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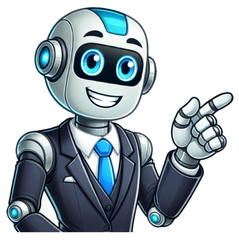

views updated May 29 2018S, s [Called ‘ess’]. The 19th LETTER of the Roman ALPHABET as used for English. It originated as the Phoenician symbol for a voiceless sibilant. The Greeks adopted it as the letter sigma (Σ), with lower-case variants according to its position in a word: medial (σ) and final (ζ). The Etruscans and then the Romans further adapted the form to create S. A straightened lower-case variant (ſ), known as LONG S was used in script and (except in final position) in printing until the 18c.Sound values: voiceless and voiced (1) In English, the letter s represents a sibilant alveolar fricative, both voiceless /s/ and voiced /z/, that is sometimes palatalized. (2) Initial s is normally voiceless, and precedes vowels (sat, sail, set, seat, sit, site, soon, soil, south) and consonants (scare, skill, slip, smith, snip, sphere, spit, squeal, still, svelte, swing). (3) Final s in monosyllables is voiced in as, has, his, is, was, but not in gas, yes, this, nor in most accents after u: us, bus, pus, thus. Final double s is always voiceless: contrast his/hiss. (4) Certain common s-endings of Romance or GREEK origin are voiceless (-as as in atlas, -is as in cannabis, -os as in rhinoceros, -ous as in famous, -us as in terminus), but final -es is typically voiced (species, theses, Hercules). (5) The Romance prefix dis- varies, with voicing in disaster, disease but not in disagreeable, disgrace. (6) The Germanic prefix mis- never has voiced s: misadventure, mischance, misgovern, mishap, misspell. (7) Between vowels, s is normally voiced: bosom, busy, cousin, easy, feasible, hesitate, misery, peasant, poison, position, present, prison, reason, rosy, visit, weasel (contrast admissible, blossom, gossip, lesson, possible). (8) Intervocalic s is voiceless in basin, mason, sausage (derived from earlier French c: compare Modern FRENCH bassin, maçon, saucisse), and usually also in -osity (curiosity, luminosity). (9) Greek-derived words commonly have voiceless medial s: analysis, asylum, basalt, crisis, dose, episode, thesis (but not music, physics). (10) After medial consonants s is usually voiceless: balsam, arsenal, gipsy but note clumsy, crimson, damsel. There is variation after n: answer, ransom, but Kansas, pansy. It is usually voiceless before voiceless medial consonants (asphalt, basket, hospital, sister, whistle), but otherwise voiced (husband, wisdom, muslin, spasm, dismal).-CE, -SE, -ZE. (1) A final e sometimes distinguishes voiced and voiceless s (tens/tense), but the distinction is rarely reliable (contrast chase/phase) compared with voiceless -ce (hens/hence, advise/advice) and voiced -ze (dose/doze). Lens is unusual: a voiced singular without final e. The cluster -nse usually has voiceless s as in tense/dense, but note cleanse. The ambiguity of -se is not removed by contrasting forms with -ce, -ze: since/rinse both have voiceless /s/, while fleece/freeze are distinct. The dominant pattern of voiced or voiceless -se varies according to preceding vowel, but uncertainty is high after the long e-sound, as in lease/please, geese/cheese. (2) The pronunciation of grease (noun and verb) varies from accent to accent: /s/ in RP, /z/ commonly in ScoE, and regionally varied in AmE. (3) In lose/loose it is the consonant sounds that differ but the vowel spellings that vary. (4) Some words vary /s, z/ according to grammatical category, as in close (adjective and verb) and house, use (noun and verb) (closest/closed, house/houses/housed and useful/useable), sometimes using c for the voiceless alternative or z for the voiced, as in advise/advice, glass/glaze. (5) AmE sometimes prefers -se for BrE -ce: AmE defense, offense, pretense, practise, license, vise (the tool), BrE defence, offence, pretence, practice, licence, vice. (6) Erase, eraser, erasure are normally voiced in BrE but voiceless in AmE.Palatalized S (1) Before i or u, there are some common patterns of palatalization, with s pronounced sh, or, if voiced, zh. This arises by assimilation of a following y- sound, represented either by i or by u pronounced with an initial y-sound, as in puce, pure. Sometimes assimilation is incomplete, with s kept unpalatalized in careful speech: for example, /s/ in issue and /z/ in casual. Conversely, palatalization is sometimes extended to words like assume (‘ashoom’). (2) Initial palatalized s is confined to sugar, sure (and