

WEST EUROLEX

Introduction:

Several languages spoken in Europe have, through the course of history, established themselves in various places around the world, especially the likes of English, Spanish and French. Although these languages are intelligible to most people around the world, their writing systems are just all over the place. Despite the fact that most of these languages use the Latin script (while some use Cyrillic and Greek scripts) they can hardly be read by those familiar with the Latin script yet who do not know the language in concern. This lack of phonetic consistency and presence of unnecessary or outdated spelling quirks is far from where internationally used scripts should be.

West Eurolex is a script designed with better phonetic consistency and a comprehensive inventory of sounds, particularly suited for the English, Spanish and French languages, but applicable to most European languages. In this script:

- ◆ letter shapes are derived mainly from the Coptic alphabet
- ◆ they are unicast, although letters can be enlarged to become 'capitals'
- ◆ the letters are phonetically consistent for the most part while allophonic variants exist to suit different accents/languages
- ◆ there is one special mark (hook) that can modify some letters

The Script:

West Eurolex has been designed to be easy to read, write and spell with. The name literally means 'West European Script' since it is best suited for languages spoken in Western Europe like English, French and Spanish, but it works for other languages like German, Latin and Greek as well. Nordic and Slavic languages are not quite the forte of West Eurolex, yet it is better suited for transcribing these languages than the Latin script is. Some features of this script are the following:

- ◆ there are 27 unicast letters in the alphabet (no small and capital letters)
- ◆ there are 3 standard 'hook' letters for modified sounds
- ◆ the letter shapes are derived mainly from Coptic, with some variation
- ◆ it is written from left to right like most European scripts

The following image shows the 27 letters of West Eurolex alphabet along with the 3 standard variant letters known as 'hook letters' (i.e. regular letters with a hook mark attached at the top) shown at the bottom of the image (each in the same column containing its original counterpart):

ΧΕΣΤ ΨΡΩΛΕΚΣ WEST EUROLEX

Δ Β Ϛ Δ Ε Ϻ Ζ Η Θ

Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ζ Ο Π Θ

Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω Ξ

Ϝ ϝ ← hook letters → Ϟ

The following image shows the same letters in their cursive forms. The numbers placed above these letters are representative of their numerical values on the lines of old Greek numbers and Gematria. Each letter in the first row has its respective numerical values as indicated above each of them. The second row has those same respective values times ten, and the third, the same times a hundred (e.g. 'α'=1, 'Ν'=50, 'Ι'=900 and say, 'χοΔ'=674).

in Cursive style:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
α	β	Ϛ	Δ	Ε	Ϻ	Ζ	Η	Θ
ι	κ	λ	μ	ν	ζ	ο	π	θ
ρ	ς	τ	υ	φ	χ	ψ	ω	ξ
				Ϝ	ϝ			Ϟ

Hook letters are no different from their non-hooked counterparts (even for their numerical values) except for a variation in their sound. For dictionary order, each hook letter comes immediately after its non-hooked counterpart, like in the image below, which shows the general phonetic values of these 27+3 letters: (English equivalents are marked with orange letters, French ones with magenta, and Spanish, with red. Black text is used for context.)



In general, spelling rules are not strict in West Eurolex since the aim is to encode one's pronunciation as faithfully as possible, yet there are some points to be noted about this liberal approach to spelling.

The phonetic values of each letter provided here, while legitimate, offer a bit of room for allophonic variants to suit different languages. For example, the last letter in the 4th row here sounds like the English 'r' in English but the Spanish 'r' in Spanish. The same holds for 'z' in English and Spanish. Note that the French 'r' is represented by the 2nd letter of the last row instead.

Some letters are used for slightly different sounds when they appear in different languages, for example, the first letter of the 2nd row is used for the [w] sound in English but [y] sound in French. In fact, the letter 'n' can be used for all nasal sounds other than [m], as well as for nasalising preceding vowel sounds.

In Spanish, the use of vowels is slightly different: Whereas ‘ə’, ‘e’ and ‘o’ are used for unstressed vowels, ‘á’, ‘h’ and ‘ó’ are used for their stressed or long counterparts respectively. The ‘ç’ letter can be pronounced as either [s] or [h] when at the end of words, accordingly to the preferred dialect of Spanish.

