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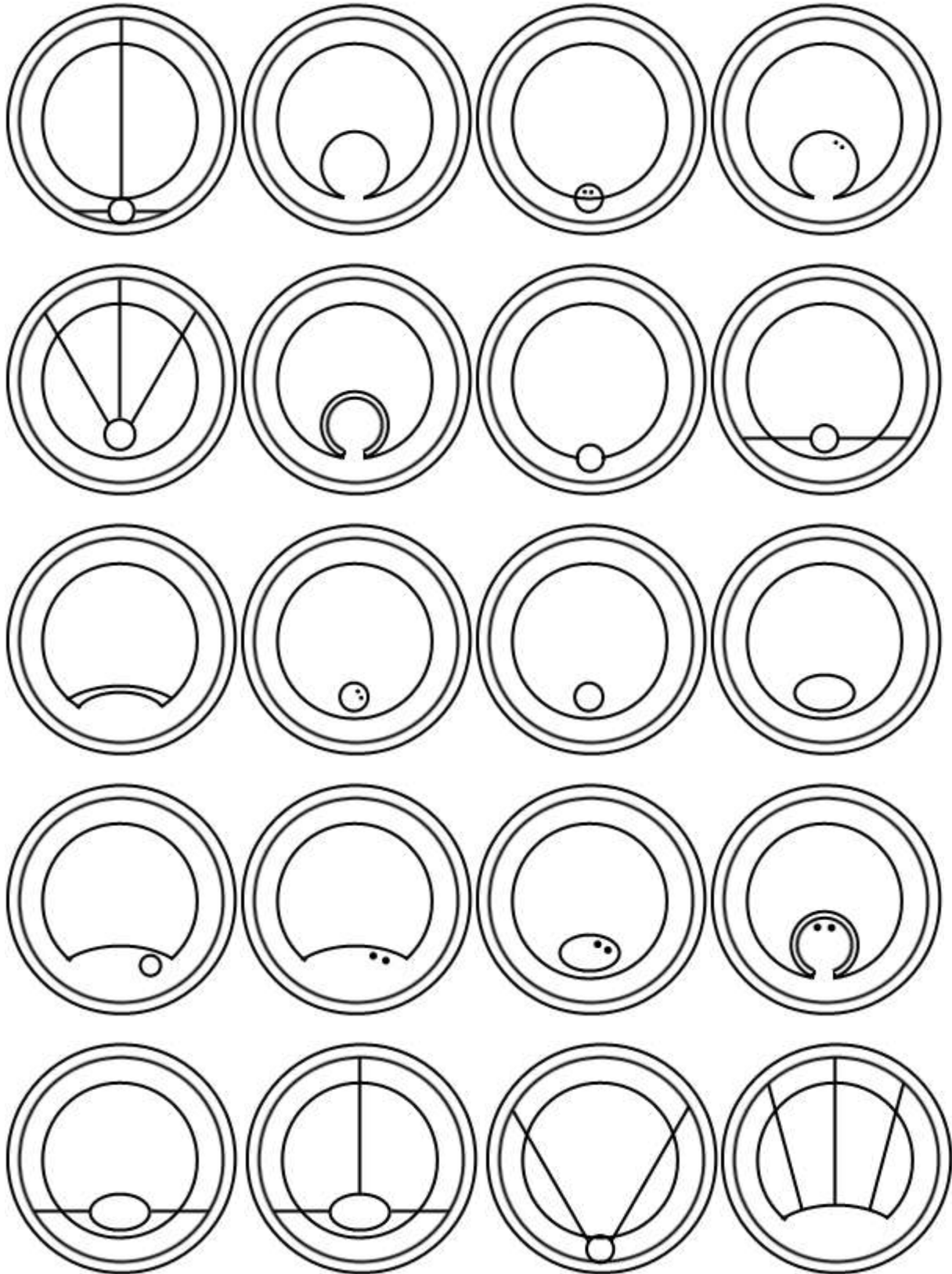
The Gallifreyan Alphabet

