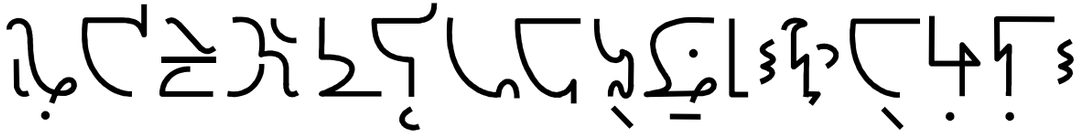
# PROPOSED WRITING SYSTEM FOR THE ITHKUIL SUCCESSOR LANGUAGE — v. 0.3.5

## An Adaptation of the Existing Ithkuil Script

Calligraphic Style:

Legacy Style:

Handwritten / Cursive Style:



Calligraphic Cursive Italics:

NOTE: Handwritten forms are now shown in blue.

**O’yë aitkánz lo’lsöspa kšänhëi’lujmu ih Jonkihada.**

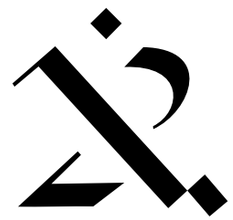
REG-all/BEN S1/DYN/BSC-‘construct’-CPN/PRX-CNF/PPS ‘instance.of.language.use’-S1/STA/CSV-FML/PRC-ASO/CST-NEW$_1$/6-THM ‘act.of.bufoonery’-S2/STA/BSC- OAU$_2$/5-[default C$_A$]-HRC$_1$/9-IND SPF ‘jonkihada’

*‘The chief clown, John Quijada, is engaged in constructing a new language for the good of everyone.’*

**Primary Characters**

Word-initial character showing $\mathbf{V_R}$ Specification, Function, & Stem, plus $\mathbf{V_V}$ Designation & Version, plus all $\mathbf{C_A}$ information.

Example:



4 Contexts shown by super-posed diacritic

4 Perspectives x 6 Extentions

4 Affiliations x 2 Essences

4 Specifications

2 Functions x 2 Designations x 2 Versions x 4 Stems

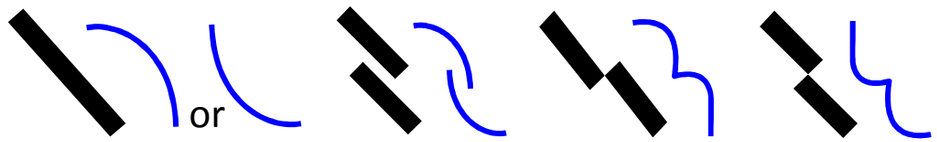
9 Configurations

3 Relations x 3 Incorp. Statuses shown by under-posed diacritic

**4 Contexts**: EXS FNC RPS AMG

**4 Specifications**:

**Handwritten forms shown in blue.**




**4 Affiliations x 2 Essences**:

**NRM:** CSL ASO VAR COA **RPV:** CSL ASO VAR COA

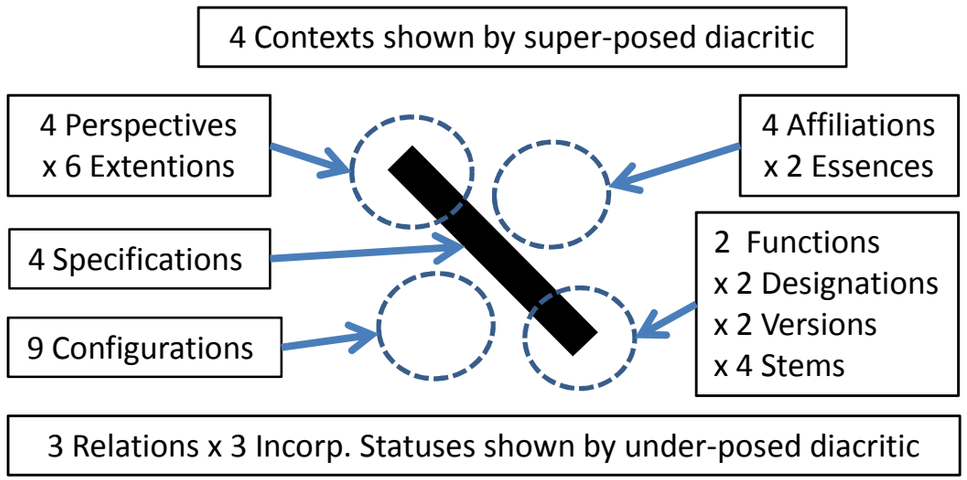
**4 Perspectives x 6 Extensions**

| | DEL | PRX | ICP | ATV | GRA | DPL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | | | | | | |
| P | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | |
| A | | | | | | |

**9 Configurations**:

UNI DPX DCT AGG SEG CPN COH CST MLT

## Primary Characters (cont'd)




### 3 Relations x 3 Incorporation Statuses

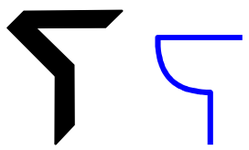
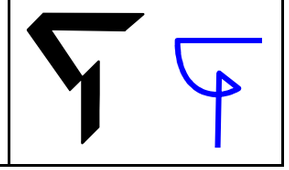
| | Simple Formative | Type 1 Incorporation | Type 2 Incorporation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Noun | | | |
| Unframed Verb | | | |
| Framed Verb | | | |

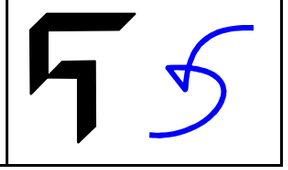
### 2 Functions x 2 Designations x 2 Versions x 4 Stems

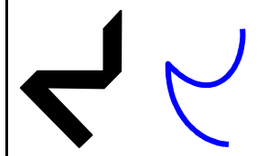
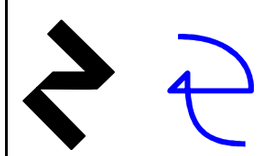
| Function | STA | | | | DYN | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Designation | IFL | | FML | | IFL | | FML | |
| Version | PRC | CPT | PRC | CPT | PRC | CPT | PRC | CPT |
| Stem 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Stem 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Stem 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Stem "0" | | | | | | | | |

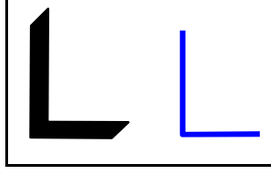
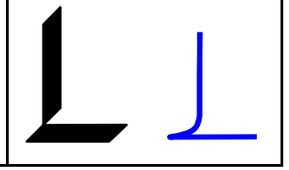
**NOTE:** Any word-initial Primary Character consisting of a plain diagonal bar (i.e., a with "default" M/DEL/UNI/CSL/NRM/EXS/BSC/IFL/PRC/STA/Stem-1 on a simple nominal formative) may be elided if the word is in sentence-initial position.

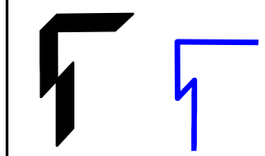
**Secondary Characters:** Used for displaying $C_R$ and $C_S$. The $C_R$ character follows the word-Initial Primary character. The 27 forms below are the "core" characters, whose "top" and "bottom" ends then take extensions in order to prefix or suffix additional consonants shown on the next page.

