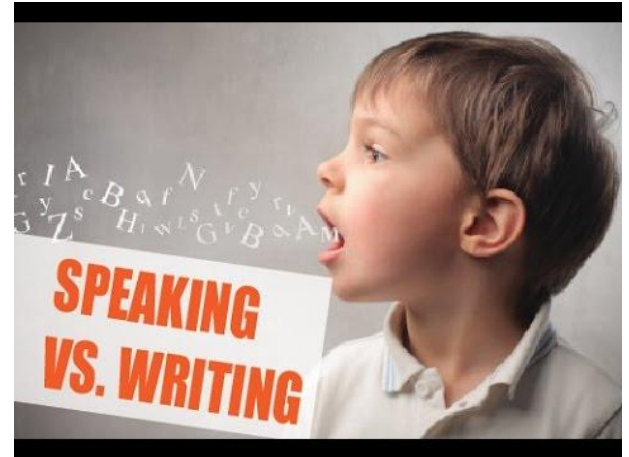


# Written vs Spoken Language

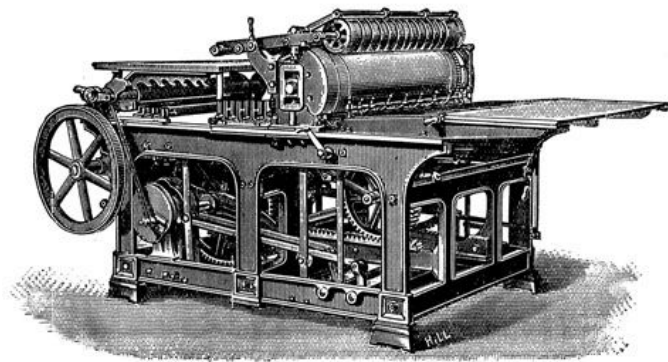
# John McWhorter - Txtng is killing language. JK!

- The spoken language has a much longer history than written language.
- If humanity had existed for 24 hours, then writing came along at about **11:07 pm**.
- The writing system is a *technology* - some call it *the hallmark of human civilization*



# What are some major differences between writing and speaking?

Speaking	Writing
Units: Single words, phrases, sentences When we speak casually and unmonitored, we tend to speak in word packets of maybe 7-10 words.	Units: Sentences
Much looser, more telegraphic, less reflective	Stricter (sentence structures, punctuations, etc.), more deliberate and more reflective
Ephemeral - requires close contact, does not leave a record	Messages can be preserved - transcends place and time



Flickr/Julio Martinez



# Technology allows us to *write the way we talk*

What are the properties of texting? What makes it more similar to speaking than writing? How is it a combination of both?

# Emergent Complexity

- A new language (new dialect?) and new structures
- LOL, Slash, Haha, and many more
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_mcwhorter\\_txtng\\_is\\_killing\\_language\\_jk/transcript#t-299273](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_jk/transcript#t-299273)
- *What are other new structures you can think of?*






















# Writing Systems

# Where did writing come from?

- Writing appeared 5,000 years ago in Mesopotamia, and 4,000 years ago in China. All the writing systems in the world today can be traced back to just two places: **China and Ancient Iraq**.

	3200 BCE	3000 BCE	2400 BCE	1000 BCE
sag 'head'				
gin 'to walk'				
šu 'hand'				
še 'barley'				
ninda 'bread'				
a 'water'				
ud 'day'				
mušen 'bird'				

# Ancient Chinese

Picture		Evolution		Modern character		
	→		→		→	日
	→		→		→	月
	→		→		→	木
	→		→		→	山
	→		→		→	水
	→		→		→	田
	→		→		→	門