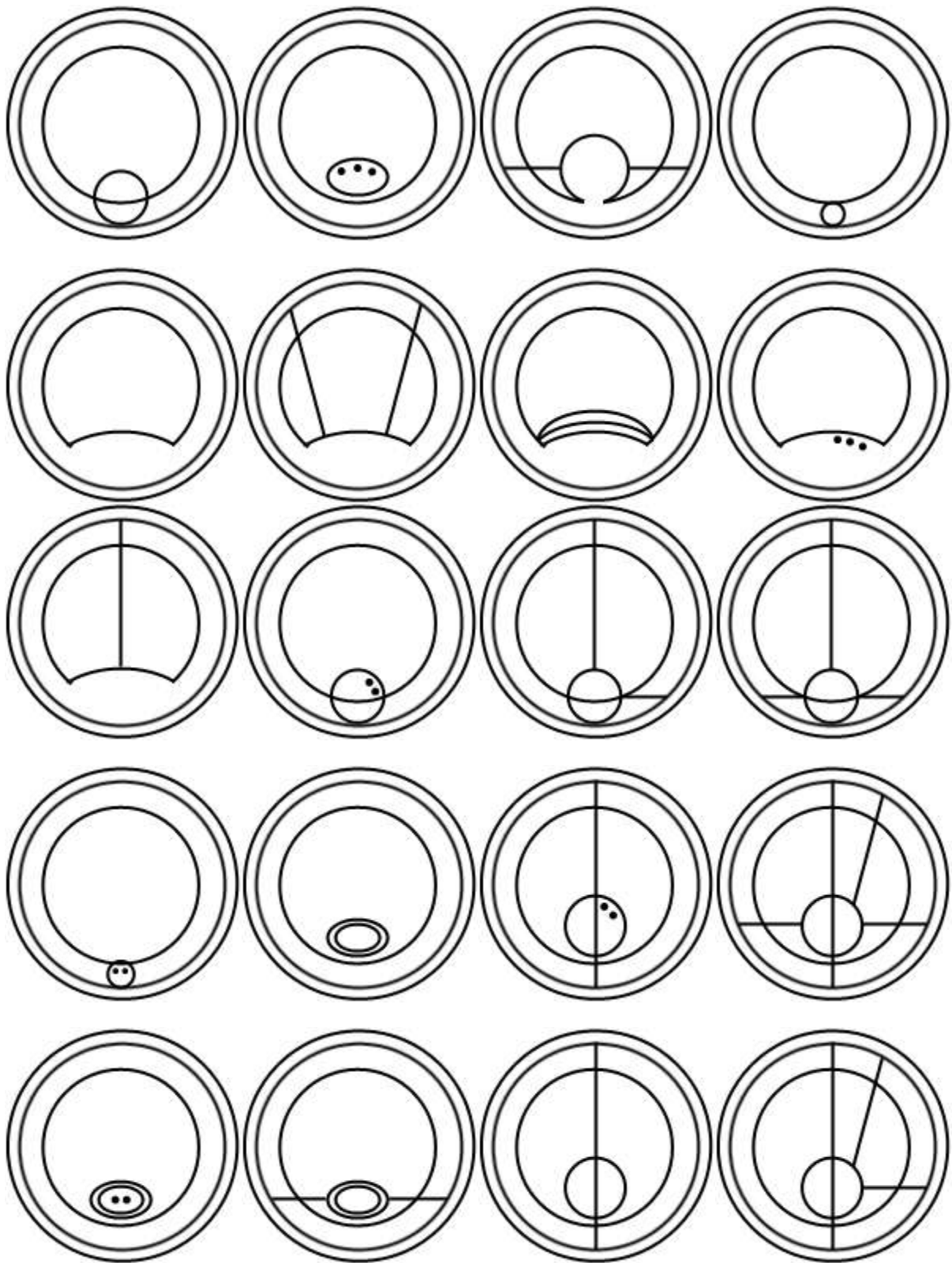
The Gallifreyan Conlang Project

Version 1.0

By: Stranger-Come-Knocking

1. The Gallifreyan Alphabet

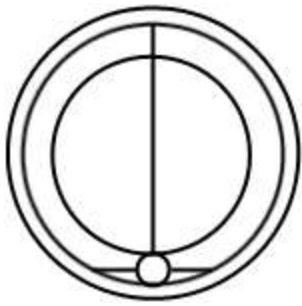




And in English, it looks a bit like this.

