

12. Orthography, spelling and punctuation

12.1 Alphabet

The Jameld alphabet has 27 letters, thus:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T̄S̄ T U V W X Y Z

In addition, there are six additional vowels, and one additional consonant, with diacritics:

Ä Ê Ë Ī Ö Û Ğ

These are not considered separate letters of the alphabet, and words containing these characters are by convention sorted alphabetically along with words without the diacritics. For example, in a telephone directory *Älrich* would appear between *Alpin* and *Alster*. Non-Jameld-native diacriticised letters such as à or ô are also sorted as if there were no diacritic.

In the days of typewriters (and, for that matter, up to the present date), with special Jameldic characters not being available when typing or texting, the following conventions were/are applied:

- Ä Ê É Ī Ö Û were/are usually accessible (e.g. on French typewriters and computer keyboards there were keys for lower-case “é” and a dead key for diaeresis); otherwise, the unaccented letter would suffice (especially the case for Ê and Ī, which until recently were a problem on many mobile phones).
- T̄S̄ and Ğ, it was generally accepted, would not be available, so TS and G had to suffice until Jameld fonts became more widely available to PC users. The TS and G convention remains in online contexts (e-mail, instant messaging, microblogging, fora) and in texting and other mobile-phone use. Some websites make use of certain “close enough” substitutes, such as the Turkish g with breve (ğ) and ts with macron (t̄s̄).

Throughout the ages, of course, professional typesetters producing Jameld newspapers, magazines, books, pamphlets, letterheads and so on prided themselves on doing a proper job with the proper Jameld characters – often obtained at considerable expense.

The spelling alphabet below, or close variants of it, is used for clarity when spelling names over the telephone etc.:

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----|-----------------------|
| A | A lauk Aajen | M | M lauk Michal |
| Ä | A-pünkti lauk Älvard | N | N lauk Nadina |
| B | B lauk Bartel | O | O lauk Oktobü |
| C | C lauk Chadof | Ö | O-pünkti lauk Öls |
| D | D lauk Drakon | P | P lauk Petersil |
| E | E lauk Edvard | Q | Q lauk Quadret |
| É | E-akut lauk Ékhorn | R | R lauk Rothtar |
| Ë | E-pünkti lauk Ëxar | S | S lauk Siyistha |
| F | F lauk Filip | ŤŠ | ŤŠ lauk Ťšarlota |
| G | G lauk Gurthel | T | T lauk Tomas |
| Ĝ | Ĝ lauk Ĝeligh | U | U lauk Ulvita |
| H | H lauk Haral | Û | Û-pünkti lauk Ûladeck |
| I | I lauk Iylid | V | V lauk Vias |
| Ī | I-pünkti lauk Īkon | W | W lauk Wuntar |
| J | J lauk Jorthel | X | X lauk Xolb |
| K | K lauk Karlin | Y | Y lauk Yenevra |
| L | L lauk Ladiĝ | Z | Z lauk Zur-Aa |

12.2 Capitalisation

In Jameld, the first word in the sentence is capitalised, as is the first word in a quotation within a sentence.

E seta: »Me jist eld.«

He said, "I am old."

However, if the particle 'e appears first in a sentence, it is not capitalised, and the following word is:

'e Staren jist swer, eöx ye sé an jertja ohn is.

Standing is difficult, if you're a baby deer on ice.

Names of months, days of the week, countries and nationalities are also capitalised.

Te tišs Wojensdäi int Febrar jist an speziali däi vor Jameltšes paĝé int Zuraalant.

The second Wednesday in February is a special day for all Jameltsh in Zuraaland.

