

The English Runes – Þ M F X M L H R N T M Y

The font is “**Anglish Runes**”, it’s constructed to be used together with “**Noto Sans – Regular**”. The runes are based on the Anglo-Saxon/Frisian Runes (Futhorc) variance which, according to Wikipedia, where in use in England and the North of Netherlands from the 5th century onwards, up until the high middle ages.

Modern writing of runes, roughly falls in two categories. Those that write it phonetically and use the runes that matches the sounds the closest. And those that replace the letters with the corresponding runes.

The goal of this font was to use it as a drop in replacement for text written in English by switching the font. It is not meant to be historically accurate, however many runes with multiple attested sources are present, where multiple forms were used I selected a specific one mostly at random.

I choose specifically Futhorc runes to work upon as I feel this is more correct then using earlier Elder and Younger Futhark or later derived runes like Medieval or Dalecarlian, as the latter two where used in the Scandinavian regions and not in England.

Even though this font is not intended to be historically accurate, I do believe that it is likely that a literate person from that historical era and area would be able to read what is written with this font, but may struggle with the meaning, as many words have been borrowed from other languages and beyond that have gone through multiple rounds of vowel shifting and added/discarded letters.

To make it possible to write modern English, certain letters had to be added, specifically the V and Z. This is not a new thing, for example, previously the change from Elder Futhark to Futhorc had a change to the letter C, which could mean both C and K, further there were additions of X and Q which have all similar sounds. Specifically the rune K (𐌗) is the rune X (𐌞) but upside down. Although the letter Y is already associated with a rune (𐌚), the pronunciation of that rune is rather far away from what we use Y for these days. As such I did the same to Y as the ancestors did with X, I opted for an upside down J (𐌗) being used for Y (𐌗).

The V (V) and Z (Z) letter have been added as is, this also has historical precedent although more in reverse, as the “th” letter combination is the thorn (þ), which was used for a long time in the localised Latin/English alphabet, though printing presses rarely had the thorn character and would substitute it with an **y** or **Y** instead.

On request, I have made a single addition for the letter Š (𐌱) which is the sound of "sh", its creation is a sort of bind rune of the letters SH (𐌺).

Futhorc contains certain characters that more accurately reflect the pronunciation of a word. For example (assuming Southern Standard British English accent):

- “thing” as “þiŋ” being “𐰚𐰆”.
- “bear” as “bär” being “𐰇𐰏”.
- “hear” as “hȳr” being “𐰇𐰏𐰚”.
- “view” as “vîw” being “𐰇𐰏𐰚”.
- “in” as “in” being “𐰇𐰏”, this one just indicates that the I is short like in “inn” and not long as would be in “ice” (īM).
- There is also “ö” (ǣ), however this will only feature when writing Old English, it is pronounced as the “ö” in the German word “König”.

The font has both upper case and lower case, these are roughly the same symbols but drawn in less height space.

Although this font discourages in some way the use of phonetic equivalence writing, some letter combinations are so common in English and thus English, that there used to be letters for that, specifically the thorn (þ – ƥ) and ing (ȝ – Ȟ). For my personal usage I would substitute a letter if reversing the process would lead to the correctly spelled Latin version, if it doesn't then I would substitute as is. So for example English could be written as **Anġliſ** (𐌂𐌆𐌊𐌺𐌹𐌸), the **ŋ** is always ng, the **ī** is always i and the **ſ** is always sh.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| Ɔ | ᄀ | ᄁ | ᄂ | ᄃ | ᄄ | ᄅ | ᄆ | ᄇ | ᄈ | ᄉ | ᄊ | ᄋ | ᄌ | ᄍ | ᄎ | ᄏ | ᄐ | ᄑ | ᄒ | ᄓ | ᄔ | ᄕ | ᄗ | ᄘ | ᄙ |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | j | k | l | m | n | o | p | q | r | s | t | u | v | w | x | y | z |
| Ɔ | ᄀ | ᄁ | ᄂ | ᄃ | ᄄ | ᄅ | ᄆ | ᄇ | ᄈ | ᄉ | ᄊ | ᄋ | ᄌ | ᄍ | ᄎ | ᄏ | ᄐ | ᄑ | ᄒ | ᄓ | ᄔ | ᄕ | ᄗ | ᄘ | ᄙ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ƒ | Λ | l | Ƴ | Ƴ | Ÿ | ƶ | Ƨ |
| Ä | Î | Ì | Ŋ | Ö | Û | Ɔ | Ŝ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ƒ | Λ | l | Ƴ | Ƴ | Ÿ | ƶ | Ƨ |
| ä | î | ì | ŋ | ö | û | ɔ | ŝ |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| ⓪ | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ | ⑥ | ⑦ | ⑧ | ⑨ |

[illegible]

Lookup table:

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|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| I | L | S | C | N | ï | A | Ä | O | F | Q | P | G | Z | V | U | ÿ | þ | w | r | B | E | M | D | Ö | Ŋ | H | Ŝ | T | J | Y | K | X | î |
| i | l | s | c | n | ie | a | ea | o | f | q | p | g | z | v | u | ea | th | w | r | b | e | m | d | oe | ng | h | sh | t | j | y | k | x | ie |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 𐌰 | 𐌱 | 𐌲 | 𐌳 | 𐌴 | 𐌵 | 𐌶 | 𐌷 | 𐌸 | 𐌹 |

Writing of the special characters:

On linux and unix systems you can use the compose key (by default right **Shift + alt gr**) and key combinations. On Windows you can either use alt keys or install a program that adds linux like compose functionality (for example this: <https://github.com/SamHoevar/wincompose>)

Here is a table of compose key descriptions:

| Upper | Lower | letters | as in | unicode capital | unicode small | composition |
|-------|--------------------|---------|-------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Ä | ä | ea | Bear | 00c4 | 00e4 | “ then A or a |
| Û | û | ea | Hear | 00112 | 0113 | ^ then Y or y |
| Ì | ì | i | in | 00cf | 00ef | ` then I or I # (` is backtick) |
| Ŋ | ŋ | ng | ding | 014a | 014b | N then G or n then g |
| Ö | ö | oe | könig | 00d6 | 00f6 | “ then O or o |
| Î | î | ie | view | 0232 | 0233 | ^ then I or I |
| Þ | þ | th | the | 00de | 00fe | T then H or t then h |
| Ŝ | ŝ | sh | bash | 01a9 | 0283 | ^ then S or s |
| | non breaking space | | | 00a0 | | SPACE then SPACE |