the derivatives assurance, insurance), but palatalization is common before final unstressed vowels: geographical terms such as Asia, Persia are heard with both voiced and voiceless palatalized s. (3) Before final -ion, s is palatalized and voiceless after l or n (impulsion, tension), but has optional voicing after r (version, immersion, but not torsion), and regular voicing after vowels (invasion, lesion, vision, erosion, fusion). (4) Voiceless palatalized s after vowels is doubled: passion, session, mission, concussion: compare Russian, but unpalatalized ss in hessian. (5) Other endings preceded by palatalized s are -ual, -ure, voiced as in casual, visual, usual, measure, leisure, but voiceless in fissure, censure, tonsure, sensual. The list does not include -ial, before which the sibilant is written as c (facial) or t (spatial), for historical reasons.Silent S (1) Postvocalic s is often silent in French-derived words (isle, apropos, chamois, chassis, corps, debris, fracas, precis, viscount, Grosvenor, Illinois), or where inserted by false analogy with French: island, unrelated to isle (MIDDLE ENGLISH yland, etc.); aisle (compare French aile), which probably acquired its s by confusion with isle; demesne, cognate with domain. (2) Silent final s in French-derived words (corps, fracas) is often pronounced in the plural (two army corps, frequent fracas).Double S (1) Ss is normally voiceless (pass, assess, dismiss; message, passage, possible), but it is sometimes voiced in medial position (brassiere, dessert, dissolve, hussar, scissors, possess), and optionally in hussy. (2) In final position, ss typically occurs in monosyllables (press, miss, loss, fuss, pass), less often in polysyllables (compass, embarrass, morass), but commonly in the suffixes -less (hopeless) and -ness (kindness), derived from Germanic sources, and the suffix -ess (hostess, princess), derived from Romance sources. (3) The Latin prefix ad- becomes as- when assimilated to roots beginning with s: assault, assemble, assimilate, assume. (4) The prefixes dis-, mis- similarly produce ss when the following syllable begins with s (misspell, dissatisfy), but the s of dis- is assimilated into the digraph sh in dishevelled (formerly discheveled, etc.). (5) Some words optionally have double final s in their inflected forms: biased/biassed, buses/busses, focusing/focussing, gased/gassed. (6) Ss after a long vowel, as in bass, gross is rare, forms such as face, dose being more usual.SC and SCH. The letter s occurs frequently with various values in conjunction with c and ch: effervesce, schedule, scheme, scent, schism, schist. See C.SH. (1) The digraph sh represents a distinct English phoneme, a voiceless alveolar fricative /ʃ/, which mostly arose from palatalization of early s, whether in OLD ENGLISH or Old French. (2) Old English used sc rather than sh, ship being written scip, and sh only became general after c.1450, probably by analogy with other -h digraphs such as ch, th, wh. The evolution is demonstrated by such Old English and MIDDLE ENGLISH forms as Englisc, Englisch, Englissche, Englisshe. Nevertheless sh is most typically found in words of Old English origin: shadow, shall, shape, shed, ship, shoot, shot, shut, fish. (3) A French-derived palatalized s was frequently changed to sh as in abash, anguish, ashet, brush, bushel, cash, cushion, fashion, leash, parish, and verbs ending in -ish (abolish, famish, finish, punish).ST. (1) The sequence st is sometimes pronounced as /s/, ss/st having the same value in hassle/castle, and st having different values in whistle, pistol. (2) The /s/ value of st occurs mainly before -en (fasten, listen, moisten) and -le (castle, wrestle, thistle, jostle, rustle), although elision of /t/ before m in Christmas, postman has the same effect.Inflectional S (1) Final s is commonly an inflection, as in the plural of most nouns (year/years), the third-person singular of the present tense of most verbs (eat/eats, need/needs), and in possessive forms with apostrophe (my uncle's house). (2) Inflectional s is normally voiced, as after all vowels and voiced consonants (rays, skis, skies, rows, rues, bananas, purrs, paws, ploys, ploughs, ribs, rods, rugs, ridges, rolls, rims, runs, roars, races, roses, rushes, wreathes, arrives, boxes, razes), but not after voiceless non-sibilant consonants (tics, tiffs, treks, tips, cliques, sits, myths). (3) Possessive s is similarly voiced, as in the pronouns his, hers, ours, yours, theirs, whose, but