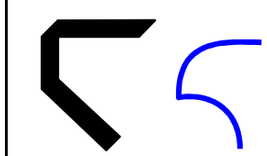
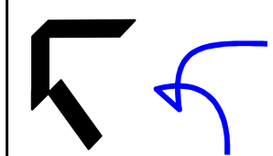
| p | b |
|---|---|
|  |  |

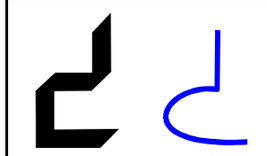
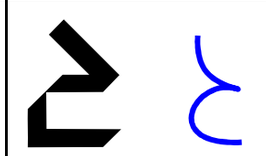
| f | v |
|---|---|
|  |  |

| s | z |
|---|---|
|  |  |

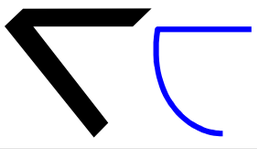
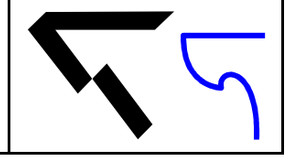
| c | ż |
|---|---|
|  |  |

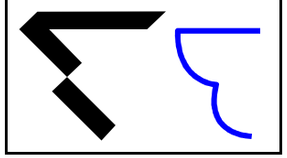
| t | d |
|---|---|
|  |  |

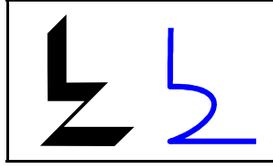
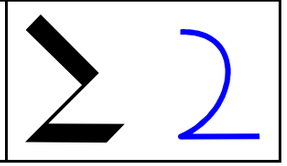
| ţ | ḍ |
|---|---|
|  |  |

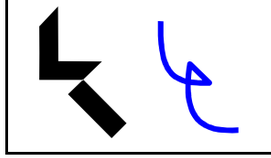
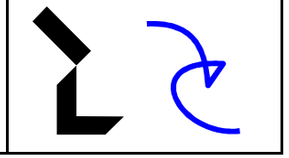
| š | ž |
|---|---|
|  |  |

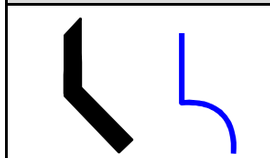
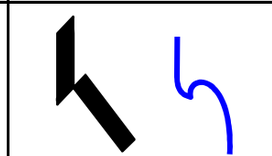
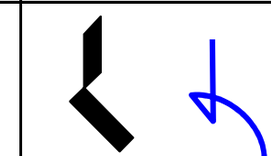
| č | j |
|---|---|
|  |  |

| k | g |
|---|---|
|  |  |

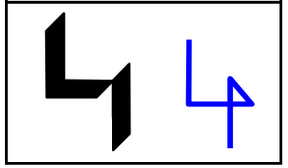
| x |
|---|
|  |

| l | r |
|---|---|
|  |  |

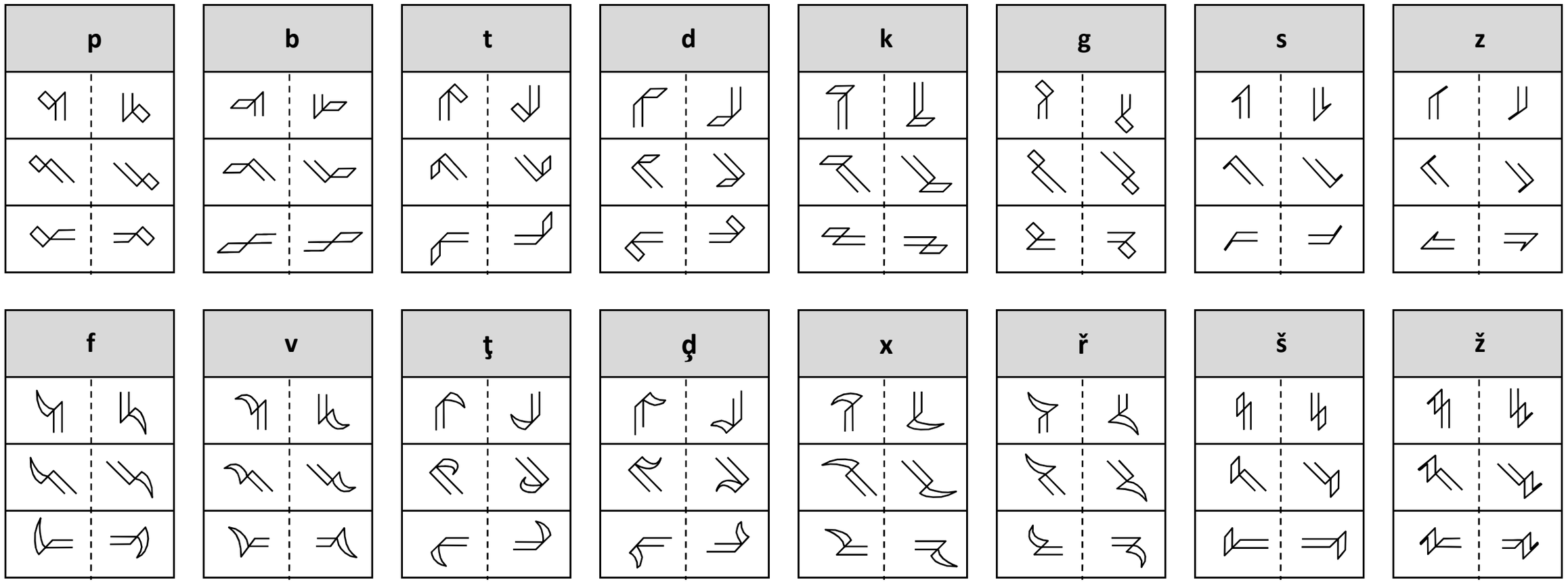
| ļ | ř |
|---|---|
|  |  |

| m | n | ň |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |

**Handwritten forms shown in blue.** Note that the handwritten forms of both Primary and Secondary Characters have their diagonal segments curved inward or outward so that there are no diagonal end-points, only vertical or horizontal end-points.

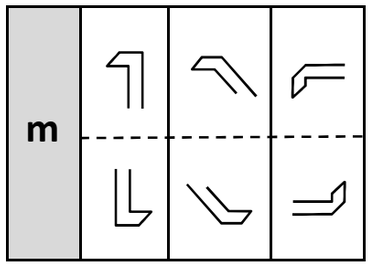
| h |
|---|
|  |

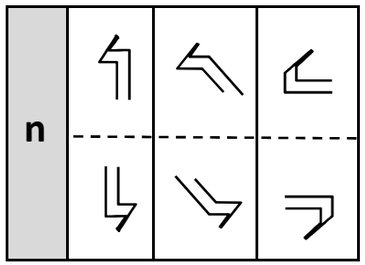
**Consonantal Extensions to Secondary Characters:** Applying these extensions to the upper “end” of a core consonant character adds a preceding consonant to that shown by the core character. Extensions applied to the lower “end” add a following consonant. Additional consonants may be added by applying these extensions to a “placeholder” character which, if used, immediately follows the consonantal character.

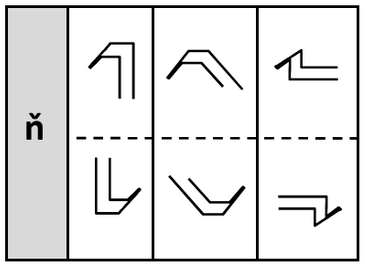


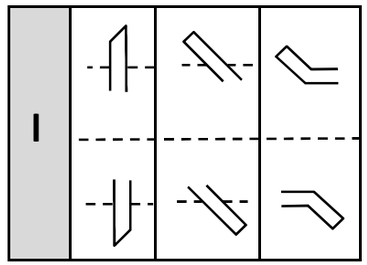

Placeholder Character:

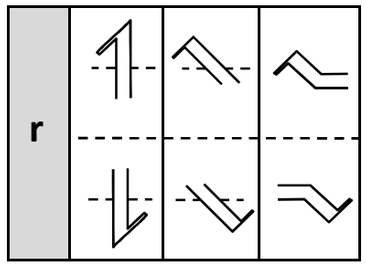
**Consonantal Extensions to Secondary Characters (cont'd):**

