

Hanákana

Lance Pollard

Every time you start to learn a new language, unless you are born speaking it natively, you have to learn how it is written. This takes an enormous amount of effort, days if not weeks. Even if the language uses the Latin alphabet, there are subtle variations in its usage that make it impossible to imply the rules you learned in English to reading Chinese Pinyin or IAST Sanskrit. According to traditional methodology, this is part of the sludge that you must work through in order to get to learning words, and ultimately how to speak a language.

The real secret to learning languages, however, is that there is no need to learn how it is written. All languages use the same basic sounds allowed by the human mouth and vocal chords, in order to construct their words and ultimately to express their information. They may have slight variations on some fundamental sound building blocks, but there are only about 32 very obvious sounds which differ significantly in their quality. You can double that count as a rough estimate for how many sound variations there are (not including tones). Learning just those 60 or 70 sounds is all you need to learn any language in the world. You don't need to learn their writing system or a new Romanization scheme.

Learning to pronounce words is not hard. It does not take weeks of dedicated learning. It takes what we will suggest is only one day of learning the writing system outlined in this book. Once you learn that, you can pick up any Hanákana dictionary for any language on Earth and instantly be able to pronounce those words in the foreign language. From there you can go on to the real difficult task of language learning, learning the grammar. But learning how to pronounce the words does not require learning how to read the language.

This book is a reference guide to the Hanákana writing system, the solution to this problem of learning to pronounce words in any language. In a way it is similar to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), but it is not as technical. Hanákana does not aim to be the standard for representing exact linguistic utterances. Instead it aims to be a common ground that covers 99% of speaking use cases of any language on Earth, so that you can read, write, and pronounce them with ease.

It begins with the 22 basic consonants, followed by the 10 common verbs, for a total of 32 primitive sound forms. It then goes into the rest of the sound variations and the clicks and silences that give you the full spectrum of human vocal sounds. Once you finish this book, which can be done in one sitting in a day, you will be able to read and write and pronounce any language in the world that you choose.

Note that there are only 3 core symbol forms, the "n" shape, the "m" shape, and the "s" shape. From these we add tails, dots, and arcs to get the sound variations. Knowing this is all you need to know to memorize how to write the language. Mapping the sounds to the letter shapes is what the rest of this books is about.

U

U

S

ጠሀገ

mun

The moon in English

ጠዩና

mek

To make in English

ጠጻጎ

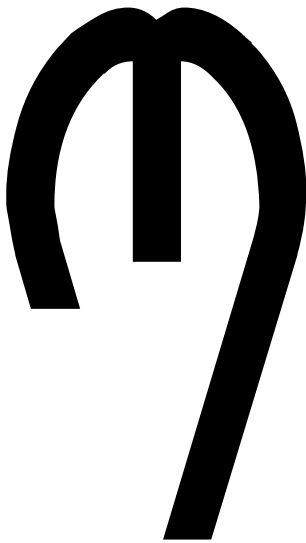
mex

To mesh in English

ጠጊጎር

mold

To mold something in English



This symbol is pronounced by closing the lips and making sound subtly through your nose. This is the "m" sound in English.

ገጊፎ

not

A note in English

ገጻፍፎ

nest

A nest in English

ገሠሮ

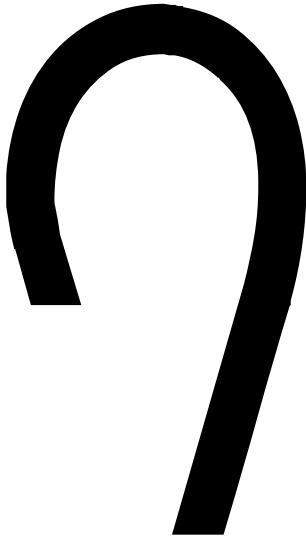
nid

To need in English

ገጊሠጊ

noiz

Noise in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting your tongue on the roof of your hard palette near your teeth, and making the sound subtly through your nose. This is the "n" sound in English.

ᠷᠢᠬ

riq

To ring in English

ᠷᠠ

qa

I in Tibetan

ᠰᠢᠬᠢᠬ

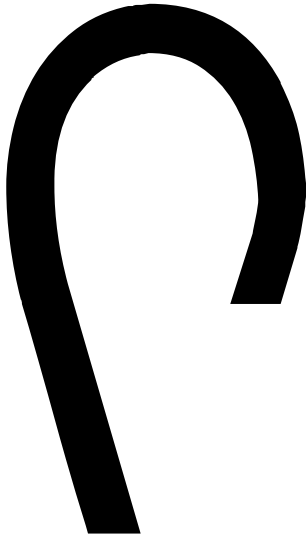
siqiq

Singing in English

ᠷᠠᠳᠢ

qrti

To understand in Indonesian



This symbol is pronounced by putting the back of tongue on the roof of your throat, like you are swallowing, and making the sound subtly through your nose. This is the "ng" sound in English.

ጎጎር

gad

God in English

ጎጭጭ

gem

Game in English

ጎረዳ

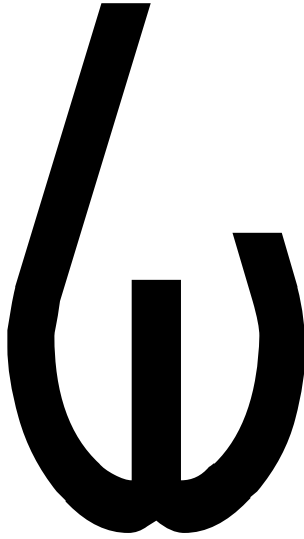
grin

Green in English

ፍጋ

fig

Fig (the fruit) in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting the back of your tongue on the roof of your throat quickly, with your voice. This is the "g" sound in English.

