





Akkadian cuneiform syllable signs (neo-Assyrian, c. 650 BCE)























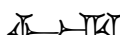










Cuneiform signs consist of wedge-shaped marks pressed into clay with the edge of a stylus. These wedges can be grouped into four types:

	A horizontal wedge is made by holding the stylus horizontally and pressing its sharp edge into the clay.
	A vertical wedge can be made the same way as a horizontal wedge, but with the stylus turned by 90 degrees. Alternatively, it may be made using the broad tip of a stylus held horizontally.
	Slanted wedges are made just like horizontal and vertical wedges, but with the stylus (and/or the tablet) held at an angle.
	A corner wedge is made by turning the stylus 45 degrees from horizontal and pressing the left corner of its flat side into the clay, forming a wide triangular imprint.







Each wedge is made with a single press of the stylus into the clay surface. The depth and width of a wedge depend on how deep the stylus is pressed into the clay, while the length of the wedge also depends on the angle at which the stylus is held relative to the surface.

The signs shown here are illustrative only. The actual historical shapes varied widely over time and between regions and even individual scribes. Many signs below could also be read in other ways, e.g. as logograms.












Vowel+consonant (VC) syllables:

a-	e-	i-	u-	
 ab,ap	 eb,ep,ib,ip		 ub,up	-b
 ad,at	 ed,et,id,it (a ₂)		 ud,ut	-p -d -t
 ag,ak	 eg,ek,ig,ik		 ug,uk	-g -k
 ah,eh,ih (uh)			 uh ₂	-h
 al	 el	 il (el ₂)	 ul	-l
 am	 em,im		 um	-m
 an	 en	 in	 un	-n
 ar	 er,ir		 ur	-r
 as	 as ₂	 es	 is	-š
 us	 es,ez,is,iz		 us,uz	-s -z
 wa,we,wi,wu; pe,pi; aw,ew,iw,uw				-w

Lone vowels (and Y):

a	e	i (y)		u
 a	 e	 i	 (ia, ya)	 u
				 u ₂

Vowel+consonant (VC) syllables:

	-a	-e	-i	-u
b-	 ba	 be	 bi (pi ₂ , be ₂ , pe ₂)	 bu, pu
p-	 pa	 wa, we, wi, wu; pe, pi; aw, ew, iw, uw		
d-	 da	 di, de		 du
t-	 ta	 te	 ti	 tu
g-	 ga	 gi, ge		 gu
k-	 ka	 ke, ki		 ku
h-	 ha	 he, hi		 hu
l-	 la	 le, li		 lu
m-	 ma	 me	 mi	 mu
n-	 na	 ne (bi ₂ , de ₃)	 ni	 nu
r-	 ra	 ri, re		 ru
š-	 ša	 še	 ši	 šu
s-	 sa	 se, si		 su
z-	 za (sa ₃)	 ze, zi (se ₂ , si ₂)		 zu (su ₂)
w-	 wa, we, wi, wu; pe, pi; aw, ew, iw, uw			

Subscripts (2,3,...) mark alternative signs for certain syllables. Syllables containing the emphatic consonants Q, Š and Ț are omitted for brevity. Signs for CVC syllables are also not included.