

# Phonographics

## FONŃGRAFIKS

**FONŃGRAFIKS** is an alternative way to write/read English. The symbols are called “grafz”. The sounds are called “fonz”. **FONŃGRAFIKS** designates 29 basic fonz and corresponding grafz to represent the sounds of spoken English. There are two different symbol sets in **FONŃGRAFIKS**: **FONO.1** and **FONO.2**. **FONO.1** is an altered version of the standard alphabet; **FONO.2** is an entirely new symbol set in which groups of similar sounds are represented by groups of similar symbols.

One major difference between **FONŃGRAFIKS** and the alphabet is that **FONŃGRAFIKS** is not written in “words”. We do not speak in disconnected words. Werunallourwordstogetherwhenwespeak. **FONŃGRAFIKS** is written in “utterances”, following the natural rhythms of speech.

e.g. I am going to go to the store.  
I’m gonnagoda the store.  
ŲYMGŲENŃGODŃŲSDOR

Why **FONŃGRAFIKS**? Our nervous systems make and use models of the world. A writing system is a visual model of the sounds we make when talking. The old alphabet is a disaster. It’s been said to be less than 20% phonetic. No wonder many people have so much trouble learning to spell/read. Further, there is evidence to suggest that imposing such an irrational/disordered system on a sensitive, young human brain/mind could result in permanent physiological damage. **FONŃGRAFIKS** is a coherent, efficient and even playful alternative to the present chaos.

Reading **FONŃGRAFIKS** is actually an altered state of consciousness... hearing with your eyes.

Among other things, **FONŃGRAFIKS** (in the form of **FONO.1**) has been used to teach listening/speaking skills to students of English as a second language and as a sort of “training” alphabet to teach reading to children and other first-time readers.

**FONŃGRAFIKS** is a compromise between accuracy and simplicity, falling heavily towards simplicity. I made this compromise, in part, because I teach listening/speaking skills to adult Asian immigrants and wanted a tool I could use in the classroom. I’m quite pleased to report that it has been very successful and popular with my students.

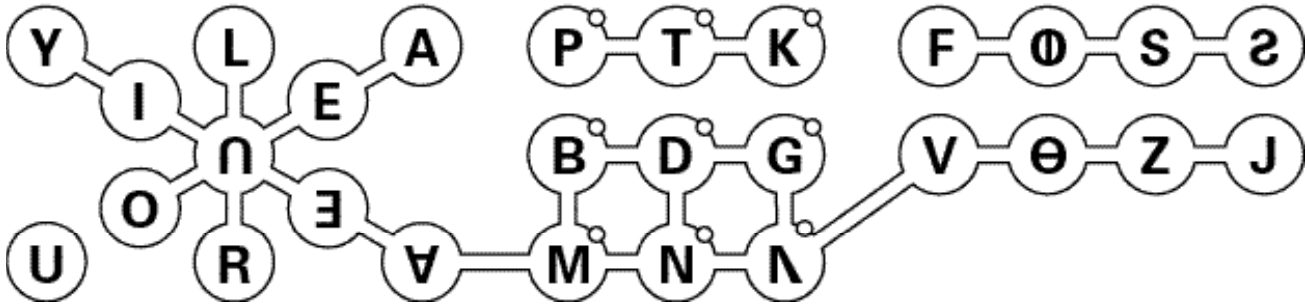
**FONŃGRAFIKS** was not created under any illusions as to the likelihood of its being adopted by the general population. I am aware of the shortcomings of a fonedik raydyng sisdm. **FONŃGRAFIKS** is merely an attempt to devise an optimal system for purely aesthetic purposes... to satisfy my own desire for a better system. It was great fun and very satisfying to have been able to accomplish it. If it catches on... great. If not... so be it.

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# FONNGRAFIKS

## FONO.1

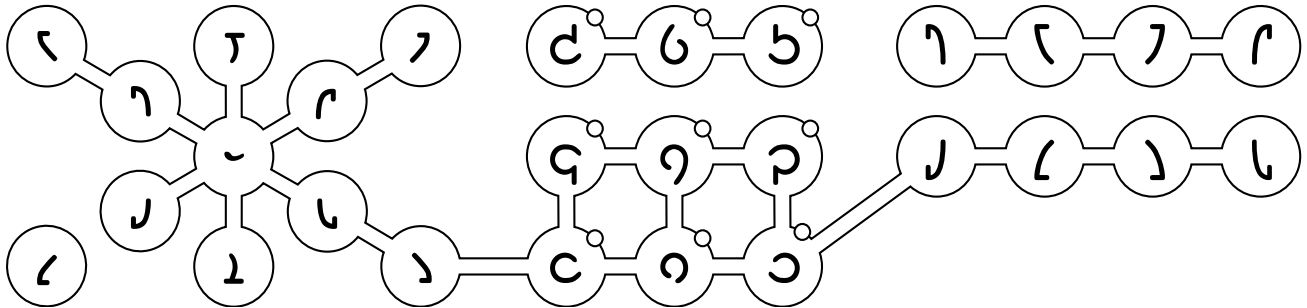
(H)



# כזורק-נה

## FONO.2

(I)



## the sounds

Π ~ it's about good looks  
 I ʁ idiots did hit pigs  
 Y ʁ he eats green baloney  
 ʒ ʁ under some thumb  
 V ʁ awful dog claw  
 O ʁ old crows know  
 U ʁ Willie soon knew  
 E ʁ Ed never says when  
 A ʁ Andy's fat and happy  
 R ʁ Greg runs free  
 R ʁ I don't urge murder  
 L ʁ ladies always smile  
 L ʁ single eagle

M C mama smokes lamb  
 B ʁ bubbling splashing Bob  
 P ʁ peas upon puppy  
 B ʁ Bob's an absolute slob  
 P ʁ pop's options drop  
 N ʁ Ned's nanny Ann  
 D ʁ dad's dumb idea  
 D ʁ dad's badly bored  
 T ʁ check Pat's brat  
 N ʁ Ngaio's finger ring  
 G ʁ Gary scraped his finger  
 K ʁ crummy cake baker  
 G ʁ bugs dig ragtime big  
 K ʁ Rick's action lacks luck

V ʁ Venus avoids love  
 F ʁ fall after you laugh  
 ʒ ʁ the others bathe  
 ʒ ʁ therapeutic ether bath  
 Z ʁ zen floozie loses  
 S ʁ silly opossum hats  
 J ʁ Jean's leisure suit's beige  
 ʒ ʁ shall ushers gush  
 H ʁ no hogs ahead

**Seven  
common  
di-fonz**

**Chief**  
fine  
noise.  
**ʔəYF**  
**FVYN**  
**NOYZ**

**John**  
loud  
**ɔJVN**  
**LAUD**

**made**  
bone  
**MEYD**  
**BOUN**

a