Ժրսաղ

drim

A dream in English

Ժուրհ

dark

The dark in English

Ժող

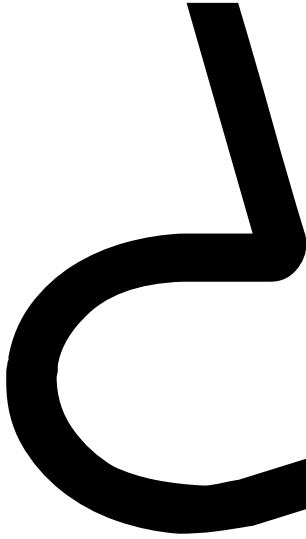
dan

Dawn in English

Ժրսաղ

drum

Drum in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting the tip of the tongue on the roof of your hard palette behind your teeth quickly, with your voice. This is the "d" sound in English.

ᄇᄃᄅ

bok

A book in English

ᄇᄃᄅᄃ

bɪld

To build in English

ᄇᄃᄆ

bʊg

A bug in English

ᄇᄆᄃᄃ

bitx

The beach in English

A large, bold, black lowercase letter 'b' is centered on a white background. The letter is thick and has a slight curve at the bottom.

This symbol is pronounced by putting your lips together quickly and releasing, with your voice. This is the "b" sound in English.

ᲠᲱᲔᲚ

pitx

A peach in English

ᲠᲚᲔ

pre

To pray in English

ᲠᲚᲚᲚᲔ

sport

A sport in English

ᲠᲚᲚᲚ

plap

To plop in English

A large, bold, black letter 'P' is centered on the page. The letter is thick and has a clean, sans-serif style. It consists of a vertical stem on the left that curves at the top into a rounded, bowl-like shape on the right.

This symbol is pronounced by putting your lips together quickly and releasing, without your voice. This is the "p" sound in English.

ժամ

tim

The team in English

բարձր

բարձր

Potential in English

տոն

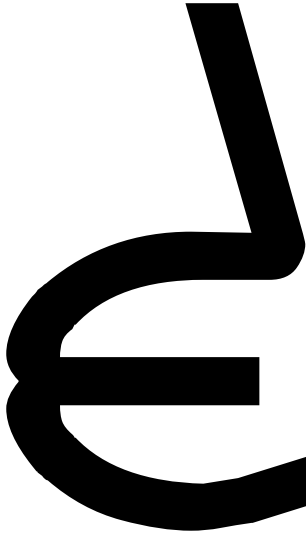
heart

Heart in English

երեւ

trel

A trail in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting the tip of the tongue on the roof of your hard palette behind your teeth quickly, without your voice. This is the "t" sound in English.

ᠭᠣᠰ

kiz

Keys in English

ᠰᠬᠠᠢ

skai

The sky in English

ᠪᠷᠡᠬ

brek

To break in English

ᠬᠢᠵ

klik

To click in English

A large, bold, black letter 'k' is centered on the page. The letter is stylized with a thick stroke and a slight curve at the top and bottom.

This symbol is pronounced by putting the back of your tongue on the roof of your throat quickly, without your voice. This is the "k" sound in English.

ჰაი

h̄ai

A hint in English

ჰუმანიტა

h̄yuman̄i

Humanity in English

ჰაი

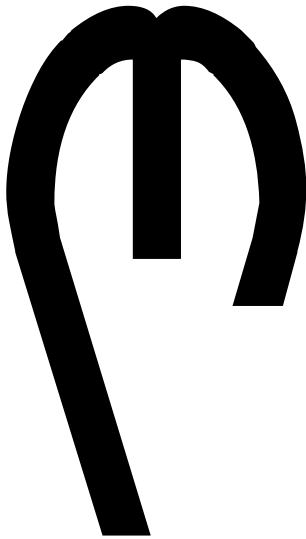
h̄ai

Hi in English

ჰრჰა

h̄rh̄aps

Perhaps in English



This symbol is pronounced by breathing silently without voice or blocking the flow of air. This is the "h" sound in English.

ጸሎት

slip

To sleep in English

ጥስ

tas

Toss in English

ገንዘብነት

pasubijuti

Possability in English

ሰ

si

To see in English

A large, bold, black letter 'S' is centered on the page. The letter is thick and has a slight curve at the top and bottom, giving it a stylized appearance.

This symbol is pronounced by breathing silently without voice or blocking the flow of air, while tightening the middle of your tongue to the hard palette of your mouth. This is the "s" sound in English.

