



Blousques

Challenges in Translating Bluesky's User Interface

by @signez.fr at [ATmosphereConf 2026](#)

March 29th, 2026 in Vancouver, BC, Canada

Hello, my name is
Stanislas “Signez” Signoud

🔊 \si.ne\

Hello, my name is
Stanislas “Signez” Signoud

🔊 \si.ɲe\

i.e. “see knee hey”

(but honestly i don't care)

call me Stan it's easier

Internet handle

 @signez.fr

Internet handle

 @signez.fr

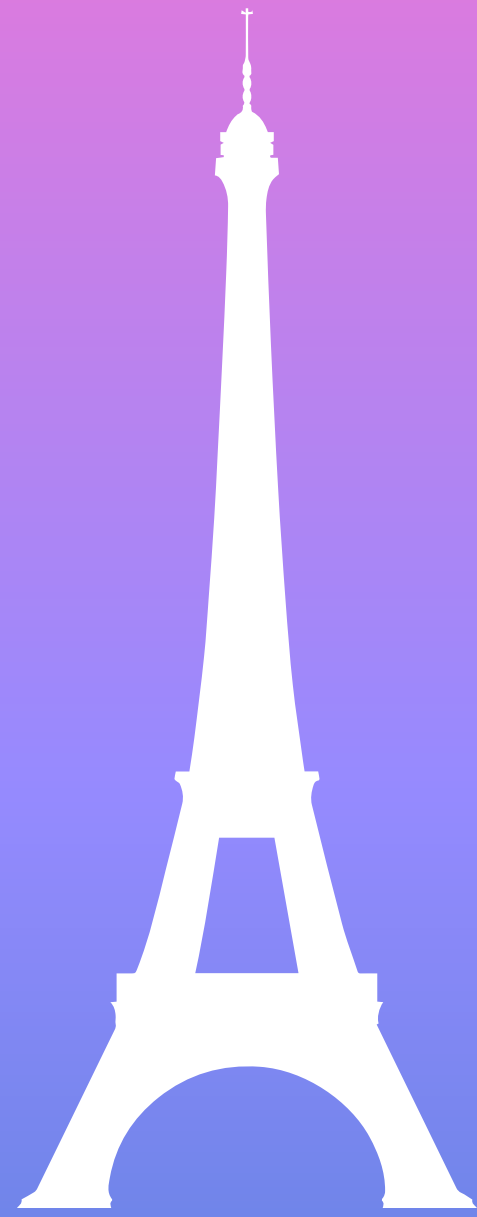
youtube.com/@Signez

twitch.tv/Signez

@Signez@mastodon.social

etc.

KEY FACTS ABOUT STAN



Parisian
since 2013

Software Engineer
freelance full stack developer

Neurodivergent
Recently diagnosed
with ADHD ✓

Gay

Loves Rust
(a given at this point)

also streams
and writes a
newsletter at
lundi.dev



**Terminally
online**

(i.e. talks about
politics on Bluesky)

...but that's not important right now



I am French.

I am sorry.



I am French.

I am sorry.

en-US

fr-FR

Main volunteer translator
of Bluesky's UI in French

WHAT YOU MAY THINK I DO

Bluesky



hon hon

Bluesky

baguette

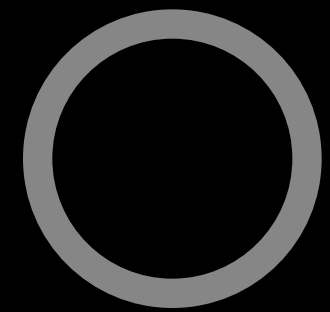
(assuming you only think about **fr**-FR btw)

It's not that simple.

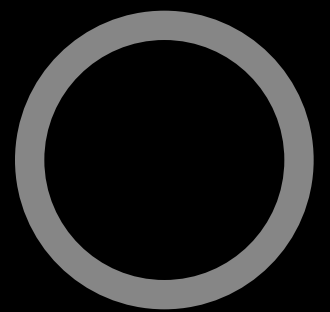
Also we don't say "*hon hon*" nor "*omelette du fromage*", plz stop
we say "*du coup*" a lot though and it makes Québec people mad, sorry



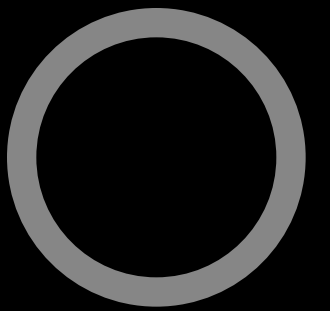
~~Stan is French and sorry~~



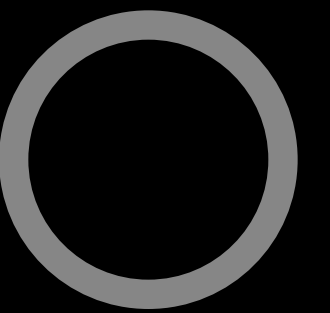
Poster



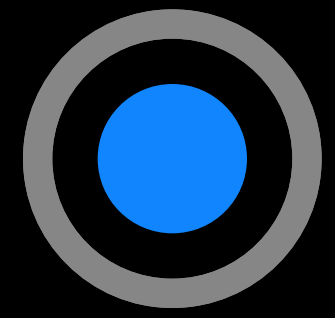
Abonné·e·s



Traduit (langue d'origine : anglais)



Following, Discover, For You...



Poster



Home

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Profile

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New Post

Post



Jerry Chen

@jcsalterego.bsky.social

+ Follow

people will think anything on bluesky. "he's got thousands of followers! he must have good posts." no they aren't. that isn't true.

Translate

07:59 · 16 oct. 2024 Some people can reply

457 reposts 50 quotes 6.3K likes 10 saves

123

507

6,3 k



John Breen @breen.myatproto.social · Oct 16, 2024

youth pastor voice you know who made good posts and only had 12 followers?

4

21

163



TheSithArts @thesitharts.bsky.social · Oct 16, 2024

That's right. The good Lord Jebus Christmas.

1



40



Okayish Linguaphile 🍷🍷🍷🍷 日本語 fr... @raenpayne.b... · Nov 9, 2024

I heard it was Krampus



19



dan mentos @danmentos.com · Mar 26, 2025

"I followed jerry chen before it was cool" -literally everyone who follows jerry chen

1



43



Search

Following

Discover

Quiet Posters

Popular With Friends

+ More feeds

Trending

1. Mariners
2. Nebraska Basketball
3. Purdue
4. TSA and ICE
5. Mets vs Pirates

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New Post



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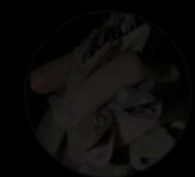
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Discover

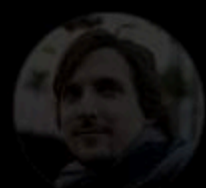
Quiet Posters

Popular With Friends

+ More feeds

Trending

1. Mariners
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5. Mets vs Pirates



Search

- Home
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- Profile
- Settings

New Post

Cancel Drafts **Post**

Imagine I wrote a funny post here|

🔒 Anyone can interact ▾

+ English 267

- Following
- Discover
- Quiet Posters
- Popular With Friends
- + More feeds

Trending

- Senate Vote
- Blue Reflection Quartet
- Mariners
- Nebraska Basketball
- Purdue

- followers?
4 21 163
- TheSithArts** @thesitharts.bsky.social · Oct 16, 2024
That's right. The good Lord Jesus Christmas.
1 40
- Okayish Linguaphile** 🍷🍷🍷🍷 日本語 fr... @raenpayne.b... · Nov 9, 2024
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19
- dan mentos** @danmentos.com · Mar 26, 2025
"I followed jerry chen before it was cool" -literally everyone who follows jerry chen
1 43



← Post



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Feeds

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Profile

Settings

New Post

Cancel

Drafts

Post



Imagine I wrote a funny post here|

Anyone can interact

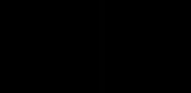


English

267

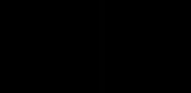


followers?



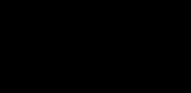
TheSithArts @thesitharts.bsky.social · Oct 16, 2024

That's right. The good Lord Jibus Christmas.



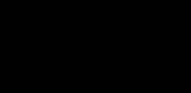
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Search

Following

Discover

Quiet Posters

Popular With Friends

More feeds

Trending

Senate Vote

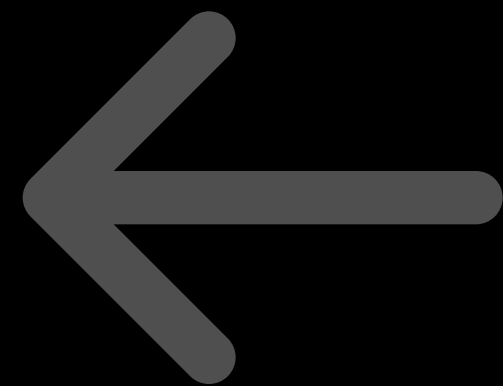
Blue Reflection Quartet

Manners

Nebraska Basketball

Purdue

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Post

en-US

Post

en-US

Post

fr-FR

Post

en-US

Post

fr-FR

Poster

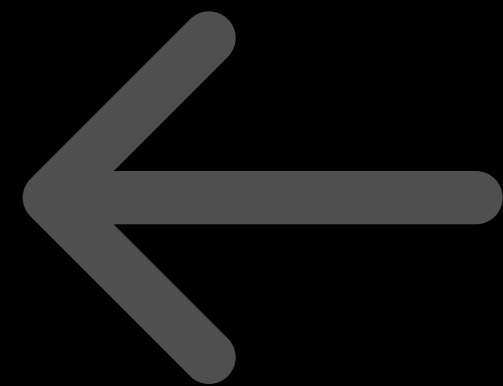
fr-FR

← Post

Poster

to post

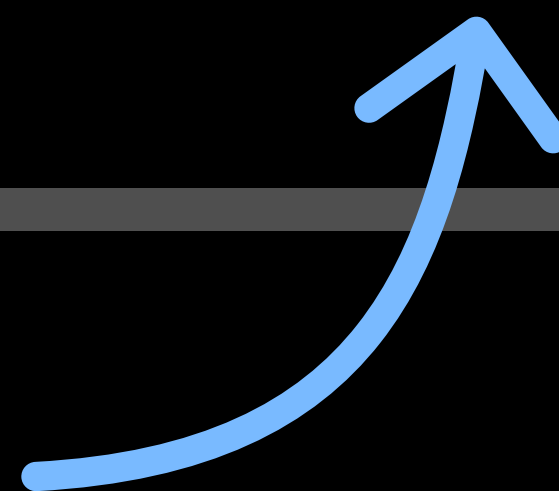




Poster

fr-FR

to post!?



Poster

internationalization

internationalization

18 characters

i18n

now you know

Reference language

Post

Post a photo

Post All

Post by @{0}

Post has been deleted

Post failed to upload.