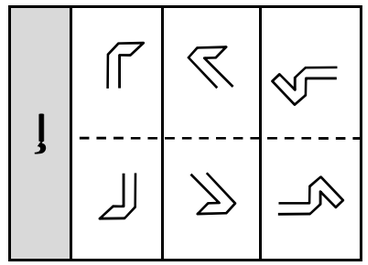


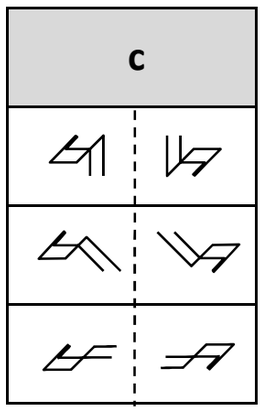



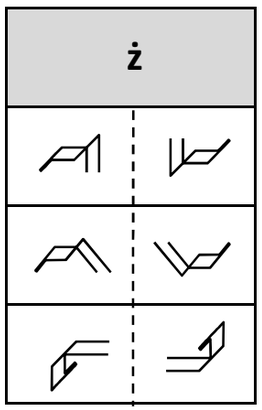



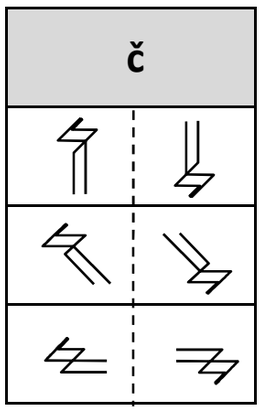



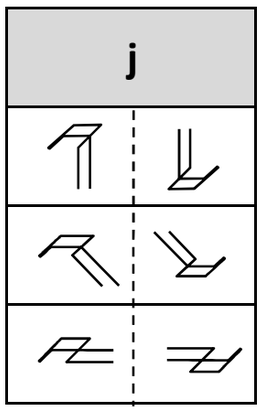



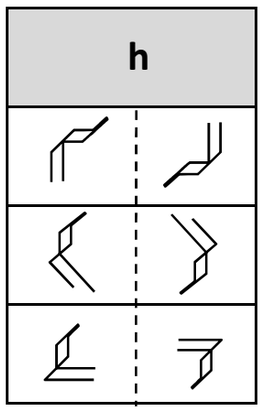



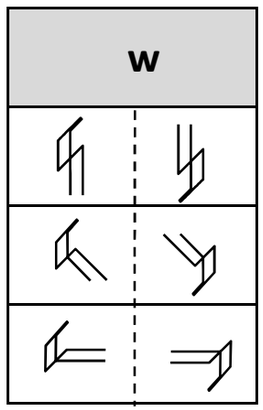



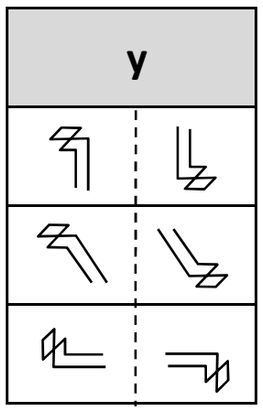



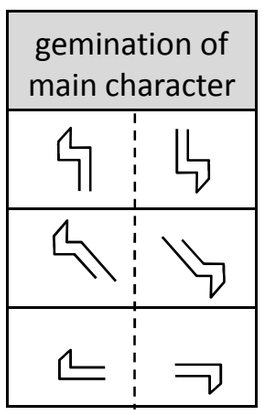



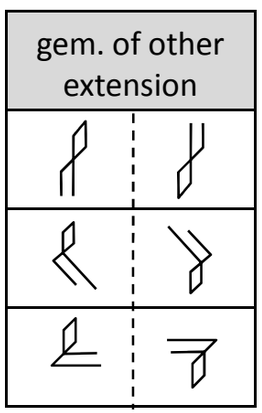



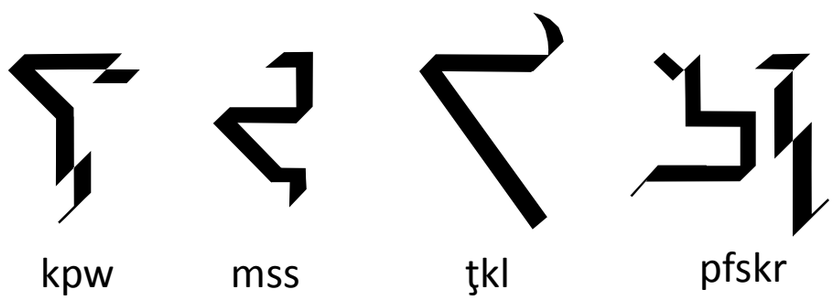



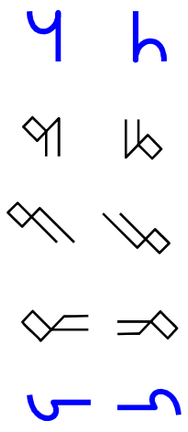




**Examples:**

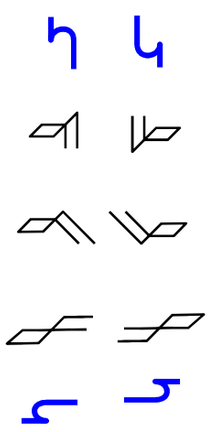


**Handwritten Extensions:** As shown in the previous pages, the handwritten forms of Primary and Secondary Characters are designed so their "ends" are never diagonal (diagonal segments are curved to terminate as vertical or horizontal). Thus there is no need for handwritten diagonal extensions.

