

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]

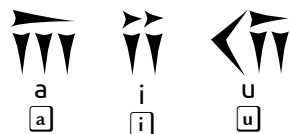
|    |     |   |   |
|----|-----|---|---|
| !  | 9   | Q | i |
| "  | :   | R | j |
| #  | ;   | S | k |
| \$ | <   | T | l |
| %  | =   | U | m |
| &  | >   | V | n |
| '  | ? < | W | o |
| (  | @ < | X | p |
| )  | A   | Y | q |
| *  | B   | Z | r |
| +  | C   | [ | s |
| ,  | D   | \ | t |
| -  | 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]

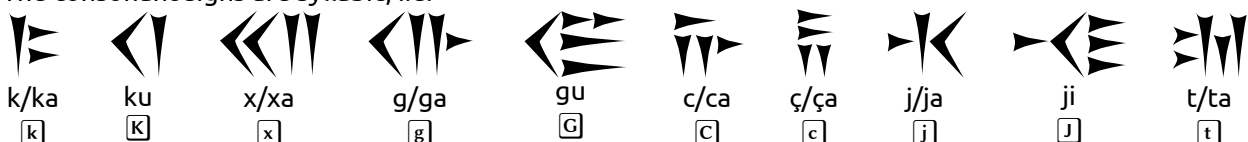
Old Persian is written in a cuneiform script, but with only a small number of signs compared to languages such as Akkadian. There are **3 vowel signs** and **33 consonant signs**

### 2.1 Vowel Signs (3)



### 2.2 Consonant Signs (33)

The consonant signs are syllabic, i.e.



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

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

|      |       |         |      |             |                        |      |
|------|-------|---------|------|-------------|------------------------|------|
| 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 | 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿  | 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿    | 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 | 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿        | 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿                   | 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 |
| king | earth | country | god  | Ahuramazada | Ahuramazada (genitive) |      |
| Q    | e     | 4 3     | 6    | W q         | 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>.