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# Sundanese script - Wikipedia

12-15 minutes

<div>Aksara Sunda</div> <div>ᮘᮞ᮪ᮒᮓ ᮒ᮪ᮒᮓ</div>	
<div>ᮘᮞ᮪ᮒᮓ ᮒ᮪ᮒᮓ</div>	
Type	<a href="#">Abugida</a>
Languages	<a href="#">Sundanese</a>
Time period	Circa 14th–18th centuries, and present
Parent systems	<div><a href="#">Proto-Sinaitic alphabet</a></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Phoenician alphabet</a></li><li><a href="#">Aramaic alphabet</a></li><li><a href="#">Brāhmī</a></li><li><a href="#">Pallava</a></li><li><a href="#">Old Kawi</a></li><li><a href="#">Old Sundanese</a></li><li>Aksara Sunda</li></ul>
Sister systems	<div><a href="#">Balinese</a></div> <div><a href="#">Batak</a></div> <div><a href="#">Baybayin</a></div> <div><a href="#">Kulitan</a></div> <div><a href="#">Buhid</a></div> <div><a href="#">Hanunó'o</a></div> <div><a href="#">Javanese</a></div> <div><a href="#">Lontara</a></div>

	<a href="#">Old Sundanese</a> <a href="#">Rencong</a> <a href="#">Rejang</a> <a href="#">Tagbanwa</a>
<b>Direction</b>	Left-to-right
<a href="#">ISO 15924</a>	Sund, 362
<b>Unicode alias</b>	Sundanese
<a href="#">Unicode range</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">U+1B80–U+1BBF</a> Sundanese</li> <li><a href="#">U+1CC0–U+1CCF</a> Sundanese Supplement</li> </ul>
<p><b>This article contains <a href="#">IPA phonetic symbols</a>.</b> Without proper <a href="#">rendering support</a>, you may see <a href="#">question marks, boxes, or other symbols</a> instead of <a href="#">Unicode</a> characters. For an introductory guide on IPA symbols, see <a href="#">Help:IPA</a>.</p>	

ᮊᮊᮒᮓᮔᮕᮖᮗᮘᮙ

ᮚᮛᮜᮝᮞᮟᮠᮡᮢ

ᮣᮤᮥᮦᮧᮨᮩ᮪᮫ᮬ

main consonants of Old Sundanese script

	initial	conjunct	final		initial	conjunct	final		initial	conjunct	final
ka	ᮊ		ᮒ	ka	ᮓ	ᮒ	ᮔ		ᮕ	ᮒ	ᮔ
ga	ᮚ		ᮔ	ga	ᮛ	ᮔ	ᮕ	ga	ᮜ		ᮕ
nga	ᮞ		ᮞ	nga	ᮟ	ᮞ	ᮠ	nga	ᮡ		ᮠ
ca	ᮕ		ᮕ	ca	ᮖ	ᮕ	ᮗ	ca	ᮘ		ᮗ
ja	ᮛ		ᮛ	ja	ᮜ	ᮛ	ᮝ	ja	ᮞ		ᮞ
nya	ᮞᮊ		ᮞᮊ	nya	ᮟᮊ	ᮞᮊ	ᮟᮋ	nya	ᮡᮊ		ᮡᮋ
ta	ᮛᮊ		ᮛᮊ	ta	ᮜᮊ	ᮛᮊ	ᮜᮋ	ta	ᮞᮊ		ᮞᮋ
da	ᮛᮒ		ᮛᮒ	da	ᮜᮒ	ᮛᮒ	ᮜᮓ	da	ᮞᮒ		ᮞᮓ
pa	ᮛᮕ		ᮛᮕ	pa	ᮜᮕ	ᮛᮕ	ᮜᮖ	pa	ᮞᮕ		ᮞᮖ
ba	ᮛᮖ		ᮛᮖ	ba	ᮜᮖ	ᮛᮖ	ᮜᮗ	ba	ᮞᮖ		ᮞᮗ
ma	ᮛᮗ	ᮛᮗ	ᮛᮗ	ma	ᮜᮗ	ᮛᮗ	ᮜᮘ	ma	ᮞᮗ	ᮞᮗ	ᮞᮘ
wa	ᮛᮘ	ᮛᮘ	ᮛᮘ	wa	ᮜᮘ	ᮛᮘ	ᮜᮙ	wa	ᮞᮘ	ᮞᮘ	ᮞᮙ

**Sundanese script** (*Aksara Sunda*, ᮘᮞ᮪ᮒᮓ ᮒᮞ᮪ᮒᮓ) is a writing system which is used by the [Sundanese people](#). It is built based on **Old Sundanese script** (*Aksara Sunda Kuno*) which was used by the ancient Sundanese between the 14th and 18th centuries.<sup>[1]</sup>

## History and standardization<sup>[edit]</sup>

Since Sundanese people have utilized many different scripts, there were several requirements and criteria considered in the standardization of the Sundanese script for modern usage: (a) a script that can record the Sundanese language; (b) period of usage; (c) area of usage; (d) simplicity; (e) shows Sundanese identity.