Apart from the sounds that individual letters can produce, diphthongs are also used to generate sounds related to their constituent letters but different from them. The following are the diphthongs used in West Eurolex for English, Spanish and French, and other diphthongs can be used to suit languages other than these 3:

ΔΙΨΘΟΝΖΣ DIPHTHONGS

VOWELS		CONSONANTS
ΔΧ farther	ΕΙ feel	ΤΨ chip
ΟΧ torque	ΗΙ fail	ΔΖ joy
ƏΧ urn	ΟΥ fool	ΛJ paella papillon
ΩΧ borne	ΩΥ foal	ΡΧ perro

To demonstrate the use of West Eurolex and the most optimal use of its letters and diphthongs. Some sample texts have been offered here. These are the ‘Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ as represented in English, French and Spanish. These have been provided in block text as well as cursive handwriting.

It is important to note that the spelling used in the text given here is not the only legitimate form. It can be spelled with slight variation to suit different accents if the need be, but this is the most optimal spelling across accents of the respective languages, in my opinion. Also, no capitalization has been used here since the script is unicaser albeit one can be permitted to use ‘capitalization’ (i.e. enlarging the letter vertically to reach both the ascender height and the descender level, placing hooks above the ascender height) to emphasize words.

Sample Text in Block Letters:

ENGLISH

ΟΛ ΧΥΜΘΝ ΒΕΙΝΕΣ ΔΧ ΒΟΧΝ ΦΡΕΙ ΘΝΔ
ΕΙΚΧΑΛ ΙΝ ΔΙΣΝΙΤΙΥ ΘΝΔ ΡΑΙΧΤΣ. ΘΝΙ ΔΧ
ΕΝΔΑΧΔ ΧΙΘ ΡΕΙΖΘΝ ΘΝΔ ΚΟΝΨΥΘΝΣ
ΘΝΔ ΨΥΔ ΔΚΤ ΤΑΧΑΧΔΖ ΧΘΝ ΘΝΘΘΑΧ
ΙΝ Θ ΣΠΙΡΙΤ ΑΦ ΒΡΘΘΑΧΧΔ.

FRANÇAIS

ΤΟΥ ΛΗΖ ΕΤΧΑΖ ΧΜΕΝ ΝΕΣΘΝ ΛΙΒΧΑΖ
ΗΥ ΗΣΩ ΔΝ ΔΙΝΥΙΤΗ ΗΥ ΔΝ ΔΧΥΔ. ΙΘ ΣΟΝ
ΔΟΥΗ ΔΘ ΧΕΖΟΝ ΗΥ ΔΘ ΚΟΝΨΙΑΝΣ ΗΥ
ΔΧΑΨΘΑΝΤ ΔΖΙΡ ΛΗΖ ΘΝ ΔΝΨΕΧ ΛΗΖ
ΩΤΧ ΔΔΝΖ ΘΝ ΕΣΠΧΙ ΔΘ ΦΧΔΤΕΡΝΙΤΗ.

ESPAÑOL

ΤΩΔΟΣ ΛΟΣ ΣΗΡΕΣ ΥΜΑΝΟΣ ΝΔΘΕΝ
ΛΙΒΡΕΣ Η ΙΣΥΔΛΕΣ ΕΝ ΔΙΣΝΙΔΔΔ ΙΥ
ΔΕΡΗΤΨΟΣ ΙΥ, ΔΟΤΑΔΟΣ ΚΩΜΟ ΕΣΤΑΝ
ΔΕ ΡΑΖΩΝ ΙΥ ΚΟΝΘΙΗΝΘΙΑ, ΔΗΒΕΝ
ΚΟΜΠΟΡΤΑΡΣΕ ΦΡΑΤΕΡΝΑΛΜΗΝΤΕ
ΛΟΣ ΥΝΟΣ ΚΟΝ ΛΟΣ ΩΤΡΟΣ.

The same is provided in cursive handwriting below, to demonstrate the most optimal and legitimate cursive shapes of each letter:

ENGLISH

αλ κηχμητ βεηγησ αλ βαση φρεη ηησ
ευκαλ ηη σηηηη ηησ ραηηεσ. ηηη αλ
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FRANÇAIS

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ESPAÑOL

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