Please check your

Internet connection and

try again.

Hierarchical identifiers

header.post

composer.actions.photo_post

composer.thread.post_all

header.post_by

toasts.posts.deleted

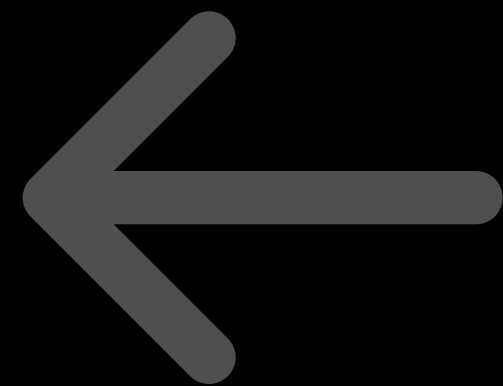
composer.errors

.upload_fail

Bluesky chose the former.

That's okay! It's very common for English speakers to do it that way, as it makes it faster to iterate and to "slap" translations after the fact.

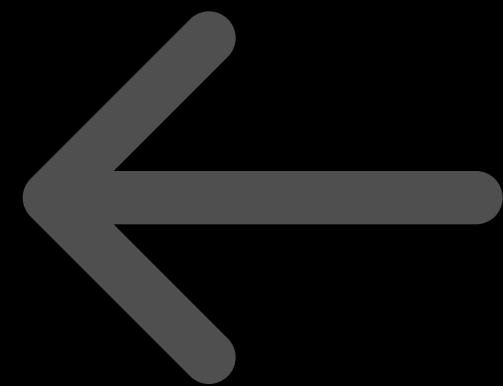
```
<Layout.Header.BackButton />  
<Layout.Header.Content>  
  <Layout.Header.TitleText>  
    <Trans>Post</Trans>  
  </Layout.Header.TitleText>  
</Layout.Header.Content>
```



Post

en-US

Post



Post

en-US

STANDALONE NOUN

ACTION VERB

Post

```
<Layout.Header.BackButton />  
<Layout.Header.Content>  
  <Layout.Header.TitleText>  
    <Trans context="description">Post</Trans>  
  </Layout.Header.TitleText>  
</Layout.Header.Content>
```

description

en-US

Post

fr-FR

Post

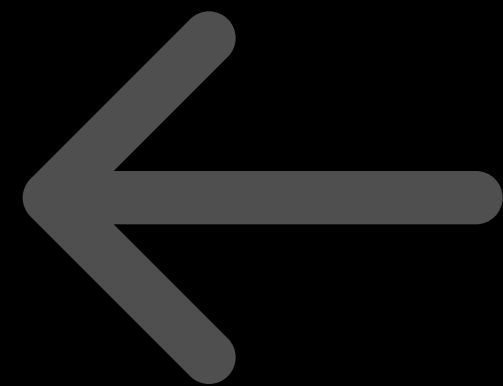
verb

en-US

Post

fr-FR

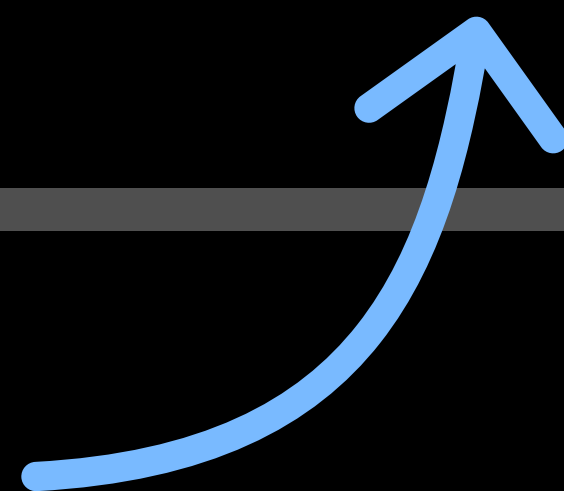
Poster



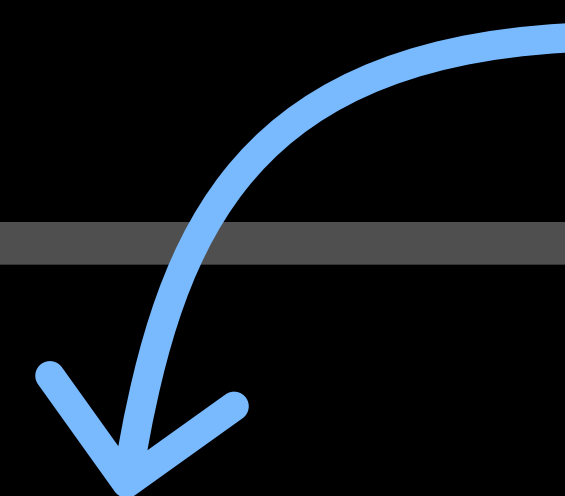
Post

fr-FR

(a) post



to post



Poster

Context is everything.

Either choose the hierarchical approach for identifiers, or be ready to add context when it's useful for translators (ideally, do it proactively!)

~~Stan is French and sorry~~

~~Context is everything~~

Abonné·e·s

Traduit (langue d'origine : anglais)

Following, Discover, For You...

 Abonné·e·s



French translation: Make it gender-neutral #2425



fenarinarsa opened on Jan 4, 2024



Is your feature request related to a problem? Please describe.

The current French translation does not follow the current recommendations for non-sexist and more inclusive French forms.



en-US

fr-FR



en-US

a hat

fr-FR

un chapeau



en-US

a hat

fr-FR

un chapeau



en-US

a hat

a tulip

fr-FR

un chapeau

une tulipe

In French, everything* is gendered.

From objects to concepts, speakers already chose a gender for everything, even for brand new words or concepts.

EXAMPLES OF GENDERED THINGS



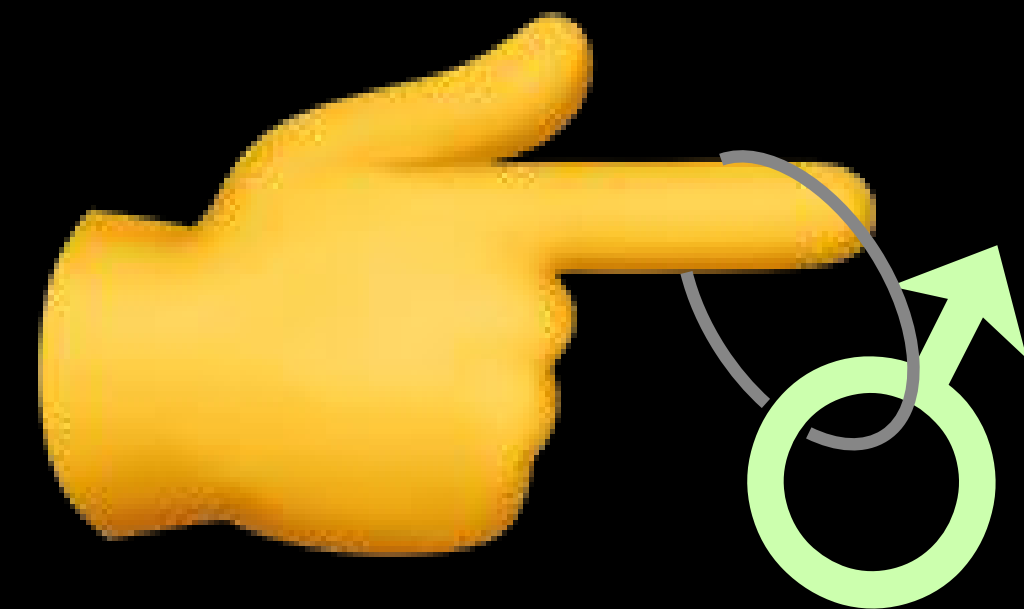
a chair
une chaise



a shoe
une chaussure



a seat
un siège

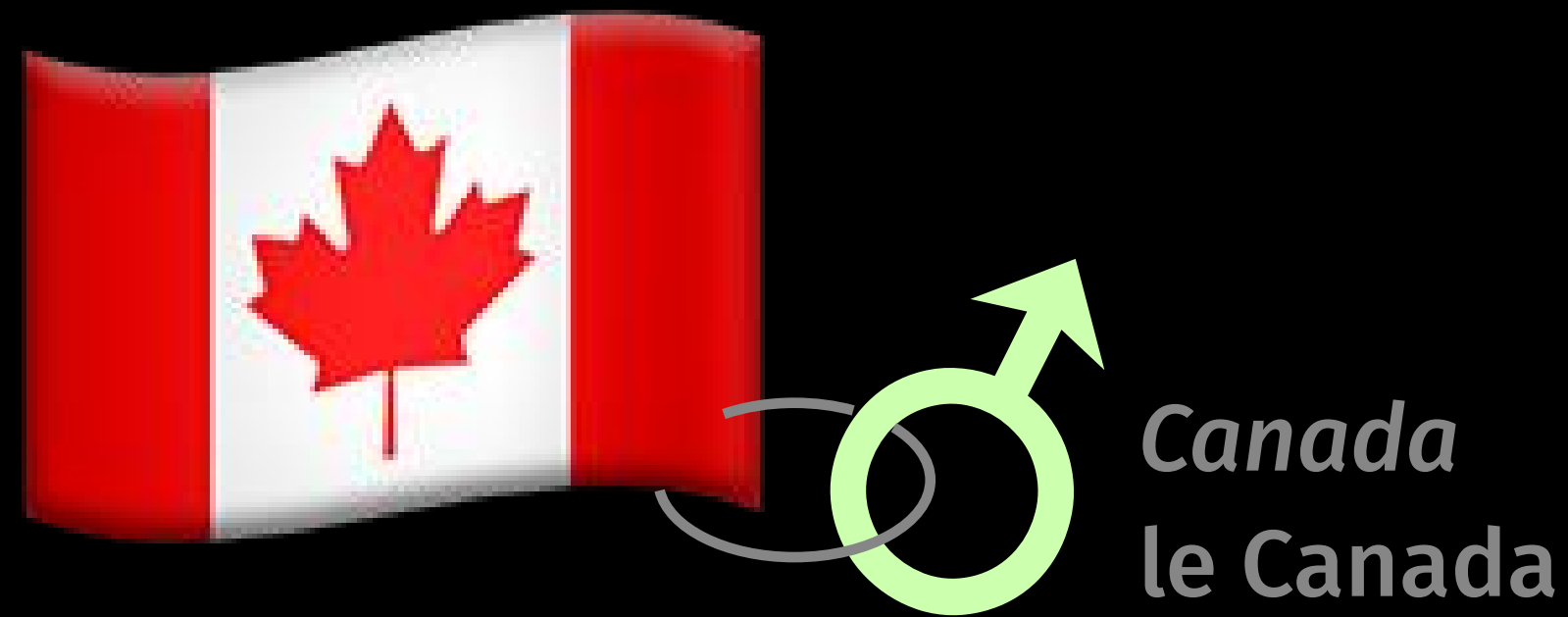


a finger
un doigt

By the way, in **fr-FR**, we say *la* Gameboy and *le* WiFi.

