

## PHONOLOGY

### Consonants

stops: b, p, p', d, t, t', g, k, k'

affricates: dz, ts, ts', dʒ, tʃ, tʃ'

fricatives: f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, x, h

nasals: m, n

lateral and flap: r, rr, l, l̥ (→[ɣ])

semi-vowel: j

The ejectives are notated here as dotted letters; like Ossete, Armenian seems to have taken these phonemes from the Caucasian languages which surround this small Indo-European enclave. There are thus five series (three of stops, two of affricates) consisting of voiced member – aspirate surd – voiceless ejective: e.g. /b – p – p'/. The contrast between the aspirate and the ejective is often phonemic: cf. *yerek* 'three'; *yereḳ* 'yesterday'. Final voiced consonants are unvoiced: e.g. *yerb* 'when' → [yerp]. In this article *c* = /ts/.

### Vowels

front: i, e ([e] and [ɛ])

mid: a, ə

back: o, u

The vowel /ə/, represented in the script by the letter ɛ, occurs unnotated in many consonant clusters: thus **ɛpɛɛ** 'to write', is pronounced [gərel]. It is more convenient, however, to transliterate such words without the epenthetic vowel, which is in any case fleeting and often close to a shwa: *grel*.

### Stress

Stress is virtually always on the final syllable.

COMPENDIUM  
OF THE  
WORLD'S  
LANGUAGES

SECOND EDITION  
GEORGE L. CAMPBELL  
ISBN 0-415-20298-1 (Set)

Simultaneously published in the USA and Canada  
by Routledge

29 West 35th Street, New York, NY 10001

© 1991, 2000 George L. Campbell