

NAVLIPi USER GUIDE

NAVLIPi

NAVLIPi (see <https://navlipi.org/>) is a new (2012) **universal alphabet** (script) usable for ALL the world's languages.

Based on the Latin (Roman) alphabet, it uses the 26 letters of this alphabet as used for English, plus just 20 others, for a total of **45 letters**. (A few examples of the other letters are **ɿ**, **h_o**, **ɤ**, **ɲ** and **Ω**.)

NAVLIPi uses the Latin alphabet phonetically, much as in the original Latin and modern Spanish. It is a highly **phonetic** alphabet, with 1-to-1 correspondence of letters with sounds. NAVLIPi is pronounced exactly as it is written. NAVLIPi is very user-friendly.

NAVLIPi is also a **phonemic*** (*for definitions, see: [David- here please insert LINK to website's "ABCs" tab]) alphabet --- it claims to be the only world alphabet which encodes and shows *phonemic* information.

With its 45 letters, NAVLIPi accurately represents ALL the world's languages, including tonal ones like Mandarin and click languages of South Africa. NAVLIPi uses *no* accent marks. NAVLIPi *does* distinguish between lower and upper case (capital) letters. Compare to the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association (IPA), which has 174 letters, does *not* encode or show *phonemic* information, and is difficult to keyboard.

NAVLIPi also has a very simple keyboard. **Free keyboard Apps** are available for Android (phone/tablet, Google Play Store), iOS (iPhone/iPad, Apple Store), Windows PC and Apple Mac (<https://navlipi.org/>)

"Why NAVLIPi?!". Because without encoding *phonemic* info, it is difficult or impossible to write, say, Mandarin and English, or Hindi and Tamil, in the same alphabet.

NAVLIPi is starting to be used for documenting endangered languages, including in India and Australia, and as a bridge alphabet within the Indian linguistics community. It is also usable in Natural Language Processing and Computational Linguistics.

SOME BASICS OF NAVLIPi

- **Long vowels:** By reduplication. Thus (NAVLIPi letters in red bold):
 - short **i** (as in English *hit*), Hindi **ई**, long **ii** (English *heat* , Hindi **ई**);
 - short **u** (English *put* , Hindi **उ**); long **uu** (English *boot* , Hindi **ऊ**);
 - short **e** (English *pet*), long **ee** (English *fair*, vowel in Hindi **है**).
- **Some other common vowels:**
 - **a** (as in English *but*, Hindi **अ**).
 - **aa** (long vowel, English *father*, Hindi **आ**, Malayalam **അ**).
 - **aa_o** (short version of previous vowel, as used in many Dravidian languages, e.g. Malayalam **അ**).
 - **ɛ** (English *gray*, Hindi **ए**, Spanish *que*). Vs. **e** (English *pet*).
 - **ɟ** (inverted-c, English *Jack*).
 - **Ω** (English *ball*). Vs. **o** (English *gold*)
 - **q** (English *about*, 2nd vowel in Hindi **यन्त्र**).
 - **y** (French *tu*, German *über*).
- **Some common non-vowels:**
 - **j** (English *yes*, Hindi **य**).
 - **ɭ** (inverted-j, English *Jack* Hindi **ज**).
 - **c** (Spanish *chica* Hindi **च**).
 - **sh_φ** (English *shoot* Hindi **श**).
 - **zh_φ** (English *pleasure*).
 - **tt** (**t**-sound of English, West European (but not Spanish), languages, “alveolar”***).
 - **dt** (**d**-sound of English, West European (but not Spanish) languages, “alveolar”***).

- **t, th_o, d, dh_o, n, l** (Hindi/Marathi/Sanskrit ट, ठ, ड, ढ, ण, ञ, त, द- n-, l- and related sounds of Indian languages where the tongue is curled back—“retroflex”***, मूर्धन्य)).
- **Nasals:**
 - As tilde symbol (~); place *after* syllable being nasalized. Thus (NAVLIPi in red): Hindi हार् **haa~**; Portuguese Saõ **Saaõ~**.
- **Qualifiers placed after the letter they qualify:**
 - **h_o** indicates **aspiration** (extra breath, महाप्राण). So **k** (Hindi क) becomes **kh_o** (ख) etc.
 - **h_φ** indicates **fricativization***** (frictional or roughing or hissing sound, as in sssss, hhhhhh, fffffff). So (NAVLIPi in red): English (British/American pronunciation) *thin* **th_φ**in; *this* **dh_φ**is. (Respectively, dental consonants **t** and **d**, with *fricative**** qualifier **h_φ**, become **th_φ** and **dh_φ**.)
- **Examples of common phonemic*** renditions:**
 - **b[∞]** represents both **p** (unvoiced***) and **b** (voiced***) in Mandarin, since it can be pronounced as either, and substituting one for the other does not change the meaning of a word in common Mandarin (*pu* and *bu* both mean “no/not”).
 - **vw** represents both **v** and **w** sounds in Hindi and many other Indian languages, since substituting one for the other does not change the meaning of a word in these languages (*van* and *wan* both mean “forest” in Hindi).
 - **ph₈** for both the **f**, and the **ph_o** (aspirated-**p**) sounds in Hindi and many other languages; substituting one for the other does not change the meaning of a word in these languages (e.g. in Hindi, *fa*l and *ph_o*al both mean “fruit”).
- **Some other vowels:**
 - **r̥** Vowel (vocalic) r-sound of Indian and some Slavic languages (ऋ).
 - **oll** as in French *feuille*.

- **o/** German *schön*.
- **Some other non-vowels:**
 - **ṭ. ḍ. ṇ.** Respectively **ṭ. ḍ. ṇ.** of Hindi (“taps” or “flaps”, where the tongue is lightly tapped).
 - **ṭ** (Tamil **ṭ**, Malayalam **ṭ**, Latin transcription usually **zh**. Retroflex **l**-like sound.)
 - **x, ɣ** as in, respectively, Hindi **ख, ग**; and, respectively, German *doch*, Arabic **غريب** (*ḡariib*, voiced). (These are, respectively, unvoiced and voiced velar fricatives.)
- **TONES:** *Examples of transcription of tones (again with qualifiers or “tone marks” placed after the syllable they apply the tone to); shown, illustratively, for Mandarin only:*
 - **|** (**1st** Mandarin tone, high and level.)
 - **ˊ** (**2nd** Mandarin tone, rising.)
 - **ˋˊ** (**3rd** Mandarin tone, falling-rising.)
 - **ˋ** (**4th** Mandarin tone, falling.)
 - **Examples, Chinese-Simplified Transcription:**
 - **tth_ɸie| tth_ɸie| niiˊˊ** (谢谢你, “thank you”).
 - **choi| faanˋ** (吃饭, “eat a meal”).

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EXAMPLES OF MAJOR LANGUAGES TRANSCRIBED IN NAVLIPi

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MAJOR INDIAN ALPHABETS IN NAVLIPi

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SOME MORE DETAIL ON NAVLIPi

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EXAMPLES OF NEW AND BORROWED LETTERS USED IN NAVLIPi

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