

Bamrudian, a new vertical calligraphy for English



Existing calligraphy for English sucks. Mainly because the Latin alphabet sucks, especially for English. It's ugly and if you do write as beautifully as possible, it's impossible to read.

Bamrudian is designed to be beautiful, both in it's form and in it's construction. It uses a phonetic principle instead of an alphabetic one, so instead of havving to learn how to spell every word, you sound them out and write what you here.

The script is split into two parts, letters and vowels.



wind



pine



belt



fly



vine



mill



leaf



thing



bathe



reef



toe



dark



soup



zoo



net



yew



chalk



jump



shoe



luge



hole



core



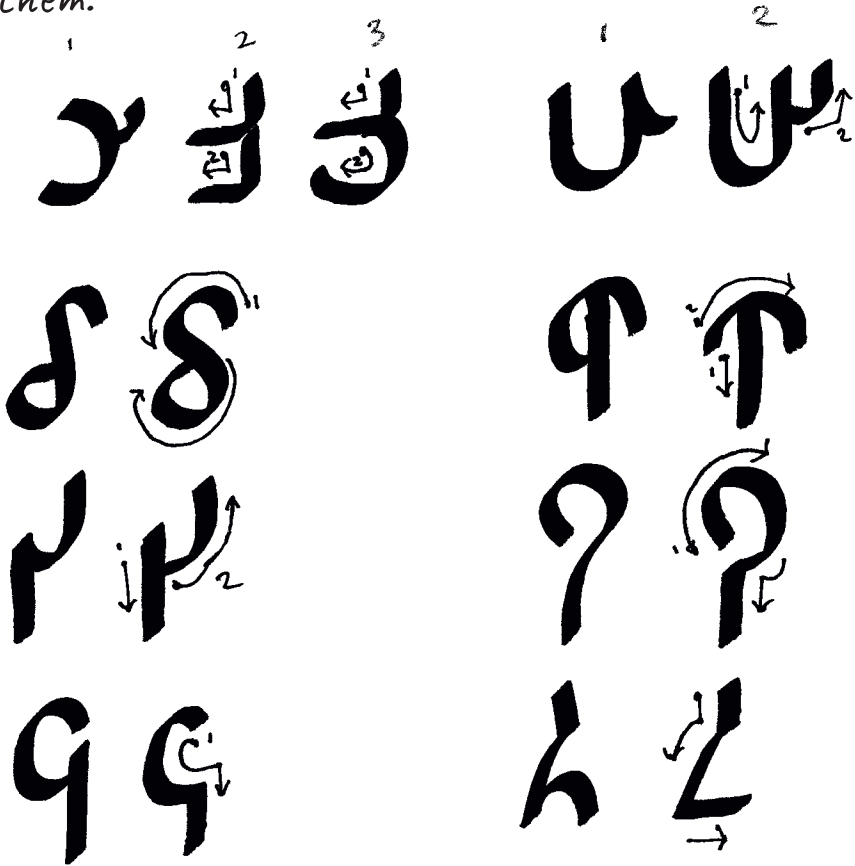
gale



ring

Here are the letters with their names, which you don't have to memorize. While stroke order is given it isn't required, and can be changed as long as the letters are legible.

There are also a number of alternate forms, only some of which are shown below, which can be used because they suit a style better, or you just prefer them.



Letters are all written to be roughly the same size except:

ɹ ɔ ɛ ɔ ɔ - the main stroke can be shorter, to make a nice curve

u - the main body of fly is as wide as any other, and the wing sticks into the vowel area

- width can vary a lot from letter to letter

goose

foot

palm

trap

comma

cup

face

dress

goat

paw

lot

fleece

kit

Vowels are sorted into 2 kinds, tense and lax

-Tense vowels, on the left, are pronounced after the letter they attach to

-Lax vowels are pronounced before

As an example lets look at the word "any".

First we write the letter ɛ then the lax vowel $\text{ɛ}||$ then the tense vowel $\text{ɔ} \text{ɛ}||$

Fleece and kit can also appear as closed circles, but otherwise there aren't any alternates like there are with the letters.

There are also 3 compound vowels, made of a letter and a vowel, that are always written on their own.



choice



price



mouth

This is the only time that goat appears as a lax vowel.

Stroke order and direction aren't incredibly important for vowels, but they should be about 40% or 2/5 of the height of the letter. The bottom of a vowel should align with the bottom of the letter it goes with.

Depending on your accent you may notice that some vowels have the same sound. Over time, the vowels in English have merged in some accents. As an example, in my west coast accent, palm & paw have the same sound, but don't in New Jersey. Likewise, most speakers from North America don't have a unique lot vowel, but it's fairly common in the rest of the world.

This is why it's so important to write words based on how you say them. That said there is a hierarchy to decide which vowel to write when multiple vowels sound the same, so that speakers who don't merge those sounds can understand you better.

Palm > Paw > Lot

-If you merge all three, always use palm

-If you merge paw and lot, but palm is different, use paw and palm

-If you actually pronounce all three, use all three

Comma > Cup

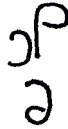
-Few accents make a clear difference between these sounds. If you're not sure use comma for both.

As a rule, tense vowels are preferred over lax vowels, for example, use face not dress when writing a word from another language.

There's one more letter and one more vowel in the standard set.



The "empty letter" is used for tense vowels that don't come after a letter, for example the word "each".



The "empty vowel" is used in words and syllables without a vowel, such as the word "girl" in my dialect, where it makes clear where the center of the syllable is. The design is just a dot that aligns with the top of where another vowel would be, and is always lax.



There's also an alternate empty letter, that's wide like fly and short like thing.



Lastly, there are three letters not in the standard set that are only used in some dialects, but most people will never use.



what



loch



uh-oh

Some accents have vowels that are only distinguished by length, as in the same sound but sometimes longer or shorter, like with many Australian speakers. The long form is marked with a dot above the vowel.

ʔ ʔ
ɛ̇ii ɛ̇ii

head haired

As said in Australia;
notice also the lack
of reef.

Some speakers may notice that they have a vowel that doesn't line up nicely to any of the standard ones. Feel free to make your own! Just remember to keep them small and simple.

Now that we've seen the letters and vowels, let's look at how to make sentences.

This one should be easy, it just says hello there.



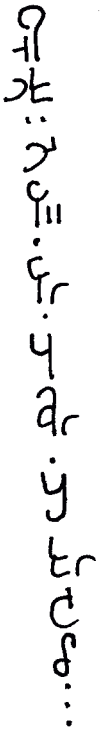
In these examples, we can see a single dot is a word separator, and it's the only required punctuation. Otherwise punctuation is freeform and improvisational. There are only two rules for making punctuation:

No vertical lines

Size implies intensity

Some common punctuation:

- 2 dots act like a comma
- 3 horizontal dots act like a period
- 3 vertical dots are draw out the last word



Honey, where are my pants?

Here's an example of a
more hand written style.
"Trans Rights Now!"



Looks like someone put
up some graffiti. I
wonder what it says?



Now, you might be wondering some things

•Why?

Why not?

•Can I use this to write some other language?

Bamrudian is designed for English and its dialects.

Other languages would work better with something else.

•I need a letter or vowel for...

Go ahead and make it! There are a few things that Bamrudian doesn't do very well. I'd be happy to see what you make!

•Can I use this to make...

Sure, you can use it for anything you want. Just keep in mind that it really doesn't work as a font. Be sure to share whatever you make on the discord.

•There's a discord?

Nope! But I have a website, codlark.space that would have a link to one if I ever make one.

•How do I pronounce Bamrudian?

Check the cover!

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