timing of the agent-communication gap.

CHAPTER 50: MILESTONE 1 - THE TWO-MODEL PROOF OF CONCEPT

This is the project's first piece of hard evidence, logged June 22, 2026, status: planned.

The big idea, in the project owner's words: train two different, free, open-source Large Language Model foundation models that can run at home on a normal computer processor, teach them Diafina, have them carry the same long and complex message in both English and Diafina, and document the

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efficiency savings, the reduction in ambiguity risk, and other measurable benefits.

Some terms defined:

A Large Language Model (LLM) is an Artificial Intelligence system trained on huge amounts of text to understand and produce language.

A foundation model is a large, general-purpose model that others can build on or adapt.

A Central Processing Unit (CPU) is the ordinary processor inside a normal computer, as opposed to the expensive graphics chips usually used for Artificial Intelligence; running on a Central Processing Unit means running on an everyday machine at home.

A token is the small chunk of text, often a word-piece, that a Large Language Model reads and counts; fewer tokens for the same meaning usually means lower cost and faster, cheaper communication.

The objective:

• Choose two free, open-source Large Language Models small enough to run at home on a Central Processing Unit.

• Teach each one Diafina, once the language is defined well enough to do so.

• Give them the same long, complex message and have them express it in English and in Diafina.

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• Have the two models exchange that message with each other in each language.

• Measure and document the differences.

What to measure – the success metrics:

• Efficiency savings: how many fewer tokens, bytes, and seconds Diafina needs to carry the same meaning compared with English.

• Ambiguity reduction: how often the receiving model misreads or has to guess the meaning in English versus Diafina, and the reduction in errors.

• Faithfulness: whether the full meaning survives the round trip in each language.

• Other measurable benefits: easier machine parsing, more reliable instructions, fewer clarifying questions.

Why it matters:

It would turn the central claim – that Diafina is more precise and more efficient than English for Artificial Intelligence – from a hope into a measured result.

It also fits the Artificial-Intelligence-first strategy directly, because it shows value to machine systems before asking any human to adopt the language.

Open questions to resolve before starting:

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• Diafina must be defined far enough – the sound table (done), a starter grammar (direction set in Decision 7), and a small dictionary (method set in Decision 8).

• Which two open-source models to use, and how small they must be to run comfortably at home.

• How to teach Diafina to a model: by fine-tuning, meaning extra training, or by careful instructions and examples.

• How to design a fair test message and fair scoring, so the comparison is honest.

CHAPTER 51: HOW PROGRESS IS MEASURED

These are the signs of progress, stage by stage, also called key indicators.

• Efficiency proof: measured savings in message size and in errors, from Milestone 1.

• Developer pickup: downloads of the Diafina tools and library, and real projects using them.

• Community growth: contributors, dictionary entries, and active discussion.

• Market signal: job postings and courses mentioning Diafina.

• Reach toward critical mass: the point where new users keep arriving without being pushed.

The concrete near-term next actions, in rough order:

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• Finish enough of the language to be testable: grammar phase next, then the starter dictionary.

• Run Milestone 1 and publish the results.

• Build the first English-to-Diafina converter and a simple reference library.

• Write beginner tutorials and a one-page explanation of the benefits.

• Stand up the public repository per the final appendix, under the license and governance of Decision 10.

• Complete the name-clearance confirmations of Decision 9.

PART TEN – THE INVITATION

Your First Diafina, Today

CHAPTER 52: TYPE THESE NOW

Everything in this book comes down to something you can do this minute, on the keyboard in front of you, with no setup and no special characters.

Here is a graded practice set, all in the common spelling.

For each item: the English word, then the Diafina spelling to type, then how to say it.

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Warm-up, single words:

- "ship" - type: xip - say: ship.
- "chip" - type: cip - say: chip.
- "thin" - type: thin - say: thin.
- "this" - type: dhis - say: this.
- "sing" - type: siq - say: sing.
- "see" - type: see - say: see.
- "go" - type: gou - say: go.
- "now" - type: nau - say: now.
- "book" - type: buuk - say: book.
- "cat" - type: kat - say: cat.
- "you" - type: yoo - say: you.
- "phone" - type: foun - say: phone.
- "night" - type: nait - say: night. Notice the silent letters are gone.
- "nation" - type: neixun - say: nay-shun. Notice "x" is "sh" and the final "u" is the soft schwa.
- "measure" - type: mezhur - say: meh-zhur.

