

ܘܢܝܢܐ

(Lesson 2)

ܘܢܝܢܐ ܠܘܘܘܬܐ

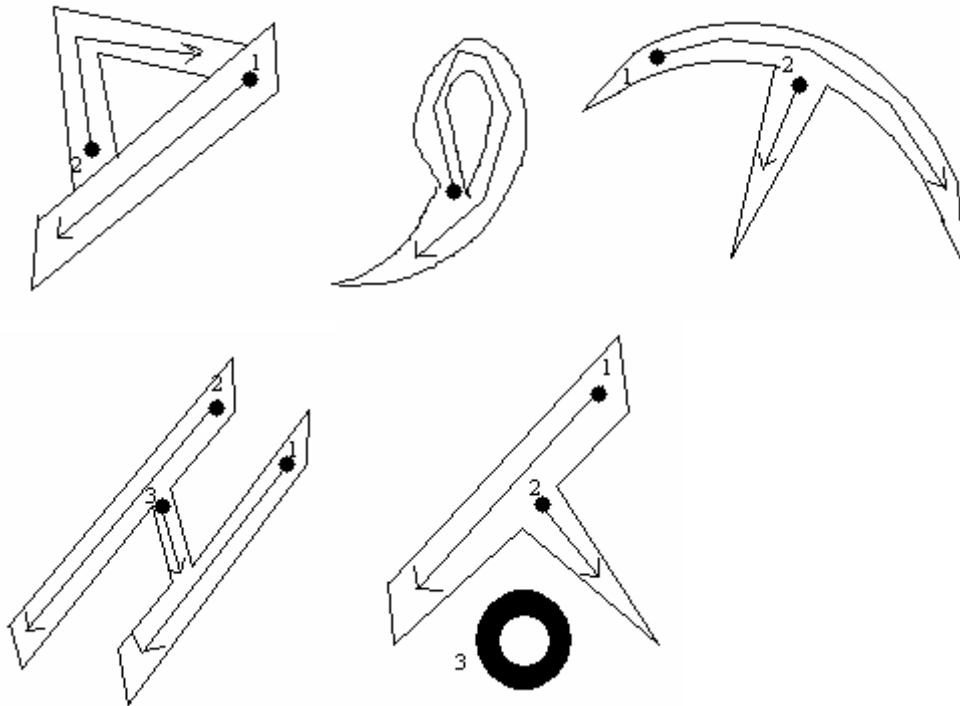
(Introduction to the Vowels)

ܘܢܝܢܐ

In Western Aramaic there are 5 vowels:

The Sound of the Vowel in English/Arabic	ܘܢܝܢܐ (The Vowel)	ܘܢܝܢܐ (The Name of the Vowel)
a ـ	ܘܢܝܢܐ	ܘܢܝܢܐ p̄toho ܘܢܝܢܐ
o أو	ܘܢܝܢܐ	ܘܢܝܢܐ zqofo ܘܢܝܢܐ
é ا ء	ܘܢܝܢܐ	ܘܢܝܢܐ rvoʒo ܘܢܝܢܐ
ee ـ	ܘܢܝܢܐ	ܘܢܝܢܐ ḥvoʒo ܘܢܝܢܐ
oo و	ܘܢܝܢܐ	ܘܢܝܢܐ ʿʒoʒo ܘܢܝܢܐ

How to write the vowels:



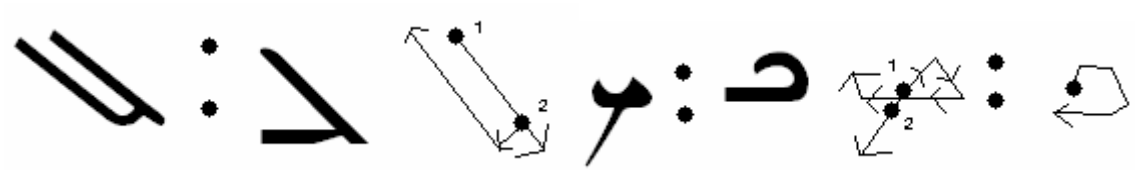
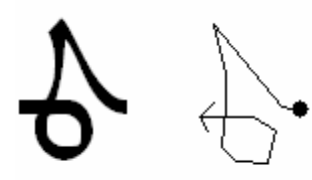
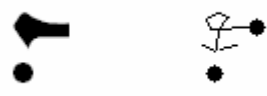
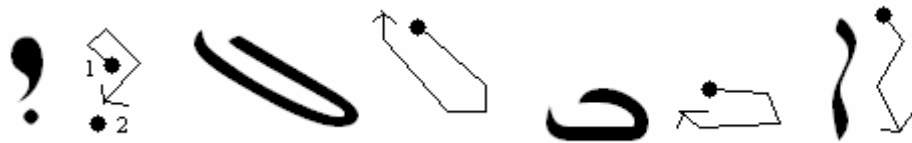
Exercise: Re-write the following vowels five times.

e	h	u	y	v



How to write the abgad (Alphabet):

