

A BRIEF GUIDE TO
THE VEIFA SCRIPT

ÆTHERPUNK



Created by Stephen Escher - 2021

The Veifa Script is a mysterious written language that no longer has a population of native speakers. Aethermancers often inscribe these runes onto weapons, armour and their own bodies for various kinds of enchantments. It is primarily written from left to right horizontally, but can be written from top to bottom vertically.

PHONOLOGY AND ORTHOGRAPHY

Pronunciation

The authentic pronunciation of the spoken Veifa language has been lost to time, but the description below is a basic overview of a standard revived pronunciation used for reading runes. However, most modern æthermancers may pronounce them differently depending on their native language and their ability to pronounce the sounds of Veifa.

This section uses a romanisation of the Veifa script, but some IPA symbols (International Phonetic

Alphabet) enclosed in // are used to clarify the standard revived pronunciation. If there is no IPA given, then the broad IPA transcription is identical to the romanisation.

Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Post-alveolar	Velar
Nasal	m	n		
Stop	p	t		k, g
Fricative	f, v	s, ð	sh /ʃ/, j /ʒ/	h /x/, gh /ɣ/
Liquid		l (r)*		

* *l* and *r* are never contrasted in Veifa (see *Syllable Structure*), but are distinguished in the romanisation to aid pronunciation.

Some clarifications on pronunciation:

- ð is pronounced like the *th* in **the** but not like the *th* in **thin**)
- *j* /ʒ/ is pronounced like the *s* in **measure** or **asia**
- *h* /x/ is pronounced like an *h*, but sounds much harsher. *gh* /ɣ/ is similar to *h* but is voiced, sounding like a softer version of *g*. For both of these sounds the tongue pulled back, similar to how *k* or *is* is pronounced.

Vowels

	Front	Back
Closed	i	u
Mid	e	
Open	æ	a /ɑ/
Diphthong	ei	au /au/
Semivowel	y /j/	w

æ is typically pronounced like it's IPA transcription by scholars, but can sometimes be pronounced /æi/ (like *eye*) or even /i/ (like *ee* in *bee*).

Alternative Romanisation

The romanisation described above contains the non-standard characters æ and ð. For those who are unable to summon these characters may use the following alternatives:

Standard	Alternatives
<i>æ</i>	<i>ae</i>
<i>ð</i>	<i>d</i> or <i>th</i>

Syllable Structure

Words in Veifa have the following syllable structure:

(C)(C)V(C)

Each rune represents a syllable, and can be broken down into three basic components: **Intial**, **vowel** and **final**.

Initials are the main body of the rune, and usually represent a consonant. Almost any consonant can be at the beginning of syllable except *r*. When initials are used without any modification, they are pronounced with *e* as the vowel.

The initial named ‘*e*’ acts as a placeholder for when a word begins with a vowel. If the *e* initial occurs, it functions a semivowel depending on the following vowel. ‘*e*’ is realised as *y* /*j*/ if followed by a front vowel (*i*, *æ* and *ei*), and is realised as *w* if followed by a back vowel (*u*, *a* and *au*). The semivowels, *y* and *w*, cannot be word initial.

There are also clusters, these function in the same way as the standard initials but represent a sequence of consonants:

- **C + l:** *pl, tl, kl, fl, sl, shl, hl*
- **C + m/n:** *pm, tn, kn*

The clusters containing *m* or *n* can only occur at the beginning of a word.

Vowels and finals are added as modifiers to the initial consonant. The vowel marks are placed on the top-right of the initial for closed vowels (*i* and *u*); the bottom right for open vowels (*æ* and *a*); or both top and bottom right for diphthongs (*ei* and *au*). Finals are placed to the centre-right of the initial, and are smaller than their initial counterparts. *p,t,k,g,l* and the consonant clusters cannot be used as finals.

DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY

Derivational Rules

The following rules should be applied when deriving new words:

- Letters cannot be doubled; if two letters occur next to each other through derivation, then they will be reduced to one letter.
- *n* will become *m* before *p, f* or *v*. *m* will become *n* if followed by a consonant that isn't *p, f* or *v*
- *e* is deleted if it's followed by a vowel that isn't an *i*
- If there are two consecutive vowels between a syllable boundary, then *y/w* (depending on restrictions above) is inserted.
- *r* → *l* between when followed by a vowel.
- *h* is deleted if preceded by another consonant, but causes the following sound changes:
 - *v* → *f*
 - *ð* → *s*
 - *j* → *sh*
 - *gh* → *h*
 - *r* → *l*

Derivational Patterns

Below is a list of some common derivation patterns in Veifa:

Suffixes

-(e)nku	without
-kuna	to remove
-ar	augmentative (large)
-(y)i	diminutive (small)
-(e)ð	verb for a completed action → adjective/noun
-gi	verb for an ongoing action → adjective/noun
-(e)m	go, creature
-(e)v	out
-(e)sh	in, within
-(e)s	together
-(e)r	come
-ver	from, source
-ða	below, down
-(e)j	above, up

-(h)a	causative, turn into
-puð	forged, made of
-ju	want
-aus	all

Prefixes

v(e)-	tool
m(e)-	person

Reduplication

The repeating the first initial of an adjective and placing it at the beginning can act as an intensifier. If the first letter is a consonant, then the following vowel is *e*.

eg. *væs* 'bright' → *vevæs* 'blinding'

If there is no initial consonant, then the first vowel is repeated.

eg. *æha* 'scary' → *æyæha* 'terrifying'

Compounds

There are also some common patterns for compounding words:

- noun + adjective
 - eg. *hlah* 'time' + *senku* 'dark' = *hlahsenku* 'night'
- noun + material + *puð*
 - eg. *fe* 'whip' + *ple* 'fire' + *puð* = *feplepuð* 'fire whip'
- noun + location + *(e)sh*
 - eg. *æh* 'fear' + *senku* 'dark' + *sh* = *æhsenkush* 'nightmare'
- noun + source + *ver*
 - eg. *ðaju* 'rock' + *jar* 'sky' + *ver* = *ðajujarver* 'meteorite'
- noun + possession + *(e)n*
 - eg. *pluð* 'soul' + *ple* 'fire' + *n* = *pluðplen* 'passion'
- noun + comparison + *ghei*

○ eg. *ḏauḏ* ‘galaxy’ + *ar* ‘big’ = *ḏauḏarghei* ‘galactic’

• verb + adverb

○ eg. *mer* ‘to return’ + *memegi* ‘quick’ = *mermemegi* ‘to retreat’

DICTIONARY

Parts of Speech

<i>verb.</i>	verb
<i>noun.</i>	noun
<i>adj.</i>	adjective/adverb
<i>num.</i>	number

A

<i>ala</i>	<i>verb.</i> to grow
<i>alagi</i>	<i>adj.</i> growth
<i>alar</i>	<i>adj.</i> big
<i>aus</i>	<i>adj.</i> all

E

<i>eifa</i>	<i>verb.</i> to enhance
<i>eiv</i>	<i>adj.</i> good
<i>eiyeiv</i>	<i>adj.</i> epic
<i>eḏ</i>	<i>adj.</i> round, circular
<i>eḏ</i>	<i>noun.</i> circle, orbit
<i>eḏeiwar</i>	<i>noun.</i> the ecliptic
<i>eḏmev</i>	<i>noun.</i> equinox

