

Punctuation and the Circles that Love Them

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. Sentence Circles

The most common purpose of the sentence circles is to group the words of a sentence together. However, even if you are only writing a single word or a short phrase that is not truly a sentence, encompassing your work in additional circles can help make it feel fully fleshed out.

There are generally two sentence circles, one inside the other. The outer circle (blue) is just a plain circle. The inner circle (green) can have divots in it, as many or as few as you want. These divots have no meaning, but can give more room to write punctuation and add flair to your work. These are often thicker than the lines used to write words, but that is not necessary. These circles can be as thick or thin as you would like, or even variable weight.



Outer Divots

There's really no reason the outer sentence circle can't have divots as well, or instead of the inner sentence circle. Use your best judgement on where to put them.

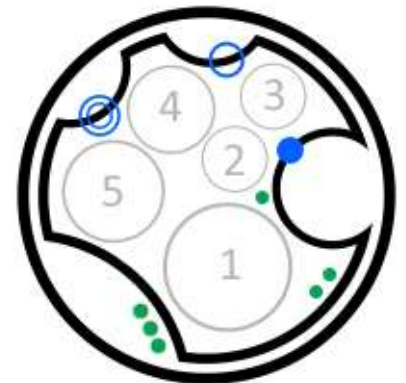
2. Basic Punctuation

You should be familiar with this image:
It's a representation of the punctuation in CG. That straight line through the middle represents the inner sentence circle.



The period—whether used for an abbreviation or the end of a sentence—the comma, and the colon (each in blue) are placed on the inner sentence circle. The question mark, exclamation point, and semicolon (each in green) are placed alongside the inner circle, either on the inside or between the inner and outer circles. The other marks will be covered in the next section.

All punctuation needs to be placed so that it is read in the proper order. The comma here would come after the 2nd word. Both the question mark and semicolon would be read after the 1st word. The exclamation mark would be read at the end of the sentence, after the 5th word.



For more on reading order, see "The Order of the Letters"

3. Punctuation Lines

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.

For more explanations of “whatever,” see “All About Lines”

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).

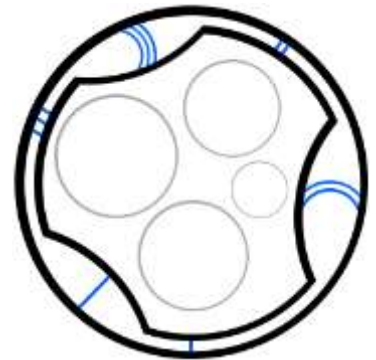
While the official guide states that an apostrophe “*extends from the word circle to the outer sentence circle,*” it is acceptable to extend them to the inner sentence circle, instead.

According to BlackHatGuy, a.k.a. Loren Sherman,

<https://comments.deviantart.com/1/271881225/3115495994>

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.

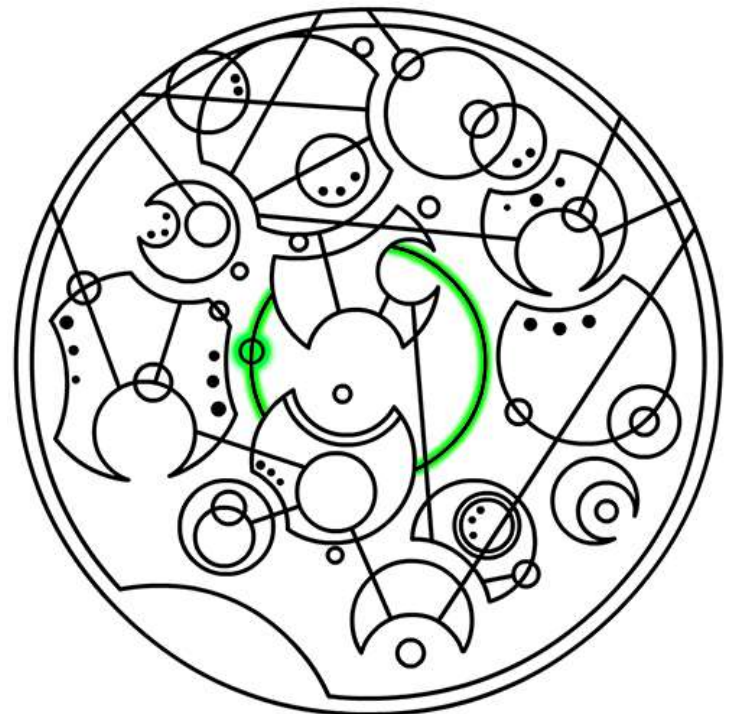


4. Longer Sentences

If your sentence is long enough to have an inner ring of words, but you still need punctuation at the end, add a smaller sentence circle for the inner words. It can either be “under” the words as shown here, highlighted in green (along with the period at the end of the sentence), or it can fully encompass the inner words as though it is its own sentence in the blank space of the first.

Taboo

Although here the inside sentence circle is shown going “under” the ‘H’ of the last word, it’s best to avoid this in practice. As lines can be connected to letters on the inside as well as the outside, the sentence circle can be mistaken as an extra line on the letter.



5. Special Characters

The community on [reddit.com/r/Gallifreyan](https://www.reddit.com/r/Gallifreyan) has decided that sometimes it would be better to use an ampersand, “&”, instead of the word “and”. This may eventually make it into the official guide, but for now this entire section is technically unofficial. After a (limited) discussion, this was the most popular choice for an ampersand: a word consisting of only the letter ‘E’, with a line passing completely through the ‘E’.