(The olaf and the lomađ are the tallest letters. The 'é is like the lomađ, but shorter)



ن م

ح ق

ر و

ه ز

س

ل

The abjad letters position above/under the line (the letters with the thin line don't have that slight space, they are touching to the line:

ل : ك د د د : ح

ك د د د

ح ج ج ج

: ه ه : ا ا :

ا ا

: س س س س :

: ق ق ق ق : ر ر ر ر :

ر : م م م م : ن ن ن ن

ن : ع ع ع ع : ف ف ف ف

ف : ي ي : ط ط ط ط :

ط : ز ز : م م م م

م : ل ل

<i>End of the Word</i>	<i>Middle of the Word</i>	<i>Beginning of The Word</i>	<i>Stand Alone</i>
┘			┘
┐	┐	┐	┐
⧏	⧏	⧏	⧏
┘.			┘.
ø			ø
o			o
┘			┘
3	3	3	3
2o	2o	2o	2o
,	,	,	,
┘	┐	┐	┘
⧏	⧏	⧏	⧏
2	2	2	2
┘	┘	┘	┘
9	9	9	9

٤	٤	٤	٤
٥	٥	٥	٥
٦	٦	٦	٦
٧	٧	٧	٧
٨	٨	٨	٨
٩	٩	٩	٩
١٠	١٠	١٠	١٠
١١	١١	١١	١١
١٢	١٢	١٢	١٢

❖❖❖

The olaf in Syriac has no value, it is not pronounced when there is no vowel over it,

except when used as a number. It's similar to the 'hamzé' in Arabic 'ء'. The English pronunciation is the most accurate for the most part.

The letter yood, sometimes writing as yudh is the smallest letter of the Aramaic abgad (Alphabet). The letter "g" (Gomal) is pronounced like the first "g" in 'g'arage.

Exercise: Practise reading the Syriac letters with the different vowels, and the letters without the vowels (without the vowels the Arabic pronunciation would be the closest)

ⲟ	Ⲡ	ⲡ	Ⲣ	ⲣ	The Letters
ⲟ̇ OO ⲟ̇	Ⲡ̇ EE Ⲡ̇	ⲡ̇ É ⲡ̇	Ⲣ̇ O Ⲣ̇	ⲣ̇ A ⲣ̇	ⲟ̇ Ah ⲟ̇
ⲟ̇ BOO ⲟ̇	Ⲡ̇ BEE Ⲡ̇	ⲡ̇ BÉ ⲡ̇	Ⲣ̇ BO Ⲣ̇	ⲣ̇ BA ⲣ̇	ⲟ̇ Bh ⲟ̇
ⲟ̇ GOO ⲟ̇	Ⲡ̇ GEE Ⲡ̇	ⲡ̇ GÉ ⲡ̇	Ⲣ̇ GO Ⲣ̇	ⲣ̇ GA ⲣ̇	ⲟ̇ G-h ⲟ̇
ⲟ̇ DOO ⲟ̇	Ⲡ̇ DEE Ⲡ̇	ⲡ̇ DÉ ⲡ̇	Ⲣ̇ DO Ⲣ̇	ⲣ̇ DA ⲣ̇	ⲟ̇ Dh ⲟ̇
ⲟ̇ HOO ⲟ̇	Ⲡ̇ HEE Ⲡ̇	ⲡ̇ HÉ ⲡ̇	Ⲣ̇ HO Ⲣ̇	ⲣ̇ HA ⲣ̇	ⲟ̇ Hh ⲟ̇
ⲟ̇ WOO ⲟ̇	Ⲡ̇ WEE Ⲡ̇	ⲡ̇ WÉ ⲡ̇	Ⲣ̇ WO Ⲣ̇	ⲣ̇ WA ⲣ̇	ⲟ̇ Wh ⲟ̇

وُ	و	ؤُ	وُو	وَ	وَ
اُ ZOO	اُ ZEE	اُ ZÉ	اُ ZO	اُ ZA	اُ Zh
زُ	ز	ز	زُو	زَ	زُ
هُ hOO	هُ hEE	هُ hÉ	هُ hO	هُ hA	هُ hh
حُ	ح	ح	حُو	حَ	حُ
تُ tOO	تُ tEE	تُ tÉ	تُ tO	تُ tA	تُ t-h
طُ	ط	طُ	طُو	طَ	طُ
يُ YOO	يُ YEE	يُ YÉ	يُ YO	يُ YA	يُ Yh
كُ KOO	كُ KEE	كُ KÉ	كُ KO	كُ KA	كُ K-h
لُ	ل	لُ	لُو	لَ	لُ
لُ LOO	لُ LEE	لُ LÉ	لُ LO	لُ LA	لُ Lh
مُ MOO	مُ MEE	مُ MÉ	مُ MO	مُ MA	مُ Mh
مُ	م	مُ	مُو	مَ	مُ
نُ NOO	نُ NEE	نُ NÉ	نُ NO	نُ NA	نُ Nh
نُ	ن	نُ	نُو	نَ	نُ

