B

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Second letter of the Latin alphabet This article is about the letter of the alphabet. For other uses, see B (disambiguation). Not to be confused with ß, ẞ, B, or Ve (Cyrillic). For technical reasons, "B#" redirects here. For B-sharp, see B♯. BB b(See below)UsageWriting systemLatin scriptEnglish alphabetISO basic Latin alphabetTypeAlphabeticLanguage of originLatin languagePhonetic usage [b][p][ɓ](Adapted variations)Unicode codepointU+0042, U+0062Alphabetical position2Numerical value: 2HistoryDevelopment B ꞵ B ƀTime periodunknown to presentDescendants ♭ƀꞵSisters БВᵬ(ﭒ ب ב)Variations(See below)OtherOther letters commonly used withbvbhbpbmbfAssociated numbers2This 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 B, or b, is the second letter of the Latin-script alphabet. Its name in English is bee (pronounced /ˈbiː/), plural bees.[1][2] It represents the voiced bilabial stop in many languages, including English. In some other languages, it is used to represent other bilabial consonants. History EgyptianPr Phoenician bēt Etruscan B Greek beta Latin B Old English was originally written in runes, whose equivalent letter was beorc ⟨ᛒ⟩, meaning "birch". Beorc dates to at least the 2nd-century Elder Futhark, which is now thought to have derived from the Old Italic alphabets' ⟨ᛒ⟩ either directly or via Latin ⟨B⟩. The uncial ⟨ƀ⟩ and half-uncial ⟨ƀ⟩ introduced by the Gregorian and Irish missions gradually developed into the Insular scripts' ⟨ƀ⟩. These Old English Latin alphabets supplanted the earlier runes, whose use was fully banned under King Canute in the early 11th century. The Norman Conquest popularised the Carolingian half-uncial forms which latter developed into blackletter ⟨𝔟⟩. Around 1300, letter case was increasingly distinguished, with upper- and lower-case B taking separate meanings. Following the advent of printing in the 15th century, Holy Roman Empire (Germany) and Scandinavia continued to use forms of blackletter (particularly Fraktur), while England eventually adopted the humanist and antiqua scripts developed in Renaissance Italy from a combination of Roman inscriptions and Carolingian texts. The present forms of the English cursive B were developed by the 17th century. Late Renaissance or early Baroque design of a B, from 1627 The Roman ⟨B⟩ derived from the Greek capital beta (Β) via its Etruscan and Cumaean variants. The Greek letter was an adaptation of the Phoenician letter bēt (𐤁).{} The Egyptian hieroglyph for the consonant /b/ had been an image of a foot and calf ⟨𓃀⟩,[4] but bēt (Phoenician for "house") was a modified form of a Proto-Sinaitic glyph ⟨𓉐⟩ probably adapted from the separate hieroglyph Pr ⟨𓉐⟩ meaning "house".[5][6] The Hebrew letter bet ⟨ב⟩ is a separate development of the Phoenician letter.[3] By Byzantine times, the Greek letter ⟨Β⟩ came to be pronounced /v/,[3] so that it is known in modern Greek as víta (still written βήτα). The Cyrillic letter ve ⟨В⟩ represents the same sound, so a modified form known as be ⟨Б⟩ was developed to represent the Slavic languages' /b/.[3] (Modern Greek continues to lack a letter for the voiced bilabial plosive and transliterates such sounds from other languages using the digraph/consonant cluster ⟨μπ⟩, mp.) Use in writing systems English In English, ⟨b⟩ denotes the voiced bilabial stop /b/, as in bib. In English, it is sometimes silent. This occurs particularly in words ending in ⟨mb⟩, such as lamb and bomb, some of which originally had a /b/ sound, while some had the letter ⟨b⟩ added by analogy (see Phonological history of English consonant clusters). The ⟨b⟩ in debt, doubt, subtle, and related words was added in the 16th century as an etymological spelling, intended to make the words more like their Latin originals (debitum, dubito, subtilis). A metal letter "B" with its homophone, a bee insect, standing on it As /b/ is one of the sounds subject to Grimm's Law, words which have ⟨b⟩ in English and other Germanic languages may find their cognates in other Indo-European languages appearing with ⟨bh⟩, ⟨p⟩, ⟨f⟩ or ⟨φ⟩ instead.