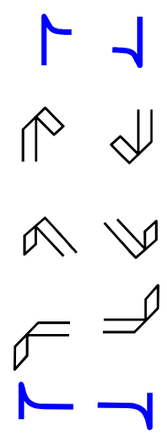
**p**



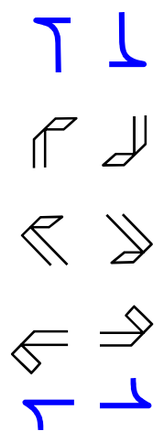
**b**



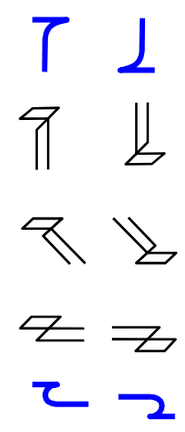
**t**



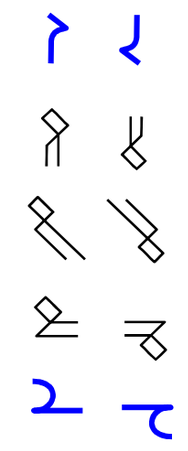
**d**



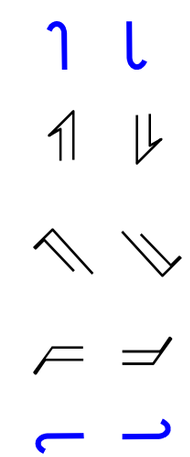
**k**



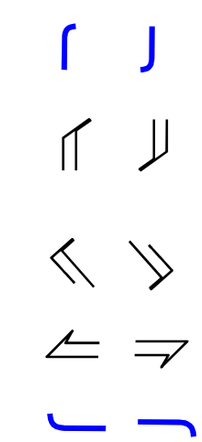
**g**



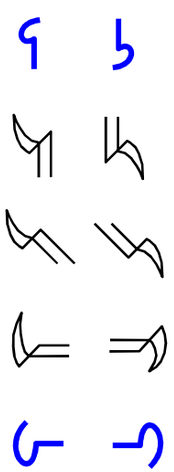
**s**



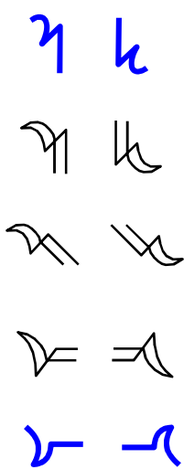
**z**



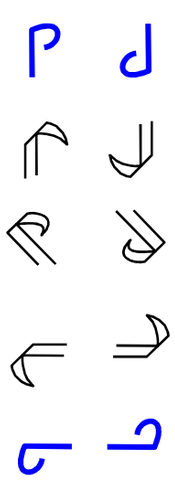
**f**



**v**

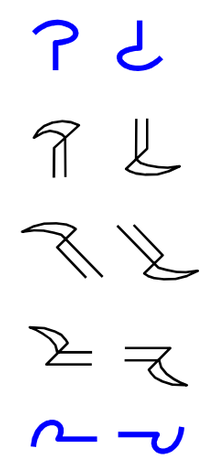


**ţ**

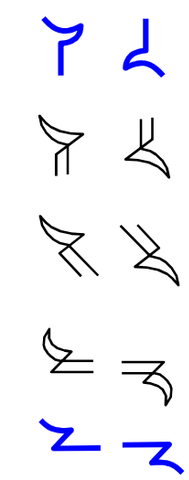


**ḍ**

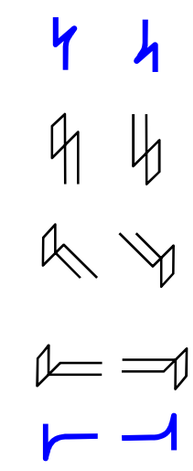
**x**



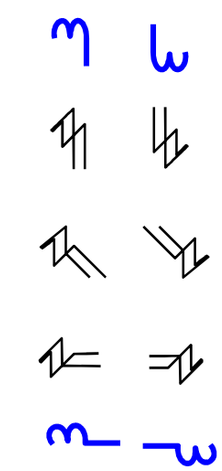
**ř**



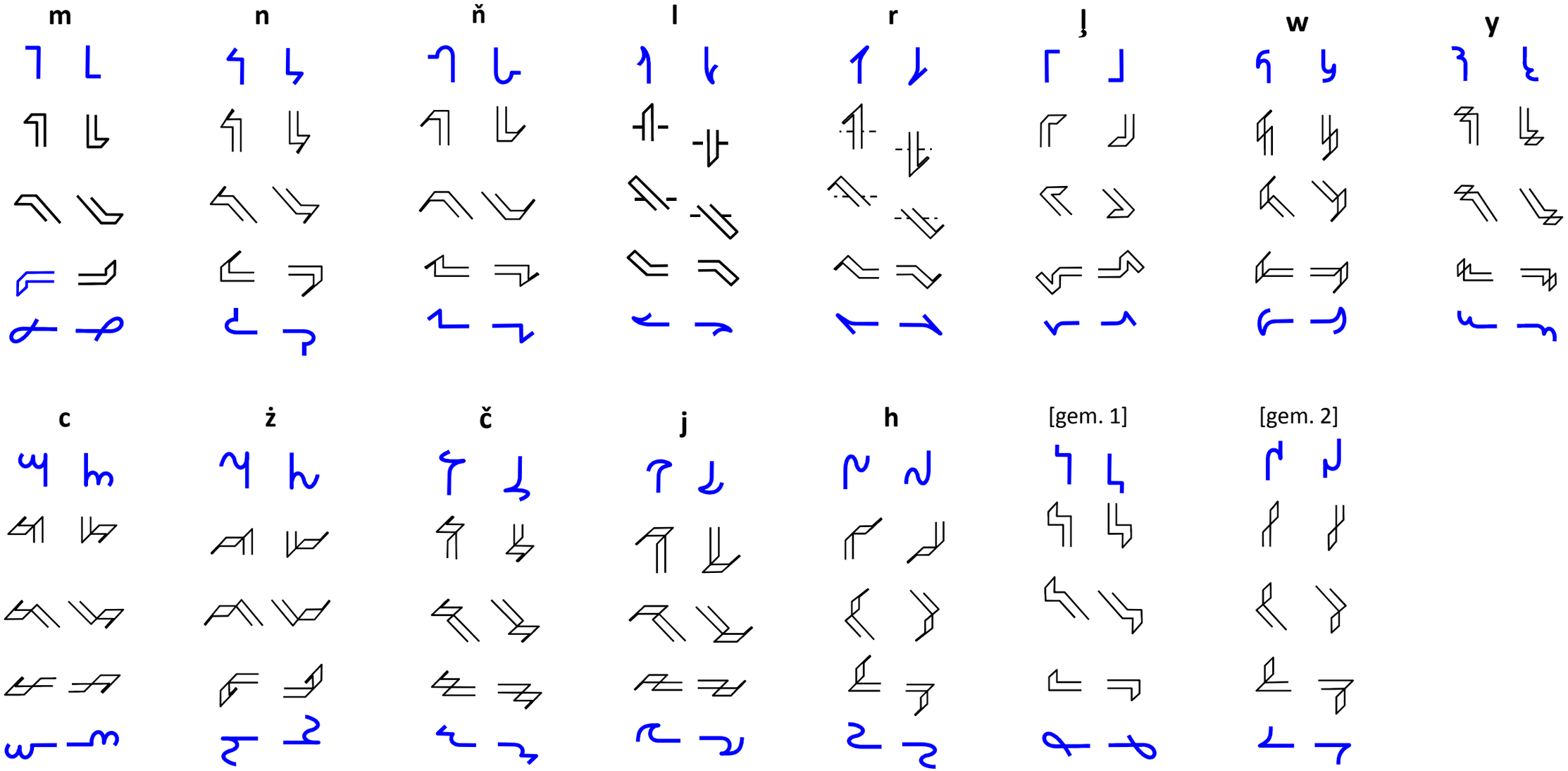
**š**



**ž**



**Handwritten Extensions (cont'd):**

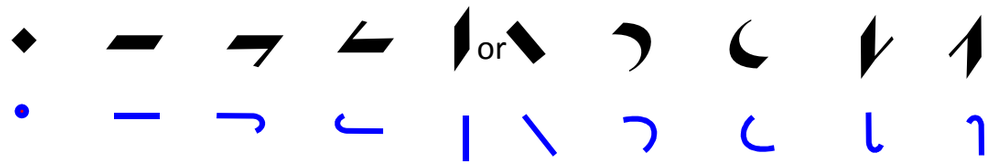


## Alphabetic Writing:

Use Secondary Characters and their extensions plus the placeholder character for alphabetic writing of proper names and foreign words, preceded and followed by the appropriate double-dot diacritic (shown later in the Section on writing Register Adjuncts).

Additionally, use the diacritics shown below for vowels, placed above the character for a preceding vowel, under the character for a following vowel. Use the placeholder character (shown at left) for standalone vowels if necessary. Show 2-vowel conjuncts (including diphthongs) by superposing the first vowel diacritic on the placeholder character and underposing the second vowel diacritic. To show a single vowel between two single consonants, use the placeholder character with the two consonant extensions at top and bottom, with the vowel diacritic placed along the right side of the character.

a ä e ë i o ö u ü



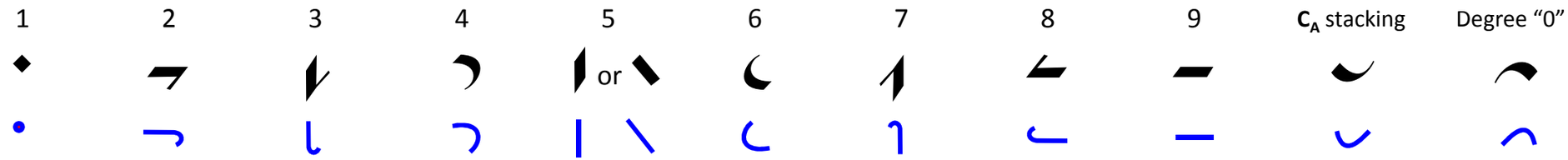

**Option to show 2-vowel conjuncts/diphthongs without using a placeholder character**: To show a two-vowel conjunct or diphthong preceding a full-consonant conjunct, place the first vowel diacritic above the Secondary character and the second vowel diacritic along the right side. To show a following 2-vowel conjunct or diphthong, place the first vowel diacritic along the right side and the second vowel diacritic below the character.

## Indicating Stress in Alphabetic Writing:

Penultimate stress is unmarked; otherwise, the stressed vowel should be shown on a stand-alone **plain vertical bar** shown here instead of the usual placeholder character.

**Using Secondary Characters to show $V_XC_S$ affixes:** Use the Secondary Characters with their extensions for any Slot VII $C_S$ character(s), placed immediately following the $C_R$ character in simple formatives (the rules for complex formatives are given later in this document). Use the following underposed diacritics to show Degree:

**$V_XC_S$ :** The character takes a underposed diacritic to show $V_X$ Degree:




**To show Slot IX $C_S$ character(s):** Place any Slot IX $C_S$ character(s) immediately after any Slot VII $C_S$ character(s) and mark the Slot IX $C_S$ character(s) with a dot diacritic placed "inside" the $C_S$ character (i.e., enclosed by any inner-angled section of the character).