not its after t, and is is similarly devoiced in the contraction it's. (4) The use of the possessive apostrophe raises uncertainties when a noun ends in s. Personal names ending in s may add only an apostrophe (Achilles'), but 's is also common (Achilles's), while in set phrases the apostrophe may be dropped (Achilles tendon). The OED gives various conventions in plant names, such as Venus's flytrap, Venus' hair, Venus looking-glass. Fowler has suggested using only an apostrophe before sake, producing for goodness' sake, and even for conscience's sake, but the practice is rare.Singulars and plurals (1) Noun plurals and verbs ending in a sibilant generally add -es: lenses, buzzes, masses, foxes, wishes, touches, witches. Riches, though a plural form, derives from singular French richesse. (2) Some names of diseases (mumps, measles) may be treated as plural, but pox (smallpox, chickenpox, etc.) functions as singular rather than as the plural of pock (its ultimate origin). (3) Forceps, gallows, and BrE innings may be singular or plural, although gallows was formerly plural. FOWLER'S Modern English Usage (1983) has recommended the plural gallowses if needed, and gives inningses as a BrE alternative to innings (compare AmE singular inning; plural innings, in baseball). (4) Tools with two arms (pincers, pliers, scissors, shears, tweezers) and garments with two legs (BrE pyjamas, AmE pajamas, shorts, tights, trousers) are grammatically plural, but semantically singular; plurality is expressed by preceding pair of, and -es is never added: no *scissorses. (5) Family names of WELSH provenance, such as Jones and Williams, add -es for their plural, but are sometimes written with an apostrophe even when not possessive: the Williams'. (6) PLURALS are widely misspelt as possessives: for example, the so-called greengrocer's APOSTROPHE: *6 apple's. (7) For the pattern half/halves, see F. (8) For plurals of words ending in o, as in potatoes, pianos, see O. (9) or changing y to ies, as in pony/ponies, see I.S/T variation. (1) Some variations of s and t have arisen in such related forms as pretension/pretentious, torsion/distortion. (2) S/t variation with corresponding changed pronunciation occurs in the endings -sis/-tic in sets of related words from Greek: analysis/analytic(al), neurosis/neurotic, psychosis/psychotic, synthesis/synthetic. (3) The -gloss/-glot variation in diglossia/glossary/glottal/polyglot derives from dialect differences in ancient Greek. (4) Different derivational paths have been followed from LATIN and/or French to English in the doublets poison/poion, reason/ration.-IZE, ISE. (1) Variation occurs between s and z in such words as organise/organize, systematise/systematize. Here the -ize ending reflects Greek origin, while -ise reflects the adaptation of some of these words during their passage through French, as in the verbs organiser, systématiser. (2) The -ise form is widespread in BrE and virtually universal in AusE, whereas the -ize form is universal in AmE, favoured in CanE, and is employed by some British publishers, such as Oxford University Press. (3) In BrE -ize is not used in some two dozen verbs based on Latin roots, such as advise, advertise, compromise, surprise. In verbs with base nouns in -lysis (analysis, paralysis), BrE has -lyse (analyse, paralyse) and AmE -lyze (analyze, paralyze).Lost letters (1) An initial s in the Latin roots of some words has been assimilated by the prefix ex-, but appears after other prefixes, as in exert/insert, exist/consist, expect/respect, expire/perspire, extinguish/distinguish, exult/result. S has been similarly assimilated in expatiate, exude. (2) X has assimilated s from the now archaic forms bucksome, cockscomb, pocks in present day buxom, coxcomb, pox. (3) Some words that now begin with s have lost a preceding vowel by aphesis, although it may survive in cognates: sample from example, squire from esquire, state from estate, story from history. See APHESIS, ESH, PALATE. views updated May 29 2018S1 / es/ (also s) • n. (pl. Ss or S's / esiz/) 1. the nineteenth letter of the alphabet. ▪ denoting the next after R in a set of items, categories, etc.2. a shape like that of a capital S: [in comb.] an S-bend. S2 • abbr. ▪ (chiefly in Catholic use) Saint: S Ignatius Loyola. ▪ siemens. ▪ small (as a clothes size). ▪ South or Southern: 65° S. ▪ Biochem. Svedberg unit(s).