## Egyptian hieroglyphs



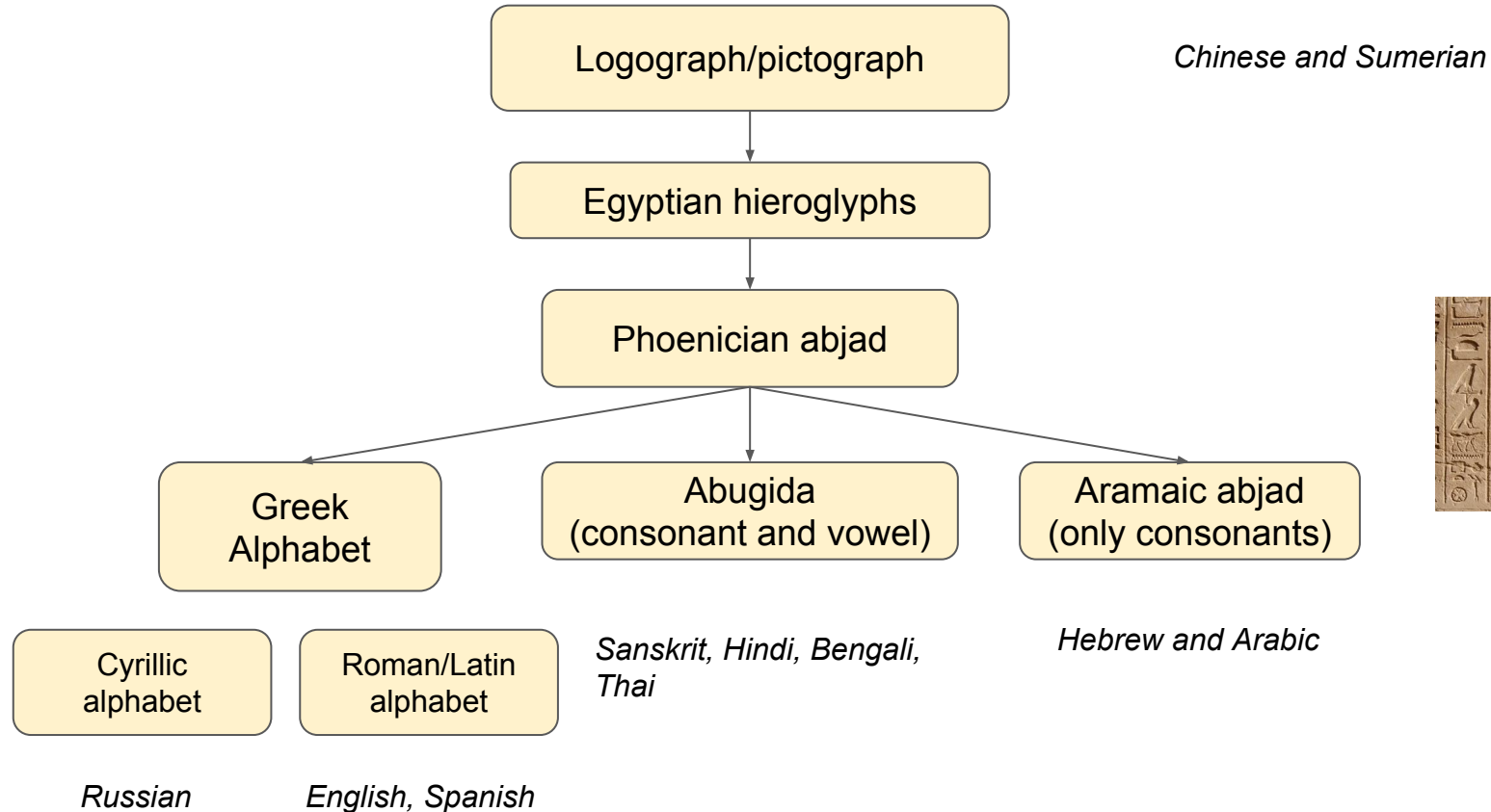
Figure 6.1. The evolution of pictographic characters.



# Why did we need to create writing?

- Conditions for the invention of writing:
  - a. People needed to create a record to keep track of things.
  - b. For certain languages, words consist of just one syllable (monosyllabic languages); a picture, then, represents both the picture and the sound. There was a need to create more pictures (e.g., characters) to represent more concepts.

# Development of writing system




# Learning the Chinese Language

[https://www.ted.com/talks/shaolan\\_learn\\_to\\_read\\_chinese\\_with\\_ease#t-199385](https://www.ted.com/talks/shaolan_learn_to_read_chinese_with_ease#t-199385)

1:15

# Abjads (Consonant Alphabet)

Vocalised 

لغة

a gh l

Unvocalised

لغة

a gh l

safah =  
(language)

= lugha

Vocalised

שפה

h f s

Unvocalised

שפה

h f s

# Abugidas (Syllabic alphabet)

## Consonants

क ख ग घ ङ

ka

kha

ga

gha

ṅa

## Consonants with vowel diacritics

का खि गी घु ङू

kā

khi

gī

ghu

ṅū

## Independent vowel letters

अ आ इ ई उ

a

ā

i

ī

u

## Conjunct consonants

क्क ख्ख ग्घ घ्घ ङ्ङ

kka

khka

ggha

ghṅa

ṅka

# Korean 'hangul' - possibly the best writing system

## Consonants

ㄱ = k

ㄴ = n

ㄷ = d

ㄹ = r/l\*

ㅁ = m

ㅂ = b

ㅅ = s

ㅈ = j

ㅎ = h

## Vowels

ㅣ = i

ㅏ = a

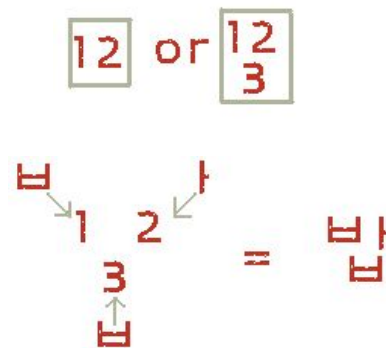
ㅑ = eo

ㅓ = eu

ㅗ = u

ㅜ = o

## Character structure



How do we pronounce:

(a) 러

(b) 조

(c) 한