Don't fall for the weirdos that would tell you otherwise (unless they are from Québec).

EXAMPLES OF GENDERED THINGS, PART 2



When I say nearly everything, I really mean it!

Gendering is not optional.

If you say “*un tulipe*”, people will assume you have made an error and most of the time they will offer to correct you, even verbally.

(hopefully they won't be rude in doing so)



en-US

fr-FR

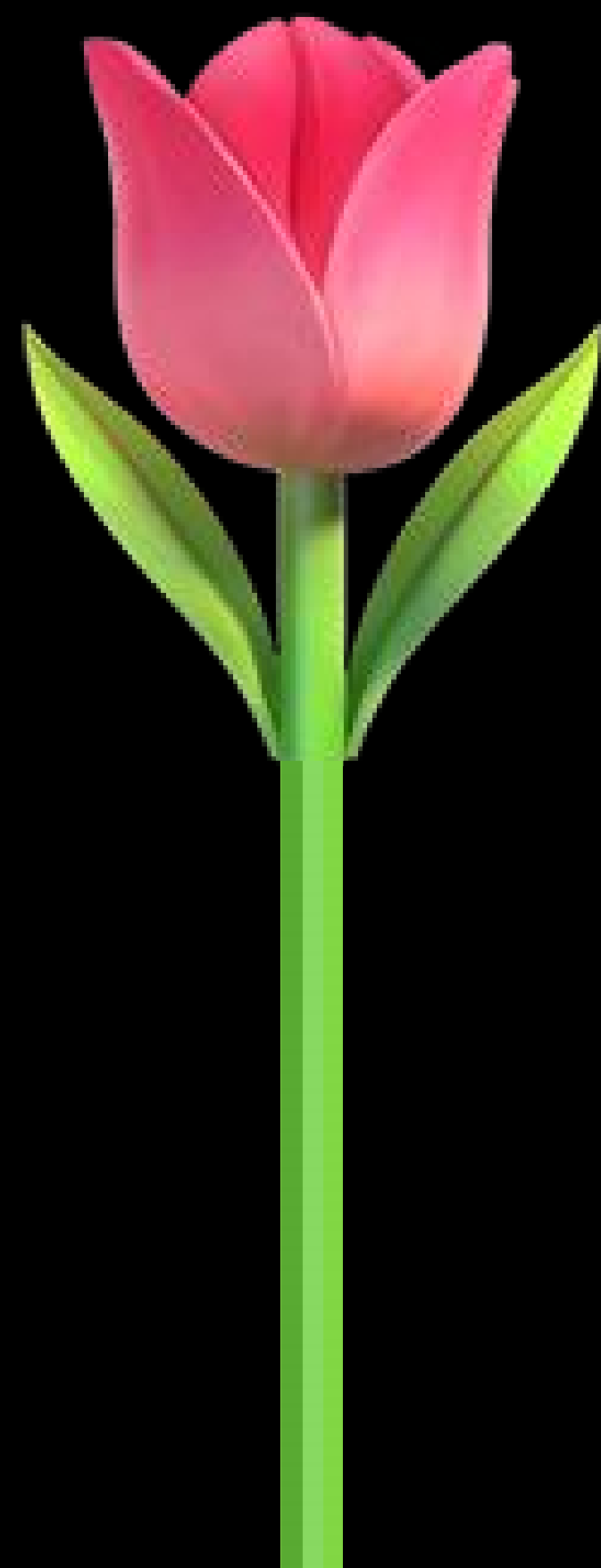


en-US

a big hat

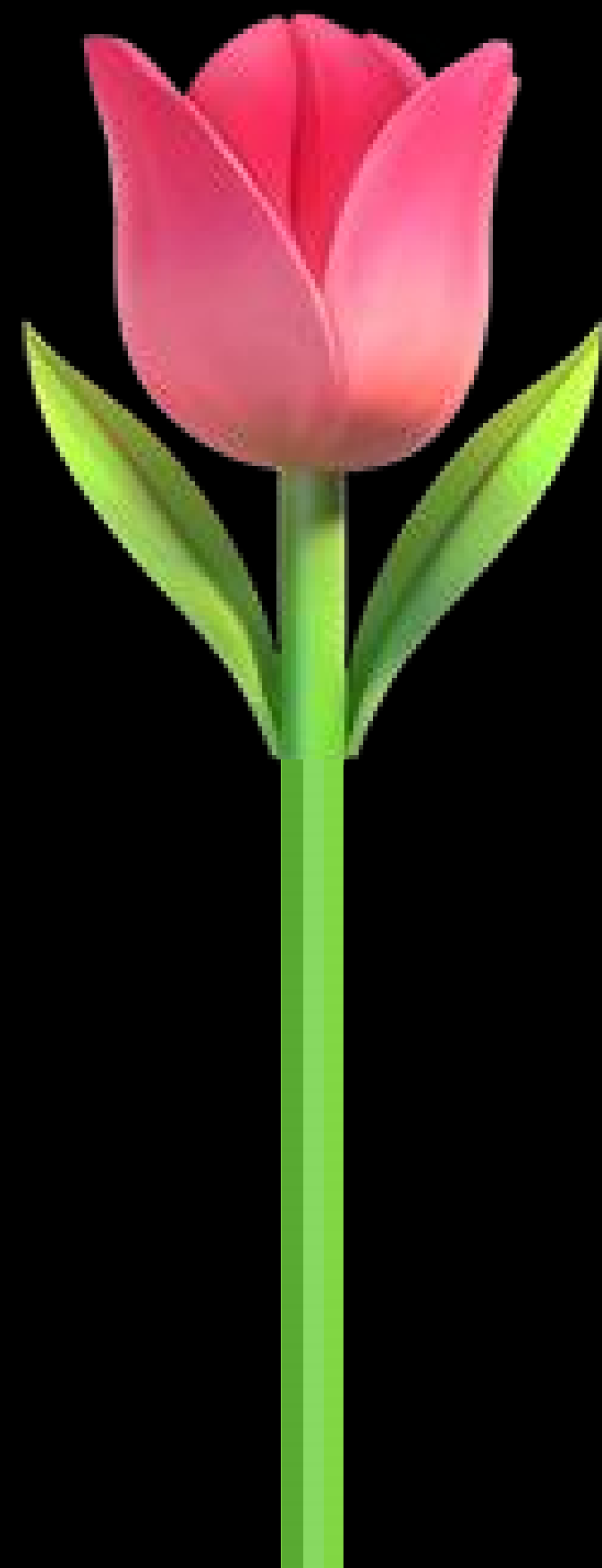
fr-FR

un grand chapeau



en-US

fr-FR



en-US

a big tulip

fr-FR

une grande tulipe

une grande tulipe

en-US

fr-FR

un accord

une grande tulipe

though nobody seems to say that in English

en-US

a concord

fr-FR

un accord



that's also an accord! (but *in numbers*)

en-US

two tulips

fr-FR



that's also an accord! (but *in numbers*)