ԻՆՎ

fri

Free in English

ԱՊՏԷ

inuf

Enough in English

ԻՆՎՐ

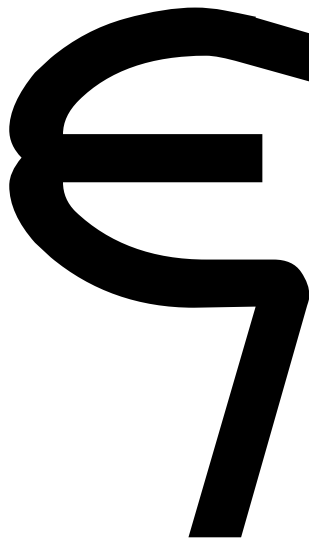
fair

Fire in English

ՏՊԶԷՆԵԳ

snoflek

Snowflake in English



This symbol is pronounced by breathing silently without voice or blocking the flow of air, while pressing your top teeth to your lower lip on the inside. This is the "f" sound in English.

ՆՈՎՆ

vaib

Vibe in English

ԴՐՆՈՂՏ

nrvánu

Nirvana in English

ՆՐԵՆԿՍ

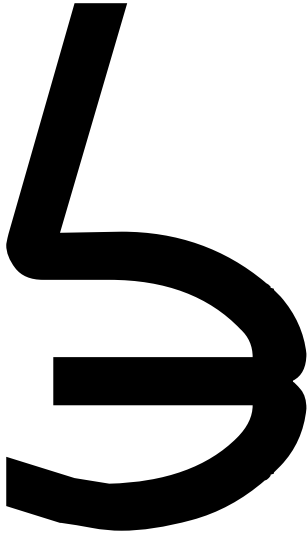
vrtxyu

Virtue in English

ԼՏԵ

luv

Love in English



This symbol is pronounced by breathing with voice but blocking the flow of air, while pressing your top teeth to your lower lip on the inside. This is the "v" sound in English.

զշո

zon

Zone in English

Երեզ

grez

To graze in English

ժրշի

drizl

To drizzle in English

զս

zu

Zoo in English

A large, bold, black stylized letter 'z' is centered on the page. The letter is thick and has a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance. It starts with a horizontal top bar, curves down and to the right, then curves back up and to the left, and finally curves down and to the right again, ending in a short vertical tail.

This symbol is pronounced by with your voice by sort of
clenching your teeth and letting air out above your tongue.
This is the "z" sound in English.

ყჲლჲ

yəlo

Yellow in English

ჲლთაჲს

plaiyʉ

The beach in Spanish

ყთაჲიყ

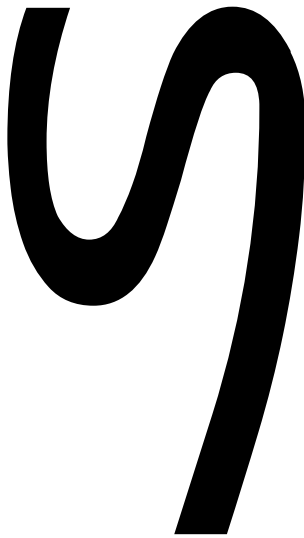
kaiyʉk

Kayak in English

ყჲს

yəs

Yes in English



This symbol is pronounced by with your voice without clenching your teeth and pushing your tongue toward the roof of your mouth yet letting air out above it. This is the "y" sound in English.

վաղժ

wjnd

Wind in English

հոգաբարձ

bəkwrdz

Backwards in English

արկ

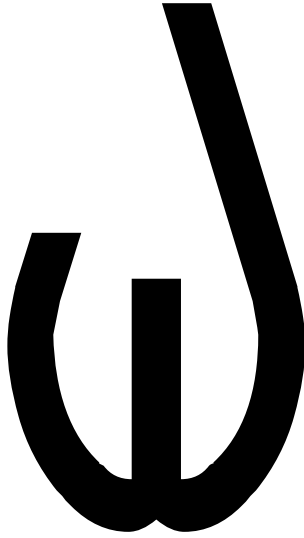
wrk

Work in English

վառ

wai

Why in English



This symbol is pronounced by turning your lips into a tight circle and sweeping air through it as it morphs into the next vowel. This is the "w" sound in English.

ՏԱՐԳ

ciqk

Think in English

ՄԻՇԻՆ

wiçin

Within in English

ԿՆՈՐԿՊԻՇ

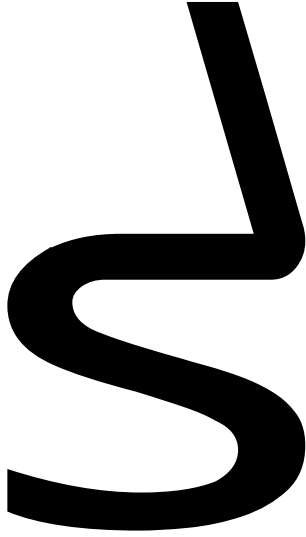
bląksmıç

Blacksmith in English

ՏՐԶՍ

crou

Throw in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting your tongue up slightly in between your teeth and pushing air through them. This is the voiceless "th" sound in English.

ճԻՔ

xip

Ship in English

օճԻՆ

oxin

Ocean in English

ֆլորիճ

florix

Flourish in English

ճՕ

xo

Show in English



This symbol is pronounced by pressing air between your tongue and the top of the back of your teeth, like the sound of rushing water. This is the voiceless "sh" sound in English.

