

- Egyptian hieroglyphs: A writing system that combines logographic, syllabic and alphabetic elements, used for over 3,000 years in ancient Egypt.
- History and evolution: Hieroglyphs emerged from preliterate symbol systems around 3200 BC and developed into a mature and complex script. They were used for religious, administrative, and monumental purposes, as well as on papyrus and wood. They declined and became obsolete after the Roman suppression of paganism in the 4th and 5th centuries AD.
- Writing system: Hieroglyphs consist of about 1,000 distinct signs that can represent sounds (phonograms), meanings (logograms or ideograms), or grammatical features (determinatives). They are written in horizontal or vertical lines, usually from right to left, and are read according to the direction of the signs. They do not indicate vowels or word boundaries, but use phonetic complements and determinatives to clarify the reading of words.
- Decipherment: Hieroglyphs remained undeciphered for over a millennium, until the discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799, which contained parallel texts in hieroglyphic, demotic, and Greek. Scholars such as Thomas Young and Jean-François Champollion gradually deciphered the script by comparing the languages and identifying the phonetic and semantic values of the signs.
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