en-US

two tulips

fr-FR

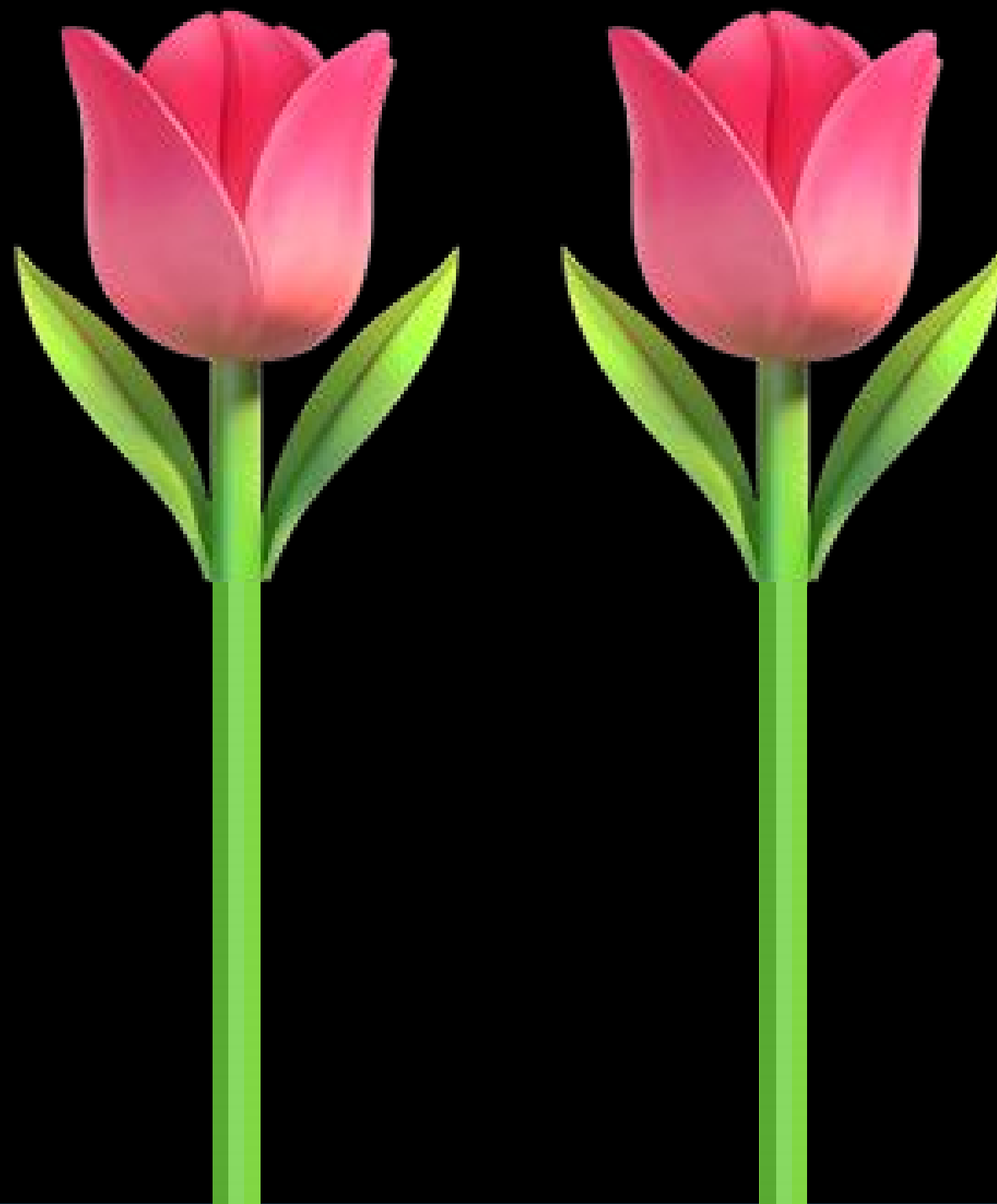
deux tulipes



en-US

two big tulips

fr-FR



en-US

two big tulips

fr-FR

deux grandes tulipes



en-US

an old man

fr-FR

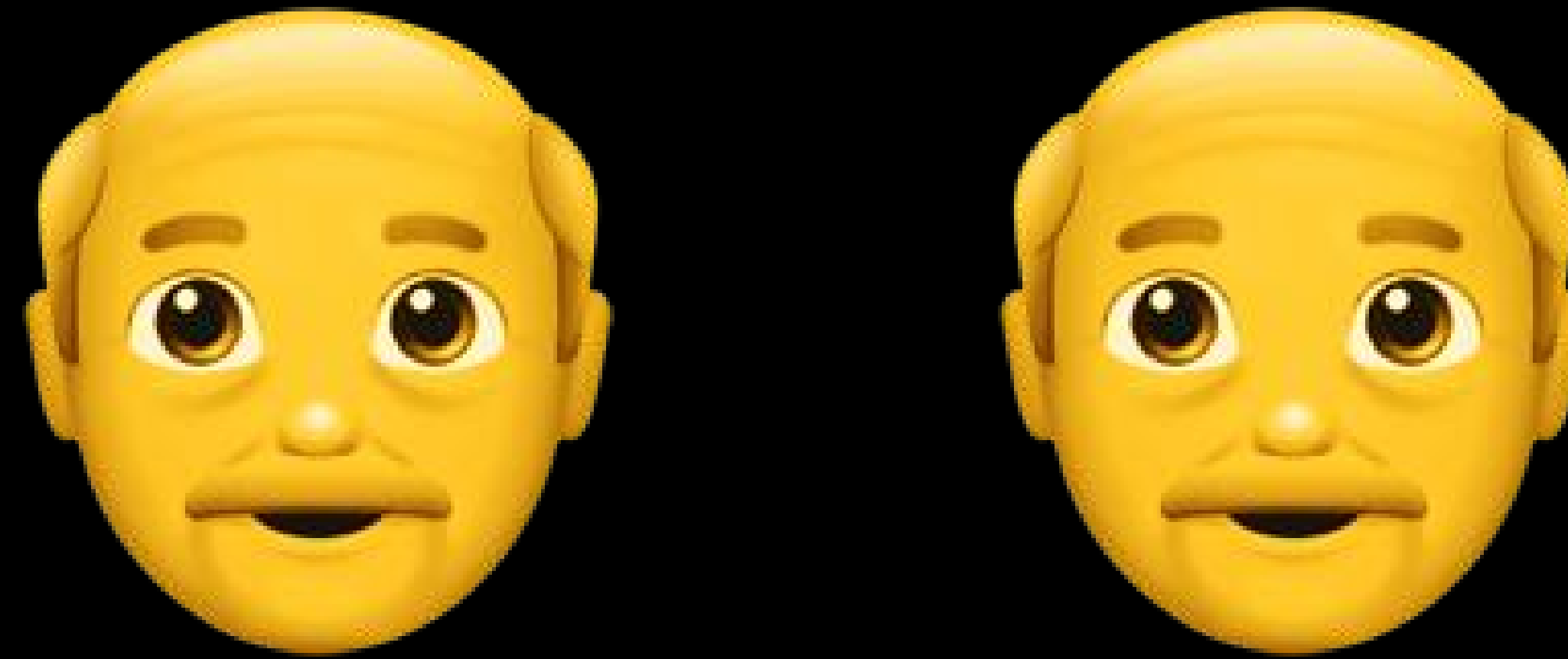


en-US

an old man

fr-FR

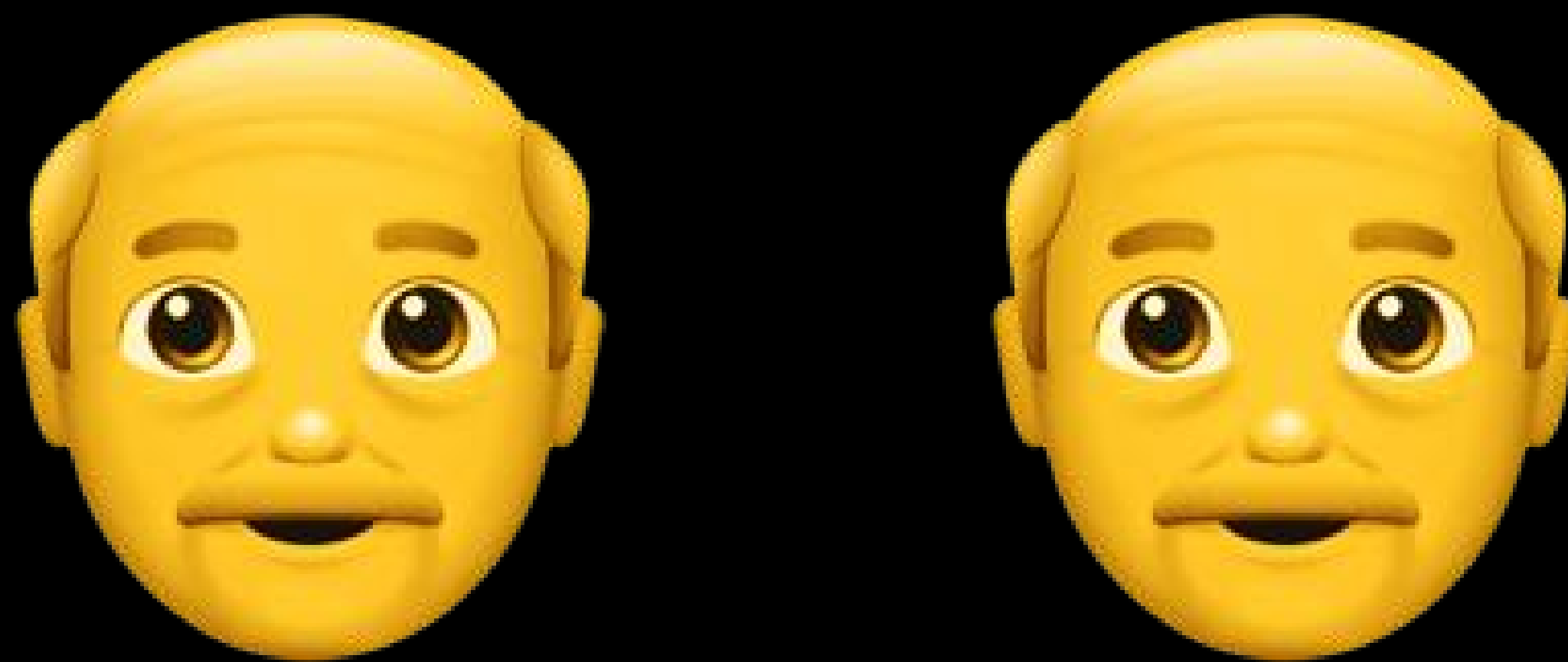
un vieil homme



en-US

two old men

fr-FR



en-US

two old men

fr-FR

deux vieux hommes



en-US

two old women

fr-FR

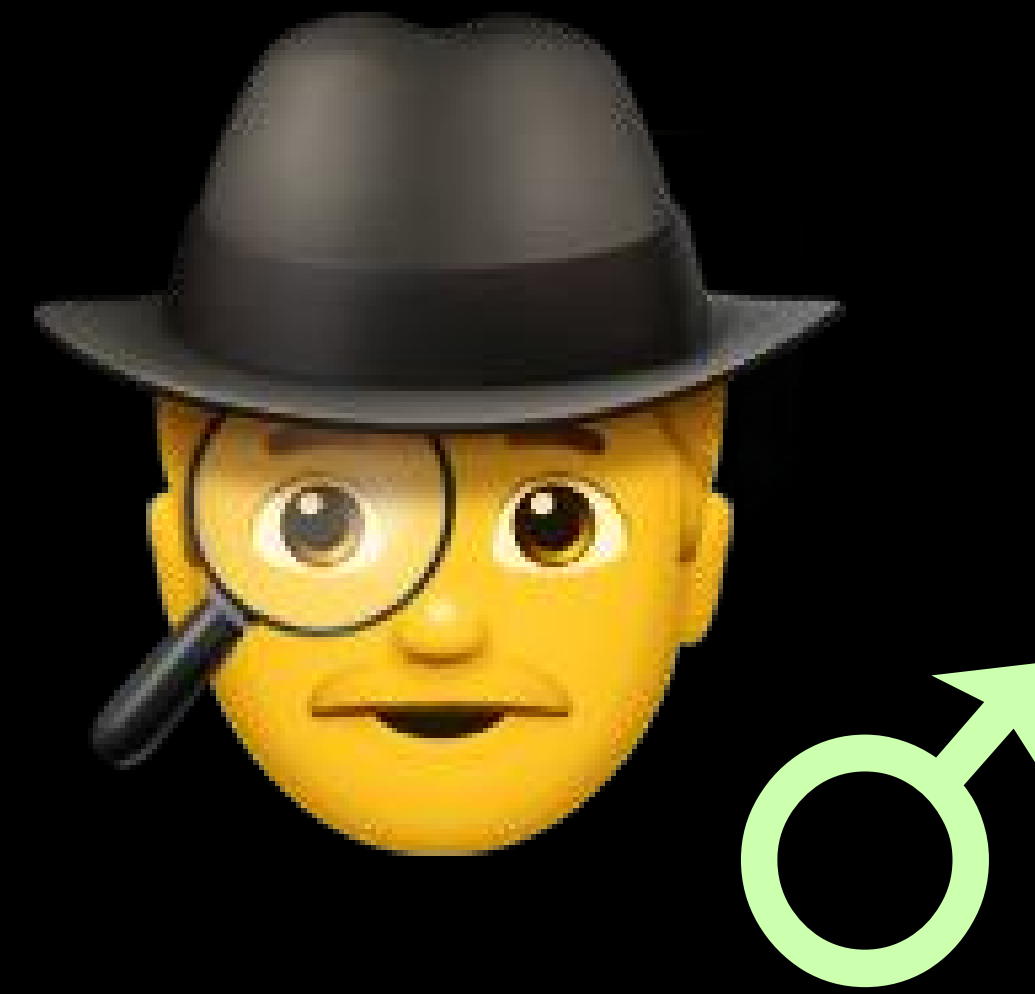