• symb. ▪ the chemical element sulfur. ▪ Chem. entropy. views updated May 23 2018S 19th letter of the English alphabet and a letter employed in the alphabets of other w European languages, It is descended from the Semitic letter sin or shin, a name meaning tooth, which had a sound somewhat like the modern English sh. The Greeks had various letters for sibilants, but after about 600 bc they used mainly sigma for s. The letter as we know it today achieved its final form after adoption into the Latin alphabet. In modern English, the two common pronunciations of s are voiced and unvoiced alveolar fricative consonants, as heard in his and hiss. In making the sound, the speaker lightly touches the upper toothridge with the blade or tip of the tongue, while the sides of it lightly touch the side teeth making a narrow passage to allow the escape of breath with or without voice. The combination of s and h represents in English another sibilant sound, as in show and wash. However, s alone has this sound in sure, sugar and (with i) mission, and can have the voiced pronunciation of the combination, as in division and treasure. This latter pair of sibilants are palato-alveolar fricative consonants. The sounds are made in a similar way to to those given above for ordinary s, but the front of the tongue is additionally raised toward the hard palate (roof of the mouth). In a few words, such as island and aisle, the s is not sounded at all. views updated May 23 2018s • abbr. ▪ second(s). ▪ Law section (of an act). ▪ shilling(s). ▪ Gram. singular. ▪ Chem. solid. ▪ (in genealogies) son(s). ▪ succeeded. ▪ Chem. denoting electrons and orbitals possessing zero angular momentum and total symmetry: s-electrons.• symb. (in mathematical formulae) distance. views updated May 23 2018s Physics, symbol for electron state l=0 (where l is orbital angular momentum quantum number)• (ital.) Chem., Physics, symbol for path length• symbol for second(s)• (ital.) Chem. secondary (isomer; as in s-butyl alcohol)• (ital.) Chem., symbol for sedimentation coefficient• Spectroscopy, symbol for singlet• Music soh (in tonic sol-fa)• Chem. solid (as in NaCl(s))• (ital.) Physics, symbol for specific entropy• (ital.) Physics, symbol for spin quantum number• Physics strange (a quark flavour)• Spectroscopy, symbol for strong absorption• (ital.) Chem. symmetric (as in s-dichloroethane) views updated Jun 11 2018's inf. • contr. of ▪ is: it's raining. ▪ has: she's gone. ▪ us: let's go. ▪ does: what's he do? views updated Jun 11 2018 views updated May 29 2018 views updated May 23 2018 views updated Jun 08 2018 See also: Appendix:Variations of "s" English Wikipedia has an article on:Wikipedia s (upper case S) The nineteenth letter of the basic modern Latin alphabet. Pronunciation of IPA [sːɑː, ɑsɑː] with the sound [s]: English Wikipedia has an article on:Voiceless alveolar fricativeWikipedia s Letter styles Uppercase and lowercase versions of S, in normal and italic type Uppercase (left) and lowercase (right) S in Fraktur. The middle character is (ſ), an archaic form of writing lower-case s in some positions. Other representations of S: (name of letter) IPA(key): /ɛs/ (phoneme): IPA(key): /s/, /ʃ/, /z/, /ʒ/ s (lower case, upper case S) Abbreviations. s s (Latin-script letters) letter; A a, B b, C c, D d, E e, F f, G g, H h, I i, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, V v, W w, X x, Y y, Z z s- -s -'s s The fourth letter of the Afar alphabet, written in the Latin script. (Latin-script letters) A a, B b, T t, S s, E e, C c, K k, X x, I i, D d, Q q, R r, F f, G g, O o, L l, M m, N n, U u, W w, H h, Y y From Middle High German daz, from Old High German daz, from Proto-Germanic *þat, from Proto-Indo-European *tód, nominative and accusative singular neuter of *só. Cognate with German das, Dutch dat, English that, Icelandic það. s n (definite) the 1978, Rolf Lyssy and Christa Maerker, Die Schweizermacher (transcript): Wüssed Si, Herr Bodmer, das isches, was ich so bewundere an de Schwitzer: Ire Humor. I jedere Situazion s’richtige Wort.You know, Mr Bodmer, that's what I admire about the Swiss – their humour. The right word for every situation. 