

## Oromo

# Oromo

**Spoken in:** Ethiopia, Kenya

**Region:** Africa

**Total speakers:** 30 million

**Genetic Classification:** Afro-Asiatic Cushitic East Oromo

**Official language of:** New Zealand

The Oromo language is an Afro-Asiatic language; approximately over 30 million Oromos and other neighbouring nationalities in the horn of Africa speak it.

Until the 1970s, Oromo was written with either the Ethiopic script or the Latin alphabet. Then during the early 1970s, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) chose the Latin alphabet as the official alphabet to write Oromo. Between 1974 and 1991 under the Mengistu regime the writing of Afaan Oromo in any script was forbidden, though limited usage of the Ethiopic script was allowed.

On 3rd November 1991 the OLF convened a meeting of over 1,000 Oromo intellectuals to decide which alphabet to use to write Ormo. After many hours of debate, they decided unanimously to adopt the Latin alphabet.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 Oromo sessional interpreter.

### Oromo alphabet

<b>A a</b>	<b>B b</b>	<b>C c</b>	<b>CH ch</b>	<b>D d</b>	<b>DH dh</b>	<b>E e</b>	<b>F f</b>	<b>G g</b>	<b>H h</b>	<b>I i</b>
[a]	[b]	[ɕ]	[ɕ]	[d]	[ð]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]
<b>J j</b>	<b>K k</b>	<b>L l</b>	<b>M m</b>	<b>N n</b>	<b>NY ny</b>	<b>O o</b>	<b>P p</b>	<b>PH ph</b>	<b>Q q</b>	<b>R r</b>
[ɕ]	[k]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[ɲ]	[o]	[p]	[pʰ]	[kʰ]	[r]
<b>S s</b>	<b>SH sh</b>	<b>T t</b>	<b>U u</b>	<b>V v</b>	<b>W w</b>	<b>X x</b>	<b>Y y</b>	<b>Z z</b>		
[s]	[ʃ]	[t]	[u]	[v]	[w]	[x]	[j]	[z]		