

Algilez/IPA Comparison Chart

The Algilez Alphabet and the International Phonetic Alphabet

01 February 2015

The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) has been developed over many years by the International Phonetic Association. It attempts to provide alphabet symbols for all of the various sounds in human languages.

The IPA was conceived in the days of traditional printing techniques, long before computers and modern fonts. It therefore had to use a variety of existing alphabet characters that were available at the time. These were often upside-down and reversed Latin characters plus letters from the Greek and other alphabets. The result is an alphabet that is little known outside of the world of linguists and language teaching. (Although professional opera singers, who sing in a variety of languages, are also apparently trained in the IPA!).

The other major disadvantage of the IPA, is that some of the familiar Latin alphabet letters that are used represent phonemes (sounds) are already used by different languages for different sounds. For example, the 'v' and 'w' in the IPA represent the same sounds as used in English. However German, Polish and some other languages, 'w' is pronounced as an English 'v' and the 'v' pronounced as an English 'f'. There are many more examples. Hence trying to use the IPA as a true 'International' alphabet would require hundreds of millions of people to re-spell many words in their languages, which is never going to happen.

The Algilez alphabet has been designed to avoid this problem by providing a unique symbol (letter) for each sound. In addition, there is an opportunity to expand the Algilez alphabet, by adding marks (e.g. small circles) so that they can be used to represent all the variations of similar sounds by creating variations to the Algilez alphabet letters.

For example the Latin letter 'h' is used in the IPA to represent the same sound as in English (e.g. hat). However there are an additional 6 similar sounds used in different languages represented by **ħ, ɦ, ʁ, ɣ, ʕ, ʕ̣**. The **ħ, ɦ** and **H** are clearly variations of **h**. However the **ʁ** and **ʕ** (which look like variations on the letter 'G') might be confusing and the **ɣ** even more confusing.

Algilez provides for **h, ħ, ħ̣, ħ̣̣, ħ̣̣̣, ħ̣̣̣̣, ħ̣̣̣̣̣** (A circle was chosen as being quicker to hand-write. If preferred, a 'hook' or horizontal bar could be used instead). Where a symbol from the IPA has fairly common usage e.g. the nasal 'n' represented by **ŋ**, then Algilez uses the same design i.e. a hook instead of a circle **ŋ̣**.

Another example is the Chinese word for China – *Zhōngguó*. This attempt at phonetical spelling using the Latin alphabet is not very helpful and few people would achieve the correct pronunciation by using it. Algilez uses the native pronunciations for countries and place names. The Algilez word for China is therefore **ḶḶḶḶḶḶḶḶ**. The pronunciation of the 'Ḷ' might be difficult for those who don't know what the character is. However, it is clearly a variation of the 'n' character and if pronounced as that character, the pronunciation would not be very far out. This means that readers would be able to make a reasonable attempt at pronunciation of foreign language words based on their knowledge of Algilez pronunciation. The correct pronunciation for the new character would hopefully not be hard to learn.

A suggested list of Algilez Alphabet variations and their IPA equivalents is given below. I accept that my choices are very subjective but it is a starting point for discussion.

The sounds of the various symbols can be heard on the websites below:
[University of Victoria, Canada](#) ; [Antimoon](#) ; [Wikipedia](#)

