

# Cerstan Font Guide

When creating this guide, I had two options to choose from. I could arrange the characters in order of the English alphabet, or I could arrange them in order of the Cerstaní alphabet. I chose the latter. This makes the guide most useful to someone who is trying to transcribe a sentence in Cerstan from the Latin transliteration to the actual Cerstaní alphabet.

The Cerstaní alphabet is more strictly called an abjad. Although the symbols resemble several abugidas, or syllabic alphabets, the letters do not have any inherent vowels, and must be classified with alphabets such as Hebrew and Arabic. Although those two (the most familiar of abjads) do not typically include the vowels, Cerstan follows the lead of Syriac, which nearly always does. In fact, Cerstan is never written without vowels.

Consonants in Cerstan are typed mostly the same way as we would type English letters. The biggest difference is that each consonant has a line across the top, a bar from which all the consonants hang. Typing a stream of consonants will demonstrate that they all connect. However, since text editing programs must require inherent spaces, and this creates an ugly effect on things, the space bar must only contain blank space, not the empty bar that is a space in Cerstaní text. To get the empty bar to use as a space in the midst of your text, type a lowercase q.

This brings us to one big difference between English and Cerstaní consonants. English has a distinct set of capital letters, used in a certain number of places. Cerstan has only lowercase letters, with a special marker used before a letter to mark where it should be capitalized. The marker can be typed by pressing the “grave” key. Type this marker before any letter that would be capitalized in the transliterated version.

Vowels are the biggest difference in Cerstan. Unlike English vowels, which behave like consonants when typed, Cerstan’s vowels are typed as diacritic marks (like accents) above the previous consonants. For instance, if one were to type “da”, they would type a “d”, then the “a”, and the “a” would appear as an accent above the “d”. When the word begins with a vowel, or when one is typing the second of two vowels in a row, one first types a capital “Q”, which is the keystroke for the vowel carrier.

Not all consonants are the same width, however, which makes the vowel marks appear strangely far to the right in some very wide consonants. To allow the vowels to appear normally, two sets of vowel marks have been devised. One set follows the logical keystrokes for vowels (using capital letters for similar but distinct vowels), designed for normal-width consonants, and the other set uses the shifted versions of the number row, designed for extra-wide consonants. An asterisk will accompany all consonants in the chart below which require the alternate set. (Some may not need the alternate “a”.) The alternate vowels can be accessed by typing each normal set vowel with an accent (“á, é”).

Below is listed first the consonants in order, then the vowels.

| Latin | Cerstan | Keystroke |
|-------|---------|-----------|
| b     | ठ       | b         |
| c     | ड       | c         |
| ch    | ड       | k         |
| ç *   | ड       | j *       |
| d     | ठ       | d         |
| dh    | ड       | D         |
| dz    | ड       | Z         |
| f *   | क       | f *       |
| g     | ढ       | g         |
| gh    | ड       | K         |
| h     | र       | h         |
| hl    | प       | L         |
| hr    | त       | R         |
| hw    | य       | W         |
| hy    | च       | Y         |
| j *   | ड       | J *       |
| l     | ट       | l         |

|                      |   |     |
|----------------------|---|-----|
| m *                  | ज | m * |
| n                    | न | n   |
| ng                   | ड | G   |
| ñ                    | ष | N   |
| p                    | ठ | p   |
| r                    | न | r   |
| s                    | व | s   |
| sh *                 | फ | x * |
| t                    | ट | t   |
| th                   | च | T   |
| ts                   | ड | S   |
| v                    | फ | v   |
| w                    | प | w   |
| y *                  | क | y * |
| z                    | न | z   |
| zh                   | अ | X   |
| <i>vowel carrier</i> | ज | Q   |

The vowels are shown in three ways: over blank space, above the vowel carrier, and above the consonant “f”, which requires the alternate set.

| Latin | Cerstan | Keystroke | Alt. |
|-------|---------|-----------|------|
| a     | ~ ङ कं  | a         | !    |
| e     | ˘ ङ कं  | e         | @    |
| é     | ˘ ङ के  | E         | #    |
| i     | ˙ ङ कं  | i         | \$   |
| í     | ˙ ङ कं  | I         | %    |

|   |        |   |   |
|---|--------|---|---|
| o | ^ ङ कं | o | ^ |
| ô | ˘ ङ कं | O | & |
| u | ^ ङ कं | u | * |
| ú | ˘ ङ कं | U | ( |
| û | ^ ङ कं | A | ) |

Punctuation is very similar to English, in the use of colons, commas, periods, etc., but many of the more unusual punctuation marks are absent (there are no curly braces), and some have changed usage. Below is the entire list:

| Latin | Cerstan | Keystroke |
|-------|---------|-----------|
| /     | 7       | /         |
| \$    | ⌘       | B         |
| -     | +       | -         |
| —     | #       | -         |
| ,     | +       | ,         |
| .     | ⊖       | .         |
| :     | ⋮       | :         |
| ;     | ⋮       | ;         |
| ?     | ⋮       | ?         |
| ‘ ’   | +       | ‘ ’       |
| “ ”   | #       | “ ”       |
| !     | ↑       | >         |

|                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| %                      | ⌘ | P |
| +                      | ⊖ | + |
| -                      | ⊖ |   |
| ×                      | * | \ |
| ÷                      | + | < |
| (                      | † | [ |
| )                      | ‡ | ] |
| [                      | [ | { |
| ]                      | ] | } |
| ( <i>caps marker</i> ) | ↑ | ` |
| =                      | # | = |
| <                      | ← | C |
| >                      | → | F |

Cerstan has its own number section, typed using the normal English numerals. The following chart will display those, along with a special marker, used to mark exponents. Its function is to actually mark anything it's placed above as superscript. It is displayed below both as above blank space, and as above the number "2".

| Latin | Cerstan | Keystroke |
|-------|---------|-----------|
| 1     | 1       | 1         |
| 2     | 2       | 2         |
| 3     | 3       | 3         |
| 4     | 4       | 4         |
| 5     | 5       | 5         |

|                        |     |   |
|------------------------|-----|---|
| 6                      | 6   | 6 |
| 7                      | 7   | 7 |
| 8                      | 8   | 8 |
| 9                      | 9   | 9 |
| 0                      | 0   | 0 |
| ( <i>superscript</i> ) | ' 2 | ~ |