

# Spinner Gallifreyan v1.5.1

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The most recent version of this guide is always available at <https://suntooth.online/gallifreyan/spinnerguide.pdf> and/or <https://suntooth.neocities.com/gallifreyan/spinnerguide.pdf>. Check for the latest version before starting an important project!

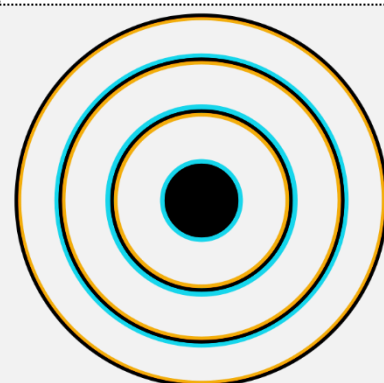
## Introduction

Spinner Gallifreyan is a fanmade version of Gallifreyan, the fictional language from Doctor Who. It's inspired by a whole lot of other fanmade Gallifreyan writing systems, but mostly Sherman's, Circular Gallifreyan, and Timekeepers. The design philosophy was to make a system, comprised of concentric rings, that is simple to learn and easy to read.

## Letters and words

A word in Spinner is made of rings around a filled-in circle – the centre point. Each ring has an inner perimeter and an outer perimeter, and can contain one consonant, one consonant and one vowel, or a lone vowel. The outer perimeter of one ring is on the same circle as the inner perimeter of the next.

The general structure of a word, with inner perimeters highlighted in blue and outer perimeters highlighted in orange.



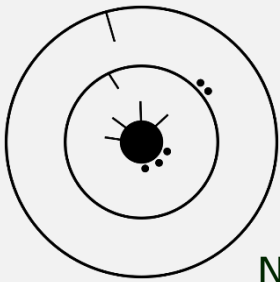
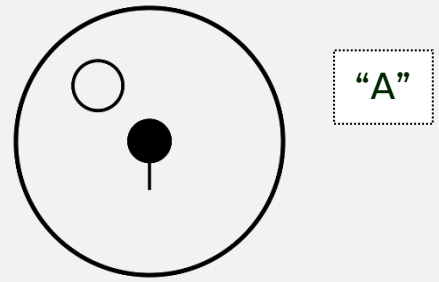
Vowels are determined by the number of lines ending on the inner perimeter. "Y" can be treated like a vowel in words like "rhythm", but this is optional.

Number of lines					
1	2	3	4	5	6
A	E	I	O	U	Y
					(optional)

Consonants are determined by a combination of the number of dots within the ring and the number of lines ending on the outer perimeter. C is converted to either K or S, depending on pronunciation. Digraphs are optional. If writing "ck" without digraphs, either "k" or "kk" is acceptable.

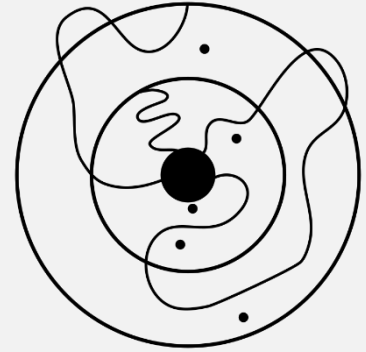
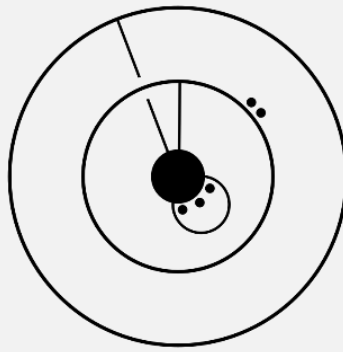
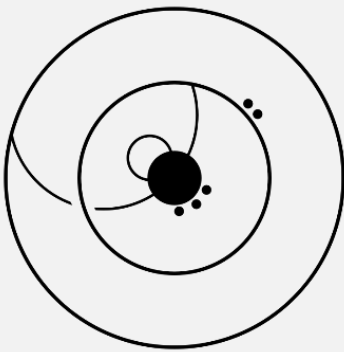
		Number of lines					
		0	1	2	3	4	5
Number of dots	0	T	R	D	L	G	<i>St</i>
	1	N	F	M	Y	J	<i>Sh</i>
	2	S	W	P	K	X	<i>Wh</i>
	3	H	B	V	Q	Z	<i>Qu</i>
	4	<i>Th</i>	<i>Gh</i>	<i>Nd</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Ck</i>

