

# Proposal to revise the glyphs of LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED OPEN E and LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E

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This document requests the replacement of the glyph of U+025E LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E and the glyph of U+029A LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED OPEN E.

Those characters are IPA symbols but they currently have Greek-like contrast (with horizontal stems thicker than vertical stems) instead of Latin-like contrast (with vertical stems thicker than horizontal stems). IPA symbols borrowed from Greek are typically redesigned so as to fit with the general appearance of roman letters. This is generally the case with U+025B LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN E and U+025C LATIN SMALL LETTER REVERSED OPEN E.

The U+029A LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED OPEN E was initially proposed as an IPA symbol by Wilhelm Viëtor and was tolerated as an alternate symbol to U+0153 LATIN SMALL LIGATURE OE at the beginning of the 20th century, as noted in NameList.txt.

The LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E was proposed as a symbol by J. C. Catford in 1990 but was mistakenly represented by LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED OPEN in the 1993 IPA chart and was corrected to LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E in 1993.

The current glyphs are Greek-like, compared with U+025B LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN E and U+025C LATIN SMALL LETTER REVERSED OPEN E:

ἘἚἘ

These are the glyphs that are recommended, compared with U+025B LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN E and U+025C LATIN SMALL LETTER REVERSED OPEN E:

ḘḚḘ

## Examples

Many use of U+025E LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E and U+029A LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED OPEN E have the recommended form.

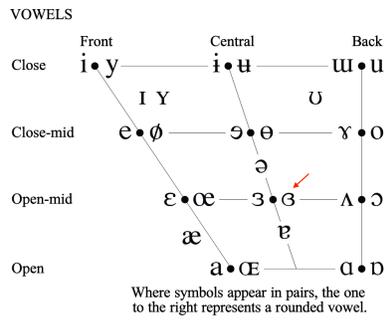


Figure 1. U+029A LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E in the 2015 IPA chart.

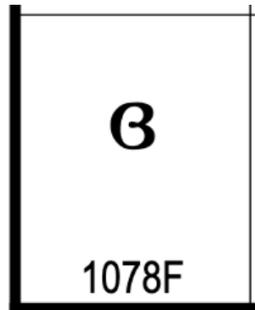


Figure 2. The glyph of U+1078F MODIFIER LETTER SMALL CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E in the Unicode Latin Extended-F block chart already has the Latin-like shape.

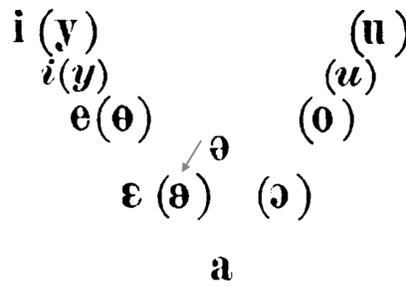


Figure 3. U+029A LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED OPEN E used instead of U+0153 LATIN SMALL LIGATURE OE in Viëtor (1899), p. 3.

le vwajel ø, œ, ubjē ø, ø. — zysk isi, nuz avō kō:sidere ø ø d yn par, œ ø d o:trø par, kōm de sē:plø varjete tipografik, a ā:plwaje ēdiferamā slō le preferūs dez o:tø:r. dāvō nu kō:tinqe s sistē:m, u fwazir definitivmā dø d se sip a l esklyzjō dez o:tr? dā s dørnje ka, kel sip fwazir? — 5 kolēg òt ete d avi d kō:tinqe la liberte aktqel, 1 dø fēr œ fwa definitif; 10 s apstjēn syr sē pwē. d o:trø par, pur esprime la ply fērme de dø vwajel, 8 prefēr ø, 3 prefēr ø, 2 vudre fwazir œ, 3 s apstjēn; pur esprime la plyz uvērt, 8 prefēr œ, 5 ø, 2 prōpōz d o:trø fōrm, 1 s apstjē.

Figure 4. U+029A LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED OPEN E shown as an alternate to U+0153 LATIN SMALL LIGATURE OE in Passy (1904), p. 64.

voyelles ε, e, i prononcées avec arrondissement des lèvres, dont des variétés s'entendent dans le Français *peur, peu, nu*.

ɛ, i, ø, ø, ø, ɜ sont des voyelles "centrales," intermédiaires entre la position vélaire et la position palatale. ɜ est à peu près la voyelle de l'Anglais du Sud *fur*, i celle du Gallois du Nord *un*, u celle du

Figure 5. U+029A LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED OPEN E used as instead of U+0153 LATIN SMALL LIGATURE OE in Association Phonétique Internationale (1921), p. 7.

#### 14. The rounded counterpart of [ɜ] should be represented as [ɔ̹].

Figure 6. U+025E LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E proposed as an IPA symbol in Catford (1990), p. 28.

#### *Proposals 12-16. Symbols for mid central vowels.*

[ə] and [ø] were approved as symbols for close-mid (higher mid) unrounded and rounded central vowels respectively. [ɜ] was approved as the symbol for an open-mid (lower mid) unrounded central vowel. This restricts the use of [ɜ] to a more specific vowel quality than was approved at Kiel. The symbol [ɔ̹] was approved for a rounded open-mid central vowel, rather than . [ə, ø, ɔ̹] were not previously on the chart. The definition of [ə] remains deliberately less specific.

Figure 7. U+025B LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN E approved as an IPA symbol in International Phonetic Association (1993), p. 33.

The symbol for the open-mid central rounded vowel on the current chart of the International Phonetic Alphabet (revised to 1993), published in the *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 23(1), appears as a closed epsilon ([ɛ]). This was a typographical error made in the preparation of the chart. The symbol which J. C. Catford had in mind when he proposed the central vowel changes in the *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 20(2) in 1990 was in fact a closed reversed epsilon ([ɛ̞]). The symbol for the open-mid central rounded vowel on the IPA chart should therefore be changed to [ɛ̞] to reflect that original intention and to reflect historical representations of the Cardinal Vowels accurately. Reference to the symbol's status on the Cardinal Vowel quadrilaterals can be found in Abercrombie (1967) and Catford (1977). In terms of IPA Numbers, used in coding tables, the correct symbol is IPA395 instead of IPA396.

Figure 8. U+025E LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E and U+025E LATIN SMALL LETTER CLOSED REVERSED OPEN E in Esling (1995), p. 48.

## Bibliography

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