

New Futhorch (𐌲𐌆𐌱 𐌿𐌆𐌱𐌴𐌹𐌺𐌺)

The New Futhorch was created by John Higgins to write Modern English using Old English runes. It is based on Old English **manuscript** runes and does not aim to reproduce runic epigraphy or Old English spelling conventions. Rather, the goal here is simply to spell Modern English phonemically.

Many of the modernized rune names below are **not** translations of the Old English. The new names were chosen for their sound values, sometimes trading names with other runes.

New Futhorch

𐌿 / 𐌿	𐌆	𐌆 / 𐌆	𐌴	𐌺	𐌺	𐌶	𐌶
<i>feoh</i> → fee	<i>ūr</i> → bull	<i>þorn</i> → thorn	<i>ōs</i> → oak	<i>rād</i> → road	<i>cen</i> → torch	<i>giefu</i> → year	<i>wynn</i> → win
𐌿IX	𐌆𐌆𐌴	𐌆𐌴𐌹𐌺	𐌴𐌶𐌺	𐌺𐌴𐌶𐌺	𐌴𐌴𐌹𐌺	𐌶IX𐌺	𐌶II𐌴
f / v	u	th (þ / ð)	o	r	ch	y	w
[f] / [v]	[u, u]	[θ] / [ð]	[ɔ, o]	[r, ɹ]	[tʃ]	[j]	[w]
𐌆 / 𐌆	𐌴	𐌺	𐌴 / 𐌴	𐌴	𐌴	𐌶	𐌴 / 𐌴 / 𐌴
<i>hægġl</i> → hail	<i>nȳd</i> → need	<i>īs</i> → chill	<i>ġēar / īor</i> → treasure	<i>ēoh</i> → ash	<i>peorð</i> → pear	<i>ēolhx</i> → sedge	<i>sigel</i> → sun
𐌆MX𐌴	𐌴IX𐌺	𐌺II𐌴	𐌴RM𐌴𐌴𐌺	𐌴𐌴	𐌴MR	𐌶MY	𐌶𐌴𐌴
h / kh	n	i	zh	sh	p	j	s / ʃ / z
[h] / [x]	[n]	[i, i]	[ʒ]	[ʃ]	[p]	[dʒ]	[s] / [ʃ] / [z]
𐌴	𐌴	𐌴	𐌴	𐌴	𐌴	𐌴	𐌴
<i>Tȳr</i> → tier	<i>beorc</i> → birch	<i>eoh</i> → elk	<i>mann</i> → man	<i>lagu</i> → lake	<i>Ing</i> → angle	<i>dæg</i> → day	<i>ēðel</i> → abode
𐌴IR	𐌴𐌴𐌺𐌴	𐌴II𐌴	𐌴𐌴𐌴	𐌴MX𐌴	𐌴𐌴𐌴𐌴𐌴	𐌴MX	𐌴𐌴𐌴𐌴𐌴
t	b	e	m	l	ng	d	œ
[t]	[b]	[e, e]	[m]	[l]	[ŋ]	[d]	[ʌ, ɜ, ə]
𐌴	𐌴	𐌴	𐌴 / 𐌴	𐌴	𐌴	𐌴	𐌴
<i>āc</i> → gob	<i>æsc</i> → aspen	<i>ȳr</i> → yew	<i>ēar / cweorð</i> → wheel	<i>calc</i> → cup	<i>gar</i> → gar	<i>*kur?</i> → ugh	<i>stān</i> → a'a
𐌴𐌴𐌴	𐌴𐌴𐌴𐌴	𐌴𐌴	𐌴IX𐌴	𐌴𐌴𐌴	𐌴𐌴𐌴	𐌴𐌴	𐌴𐌴𐌴
a	æ	yu	wh	k	g	gh	‘
[ɑ, ɒ]	[æ, a]	[ju, ju]	[ʍ]	[k]	[g]	[ɣ, ɣ, ɣ]	[ʔ]

Digraphs, Numerals, and Punctuation

𐌴X	𐌴X	IX	𐌴X	𐌴𐌴	𐌴𐌴	𐌆𐌴	𐌴𐌴
[aj]	[ej]	[ij]	[ɔj]	[aw]	[ow]	[uw]	[juw]
𐌴𐌴	𐌴𐌴	IR	𐌴𐌴	𐌆𐌴	𐌴𐌴	𐌴𐌴	𐌴.
[ar]	[æɹ]	[iəɹ]	[ɔɹ]	[uəɹ]	[juəɹ]	[ɜɹ, əɹ]	0