a θ e ð α f ə ɔ l o u p † d p' v m b ε ɪ f b' ʔ i t n s r z ʒ ç j i k' ʌ k' g h w

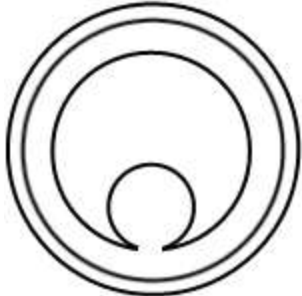
1.1 Pronunciation



[A a]

“Ah” as in “cot.”

Examples: Af̥a [they (non-TL, pl.)]
ʔaz [creation]



[θ θ]

“Th” as in “thin.”

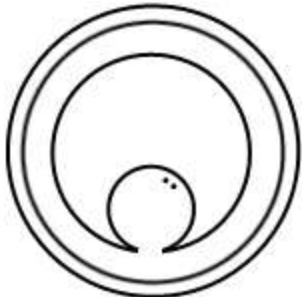
Examples: θornin [shenanigans, pranks, absurd jokes]
Uθ [the]



[ə ə]

“A” sound made in the middle of the mouth; similar to the “a” in “cat.”

Example: ɛnonim [to think]



[ð ð]

“Th” as in “this.”

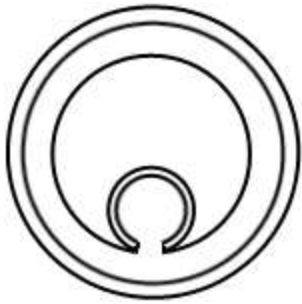
Examples: ðɛlonɛj [serendipity, a good day]
Uðɪɪ [to have]



[ɑ ɑ]

“Ah” as in “spa.”

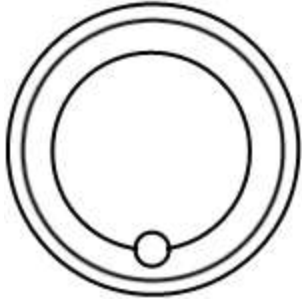
Examples: ɑmilɕə [whirlwind]
Bɑ [one]



[F f]

“F” as in “fine.”

Examples: Fon [never]
ɛfo [no (not yes)]



[ə ə]

“Uh” as in “cut.”

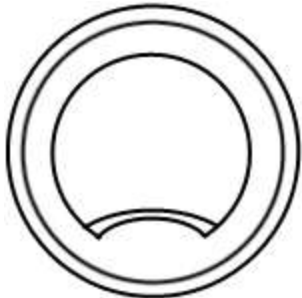
Examples: amilkə [whirlwind]
Məp' [beauty]



[ɔ ɔ]

“Aw” as in “caught.”

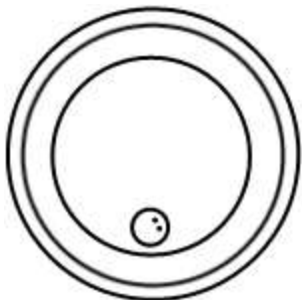
Examples: ɔg [most]
P'ɛləg [important]



[L l]

“L” as in “loss.”

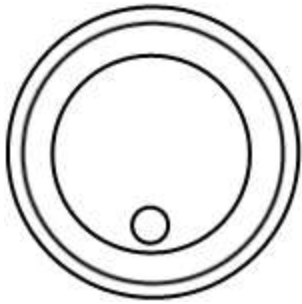
Examples: Lə [number]
Sɛlbrɪ [rose]



[O o]

“O” as in “pose.”

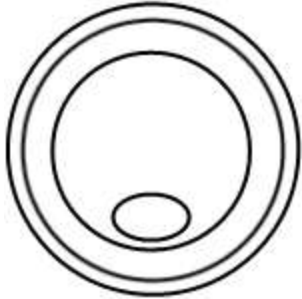
Examples: Od [to be]
Bonɔg [fly (n.)]