If a vowel is the only letter in a ring, add a circle somewhere in the ring to avoid ambiguity. This is called “the lone-vowel marker”.

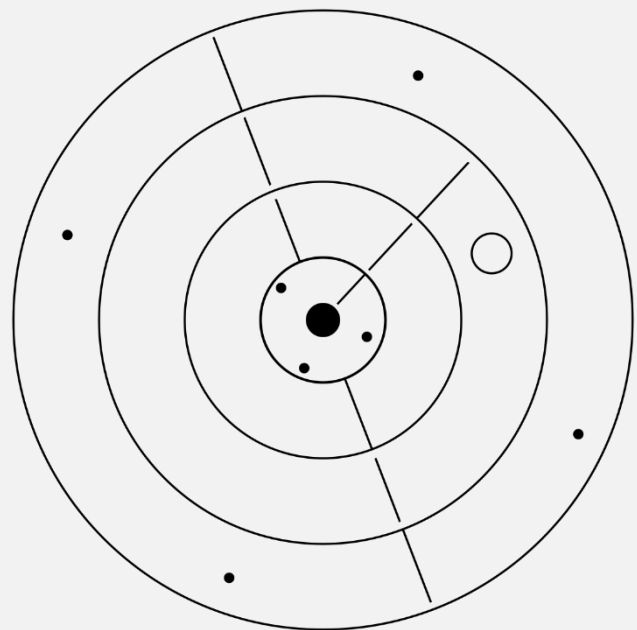
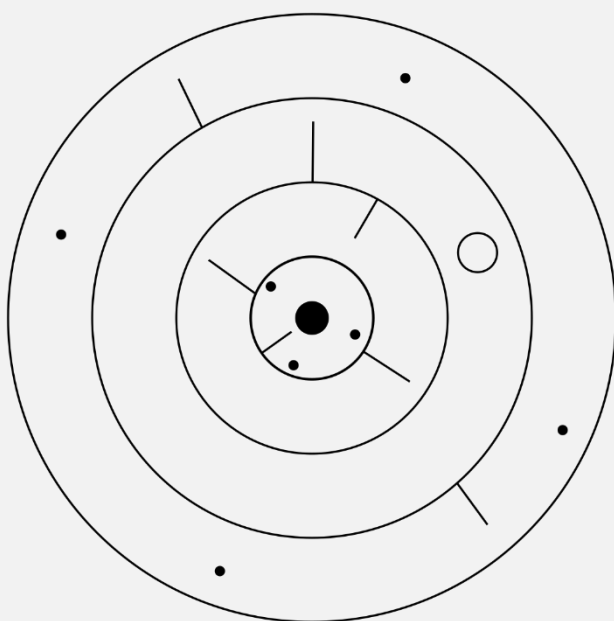


To the left is the word “bow”. Words are read in-to-out - start from the centre point and move outwards, ring by ring.

Note that it’s only the endpoints of lines that matter, so lines don’t have to be straight or separate from each other, nor do they have to stay within the word – these are all valid ways of writing the word “bow”.