րաճ

rid

Read in English

բշրՅՅր

forevr

Forever in English

րսն

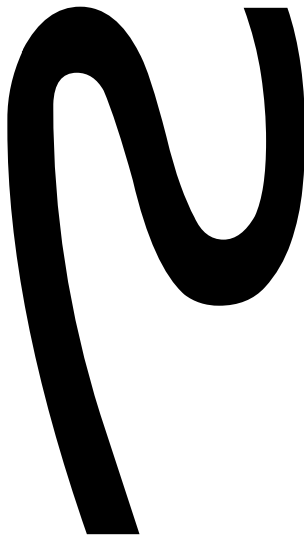
rul

Rule in English

ԹՏԴԵր

huntr

Hunter in English



This symbol is pronounced by curling your tongue slightly and letting air flow smoothly out of your mouth. This is the "r" sound in English.

ԼՍԵ

luy

Love in English

ՖՊՆ

fil

To feel in English

ՖԶՆԸ

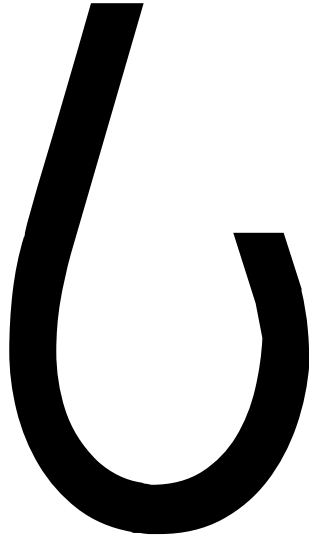
fold

Fold in English

ԼԱՐԳ

liqk

Link in English



This symbol is pronounced by pressing the tip of your tongue firmly on the front roof of your mouth and breathing air smoothly out of your mouth. This is the "l" sound in English.

ԷՅԴ

çen

Then in English

ԳՆԶԷ

kloç

To clothe in English

ԷՇԿՐԱՍՍ

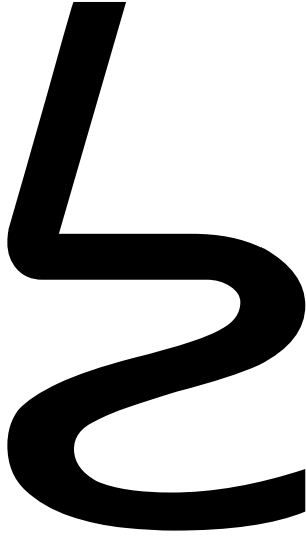
ęç'kuruu

Remember in Arabic

ՏԷՎԻՆ

uçi'b

A wolf in Arabic



This symbol is pronounced by putting your tongue up slightly in between your teeth and pushing air through them. This is the voiced "th" sound in English.

ՃՍԶԳ

djok

A joke in English

ՊՅՍՐ

męjr

To measure in English

ՏՐԸՍ

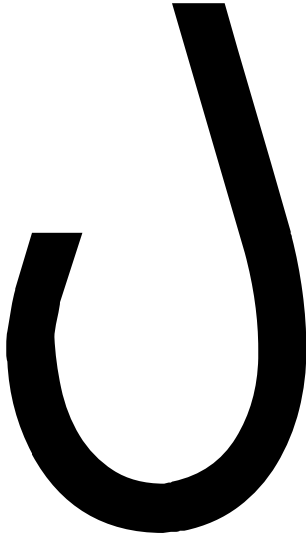
srdj

Surge in English

ՃՍՅՊ

djəm

Gem in English



This symbol is pronounced by pressing air between your tongue and the top of the back of your teeth, like the sound of rushing water. This is the voiced "j" sound in English.

ḡɔɔ

fɪd

Smoke of a fire in Navajo

ŋw̄ḡɛn̄hwa

nîftx'i

Wind, air, gas, or spirit in Navajo

ḡz̄z̄h

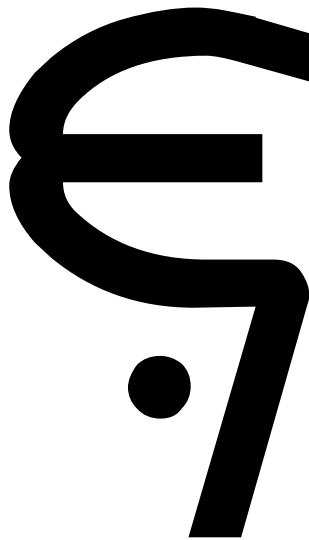
fôô'

A fish (as in a fish in the water) in Navajo

ḡéh̄éɛs̄z̄ɹ̄

fê'êtsoh

Rat (as in a rodent) in Navajo



This symbol is pronounced by putting the tip of your tongue on the arch of your hard palette, and breathing the "l" sound through the sides of your tongue. This is the Navajo "ł" sound.

ἰἶἶἶἶἶ

jaala

To eat in Zulu

ἠἰἰἰἠ

ijazi

Ancestral spirit in Zulu

ἠἰἰἰἠἠἠ

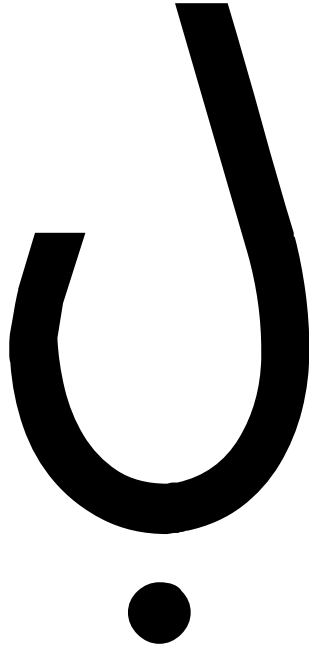
injebe

Ear in Zulu

ἠἰἶἶἶ

ijaka

Loincloth in Zulu



This symbol is pronounced by putting the tip of your tongue on the arch of your hard palette, and breathing the "l" sound through the sides of your tongue with your voice. This is the Zulu "dl" sound.