[U u]

“Oo” as in “choose.”

Examples: Usi [you (frm., dual)]
Judin [theater arts]



[P p]

“P” as in “pit.”

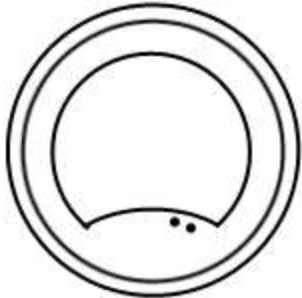
Examples: Pəng [to balance]
Ṭup [enigma]



[ʃ ʃ]

“ʃ” is not a sound in English. Put your tongue on the roof of your mouth, make a “sh” sound with the air coming out by the sides of your tongue and not the top.

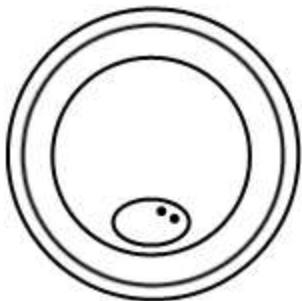
Example: ʃa [zero]



[D d]

“D” as in “dog.”

Examples: Dəp [smart, clever]
Dodago [woman]



[P' p']

“Pt” as in “apt” (but *not* “pterodactyl”)

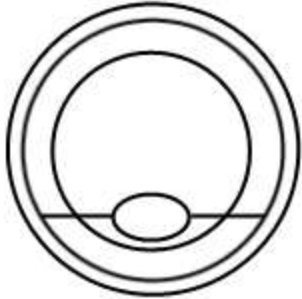
Examples: P'anəʔ [wolf]
Oʔəp' [in, inside]



[V v]

“V” as in “love.”

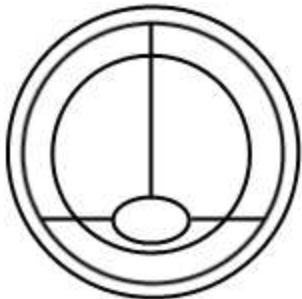
Examples: Venorəl [to travel]
ɛva [they (TL, dual)]



[M m]

“M” as in “mouse.”

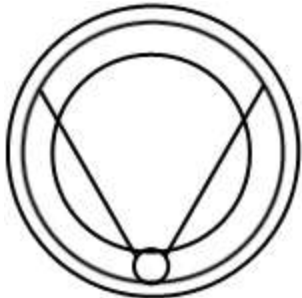
Examples: Məhju [spark]
Bələm [red]



[B b]

“B” as in “best.”

Examples: Bi [thirty-nine]
ɛb [he, she, it (non-TL)]



[ɛ ɛ]

“Eh” as in “bet.”

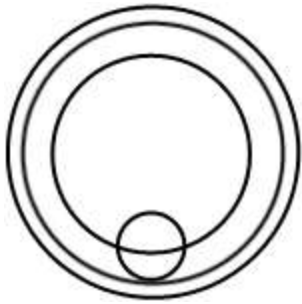
Examples: ɛnɛt [to love]
Fɛnɛm [music]



[ɹ ɹ]

“R” as in “rabbit.”

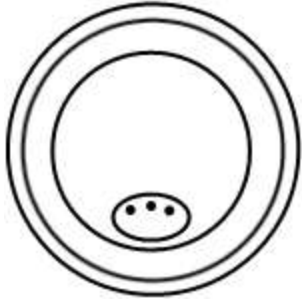
Examples: ɹorɪl [ethereal, insubstantial]
kolarɪ [to run]



[ʃ ʃ]

“Sh” as in “**sh**ave.”

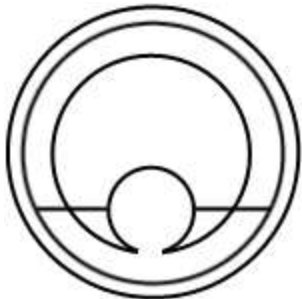
Examples: foʃi [there (at that time), then]
Uʃ [they (inan., pl.)]



[B' b']

“Bt” as in “**but**.”

