

The Font Collection Sumerian3D

by Carsten Peust





















Introduction

Cuneiform is a three-dimensional script. The wedges are impressed into clay tablets and often overlap one another. All previous cuneiform fonts have rendered the wedges as simple black shapes and do not give a good impression of what authentic cuneiform signs actually look like. The present TrueType fonts for Windows attempt to reflect the three-dimensional appearance of original cuneiform signs as closely as possible.

The fonts have been designed for laying out Sumerian texts and are modelled on the sign shapes current in the Gudea and Ur III periods (around 2000 BC). The characters are distributed over subfonts distinguished by index numbers (Sumerian3D_1.ttf, Sumerian3D_2.ttf, etc.). Out of the theoretically possible 255 characters per font, only 109 have been used, namely those which can be easily typed on most western keyboards. All characters needed are directly available on familiar English, German, French, Spanish and many additional keyboards (but note that for English keyboards on Windows operating systems, the option "US International Keyboard" should be enabled to activate the functionality of the right Alt key). Only on some more exotic keyboards, a few characters cannot be typed. Most text editors have a function "Insert Symbol" or the like which can be used in that case.

In the present version, three fonts are provided that cover 327 characters altogether. The first font (Sumerian3D_1.ttf) contains 109 signs of particularly high frequency and should suffice for typing most of the characters in a running text. 109 more glyphs each are provided in Sumerian3D_2.ttf and Sumerian3D_3.ttf.

Character overview Sumerian3D_1.ttf

key	cuneiform sign	transliteration	'		ITI	.		LU ₂
!		KAL	(		EN	/		ŠE
"		UD	)		NIN	0		UN
#		GAL ₂	*		AN	1		DIŠ
\$		ŠU	+		IZ	2		MIN
%		ŠA ₃	,		KID	3		EŠ ₅
&		SAG	-		LA ₂	4		GU ₄

5		IA ₂
6		AŠ ₃
7		IMIN
8		USSU
9		ILIMM U
:		LUGAL
;		ŠE ₃
<		TUR
=		NAM
>		GAL
?		GAN
@		DUB
A		A ₂
B		BI
C		KU
D		DI
E		IM
F		NE
G		GI
H		HI

I		IN
J		IGI
K		KI
L		LI
M		MI
N		NI
O		GU
P		PI
Q		GA ₂
R		RI
S		SI
T		TI
U		U ₂
V		NU
W		TU
X		SU
Y		RU
Z		ZI
[		AD
\		TE

]		AMA
^		GL ₄
_		NIG ₂
`		IB ₂
a		A
b		BA
c		HU
d		DA
e		E
f		ME
g		GA
h		HA
i		I
j		ŠA
k		KA
l		LA
m		MA
n		NA
o		BU
p		PA

q		SILA ₃
r		RA
s		SA
t		TA
u		U
v		MU
w		DU
x		ZU
y		LU
z		ZA

{		UŠ
}		MUNUS
~		UR
°		DIGIR+EN
à		AB
â		MAN
ä		MAH
è		AG
é		E ₂
ê		EŠ

ì		AL
î		NIMIN
ò		AR
ô		NINNU
ö		DU ₃
ù		U ₃
û		MAŠ
ü		KU ₃
€		TUG

Character overview Sumerian3D_2.ttf

key	cuneiform sign	transliteration
!		DAR
"		NUMUN
#		URU
\$		NIM
%		KALAM
&		AB ₂
'		NUN



























(		ARAD
)		ARAD ₂
*		SA ₆
+		ŠU+NIGIN ₂
,		UB
-		HUŠ
.		LUM
/		TUG ₂

0		GAN ₂
1		AŠ
2		MIN ₅
3		EŠ ₆
4		LIMMU ₂
5		IA ₇
6		AŠ ₄
7		IMIN ₂



























8		USSU ₂
9		ILIMMU ₂
:		MAŠ ₂
;		AM
<		SIKI
=		APIN
>		EREN
?		BUR
@		SAR
A		ANŠE
B		BAR
C		SIG ₅
D		DAM
E		EL
F		ME ₃
G		GU ₂
H		HUL ₂
I		INNIN
J		EDIN
K		KAM

L		LUH
M		UM
N		NINA
O		UR ₃
P		ZU+AB
Q		KIN
R		ENGUR
S		SUD
T		TAG
U		BULUG ₃
V		GIN ₂
W		GIR ₂
X		ŠEŠ+KI
Y		ŠIR
Z		ALAM
[		U ₈
\		KU ₄ (REC56)
]		UZ ₃
^		SIG ₄
—		SIG