The government of West Java Province has announced Peraturan Daerah (Local Regulation) no. 6 1996 about the Sundanese language, literature and script. The regulation was motivated by Keputusan Presiden (President's Decision) no. 082/B/1991, 24 July 1991.

As follow up to the local regulation, on Tuesday, 21 October 1997 in the main hall of Japanese Language Study Centre, Universitas Padjadjaran, Jatinangor; a seminar entitled "Lokakarya Aksara Sunda", in cooperation with the government of West Java Province and the Faculty of Literature [Padjadjaran University](#), was held and attended by delegations from local communities and cities in West Java. Several discussion results were achieved:

1. Historical facts from the 5th century until now have shown that there were seven scripts used in the West Javanese area: Pallawa, Pranagari, Sunda Kuno (Old Sundanese), Javanese (Carakan), Arabic (Pegon), Cacarakan, and Latin, with the following timeline:
  - [Pallawa](#) and [Pranagari](#): 5th–7th centuries (three centuries)
  - Sunda Kuno (Old Sundanese Script): 14th–18th centuries (five centuries)
  - [Javanese \(Carakan\)](#): 11th century and 17th–19th centuries (four centuries)
  - [Arabic \(Pegon\)](#): 17th – middle of the 20th centuries (three centuries)
  - Cacarakan: 19th–present (three centuries)
  - [Latin script](#): end of the 19th century – present (two centuries)

2. "Sundanese Script" shall fulfill the following criteria: "Sundanese Script is an orthographical system created by the people of West Java which include script and writing system for writing the Sundanese language."  
(Article 1.k of Local Government Regulation (Perda) no. 6 1996)
3. From the basic requirements: simplicity, timeline, area of usage, usage (to write Sundanese), law (President's Decision no. 082/B/1991 24 July 1991 and Perda no. 6 1996), percentage of Sundanese people creativity, it can be concluded that the suitable script fulfilling those requirements is the *Aksara Sunda Kuno* (Old Sundanese script). And now it is also agreed upon scholars that the script can simply be called *Aksara Sunda* (Sundanese script).
4. Since there were several variants in writing due to materials (stone, metal, skin, leaves, knives, ink, pen, hammer), timeline, and techniques, there shall be another criterion to choose for modern usage. And, considering the completeness and practicality, the variant found in soft-material-documents shall be used for modern usage.
5. There was a tendency to name Cacarakan script as Sundanese script by some people before. However, it can be traced back that the earliest source was a book written by G. J. Grashuis, "*Handleiding voor Aanleren van het Soendaneesch Letterschrift*" (Learning Sundanese Script) in year 1860. The book taught to write "Sundanese Script" but using "Cacarakan". The Cacarakan script itself only contains around 10% of innovation by Sundanese people, especially by reducing and simplifying the sounds in Javanese (Carakan) to suit the Sundanese language.
6. From the cultural point of view, Sundanese script is a part of Sundanese civilization and culture. Therefore, (re)spreading and (re)utilizing Sundanese script shall integrate with the task to maintain and conserve Sundanese culture as a whole. Thus, it will have broader scope as wide as the scope of the people itself.
7. Re-spreading and re-utilizing Sundanese script shall be done in several steps since it was not well known by the community within the last three centuries. These steps are:
  1. *Tahap Pawanohan* (Introduction)
  2. *Tahap Palomaan* (Utilizing)

### 3. *Tahap Pangagulan* (Pride)

### 4. *Tahap Pamibandaan* (Ownership)

Next, the existence and function of Sundanese Script in the social and cultural life of West Javanese people in modern life is supported by the West Javanese Governor's Decision no. 434/SK.614-Dis.PK/99 about "Standardization of Sundanese Script", Local Government's Regulation no. 5 2003 about "Conservation of Local Language, Literature, and Script", and Governor's Decision no. 3 2004.