F

<i>fa</i>	<i>noun.</i> snake, serpent
<i>faha</i>	<i>verb.</i> to turn someone into a snake
<i>fayi</i>	<i>noun.</i> worm
<i>fayiha</i>	<i>verb.</i> to turn someone into a worm
<i>fe</i>	<i>noun.</i> whip

fefið	<i>adj.</i> icy
fefiðpuð	<i>noun.</i> ice whip
fefushpuð	<i>noun.</i> water whip
feplepuð	<i>noun.</i> fire whip
fið	<i>adj.</i> cold
fið	<i>noun.</i> ice
flagh	<i>verb.</i> to force
flaghar	<i>noun.</i> blast
flaghar	<i>verb.</i> to blast
flaghesh	<i>verb.</i> to compress, to crush, to squeeze
flaghesheð	<i>adj.</i> dense
flaghev	<i>verb.</i> to expel
flaghgi	<i>noun.</i> force, power
flaghgish	<i>adj.</i> psionic
flaghða	<i>noun.</i> gravity
fluð	<i>noun.</i> air, gas
fluðem	<i>noun.</i> bird
fluðfush	<i>noun.</i> cloud
fluðpuð	<i>adj.</i> gaseous
fluðærpuð	<i>noun.</i> nebula
fush	<i>adj.</i> damp, wet
fush	<i>noun.</i> water
fusha	<i>verb.</i> to dampen, to soak
fushenku	<i>adj.</i> dry
fushenku	<i>noun.</i> earth
fushpleple	<i>noun.</i> acid
fushveinkupuð	<i>adj.</i> poisonous, toxic
fushveinkupuð	<i>noun.</i> poison
fæsesh	<i>adj.</i> diurnal

G

guj	<i>noun.</i> chicken, fowl
gusha	<i>verb.</i> to turn someone into a chicken

GH

ghaðsenku	<i>noun.</i> shadow
ghe	<i>num.</i> two

gheha	<i>verb.</i> to clone, duplicate
ghehað	<i>adj.</i> cloned
ghehað	<i>noun.</i> twin, clone
ghei	<i>adj.</i> equal, same
gheð	<i>num.</i> twelve

H

haus	<i>adj.</i> always
hauser	<i>adj.</i> common
hlafahagi	<i>noun.</i> autumn, fall
hlafæs	<i>noun.</i> day
hlafæsar	<i>noun.</i> summer solstice
hlafæsi	<i>noun.</i> winter solstice
hlagi	<i>noun.</i> spring
hlah	<i>noun.</i> time
hlahar	<i>noun.</i> eon, age, era
hlahaus	<i>adj.</i> eternal, immortal
hlahem	<i>verb.</i> to wait
hlahfið	<i>noun.</i> winter
hlahi	<i>adj.</i> instant
hlahi	<i>noun.</i> moment
hlahple	<i>noun.</i> summer
hlahpuð	<i>adj.</i> temporal
hlahsenku	<i>noun.</i> night

I

iyi	<i>adj.</i> small
iyiha	<i>verb.</i> to shrink

J

jalej	<i>noun.</i> zenith
jar	<i>noun.</i> sky
jeju	<i>noun.</i> desire, treasure
jejukuna	<i>noun.</i> sacrifice

K

klash	<i>noun.</i> electricity
klash	<i>verb.</i> to shock
klashar	<i>noun.</i> lightning bolt
klashi	<i>noun.</i> shock
klashpuð	<i>noun.</i> electric
knau	<i>verb.</i> to know
knaum	<i>noun.</i> person
knaupusle	<i>verb.</i> to confuse
knaupuslegi	<i>noun.</i> confusion
knaupuð	<i>adj.</i> sentient
knaupuð	<i>noun.</i> mind
knaus	<i>adj.</i> legendary
knauseð	<i>noun.</i> legacy
knuha	<i>verb.</i> to negate

L

le	<i>num.</i> one
leg	<i>num.</i> eight
ler	<i>num.</i> seven
lete	<i>num.</i> nine
letle	<i>num.</i> eleven
letli	<i>num.</i> ten
leð	<i>num.</i> six

