

2.6 Practical orthography

Table 9, which is to be compared with Table 4 (2.1), shows the symbols used in the practical orthography. Those in parentheses are relevant to only some communalects.

TABLE 9
Symbols for Phonemes in Practical Orthography

p, b	k, g	th, dh	tj, dj	t, d	rt, rd, d	
m	ng	nh, n	ny, yn, n (ly, l)	n l rr	rn rl (,l)	
	w		y		r	
	u		i			a

The following rules explain the usage where alternative forms are given:

- Voiced stop symbols are used in nasal-stop clusters except heterorganic clusters involving /k/ (where k is written to avoid confusion with the nasal sound written ng); elsewhere voiceless stop symbols.
- The spelling of some homorganic nasal-stop clusters is simplified: ndh instead of nhdh, ndj instead of nydj, rnd instead of rnrnd.
- The lamino-palatal nasal is written ny before a vowel, n before the homorganic stop and yn before any other consonant or word-finally.
- The cluster pronounced [lYtY] is written ltj; phonemically this is analysed as /ltY/ for communalects which lack a phoneme /lY/ and /lYtY/ for those that have it.

In addition, the following symbols are used in the comparative vocabulary:

- e for a vowel which could be either /i/ or /a/ - for example, the vowel in the last syllable of the word for 'tooth' whose spellings in old sources include yarcharain and yarcharring,
- o for a vowel which could be either /u/ or /a/,
- V for a completely unidentifiable vowel,
- W for an initial consonant that could be /w/ or /ŋ/,
- R for an indeterminate rhotic - /r/ or /r̥/,

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