

Key to the Astronist Script / Kie tü dhë Astrønist Skript

Consonants

Consonants generally have their common-sense Modern British Spelling (MBS) values. The Astronist system differs from MBS on the following points:

- Letter c is replaced phonetically by s/k/sh in sent/kan/söshəl (MBS cent/can/social), and is used only in the digraph ch.
- Letter g always pronounced hard as in get.
- Letter j has its northern and eastern European value of MBS y in yes. This returns the letter to its historic function as a variant of the letter i, for which it is given its German name of jot.
- The sound of letter j in MBS is written with either gh or jh, according to whether the MBS uses (d)g or (d)j, e.g. jhugh (judge).
- Combination qu is replaced by kw/kj in kwik, kjü (quick, queue). Letter q is retired.
- Letter x is retained with its MBS value of ks/gz.

Digraphs are retained for a number of sounds, due to the typographical and legibility costs of employing special accented or phonetic letters. The following digraphs are used:

Consonant	Examples	Traditional spelling
th	thin	th
dh	dhis	th
sh	ship, mæshien, nāshən, shür, ankshəs	sh, ch, ti, s, x
zh	fjüzhən, äzhür, baizh	s, z, g
ch tj	chip, woch kwestjən	ch, tch ti
gh jh	ghem, brigh jhust, əjhust	g, dg j, dj
ng	sing, finggær, bank, ankshəs	ng, n(g), n(k), n(x)
kh	lokh	ch (Scottish)
lh	Lhoyd	ll (Welsh)

The ambiguities of pronunciation in words like madhaus, fuuthöld, threshöld (madhouse, foothold, threshold) are accepted, as readers are expected to understand the English language already.

Vowels

We distinguish twenty-one vowels, keyed to MBS words as follows. Eight of them, although conventionally considered separate vowels, are in fact compounds of the others as shown:

à	pat	â	part	ā	plate (= èē)
ò	pot	ô	port	ō	post (= êū)
ù	but	ǔ	put	ū	boot
è	pet	ê	pert	ē	peat
ì	pit	ïr	peer (= ìə(r))	är	pair (= èə(r))
ə	appear (unstressed a)	y	pint (= âē)	au	pout (= âū)
è	repeat (unstressed e)	oj	ploy (= ôē)	jū	pew (= ēū)

The two unstressed vowels ə and è are pronounced slightly differently:

- ə is the shewa vowel: an unstressed ǔ.
- è is unstressed i, always written e in MBS, very similar to ə but slightly lighter in tone.

For practical purposes:

- Spellings reflect careful pronunciation of a word in isolation, thus no effort is made to reproduce changes in pronunciation of a word in its context in a sentence.
- Different spellings are allowed for many of the vowel sounds in order to reproduce MBS wherever this is reasonably consistent, e.g. see/sea, män/main, y/iy (I/eye), tü/too.
- Similarly, because English has a large number of homophones, phonetically unnecessary letters may be added to distinguish them so long as they do not suggest the incorrect pronunciation, e.g. nö/nöw (no/know).
- The macron is assimilated to the umlaut, which is typographically easier, without loss of clarity.
- The umlaut may be replaced by a following -e if desired, thus (name) becomes nām/naem, (hope) becomes höp/hoep, (cooperate) becomes kööpärät/köeöpæraet. The clumsiness of a following -e in vowel digraphs makes them inadvisable except in single-syllable words.
- The grave and circumflex for short and long vowels are not written in normal text. In many cases the resulting ambiguities of pronunciation are acceptable to English speakers, otherwise â is expanded to aa, ô to ou.
- The ǔ is assimilated to u in the unstressed suffixes -um, -us, -ous, -ful, -hood, where the pronunciation is very similar to ə. When ǔ is the main vowel of a word, it is expanded to uu.
- The è is assimilated to e in the unstressed prefixes prefixes be-/de-/pre-/re- and the suffix -less, since these have an alternate stressed pronunciation of è/ë.

- But the è in the grammatical endings -éd, -ès, also in the suffix -èt, never receiving the stress, is written i as pronounced.
- Double consonants are not used, except where a prefix ending in a consonant meets a stem beginning in the same consonant, e.g. unnöwn (unknown).
- The accents thus avoided for practical everyday use may be supplied in dictionaries in order to specify unambiguously the exact standard pronunciation.