en-US

two old women

fr-FR

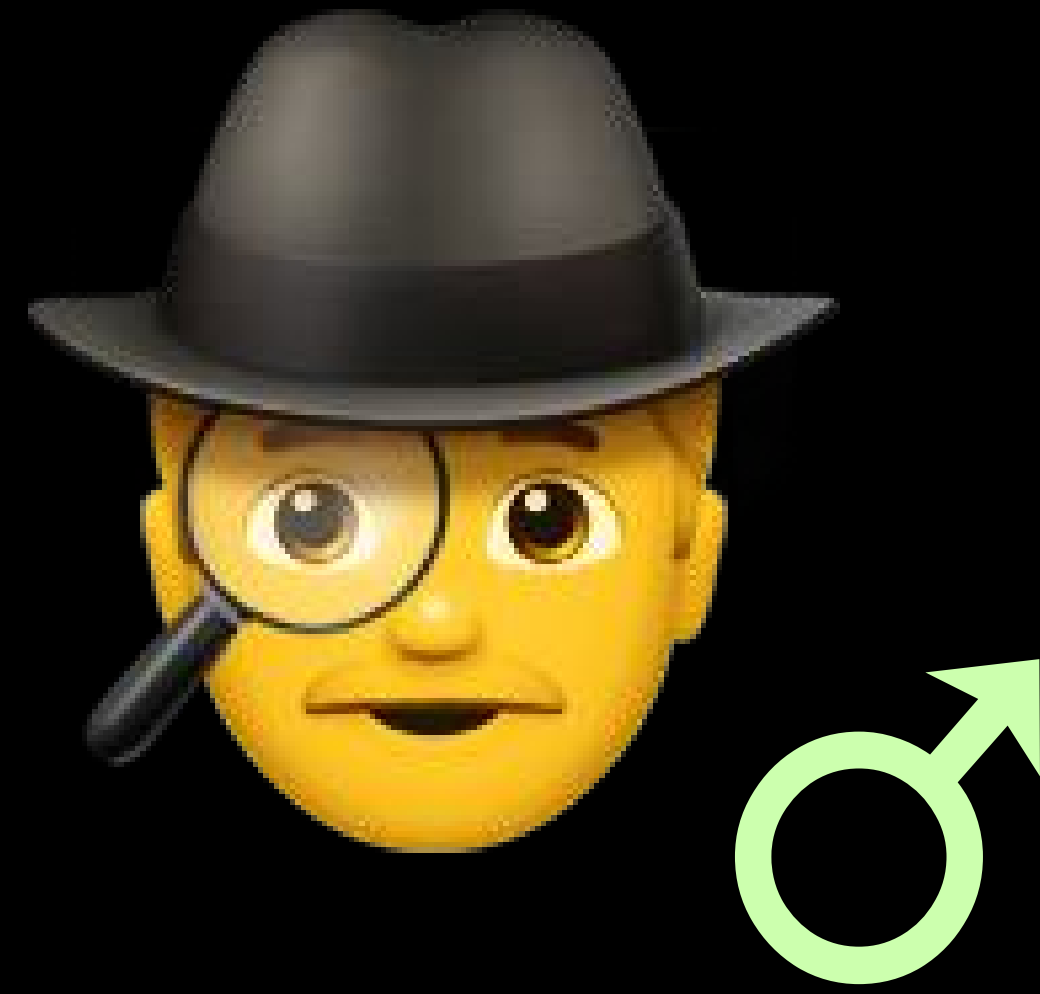
deux vieilles femmes



en-US

a detective

fr-FR

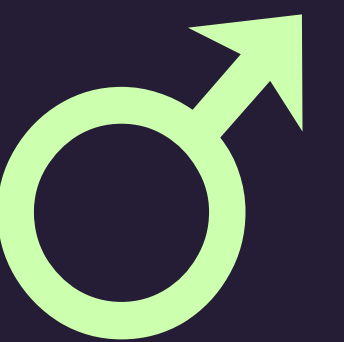


en-US

a detective

fr-FR

un inspecteur





en-US

a detective

fr-FR



en-US

a detective

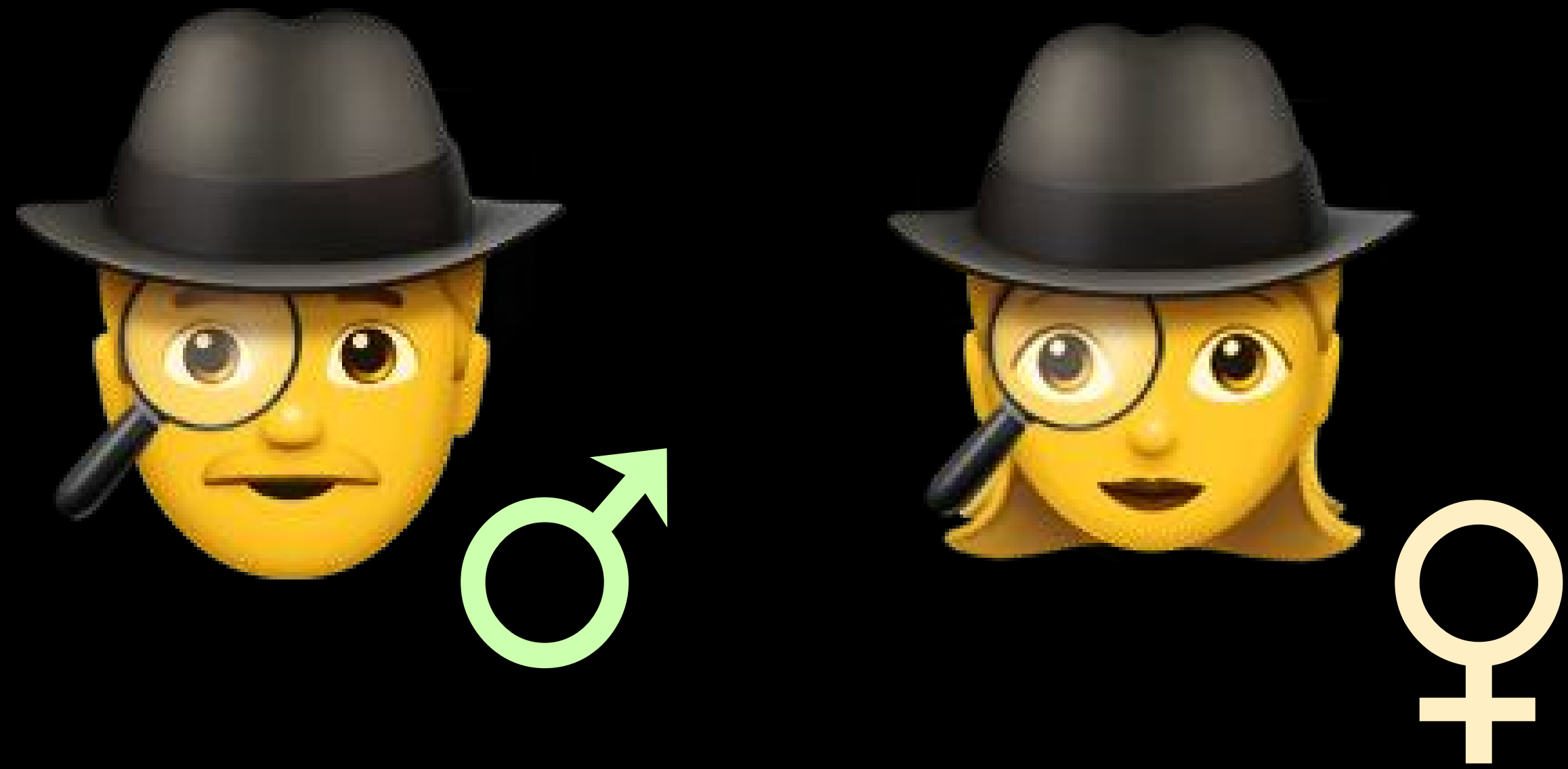
fr-FR

une inspectrice



By the way, we don't know
the gender of the user.

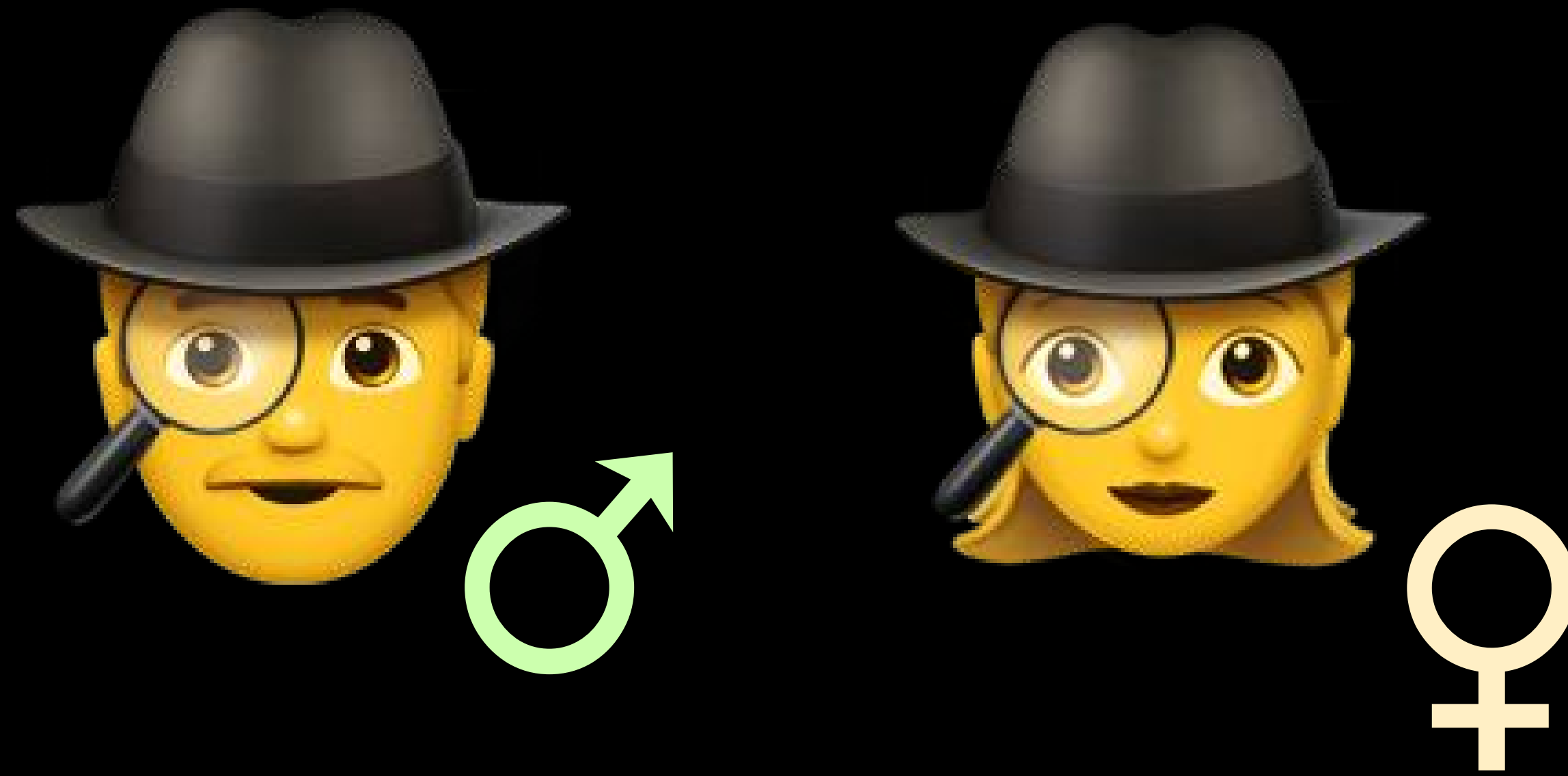
And we don't want to ask.



