























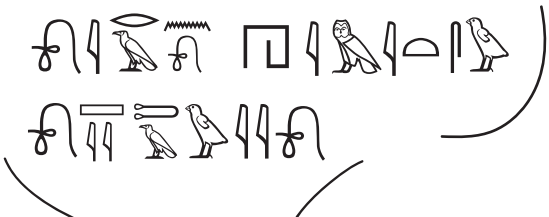






Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs: Write your own secret letter!

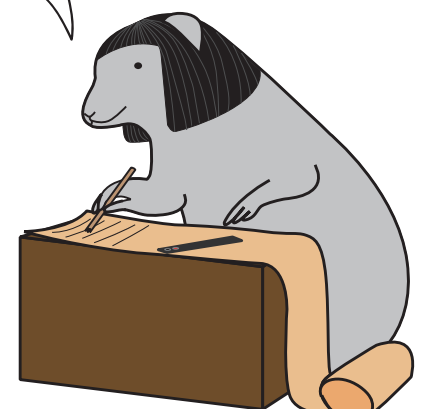
Hieroglyphic Alphabet Chart

| A | B | C | CH | D | E | F | G |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Egyptian vulture | Legs | Folded cloth | Tethering rope | Hand | Single reed | Viper | Pot stand |
| H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reed house | Single reed | Cobra | Basket with handle | Lion | Owl | Ripple of water | Knotted rope |
| P | Q | R | S | SH | T | U | V |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mat | Slope of a hill | Mouth | Folded cloth | Pond | Bread roll | Chick | Leg |
| W | X | Y | Z |  | | | |
|  |  |  |  | | | | |
| Chick | Bone harpoon | Pair of reeds | Door bolt | | | | |

1. First, write out your message in English.

e.g. I love you.

2. Use the chart above as a reference to translate your message into hieroglyphs, then write it out!



Hieroglyphs: Holy Writing

Hieroglyphs refer to Ancient Egyptian pictographs. They have been found on various buildings and structures, such as temples, mausoleums, stone monuments, and statues. Ancient Egyptians believed that words written with hieroglyphs had special powers. For example, they would inscribe prayers to the gods, or record offerings to the dead with hieroglyphics in the hopes that they would materialise. Only powerful people, such as scribes, magicians, and kings, were able to read and write hieroglyphs. They made up about 1% of the entire population at the time.

Hieroglyphs 101

1 Hieroglyphs represented both sounds and meanings!

► Phonetic

e.g.



This represents the sound "r", as in "right."

► Logographic

e.g.



This makes the picture symbolic. A mouth symbol with a vertical stroke underneath can refer literally to a mouth, or mean that something is being said.

► Determinative

e.g.



symbol for "woman"



symbol for "god"

【Usage】

Mary (a woman's name)



M

A

R

Y

woman

These types of hieroglyphs clarify what the hieroglyphs before them refer to. They do not have a sound associated with them.

2 Hieroglyphs do not represent vowels.

The hieroglyphic alphabet chart we've provided uses English alphabets to approximate what the ancient Egyptian vowel is thought to have sounded like at the time. We don't actually know what they sound like.

3 Hieroglyphs can be written horizontally and vertically.

► Horizontal (left to right)

e.g.



M

A

R

Y

► Vertical (top to bottom)

e.g.

M



A



R



Y



4 Reading direction is determined by human or animal symbols.

► Left to right

e.g. The human symbol is facing the left.



M

A

R

Y

Woman

► Right to left

e.g. The human symbol is facing the right.



Woman

Y

R

A

M

5 Hieroglyphs are drawn in an easily understood way.



Owls have flat faces, so it's hard to tell what they are from the side. They are drawn from the front so they can be recognized easily.

Scribes were masters of writing hieroglyphs! They were considered part of the elite.

