

difficult if one would simply read aloud as, ba, zu, su, etc. several times a day, frequently trying to repeat the sequence from memory. It is usually more efficient to learn the list as a whole, rather than piecemeal. Varying the pitch of the reading will often greatly speed up the memorization.

Along with this memorization, it would be advisable to begin to note the reasons for the order. Look at the first sign, as, which consists simply of a wedge-shaped mark placed horizontally. Now skip over about a fourth of the list until you come to a double line, followed by the sign ab. This is the first sign in the list that begins with two horizontal wedge-shaped marks. After about another third of the list, a double line precedes ra, which is the first sign in the list that begins with three horizontal lines. After a few more characters another double line precedes the sign se. This is the first of the signs that start with a mark going obliquely down from left to right. After four of these, a double line precedes two signs that start with two obliques. Then a double line precedes the four signs that start with three obliques. Then a double line precedes one that consists of the peculiar sign that the Germans call a "winkelhaken." I do not know of a good English equivalent for this German word, but incline toward using the English word "crescent," since it appears somewhat as a crescent might look if one had to write it with a stylus. After three signs beginning with one crescent, four with two, and one with three, there is another double line, preceding "ana" which is written in a square to indicate that it is not properly one of the syllabic signs. Although this sign is used at times to represent a syllable consisting of three sounds, it frequently indicates the word "ana" which means "to" or "unto." It is inserted here because it consists of one vertical cuneiform mark, which very fittingly begins this last section of the sign list.

We have thus looked at the signs that begin differently, which are separated by two lines in the accompanying list. Each section is divided into various subdivisions by one vertical line, to indicate a change in the second element of the sign. After learning to write the signs that follow double lines, those that follow single lines should be learned, and finally, the remaining signs in the list.