The Alphabets of Europe

English

Version 1.1

Alphabet:

A a (À à), (Æ æ), B b, C c (Ç ç), D d [Đ ð], E e (É é, È è, Ë ë, Ê ê), F f, G g, H h, I i (Ï ï), J j, K k, L l, M m, N n (Ñ ñ), O o (Ö ö, Ô ô), (Œ œ), P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, V v, W w, X x, Y y, [3 3], Z z, [Þ þ], [P p]

Despite unfounded but widespread belief to the contrary (based doubtless on the prevalence of ASCII), diacritics (usually French ones) are often found in naturalized English words. Examples are: à la carte, abbé, Ægean, archæology, belovèd, café, décor, détente, éclair, façade, fête, naïve, naïvety (but cf. non-naturalized naïveté), noël, œsophagus, résumé, vicuña. Coöperate and rôle are usually written without their diacritics these days.

The letters \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{E} are ordered as though they were written out Ae ae and Oe oe respectively.

The letters \mathcal{E} æ \mathcal{D} ð þ þ \mathcal{P} p are found in Old and Middle English texts. The letters 3 3 þ þ are found in Middle English texts. While Old and Middle English are not modern languages, it is not unusual for their letters to be found in some secondary and university courses for native speakers; most major dictionaries present them in etymologies. A common example in many texts teaches people that the "old English" phrase "Ye Olde Shoppe" is really "Þe Olde Shoppe".

Information on these is given here for comprehensiveness.

Quotation marks: 'single', "double"; There are two traditions for nesting quotation marks in English:

"I asked him what 'integrated circuit' means," he said. 'I asked him what "integrated circuit" means,' he said

The latter tradition is virtually unknown in North American English; both are found in European English, with a tendency towards the former.

UCS ranges for the characters on this page: 0040-005A, 0060-007A, 00C0, 00C7-00CB, 00CF, 00D1, 00D4, 00D6, 00D7-00DB, 00DF, 00F1, 00F4, 00F6, 2018-2019, 201C-201D

Sources:

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Population 56,390,000 (Haarmann 1993)