

All About Lines

in Sherman's Circular Gallifreyan

A Companion Walkthrough by The SpellKeeper

Introduction

This walkthrough was designed to be a companion piece to the official guide. It does not replace it, and will probably be very confusing if you haven't read it. Along with providing expanded explanations and visual examples, this walkthrough will cover some rules that have been generally accepted by the community, despite not being in the official guide.

Unofficial Rules

Any rules or variations that are not in the official guide but (probably) won't get you lynched by your fellow scribes will be off-set in a side bar like this one. While these techniques are accepted by some—if not most—they may not be recognized by everyone that reads your work. *Use at your own risk.*

1. Lines on Consonants

The lines that define some consonants are very simple in how they work, but can be an elaborate part of your overall design.

The only important part of these lines is the ends, where they connect to the letter. To the right is the letter 'M', showing that lines can be straight, curved, wibly-wobly, or whatever. They can also be thick, thin, or even variable weight. Lines can connect to either the outside or inside of the letter.

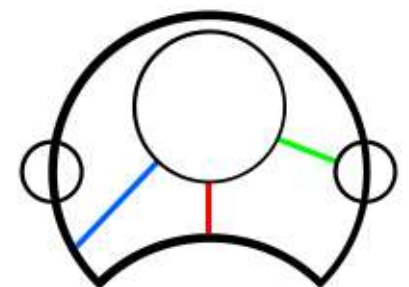
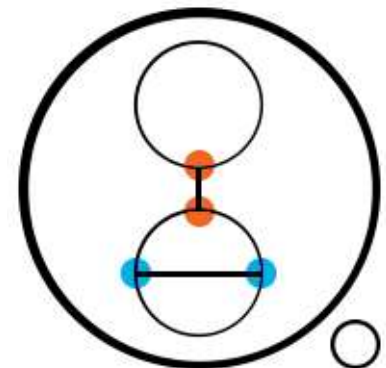
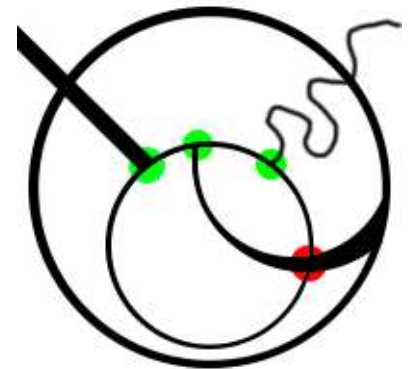
Only when a line stops on the letter (the green spots) does it affect the letter. Lines that pass over a letter without stopping (the red spot) don't change the letter.

For more on the letters themselves, see "Konsonants or Consonants"

Both ends of the line can be used. Here we have the word 'man' showing one line being shared between the 'M' and the 'N' (the orange spots) and another line being used as two lines on the 'M' (the blue spots).

While lines coming off a letter can have their other end go just about anywhere (the word circle, a different word's circle, the inner or outer sentence circle...), there is one thing to watch out for. Don't end your lines on letters that don't need them.

A common example of this is the word "time". It is OK for a line from the 'M' to end on the word circle (blue line). It is OK for a line from the 'M' to end on the 'I', because the 'I' needs a line, too (green line). It is NOT OK for a line from the 'M' to end on the 'T' (red line); the 'T' does not need a line and has now become a 'V'. Nobody wants to travel through Vime and Space.

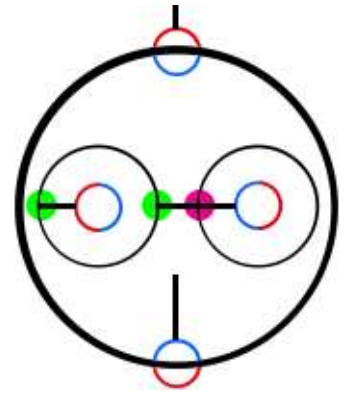


2. Lines on Vowels

The rules for vowels are the same as the rules for consonants, except for one difference: the direction of the line now matters.

Only two vowels use a line: the 'I' and the 'U'. On an 'I' the line needs to point into the word circle, while the 'U's line points out of or away from the word circle. The nonsense word to the right reads "ijiupu". When a line connects to the blue side of the circle, it makes an 'I', and the red side makes a 'U'.

As before, lines passing through other letters don't change them (the pink spot; this line still leaves the consonant a 'J'). Lines from a vowel inside a consonant will still affect that letter, same as lines from the outside (green dots).



For more, see "Vowels: The Good, the Bad, and the Confusing"

Direction vs. Contact Point

There has been some debate as to the spirit of this rule when it comes to more decorative pieces. If it is necessary for your design, you may be able to convince people to accept that a line connected to the red side of a vowel makes it a 'U', even if the line crosses through the letter and points into the word. It is more common that such a situation would be read as an 'I' due to the direction of the line.

3. Lines as Punctuation

This is where things get a little more complicated.

The three punctuation marks that are written as lines are quotation marks, apostrophes, and dashes. The lines extend between the inner and outer sentence circles when they are used as part of a sentence, such as:

He said, "But—but, she is a 'princess.'"

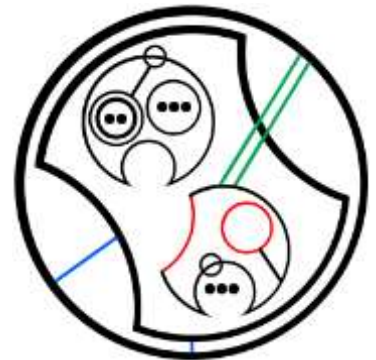
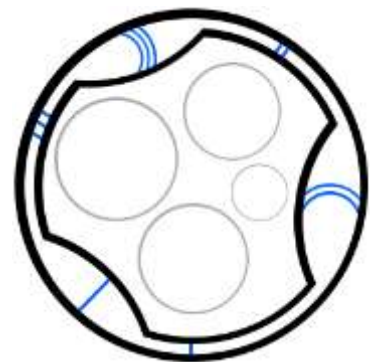
While these lines can be straight or curved or whatever, it's best to keep them close together so that it's clear they are part of the same mark.

If an apostrophe or hyphen is part of a word, such as "don't" or "allons-y", the lines connect to the word circle between the appropriate letters and extend to the outer sentence circle. In this example, "Don't blink" with the quotation marks (in blue), the apostrophe (in green) is attached to "dont" between the 'N' and 'T' (in red).

For more, see "Punctuation and the Circles That Love Them"

Alternate Hyphenation

Another way to hyphenate words if you want them written separately, is connect them with three lines (as a dash). Like before, the hyphen should be attached to the words in the appropriate positions: between the last and first letters of the first word, and between the bottom of the circle and the first letter of the second word. To the right is an example of the phrase "Allons-y" (without quotations) with the hyphen in red.



4. Exceptions to the Rules

4.1. Diacritics

Some diacritics are written as hash marks on letters. These short lines can be thick or thin, straight or curved, but besides that follow an opposite set of rules. Their ends **do not** connect anywhere and the **do** effect the letters they cross over. If the line does connect to something – be it letter, word, or sentence circle – it is no longer a diacritic.

For more on diacritics, see “Vowels: The Good, the Bad, and the Confusing”

4.2. Numbers

The lines used in numbers are considered individual segments for each digit ring they pass through. A single line can be used for a +1 to multiple, consecutive digits. In this regard, the empty space between circles is considered the important part of the number, so these lines **do** effect the numbers they cross over. Such a line passing through the center circle will also cause the number to become negative.

For more, see the upcoming (thus far unnamed) ‘numbers’ walkthrough.