`		KAŠ ₄
a		AMAR
b		BAL
c		ŠIM
d		DIB
e		DU ₆
f		ERIM
g		GIM
h		HAR
i		IL ₂
j		IR
k		KUR
l		LAGAB
m		MA ₂
n		NIR
o		UR ₂
p		LAM
q		AG ₂
r		BAD
s		SUM

t		TAR	~		MUŠ	î		AŠ ₂
u		UL	°		KA ₂	ò		MAR
v		TUM ₃	à		GAB	ô		BANLI MMU
w		UG	â		NIMIN ₃	ö		ŠANABI
x		ŠEŠ	ä		ŠUŠAN A	ù		EZEN
y		PAB	è		GUR	û		BANIA
z		NA ₂	é		DE ₂	ü		KINGUS ILI
{		KAB	ê		NIEŠ	€		SILA ₄
}		ZAG	ì		KAR ₂			

Character overview Sumerian3D_3.ttf

key	cuneiform sign	translit- eration	)		LA ₂ +AŠ	2		TAB(var .)
!		DIM	*		MUL	3		EŠ ₂₃
"		MIR	+		URUDU	4		LIMMU ₂ (var.)
#		KASKA L	,		ŠAR+U GUNU ₂	5		IA ₉ (var.)
\$		AŠGAB	-		GARAD IN ₉	6		LX
%		BUR ₂	.		ŠAR+U	7		LXX
&		LAL ₃	/		IŠ	8		LXXX
'		UR ₄	0		DIŠ+U	9		LXXXX
(		LA ₂ +DI Š	1		AŠ ₁₁	:		LAGAR

;		TUR ₃
<		LA ₂ +MI N
=		TAB
>		LA ₂ +MI N ₅
?		URI
@		ŠEN
A		GIR ₃
B		BARA ₂
C		SUG
D		GEŠTIN
E		DUB ₂
F		BIL ₂
G		GIGIR
H		GIL
I		IDIGNA
J		KUN
K		GU ₇
L		ŠUD ₃
M		MUG
N		NAGAR

O		ŠITA ₂
P		NIGIN
Q		MEN
R		ENME
S		GIR
T		GUL
U		UKKIN
V		DUL ₃
W		DUN ₄
X		HUB ₂
Y		BANŠU R
Z		AZ
[		LA ₂ +EŠ ₅
\		KU4(RE C145)
]		LA ₂ +LI MMU ₅
^		SUHUR
—		SUR
`		DAR ₃
a		ALIM
b		LUL

c		U ₅
d		DIN
e		IL
f		ŠUL
g		GAR ₃
h		HAL
i		IB
j		KUM
k		EME
l		PU ₃
m		MUN
n		NAG
o		ŠITA
p		PIRIG
q		GAZ
r		UŠ ₂
s		SISKUR
t		UNUG
u		UGUNU 2
v		TAH

be	2	r
bi	1	B
bil ₂	3	F
bu	1	o
bu ₃	3	l
bulug ₃	2	U
bur	2	?
bur ₂	3	%
da	1	d
dab	2	d
dag	3	ê
dagal	1]
dah	3	v
dam	2	D
dar	2	!
dar ₃	3	`
de ₂	2	é
de ₃	1	F
di	1	D
dib	2	d
digir	1	*
digir+en	1	°
dim	3	!
din	3	d
dir = si-a		
diš	1	l
diš+u	3	0
du	1	w
du ₃	1	ö
du ₆	2	e
du ₈	2	à
dub	1	@
dub ₂	3	E
dug ₃	1	H

dug ₄	1	k
dul ₃	3	V
dul ₄	3	W
dumu	1	<
dun	3	f
dun ₄	3	W
e	1	e
e ₁₁	2	e
e ₁₁ = du ₆ -du		
e ₂	1	é
e ₃ = ud-du		
ed ₂ = ud-du		
ed ₃	2	e
edin	2	J
el	2	E
eme	3	k
en	1	(
engar	2	=
engur	2	R
enme	3	R
ensi ₃ = enme-li		
eren	2	>
erim	2	f
erin	2	>
erin ₂	2	f
eš	1	ê
eš ₂	1	;
eš ₂₃	3	3
eš ₅	1	3
eš ₆	2	3
eše ₃	2	r
ešemin ₅	3	x