.I.	.I.	.H.	.I.	.N.	.Y.	.T.	.K.
½	¼	½	1	5	10	50	100
.P.	.M.	.L.	.II.	.	:	∴	∴
500	1,000	1,000	100,000	comma (,)	semicolon (;)	colon (:)	period / full-stop (.)
∴	∴	∴	+	.	..	—	· ·
query (?)	exclamation (!)	interrobang (?)	dash (—) / quote	hyphen (-) / abbreviation	numeral	numeral × 1,000	numeral × 100,000

Notes

- Most words are spelled phonemically but as if stressed. Function words that end in /-ij/ or /-uw/ when stressed are spelled without the glide, e.g., ÐI (*the*), TΠ (*to*). Final *-y* is spelled -I. The indefinite article is spelled F, Fǫ (*a, an*).
- Schwas are typically spelled with “abode” ǫ, but any vowel rune can also spell its reduction in an unstressed syllable.
- Several of the runes have optional, variant forms. Their use is left up to each writer’s preference.
 - The alternate forms of “treasure” ƿ and “wheel” ƿ are graphical variants with no effect on pronunciation.
 - The “knee” form of the “sun” H rune may be used interchangeably with the “bookhand” form P; or one might use H only to spell word-final /-s/ (treating P and H just like f and s, or σ and ç).
 - The “stung” (dotted) forms of “fee” P, “thorn” P, and “sun” P may be used to spell the voiced fricatives /v ð z/. The voiceless fricatives /f θ s/ are always spelled with the unmarked runes P, P, and P/H.
 - The single-bar “hail” H may be used for /x/; but /h/ is always spelled with a double-barred H.
- The final two runes stand for utterances which are usually non-phonemic in English. The “ugh” ǫ rune (its historical name is uncertain) stands for the [ɣ] sound in *ugh*. The “a’a” ǫ rune (*a’a* is a Hawai’ian word for lava-rock) can stand for the Hawai’ian ‘okina (‘) or the glottal stop in a word like *uh-oh*.
- Runic numbers are normally just words: PǫI “one,” TΠP “two,” PRIX “three,” etc. Ordinary Arabic (4, 5, 6) or Roman (VII, VIII, IX) numerals are always an option, or Roman numerals can be transliterated into runes. Runes used as Roman numerals are set off with low dots, e.g., .PǫYIΠHIII. = 624¾.
- New Futhorch separates words with spaces. Various *puncti* (interpuncts) stand in for modern punctuation. The runic question mark ∴ and exclamation mark ∴ are based on the medieval *punctus interrogativus* and *punctus elevatus*. The runic cross + serves as a parenthetical dash or quotation mark. A small middle dot · marks hyphenation or abbreviation.

Sample Text

+ MFX MIR LIXLǫT ∴ MFX MIR BǫǫIIFMP FIM BǫPPIF · FIM MFX MIR TΠLH FIM BRFIIMIBǫǫH · FIM ǫRǫBP · FIM LǫBP · FIM BΠRǫPMP · FIM HFRIBǫPǫRP · FIM BǫPPIYǫRP · BRMXPǫIRMǫT · ǫΠMBǫMP · BRFLHǫPMP FIM LRǫPǫPNTH ∴ FTǫP MFX ǫΠM PFLPPIBǫǫIIFMP BFT FX PMITLǫM BFL FT IFT TΠ Bǫǫ MIM ∴ TΠMIM IP MFX PFI HǫIIMRMIM FIM MITPPIB ǫǫRǫMIM ∴ FX FM MITPPIBFI-PǫI TΠMIM ∴

+ FX HǫPǫ LP FR FT MIFYFXIǫ XFRPMPPI FP MǫL FP FX FM ∴ FX JFT IFT LIXL LP Iǫǫ ∴ FX HǫPǫ LFTM LP FT TΠǫMǫR PFR F LΠRǫǫH ∴ HMIM · PFR PRIX LΠRǫPMP ∴

