

# Armenian Alphabet: Help to Distinguish the “Look-Alike” (confusing) 12 of the 38 Letters of the Armenian Alphabet

- |     |     |  |             |
|-----|-----|--|-------------|
| 6.  | Ջ ղ | z zebra  |             |
| 27. | Ջ ղ | j jet  | (ch) church |
| 17. | Ջ ճ | dz (adze)  | (ts) cats   |
| 25. | Ջ չ | ch church  |             |
| 19. | ձ ճ | ch unaspirated ch/j  | (j) jet     |
| 14. | Ծ ճ | ts unaspirated ts/dz   | (dz) adze   |
| 21. | Յ յ | h hot initial<br>y Maya medial<br>y final in monosyllable except verbs<br>silent final elsewhere |             |
| 35. | Փ փ | p piano  |             |
| 36. | Ք ք | k kid  |             |
| 34. | Ի լ | v violin   |             |
| 31. | Տ տ | t step unaspirated t/d   | (d) dance   |
| 38. | Ֆ ֆ | f fantastic  |             |

## ARMENIAN ALPHABET

First created in the 5th c. by Mesrop Mashtots.

Eastern Armenian Dialect Transliteration.

(Western Dialect, when different, follows in parentheses).

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|---|--|
| 1. Ա ա a father   | 14. Ծ ճ ts unaspirated ts/dz (dz) adze   |
| 2. Բ բ b boy (p) piano  | 15. Կ կ k skip unaspirated k/g (g) go  |
| 3. Գ գ g go (k) kid   | 16. Հ հ h hot  |
| 4. Դ դ d dance (t) ten  | 17. Ջ ճ dz (adze) (ts) cats  |
| 5. Ե ե ye yet initial<br>e pen medial<br>e pen initial հմ, հն, հնք, հս<br>y yawn before vowel you are | 18. Ղ ղ gh Parisian French Paris   |
| 6. Ջ ղ z zebra  | 19. ձ ճ ch unaspirated ch/j (j) jet  |
| 7. Է է e pen  | 20. Մ մ m meet   |
| 8. Ը ը u focus  | 21. Յ յ h hot initial<br>y Maya medial<br>y final in monosyllable except verbs<br>silent final elsewhere |
| 9. Թ թ t ten  | 22. Ն ն n nut  |
| 10. Ժ ժ zh treasure   | 23. Շ շ sh shine   |
| 11. Ի ի i meet  | 24. Ո ո vo vortex initial except before վ<br>o more initial position before վ<br>o more elsewhere        |
| 12. Լ լ l lap   |  |
| 13. Խ ք kh German Bach  |  |
| 25. Ջ չ ch church   | u boot in some names as Shushi   |
| 26. Պ պ p spin unaspirated p/b (b) boy  |  |
| 27. Ջ ղ j jet (ch) church   | 4. Իւ iu cute (French <i>lune</i> ) before consonant<br>weave elsewhere                                  |
| 28. Ռ ռ r rolled strongly   | u cute in some names, as Suni  |
| 29. Ս ս s sing  | iu cute (French <i>lune</i> ) in some names as<br>Sjunik   |
| 30. Վ վ v violin  |  |
| 31. Տ տ t step unaspirated t/d (d) dance  | 5. հս ya yard  |
| 32. Ր ր r rolled softly   | 6. յս ya yard  |
| 33. Յ չ ts cats   | 7. հն yo yoke  |
| 34. Ի լ v violin  | 8. հօ yo yoke  |
| 35. Փ փ p piano   | 9. յուլ yoo youth  |
| 36. Ք ք k kid   | 10. հուլ yoo youth   |
| 37. Օ օ o more  | 11. և յև Russian Yevgeny “yev” means “and”   |
| 38. Ֆ ֆ f fantastic   |  |

STRESS falls on last full syllable

### COMBINATIONS

1. այ ay Maya, my, hi, pie initial, medial  
ai final monosyllabic words except verbs  
a { father other final positions
2. ոյ ooy phooey before consonants  
oy boy before vowels  
oy boy final, monosyllabic nouns  
o more other final positions
3. ու oo boot  
v violin before vowels

Note: The Eastern Dialect has five unaspirated consonants, #'s 14, 15, 19, 26, and 31, distinguished here by an under-dot. Each can be viewed as an in between sound, e.g. #26 is in between p and b, “p/b,” as in spin. The more strongly rolled r, #28, is distinguished here from r #32 by an under-dot. Eastern and Western Armenian are the two modern literary languages. There are many spoken dialects. Our transliterations are in Eastern, though some songs have western elements (vocabulary, grammar). Pronunciation can differ. Also, in practice, some words are not pronounced exactly phonetically. Among these are *yerg*, “*yerġ*,” and *agbjik*, “*abġik*.”