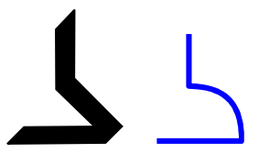
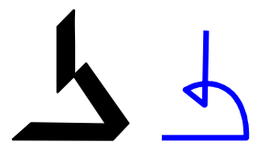
**To show Type-2 or Type-3 $V_XC_S$ affixes:** These are shown using the Secondary Characters and extensions as the above affixes except that they are laterally rotated 180 degrees (i.e, they are upside-down but not horizontally inverted mirror-images). Additionally, Type-3 $V_XC_S$ affixes take a super-posed dot diacritic.

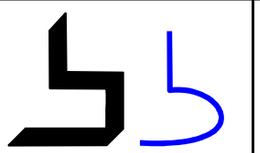
These rotated consonant characters are shown on the next page.

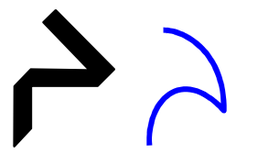
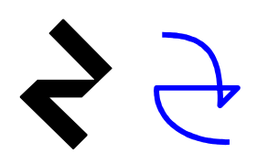
**Showing Affixual Scoping:** Indicating affixual scoping (beyond the use of Positive Delineation and Type-3 $V_XC_S$ affixes) in the spoken language requires the use of an affixual scoping adjunct (see Sec. 4.4 of the Design Document). However, the written language allows for a more succinct way to show detailed affixual scoping using diacritics placed along the right side of a Secondary $C_S$ character.

If a Slot VII $C_S$ character has scope over all other Slot VII affixes, use an outward-facing hook diacritic:  For Slot XI $C_S$ characters, change the right-side dot diacritic to one of the following: (1) a vertical or slanting bar if the affix has scope over all $V_XC_S$ affixes,  or  , (2) a horizontal bar if the affix has scope over the entire formative, , or (3) an inward-facing hook if the affix has scope over the entire formative and all its other adjuncts, .

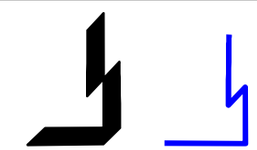
**Rotated Secondary Characters:** These are identical to standard Secondary characters except they are laterally rotated 180 degrees. They are used to show any Type-2 $V_XC_S$ affix(es). For a Type-3 $V_XC_S$ affix, use these rotated characters plus an superposed dot.

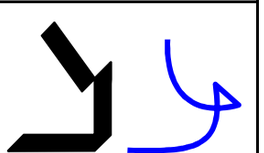
| p | b |
|---|---|
|  |  |

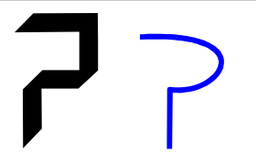
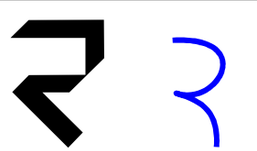
| f | v |
|---|---|
|  |  |

| s | z |
|---|---|
|  |  |

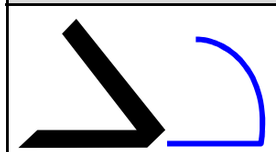
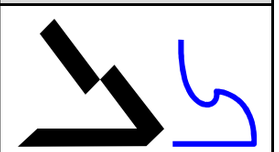
| c | ż |
|---|---|
|  |  |

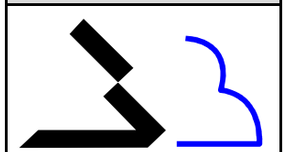
| t | d |
|---|---|
|  |  |

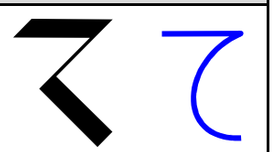
| ţ | ḍ |
|---|---|
|  |  |

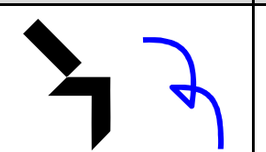
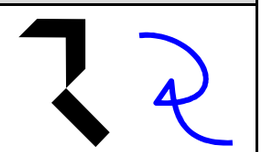
| š | ž |
|---|---|
|  |  |

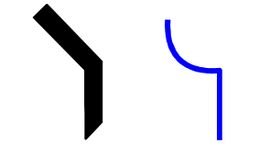
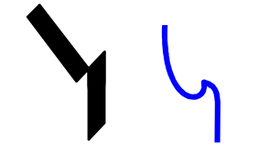
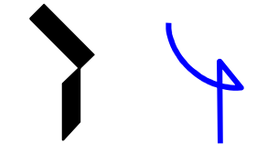
| č | j |
|---|---|
|  |  |

| k | g |
|---|---|
|  |  |

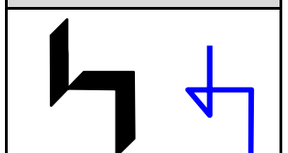
| x |
|---|
|  |

| l | r |
|---|---|
|  |  |

| ļ | ř |
|---|---|
|  |  |

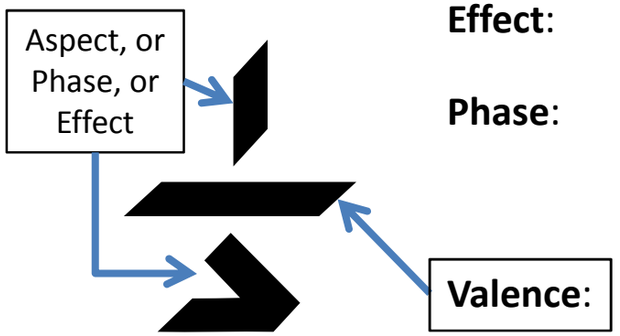
| m | n | ň |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |

**Positive Delineation:** For any $V_XC_S$ character that applies to an incorporated stem, show this via a superposed horizontal bar diacritic over the $C_S$ character (rules for showing incorporated stems are shown later in this document); if there is already a superposed dot (indicating it is a Type-3 $V_XC_S$ affix), change this dot to a vertical bar.

| h |
|---|
|  |

**Tertiary Characters:** Follows any Secondary Character; corresponds to Formative Slots X and XI to indicate Valence, Aspect, Phase, Effect, & Level

Character Form:

