

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

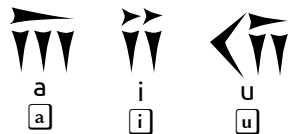
!	9	Q	i
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/	G	_	w
0	H	'	x
1	I	a	y
2	J	b	z
3	K	c	{
4	L	d	
5	M	e	}
6	N	f	
7	O	g	
8	P	h	

2 Writing System

3,5

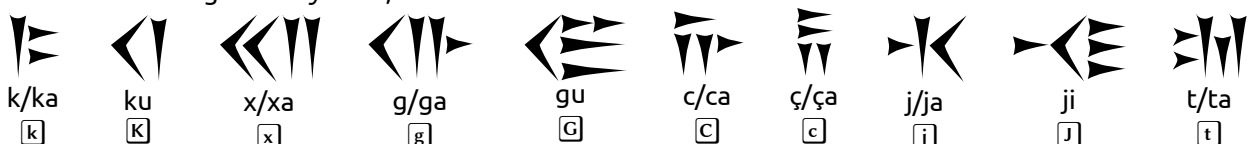
Old Persian is written in a cuneiform script, but with only a small number of signs compared to languages such as Akkadian. There are **3 vowel signs** and **33 consonant signs**

2.1 Vowel Signs (3)



2.2 Consonant Signs (33)

The consonant signs are syllabic, i.e.



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 [u]	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 (genitive) [q]

3 Behistun Inscription



Figure 1: Behistun Inscription, Column i, lines 1-8²

1. 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿
(Pronoun) I⁶ Darius [4, p185]

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.](#)

² Livius. [Behistun T 01](#).

³ Omniglot. [Old Persian Cuneiform](#).

⁴ H. Rawlinson. [Memoir on Cuneiform Inscription](#). 1849.

⁵ Prods Oktor Skjærvø. [An Introduction to Old Persian](#). 2002.

⁶ Wiktionary. [𐎧𐎡𐎴 𐎧𐎡𐎴 -𐎧𐎡𐎴](#).