

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]

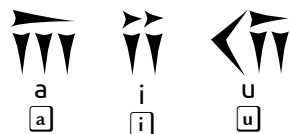
!	9	Q	i
"	:	R	j
#	;	S	k
\$	<	T	l
%	=	U	m
&	>	V	n
'	? <	W	o
(	@ <	X	p
)	A	Y	q
*	B	Z	r
+	C	[	s
,	D	\	t
-	E	]	u
.	F	^	v
/	G	~	w
0	H	̄	x
1	I	a	y
2	J	b	z
3	K	c	{
4	L	d	
5	M	e	}
6	N	f	
7	O	g	
8	P	h	

## 2 Writing System

[3, 4]

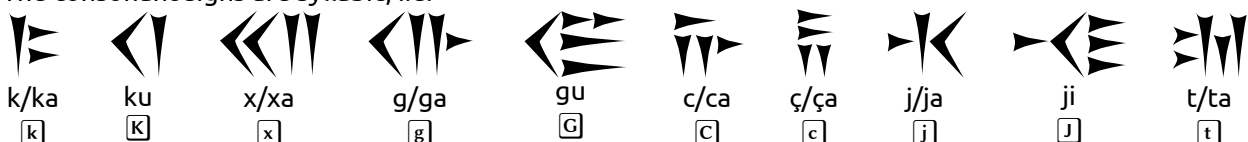
Old Persian is written in a cuneiform script, but with only a small number of signs compared to languages such as Akkadian. There are **3 vowel signs** and **33 consonant signs**
























### 2.1 Vowel Signs (3)










### 2.2 Consonant Signs (33)

The consonant signs are syllabic, i.e.



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

## 2.3 Logograms (Signs That Stand for a Whole Word)

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

## 3 Behistun Inscription




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

1. 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿  
(Pronoun) I[5] Darius

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>.

- [2] Livius. Behistun t 01. <https://www.livius.org/sources/content/behistun-persian-text/behistun-t-01/>.
- [3] Omniglot. Old persian cuneiform. <https://www.omniglot.com/writing/opcuneiform.htm>.
- [4] Prods Oktor Skjærvø. *An Introduction to Old Persian*. Online, 2002.
- [5] Wiktionary. . <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%F0%90%8E%A0%F0%90%8E%AD%F0%90%8E%B6>.