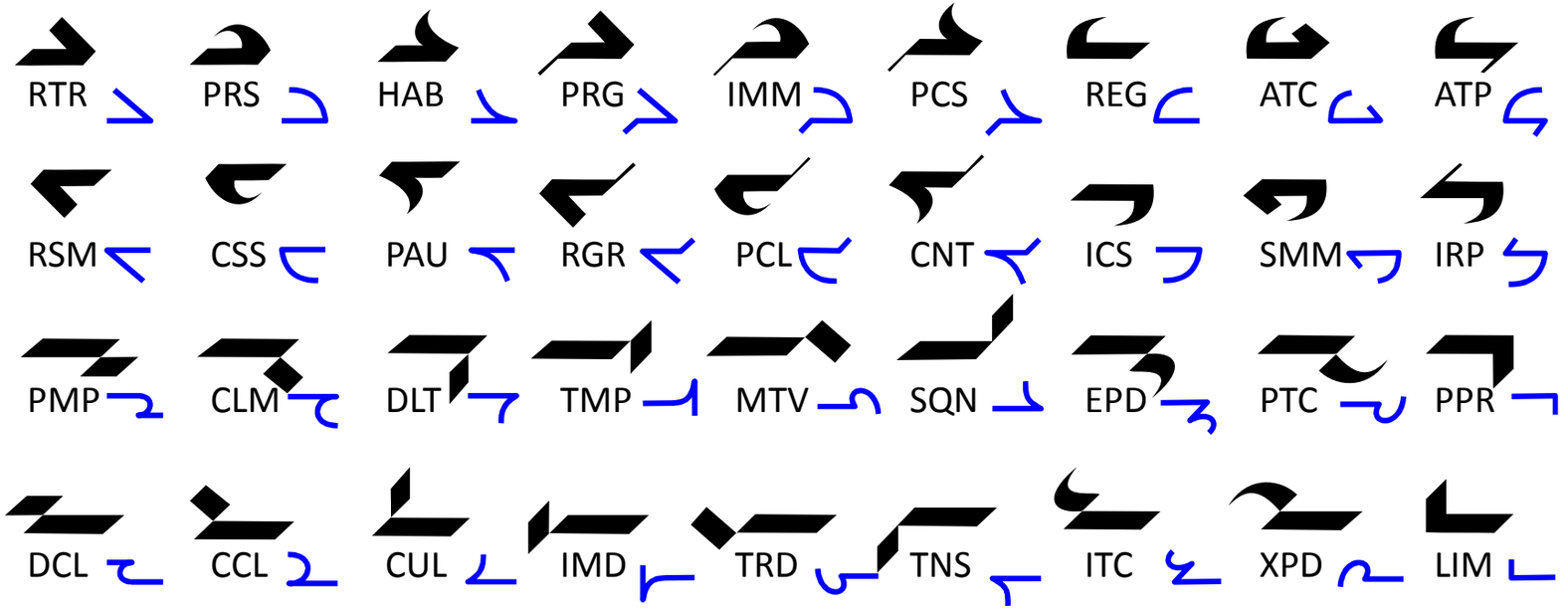



**Effect:** neutral 1/BEN 2/BEN 3/BEN all/BEN UNKNOWN all/DET 3/DET 2/DET 1/DET

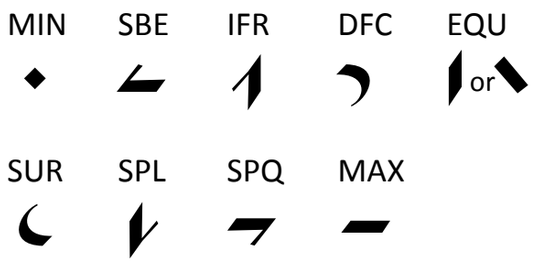
**Phase:** CTX PCT ITR REP ITM RCT FRE FRG FLC


**NOTE:** The horizontal Valence segment is mandatory. A Phase or Effect segment is also mandatory unless there are two aspects shown (one in upper half, one in lower half). A plain default CTX/MNO character is elided.

**Aspect:**




**Level:** Shown by diacritic on Tertiary Character; superposed = Absolute, under-posed = Relative



## Quaternary Characters -- $V_C$ /$V_K$ Characters:

Used for displaying $V_C$ Case and $V_K$ Illocution+Sanction, as well as $C_M$ Mood and $C_C$ Case-Scope. $V_C$ and $V_K$ are shown by extensions to the top and bottom ends of a plain vertical bar. Mood and Case-Scope are indicated by diacritics shown on the next page. A Quaternary Character is placed immediately after any Tertiary Character.

Example:

**Illocution $V_K$ :** CNF INF ITU REV HSY USP DIR IRG DEC

**Case $V_C$ :**

Type: TRANSRELATIVE APPOSITIVE ASSOCIATIVE ADVERBIAL SPATIO-TEMP I SPATIO-TEMP II RELATIONAL I RELATIONAL II

**Sanction $V_K$ :** PPS EPI ALG IPU RFU REB CJT EXV AXM (null)

**Case $V_C$ :**

Case No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Handwritten forms of Quaternary characters follow the same patterns as vertical consonant extensions.

## Diacritics Used with Quaternary Characters

**CASE-SCOPE:**
Shown via an underposed diacritic below a Quaternary Character:

| CCh | CCl | CCr | CCw | CCm | CCn |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| |  |  |  |  |  |

**MOOD:**
Shown via a superposed diacritic above a Quaternary Character:

| FAC (or zero) | SUB | ASM | SPC | COU | HYP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Case-Assessor Affixes:** These are composed of a Quaternary Character indicating Case, accompanied by special diacritics.

Regular Case Assessor: super-posed

Inverse Case Assessor: under-posed

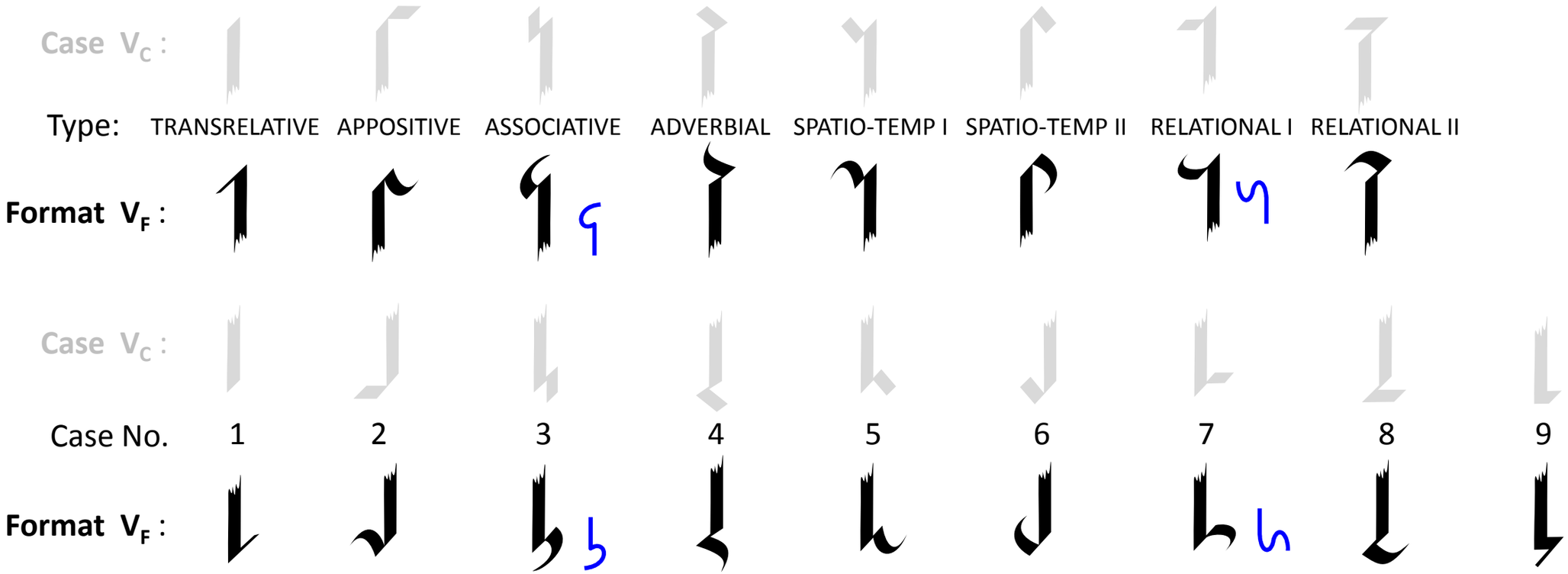
**Case-Stacking:** A second case, with scope over the first, is shown by simply adding a 2nd Quaternary Character immediately after the first.

## Complex Formatives -- How To Show $V_I$, $C_I$ and $V_F$ Information for an Incorporated Stem:

To show an incorporated Stem, use a Primary Character to show the Slot IV **$V_I$** info for the incorporated root, placed immediately following the **$C_R$** Secondary Character and before any **$C_S$** Secondary Characters (the diacritic below the word-initial Primary Character already alerts the reader to expect a 2nd Primary Character following **$C_R$**). Any **$C_A$** info shown on this character is to be interpreted as applying to the incorporated stem before any affixes. If, instead, **$C_A$** info for the incorporated stem is to apply after other **$V_XC_S$** affixes are applied, use a positively-delineated Secondary Character instead in the "Slot IX" position.

