

WOLOFAL ORTHOGRAPHY

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Wolofal

Wolofal is Wolof Ajami, that is, Wolof written in Arabic characters. Thus, Wolofal is written from right to left, following current Wolof word division rules. The Wolofal glyphs presented in this document conform to directives of the Senegal government *Direction de la promotion des langues nationales* (DPLN). In this document, Wolofal glyphs and examples employ the OpenType Harmattan.ttf font developed by SIL (<http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/>).

Wolofal Single Consonants

Consonants consist of a cursive glyph that may have a diacritical mark above or below. Each consonant has four forms: initial, medial, final and isolate. Consonant names derive from Arabic. Most consonants in a word are joined in a continual cursive style, with the exception of *dal* (د), *reh* (ر) and *waw* (و) which do not join to a following letter.

Wolof Glyph	Wolof Phoneme	Depre-cated	DPLN Glyph	Unicode Point	Arabic Name	Sample
b	/b/		بببب	U+0628	Beh	بَاخْ baax
c	/c/	چ	تتتت	U+0756	Cheh	تَابِ caabi
d	/d/		ددا د	U+062F	Dal	دَانُ daanu
f	/f/	ف	فففف	U+0641	Feh	فَارْ faar
g	/g/	گ	گگگگ	U+06AF	Gaf	گَالْ gaal
h	/h/		هههه	U+06BE	Heh	اَهْكَايْ ahakaay
j	/dʒ/		جججج	U+062C	Jeem	جَايْ jaay
k	/k/		کککک	U+0643	Kaf	كَانِ kaani
l	/l/		لللل	U+0644	Lam	لَجْ lajj
m	/m/		مممم	U+0645	Meem	مَامْ maam
n	/n/		نننن	U+0646	Noon	نَانْ naan

ñ	/ɲ/	ڃ	نين ن	U+0767	Ñoon	يَانُ ñaan
ŋ	/ŋ/	ڤ	تقعع	U+075D	Ŋoon	تَامُ ŋaam
p	/p/	پ	پيب پ	U+0752	Peh	پِپ pepp
q	/q/		ققق ق	U+0642	Qaf	نَقَرُ naqar
r	/r/		ر ر ر ر	U+0631	Reh	رَاشُ raas
s	/s/		سسس س	U+0633	Seen	سَنَتُ sant
t	/t/		تتت ت	U+062A	Teh	تَارُ taar
w	/w/		ووو و	U+0648	Waw	وَاوُ waaw
x	/x/		خخخ خ	U+062E	Khah	خَمُ xam
y	/j/		يبي ي	U+064A	Yeh	يَايُ yaay

Wolofal *Chadda* and *Sukkun*

These two diacritical marks appear over a consonant; they never appear together over a consonant.

Chadda (◌̣) indicates a released consonant. It appears in two cases: (1) over a geminated consonant, as in مَكَّ (màgg) and in مَكَّكْ (màggal), and (2) over the second consonant of a final, nasal consonant pair, as in سَنْتْ (sanc). When a consonant has a *chadda* and a vowel, the vowel appears either above the *chadda* or below the consonant. Although native Wolof speakers will sometimes voice a final released consonant, no vowel is written in Wolofal.

Sukkun (◌̣̣) indicates the absence of a vowel, as in جَخْ (jox) and in جَخْلْ (joxle). It only appears over an unreleased consonant, that is, over a consonant that is neither geminated nor the second of a final consonant pair.

Wolofal Unmarked Consonants

There are two cases in which a Wolofal consonant carries neither a vowel nor a *sukkun*.

- 1) When it is the prenasal consonant of a consonant pair, as in سَنْتْ (sanc) and in مَبَدْ (mbedd).
- 2) When it indicates a long vowel, as in بَالْ (baal) and in وَيَخْ (weex).

Wolofal Nasal Consonants

Wolofal nasal consonants consist of a consonant pair, a ‘prenasal’ *mem* (م) or *noon* (ن) followed by another consonant. A prenasal *noon* (ن) may be followed by *cheh* (ت), *dal* (د), *geh* (گ), *jeem* (ج), *kaf* (ك), *qaf* (ق) or *teh* (ت). A prenasal *mem* (م) may be followed *beh* (ب) or *peh* (پ). Nasal pairs may appear as either the first or last phoneme in a word, or inside a word before a suffix. Neither consonant in a nasal pair carries a *sukkun* (◌̣̣). When a nasal consonant pair occurs at the end of a word, the last letter carries a *chadda* (◌̣), indicating a release. Some Wolof speakers tend to hear a nasal consonant pair as one phoneme.