ՀՀՐԵՆՆ

k̄khela

To adapt in Xhosa

ՀՀՐՈՒՊՈՆ

k̄khama

To bear fruit in Xhosa

ՆՀՐԱՆՆ

ḡkhiba

To complete in Xhosa

ՀՀՐԱՍՆՆ

k̄khuba

To drive in Xhosa



This is a click sound like making an "l" shape in your mouth,
but letting it snap down like a clock tick.

᠒ᠨᠢᠠ

q̣hi

Still in Xhosa

᠒ᠨᠢᠠᠵᠨᠢ

q̣hola

To be loud in Xhosa

᠒ᠨᠢᠠᠼᠠ

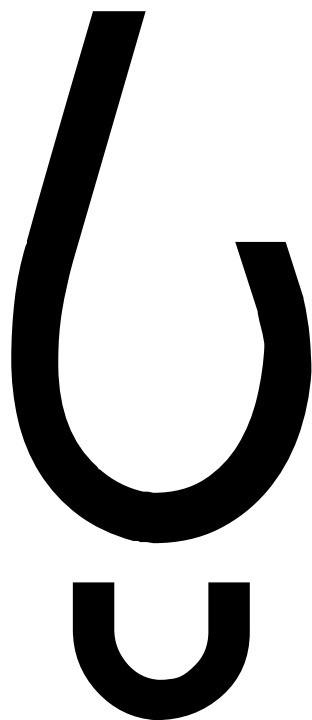
q̣heka

To mock in Xhosa

᠒ᠨᠢᠠᠰᠢᠠ

q̣huma

To jump in Xhosa



This is a click sound like making sucking sound.

ᛞᛞᚱᚱᛞᛞ

ᛞᛞhore

To prophesize in Khoekhoe

ᛞᛞᛞᛞᛞᛞ

ᛞᛞheta

To be happy in Hadza

ᛞᛞᛞᛞᛞᛞᛞ

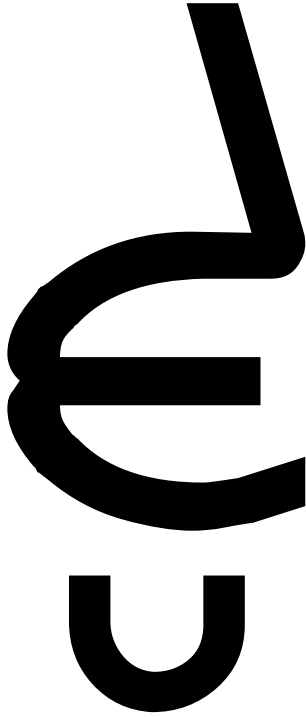
ᛞᛞᛞhina

To end in Zulu

ᛞᛞᛞᛞᛞᛞᛞᛞ

ᛞᛞᛞhona

To make fun of in Zulu



This is a click sound like making sucking sound with your t shaped mouth.

ᑭᑭᑭᑭ

kᑭᑭᑭ

To dream in !Xóǎ

ᑭᑭᑭᑭ

kᑭᑭᑭ

Wild cat in !Xóǎ

ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

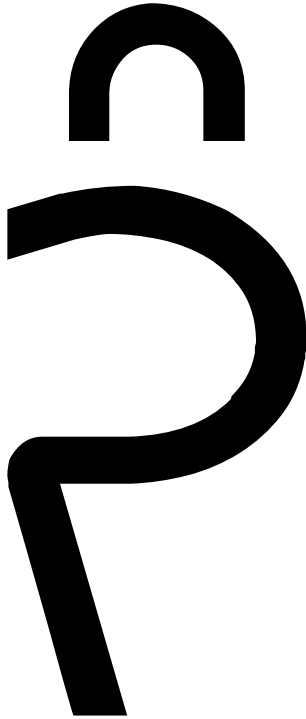
'qᑭᑭᑭᑭ

Tree in !Xóǎ

ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

gᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

To make fire with sticks in !Xóǎ



This is a click sound like making popping sound with your lips.

սհշ

u'o

Uh-oh in English

न्हॆ॑३ॆ

a'fɛl

Dark in Hebrew

ԷաՅհաա

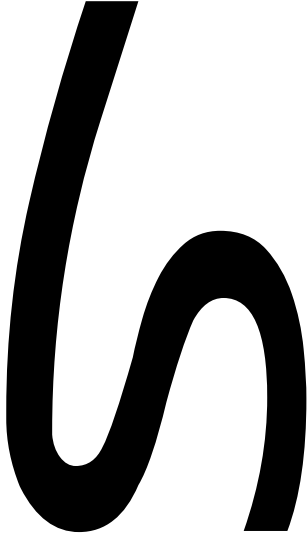
tiv'ii

Natural in Hebrew

րոնսհո

ragu'a

Calm in Hebrew



This is the blocking of a sound.

