

lo ciska tarmi saske se notci

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# lo ciska tarmi saske

Orthography (The way the language is written)

Lojban uses the following basic letters:

' , . a b c d e f g i j k l m n o p r s t u v x y z

- ▶ In Lojban, a letter is called a lerfu.
- ▶ *h*, *q*, and *w* are omitted.
- ▶ asciibetical ordering.
- ▶ capital letters are used to indicate non-standard stress.
- ▶ Beginning of sentences and names are not capitalized as they are in English.

# lo lerfu valsi

## Letter Words (Constructing letter words from letters)

If you want to say a letter, rather than saying it's phoneme while pronouncing a word, it becomes a "letter word" or lerfu valsi. All basic lerfu valsi are made by one of three rules:

- ▶ To get the lerfu valsi for a vowel, add "bu".
- ▶ To get the lerfu valsi for a consonant, add "y".
- ▶ To get the lerfu valsi for "y", use ".y'y"

# lo lerfu valsi cu cartu

## Table of letter words

This table shows each basic letter and its associated letter word:

'	a	b	c	d	e
.y'y.	.abu	by.	cy.	dy.	.ebu
f	g	i	j	k	l
fy.	gy.	.ibu	jy.	ky.	.ly
m	n	o	p	r	s
my.	ny.	.obu	py.	ry.	.sy
t	u	v	x	y	z
ty.	ubu.	.vy	xy.	ybu.	.zy

# lo lerfu valsi cu te javni

## Rules for Letter Words

- ▶ Consonant lerfu valsi are a single syllable, whereas vowel and ['] lerfu valsi are two syllables and must be preceded by a pause (since they begin with a vowel).
- ▶ Consonant lerfu valsi are single cmavo of selmo'o BY, as is ".y'y".
- ▶ Vowel lerfu valsi are compound cmavo, made from the single vowel cmavo plus the cmavo "bu" of selmo'o BU. The meaning of the single vowel cmavo is irrelevant when followed by "bu".

# lo lerfu valsi cu te javni

## Rules for Letter Words

- ▶ “denpa bu” (literally, “pause bu”) is the letter word for “.”, and “slaka bu” (literally, syllable bu”) is the letter word for “,”. Note here that “bu” can convert any word to a selma’o BY, not just single letter cmavo.
- ▶ To speak of letter words for latin letters “h”, “q”, and “w”, which don’t normally appear in Lojban:

h .y’y.bu

q ky.bu

w vy.bu

# la'e ga'e lerfu valsi

## Capitalization

- ▶ “ga'e” changes the interpretation of all lerfu words that follow to be upper case. “to'a” causes the interpretation of all lerfu words that follow to be lower case. Both of these cmavo are of selmo'o BY.
- ▶ “tau” shifts a single letter to upper case. If a shift to upper case is already in effect, “tau” shifts the letter word that follows it to lower case. “tau” is of selma'o LAU and must be followed by a BY. The full expression is also of selma'o BY.