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Personal names and titles are capitalised; note, however, that surname prefixes such as *te* and *ot* are not capitalised:

Prof. Alezandra Wenjelsbek
Wulfrik ot Swije

In the names of works, all words except non-initial articles, short prepositions and conjunctions are by convention capitalised:

Te Buhlen ew Ernsi Thäches böya an Ethelknucht ot Zur
The Book of Solemn Thoughts about a Knight from Zur

12.3 Apostrophe

In Jameld, the apostrophe is used to mark elision, as in:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>t'amar</i> (< <i>te amar</i>) | the bin |
| <i>m'eskrë</i> (< <i>me eskrë</i>) | I wrote |
| <i>ven'st</i> (< <i>ven ist</i>) | we are (informal) |
| <i>me tsa'</i> (< <i>me tsald</i>) | I will (informal) |

Apostrophe also appears after the pronoun *e* before a vowel, along with an *h* for euphony, as in:

e h'eskrë he wrote

Finally, the infinitive particle 'e includes an apostrophe, as in:

et'st luch 'e visen it's easy to see

12.4 Punctuation

Full stops, exclamation marks, question marks, colons* and semi-colons are all used as in English, as are commas, although in formal style commas may also be placed in front of verb infinitives where the meaning is "in order to":

I go [in order] to return *m'al, zaräizen*
(alternatively, and more commonly:
m'al vor zaräizen)

but:

* See also 9.2 RELATIVE CLAUSES for a particular use of colons.

I want to return *me will zaräizen*

Quotations are introduced by a colon and enclosed in inward-pointing double guillemets:

E seta: »Me jist eldo.« He said, "I am older."

Quotations within quotations are enclosed in single guillemets: ›thus‹, although in handwriting single quotation marks, 'thus', are often used instead of single or even double guillemets.

As an alternative to brackets or commas, depending on the sense desired, dashes can be used to set off parenthetical words or phrases, in which case the en dash is used, with surrounding spaces:

E tallta ime – unter vour iys, zowér – tes tem al mornmorn.
He told me – in confidence, mind you – that they're leaving in the morning.

En dashes are also used when writing ranges of values, e.g. *1982–2014*.

When representing a trailing off in reported speech, the ellipsis (...) is not used in Jameld; rather, the convention is two en dashes separated by and surrounded by spaces:

»Et bitrau ime – – zoerns« e seta. »Me na känne was, öd wau, me t̄soh – – «
"I'm so ... so very sorry," he said. "I just don't know what, or how, to ..."

12.5 Compound words

In Jameld, compounds are normally written as one word, in the same manner as most other Germanic languages:

frégetaaken = frége + taaken (question mark)
platnesüchkléth = platne + süch[en] + kléth (teatowel)
Hengistbörgkaap (Hengistbury Head – place name)

Where a component of the compound is shared by two or more other components, a hyphen and space are necessary:

muth- und klausiuch (foot-and-mouth disease)
optstizin- und lantinvias (runway, lit. taking-off and landing road)

A hyphen is normally inserted in compound words before a short component (one or two letters long) that begins with a vowel, after a short component (one or two letters long) ending in a vowel, or for clarity (e.g. where one component is an abbreviation or contains a hyphen already, or where there is a clash of identical letters):

Zur-Aa (River Sauer)
e-poſt-adreſſa (e-mail address)
PIN-kode (PIN code)
kö-miſſa (chat message)
Vërdindass-ſträt (a street name)

However, the hyphen tends to be omitted before the vowel in compounds of more than two parts:

Zuraalant
ätïſtartſtemwerk = *ät* + *ïſtar* + *ſtemwerk* (air-conditioning)

12.6 Foreign words

With place names, brand names and other proper nouns, the convention is to capitalise. There is no need to otherwise mark the word as “foreign”:

Wés an Nando’s int Irkutsk?
Is there a Nando’s in Irkutsk?

With other foreign words, until they have been naturalised (and, if necessary, written with Jameldic spelling), italics or quotation marks tend to be used:

E ſochta erns vor te mot juſte.
He groped for the *mot juſte*.

Te Déttſazes ave »Schadenfreude«; ven ave zaſsandfröda.
The Germans have “Schadenfreude”; we have “zaſsandfröda”.

»Wulne ye an ‘jelly baby’?« frog te Doktor.
“Would you like a jelly baby?” asked the Doctor.