M

meflaghish	<i>noun.</i> psychic
megi	<i>adj.</i> animate
megikuna	<i>adj.</i> slowing
megim	<i>noun.</i> animal, creature
megimar	<i>noun.</i> monster
megimej	<i>adj.</i> summoned
megimesha	<i>verb.</i> to summon
meginku	<i>adj.</i> slow
mehlahaus	<i>noun.</i> immortal
memegi	<i>adj.</i> hasty, quick, fast
memegi	<i>noun.</i> haste, speed
men	<i>noun.</i> owner

menaus	<i>noun.</i> ruler, lord
menausar	<i>adj.</i> royal
menausar	<i>noun.</i> king, queen, monarch
menkuna	<i>noun.</i> thief
mepluðer	<i>noun.</i> medium, channeler
mepu	<i>noun.</i> smith, craftsman
mer	<i>noun.</i> boomerang
mer	<i>verb.</i> to return
mermemegi	<i>verb.</i> to retreat
mev	<i>verb.</i> to cross
mevar	<i>noun.</i> eclipse
meveikuna	<i>noun.</i> killer, murderer
meveveipusa	<i>noun.</i> healer, doctor
meðær	<i>noun.</i> aethermancer

N

nar	<i>adj.</i> rich
naus	<i>verb.</i> to rule
ne	<i>verb.</i> to have, to own
negi	<i>noun.</i> ownership
neha	<i>verb.</i> to get, to obtain
nehað	<i>noun.</i> possession
nei	<i>adj.</i> poor
neju	<i>verb.</i> to desire
nejugi	<i>noun.</i> desire
nekuna	<i>verb.</i> to steal
nesh	<i>noun.</i> ability
nesh	<i>verb.</i> to be able to

P

pef	<i>verb.</i> to sap
pefgi	<i>adj.</i> sapping
pepi	<i>adj.</i> colourful
pi	<i>noun.</i> colour
pifauspuð	<i>adj.</i> multi-coloured
piflaus	<i>noun.</i> rainbow
pilei	<i>noun.</i> volcano

pilei	<i>verb.</i> to spew, to erupt
pileiver	<i>noun.</i> lava, magma
pileiverpuð	<i>adj.</i> molten
pinku	<i>adj.</i> white
plau	<i>adj.</i> lucky
plaukuna	<i>verb.</i> to curse
plaukunað	<i>adj.</i> cursed
plaunku	<i>adj.</i> unlucky
plaur	<i>adj.</i> rare
ple	<i>adj.</i> hot
ple	<i>noun.</i> fire
plenku	<i>noun.</i> nullification
plenku	<i>verb.</i> to nullify, to extinguish
pleple	<i>adj.</i> fiery
pluð	<i>noun.</i> soul
pluðenku	<i>adj.</i> soulless
pluðer	<i>verb.</i> to channel
pluðplen	<i>noun.</i> passion
pluðplen	<i>adj.</i> passionate
pmu	<i>noun.</i> spirit
pu	<i>verb.</i> to forge, craft
puð	<i>adj.</i> forged
puð	<i>verb.</i> to exist
puðenku	<i>adj.</i> mythic

S

sa	<i>noun.</i> bond
sa	<i>verb.</i> to bond
senku	<i>adj.</i> dark
senku	<i>noun.</i> dark, darkness
senkush	<i>adj.</i> nocturnal
slum	<i>noun.</i> sound
slumenku	<i>adj.</i> silent
slumi	<i>adj.</i> quiet
slumim	<i>verb.</i> to sneak
slumpuð	<i>adj.</i> sonic
sunku	<i>adj.</i> some
sunkur	<i>adj.</i> uncommon

SH

shishu	<i>adj.</i> slashing
shlesh	<i>adj.</i> visual
shlesh	<i>noun.</i> eye
shlesh	<i>verb.</i> to see

T

te	<i>num.</i> three
tinkaðju	<i>noun.</i> armour
tinke	<i>noun.</i> metal
tinkepuð	<i>adj.</i> metallic
tle	<i>num.</i> four
tli	<i>num.</i> five
tna	<i>adj.</i> evil
tnuðu	<i>adj.</i> chaotic
tnuðu	<i>noun.</i> chaos
tnuðuha	<i>verb.</i> to disrupt
tnuðunku	<i>adj.</i> orderly
tnuðunku	<i>noun.</i> order