amṛta

Immortality in Sanskrit

lṛ

A mother in Sanskrit

dr̥ṣ

A sight in Sanskrit

ṛxi

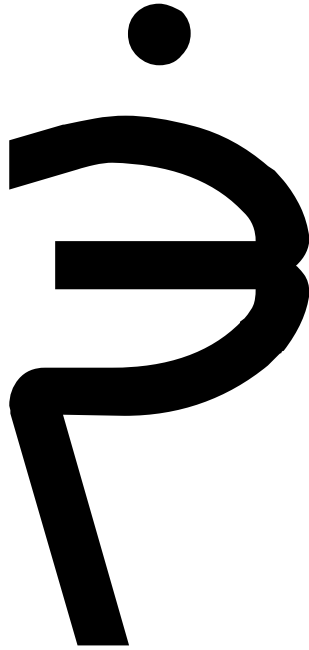
A sage in Sanskrit

ṛxi

A sage in Sanskrit

A sage in Sanskrit

A sage in Sanskrit



This is the r sound where you put the tip of your tongue on the highest part of the ridge in the middle of your mouth while you say it. It is the Indian "r" sound.

רוח

ruj

Red in French

פרו

f̄r̄er

A brother in French

אמרה

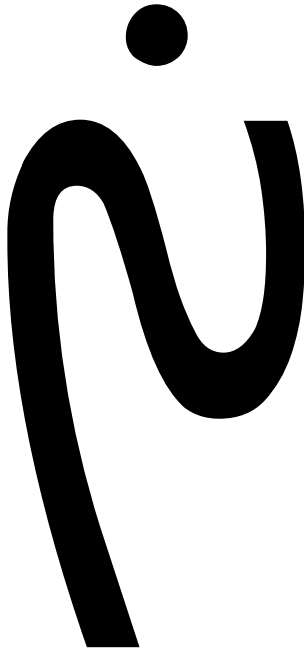
im̄ra

Promise in Hebrew

רוח

ru'ah

Mind in Hebrew



This is the French "r" sound where you make it in the back of your mouth before your throat.

मिमांसा

miimaamsaa

Critical investigation or reflection in Sanskrit

संज्ञा

samjnyaa

Perception in Sanskrit

संसार

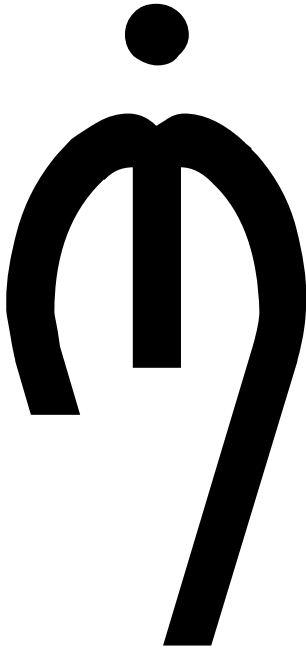
samsaara

The world in Sanskrit

अहिंसा

ahimsaa

Nonviolence in Sanskrit



This is the nasal Indian "m" sound.

ज्ञ

ṅa

Knowledge in Sanskrit

दुर्ज्वा

djuurṅi

A blaze in Sanskrit

आराज्ञ

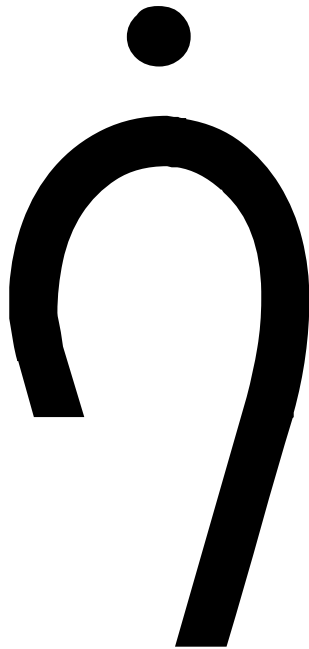
aaraṅa

Depth in Sanskrit

ज्ञा

ṅii

To get in Sanskrit



This is the retroflex Indian "n" sound, where you say the "n" sound with the tip of your tongue high up on the roof of your mouth.

ՆՍԸԹՈՆ

ᵛudha

Holy in Sanskrit

ՆՎՅՆ

ᵛiva

The great god in Sanskrit

ՆԿՆՐ

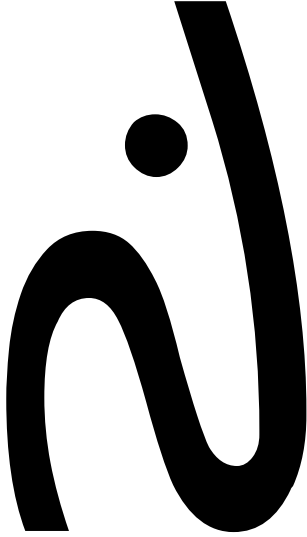
ᵛyâq

Fragrant in Chinese

ՆԿՆՆՆՐ

ᵛyââq

To enjoy in Chinese



This is the Chinese or Indian "sh" sound.