en-US

two detectives

fr-FR

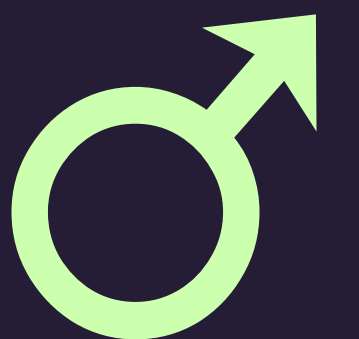


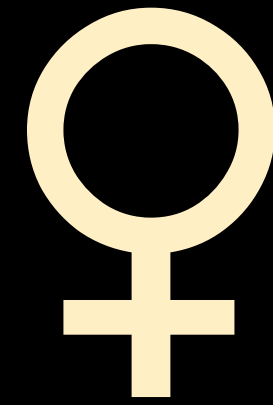
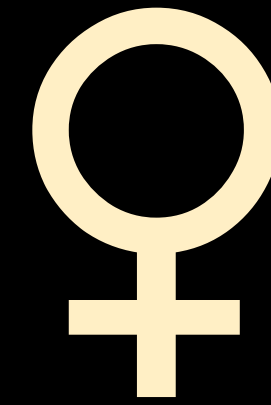
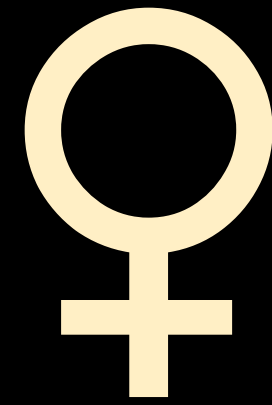
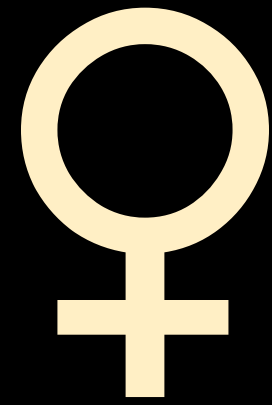
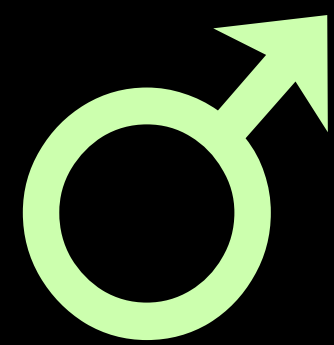
en-US

two detectives

fr-FR

deux inspecteurs

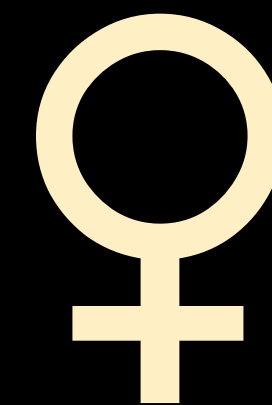
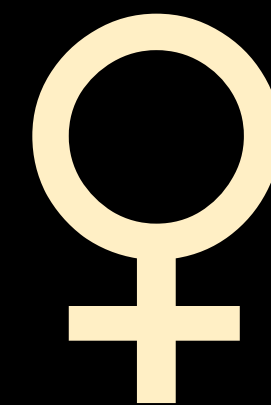
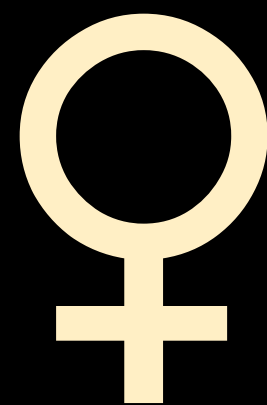
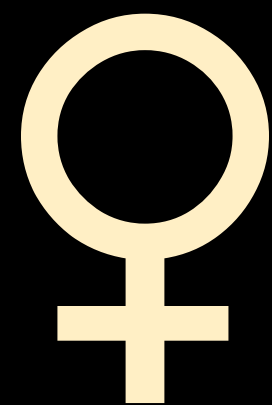
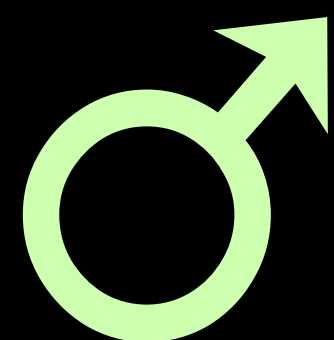




en-US

five detectives

fr-FR

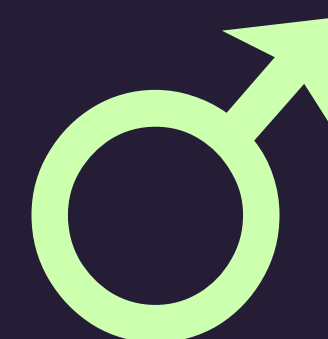


en-US

five detectives

fr-FR

cinq inspecteurs



« *Le masculin l'emporte* »

said some guy a long time ago

This rule *sucks*.

And it has real consequences.

Introducing

« **écriture inclusive** »

“inclusive writing”

THE TWO STRATEGIES OF *ÉCRITURE INCLUSIVE*



THE TWO STRATEGIES OF *ÉCRITURE INCLUSIVE*



dix inspecteurs **et** inspectrices

THE TWO STRATEGIES OF *ÉCRITURE INCLUSIVE*



dix inspecteurs **et** inspectrices

OR

dix inspecteur·ice·s

THE TWO STRATEGIES OF ÉCRITURE INCLUSIVE



dix inspecteurs **et** inspectrices

OR

dix inspecteur·ice·s

point médian

We could also use *parentheses* instead of *point médian*.

Should we put 50% of people inside parentheses though? In 2026 in fr-FR we tend not to.

Écriture inclusive was fringe at first,
and then somewhat common.

but then...

...isn't this *woke*?



eur·rice·s

using *point médian* = being woke

I'm oversimplifying of course, but it was honestly as reactionary as you could imagine (and sometimes very dumb).





Update French translations to not use politically sided language. #6512

commented on Nov 18, 2024 · edited



The use of "é·e·s" is not in the french language, as stated by the [Académie française](#) and color bluesky as political.

abonné, ée

adjectif et nom masculin et féminin

Qui a un abonnement. Un lecteur abonné | Le catalogue est

So. What should we do?

GOING FORWARD IN fr-FR



GOING FORWARD IN fr-FR



Mainly dix inspecteurs **et** inspectrices

GOING FORWARD IN fr-FR



Mainly dix inspecteurs **et** inspectrices

But if and only if we have very little room for the translated version

As a last resort dix inspecteur·ice·s

...but we have a trick up our sleeves

...but what if?

(I lied to you. By omission, of course.)



en-US

a detective

a detective

fr-FR



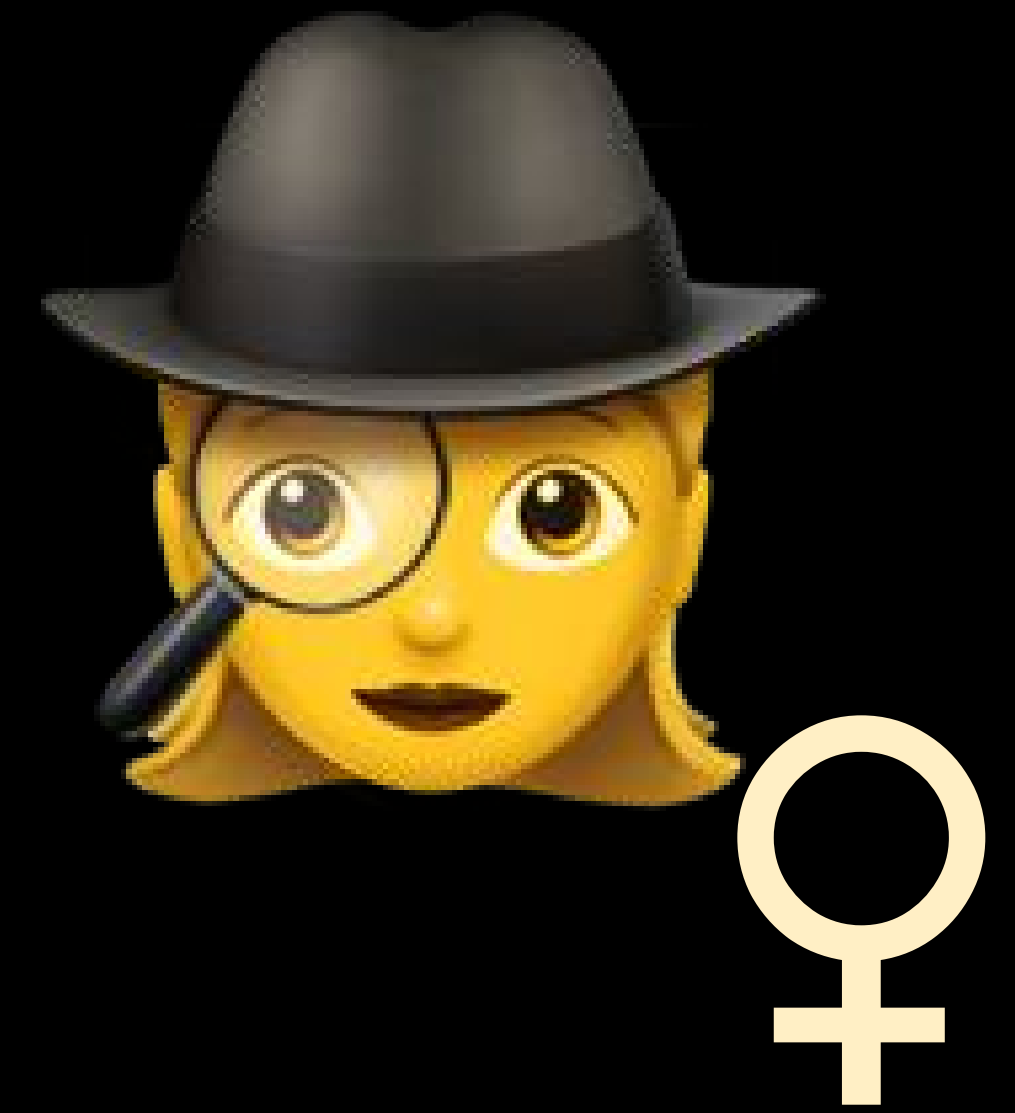
en-US

a detective

a detective

fr-FR

un détective



en-US

a detective

a detective

fr-FR

un détective

une détective

Those are *épicène* words.

They are written the same in both masculine and feminine form.

...they don't always exist.

Life is unfair.