V

vefaha	<i>noun.</i> a tool for turning someone into a snake
vefayiha	<i>noun.</i> a tool for turning someone into a worm
vegusha	<i>noun.</i> ‘fowler’ a tool for turning someone into a chicken
vei	<i>noun.</i> blood
veifa	<i>noun.</i> Veifa, rune
veiju	<i>adj.</i> vampiric
veikuna	<i>verb.</i> to kill, murder
veikunaju	<i>noun.</i> blood-lust
veingi	<i>adj.</i> bleeding
veinku	<i>noun.</i> death
veinkuha	<i>noun.</i> disease
veinkupuð	<i>adj.</i> necrotic
veipuð	<i>adj.</i> alive
veipuð	<i>noun.</i> life
veleifa	<i>verb.</i> to sharpen

veleifað	<i>adj.</i> sharpened
veleiv	<i>adj.</i> sharp
veli	<i>noun.</i> thorn, spike
velinku	<i>adj.</i> safe, smooth
velipuð	<i>adj.</i> thorny, spiky
veliwar	<i>noun.</i> horn
ver	<i>noun.</i> sword
verkuna	<i>verb.</i> to disarm
verplau	<i>noun.</i> vorpal
veveikuna	<i>noun.</i> weapon
veveipusa	<i>verb.</i> to heal
veveipusagi	<i>noun.</i> healing
veveipuð	<i>adj.</i> healthy
vevum	<i>adj.</i> loud
vevænsar	<i>noun.</i> mirror
vevæs	<i>adj.</i> blinding
vænsar	<i>verb.</i> to reflect
vænsla	<i>adj.</i> reflective
vænslanku	<i>adj.</i> mundane, dull
vænslayar	<i>noun.</i> moon
vænслеð	<i>noun.</i> reflection
væs	<i>adj.</i> bright
væs	<i>noun.</i> light
væsar	<i>adj.</i> holy, divine
væsar	<i>noun.</i> holiness, divinity
væsfæsesh	<i>noun.</i> daylight
væslenku	<i>adj.</i> unholy

Æ

æh	<i>noun.</i> fear
æha	<i>adj.</i> scary
æha	<i>verb.</i> to scare
æhsenkush	<i>noun.</i> nightmare
æsa	<i>verb.</i> to drain
æsaju	<i>adj.</i> sacrificial
æyæha	<i>adj.</i> terrifying
æð	<i>adj.</i> empty
æð	<i>noun.</i> void

Ð

ðaha	<i>verb.</i> to fall, to wither
ðahagi	<i>adj.</i> falling, withering
ðaju	<i>adj.</i> heavy
ðaju	<i>noun.</i> rock, stone, ore
ðajujarver	<i>noun.</i> meteorite
ðajum	<i>noun.</i> golem
ðauð	<i>noun.</i> galaxy
ðauðarghei	<i>adj.</i> galactic
ðe	<i>num.</i> zero
ðei	<i>noun.</i> star
ðeij	<i>noun.</i> Polaris
ðeiju	<i>adj.</i> ambitious
ðeiju	<i>noun.</i> ambition
ðeim	<i>noun.</i> planet
ðeipuð	<i>adj.</i> stellar, celestial
ðeis	<i>noun.</i> constellation
ðeisðeiwalesh	<i>noun.</i> the zodiac, horoscope
ðeivæs	<i>noun.</i> nova
ðeivæsar	<i>noun.</i> supernova
ðeiwar	<i>adj.</i> solar
ðeiwar	<i>noun.</i> sun
ðeiyi	<i>noun.</i> spark
ðeða	<i>noun.</i> nadir
ðuhle	<i>verb.</i> to change, to shift
ðuhlegi	<i>adj.</i> shifting, changing
ðælaus	<i>noun.</i> aethervers
ðær	<i>noun.</i> aether, aetherpunk
ðærpuð	<i>adj.</i> aetherforged