अक्ष

akṣa

Sense organ in Sanskrit

अक्षरा

akṣara

Moveable in Sanskrit

अक्षु

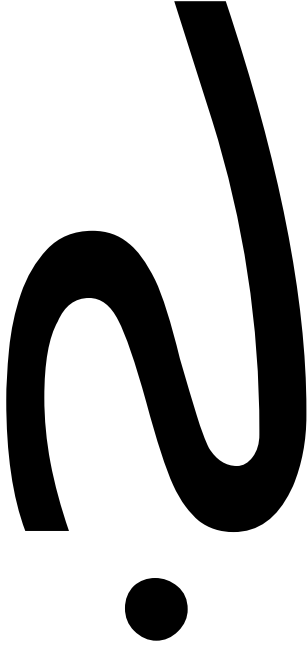
akṣu

To glow in Sanskrit

अक्षुण्डी

akṣuṇḍī

A cockroach in Sanskrit



This is the Indian retroflex "sh" sound.

ॠॢ

ṭa

An oath in Sanskrit

ॠॢॠॠॢॢॢॢ

ṭaṭṭura

The sound of a drum in Sanskrit

ॢॢॠॡ

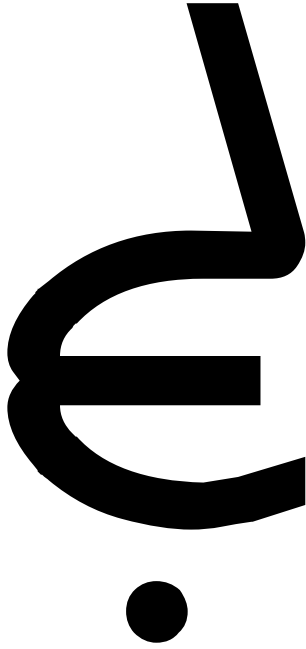
aṅṭi

A seed in Sanskrit

ॡॢॢॠॠॡॢॢॢ

goṅṭhii

A meeting in Sanskrit



This is the Indian retroflex "t" sound.

חַזַּק

ḥaazak

Courage in Hebrew

חַפְּזִים

ḥaferim

To be ashamed in Hebrew

רֶחֶם

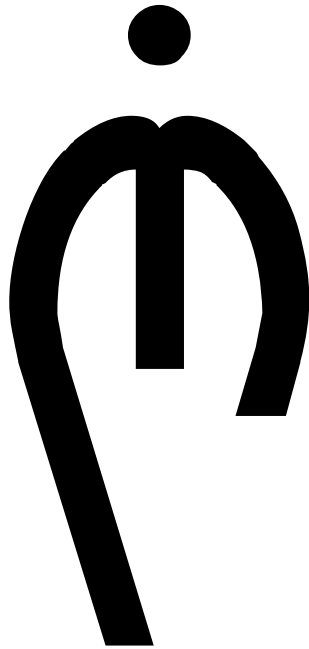
reḥem

Womb in Hebrew

חֶרֶק

ḥerek

Bug in Hebrew



This is the harsh h in Hebrew speech.

ገሠሮ

nid

Need in English

ናሠ

si

See in English

ቻጣቅጥሮቻቸው

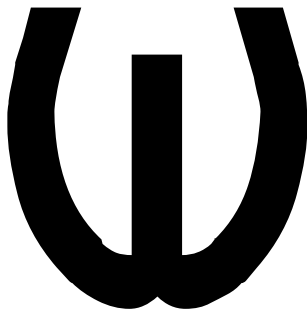
simplisiti

Simplicity in English

ሰሠ

ai

I in English



This is a high English "ee" sound in with the mouth in a smile position.

ԹԷ

he

Hey in English

հանրահայտք

kungradyulet

Congratulate in English

ՔԷ

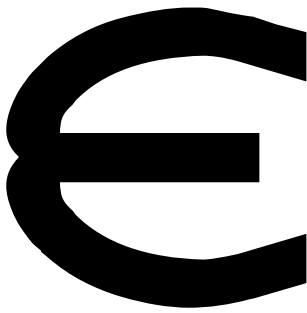
ple

Play in English

ԷՊԸՍՆ

endjl

Angel in English

A large, bold, black letter 'e' is centered on a white background. The letter is a simple, sans-serif style with a thick stroke and a slightly rounded top and bottom.

This is a medium English "ey" sound in with the mouth in a half smile position.

ԹՈՏ

hak

Hawk in English

ԲԱՅՐ

façr

Father in English

ՆԸ

al

All in English

ԷՈՏ

tak

Talk in English

A large, bold, black letter 'n' is centered on the page. The letter is thick and has a smooth, rounded top and bottom. It is positioned in the upper half of the page.

This is a deep English "a" sound in with the mouth open in a default position.

Եռդ

bon

Bone in English

Հո՛ր

onr

Owner in English

ՐՏԻՐԵ

ruport

Report in English

ՏՁՆԸՍԻՐ

soldjr

Soldier in English



This is a solid English "oh" sound in with the mouth in a circle shape.

სუპ

sup

Soup in English

კულ

kul

Cool in English

პუდლ

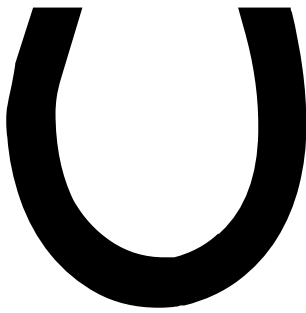
pucl

Poodle in English

დუ

du

Do in English



This is a deep English "uu" sound in with the mouth in a tight circle shape.