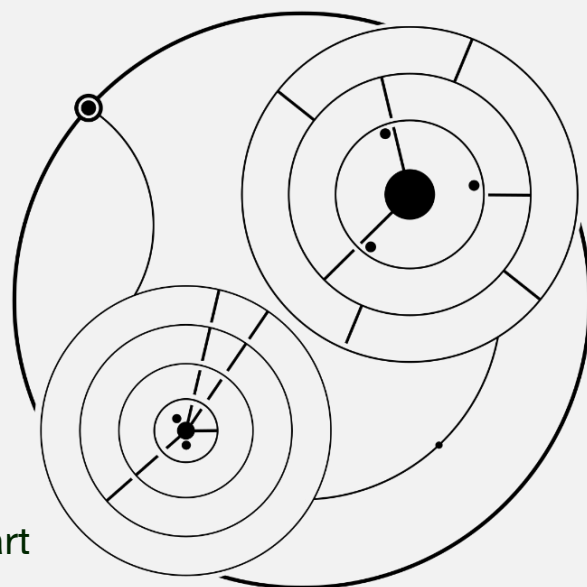


Another example: the word “breathe”, one utilitarian version (no connecting lines, no decorative lines) and one slightly more “pretty”.



## Sentences

Sentences in Spinner consist of multiple words placed inside a sentence circle, and are read clockwise from the top. The only exception is if a “start sentence here” symbol is included on the sentence circle, in which case the sentence is read clockwise from the word that the symbol connects to. If a “start entire work here” symbol is on a sentence circle, it also acts as a “start sentence here” symbol for that sentence – you start reading clockwise from the word it connects to.



Hello, world!

Punctuation consists of a line connecting two words, or connecting a word with the sentence circle, as well as symbols such as circles and dots. Multiple punctuation marks can be placed on one line.

To write contractions (e.g. “they’ve”), separate the word into its parts (“they”, “ve”) and put them in their own word circles, connected with an apostrophe.

	Start sentence here		Apostrophe (')
	Start entire work here		Quotation marks (")
	Question mark (?)		Dash/hyphen (-)
	Exclamation mark (!)		Comma (,)
	Period/full stop (.)		Semicolon (;)
			Colon (:)

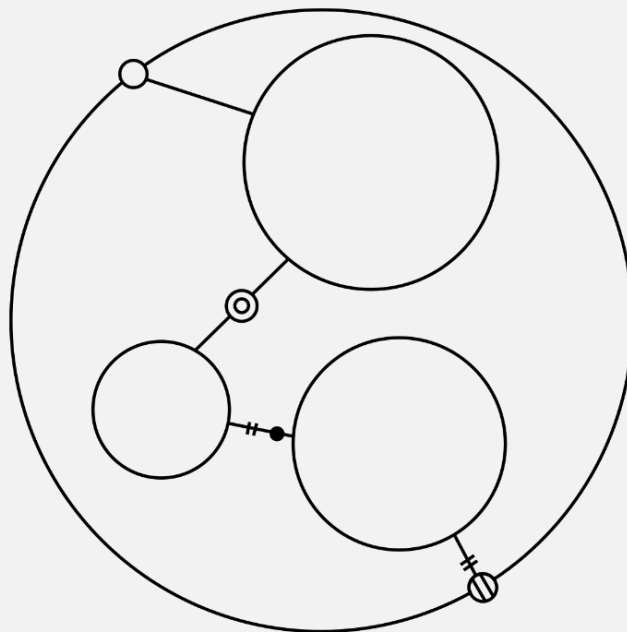
If a sentence starts or ends with a punctuation mark that would usually go between two words (such as a dash), connect the first or last word to the sentence circle with that punctuation mark instead.

If a “start here” symbol and a punctuation mark starting a sentence happen at the same time, add the punctuation mark to the line coming from the “start here” symbol.

If there is any reason to split one word into multiple word circles, connect the separate parts of the word with hyphens.

Below is an example of how punctuation is structured, with blank words for demonstration purposes.

[start here] "Word," word: word.



## Numbers

To write a number, the centre point must be a hollow circle with a line through it, rather than a filled-in circle. Each ring is read in this order: odd, even, zeroes.

