# Pre-Final Round Information



## 1 Pre-Final Round

Students who advance from the Qualification Round proceed to the Pre-Final Round, which features more demanding problems. At ILC, each stage builds on previous learning, so expect concepts from the Qualification Round to reappear in new contexts in Pre-Final problems.

This round contains six problems, varying in subject matter, complexity, and point value:

- 2 Foundational Problems (4 points each): Extending core linguistic concepts and knowledge.
- 2 Advanced Problems (6 points each): More complex scenarios involving topics like discourse analysis, historical linguistics, language typology, phonological systems, advanced morphological structures, and theoretical linguistics.
- 2 Research Problems (8 points each): Engaging with contemporary linguistic topics from recent scholarly publications in areas like syntax theory, semantics, phonetics, or sociolinguistics. You'll need to understand concepts from these papers and answer related questions. This provides exposure to current linguistic research.

The maximum score is 36 points. To qualify for the Final Round, you need minimum scores of: 16 points (Junior), 20 points (Youth), or 24 points (Senior). Clearly explaining your analytical approach is essential for all problems and significantly affects your score.

## 2 Registration and Costs

Qualifying participants can register for the Pre-Final Round through their participant account (https://lingchallenge.org/login). Running a worldwide competition involves significant expenses for evaluation, infrastructure, and content creation. We charge a registration fee of 15 EUR for the Pre-Final Round to sustain ILC's operations.

This registration fee covers resources needed to operate the competition globally, including evaluation and logistics. Financial assistance is available for students facing financial

constraints. No additional participation fees apply. For more information on financial aid visit this page.

### Pre-Final Round Registration Deadline

The registration deadline for the Pre-Final round is Thursday, 5 February 2026.

Qualified and registered participants will receive access to the Pre-Final Round problems via their online account on Sunday, 8 February 2026. Participants then have four days, until Tuesday, 10 February 2026 (23:59 UTC+0), to work on the problems.

#### 3 Submission Information

You will submit your solution online via a dedicated submission form. You can choose to submit either a handwritten version (scanned/photographed) or a digitally typed document.

Participants must prepare a solution document containing written analyses and explanations for all problems. Solution documents may be submitted in either of two formats:

- Digitally typed solutions (recommended), using LaTeX or a standard word processor.
- Clear scans or photographs of handwritten solutions. Multiple pages must be merged into a single PDF.

Showing your analytical process clearly for all problems is important. You can earn points for demonstrating sound reasoning and methodology, even if your final answer is incorrect. Your solution document should explain your linguistic analysis, pattern identification process, and the logic behind your conclusions.

Please verify that your solution document uploaded successfully.

#### Result Announcement

Pre-Final Round results will be announced on  $\underline{\text{Wednesday}}$ , 25 February 2026 via email and the participant portal.

# Can I participate only in the Qualification Round?

Yes, you can participate solely in the Qualification Round and receive your certificate. However, you would not proceed to the subsequent rounds or be eligible for finalist awards.