ኔጋፎ

bit

bit in English

ከ

in

In in English

ያሳይኛታደርግ

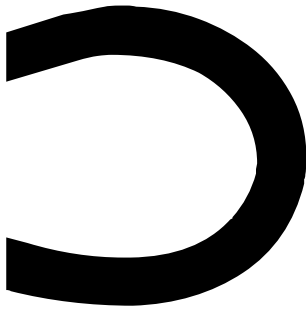
signifikant

Significant in English

ሠንጠረዥ

windo

Window in English



This is a high but shallow English "ih" sound in with the mouth in a smile position.

ᑭᐅᐅ

pet

Pet in English

ᑭᑭᐅᐅᐅ

krędıt

Credit in English

ᐅᑭᐅ

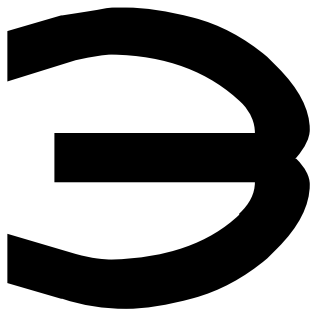
ęnd

End in English

ᐅᑭᐅ

ųęn

Again in English



This is a medium English "eh" sound in with the mouth in a half smile position.

ԿՈՔ

kət

Cat in English

ԿԼԱՏ

klɑs

Class in English

ՄԱՆ

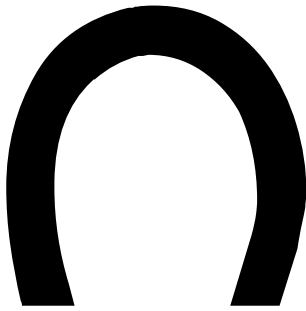
mən

All in English

ՈՂՔ

ɑnt

Ant in English



This is a high English "a" sound in with the mouth open in a default position.

Ծոց

bօk

book in English

սղճրքեւոճ

ւոճրստօճ

Understood in English

քոճ

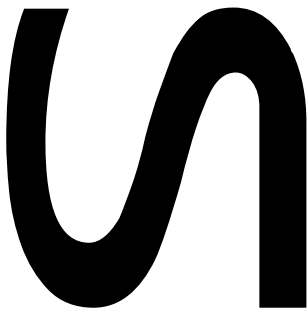
fօt

foot in English

քոճ

pօt

Put in English



This is a pushing English "oo" sound in with the mouth in a circle u shape.

սղճըղաս

սըռնիկ

Underneath in English

սբ

սբ

Up in English

ողսգթնղճս

օղսկանդ

Anaconda in English

թսԷ

հս

Hut in English

S

This is a shallow English "uh" sound in with the mouth in a relaxed open shape.

Ծովուր

bixar

Butcher in German

տհար

ibar

Above in German

ՆՆուխ

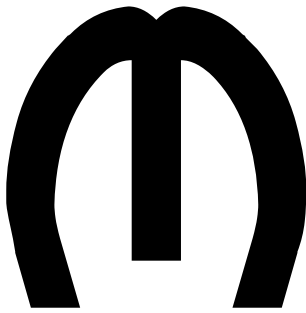
xlixl

Key in German

դուե

mile

Mill in German



This is a Northern European vowel sound.

ᠨᠴᠰ

ᠠᠬᠰ

Axe in Danish

ᠨᠠᠷᠨ

ᠠᠷᠨ

Eagle in Danish

ᠨᠠᠷᠨᠠᠨ

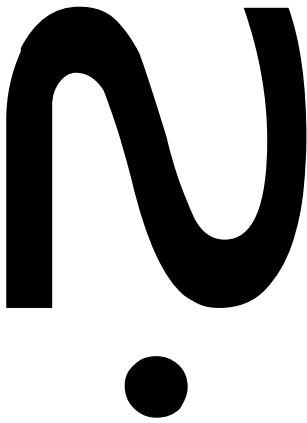
byᠠᠷᠨ

Bear in Danish

ᠨᠠᠷᠨᠠᠨ

ᠠᠷᠨᠠᠨ

Desert in Danish



This is a Northern European vowel sound.

ᵑᵔᵔ

bᵔd

Boat in Danish

ᵑᵔᵑ

bᵔl

Bonfire in Danish

ᵑᵔᵑ

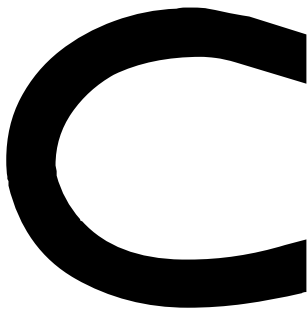
lᵔs

Lock in Danish

ᵔᵔᵑ

dᵔb

Baptism in Danish



This is a Northern European vowel sound.

İ İ İ İ İ İ
i î ĩ í î ĩ

É Ê Ë È É Ê
e ê ě é ê ě

Ä Å Ä Å Ä Å
a â ă á â ǎ

Ö Ö Ö Ö Ö Ö
o ô õ ó ô õ

Ú Û Ü Û Ü Ü
u û ů ú û ů

ᵐ

b

ᵐ̣

ᵐ̣

ᵐ̣

ᵐ̣

ᵑ

p

ᵑ̣

ᵑ̣

ᵑ̣

g

ᵑ̣

ḡ

ᵑ̣

k

ᵑ̣

ᵑ̣

ᵑ̣

t

ᵑ̣

ᵑ̣

ᵑ̣

d

ᵑ̣

ᵑ̣