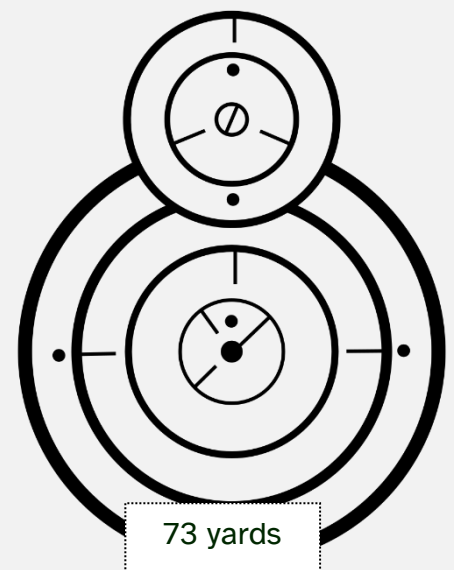
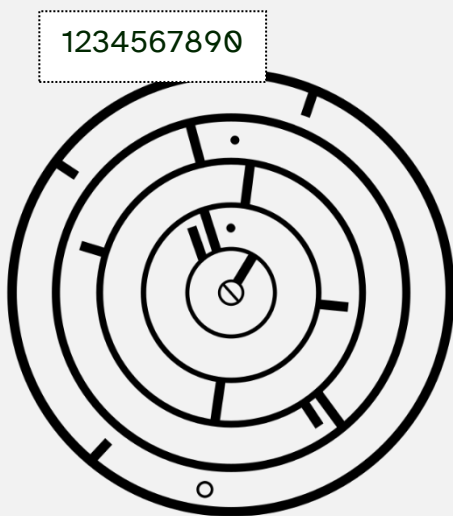
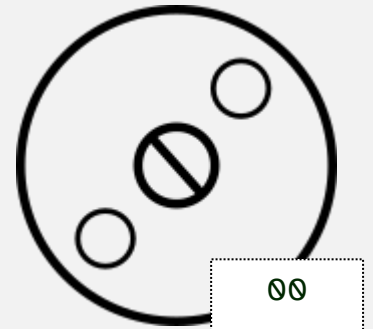
Odd numbers are on the outer perimeter of each ring, and are made of a combination of lines and dots, much like consonants.

		Number of lines			
		<i>Odd</i>	<b>1 line</b>	<b>2 lines</b>	<b>3 lines</b>
Number of dots	<b>0 dots</b>	1	5	9	
	<b>1 dot</b>	3	7		

Even numbers are on the inner perimeter of each ring, and are made of a number of lines, much like vowels.

		Number of lines			
<i>Even</i>	<b>1 line</b>	<b>2 lines</b>	<b>3 lines</b>	<b>4 lines</b>	
	2	4	6	8	

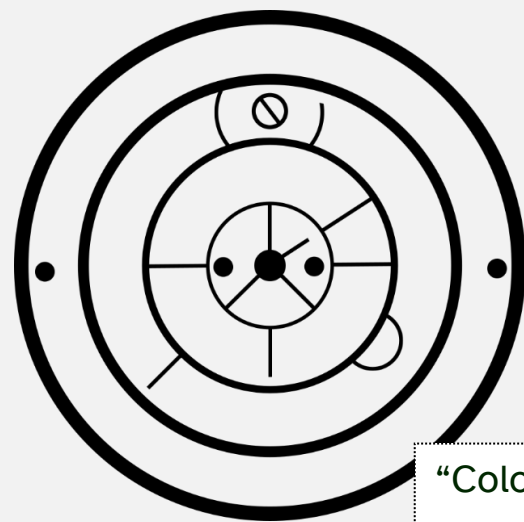
Zeroes are written using hollow circles and are always read last in a ring. Any number of zeroes can be in one ring. If a ring's reading order is reversed (see *Other techniques*), zeroes are still read last (even-odd-zeroes rather than odd-even-zeroes).