GOING FORWARD IN fr-FR, PART 2



GOING FORWARD IN fr-FR, PART 2



Épicène word

dix détectives

GOING FORWARD IN fr-FR, PART 2



Épicène word dix détectives

Not found? dix inspecteurs et inspectrices

GOING FORWARD IN fr-FR, PART 2



Épicène word dix détectives

Not found? dix inspecteurs et inspectrices

As a last resort dix inspecteur·ice·s

...and here we have it!



gaearon commented on Nov 19, 2024

Contributor



Hi [redacted] thank you for your feedback. We try to keep these kinds of decisions within the purview of the individual teams driving each translation, and we trust the translator teams to acknowledge and weigh the feedback they receive. As [@Signez](#) noted, this change was partially informed by earlier feedback, and the team weighed different options before arriving at the current solution. Your feedback has been noted too.

I'm going to close this thread because the arguments have been considered, and we're starting to go in circles. In particular, personal attacks and questioning maintainers' motivations makes the discussion needlessly emotionally charged, and not good for anyone. Please remember this work is voluntary and open source.

We can expect the translations to continue evolving in response to user feedback. This feedback has been heard and acknowledged by the team. Thanks everyone for your time.



gaearon commented on Nov 19, 2024

Contributor



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Thank you again, Dan and the Bluesky team. 🙏

That meant a lot to me to feel supported on this pragmatic approach.



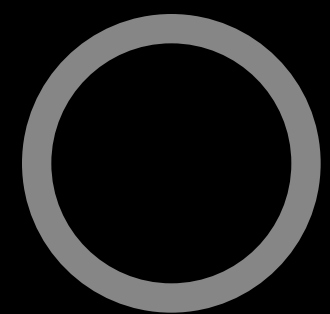
~~Stan is French and sorry~~



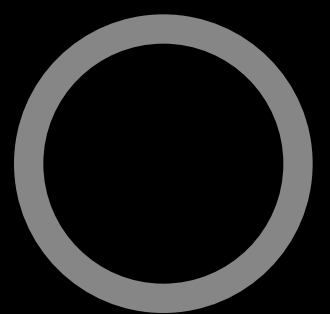
~~Context is everything~~



~~Support genders and translators~~



Traduit (langue d'origine : anglais)



Following, Discover, For You...

Traduit (langue d'origine : anglais)



en-US

the cat

fr-FR



en-US

the cat

fr-FR

le chat



en-US

the cat

the tree

fr-FR

le chat



en-US

the cat

the tree

fr-FR

le chat

l'arbre

Élision is not optional.

If you say “*le arbre*”, people will assume you have made an error and most of the time they will offer to correct you again, even verbally.

(hopefully they won't be rude again in doing so)

en-US

New message from Alexandre

en-US

New message from Alexandre



Nouveau message d'Alexandre

en-US

New message from Alexandre



Nouveau message d'Alexandre



Nouveau message de Alexandre

We are used to software not doing it,
because it's **hard** to do properly.

Some letters do trigger the *élision* but only in some words, and there are “hardcoded” exceptions.

i18n libraries don't care about that.

No standard way of doing it like with plurals (or even genders).

Translated from English

Translated from English



Traduit depuis l'anglais

Translated from English



Traduit depuis l'anglais



Traduit depuis le anglais

Translated from English



Traduit depuis l'anglais



Traduit depuis le anglais

Traduit depuis anglais



Traduit (original en anglais)

Translated (originally in English)



Traduit (original en anglais)

Translated (originally in English)



Traduit (langue originale : anglais)

Translated (source language : English)

No strings to display

Select Another File

No strings to display
[Select Another File](#)



Sometimes, there are no perfect solutions, only workarounds.

That's okay! At least we tried, and people are used to that anyway.



~~Stan is French and sorry~~



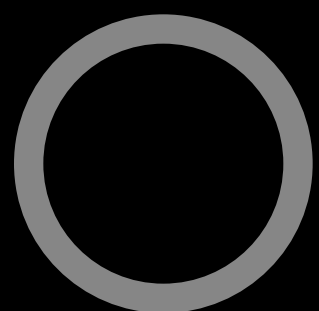
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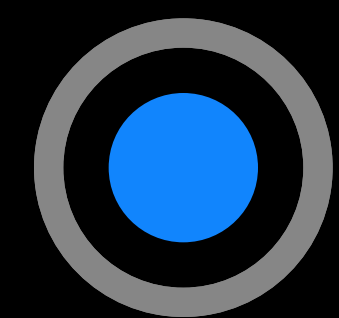
~~Support genders and translators~~



~~Workarounds may be required~~



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📝 Nouveau post



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Quoi de neuf ?



↻ Republié par Nicolas Holzschuch



✨**Papesse Hortense**✨🍊 @papesse.bsky.social · 1 h

Ma soeur, chercheuse, se marie avec un chercheur. Tous les deux ils sont invités leurs amis chercheurs et leurs collègues chercheurs.

Je sais pas si je vais à un mariage ou a un colloque

💬 3

↻ 1

❤️ 17



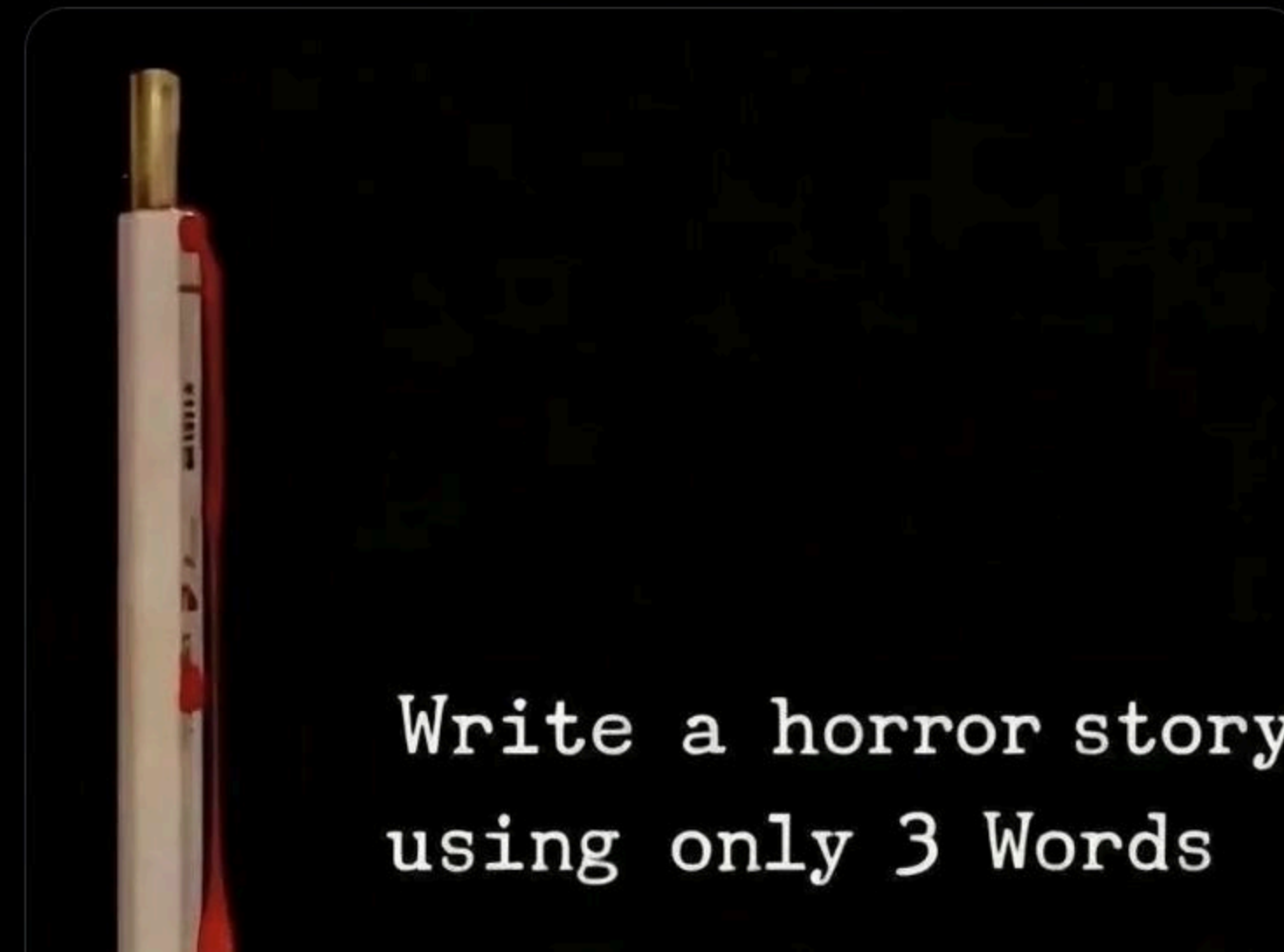
Raveline @raveline.bsky.social · 11 min

Thirty years' war.



Screaming Pectoriloquy @caulimovirus.bsky.social · 14 h

scary monster man



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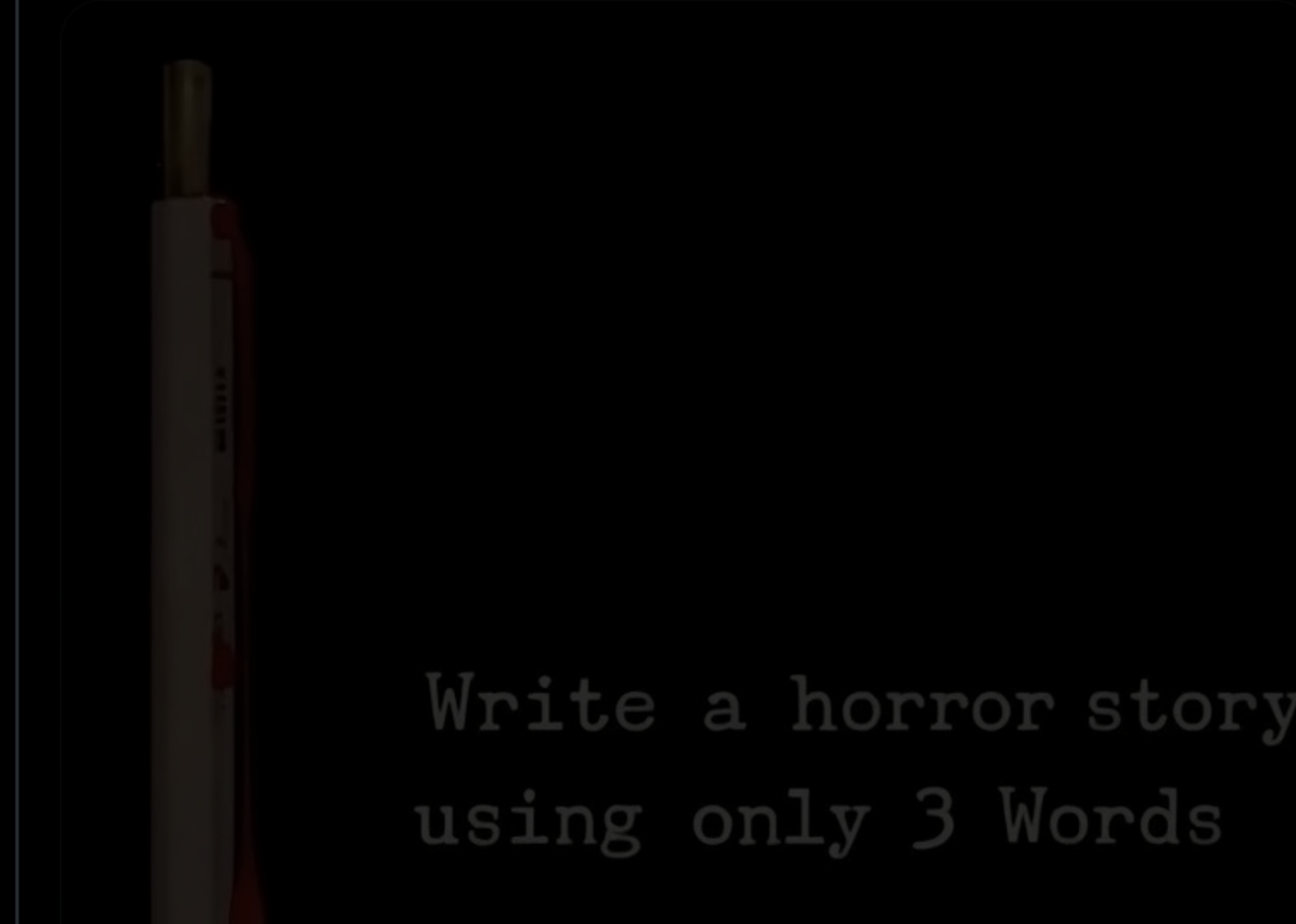
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↻ 1