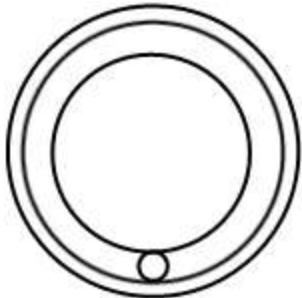
Example: B'z [to ask]



[Ṭ ṭ]

Spanish “t” with the tip of your tongue pressed to the roof of your mouth.

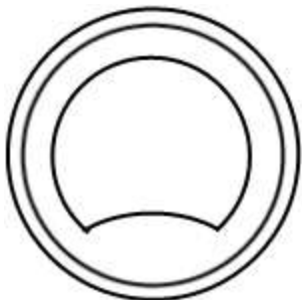
Example: Ṭoʔowəm [purple]



[I i]

“I” as in “p**o**lice.”

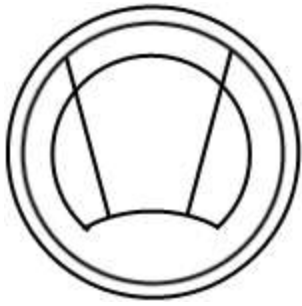
Examples: Iðin [Earth]
Gitejn [blue]



[T t]

“T” as in “**top**.”

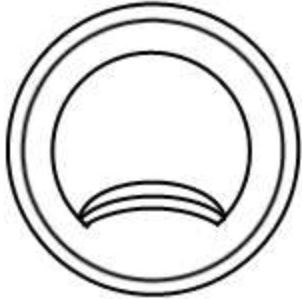
Examples: Talʔo [dead]
Vretʔk [awe]



[N n]

“N” as in “nose.”

Examples: Nonapik' [tragedy]
Jivəni [hill]



[S s]

“S” as in “safe.”

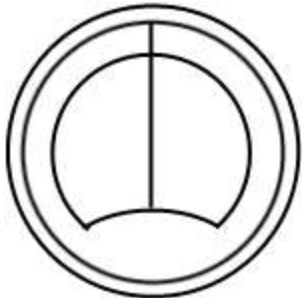
Examples: Səruz [lie]
Es [you (inf. dual)]



[R r]

Spanish, trilled “r.”

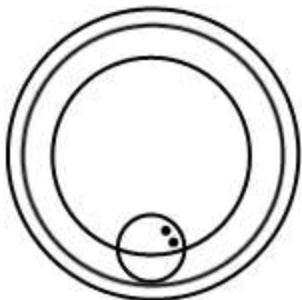
Examples: Riʃaɪ [ruler, one who rules]
Klori [kill]



[Z z]

“Z” as in “zoo.”

Examples: Zi [of]
Səkuz [zealous]



[ʒ ʒ]

“Zh” as in “vision.”

Examples: ʒun [to, toward]
ʃizɔʒ [vague]



[ç ɟ]

Like the “h” in “hue” but harder.

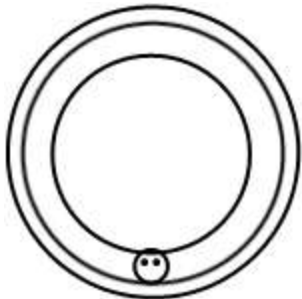
Examples: Çaf [agreeable]
Tfewmaçi [cloud]



[j]

“Y” as in “yellow.”

Examples: Jomi [to fly]
Alojudin [theater (place)]



[i]

“Ih” as in “little.”

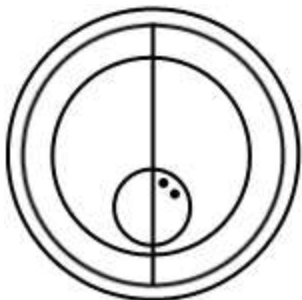
Examples: Ilirijo [sister]
evilin [clandestine]



[K k]

“K” as in “kite.”

Examples: Kelgo [courage]
Okok [there (place)]



[ʔ ʔ]

Glottal stop, like the pause in “uh-oh.”