ezen	2	ù
ga	1	g
ga ₂	1	Q
gab	2	à
gab ₂	2	{
gad	3	è
gag	1	ö
gal	1	>
gal ₂	1	#
gan	1	?
gan ₂	2	0
gar	1	–
gar ₂ = sa-ni		
gar ₃	3	g
garadin ₉	3	-
gaz	3	q
gazi	2	€
geme ₂	3	}
geštin	3	D
gi	1	G
gi ₂	1	,
gi ₄	1	^
gibil	3	F
gigir	3	G
gil	3	H
gim	2	g
gin	1	w
gin ₂	2	V
gir	3	S
gir ₂	2	W
gir ₃	3	A
giš	1	+
gišimmar	2	*
gu	1	O

gu ₂	2	G
gu ₄	1	4
gu ₇	3	K
gub	1	w
gub ₃	2	{
gug = za-gul		
gug ₂	3	ü
gul	3	T
gum	3	j
gun ₄	3	t
gur	2	è
gur ₄	2	l
gur ₈	3	ö
guz	2	.
ha	1	h
hab	2	l
hal	3	h
har	2	h
he ₂	1	?
hi	1	H
hu	1	c
hub ₂	3	X
hul = ši-ur		
hul ₂	2	H
hun	1	;
hur	2	h
huš	2	-
i	1	i
i ₃	1	N
ia ₂	1	5
ia ₄ = ni-ud		
ia ₇	2	5
ia ₉ (var.)	3	5

ib	3	i
ib ₂	1	`
id	1	A
id ₂ = a-engur		
idigna	3	I
ig	1	#
igi	1	J
iku	2	0
il	3	e
il ₂	2	i
ilimmu	1	9
ilimmu ₂	2	9
im	1	E
imin	1	7
imin ₂	2	7
in	1	I
inanna	2	I
inim	1	k
innin	2	I
ir	2	j
ir ₃	2	(
iri	2	#
iš	3	/
iti	1	'
iz	1	+
ka	1	k
ka ₂	2	°
kab	2	{
kal	1	!
kalam	2	%
kam	2	K
kar = te-a	3	
kar ₂	2	ì
karadin ₉	3	-

kaskal	3	#
kaš ₄	2	`
ke ₄	1	,
keš ₂	3	ù
ki	1	K
kid	1	,
kid ₂	3	{
kil	2	l
kin	2	Q
kingusili	2	ü
kisal	3	é
kišib ₃	1	@
ku	1	C
ku ₂	3	K
ku ₃	1	ü
ku ₄ (REC145)	3	\
ku ₄ (REC56)	2	\
ku ₅	2	t
kud	2	t
kug	1	ü
kum	3	j
kun	3	J
kur	2	k
kur ₂	2	y
la	1	l
la ₂	1	-
la ₂ +aš	3)
la ₂ +diš	3	(
la ₂ +eš ₅	3	[
la ₂ +limmu ₅	3]
la ₂ +min	3	<
la ₂ +min ₅	3	>
lagab	2	l
lagar	3	:

lah ₄	3	w
lal	1	-
lal ₃	3	&
lam	2	p
li	1	L
libir = igi-še ₃		
lid	2	&
lil ₂	1	,
limmu ₂	2	4
limmu ₂ (var.)	3	4
limmu ₅	1	z
lu	1	y
lu ₂	1	.
lugal	1	:
luh	2	L
lul	3	b
lum	2	.
lunga ₃	3	ì
LX	3	6
LXX	3	7
LXXX	3	8
LXXXX	3	9
ma	1	m
ma ₂	2	m
mah	1	ä
man	1	â
mar	2	ò
maš	1	û
maš ₂	2	:
me	1	f
me ₃	2	F
men	3	Q
mes	3	â
mi	1	M

mi ₂	1	}
min	1	2
min ₅	2	2
mir	3	"
mu	1	v
mu ₂	2	@
mug	3	M
mul	3	*
mun	3	m
munus	1	}
mur	2	h
mur ₇	2	^
murgu	2	^
muš	2	~
muš ₃	2	I
mušen	1	c
na	1	n
na ₂	2	z
na ₄ = ni-ud		
nag	3	n
naga	3	î
nagar	3	N
nam	1	=
nanše	2	N
nar	3	b
ne	1	F
ni	1	N
ni ₃	1	—
nieš	2	ê
nig ₂	1	—
nigin	3	P
nigin ₂	2	l
nim	2	\$
nimgir	3	"