## Other techniques

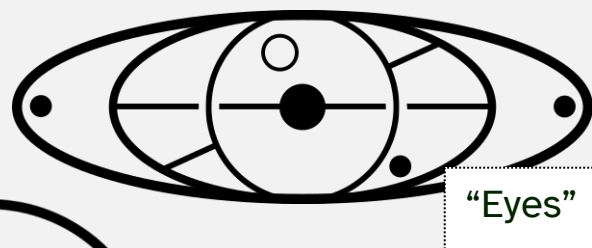
### Order reversal

To reverse the order in which a ring is read (vowel-consonant rather than consonant-vowel, or even-odd rather than odd-even for numbers), use a hollow circle with a line through it somewhere in the ring.

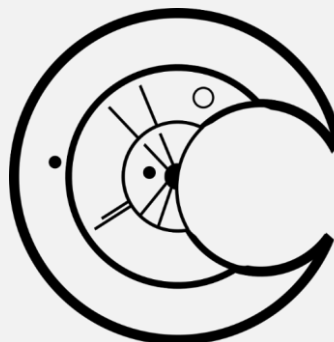


### Non-circular rings

Rings don't have to be circular or complete – as long as it can be clearly interpreted as a ring without the reading order being ambiguous, it works.

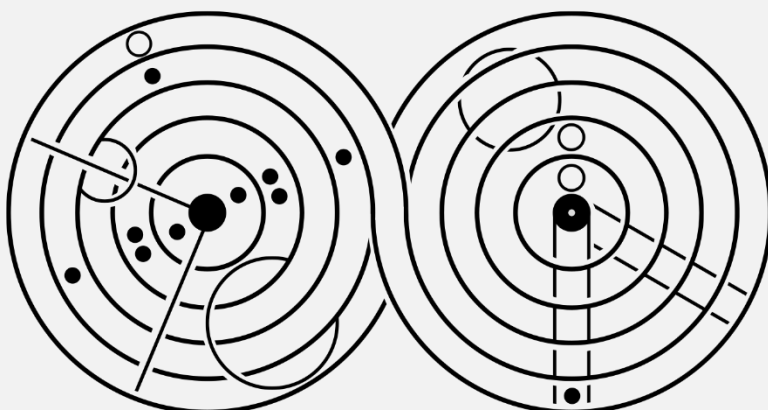


"Moon"



### Interlocking

Interlocking words and/or sentences is permitted in any way that unambiguously preserves all meaning (e.g. line endpoints).