سُو SOO سُ	سِي SEE سِ	سِي SÉ سِ	سُو SO سُو	سَا SA سَا	س-ه S-h س
سُو 'OO سُو	سِي 'EE سِ	سِي 'É سِ	سُو 'O سُو	سَا 'A سَا	س-ه 'h س
سُو POO سُو	سِي PEE سِ	سِي PÉ سِ	سُو PO سُو	سَا PA سَا	س-ه P-h س
سُو ŞOO سُو	سِي ŞEE سِ	سِي ŞÉ سِ	سُو ŞO سُو	سَا ŞA سَا	س-ه Ş-h س
سُو QOO سُو	سِي QEE سِ	سِي QÉ سِ	سُو QO سُو	سَا QA سَا	س-ه Qh س
سُو ROO سُو	سِي REE سِ	سِي RÉ سِ	سُو RO سُو	سَا RA سَا	س-ه Rh س
سُو ŠOO سُو	سِي ŠEE سِ	سِي ŠÉ سِ	سُو ŠO سُو	سَا ŠA سَا	س-ه Š-h س
سُو TOO سُو	سِي TEE سِ	سِي TÉ سِ	سُو TO سُو	سَا TA سَا	س-ه T-h س



Alternate spelling (in English) for the names of letters in Syriac, and the meaning of each letter:

The Meaning of the Letter	The Name of Letter	The Letter
Bull, Ox	Olaph	ܐ
House, Tent	Bet	ܒ
Camel	Gomal	ܓ
Door (Dam)	Dolat	ܕ
Window, Fence	Hé	ܗ
Wedge, Nail	Waw	ܘ
Weapon	Zain	ܙ
Wall, Obstacle	Het	ܚ
Snake	Tet	ܛ
Hand	Yud	ܝ
Palm of Hand	Koph	ܟ
Staff	Lomad	ܠ
Water (Ocean)	Mim	ܡ
Fish	Nun	ܢ
Foundation	Semkat	ܣ
Eye	‘ain	ܥ
Mouth	Fé	ܦ
Fish-hook	Sodé	ܨ
Monkey	Quph	ܩ
Head, Top Person	Rish	ܪ
Teeth	Shin	ܫ
Mark, Sign, Cross	Taw	ܬ

(You’ll notice that the ‘ܥ’ can be pronounced as ‘p’ or ‘f’, we will cover this topic in later lessons, in Western Syriac (starting not to long ago) the letter ‘ܥ’ is pronounced as ‘f’ no matter what state it’s in (which is grammatically wrong). There are still some scholars that will pronounce it as ‘p’, and like them I prefer to use the ‘p’ when appropriate and the ‘f’ when appropriate.)

Alternate spelling (in English) for the names of vowels in Syriac:

ܐܘܘܐ (The Vowel)	ܡܘܠܐ ܐܘܘܐ (The Name of the Vowel)
Ⲑ	ܦܬܘܚܐ ftoḥo ܦܬܘܚܘ
ⲑ	ܩܘܦܐ zqofo ܩܘܦܘ
Ⲓ	ܪܒܘܫܐ rboṣo ܪܒܘܫܘ
ⲓ	ܚܒܘܫܐ ḥboṣo ܚܒܘܫܘ
Ⲕ	ܥܨܘܫܐ 'soṣo ܥܨܘܫܘ

This alternative spelling is mainly due to some bad habits which have been picked up in Western Aramaic, I recommend using the spelling as found at the beginning of this lesson.



The Syriac (Aramaic) History (Part 2)

(This historical material is written by other authors, and this author doesn't claim authorship of the material in the section "The Syriac (Aramaic) History")

Ancient Phoenician Period (5250-3800 B.C.)

- The first house on Earth that's built with stone appeared in Byblos around 5250 B.C.
- Great progress in Lebanon: domestication of animals, art of jewel making, and the precious stones industry.

Eneolithic Period (3800-3200 B.C.)

- Appearance of copper in industry at Byblos.
- The opening of the metal era.
- Further progress in the industry and art of ceramics, of precious stones, ivory, gold, and silver.

Proto-urban Period (3200-3000 B.C.)

- Progress of metallurgic industry.
- Which lead to houses built of stone being divided into many rooms and halls, and assembled within city walls.



(Names – šmo-hé) | ܡܘܕܢܐ

English	French	Arabic	Karshouni	Syriac
John-Marô	Jean-Maron	يوحنا مارون	yoo-ḥa-non mo-roon	ܩܘܢܐ ܡܪܘܢܐ
Julian	Julien	يولييانوس	o-yool-ya-nos	ܐܘܠܝܝܢܘܫܐ
Italy	Italie	إيطاليا	ee-ṭa-lee-ya	ܐܝܬܐܠܝܐ
Isaac	Isaac	إسحاق	ees-ḥoq	ܐܝܨܚܐܩ
Israel	Israel	إسرائيل	ees-ro-yél	ܐܝܨܪܐܝܠܐ
Herode	Hérode	هيرودس	hé-ro-dés	ܠܘܕܐܝܘܣܐ

