

TABLE 59.18: *Latvian Alphabet*

Letter	Phonetic Value	Name ^a
A	a	[ʔa:]
Ā	ā	[a:]
B	b	[ʔbe:]
C	c	[ʔʃse:]
Č	č	[ʔʃe:], [ʔʃa:]
D	d	[ʔde:]
Dz	dz	[ʔdʒe:]
Dž	dž	[ʔdʒe:], [ʔdʒa:]
E	e	[e], [e:]
Ē	ē	[e:], [e:]
F	f	[ef]
G	g	[ʔga:]
Ģ	ģ	[mʲ:kʔstais ʔga:] ‘soft g’
H	h	[x]; older [ɦ]
(Ch)	ch	[x] ^b
I	i	[i:]
Ī	ī	[i:]
J	j	[jot]
K	k	[ʔka:]
Ķ	ķ	[mʲ:kʔstais ʔka:] ‘soft k’
L	l	[el]
Ļ	ļ	[eɮ], [mʲ:kʔstais eɮ] ‘soft l’
M	m	[em]
N	n	[en]
Ņ	ņ	[eɲ], [mʲ:kʔstais eɲ] ‘soft n’
O	o	[uo]; in loanwords [o], [o:]
P	p	[ʔpe:]
R	r	[er]
(R)	ŗ	[rʲ] ^b
S	s	[es]
Š	š	[eʃ]
T	t	[ʔte:]
U	u	[ʔu:]
Ū	ū	[u:]
V	v	[ʔve:]
Z	z	[ʔze:]
Ž	ž	[ʔʒe:], [ʔʒa:]

a. The long vowels may be distinctively named as [ʔa: ar ɡarum\ʒi:mi] ‘a with length-sign’ or [ɡa ʔrais ʔa:] ‘long a’, etc.
 b. The letters *ch* and *ŗ* were abolished in Soviet Latvia, and their status since the reestablishment of independence is controversial (SECTION 67).

THE WORLD'S WRITING SYSTEMS
 Edited by Peter T. Daniels and William Bright
 OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
 1990