

# Avesta Pronunciation and Writing

LETTER	TRANSLITERATION	PRONUNCIATION	DESCRIPTION	ASCII	HTML
𐬀	a	as in German, or as a in 'father'	a	a	a
𐬁	A	as a in 'father' only lengthened	a-macron	A	â
𐬂	L	as 'an' in French enfant, a nasalized 'a'	a-tilde	L	ã
𐬃	l	as aw in 'saw'	a-ring	l	å
𐬄	b	as in English	b	b	b
𐬅	c	as ch in 'church'	c	c	c
𐬆	d	as in English	d	d	d
𐬇	D	as <u>th</u> in 'that', a voiced <u>th</u>	delta (or eth=ð)	D	dh (or eth=ð)
𐬈	v	as u in 'but'	schwa	v	e
𐬉	V	as u in 'but', only lengthened	schwa-macron	V	ê
𐬊	e	as in German, or e in 'bed'	e	e	e
𐬋	E	as in German only lengthened or a in 'made'	e-macron	E	ê
𐬌	f	as in English	f	f	f
𐬍	g	as in English	g	g	g
𐬎	G	voiced x (often transcribed <u>gh</u> )	gamma	G	kh
𐬏	h	as in English	h	h	h
𐬐	F	as h, possibly stronger (before y)	h-ogonek	F	h'
𐬑	i	as in German, or <u>i</u> in 'it'	i	i	i
𐬒	I	as <u>i</u> in 'it' only lengthened	i-macron	I	î
𐬓	j	as in English	j	j	j
𐬔	k	as in English	k	k	k
𐬕	-	as in English (not used in <u>Avesta</u> )	l	-	l

Ɑ	m	as in English	m	m	m
Ɱ	m	as in English	m	m	m
Ɐ	n	as in English	n	n	n
ⱺ	M	<u>nh</u> (guttural nasal) before stops	n-long-tailed	M	ng
ⱻ	N	as n (used before stopped <u>consonants</u> )	n-tilde	N	ñ
ⱼ	?	as nh	n-ogonek	?	ng
ⱽ	o	as in German, or o in 'rope'	o	o	o
Ȿ	O	as o in 'rope' only lengthened (or o in 'Minnesota')	o-macron	O	ô
Ɀ	p	as in English	p	p	p
Ⳁ	r	as in English	r	r	r
ⳁ	s	as in English	s	s	s
Ⳃ	S	as <u>sh</u> in 'show' (palatal)	s-hacek	S	sh
ⳃ	C	as <u>sh</u> in 'show' only more retroflex	s-hacek-ogonek	C	sh
Ⳅ	K	as <u>sh</u> in 'show' (used before y)	s-hacek-cedilla	K	sh
ⳅ	t	as in French 'tout' (dental, i.e. with tongue at same position as for English <u>th</u> in 'thin')	t	t	t
Ⳇ	T	as t in 'try'	t-ogonek	T	t
ⳇ	q	as th in 'thing'	theta	q	th
Ⳉ	u	as in German, or u in 'put'	u	u	u
ⳉ	U	as oo in 'book'	u-macron	U	û
Ⳋ	w	as w in Dutch water (a bilabial semivowel similar to Engl. v but not a fricative) ( <u>Humbach</u> transcribes 'uu')	v	w	v
ⳋ	W	as w above (used initially with a few exceptions)	v-acute	W	v
Ⳍ	B	as w in English	w	B	w
ⳍ	x	as German <u>ch</u> , or <u>ch</u> in Scottish 'loch'	x	x	x

𐬭	X	as x (as above) with v immediately following	x-superscript-v	X	xv
𐬮	y	as in English ( <u>Humbach</u> transcribes 'ii')	y	y	y
𐬯	Y	as y above (used initially)	y-acute	Y	ý
𐬰	z	as in English	z	z	z
𐬱	Z	as z in 'azure'	z-hacek	Z	zh

### Note:

HTML does not currently allow for the accurate representation of all Avesta graphemes. In particular, the shwa, and different forms of “n”, “sh”, and “t” are not distinguished. Thus the ASCII-encoded versions are preferred for accuracy.

### Not used:

𐬲	hm	hm-ligature	m which has become voiceless after h
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### Other notes on pronunciation

𐬳	aE	as bite
𐬴	ao	as out
𐬵	viv	much like 'pretty' (when pronounced ' <u>peretty</u> ') e.g. <u>peresat</u>