

# Timeline of Writing Systems' Graphical Evolution

Modern Era (timescale change)

## East Asia

### Legend

Hellenic: Scripts derived from Greek

Chinese: Scripts derived from Oracle Bone

Northern Brahmi: Scripts derived from Brahmi in North India

Southern Brahmi: Scripts derived from Brahmi in South India

Semitic: Scripts derived from Proto-Sinaitic

Other: Independently derived scripts (graphically)

Over 10 million users

Over 100 million users

Not in Unicode

Script extinction then revival:  - -

Writing direction

Logograph: Words are distinct characters

Syllabary: Syllables are distinct characters

True Alphabet: Consonants are distinct characters

Abugida: Vowels are secondary, usually diacritics

Abjad: Vowels are optional or non-existent

## Southeast Asia

## South Asia

## Central & West Asia

(excl. Anatolia & Caucasus)

## Africa

## Europe, Anatolia, & Caucasus

## Americas