Compound words, using the underscore:

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• "money bank," the place for cash – type: muni_baqk – say: muni-uh-bank, with a soft joining sound.

• "river bank," the edge of a river – type: rivur_baqk – say: rivur-uh-bank.

Two short sentences:

• "I see the ship." – type: ai see dhu xip.

• "This is a big thing." – type: dhis iz u big thiq.

And the same two sentences rendered in the formal display spelling, per Decision 2, so you can see both faces of the language side by side:

• ai see dhu xip – formal: ai see ðu šip.

• dhis iz u big thiq – formal: ðis iz u big þiŋ.

A small challenge, if you want one: try writing your own name and a short hello in Diafina by sounding it out.

CHAPTER 53: WHERE THE ROAD LEADS

Here is the whole project in one closing passage.

English is broken in specific, documented, fixable ways, and for the first time in history there is a community of speakers – billions of running programs – with an immediate economic reason to adopt a repair and no cultural reason to resist it.

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Diafina is that repair: English words, honest spelling, one meaning per word, one sound per letter, no exceptions, readable by a child and parseable by a machine, typable today on any keyboard on Earth.

Every earlier reformer failed at adoption, and each failure taught this project one rule.

Franklin taught it never to require new letters.

Esperanto taught it never to start with humans.

Dvorak taught it never to require new hardware.

The metric system taught it that logic does not win - benefit wins.

Lojban taught it that precision without familiarity is a museum piece.

And the agent-protocol builders of the 2020s, without meaning to, built the empty envelope that Diafina was born to fill.

The sound table is locked.

The decisions are made.

The plan is written.

What remains is work: the grammar, the dictionary, the converter, the experiment, the repository, the community.

Meaning is meant to show through.

dhis iz dhu biginiq.

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This is the beginning.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: THE COMPLETE ALPHABET AT A GLANCE

Consonants, twenty-four sounds:

- p – "pat"
- b – "bat"
- t – "ten"
- d – "dog"
- k – "cat"
- g – "got"
- f – "fan"
- v – "van"
- s – "sun"
- z – "zoo"
- h – "hat"
- m – "man"
- n – "net"

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- l - "leg"
- r - "red"
- w - "wet"
- y - "yes"
- x - "ship" - formal š
- c - "chair" - formal č
- j - "jam"
- q - "sing" - formal ŋ
- th - "thin" - formal þ
- dh - "this" - formal ð
- zh - "measure" - formal ž

Pure vowels, eight sounds:

- i - "sit"
- e - "bed"
- a - "cat"
- o - "cot" and "caught," merged
- u - "cup," and unstressed the schwa
- ee - "see"
- oo - "moon"

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- uu - "put"

Diphthongs, five sounds:

- ei - "day"
- ai - "my"
- oi - "boy"
- au - "now"
- ou - "go"

R-colored vowels, six sounds:

- ar - "car"
- or - "for"
- ur - "fur"
- er - "air"
- eer - "beer"
- oor - "tour" - merged speech allowed

Structure and function:

- underscore _ - joins compound words in writing; spoken as a brief schwa
- hyphen plus digits - the intensifier scale, happy-1 through happy-10
- ~ or /s - optional sarcasm and irony marker

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• capitals – proper nouns; also, provisionally, the stressed syllable in the rare pairs distinguished only by stress

• ordinary punctuation – keeps its ordinary jobs

APPENDIX B: THE H-SAFETY RULE, STATED FOR MACHINES

The letter "h" is the "hat" sound only at the start of a syllable, before a vowel.

After "t," "d," or "z," the letter "h" always forms the single sounds "th," "dh," or "zh," and is never a separate sound.

A true "t" plus "h" sequence can only occur across a compound boundary, where the underscore separates it.

Therefore the mapping between the common spelling and the formal spelling is one-to-one in both directions, with no exceptions, and may be implemented as a simple textual substitution.

APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY

• Agglutination – building words by gluing meaningful parts together.

• Ambiguity – the quality of having more than one possible meaning.

• ARPABET – a system writing English sounds in plain keyboard capitals, created by the Advanced

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Research Projects Agency; powers the Carnegie Mellon pronunciation dictionary.

• Artificial Intelligence (AI) – software performing tasks normally thought to require human intelligence.

• ASCII – the American Standard Code for Information Interchange, the basic set of about ninety-five printable keyboard characters.

• Beachhead – a first secure foothold from which a larger campaign grows.

