

Aibítir na Gaeilge - The Gaelic Alphabet

Litir Letter	Seáncló Old Script	Sampla Example	Béarla English	Fuaimniú Pronunciation	Caol / Leathan
a	Δ	ard	tall	[h]ard	
b	b	bó beo	cow alive	bow b ^y ow	leathan caol
c	c	cóta ceo	coat fog	coat-uh Kyo[to]	leathan caol
d	o	dó go deo	for him forever	dough go Joe	leathan caol
e	e	éist	listen!	[qu]est[ion]	
f	ƿ	faoi ff	under to weave	f ^w ee fee	leathan caol
g	ς	gal geal	steam bright	gall g ^y al	leathan caol
h	h	halla	hall	Holla[nd]	
i	ι	in	in	In	
l	λ	lá leá	day to melt	lo[g] [mi]llio[n]	leathan caol
m	m	má meá	if balance	ma m ^y a	leathan caol
n	n	naoi ní	nine not	kn ^w ee kn ^y ee	leathan caol
o	o	ó	from	oh	
p	p	páirc peann	field pen	park p ^y awn	leathan caol
r	Ṛ, Ṛ	ró- reo	too to freeze	row r ^y ow	leathan caol
s	ς, Ϛ	suí sí	sitting she	see she	leathan caol
t	Ṛ	tae te	tea hot	ta[ke] che[ck]	leathan caol
u	υ	úll	apple	[c]ool	

Consonants are slender (caol) next to e, i or broad (leathan) next to: a, o, u

aicme b (first aicme)		aicme h (second aicme)		aicme m (third aicme)	
┆	beith (birch) b [b]	┆	úath (hawthorn) h [y]	┆	muin (vine) m [m]
┆┆	luis (rowan) l [l]	┆┆	duir (rowan) d [d]	┆┆	gort (ivy) g [g]
┆┆┆	fearn (alder) f [w]	┆┆┆	tinne (holy) t [t]	┆┆┆	géal (reed/broom) ng [g ^w]
┆┆┆┆	saille (willow) s [s]	┆┆┆┆	coll (hazel) c [k]	┆┆┆┆	straif (blackthorn) z [sw] [ts]
┆┆┆┆┆	niun (ash) n [n]	┆┆┆┆┆	quert (apple) q [k ^w]	┆┆┆┆┆	ruis (elder) r [r]
aicme a (forth aicme)		fifth aicme		Other symbols	
+	aim (silver fir) a [a]	✱	ébad ea	┆	Peith (soft birch) p
✱	onn (furze/gorse) o [o]	◊	óir (gold) oi	Y	Eite (feather) marks start of texts
┆┆	úr (heather) u [u]	┆┆	uillenn (elbow) ui		Spás (space)
┆┆┆	eadad (poplar) e [e]	┆┆┆	pín / iphín (pine) ia	Λ	Eite thuathail (reversed feather) marks end of texts
┆┆┆┆	idad (yew) i [i]	┆┆┆┆	emanchool (double c) ae		



Brookhill Ogham Fragment
County Kerry, Ireland
Reads: MAQ LUG

Irish Ogham alphabet used on monuments from the 4th – 9th centuries. Names were inscribed on stones from bottom to top using ogham runes. Runes are traditionally associated with the names of trees in Irish.