

The Uighur alphabet

The Uighur alphabet was derived from the cursive Sogdian script, which ultimately traces back to Aramaic. However, unlike Sogdian and Aramaic, the Uighur script is written from top to bottom and in columns going from left to right, like Aramaic turned 90 degrees counterclockwise. In fact, even the letters themselves were rotated 90 degrees.

With a few exceptions, letters in Uighur have three variants depending on location within a word. At the beginning of a word, the letter can take on the *initial* form. At the end of a word, the *final* variant is used. And in all other places, the *medial* variant is employed.

	initial	medial	final		initial	medial	final
e/ɤ				k/g			
a/e				d			
w/v				m			
ɣ				n			
o/u				b/p			
ö/ü				z			
z				r			
ž				s			
x				š			
q				t			
y/l				l			