

# Avesta Pronunciation and Writing

NOTE: You will need [Avestan fonts](#) in order to read this text.

LETTER	TRANSLITERATION	PRONUNCIATION	DESCRIPTION	ASCII	HTML
a	a	as in German, or as a in 'father'	a	a	a
A	A	as a in 'father' only lengthened	a-macron	A	â
L	L	as 'an' in French enfant, a nasalized 'a'	a-tilde	L	ã
l	l	as aw in 'saw'	a-ring	l	å
b	b	as in English	b	b	b
c	c	as ch in 'church'	c	c	c
d	d	as in English	d	d	d
D	D	as th in 'that', a voiced th	delta (or eth=ð)	D	dh (or eth=ð)
v	v	as u in 'but'	schwa	v	e
V	V	as u in 'but', only lengthened	schwa-macron	V	ê
e	e	as in German, or e in 'bed'	e	e	e
E	E	as in German only lengthened or a in 'made'	e-macron	E	ê
f	f	as in English	f	f	f
g	g	as in English	g	g	g
G	G	voiced x (often transcribed gh)	gamma	G	kh
h	h	as in English	h	h	h
F	F	as h, possibly stronger (before y)	h-ogonek	F	h'
i	i	as in German, or i in 'it'	i	i	i
I	I	as i in 'it' only lengthened	i-macron	I	î
j	j	as in English	j	j	j
k	k	as in English	k	k	k
-	-	as in English (not used in Avesta)	l	-	l
m	m	as in English	m	m	m
m	m	as in English	m	m	m
n	n	as in English	n	n	n
M	M	nh (gutteral nasal) before stops	n-long-tailed	M	ng
N	N	as n (used before stopped consonents)	n-tilde	N	ñ
?	?	as nh	n-ogonek	?	ng
o	o	as in German, or o in 'rope'	o	o	o
O	O	as o in 'rope' only lengthened (or o in 'Minnesota')	o-macron	O	ô
p	p	as in English	p	p	p
r	r	as in English	r	r	r
s	s	as in English	s	s	s
S	S	as sh in 'show' (palatal)	s-hacek	S	sh
C	C	as sh in 'show' only more retroflex	s-hacek-ogonek	C	sh

<b>K</b>	<b>K</b>	as sh in 'show' (used before y)	<b>s-hacek-cedilla</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>sh</b>
<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>	as in French 'tout' (dental, i.e. with tongue at same position as for English th in 'thin')	<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	as t in 'try'	<b>t-ogonek</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>t</b>
<b>q</b>	<b>q</b>	as th in 'thing'	<b>theta</b>	<b>q</b>	<b>th</b>
<b>u</b>	<b>u</b>	as in German, or u in 'put'	<b>u</b>	<b>u</b>	<b>u</b>
<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>	as oo in 'book'	<b>u-macron</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>û</b>
<b>w</b>	<b>w</b>	as w in Dutch water (a bilabial semivowel similar to Engl. v but not a fricative) (Humbach transcribes 'uu')	<b>v</b>	<b>w</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>W</b>	<b>W</b>	as w above (used initially with a few exceptions)	<b>v-acute</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	as w in English	<b>w</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>w</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	as German ch, or ch in Scottish 'loch'	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	as x (as above) with v immediately following	<b>x-superscript-v</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>	as in English (Humbach transcribes 'ii')	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>
<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	as y above (used initially)	<b>y-acute</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>ý</b>
<b>z</b>	<b>z</b>	as in English	<b>z</b>	<b>z</b>	<b>z</b>
<b>Z</b>	<b>Z</b>	as z in 'azure'	<b>z-hacek</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>zh</b>

**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:**

ç	hm	hm-ligature	m which has become voiceless after h
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**Other notes on pronunciation**

<b>Ea</b>	<b>aE</b>	as <i>bite</i>
<b>oa</b>	<b>ao</b>	as <i>out</i>
<b>vrv</b>	<b>vrv</b>	much like 'pretty' (when pronounced 'peretty') <i>e.g.</i> peresat