2010, Pedro Lenz, Der Goalie bin ig:D Wohnig isch d Wohnig und ds Business isch ds Business.Accommodation is accommodation, and business is business. Masculine nominative/accusative singular de has the form der before a vowel, e.g. der alte Mann’ Dative plural de has the form den before a vowel, e.g. den alte Fraue ‘(to) the old women’ Feminine singular d and plural d have the variant di before an adjective, e.g. di jung Mueter ‘the young mother’ s lower case (upper case S) (Latin-script letters) hərf; A a, B b, C c, Ç ç, D d, E e, Ə ə, F f, G g, Ğ ğ, H h, X x, I ı, İ i, J j, K k, Q q, L l, M m, N n, O o, Ö ö, P p, R r, S s, Ş ş, T t, U u, Ü ü, V v, Y y, Z z IPA(key): /eʒe/, [e̞.se̞] s (lower case, upper case S) (Latin-script letters) A a, B b, C c (Ç ç), D d, E e, F f, G g, H h, I i, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, Ñ ñ, O o, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u (Ü ü), V v, W w, X x, Y y, Z z IPA(key): (Central, Balearic) ['e.sə] IPA(key): (Valencia) ['e.se], ['es] s (lower case, upper case S) (Latin-script letters) lletres; A a (À à), B b, C c (Ç ç), D d, E e (È é, È è), F f, G g, H h, I i (Í í, Ï ï), J j, K k, L l (L·L l·l), M m, N n, O o (Ò ó, Ò ò), P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u (Ú ú, Ü ü), V v, W w, X x, Y y, Z z s (upper case S) A letter of the Mazahua alphabet. (Latin-script letters) A a, Ꞓ ꞓ, Ą ą, B b, C c, C' c', Cj cj, Cu cu, C'u c'u, Cju cju, Ch ch, Ch' ch', Chj chj, D d, Dy dy, E e, Ɛ ɛ, Ę ę, G g, Gu gu, Hu hu, 'Hu 'hu, I i, Ị ị, J j, J' j', Jm jm, Jn jn, Jñ jñ, Ju ju, Jy jy, L l, M m, M' m', N n, N' n', Ñ ñ, N' ñ', O o, Ø ø, Ǫ ǫ, P p, Pj pj, R r, S s, T t, T' t', Tj tj, Ts ts, Ts' ts', Tsj tsj, U u, Ʊ ʊ, Ụ ụ, X x, Z z, Zh zh, ' Inherited from Old Czech s, se, from Proto-Slavic *sъ(n). s The more usual form is s, while se is used before words starting with s, z and certain consonant clusters. The use with genitive is dated and normally replaced by z, but it can sometimes be seen in older literature. Rhymes: -ɛs (letter name): IPA(key): /ɛs/ s (lower case, upper case S) The nineteenth letter of the Dutch alphabet, written in the Latin script. (Latin-script letters) letter; A a, B b, C c, D d, E e, F f, G g, H h, I i, IJ ij, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, V v, W w, X x, Y y, Z z (modern Egyptological) IPA(key): /sɛ/ Conventional anglicization: se m The object depicted in the hieroglyph . The meaning of this term is uncertain. Possibilities include: Declension of s (masculine) singular s dual swj plural sw m A vessel or container (made of gold) [18th dynasty] Declension of s (masculine) singular s dual swj plural sw m A type of waterfowl, perhaps the Eurasian teal (Anas crecca),[1] especially as an offering for the dead [Old Kingdom] Alternative form of sr (“type of goose”) Declension of s (masculine) singular s dual swj plural sw m f sg 3. enclitic (‘dependent’) pronoun Alternative form of sj (“she, her”) m sg 3. enclitic (‘dependent’) pronoun Alternative form of sw (“he, him”) [Middle and New Kingdom] s Alternative transliteration of z. ^ Berman, Lawrence M., Bohač, Kenneth J. (1999) The Cleveland Museum of Art Catalogue of Egyptian Art, New York: Hudson Hills Press, pages 140–141 (phoneme): IPA(key): /s/; before a voiced obstruent, IPA(key): /z/ s (lower case, upper case S) (Latin-script letters) litero; A a, B b, C c, Č č, D d, E e, F f, G g, Ǧ ǧ, H h, Ḫ ḫ, I i, J j, J̌ ǰ, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, P p, R r, S s, Š š, T t, U u, Ū ū, V v, Z z Estonian Wikipedia has an article on:Wikipedia et s (lower case, upper case S) s Abbreviation of sent; cent (Latin-script letters) täht; A a, B b (C c), D d, E e, F f, G g, H h, I i, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, P p (Q q), R r, S s, Š š, Z z, Ž ž, T t, U u, V v (W w), Õ õ, Ä ä, Ö ö, Ü ü (X x, Y y) s (upper case S) (Latin-script letters) bókstavur; A a, Á á, B b, Đ d, Đ đ, E e, F f, G g, H h, I i, Í í, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, Ó ó, P p, R r, S s, T t, U u, Ú ú, V v, Y y, Ý ý, Æ æ, Ø ø The Finnish orthography using the Latin script was based on those of Swedish, German and Latin, and was used in the mid-16th century. No earlier script is known. See the Wikipedia article on Finnish for more information, and s for information on the development of the glyph itself. s (lower case, upper case S) (Latin-script letters) kirjain; A a, B b, C c, D d, E e, F f, G g, H h, I i, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, P p, Q q, R r, S s (Š š), T t, U u, V v (W w), X x, Y y, Z z (Ž ž), Å å, Ä ä, Ö ö s (housing) Abbreviation of sauna (“sauna”). (letter name) IPA(key): /ɛs/ s (lower case, upper case S) The nineteenth letter of the French alphabet, written in the Latin script. (Latin-script letters) lettre; A a (À à, Â â, Æ æ), B b, C c (Ç ç), D d, E e (É é, È