

# Vai / 𞤅𞤲 Vai

romanization: KNAB 2012

The Vai language, spoken mainly in Liberia and Sierra Leone is written in Vai syllabic script, from left to right. The script was standadized in 1899 and again in 1962 but in actual usage there is a lot of variation and simplification. Tones are not marked.

## I. Main characters

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	-	𞤅	𞤆	𞤇	𞤈	𞤉	𞤊
2	ˊ	𞤋	𞤌	𞤍	𞤎	𞤏	𞤐
3	𞤑	𞤒	𞤓	𞤔	𞤕	𞤖	𞤗
4	h-	𞤘	𞤙	𞤚	𞤛	𞤜	𞤝
5	hˊ	𞤞	𞤟	𞤠	𞤡	𞤢	𞤣
6	w-	𞤤	𞤥	𞤦	𞤧	𞤨	𞤩
7	wˊ	𞤪	𞤫	𞤬	𞤭	𞤮	𞤯
8	p-	𞤰	𞤱	𞤲	𞤳	𞤴	𞤵
9	b-	𞤶	𞤷	𞤸	𞤹	𞤺	𞤻
10	ɓ-	𞤼	𞤽	𞤾	𞤿	𞥀	𞥁
11	mɓ-	𞥂	𞥃	𞥄	𞥅	𞥆	𞥇
12	kp-	𞥈	𞥉	𞥊	𞥋	𞥌	𞥍
13	kpˊ	𞥎	𞥏	𞥐	𞥑	𞥒	𞥓
14	mgb-	𞥔	𞥕	𞥖	𞥗	𞥘	𞥙
15	gb-	𞥚	𞥛	𞥜	𞥝	𞥞	𞥟
16	gbˊ	𞥠	𞥡	𞥢	𞥣	𞥤	𞥥
17	f-	𞥦	𞥧	𞥨	𞥩	𞥪	𞥫
18	v-	𞥬	𞥭	𞥮	𞥯	𞥰	𞥱
19	t-	𞥲	𞥳	𞥴	𞥵	𞥶	𞥷
20	th-	𞥸	𞥹	𞥺	𞥻	𞥼	𞥽
21	d-	𞥾	𞥿	𞦀	𞦁	𞦂	𞦃
22	dh-	𞦄	𞦅	𞦆	𞦇	𞦈	𞦉
23	l-	𞦊	·	𞦋	𞦌	𞦍	ˊˊˊ
24	r-	𞦎	ˊˊ	𞦏	𞦐	𞦑	ˊˊˊˊ
25	dˊ	𞦒	ˊˊˊ	𞦓	𞦔	𞦕	ˊˊˊˊˊ
26	ndˊ	𞦖	𞦗	𞦘	𞦙	𞦚	ˊˊˊˊˊˊ
27	s-	𞦛	𞦜	𞦝	𞦞	𞦟	𞦠
28	sh-	𞦡	𞦢	𞦣	𞦤	𞦥	𞦦
29	z-	ˊˊˊˊ	𞦧	𞦨	𞦩	𞦪	𞦫
30	zh-	ˊˊˊˊˊ	𞦬	𞦭	𞦮	𞦯	𞦰
31	ch-	𞦱	𞦲	𞦳	𞦴	𞦵	𞦶

32	<b>j-</b>	ᄇ	ᄃ	ᄆ	ᄉ	ᄋ	ᄏ	ᄒ
33	<b>nj-</b>	ᄇᄃ	ᄃᄃ	ᄆᄃ	ᄉᄃ	ᄋᄃ	ᄏᄃ	ᄒᄃ
34	<b>y-</b>	ᄇᄃ	ᄃᄃ	ᄆᄃ	ᄉᄃ	ᄋᄃ	ᄏᄃ	ᄒᄃ
35	<b>k-</b>	ᄇᄃᄃ	ᄃᄃ	ᄆᄃ	ᄉᄃ	ᄋᄃ	ᄏᄃ	ᄒᄃ
36	<b>k̃-</b>			ᄆᄃ				
37	<b>ŋg-</b>	ᄇᄃᄃ	ᄃᄃ	ᄆᄃ	ᄉᄃ	ᄋᄃ	ᄏᄃ	ᄒᄃ
38	<b>ŋg̃-</b>			ᄆᄃ				ᄒᄃ
39	<b>g-</b>	ᄇᄃ	ᄃᄃ	ᄆᄃ	ᄉᄃ	ᄋᄃ	ᄏᄃ	ᄒᄃ
40	<b>g̃-</b>			ᄆᄃ				ᄒᄃ
41	<b>m-</b>	ᄇᄃ	ᄃᄃ	ᄆᄃ	ᄉᄃ	ᄋᄃ	ᄏᄃ	ᄒᄃ
42	<b>n-</b>	ᄇᄃ	ᄃᄃ	ᄆᄃ	ᄉᄃ	ᄋᄃ	ᄏᄃ	ᄒᄃ
43	<b>ny-</b>	ᄇᄃᄃ	ᄃᄃ	ᄆᄃ	ᄉᄃ	ᄋᄃ	ᄏᄃ	ᄒᄃ
		<b>-e</b>	<b>-i</b>	<b>-a</b>	<b>-o</b>	<b>-u</b>	<b>-ɔ</b>	<b>-ɛ</b>

## II. Other characters

1	ᄃᄃ	syllable-final <i>ŋg</i>
2	==	syllable vowel lengthener (in romanization the vowel is written twice). Sometimes vowel length is indicated by a new syllable with the same vowel, starting with <i>h</i> , e.g. ᄃᄃᄃ → <i>taha</i> [táá].
3	^	comma
4	*	dot, period
5	**	exclamation mark
6	ᄃᄃᄃ	question mark
7	ᄃᄃ	logogram <i>fɛŋg</i> 'thing'
8	ᄃᄃ	logogram <i>faa</i> 'die, kill'

## III. Numbers (not used)

ᄃ 0, ᄃ 1, ᄃ 2, ᄃ 3, ᄃ 4, ᄃ 5, ᄃ 6, ᄃ 7, ᄃ 8, ᄃ 9.

## Romanization variations

b = ɓ, ch = c, d̄ = d, dh = ð, ε = e, ŋ = ñ, ny = ɲ, ɔ = o, th = θ.

## Pronunciation

**b** [b], **ch** [tʃ]~[c], **d̄** [d], **dh** [ð], **j** [dʒ]~[ʒ], **ny** [ɲ], **sh** [ʃ], **th** [θ], **y** [j], **zh** [ʒ].

## Sources

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