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Algilez	ɾ	ɹ							
IPA	ɑː 0251	ɑ 0363							
Algilez	ɳ								
IPA	ɔ 0254								
Algilez	ʌ	ʌ̃	ʌ̄	ʌ̅	ʌ̆				
IPA	ʌ 02C4	æ̃ 00E6	ɜ 025C	ə̅ 0259	ɐ̆ 0250				
Algilez	b	b̃	b̄	b̅					
IPA	b 0062	B̃ 0412	q̄ 024B	ḅ 0253					
Algilez	ɸ								
IPA	ɸ̃ 02A7								
Algilez	d	d̃	d̄						
IPA	d 0064	d̃ 0256	d̄ 0257						
Algilez	ɛ	ɛ̃	ɛ̄	ɛ̅	ɛ̆	ɛ̇	ɛ̈		
IPA	ɛ 025B	ẽ 0229	ɯ̄ 026F	œ̅ 0156	ɘ̆ 0258	œ̇ 0276	ø̈ 00F9		
Algilez	f	f̃	f̄						
IPA	f 0066	ϕ̃ 0278	ƒ̄ 028D						
Algilez	ɟ	ɟ̃	ɟ̄	ɟ̅	ɟ̆	ɟ̇	ɟ̈		
IPA	g 0261	ɣ̃ 0263	ɕ̄ 010B	G̅ 0262	ƒ̆ 0284	ɡ̇ 0260	ɟ̈ 029B		
Algilez	h	h̃	h̄	h̅	h̆	ḣ	ḧ	h̉	h̊
IPA	h 0068	ɦ̃ 0266	ħ̄ 0295	H̅ 041D	χ̆ 03C7	ħ̇ 02A2	ḧ 0127	ħ̉ 02A1	ɥ̊ 0265
Algilez	ɨ	ɨ̃							
IPA	i̯ 0069	Ĩ 026A							
Algilez	ɟ								
IPA	ɟ̃ 02A4								
Algilez	k	k̃	k̄						
IPA	k 006B	X̃ 03A7	ʔ̄ 0294						
Algilez	l	l̃	l̄						
IPA	l 006C	L̃ 029F	l̄ 026D						
Algilez	m	m̃							
IPA	m 006D	m̃ 0271							
Algilez	n	ñ	n̄	n̅	n̆				
IPA	n 006E	ɳ̃ 0273	ɳ̄ 0272	ɳ̅ 014B	N̆ 039D				

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Algilez	o	ø	o̥	o̜	o̝	o̞		
IPA	ɒ 0252	ø 006F	θ 0275	ɤ 0264	ɛ 025E	ʊ 028A		
Algilez	p							
IPA	p 0070							
Algilez	ə	ə̃						
IPA	ə 0275	ǝ̃ 00F0						
Algilez	r	r̥	ɾ	ɽ	ɽ̥	ɽ̝	ɽ̞	ɽ̟
IPA	ɹ 0279	ɾ̥ 02B3	ɾ 027E	ɽ̥ 027B	ɽ̥ 0281	ɽ̝ 0280	ɽ̞ 027D	ɽ̟ 027A
Algilez	s	s̥						
IPA	s 0073	ɬ̥ 026C						
Algilez	t	t̥						
IPA	t 0074	ɬ̥ 0288						
Algilez	u	u̥	u̝	u̞	u̟			
IPA	u 0075	y̥ 02B8	i̝ 0268	u̞ 0289	Y̟ 028F			
Algilez	v	v̥	v̝	v̞	v̟			
IPA	v 0076	ʋ̥ 028B	ʋ̝ 0475	ʋ̞ 0270	β̟ 00DF			
Algilez	w							
IPA	w 0077							
Algilez	ɟ	ɟ̥	ɟ̝	ɟ̞	ɟ̟	ɟ̠	ɟ̡	
IPA	ʝ̥ 0283	ç̥ 00E7	ʝ̝ 0282	ʝ̞ 0290	ʝ̟ 0292	ɕ̥ 0255	ʝ̡ 0291	
Algilez	j	j̥	j̝	j̞				
IPA	j̥ 006A	ʎ̥ 028E	j̝ 029D	ʎ̞ 0248				
Algilez	z	z̥						
IPA	Z̥ 007A	ʒ̥ 026E						
Algilez		ɰ	ɰ̥	ɰ̝	ɰ̞	ɰ̟		
IPA		ɰ̥ 0298	ɰ̥ 01C0	ɰ̝ 01C3	ɰ̞ 01C2	ɰ̟ 01C1		
Algilez								
IPA								