[3] For example, compare the various cognates of the word brother. It is the seventh least frequently used letter in the English language (after V, K, J, X, Q, and Z), with a frequency of about 1.5% in words. Other languages Many other languages besides English use ⟨b⟩ to represent a voiced bilabial stop. In Estonian, Danish, Faroese, Icelandic, Scottish Gaelic and Mandarin Chinese Pinyin, ⟨b⟩ does not denote a voiced consonant. Instead, it represents a voiceless /p/ that contrasts with either a geminated /pː/ (in Estonian) or an aspirated /pʰ/ (in Danish, Faroese, Icelandic, Scottish Gaelic and Pinyin) represented by ⟨p⟩. In Fijian ⟨b⟩ represents a prenasalised /mb/, whereas in Zulu and Xhosa it represents an implosive /ɓ/, in contrast to the digraph ⟨bh⟩ which represents /bʰ/. Finnish uses ⟨b⟩ only in loanwords. Phonetic transcription In the International Phonetic Alphabet, [b] is used to represent the voiced bilabial stop phone. In phonological transcription systems for specific languages, /b/ may be used to represent a lenis phoneme, not necessarily voiced, that contrasts with fortis /p/ (which may have greater aspiration, tenseness or duration). Other uses Main article: B (disambiguation) B is also a musical note. In English-speaking countries, it represents Si, the 12th note of a chromatic scale built on C. In Central Europe and Scandinavia, "B" is used to denote B-flat and the 12th note of the chromatic scale is denoted "H". Archaic forms of 'b', the b quadratum (square b, ♿) and b rotundum (round b, ♭) are used in musical notation as the symbols for natural and flat, respectively. In Contracted (grade 2) English braille, 'b' stands for "but" when in isolation. In computer science, B is the symbol for byte, a unit of information storage. In engineering, B is the symbol for bel, a unit of level. In chemistry, B is the symbol for boron, a chemical element. The blood-type B emoji (🅱) was added in Unicode 6.0 in 2010, and became a popular internet meme in 2018 where letters would be replaced with the emoji.[7] Related characters Ancestors, descendants and siblings 𐤁 : Semitic letter Bet, from which the following symbols originally derive Β β : Greek letter Beta, from which Β derives 𐌁 Coptic letter Bēta, which derives from Greek Beta В в : Cyrillic letter Ve, which also derives from Beta Б б : Cyrillic letter Be, which also derives from Beta 𐌡 : A small capital B, used as the lowercase B in a number of alphabets during romanization ᛒ : Old Italic B, which derives from Greek Beta 𐍁 : Runic letter Berkanan, which probably derives from Old Italic B 𐌱 : Gothic letter bercna, which derives from Greek Beta IPA-specific symbols related to B: ɓ ʙ β B with diacritics: Ƀ ƀ Ɓ ɓ Ḃ ḃ Ḅ ḅ Ḇ ḇ Ƃ ƃ ᵬ[8] ᶀ[9] ᶁ ɸ : B with flourish ʙ ᴮ B b : Barred B and various modifier letters are used in the Uralic Phonetic Alphabet.[10] Б Б : B with topbar Derived ligatures, abbreviations, signs and symbols ƀ : U+2422 ƀ BLANK SYMBOL ฿ : Thai baht ฿ : Bitcoin ♭: The flat in music, mentioned above, still closely resembles lowercase b. Code points These are the code points for the forms of the letter in various systems Character information Preview B b Unicode name LATIN CAPITAL LETTER B LATIN SMALL LETTER B Encodings decimal hex dec hex Unicode 66 U+0042 98 U+0062 UTF-8 66 42 98 62 Numeric character reference B B b b EBCDIC family 194 C2 130 82 ASCII 1 66 42 98 62 1 Also for encodings based on ASCII, including the DOS, Windows, ISO-8859 and Macintosh families of encodings. Other representations NATO phonetic Morse code Bravo ▬ ■ ■ ■ Signal flag Flag semaphore American manual alphabet (ASL fingerspelling) British manual alphabet (BSL fingerspelling) Braille dots-12 Unified English Braille Use as a number In the hexadecimal (base 16) numbering system, B is a number that corresponds to the number 11 in decimal (base 10) counting. 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