

It should be noted that accent marks do not indicate a different sound but merely a different sign. Thus su and su represent exactly the same sound, though written by a different sign.

In Berger's list of simple signs he often gives several syllables for one sign. Frequently the first of these are syllables containing the sound e, with others following that contain an i. This is unfortunate. Actually there are three main vowels in Accadian: a, i and u. E is a secondary vowel that sometimes is derived from a or from i, particularly when a guttural is involved. Any sign for a consonant with i can also be used to indicate a syllable with the vowel e. Since i is far more common the attached list writes signs with i. If this list indicates a syllable as including e, it should be understood as a specialized sign used to show the presence of the vowel e preceding or following a consonant. There are comparatively few of these but they are of considerable importance. Thus if ki-el is written, it represents the syllable kel.

Special Marks on the List

Ordinarily this list includes only one meaning for each sign. However, a circle is placed under the sign pi to direct attention to the fact that perhaps two meanings should have been stated here. This is because, while it denotes pi in the Assyrian period, in the time of Hammurabi it represents wa, wi or wu.

In two cases a square has been written under a sign to indicate that the sign a' may equally well represent any vowel with an aleph either preceding or following it, and that the sign ah can represent h with any vowel preceding it.

In a few cases a y on its side has been placed under a letter to indicate that the sign occurs in two different forms. Since these are quite similar to each other there will be little difficulty in learning them, but both will be written at the appropriate place in the list of signs, one being put in parentheses.