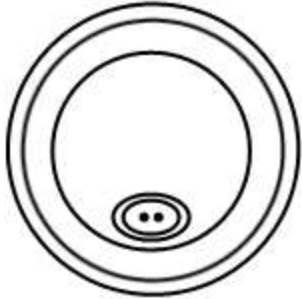
Example: ʃʔʃ [inebriation, inebriated]



[M m]

“Hw” like switching the letters of “**w**hat.”

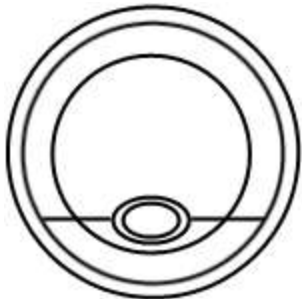
Example: Tmalemo [alone]



[K' k']

“Kt” as in “**a**ct.”

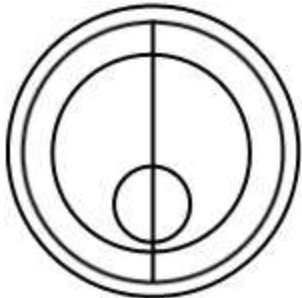
Examples: K'av [who]
Lepk' [contents, insides]



[G g]

“G” as in “**g**o.”

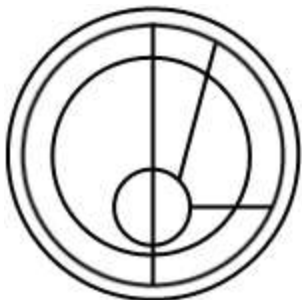
Examples: Gedzo [right (direction)]
Dodag [adult]



[H h]

“H” as in “**h**elp.”

Examples: Harnəpos [callipygian]
Mələha [untempered]



[W w]

“W” as in “**w**ell.”

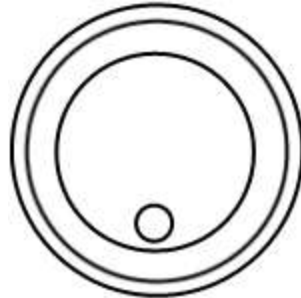
Example: Ma.how [to joke]

2. Help! I can't remember the pictograms!

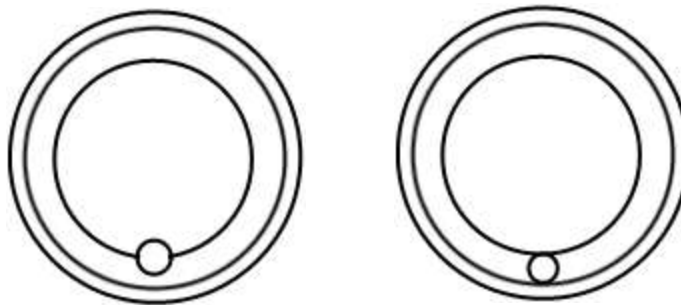
Yes, it's a big club; we should get T-shirts. Hehe, only joking. Well, sort of. Anyway, it can be a bit frustrating trying to remember the subtle differences, but keep at it. Here are a few things to maybe help you out.

2.1 Consonants vs. Vowels

All vowels (save for "j") are formed by a little circle (officially called a "meteor" if you want to get all technical).



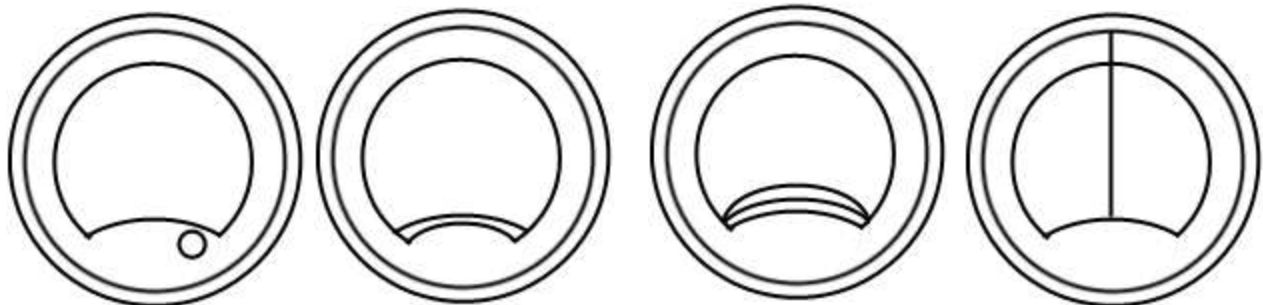
This is the letter "u." It is a nice little circle. As I mentioned, all vowels are a mere variation of this circle. They may be inside the larger circle, like the "u", on the line as in "ə" or outside like "i."