• Centering diphthong – a vowel gliding inward toward the schwa, common in non-rhotic accents.

• Constructed language, or conlang – a language deliberately invented rather than naturally grown.

• Controlled natural language (CNL) – a cut-down version of a real language with restricted vocabulary and grammar.

• Cot-caught merger – the widespread American pronunciation feature in which "cot" and "caught" sound identical.

• Critical mass – the tipping point where adoption becomes self-sustaining.

• Dead key – a keyboard key that adds a mark to the next letter typed.

• Diacritic – a small mark added to a letter, such as an accent, tilde, or caron.

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• Digraphia – one language written in two writing systems side by side, as in Serbian.

• Diphthong – a vowel that glides between two positions within one syllable.

• Engineered language, or engelang – a language designed to meet a precise goal, such as zero ambiguity.

• Homonym – a word spelled and pronounced like another but different in meaning.

• Homophone – a word sounding like another but spelled differently and different in meaning.

• Idiom – a phrase whose real meaning differs from the literal meaning of its words.

• International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) – the scientific notation giving every human speech sound its own symbol.

• JSON – JavaScript Object Notation, a common machine data format that Diafina text must embed safely inside.

• Large Language Model (LLM) – an Artificial Intelligence system trained on huge amounts of text to understand and produce language.

• Liaison – a joining sound between words.

• Monophthong – a pure vowel that does not glide.

• Morpheme – the smallest unit of language that carries meaning.

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• Network effect – a thing becoming more valuable as more people use it.

• Normalization (NFC, NFD) – the process of storing accented characters in one consistent digital form.

• Orthography – a language's spelling system.

• Parse – for a computer, to break text into parts and understand their structure.

• Phoneme – a single distinct sound in a language.

• Phonetics – the study of speech sounds.

• Polysemy – one word carrying many related meanings.

• Proper noun – the name of a specific person, place, or organization.

• Public domain – material no one owns and anyone may freely use.

• Rhotic – describes an accent that pronounces every written "r."

• Schwa – the brief neutral "uh" vowel, the most common vowel sound in English.

• Semantics – the study of meaning.

• Syntax – the rules of word order and sentence structure.

• Token – the small chunk of text a language model reads and counts.

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• Unicode and UTF-8 – the worldwide character standard and its most common storage encoding.

APPENDIX D: THE PROJECT DOCUMENT INDEX

This manuscript was compiled from the complete Project_Files folder as of July 25, 2026.

The current core set:

• Diafina_README.txt – the one-page overview and index.

• Diafina_Constitution.txt – the highest-level rulebook.

• Diafina_Foundational_Notes.txt – the long working notebook.

• Diafina_Predecessors_and_Uniqueness.txt – the predecessors briefing.

• Diafina_Naming_Decision.txt – the naming decision record.

• Diafina_Origins_and_DoubleCheck.txt – the name origin and clearance double-check.

• Diafina_Adoption_Plan.txt – the adoption strategy.

• Diafina_Alphabet_and_Keyboard_Design.txt – the alphabet and keyboard memo.

• Diafina_Milestones.txt – the milestones log.

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• Diafina_Research_Franklin_Alphabet.txt - the Franklin research briefing.

• Diafina_Research_ASCII_Phonetic_Systems.txt - the SAMPA, X-SAMPA, and ARPABET briefing.

• Diafina_Sound_Table.txt - the consolidated sound table, version 0.3.

• Diafina_Vowel_Pass.txt - the focused vowel pass.

• Diafina_Explainer_Reference_Accent.txt - the reference accent explainer.

• Diafina_Diacritics_Question.txt - the diacritics memo.

• Diafina_Two_Tier_Spelling.txt - the two-tier spelling memo.

• Diafina_PlanA_PlanB_Typing_and_Practice.txt - the typing lesson and practice set.

• Diafina_Keyboard_Symbols_Brainstorm.txt - the keyboard symbols brainstorm.

• Diafina_Open_Decisions.txt - the open decisions checklist, now superseded by Part Eight of this manuscript.

The archive set: earlier snapshots of the above under "Archive_" prefixes, the original AllTalk foundational notes, the founding prompts, and five raw transcripts of Lojban video tutorials.

A file-integrity note, recorded July 25, 2026: three files in the folder are truncated mid-sentence on disk - Diafina_Constitution.txt

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(inside Rule 15), Diafina_README.txt (inside the document list), and Diafina_Foundational_Notes.txt (inside Subsection 12.5).

