

# Unicode request for modifier capital Y

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This is a request for the modifier letter capital Y, <sup>Y</sup>, which is used in Americanist phonetic notation.

In the Americanist convention, capitalization indicates a voiceless sound. The letter y is used as a modifier for palatalized sounds, such as *d<sup>y</sup>* (IPA *dʲ*), as well as for true palatal consonants *l<sup>y</sup>*, *l̥<sup>y</sup>* and *n<sup>y</sup>* (IPA *ɭ*, *ɭ̥* and *ɲ*). A modifier capital Y is thus used for their voiceless homologs: palatalized consonants with a notable voiceless release, such as <sup>t<sup>y</sup></sup> (IPA [tʲ̚]) – distinguished from plain palatalized voiceless consonants such as <sup>t</sup> (IPA [tʲ]) – and the voiceless palatal consonants <sup>L</sup>, <sup>L̥</sup> and <sup>N</sup> (IPA [ɭ̥], [ɭ̥̚] and [ɲ̥]).

## Characters

<sup>Y</sup> 1DFC4 MODIFIER LETTER CAPITAL Y.

## Properties

1DFC4;MODIFIER LETTER CAPITAL Y;Lm;0;L;<sup> 0059;;;;N;;;;;

## References

Florence Gerdel (1973) *Fonemas del Páez*. Sistemas fonológicos de idiomas colombianos II.  
 Instituto Lingüístico de Verano (1973) *Sistemas fonológicos de idiomas colombianos II*. Editorial Townsend,  
 Lomalinda, Colombia.



# Figures

1. Modificaciones a los Símbolos Consonánticos

C <sup>h</sup>	consonante aspirada
C <sup>y</sup>	consonante palatalizada
<b>C<sup>Y</sup></b>	consonante con palatalización sorda
C <sup>w</sup>	consonante labializada
N <sub>C</sub>	consonante prenasalizada

Figure 1. Instituto Lingüístico de Verano (1973: 1). The standard Americanist convention of using capital letters for voiceless sounds, in this case voiceless palatalized <C<sup>y</sup>> (IPA [C<sup>j</sup>]).

tienen distribución limitada, y [p] es variante del fonema /p/ que también tiene alófonos complejos: [p<sup>y</sup>] y **[p<sup>Y</sup>]**. El extenso número de grupos fonéticos se

'ponerse el sombrero'; /púpyku/ **[púpYku]** 'él unió', /úpku/ **[úpYku]** 'él silbó'.

Aun cuando contrasta con el fonema /č/ [tš], el alófono **[t<sup>Y</sup>]** está muy cerca de [tš] acústicamente. /t<sup>y</sup>it<sup>y</sup>/ **[t<sup>y</sup>it<sup>Y</sup>]** ~ [t<sup>y</sup>itš] 'barro', /pat<sup>y</sup>kwé?/ **[pat<sup>Y</sup>kwé?]** ~ [patškwé?] 'lo cocinó usted?'.

Figure 2. Gerdel (1973: 8, 20, 21). Allophonic voiceless [Y] (blue) and [y] (red). We thus distinguish voiced [y] and [y] from voiceless [Y] and [Y] (IPA [j], [j̥] and [j̥], [j̥]).

Las nasales /m n n̄/ tienen cada una alófono sordos [M N N̄], que varían libremente con los alófonos sonoros: (1) después de /x/ en posición final

/muxm/ [muhm~muhM] 'guadua', /puubyáxn/ [puubyáhN] 'mitad', /ipy n̄ixn̄/ [ipy n̄ihn̄~ipy n̄ihN̄] 'carbón ardiente', /mxik/ [mhik<sup>h</sup>~Mhik<sup>h</sup>]

vibrante alveolar palatalizada /l̄/ tiene un alófono sordo [l̄̄] que varía con el alófono sonoro antes de silencio. /weʔl̄/ [weʔl̄~weʔl̄̄] 'tieso'. El alófono sonoro ocurre en los otros casos. /áta<sup>h</sup>l̄/ [áta<sup>h</sup>l̄̄]

Figure 3. Gerdel (1973: 24-25). <Y> is also used for IPA [ŋ] and [ɟ].

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2  
**PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS  
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646<sup>1</sup>.**

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from [std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html](http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html) for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from [std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html](http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html).  
See also [std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html](http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html) for latest *Roadmaps*.

**A. Administrative**

1. **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ *modifier capital letter Y* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Requester's name: \_\_\_\_\_ *Kirk Miller* \_\_\_\_\_

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): \_\_\_\_\_ *individual* \_\_\_\_\_

4. Submission date: \_\_\_\_\_ *2026 April 10* \_\_\_\_\_

5. Requester's reference (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Choose one of the following:

This is a complete proposal: \_\_\_\_\_ *yes* \_\_\_\_\_

(or) More information will be provided later: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Technical - General**

1. Choose one of the following:

a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed name of script: \_\_\_\_\_

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: \_\_\_\_\_ *yes* \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the existing block: \_\_\_\_\_ *Latin Extended G* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Number of characters in proposal: \_\_\_\_\_ *1* \_\_\_\_\_

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary  B.1-Specialized (small collection)  B.2-Specialized (large collection)

C-Major extinct  D-Attested extinct  E-Minor extinct

F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic  G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? \_\_\_\_\_ *yes* \_\_\_\_\_

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? \_\_\_\_\_ *yes* \_\_\_\_\_

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? \_\_\_\_\_ *yes* \_\_\_\_\_

5. Fonts related:

a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? \_\_\_\_\_ *Kirk Miller* \_\_\_\_\_

b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_ *SIL (Gentium Release)* \_\_\_\_\_

6. References:

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? \_\_\_\_\_ *yes* \_\_\_\_\_

b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? \_\_\_\_\_ *yes* \_\_\_\_\_

7. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? \_\_\_\_\_ *yes* \_\_\_\_\_

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org) for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database ([www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/](http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/)) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

<sup>1</sup> Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

**C. Technical - Justification**

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	<i>no</i>
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	<i>yes</i> <i>The authors are members of the user community.</i>
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	<i>phonetic</i>
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	<i>yes</i> <i>see illustrations</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	<i>no</i>
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i> <i>no</i>
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	<i>no</i>
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>