

## Syriac

# Suryâyâ

**Spoken in:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Georgia, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey

**Region:** Throughout the Middle East, Central Asia, Europe, North America and Australia

**Total speakers:** 404,000 fluent

**Genetic classification:** Afro-Asiatic Semitic Central Semitic Aramaic Eastern Aramaic Syriac













Syriac is an eastern dialect of Aramaic which was once spoken in the lands in between the Roman and Parthian empires. Syriac is still spoken, mainly in Syria. It is also used for sermons in Syrian churches in the southern Indian state of Kerala. One major variety of Syriac is known as Assyrian.

Modern Eastern Syriac has much in common with the Jewish languages of Eastern Aramaic. Due to the upheavals of the region over the last two centuries, many speakers of Modern Syriac languages have moved south into Syria and Iraq, north into Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, and throughout the world.

The origins of the Syriac script are shrouded in mystery. It was originally used as the medium for the extensive religious literature of Syrian Christians. The Nestorian's script was known as *Nestorian* while the Jacobite's script was known as *Serto* (linear) or Jacobite. A version of the Nestorian script is still used for religious writings by Christians in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

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

## Estrangelo

										
ܩܦ	ܝܘܕܗ	ܩܦܝܬܐ	ܗܝܬܐ	ܙܝܢܐ	ܘܘܘܐ	ܗܐ	ܕܠܐܬܐ	ܓܡܠܐ	ܒܝܬܐ	ܐܠܦܐ
kap	yodh	ṭéith	héith	zâyn	waw	hé	dalâth	gamâl	béith	alâp
k, k/kh	y	ṭ	ḥ	z	w	h	d, d/dh	g, ḡ/gh	b, b/bh	ʿ
[k, x]	[j]	[t̪]	[ħ]	[z]	[w]	[h]	[d, ð]	[g, ɣ]	[b, v]	[ʔ]
20	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
										
ܬܘܘܬܐ	ܫܝܢܐ	ܪܝܫܐ	ܩܦܐ	ܫܐܕܗܐ	ܦܐ	ܐܝܢܐ	ܫܝܡܟܐܬܐ	ܢܘܢܐ	ܡܝܡܐ	ܠܡܐܕܗ
taw	sheen	résh	qop	ṣadhé	pé	ʿain	simkâth	nun	meem	lamâdh
t, t/th	sh	r	q	ṣ	p, p/ph	ʿ	s	n	m	l
[t̪]	[ʃ]	[r]	[q]	[s̪]	[p, f]	[ʕ]	[s̪]	[n]	[m]	[l]
400	300	200	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30

Western, Jacobite or Serto script

Consonants

kap	yodh	téith	héith	zâyn	waw	hé	dalâth	gamâl	béith	alâp
k, k/kh	y	t	h	z	w	h	d, d/dh	g, ḡ/gh	b, b/bh	ʾ
[k, x]	[j]	[t̪]	[h]	[z]	[w]	[h]	[d, ð]	[g, ɣ]	[b, v]	[ʔ]
20	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
taw	sheen	résh	qop	ṣadhé	pé	ʾain	simkâth	nun	meem	lamâdh
t, t̪/th	sh	r	q	ṣ	p, p̄/ph	ʾ	s	n	m	l
[t]	[ʃ]	[r]	[q]	[s]	[p, f]	[ʔ]	[s]	[n]	[m]	[l]
400	300	200	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30

Vowel diacritics

							Eastern
							Western
u, ū	o, ō	ā	a	e	ē	i, ī	

Eastern or Nestorian script

𐌵	𐌶	𐌷	𐌸	𐌹	𐌺	𐌻	𐌼	𐌽	𐌾	𐌿
𐌵	𐌶	𐌷	𐌸	𐌹	𐌺	𐌻	𐌼	𐌽	𐌾	𐌿
kap	yodh	téith	héith	zâyn	waw	hé	dalâth	gamâl	béith	alâp
k	y	t	h	z	w	h	d	g	b	ʻ
[cʰ, c]	[j]	t	[x]	[z]	[w]	[h]	[d, ð]	[ɣ, ʔ, ʁ, j]	[b, w]	[ʔ]
20	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
𐍁	𐍂	𐍃	𐍄	𐍅	𐍆	𐍇	𐍈	𐍉	𐍊	𐍋
𐍁	𐍂	𐍃	𐍄	𐍅	𐍆	𐍇	𐍈	𐍉	𐍊	𐍋
taw	sheen	résh	qop	ṣadhé	pé	ʻain	simkâth	nun	meem	lamâdh
t	sh	r	q	ṣ	p	ʻ	s	n	m	l
[tʰ, t, θ]	[ʃ]	[r]	[q]	[s]	[pʰ, p]	[ʔ, ʕ]	[s]	[n]	[m]	[l]
400	300	200	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30
	𐍀	𐍁	𐍂	𐍃	𐍄	𐍅	𐍆	𐍇	𐍈	𐍉
	d	t	p	ṣ	t	p	ʒ	ʒ	ç	ğ
	[ð]	[θ]	[f]	[dʰ / ðʰ]	[dʰ / ðʰ]	[f]	[ʒ]	[ʒ]	[ç]	[ğ]

Vowel diacritics

𐍂̇	𐍂̈	𐍂̈́	𐍂̈́	𐍂̈́	𐍂̈́	𐍂̈́
bă	ba	bĩ	be	û	ô	î
[ba]	[ba]	[bi]	[bi]	[uj, u]	[u]	[ij, i]