

Phoenician character The Phoenicians lived in the eastern Mediterranean in what is modern day Lebanon. Semitic and Aramaic languages Aramaic developed from Phoenician around 900 BC in what is modern Syria and south east Turkey. It is a Semitic language that was a precursor for Arabic and Hebrew, which it closely resembles. Aramaic is still spoken in parts of Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Iran. The Greeks adopted the characters of the Phoenician system, such as aleph (a) and beth (b), from which they developed their alphabet. By around 800 BC the Greeks had added other characters to their alphabet, which became the basis of the modern day Hebrew and Arabic scripts. Indeed, the word alphabet is the union of the Greek characters alpha and beta. The modern Latin Alphabet consists of 25 upper – and lower case letters with ten numerals and a variety of symbols, punctuation marks and accents that are employed by various different languages. Cyrillic languages Cyrillic alphabets are those based on Glagolitic (an alphabet developed by missionaries during the 9th century to translate the Bible for the Great Moravia region) and used for Slavic languages such as Russian.