## Typology[\[edit\]](#)

The standardized script has 32 basic characters, consists of 7 *aksara swara* (independent vowels): *a*, *é*, *i*, *o*, *u*, *e*, and *eu*, and 23 *aksara ngalagéna* (consonants with vowel *a*): *ka-ga-nga*, *ca-ja-nya*, *ta-da-na*, *pa-ba-ma*, *ya-ra-la*, *wa-sa-ha*, *fa*-*va*-*qa*-*xa*-*za*.

The additional five sounds to the *ngalagena* characters were added to fulfill the purpose of Sundanese script as tool for recording the development of Sundanese language, especially by absorption of foreign words and sounds. However, the glyphs for the new characters are not new, but reusing several variants in old Sundanese script, for example: the glyphs for *fa* and *va* are variants of Old Sundanese *pa*, the glyphs for *qa* and *xa* are variants of Old Sundanese *ka*, and the glyph for *za* is a variant of Old Sundanese *ja*.

There are two non-standard sounds, *kha* and *sha*, for writing foreign Arabic consonants <خ> and <ش>. These are considered non-standard because their usage only supported by few Sundanese people.

There are also *rarangkén* or attachments for removing, modifying, or adding vowel or consonant sound to the base characters. 13 *rarangkén* based on the position to the base can be categorized into three groups: (1) five *rarangkén* above the base characters, (2) three *rarangkén* below the base characters, and (3) five *rarangkén* inline the base characters. In addition, there are glyphs for number characters, from zero to nine.

Graphically, *ngalagena* characters including *rarangkén* have angle 45° – 75°. In general, the dimension ratio (height:width) is 4:4, except for the *ngalagena* character *ra* (4:3), *ba* and *nya* (4:6), and the *swara* character *i*

(4:3). *Rarangkén* have dimension ratio 2:2, except for *panyecek* (1:1), *panglayar* (4:2), *panyakra* (2:4), *pamaéh* (4:2) and *pamingkal* (2:4 bottom-side, 3:2 right-side). Numbers have ratio 4:4, except for number 4 and 5 (4:3).

### Aksara Swara (ᮘᮞ᮪ᮒᮒ ᮒᮒ)[[edit](#)]

ᮘ ᮘ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ  
a é i o u e eu

ᮘ = a	ᮘ = é	ᮒ = i	ᮒ = o
ᮒ = u	ᮒ = e	ᮒ = <a href="#">eu</a>	

### Aksara Ngalagéna (ᮘᮞ᮪ᮒᮒ ᮒᮒᮒᮒ)[[edit](#)]

ᮒᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ  
ka ga nga ca ja nya  
ᮒᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ  
ta da na pa ba ma  
ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ  
ya ra la wa sa ha  
ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ ᮒ  
fa va qa xa za  
ᮒᮒ ᮒᮒ  
kha sya

### Aksara ngalagéna from the Sundanese language

ᮒᮒ = ka	ᮒ = ga	ᮒ = nga
ᮒᮒ = ca	ᮒ = ja	ᮒᮒ = nya
ᮒᮒ = ta	ᮒ = da	ᮒ = na
ᮒᮒ = pa	ᮒᮒ = ba	ᮒ = ma
ᮒᮒ = ya	ᮒ = ra	ᮒᮒ = la
ᮒ = wa	ᮒᮒ = sa	ᮒᮒ = ha

### Aksara ngalagéna for writing foreign words

ᮒ = fa	ᮒᮒ = qa	ᮒᮒ = va	ᮒᮒ = xa	ᮒᮒ = za
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## **Rarangén** (ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ)[[edit](#)]

Based on their location to the base glyph, 14 *rarangén* can be categorized as:

- *Rarangén* above the base glyph = 5 kinds
- *Rarangén* below the base glyph = 2 kinds
- *Rarangén* inline the base glyph = 6 kinds

### **a. Rarangén above the base glyph**

ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ	<i>Panghulu</i> , modifies the vowel /a/ to /i/. Example: ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ (ki)
ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ	<i>Pamepet</i> , modifies the vowel /a/ to /e/. Example: ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ (ke)
ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ	<i>Paneuleung</i> , modifies the vowel /a/ to /ʌ/. Example: ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ (keu)
ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ	<i>Panglayar</i> , adds a final /r/ to the base sound. Example: ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ (kar)
ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ	<i>Panyecek</i> , adds a final /ŋ/ to the base sound. Example: ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ (kang)

### **b. Rarangén below the base glyph**

ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ	<i>Panyuku</i> , modifies the vowel /a/ to /u/. Example: ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ (ku)
ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ	<i>Panyakra</i> , inserts the consonant /r/ to the base sound. Example: ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ (kra)
ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ	<i>Panyiku</i> , inserts the consonant /l/ to the base sound. Example: ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒᮒ (kla)