Permitted spelling variations:

Vowel	Examples	Traditional spelling
a (pron à)	pat, ant, arid, hav	a
a aa ah ar	fast, bath (pron. à / â) haaf, haav, kaam, aant shah part, hart	a al, au ah ar, ear
ä / ae	näm, plät, päəl (or: naem, plaet, pael) näshən, täbəl	a-e a
ae	graet, braek, gaegh foxae, fiansae, kafae	ea, au Fr. -er, -é(e)
ai ay	main, wait, pail, rain, rainz day, slay, playər dayn, slay, ayt, wayt, frayt, dhay	ai, ei ay eig(h), ey
o	pot, lost, horid wot, woz, kwolitie, jot	o a
ou ouw or our	oul, toul, wouk woutər, soult brout, nout, thout doutər, kout klouz, pouz, outəmatik broul, loun, poun, sou (verb) drouw, louw, pouw, ouw (awe), souw (noun) port four, jour	al a ough augh au aw aw or our
ö / oe oe oa öw	höp, nöt, pöl (or: hoep, noet, poel) köld, pöst, övər, sö, nö (no) dhö, dö, shöldər foe, toe, doe, hoe boat, goal, load, roast böw, gröw, löw, snöw, jelöw, nöw (know)	o-e o ou(gh) oe oa ow
u (pron. ù)	but, buk, luk, tuk, kud luv, sum, dun, wun, blud	u o-e, oo

Vowel	Examples	Traditional spelling
u (pron. ũ) uu	bönus, helpful, forum, delishus, boyhud (unstressed) puut, puush, puul, shuugər, kuushən buuk, luuk, tuuk, suut, wuud kuud, shuud, wuud wuumən	u, ou, oo u oo oul o
ü ue uw oo	trüth, rümər, hindü lüt, rüd, shür, rül brüz, krüz, früt, süt tü, dü, shü, thrü grüp, rüt, süp blue, true, sue, kruel bluw, gruw loot, root, too	u u-e ui o, oe, ough ou ue ew oo
e	pet, verie, frend hed, welth	e, ie ea
er ir ur eu	erth, ern, tern, lern first, girl, sir, third turn, urn, spurn, Thurzday wurd, wurld, wurth, wurk shanteuz, zheun	ear, er ir ur or words of French origin without following r
ë ee ea ie ï	më, bë, ëvil, réalitie been, meet, see, free, feel bean, meat, sea, deal, real priest, grief hapie, karie, kie, donkie, munie mëdiä, föbiä, väriänt, kränium, sërius	e ee ea ie y, ey i
i	pit, wind pritie, wimin, piglit, Ingglish, biznis	i e, o, u
ër eer ear eə ier/ïr	sërius, sëriez heer, meer, sfeer deer, peer, kweer dear, ear, near, tear ydeə, reälie, ydeälie pier, wier, wierd (or: pïr, wïr, wïrd)	er ere eer ear ea ier, eir
är aer air	dhär, wär pärr, här, fär, əwär, bär, där värie, wärie paer, waer, baer, taer air, pair, hair, fairie dhair, aihr (heir)	ere are a ear air eir
ə	əbaut, kənsidər, təday, prəseed, səbtrakt, səspekt, botəl, butən, intənashənəl, kulər, flävər	unstressed a, o, u, e(r), ou(r)

Vowel	Examples	Traditional spelling
y	y (I), lyən, fyəl, fyər, wynd, yəl my, sky	i y
iy	syn, dezyn, myt, flyt iy (eye)	ig, igh eye
au	haus, saund, aur (our), auər (hour) braun, daun, nau, bau, pauər, tauəl, kauəl plau, bau	ou ow ough
e (pron. è)	befor, depryv, restor, prefer, hōples	e
oi	boil, oil, point	oi
oy	boy, toy, royəl, loyər	oy, awy
jü	tjün, jüz, hjügh, intrədjüs, pjür djue, djuel, imbjue jü, jüth fjüd, njütrəl, jürəp, bjütiful juw, fjuw, njuw, njuw, vjuw	u-e ue ou eu, eau ew, iew

The following ambiguities of pronunciation in Astronist script are accepted for everyday use by existing English speakers:

Letter	Examples
a	kàrie, kârt bàth/bâth (regional difference)
o	hòrid, hòrd lòst/lôst (regional/class difference)
u	wùrie, wûrd, helpfûl wûrld/wùrld (regional difference)
e	mèrie, préfêr êrth/ârth (regional difference)
i	stîrup, stîr