Wolof Glyphs	Deprecated	DPLN Glyphs	Sample
mb	ٲ	مبمبمب	مباز mbaar
mp		* مپمپ	سَمپ samp
nc		* نننن	سَنن sanc
nd	ڌ	ندندند	ندَو ndaw
ng	ڑ	نگنگنگ	نگ nga
nj	چ	نجنجنج	نَجول njool
nk		نکنکنگ	دَنگ dénk
nq		* نَقنق	جَنق janq

* Does not appear at the beginning of a word.

Wolofal Geminated Consonants

Geminated consonants occur at the end of a word or before a suffix. Native Wolof speakers pronounce geminated consonants about half again as long as a simple consonant. (Second-language Wolof speakers may lengthen a preceding vowel and employ a simple consonant.) In Wolofal, a geminated consonant carries a *chadda* (◌◌̣). A geminated consonant may also carry a vowel which appears above the *chadda*

or below itself. However a geminated consonant never carries a *sukkun* (◌◌̣̣). Native Wolof speakers

release a geminated consonant and may supply a slight vowel sound, often influenced by the first vowel in a following word; that vowel sound is not written in either Wolof or Wolofal.

Wolof Glyphs	DPLN Glyphs	Sample
-bb	بَب	مُبَب mbubb
-cc	تَت	مُت mucc
-dd	دَد	فَد fàdd
-gg	گَگَ	مُگَل màggal
-jj	جَج	مُج mujj
-kk	کَکَ	مُک muk
-ll	لَل	يَل Yàlla
-mm	مَم	جَم jàmm
-nn	نَن	بَن benn
- ññ	نِن	مِن meññ
- ŋŋ	نَن	دِن donŋ
-pp	پِپِ	لِپ lépp
-tt	تَت	لِت létt
-ww	وَو	فَو fàww

Wolofal Short Vowels

Wolofal short vowels appear as diacritical marks over or under a consonant. If its consonant has a *chadda* (◌◌̣), then a vowel may appear over the *chadda*. A vowel at the beginning of a word appears over or under an alif (|) as $\overset{\text{◌}}{|}$, $\overset{\text{◌}}{|}$, $\overset{\text{◌}}{|}$, $\underset{\text{◌}}{|}$, $\underset{\text{◌}}{|}$, $\underset{\text{◌}}{|}$, $\overset{\text{◌}}{|}$, $\overset{\text{◌}}{|}$. If a consonant has neither a vowel nor a *chadda*, then it may carry a *sukkun* (◌◌̣)

Wolof Glyph	Wolof Phoneme	Depre-cated	DPLN Glyph	Unicode Point	Sample
a	ɜ	—	◌◌̣	U+064E	مَكْ mag
à	a	◌◌̣	◌◌̣	U+065A	مَكَّ magg
ë	ə	—	◌◌̣	U+065E	بَت bët
e	ɛ	◌◌̣	◌◌̣	U+0655	كَيَّ kepp
é	e	◌◌̣	◌◌̣	U+0656	كَيَّ képp
i	i	—	◌◌̣	U+0650	إْتَم itam
o	ɔ	◌◌̣	◌◌̣	U+0654	سُق soq
ó	o	◌◌̣	◌◌̣	U+0657	نُب nób
u	u		◌◌̣	U+064F	دُكُب dugub

Wolofal Long Vowels

Long vowels in Wolofal are written as short vowels with a consonant following that has no vowel or diacritical mark. Thus, 'aa' is followed by alif (ا), 'ee', 'ée' or 'ii' is followed by yad (ي), and 'oo', 'óó' or 'uu' is followed by waw (و). There are two special cases. When a word begins with 'aa', this long vowel appear as 'Ā'. When *lam* (ل) is followed by 'aa', they appear as 'Ā'.

Wolof Glyphs	DPLN Glyphs	Sample
Aa	Ā	Āḍ aada
aa	ā	baaṭ baat
ee	ē	leeṇ leen
ée	ē	leeṇ leén
ëe	ē	ḍeeḷ ḍeel
ii	ī	ṇjiiṭ ṇjiit
oo	ō	wooṛ woor
óó	ō	wóoṛ wóor
uu	ū	buuṛ buur
laa	lā	laaḷ laal