This 2nd Primary Character will be immediately followed by the Slot V **$C_I$** root, shown by a Rotated Secondary Character plus extensions (this rotated consonantal character cannot be mistaken for a Type-2 or Type-3 **$V_XC_S$** affix because it will have no underposed **$V_X$** diacritic).

The **$C_I$** root character will in turn be followed by a modified Quaternary **$V_C$ /$V_K$** Character to show Slot VI **$V_F$** Format. These modified Quaternary Characters for showing Format are shown below (standard Quaternary Case characters are shown above them in grey for purposes of comparison):



## Alternative To Using Quaternary Characters – Showing Case or Format Using Diacritics on the $C_R$ or $C_I$ Root Characters

If Mood and Case-scope are default **FAC**/**CCh** (so that there are no diacritics above or below the Quaternary $\mathbf{V_C}$ /$\mathbf{V_K}$ Character), then the option exists to dispense with the Quaternary character and instead show Case on the $\mathbf{C_R}$ consonantal root character using the superposed and underposed diacritics shown below.

These same diacritics may also be used on the $\mathbf{C_I}$ consonantal root character to show Format of an incorporated stem instead of using the modified Quaternary Format character shown on the previous page.

**Super-posed**:


Type: TRANSRELATIVE APPOSITIVE ASSOCIATIVE ADVERBIAL SPATIO-TEMP I SPATIO-TEMP II RELATIONAL I RELATIONAL II

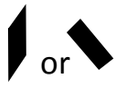
Case No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**Under-posed**:

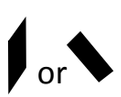
## Alternative To Using Quaternary Characters – Showing Illocution+Sanction Using Diacritics on the $C_R$ Root Character

Just as nominal formatives may show Case via diacritics on the **$C_R$** Root Character If Mood and Case-scope are default **FAC**/**CCh**, so verbal formatives may show Illocution + Sanction via diacritics on the **$C_R$** Root Character.

**Super-posed**:

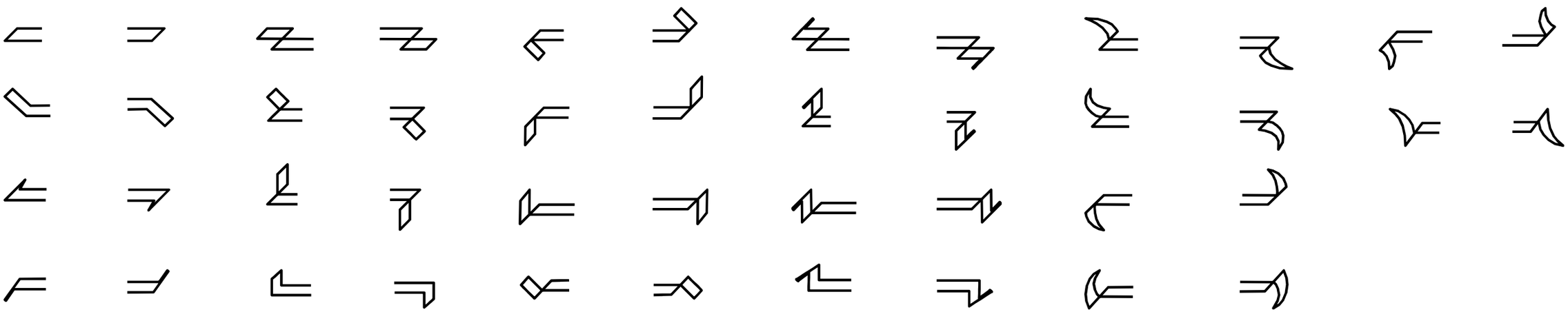
**Illocution $V_K$**: CNF  INF  ITU  REV  or HSY  USP  DIR  IRG  DEC

**Sanction $V_K$**: PPS EPI ALG IPU RFU REB CJT EXV AXM (null)

**Under-posed**:     or     

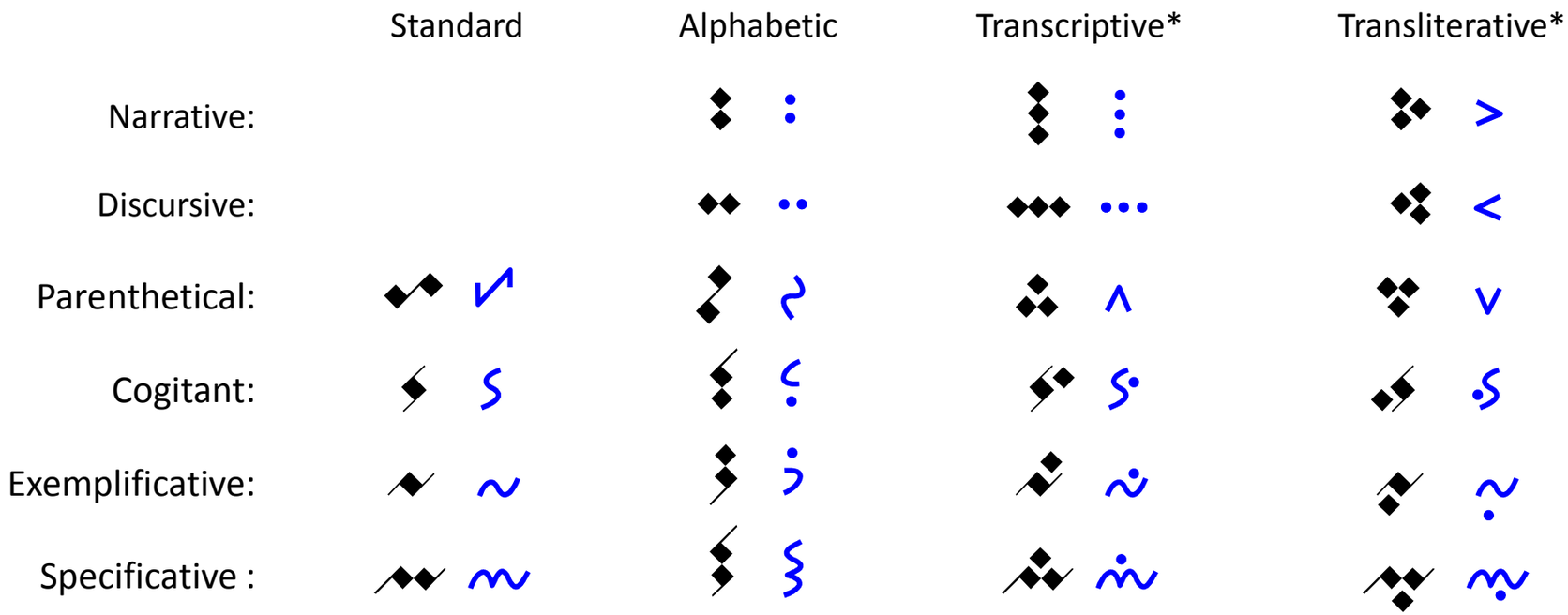
**Character Type 5 -- Bias Characters**

Placed in word-final position, the various Bias categories (once they are available) will be shown via modification of the top and bottom ends of the characters shown here:



**Showing Personal Reference Adjuncts:** To show a personal reference adjunct, use a Quaternary Character followed by a Secondary Character (with extensions if needed) to indicate the specific personal referent(s) with a superposed horizontal bar diacritic. Dual-referent adjuncts are written as two single-referent adjuncts next to each other (as in Ithkuil). For verbalized personal-reference adjuncts (i.e., those containing $\mathbf{V_K}$ Illocution+Sanction information as well as Case, use a second quaternary character showing $\mathbf{V_K}$ plus a dot diacritic along its right side; place this $\mathbf{V_K}$ character between the first (case) quaternary character and the Secondary consonant character.

**Showing Register:** The following symbols are placed before and after a phrase to mark various registers. Each register has four modes; the first indicating register only, while the second mode indicates that the word within the register phrase is written alphabetically (i.e., it is a proper name or foreign word/phrase). For the third and fourth modes, see next page.




