























The Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs

Single-Consonant Signs

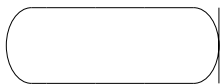
A		Vulture	N		Water
A		Lower arm with hand	O		Lasso
B		Lower leg with foot	P		Stool
C		There was no sign for C. Use a similar sign like K, S, Z...	Q		There was no sign for Q. Use the signs K+W instead.
CH		Animal belly with tail (like German „ch“ in „Teich“)	R		Mouth
CH		Placenta (?) (like German „ch“ in „Bach“)	S		Door latch
D		Hand	S		Folded cloth
E		There was no sign for E. Use the sign for I instead.	SCH		Artificial pond
F		Horned viper	T		Half a loaf of bread
G		Jar stand	U		There was no sign for U. Use the sign W instead.
H		Yard ground plot	V		There was no sign for V. Use the sign F instead.
I/J		Flowering reed	W		Quail chick
K		Basket with handle	X		There was no sign for X. Use the signs K+S instead.
L		Lion	Y		There was no sign for Y. Use the sign for I instead.
M		Barn owl	Z		There was no sign for Z. Use the sign for S instead.

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To assign a name to a certain gender an indicating sign was written at its end.










The hieroglyphs could be read from left to right, from right to left and from top to bottom. If you want to read from right to left, simply mirror all the signs. Hieratic was usually written from right to left (the signs here are oriented left to right so you can see the similarity to their hieroglyphic counterparts).




Royal names were encircled by a sign called a cartouche. If you like, you can write your name in a cartouche, too.

The Numbers

1		Vertical line	10.000		Finger
10		Foot	100.000		Tadpole
100		Rolled rope	1.000.000		God with raised arms
1.000		Lotus plant with leaf			

The Egyptians used their own system to write numbers. Though they had a decimal system just like we do, they had different signs for each of the decimal values – unlike our system, where the placement of the numeral defines its decimal value. This way, they didn't actually need a sign for zero.

Examples:

34 =  1.347 = 