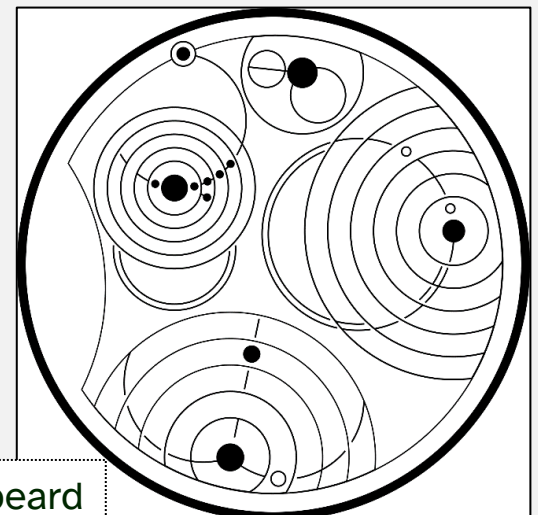
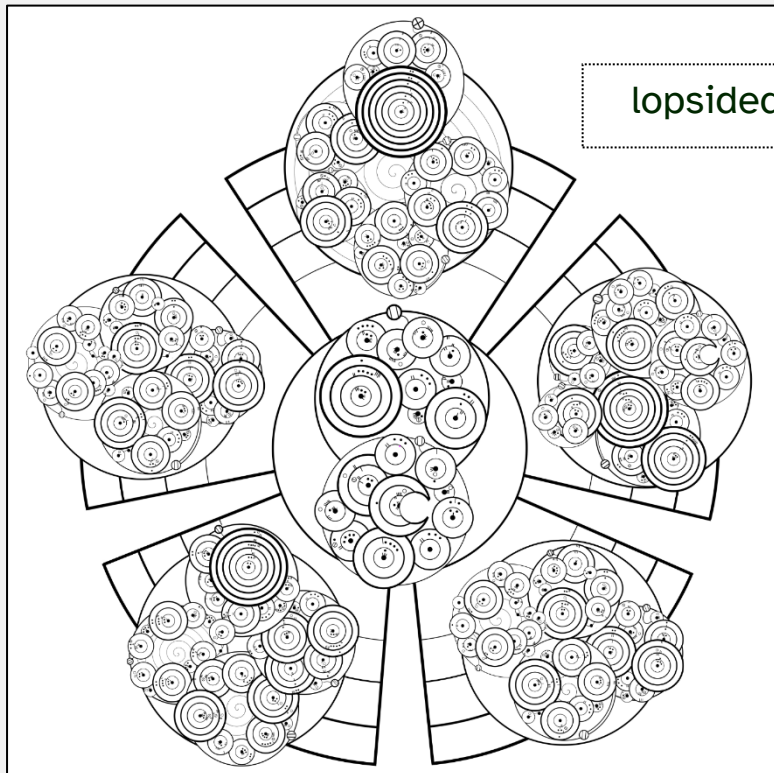
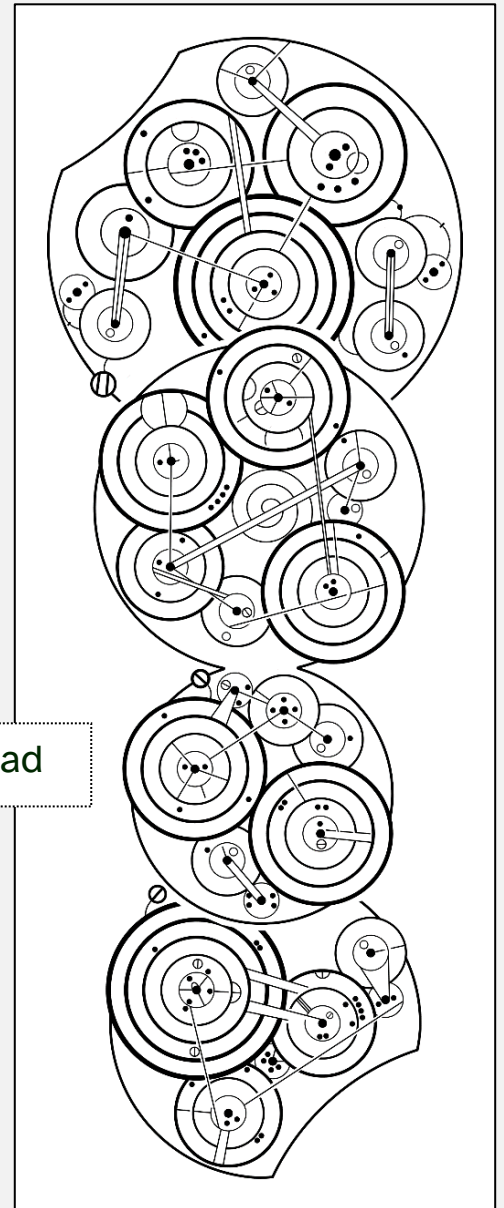
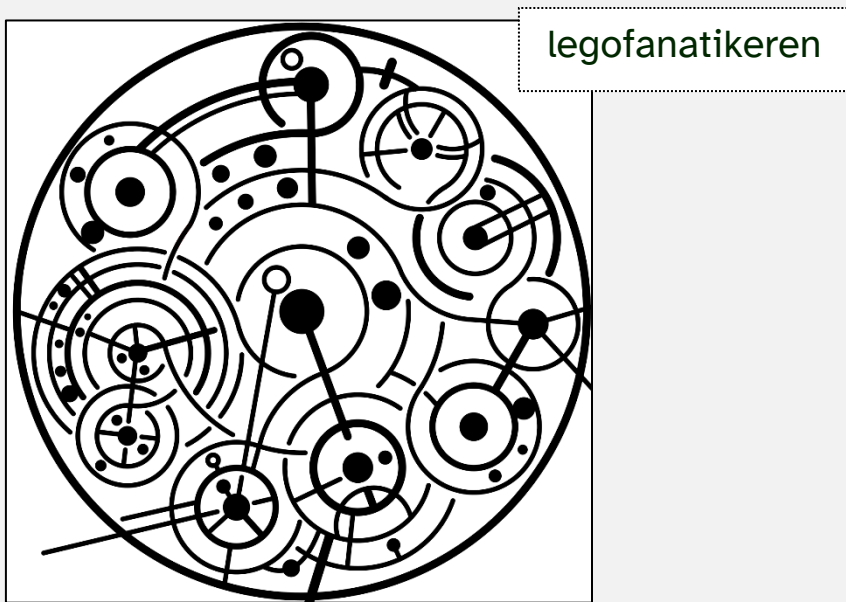