### **c. Rarangén inline the base glyph**

ᮊᮥ	<i>Panéléng</i> , modifies vowel /a/ to /ɛ/. Example: ᮊᮥᮒ (ké)
ᮊᮥᮒ	<i>Panolong</i> , modifies the vowel /a/ to /o/. Example: ᮊᮥᮒ (ko)
ᮊᮥᮒ	<i>Pamingkal</i> , inserts the consonant /j/ to the base sound. Example: ᮊᮥᮒ (kya)
ᮊᮥᮒ	<i>Pangwisad</i> , <a href="#">adds final consonant sound</a> /h/ to the base sound. Example: ᮊᮥᮒ (kah)
ᮊᮥᮒ	<i>Patén</i> or <i>pamaéh</i> , <a href="#">removes vowel sound</a> of the base sound. Example: ᮊᮥᮒ (k)

### Numbers (ᮊᮥᮒ ᮊᮥᮒᮒᮒᮒ)[[edit](#)]

ᮊ ᮊ ᮊ ᮊ ᮊ ᮊ ᮊ ᮊ ᮊ ᮊ

ᮊ = 1	ᮊ = 2	ᮊ = 3
ᮊ = 4	ᮊ = 5	ᮊ = 6
ᮊ = 7	ᮊ = 8	ᮊ = 9
ᮊ = 0		

In texts, numbers are written surrounded with dual pipe sign | ... |.

Example: |ᮊᮊᮊᮊ| = 2019

### Punctuation marks([edit](#))

For modern use, Latin punctuations are used. Such punctuations are: comma, dot, semicolon, colon, exclamation mark, question mark, quotes, parenthesis, bracket etc. Old Sundanese, though, was written using its own set of punctuation symbols. The *bindu surya* ᮊᮥᮒ, the representation of the sun, is used in the sequence ᮊᮥᮒᮥᮒᮥᮒ, which denoted a religious text. Likewise, the *bindu panglong* ᮊᮥᮒ, the representation of a half moon, is used in the sequence ᮊᮥᮒᮥᮒ, which

The punctuation symbols resembling letters with stripes used in the sequences above,  $\langle \text{L}\overline{\text{E}} \rangle$  ,  $\langle \text{T}\overline{\text{E}} \rangle$  , and  $\langle \text{E}\overline{\text{LN}}\overline{\text{E}} \rangle$  , are respectively named *da satanga*, *ka satanga*, and *ba satanga*, and originated as "decorated" versions of the syllable *da*  $\langle \text{L} \rangle$  , one half of the syllable *ka*  $\langle \text{77} \rangle$  , and the syllable *ba*  $\langle \text{LN} \rangle$  , respectively. To these can be added the *leu satanga*  $\langle \text{L}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{E}} \rangle$  , of unclear meaning. Likewise, it originated as a "decorated" syllable *leu*  $\langle \text{L}\overline{\text{7}} \rangle$  , which is archaic.<sup>[2]</sup>

Simple words or sentences can be written directly, for example by arranging *ngalagéna* letters which represent the sounds. However, in certain words, compound consonants can be found. Then, two ways of writing can be used: (1) using *pamaéh*, or (2) using *pasangan* (pairs).

Unicode[edit]

**Blocks**[\[edit\]](#)

16/03/2020 à 18:53

[Sundanese<sup>\[1\]</sup>](#)[Official Unicode Consortium code chart](#) (PDF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+1B8x	◌̇	◌̈́	◌̈́᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚
U+1B9x	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚
U+1BAx	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚
U+1BBx	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚

**Notes**1. <sup>^</sup> As of Unicode version 13.0[Sundanese Supplement<sup>\[1\]\[2\]</sup>](#)[Official Unicode Consortium code chart](#) (PDF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+1CCx	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚	᳚

**Notes**1. <sup>^</sup> As of Unicode version 13.02. <sup>^</sup> Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points**Gallery**[\[edit\]](#)

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- 



The first page from manuscript of Carita Waruga Guru which use the Old Sundanese script and the Old Sundanese language.

### See also[[edit](#)]

- [Sundanese language](#)
- [Javanese language](#)
- [Javanese script](#)

### References[[edit](#)]

### External links[[edit](#)]

- [Sundanese Unicode Table](#)
- [Kairaga - Comprehensive information site regarding Sundanese font developing effort](#)
- [Sundanese - Latin Online Transliteration and Sundanese Unicode Font](#)
- [Sundanese font app](#)