The archive copies carry slightly more text but two are also truncated.

The missing constitutional articles were restored in Part Four of this manuscript from cross-references in the other documents, and that restoration should be reviewed and re-adopted as authoritative.

APPENDIX E: SOURCES

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APPENDIX F: INSTRUCTIONS FOR AN IMPLEMENTATION SERVER – CREATING THE DIAFINA REPOSITORY

These are complete, standalone instructions for an Implementation Server – meaning any capable automated agent or engineer with command-line access – to create the official public repository for Project Diafina.

Target: a repository named "diafina" under the "ai-university-aiu" organization, so that the repository lives at the address github.com/ai-university-aiu/diafina.

A repository is a version-controlled folder of project files, hosted on a service such as GitHub,

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where "version-controlled" means every change is recorded and reversible using the tool named git.

Step 1: Prerequisites.

• Confirm the git tool is installed by running: git --version

• Confirm the GitHub command-line tool is installed by running: gh --version

• Authenticate to GitHub as an account with permission to create repositories in the ai-university-aiu organization, by running: gh auth login

• If the organization ai-university-aiu does not yet exist on GitHub, create it first through the GitHub web interface (Settings, then Organizations, then New organization, free plan), because organizations cannot be created from the command line.

Step 2: Create the repository.

Run this single command:

gh repo create ai-university-aiu/diafina --public --description "Diafina - an engineered language with honest phonetic spelling, one meaning per word, and an AI-first adoption plan. Fixing what is broken with English." --clone

This creates a public repository named diafina under the organization, and clones it - meaning

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downloads a linked working copy - to the local machine.

If the graphical web interface is preferred instead: log in to GitHub, choose the ai-university-aiu organization, press New repository, name it diafina, set visibility to Public, and do not initialize with any files.

Step 3: Lay out the folder structure.

Inside the cloned diafina folder, create this structure:

• README.md - the front-door file, adapted from Diafina_README.txt.

• LICENSE - the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license text, per Decision 10 of the Decision Record. The full legal text is available at https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode.txt

• GOVERNANCE.md - a short statement naming the Diafina steering group as maintainer of the single official standard, per Decision 10.

• constitution/ - containing the Constitution, restored per Part Four of this manuscript.

• spec/ - containing the sound table, the vowel pass, the two-tier spelling definition, and the decision record.

• book/ - containing MANUSCRIPT.txt, this manuscript.

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• research/ - containing the Franklin, phonetic-systems, predecessors, and adoption research files.

• archive/ - containing the Archive_ files, preserved as project history.

• tools/ - initially empty except for a README describing the three planned tools: the English-to-Diafina converter, the common-to-formal spelling interpreter, and the Milestone 1 experiment harness.

• dictionary/ - initially empty except for a README describing the Carnegie-Mellon-conversion build plan, per Decision 8.

Step 4: Copy the project files.

Copy every file from the local Project_Files folder into the structure above - current core files into spec, constitution, research, and book as appropriate, and Archive_ files into archive.

Attach the required attribution notice wherever Lojban definition text is quoted verbatim, per Constitution Rule 14.

Step 5: Commit and push.

From inside the repository folder, run:

git add .

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```
git commit -m "Founding commit: Diafina
specification, constitution, research, decision
record, and manuscript"

git push origin main
```

"Commit" records the change set locally, and "push" uploads it to the shared repository.

Step 6: Repository settings.

• Set the repository topics, for discoverability: conlang, engineered-language, phonetics, ai-agents, spelling-reform.

• Enable Issues, so the community can report questions and proposals to the steering group.

• Protect the main branch (Settings, then Branches, then Add branch protection rule, require pull-request review), so that no change reaches the official standard without steering-group review - this implements the anti-fragmentation governance of Decision 10.

Step 7: Verify.

• Confirm the repository is visible at github.com/ai-university-aiu/diafina.

• Confirm the LICENSE file displays as Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 on the repository front page.

• Confirm README.md renders as the front door.

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• Report completion, with the repository address, back to the project owner.

END OF MANUSCRIPT – DIAFINA – Compiled July 25, 2026

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BACK COVER MATTER

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DIAFINA: Fixing What Is Broken With English

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(As this is an evolving field!)

If you are aware of emerging alternative information that could further the field of Artificial Intelligence Engineering into the future, then please let me know so that the project may be improved in the next edition! :

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