So, if you find yourself stuck at a letter, ask yourself if it is one of these circles. If so, it's a vowel.

2.2 Unique Letters

There are four letters that have no confusing equal. They are "t," "l," "s," and "z."



“ſ” is the only letter that has a little circle (not a vowel!!!) beneath the slight bendy line.



“L” is the only letter to have exactly two bendy lines.



“S” is the only letter to have three bendy lines.



Finally, “Z” is the only letter to have only one stem coming off the bendy line.

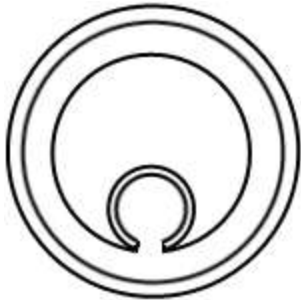


2.3 Singling Out Groups

Unfortunately, doing such a thing for all letters would be called memorization, and memorizing all the nuances is a pain. But never fear, for there is more than one way to remember the letters. Some of the ways involve picking out unique groups.

2.3.1 “F” and “V”

Similar to the section above, it is important to note that “f” and “v” can also be set aside, as they are the only letters that are double “unclosed” circles.

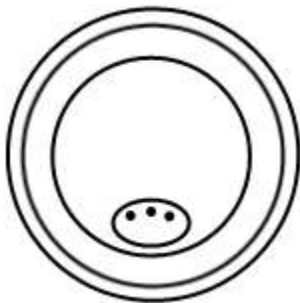


You might differentiate them by thinking of the two dots of the “v” pictogram as the two outer points of the Latin letter itself.



2.3.2 “B” and “R”

Another group that can be singled out is “b” and “r” as they are the only letters with three dots.

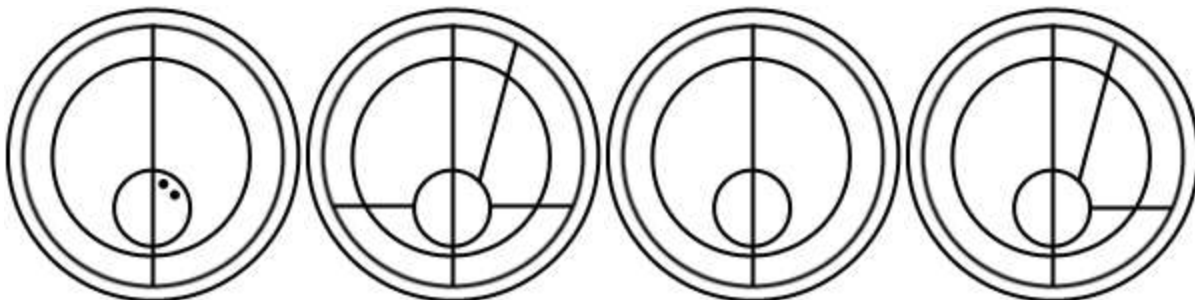


You could separate them by noting that the circle of “b” is closed, as are all loops in “B” and “b” whereas the “r” is open, like how “r” is open.