"Seghdha Eidolon"



## Examples

While there aren't many examples (the script is still young!), they still show how Spinner can look very different depending on who's writing it. All names below are Discord usernames.





## ***Missing features***

As of October 2024, Spinner Gallifreyan is still in its infancy, so there are multiple features of other Gallifreyan systems that aren't yet implemented officially. It is currently missing diacritics, symbols, and any punctuation not listed in the "Sentences" section. There are currently no solid plans to add these, but it may happen in the future.

## ***Supplemental texts***

The purpose of supplemental texts is to clarify rare-but-important edge cases or describe new variants of Spinner. Their latest versions are always available at the listed links.

## **Spiral Spinner**

This guide describes a space-efficient variant of Spinner with slightly different rules, called Spiral Spinner.

Link: <https://suntooth.online/gallifreyan/spiralspinner.pdf>

Backup link: <https://suntooth.neocities.org/gallifreyan/spiralspinner.pdf>

## **Changelog**

- **1.0.0** (2024-02-29)
  - Initial release
- **1.1.0** (2024-03-01)
  - Changed some punctuation
  - Added some punctuation rules
  - Added examples
- **1.2.0** (2024-07-02)
  - Added a marker for reversing the order a ring is read in
  - Improved guide formatting (page numbers, table of contents)
- **1.3.0** (2024-07-04)
  - Added new digraphs (st, sh, wh, qu, ck)
  - Added the “start entire work here” symbol
  - Cleaned up the letter and punctuation charts
  - Specified rules around “ck”
- **1.3.1** (2024-07-04)
  - Updated formatting
  - Added examples
- **1.3.2** (2024-07-04)
  - Added note about non-circular rings
- **1.3.3** (2024-07-11)
  - Fixed typo in the consonant chart
- **1.3.4** (2024-07-24)
  - Added changelog
  - Added backlinks to where the most recent version of the guide will always be
  - Changed advice about interlocking
- **1.3.5** (2024-08-08)
  - Added examples
  - Clarified other techniques section

- **1.4.0** (2024-08-09)
  - Added numbers
- **1.4.1** (2024-08-10)
  - Fixed example
- **1.5.0** (2024-10-21)
  - Removed TLDR section
  - Added supplemental texts section
  - Formalised rules for experimental features
    - Updated missing features section accordingly
  - Clarified how to use apostrophes for contractions
- **1.5.1** (2024-10-22)
  - Fixed typo