è, Ê ê, Ë ë), F f, G g, H h, I i (Î î, Ï ï), J j, K k, L l, M m, N n (Ñ ñ), O o (Ô ô, Œ œ), P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u (Ù ù, Û û, Ü ü), V v, W w, X x, Y y (Ŷ ŷ), Z z s (lower case, upper case S) A letter of the Fula alphabet, written in the Latin script. Common to all varieties of Fula (Fulfulde / Pulaar / Pular). (Latin-script letters) karfeeje; ', A a, B b, Mb mb, Ɓ ɓ, C c, D d, Nd nd, Ɗ ɗ, E e, F f, G g, Ng ng, Ǧ ǧ, H h, I i, J j, Nj nj, K k, L l, M m, Nn n, Ŋ ŋ, Ñ ñ, Ɲ ɲ, O o, P p, R r, S s, T t, U u, W w, Y y, Y y s IPA(key): [ˈʃ] Audio; “s” (conjunction): (conjunction): IPA(key): [ˈʃ] (letter name): IPA(key): [ˈɛʃː] s and (short variant of és (“and”)) s (Latin-script letters) betű; A a, Á á, B b, C c, Cs cs, D d, Dz dz, Dzs dzs, E e, É é, F f, G g, Gy gy, H h, I i, Í í, J j, K k, L l, Ly ly, M m, N n, Ny ny, O o, Ó ó, Ö ö, Ő ő, P p, R r, S s, Sz sz, T t, Ty ty, U u, Ú ú, Ü ü, Ű ű, V v, Z z, Zs zs. Only in the extended alphabet: Q q W w X x Y y. Commonly used: ch. Also defined: à è. In surnames (selection): ã aa cz ds eé eö ew oe oó th ts ž. (sound, letter, and abbreviation): s in Géza Bárczi, László Országh, et al., editors, A magyar nyelv értelmező szótára [The Explanatory Dictionary of the Hungarian Language] (ÉrtSz.), Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1959–1962. Fifth ed., 1992: →ISBN. (and): s in Géza Bárczi, László Országh, et al., editors, A magyar nyelv értelmező szótára [The Explanatory Dictionary of the Hungarian Language] (ÉrtSz.), Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1959–1962. Fifth ed., 1992: →ISBN. (disputed) U ᏎᏏᏏ VariationsfOtherAssociated graphss(x), sh, szWriting directionLeft-to-rightThis article contains phonetic transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). For an introductory guide on IPA symbols, see Help:IPA. For the distinction between [ ], / / and ( ), see IPA § Brackets and transcription delimiters. ISO basicLatin alphabet AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz vte S, or for lowercase, s, is the nineteenth letter of the Latin alphabet, used in the English alphabet, the alphabets of other western European languages and other latin alphabets worldwide. Its name in English is ess[a] (pronounced /ˈɛs/), plural esses.[1] Further information: Shin (letter), Sigma, San (letter), and Sho (letter) Proto-SinaiticShin PhoenicianShin Western GreekSigma EtruscanS LatinS Northwest Semitic šîn represented a voiceless postalveolar fricative /ʃ/ (as in 'ship'). It originated most likely as a pictogram of a tooth (שן) and represented the phoneme /ʃ/ via the acrophonic principle.[2] Ancient Greek did not have a /ʃ/ "sh" phoneme, so the derived Greek letter Sigma (Σ) came to represent the voiceless alveolar sibilant /s/. While the letter shape Σ continues Phoenician šîn, its name sigma is taken from the letter Samekh, while the shape and position of samekh but name of šîn is continued in the xi.[citation needed] Within Greek, the name of sigma was influenced by its association with the Greek word σίζω (earlier *sigj-), "to hiss". The original name of the letter "Sigma" may have been san, but due to the early history of the Greek epichoric alphabets, "san" came to be identified as a separate letter, Ϻ.[3] Herodotus reported that "san" was the name given by the Dorians to the same letter called "Sigma" by the Ionians.[4] The Western Greek alphabet used in Cumae was adopted by the Etruscans and Latins in the 7th century BC, and over the following centuries, it developed into a range of Old Italic alphabets, including the Etruscan alphabet and the early Latin alphabet. In Etruscan, the value /s/ of Greek sigma (ϲ) was maintained, while san (Ϻ) represented a separate phoneme, most likely /ʃ/ "sh" (transliterated as ś). The early Latin alphabet adopted sigma, but not san, as Old Latin did not have a /ʃ/ "sh" phoneme. The shape of Latin S arises from Greek Σ by dropping one out of the four strokes of that letter. The (angular) S-shape composed of three strokes existed as a variant of the four-stroke letter Σ already in the epigraphy of Western Greek alphabets, and the three and four strokes variants existed alongside one another in the classical Etruscan alphabet. In other Italic alphabets (Venetic, Lepontic), the letter could be represented as a zig-zagging line of any number between three and six strokes. The Italic letter was also adopted into Elder Futhark, as Sowilō (), and appears with four to