2.3.3 The “Half-Pie” Group

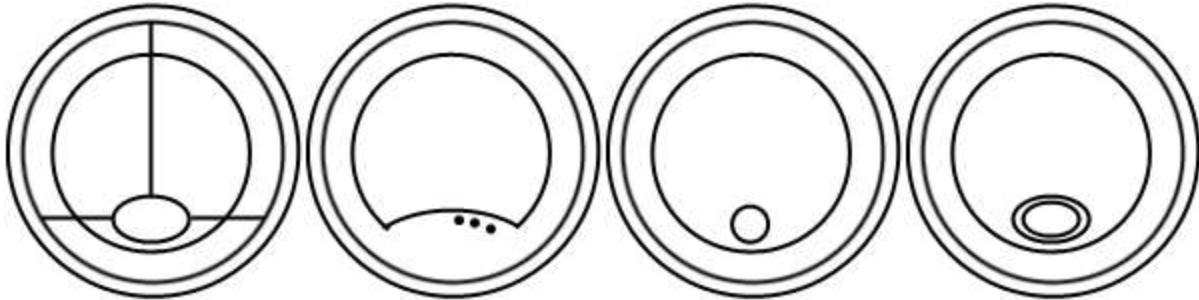
The Half-Pie Group involves the four letters whose bare drawn forms are circles cut in half. These letters are “i,” “m,” “h,” and “w.”



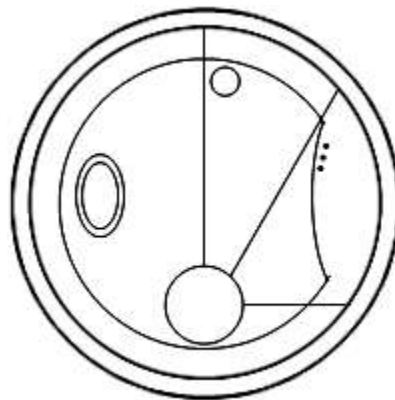
And how do you break this down? Well, you could say that the “i” symbol itself looks like a question mark, and the pictogram has dots like an actual question mark. You might also say that if the picture has stems (but not the center line), it’s either “w” or “m.”

2.3.4 Names

One way I started remembering the pictures is by using them in my name and others' names. Even if I didn't remember each symbol, I knew the bigger picture and could examine each sound until I could remember.



Strictly speaking, this is my name, with all the letters separated. Can you guess what my name is? When properly done, my written name looks like this:

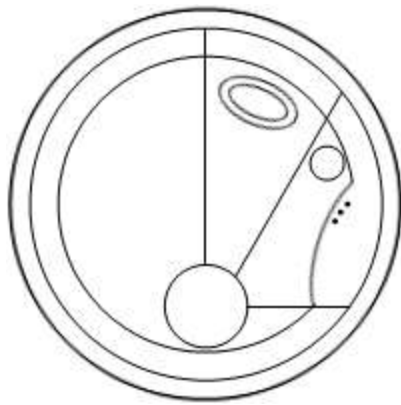


Writing out your name, in individual pictures or the proper way, is a great way to practice remembering the symbols. Do your name, your mom's name, your dad, siblings, spouse, children, pets, the kid down the street.

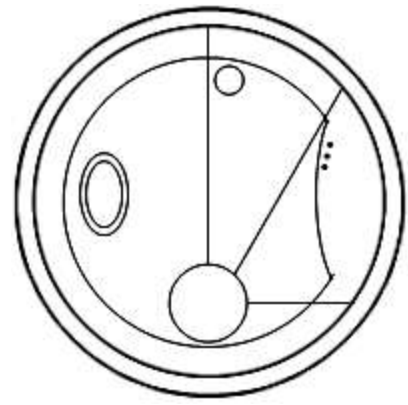
If you think of any way to give a specific picture a specific example of mnemonic device (a creative way to remember something, similar but not limited to the sections above), let us know and it may appear in this book! But know that while it can make learning much easier, there is still a bit of memorization involved.

3. The Writing System

As you will note above, single letters differ greatly from written words. Words are read from the very bottom and then counterclockwise. The good thing is that they are all written around a circle, which never changes. The most difficult thing about the writing (I think) is spacing. All the letters have to be evenly spaced; you cannot have four letters crunched up one side and leave the rest bare.



←Wrong



Right →

Another benefit of using names to write your first Gallifreyan words is that you eventually reach a point where you can just recognize letters no matter their position. In other words, instead of examining the shapes and if there are stems or dots and how many and so on and so forth, you are actually *reading*.

But that is not for this book; that is for another time. And I hope to see you there as well one day.

Have a nice day.

Stranger-Come-Knocking