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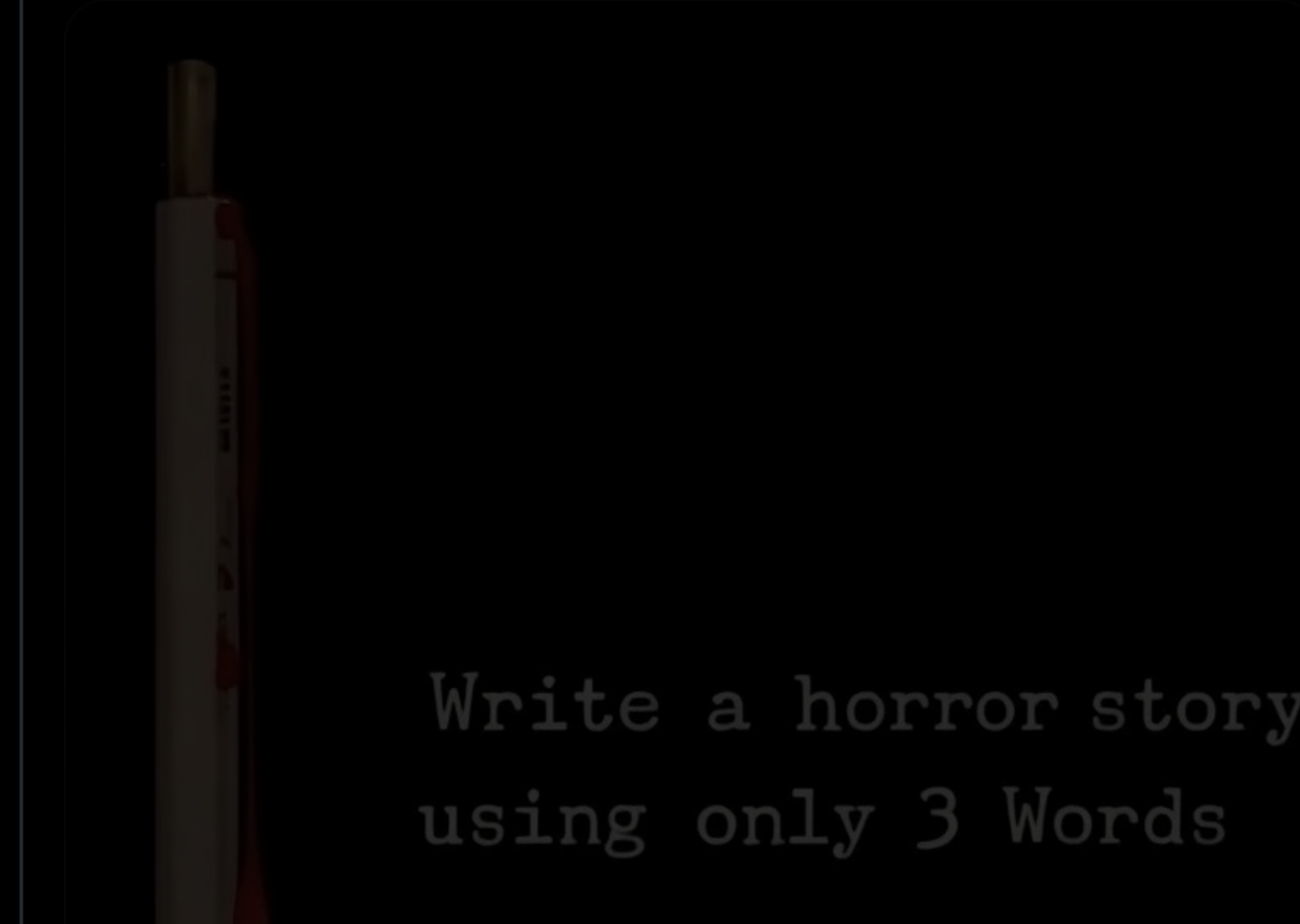
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Commentaires · Vie privée · Conditions générales · Aide

“but feed names are user-generated!”

Maybe, but they are not conceived as such by users!

We can't translate those
names ahead of time.

How should we proceed?

I don't know.



AT Proto nerds, this is the mission I give you. Please help.



~~Stan is French and sorry~~



~~Context is everything~~



~~Support genders and translators~~



~~Workarounds may be required~~



~~User content should be translatable~~



~~Stan is French and sorry~~



~~Context is everything~~



~~Support genders and translators~~



~~Workarounds may be required~~



~~User content should be translatabable~~

is that it?

That's not the end of it!

Translating stuff is only a
small part of the equation.

You should think about
localization *holistically*.

That means: as a whole, as an *integrated* experience.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD BE LOCALIZED

Terms & Conditions

At least a non-binding version so users know what they are agreeing to

(but we talked about those things in the previous panel)

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Announcements

French-speaking users would also like to know about the roadmap and stuff!

(but we talked about those things in the previous panel)

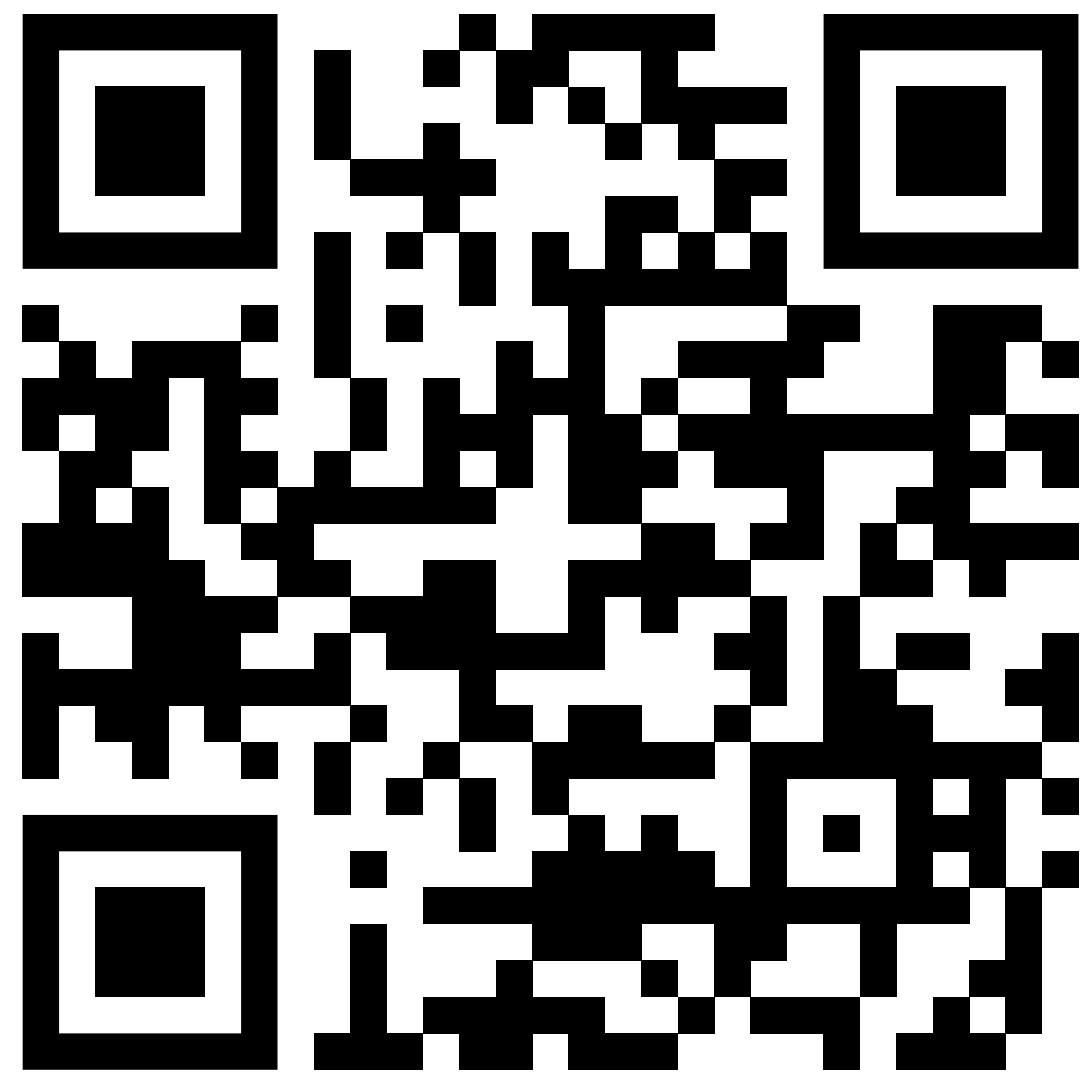
Thank you for listening! 🙏

To see my work in action,
go to bsky.app/settings/language and have fun.

Thanks also to **@surfdude29** and **Pipomantis** for their help with those slides and throughout the year.
And of course, s/o to all the **other fellow translators**, doing their tireless job in the shadows!

NEVER THE END IS NEVER THE END IS NEVER THE END IS NEVER **THE END** IS

Des questions ?



Feel free to follow me
for more *compost**.

 @signez.fr

Épilogue & Bonus track

Blousques is a tentative French translation of *skeet*, meaning “weird word to replace tweet”, without the *double-entendre* I just learned about literally two days ago.

It shares the same destiny as *skeet* though: nobody cares and maybe it’s for the best!