

		key strokes		key strokes		key strokes		key strokes		key strokes
		 d d dA		 Y y yA		 O b \$	 I h k	 j j jA		
' stop ¹	W	V	Th ²	T	Sh	S	R	P		

“Foreign” Consonants

used for writing non-Ragi (Mosphei') words

key strokes	key strokes	key strokes	key strokes	key strokes	key strokes	key strokes	key strokes
 Q	 q	 J i iA	 P	 p	 B	 }]A
 Q	 q		 P	 p	 B		
 Q	 @		 P	 #	 B		
Zh, Ž azure	Z	Y	Dh, voiced Th this	voiceless Th thin	Sh	Kh, German Ch	

Ng, ŋ ³

Remember that *Ragi* 'Dh', 'Th', 'Gh', 'Kh', 'Ph' and 'Sh' are entirely different consonants.

¹ by M.R. Couch

² adapted from image by M.R. Couch

³ by S. Bell

⁴ adapted from image by S. Bell

Punctuation



The ? and ! marks without a dot may, optionally, be used to mark the beginning of a question or emphasis, if this makes the sentence clearer.

all punctuation images by S. Bell

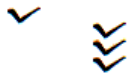
⋮ comma

⋮ full stop/period

⋮ apostrophe
 [for foreign words]
 [not glottal stop]



'quote' "me"



(parenthetical) [remarks] {perhaps}



Numerals

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

Writing Direction

We have one hint about the direction of atevi writing, and that hint is open to interpretation.

Bren, and the guest book in his room at Malguri:

He took the guest book from its shelf ... and leafed through it, ... -- as the leaves were added forward, rather than the reverse, after the habit of atevi books. ...
 He opened it from the back, as atevi read -- the right-left direction, and down.

Foreigner, page 156 paperback

So there is definitely a right-to-left element and a top-to-bottom element. At first glance this would suggest Arabic-style writing: lines right-to-left starting with the first line at the top of the page.

But -- if that were the case, would Bren even notice that the writing was top-to-bottom? Have you *ever* looked at a writing system and said, Aha, they start at the top of the page? On this planet, writing systems that start at the bottom of the page are incredibly rare. I can't think of any off hand. That is why I think that Bren means *each line* runs top to bottom, with the first line at the right side of the page.

The phrase used is "*the right-left direction, and down.*" In this case, I think right-left direction was mentioned first, not because it is more prominent in Ragi writing but because it is more relevant to the rest of the paragraph, which is the construction of the book.

¹ by M.R. Couch

² adapted from image by M.R. Couch

³ by S. Bell

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