

Old Persian is the name applied to the Persian language used in the cuneiform inscriptions of the Achaemenian dynasty; it was the vernacular speech of the Achaemenian rulers.

1 Typing Old Persian

[1]

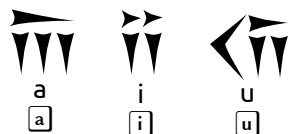
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2	J	b	z
3	K	c	{
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5	M	e	}
6	N	f	
7	O	g	
8	P	h	

2 Writing System

[3, 5]

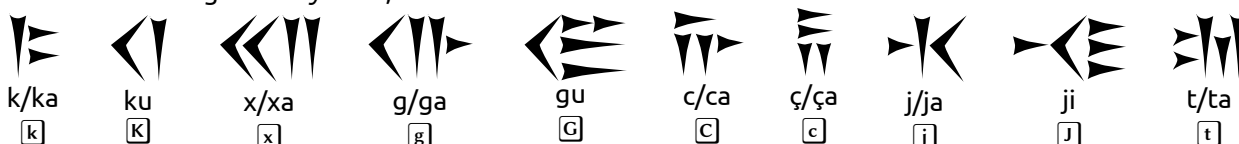
Old Persian is written in a cuneiform script, but with only a small number of signs compared to languages such as Akkadian. There are **3 vowel signs** and **33 consonant signs**

2.1 Vowel Signs (3)



2.2 Consonant Signs (33)

The consonant signs are syllabic, i.e.



𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 tu [T]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 θ/θa [o]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 d/da [d]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 di [D]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 du [?]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 p/pa [P]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 f/fa [f]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 b/ba [b]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 n/na [n]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 n/nu [N]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 m/ma [m]
𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 mi [M]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 mu [.]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 y/ya [y]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 v/va [v]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 vi [V]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 r/ra [r]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 ru [R]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 l/la [l]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 s/sa [s]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 š/ša [S]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 z/za [z]
𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 h/ha [h]										

2.3 Logograms (Signs That Stand for a Whole Word)

𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 king [Q]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 earth [e]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 country [4][3]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 god [6]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 Ahuramazada [W][q]	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 Ahuramazada (genitive) [q]
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3 Behistun Inscription



Figure 1: Behistun Inscription, Column i, lines 1-8[2]

1. 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿
(Pronoun) I[6] Darius[4, p. 185]

1. I am Darius, the great king, king of kings, the king of Persia, the king of countries, the son of Hystaspes, the grandson of Arsames, the Achaemenid.
2. King Darius says: My father is Hystaspes; the father of Hystaspes was Arsames; the father of Arsames was Ariaramnes; the father of Ariaramnes was Teispes; the father of Teispes was Achaemenes.
3. King Darius says: That is why we are called Achaemenids; from antiquity we have been noble; from antiquity has our dynasty been royal.

References

- [1] egreg. How to typeset ancient persian scripts in latex. <https://tex.stackexchange.com/a/397087/277953>.