* see next page

**Showing Carrier Adjuncts/Stems:** Use the appropriate register markers above in Alphabetic mode, and insert a Quaternary Case character between the initial register marker and the first Secondary alphabetic character. A full carrier stem may precede the alphabetic register clause per standard rules of writing, or, as a shortcut, place the primary, any tertiary, and quaternary characters immediately after the alphabetic register marker before the first Secondary alphabetic character.

## Transcriptive & Transliterative Modes:  The Phonetic Representation (or Suppression) of Adjuncts

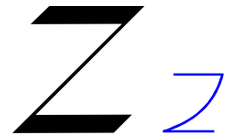
Being a morpho-phonemic writing system, the script does not normally represent adjuncts (other than personal-reference adjuncts). Consequently, a written passage may have different spoken interpretations by a reader, i.e., it is left up to the reader whether to utilize adjuncts or not when reading aloud a written passage in the language.

Nevertheless, in certain circumstances such as when reading poetry or song lyrics, reading the script of a play, or a word-for-word transcription, it becomes desirable to indicate to the reader exactly how a written passage is to be read aloud.  This is the purpose of the Transcriptive and Transliterative modes.

**Transcriptive** Mode indicates that the word/phrase inside the markers is to be read exactly as standardly written, i.e., without using adjuncts (other than personal-reference adjuncts and carrier adjuncts).

**Transliterative** Mode indicates the word/phrase within the markers is one of the following:  (1) a phonemic rendering of an adjunct written using Secondary Characters written alphabetically,  (2) a Tertiary Character representing a Modular Adjunct, to be read Valence first, then the top “half”, then the bottom “half”, or (3) a Bias Character, representing a consonantal Bias Adjunct.

**Additional Characters for Alphabetic Writing**

The following character-shape is utilized in multiple ways as a means of representing foreign words/sounds when writing alphabetically: 

The following extensions on the above character shape indicate secondary vocalic articulations. The top bar of the shape may take a Secondary Character consonantal extension. Additionally, vowel diacritics may by applied above and below these shapes.

Long Vowel 

Nasalization 

Pharyngealization 

Breathy Voice/Whispered 

Creaky Voice 

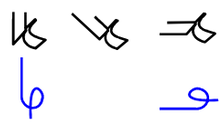
**Tones:** High  Mid  Low  Rising  Falling 

Combination tones are shown by using two markers on the character, e.g.,

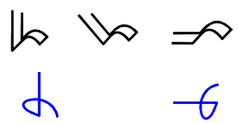
Low-Rising: 

Falling-Rising: 

Use the following bottom extensions on a Secondary place-holder character (with a standard consonantal top extension if applicable):

Glottal Stop: 

Ejective Consonant: 

Velarized/Pharyngealized Consonant: 

## Sequence of Written Characters for Simple Formatives

| Type 1 Primary Character | Type 2 Consonantal character | Type 2 Consonantal character(s) | Type 2 Consonantal character(s) | Type 3 Valence Character | Type 4 $V_C/V_K$ Character | Type 5 (Bias) Character |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stem, Specification, Function, Designation, Version, **$C_A$** | **$C_R$** Main Root | **$C_S$** (Slot VII) | **$C_S$** (Slot IX) | Valence, Phase, Effect, Aspect, Level | **$V_C/V_K$** plus Mood and/or Case-Scope | **$C_B$** |

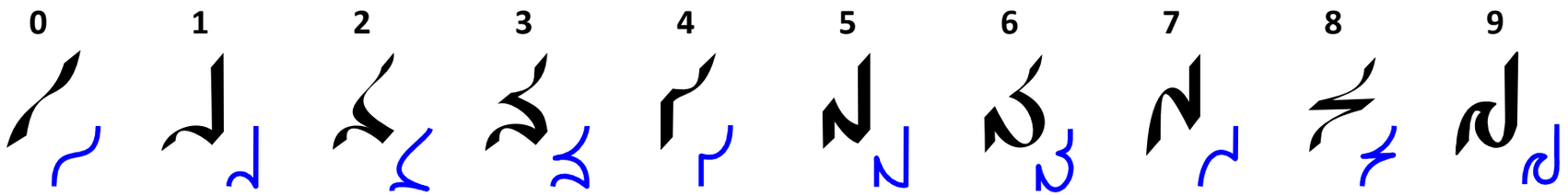
## Sequence of Written Characters for Complex Formatives

| Type 1 Primary Character | Type 2 Consonantal character | Type 1 Primary Character | Type 2 Consonantal character | Type 4 $V_C/V_K$ Character (modified) | Type 2 Consonantal character(s) | Type 2 Consonantal character(s) | Type 3 Valence Character | Type 4 $V_C/V_K$ Character | Type 5 (Bias) Character |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stem, Specification, Function, Designation, Version, **$C_A$** of main root | **$C_R$** Main Root | Stem, Specification, Function, Designation, Version, **$C_A$** of incorp. root | **$C_I$** Incorporated Root | **$V_F$** Format of Inc. Stem | **$C_S$** (Slot VII type) | **$C_S$** (Slot IX type) | Valence, Phase, Effect, Aspect, Level | **$V_C/V_K$** Mood, Case-Scope | **$C_B$** |

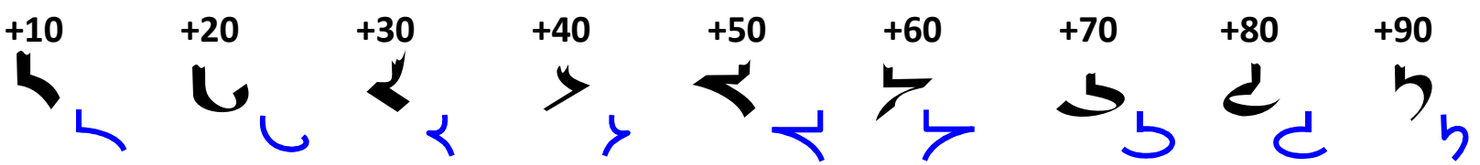
**Writing Numerals:** In the new system below, core numerals 0 through 9 take bottom extensions to show the number of tens, top extensions to show the number of hundreds, and interior "diacritics" (whose shapes are modeled after the bottom extensions) to show the number of thousands. Numerals up through 9999 are single digits; two-digit numerals represent 10.000 to 99.999.999; three-digit numerals start at 100 million, 4-digits at 1 trillion, etc. (each additional digit multiplies by 10 thousand).

Top-Right Extensions Indicate the number of hundreds:

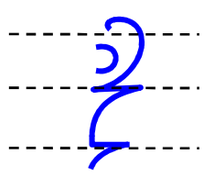

Core numerals 0 through 9 (zero is now used as in Western writing systems as a placeholder. i.e., independent numerals after 9 have been eliminated):

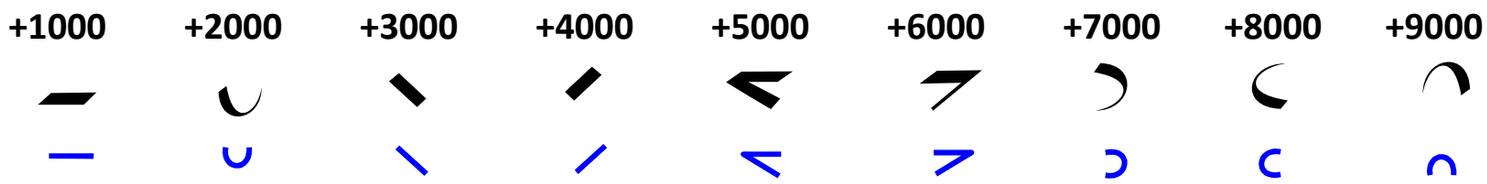



Bottom-Left Extensions Indicate the number of tens:




Diacritic-like marks placed inside the top-left quarter of the 1-through-10 symbols indicate the number of thousands up to 9000, e.g., 7268:





**Legacy (or “Ithkuil Traditional”) Style:** a non-calligraphy-friendly font in which beveled vertices are instead pointed, diagonal stroke-ends are horizontally flattened (if the resulting inside angles are acute rather than obtuse), and diagonal strokes are equally thick regardless of direction, e.g.,