

# Kalis

## a featural alphabet

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### 1 Introduction

Kalis is a logical next step in the evolution of writing: While alphabets abstract from abugidas by splitting the glyphs representing syllables into single sounds (consonants and vowels), Kalis abstracts sounds into their features like place and manner of articulation, having glyphs for *voiced*, *fricative* etc. This leads to a featural type of alphabet with a very small number of glyphs whose pronunciation is highly influenced by their context.

The name *Kalis* is a word that uses all the glyphs of that alphabet exactly once: 𐀀𐀁𐀂𐀃𐀄𐀅

### 2 Glyphs

Kalis has four basic consonant roots, three modifiers and one extra glyph for the vowel *a*:

𐀀	𐀁	𐀂	𐀃	·			𐀄
t	k	p	r	<i>vowel</i>	<i>voiced</i>	<i>fricative</i>	a

The three modifiers · | || affect the sound of the roots 𐀀 𐀁 𐀂 𐀃 *before* them. Multiple modifiers can be applied to a root to signalize combined or amplified manners of articulation:

	·	"				
𐀀	t	e	o	d	n	z
𐀁	k	é	ó	g	ng	kh
𐀂	p	i	u	b	m	f
𐀃	r			l		

(e and o represent open-mid, é and ó close-mid vowels here)

Of course there are many more ways to combine roots and modifiers, e.g. a *voiced*-modifier after a vowel might lengthen the vowel (𐀄𐀅 ū) or a double *fricative*-modifier might push the place of articulation further back towards the throat (𐀁|| sh, 𐀁||| h). The system is highly adaptable to different phonologies.

### 3 Example

The following is a transcription of the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights using an ad hoc orthographic mode for English (𐀁𐀂 th, 𐀃 y, 𐀄 i):

𐀀𐀁𐀂𐀃𐀄𐀅𐀆𐀇𐀈𐀉𐀊𐀋𐀌𐀍𐀎𐀏𐀐𐀑𐀒𐀓𐀔𐀕𐀖𐀗𐀘𐀙𐀚𐀛𐀜𐀝𐀞𐀟𐀠𐀡𐀢𐀣𐀤𐀥𐀦𐀧𐀨𐀩𐀪𐀫𐀬𐀭𐀮𐀯𐀰𐀱𐀲𐀳𐀴𐀵𐀶𐀷𐀸𐀹𐀺𐀻𐀼𐀽𐀾𐀿𐀀𐀁𐀂𐀃𐀄𐀅𐀆𐀇𐀈𐀉𐀊𐀋𐀌𐀍𐀎𐀏𐀐𐀑𐀒𐀓𐀔𐀕𐀖𐀗𐀘𐀙𐀚𐀛𐀜𐀝𐀞𐀟𐀠𐀡𐀢𐀣𐀤𐀥𐀦𐀧𐀨𐀩𐀪𐀫𐀬𐀭𐀮𐀯𐀰𐀱𐀲𐀳𐀴𐀵𐀶𐀷𐀸𐀹𐀺𐀻𐀼𐀽𐀾𐀿

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.