

Aibítir na Gaeilge - The Irish Alphabet

Litr 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	f	faoi fí	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, ϣ	suí sí	sitting she	see she	leathan caol
t	τ	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]	┐┐┐ gétal (reed/broom) ng [g ^w]
┐┐┐┐ saille (willow) s [s]	┐┐┐┐ coll (hazel) c [k]	┐┐┐┐ straih (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
+ ailm (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	┐┐ Eite thuathail (reversed feather) marks end of texts
✱┐┐┐ idad (yew) i [i]	✱┐┐┐ emanchool (double c) ae	

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.



Brookhill Ogham Fragment
County Kerry, Ireland
Reads: MAQ LUG