eight strokes in the earliest runic inscriptions, but is occasionally reduced to three strokes () from the later 5th century, and appears regularly with three strokes in Younger Futhark. The ⟨sh⟩ digraph for English /ʃ/ arose in Middle English (alongside ⟨sch⟩), replacing the Old English ⟨sc⟩ digraph. Similarly, Old High German ⟨sc⟩ was replaced by ⟨sch⟩ in Early Modern High German orthography. Late medieval German script (Swabian bastarda, dated 1496) illustrating the use of long and round s: priefters tochter ("priest's daughter"). Main article: Long s The minuscule form ſ, called the long s, developed in the early medieval period, within the Visigothic and Carolingian hands, with predecessors in the half-uncial and cursive scripts of Late Antiquity. It remained standard in western writing throughout the medieval period and was adopted in early printing with movable types. It existed alongside minuscule "round" or "short" s, which were at the time only used at the end of words. In most Western orthographies, the ſ gradually fell out of use during the second half of the 18th century, although it remained in occasional use into the 19th century. In Spain, the change was mainly accomplished between 1760 and 1766. In France, the change occurred between 1782 and 1793. Printers in the United States stopped using the long s between 1795 and 1810. In English orthography, the London printer John Bell (1745–1831) pioneered the change. His edition of Shakespeare, in 1785, was advertised with the claim that he "ventured to depart from the common mode by rejecting the long 'ſ' in favor of the round one, as being less liable to error....."[5] The Times of London made the switch from the long to the short s with its issue of 10 September 1803. Encyclopædia Britannica's 5th edition, completed in 1817, was the last edition to use the long s. In German orthography, long s was retained in Fraktur (Schwabacher) type as well as in standard cursive (Sütterlin) well into the 20th century, until official use of that typeface was abolished in 1941.[6] The ligature of ſs (or ſz) was retained; however, it gave rise to the Eszett (ß) in contemporary German orthography. Pronunciation of ⟨s⟩ by language Orthography Phonemes Standard Chinese (Pinyin) /s/ English /s/, /z/, silent French /s/, /z/, silent German /z/, /s/, /ʃ/ Portuguese /s/, /z/ Spanish /s/ Turkish /s/ In English, ⟨s⟩ represents a voiceless alveolar sibilant /s/. It also commonly represents a voiced alveolar sibilant /z/, as in 'rose' and 'bands'. Due to yod-coalescence, it may also represent a voiceless palato-alveolar fricative /ʃ/, as in 'sugar', or a voiced palato-alveolar fricative /ʒ/, as in 'measure'. Final ⟨s⟩ is the usual form of plural nouns. It is the regular ending of English third person present tense verbs. In some words of French origin, ⟨s⟩ is silent, as in 'isle' or 'debris'. The letter ⟨s⟩ is the seventh most common letter in English and the third-most common consonant after ⟨t⟩ and ⟨n⟩.[7] It is the most common letter for the first letter of a word in the English language.[8][9] In German, ⟨s⟩ represents: A voiced alveolar sibilant /z/ before vowels (except after obstruents), as in 'sich'. A voiceless alveolar sibilant /s/ before consonants or when final, as in 'ist' and 'das'. A voiceless palato-alveolar fricative /ʃ/ before ⟨p, t⟩ at the beginning of a word or syllable, as in 'spät' and 'Stadt'. When doubled (⟨ss⟩), it represents a voiceless alveolar sibilant /s/, as in 'müssen'. In the digraph ⟨sch⟩, it represents a voiceless palato-alveolar fricative /ʃ/, as in 'schon'. In most languages that use the Latin alphabet, ⟨s⟩ represents the voiceless alveolar or voiceless dental sibilant /s/. In many Romance languages, it also represents the voiced alveolar or voiced dental sibilant /z/, as in Portuguese mesa (table). In Portuguese, it may represent the voiceless palato-alveolar fricative /ʃ/ in most dialects when syllable-final, and ⟨ʒ⟩ in European Portuguese Islão (Islam) or, in many sociolects of Brazilian Portuguese, esdrúxulo (proparoxytone). In some Andalusian dialects of Spanish, it may represent both Peninsular Spanish ⟨c⟩ and ⟨z⟩ and is now pronounced /θ/. In Hungarian, it represents /ʃ/. In Turkmen, it represents /θ/. In several Western Romance languages, like Spanish and French, the final ⟨s⟩ is the usual mark of plural nouns. In the International Phonetic Alphabet, ⟨s⟩ represents the voiceless alveolar sibilant /s/. Main article: S (disambiguation) Used in a chemical formula to represent sulfur. For example, SO2 is sulfur dioxide. Used in the preferred IUPAC name for a chemical to indicate a specific enantiomer. For example, "(S)-2-(4-Chloro-2-methylphenoxy)propanoic acid" is one of the enantiomers of mecoprop. ſ : Latin letter long s, an obsolete variant of s f ſ : Various forms of long s were used for medieval scribal abbreviations.