nimin	1	î
nimin ₃	2	â
nin	1)
nin ₉ = munus-ku		
nina	2	N
ninda	1	–
ninda ₂	3	y
ninnu	1	ô
nir	2	n
niš	1	â
nita	1	{
nita ₂	2	(
nu	1	V
nu ₂	2	z
num ₂	2	.
numun	2	"
nun	2	'
nunuz	3	°
pa	1	p
pa ₃ = ši-ru		
pab	2	y
pad ₃ = ši-ru		
par ₃	3	ê
peš	3	S
pi	1	P
pirig	3	p
pirig ₃	2	w
piš	3	S
pu	1	o
pu ₃	3	l
qa	1	q
ra	1	r
ra ₂	1	w
ri	1	R

ru	1	Y
sa	1	s
sa ₂	1	D
sa ₄ = hu-na ₂ ~ na ₂ -hu		
sa ₆	2	*
sag	1	&
sal	1	}
sar	2	@
si	1	S
sig	2	–
sig ₂	2	<
sig ₄	2	^
sig ₅	2	C
sig ₆	2	*
sig ₇	3	€
siki	2	<
sikil	2	E
sila ₃	1	q
sila ₄	2	€
silig ₅	3	Y
sim	1	=
sipa = pa-lu		
sir ₃	2	ù
siskur	3	s
su	1	X
su ₃	2	S
su ₈	3	w
sud	2	S
sug	3	C
suhur	3	^
sukkal	2	L
sul	3	f
sum	2	s

sun ₂	3	T
sur	3	–
ša	1	j
ša ₃	1	%
ša ₆	2	*
šam ₂	3	z
šanabi	2	ö
šar+u	3	.
šar+ugunu ₂	3	,
šar ₂	1	H
še	1	/
še ₃	1	;
šen	3	@
šeš	2	x
šeš+ki	2	X
ši	1	J
šilig ₅	3	Y
šim	2	c
šir	2	Y
šir ₃	2	ù
šita	3	o
šita ₂	3	O
šu	1	\$
šu+nigin ₂	2	+
šud ₃	3	L
šul	3	f
šum	2	T
šur	3	–
šušana	2	ä
ta	1	t
tab	3	=
tab(var.)	3	2
tag	2	T
tag ₄	3	{
tah	3	v

tar	2	t
te	1	\
ti	1	T
tim	3	!
tin	3	d
tir = še-nir		
tu	1	W
tug	1	€
tug ₂	2	/
tuku	1	€
tum	1	`
tum ₃	2	v
tun ₃	2	V
tur	1	<
tur ₃	3	;
tuš	1	C
u	1	u
u ₂	1	U
u ₃	1	ù
u ₄	1	"
u ₅	3	c
u ₆ = ši-e	3	
u ₈	2	[
ub	2	,
ud	1	"
ud ₅	2]
udu	1	y
ug	2	w
ug ₃	1	0
ugunu ₂	3	u
ukkin	3	U
ul	2	u
um	2	M
un	1	0

unken	3	U	uru	2	#	uš ₂	3	r	za ₃	2	}
unug	3	t	uru ₄	2	=	uš ₂ also = be			zadim	3	M
ur	1	~	uru ₅	3	ö	ušu ₃	1	ê	zag	2	}
ur also = pirig			uru ₁₈	3	ä	uz = še-hu			zalag ₂	2	f
ur ₂	2	o	urudu	3	+	uz ₃	2	]	zi	1	Z
ur ₃	2	O	ussu	1	8	uz ₅	2	[	zi ₃	1	;
ur ₄	3	'	ussu ₂	2	8	za	1	z	zu	1	x
uri	3	?	uš	1	{	za ₂ = ni-ud			zu+ab	2	P

Version history

General policy: Signs may be added and sign forms may be modified/ corrected in future versions. Signs available in older versions will not be moved to different keys in future versions.

Version 1 released on 12 Oct 2006: 218 signs in two TrueType fonts for Windows.

Version 2 released on 8 Dec 2006: Numerous corrections, particularly corrections of wedge sequences following W. Sallaberger in F. Ismail et al., *Administrative Documents from Tell Beydar* (Subartu 2), Brepols 1996, p. 33ff.

Version 3 released on 17 Jan 2007: Third font added, now 327 signs altogether; sign forms corrected.

Copyright

These fonts are freeware and can be used and distributed without costs. It is not allowed to modify and/ or rename the fonts without permission by the author.

© Carsten Peust, 2006-2007