[10] ß ß : German Eszett or "sharp S", derived from a ligature of long s followed by either s or z S with diacritics: Ś ś Ŝ ŝ ſ̣ Ṣ ṣ Ș ș Ṡ ṡ ẛ ẜ ẝ ẞ ß ẚ[11] ⱷ ⱷ[12] Ꞩ ꞩ Ꞧ ꞧ Ꞅ ꞅ Ꞅ Ꞅ ꞅ ꞅ Ꞇ Ꞇ ꞇ ꞇ[13] ꜱ[14] ˢ : Subscript small s was used in the Uralic Phonetic Alphabet prior to its formal standardization in 1902.[15] ˢ : Modifier letter small s is used for phonetic transcription. s : Small capital S was used in the Icelandic First Grammatical Treatise to mark gemination.[10] ʂ ʂ : S with hook, used for writing Mandarin Chinese using the early draft version of pinyin romanization during the mid-1950s[16] ƨ ƨ : Latin letter reversed S (used in Zhuang transliteration) : Latin small letter s with mid-height left hook was used by the British and Foreign Bible Society in the early 20th century for romanization of the Malayalam language.[17] IPA-specific symbols related to S: ʃ ʃ[citation needed] ʂ Para-IPA version of the IPA fricative ɕ:[18] ʿ ʾ : Insular S : Used in Middle Scots[19] : Latin letter Sigmoid S was used in medieval palaeography[20] A letter S in the coat of arms of Sortavala $: Dollar sign ₷ : Spesmilo § : Section sign ℠ : Service mark symbol ∫ : Integral symbol, short for summation (derived from long s) : Semitic letter Shin, from the following symbols originally derive: archaic Greek Sigma could be written with different numbers of angles and strokes. Besides the classical form with four strokes (), a three-stroke form resembling an angular Latin S () was commonly found, and was particularly characteristic of some mainland Greek varieties, including the Attic and several "red" alphabets. Σ: classical Greek letter Sigma C c: Greek lunate sigma : Coptic letter sima C c : Cyrillic letter Es, derived from a form of sigma ϩ : Old Italic letter S, includes the variants also found in the archaic Greek letter S: Latin letter S , , : Runic letter sowilo, which is derived from Old Italic S : Gothic letter sigil U : Armenian letter Se Character information Preview S s S s Unicode name LATIN CAPITAL LETTER S LATIN SMALL LETTER S FULLWIDTH LATIN CAPITAL LETTER S FULLWIDTH LATIN SMALL LETTER S Encodings decimal hex dec hex dec hex dec hex dec hex Unicode 83 U+0053 115 U+0073 65331 U+FF33 65363 U+FF53 UTF-8 83 53 115 73 239 188 179 EF BC B3 239 189 147 EF BD 93 Numeric character reference S S s s S S s s ASCII[b] 83 53 115 73 NATO phonetic Morse code Sierra ▪▪▪ Signal flag Flag semaphore American manual alphabet (ASL fingerspelling) British manual alphabet (BSL fingerspelling) Braille dots-234 Unified English Braille Cool S in Enclosed Alphanumerics ^ Spelled 'es'- in compound words ^ Also for encodings based on ASCII, including the DOS, Windows, ISO-8859 and Macintosh families of encodings. ^ "S", Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd edition (1989); Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged (1993); "ess," op. cit. ^ "corresponds etymologically (in part, at least) to original Semitic ṯ (th), which was pronounced s in South Canaanite" Albright, W. F., "The Early Alphabetic Inscriptions from Sinai and their Decipherment," Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research 110 (1948), p. 15. The interpretation as "tooth" is now prevalent, but not entirely certain. The Encyclopaedia Judaica of 1972 reported that the letter represented a "composite bow". ^ Woodard, Roger D. (2006). "Alphabet". In Wilson, Nigel Guy. Encyclopedia of ancient Greece. London: Routldedge. p. 38. ^ "...τὼυτὸ γράμμα, τὸ Δωριέες μὲν σὰν καλέουσι ,Ἴωνες δὲ σίγμα" ('...the same letter, which the Dorians call "San", but the Ionians "Sigma"...'; Herodotus, Histories 1.139); cf. Nick Nicholas, Non-Attic letters Archived 2012-06-28 at archive.today. ^ Stanley Morison, A Memoir of John Bell, 1745–1831 (1930, Cambridge Univ. Press) page 105; Daniel Berkeley Updike, Printing Types, Their History, Forms, and Use – a study in survivals (2nd. ed, 1951, Harvard University Press) page 293. ^ Order of 3 January 1941 to all public offices, signed by Martin Bormann. 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