nape

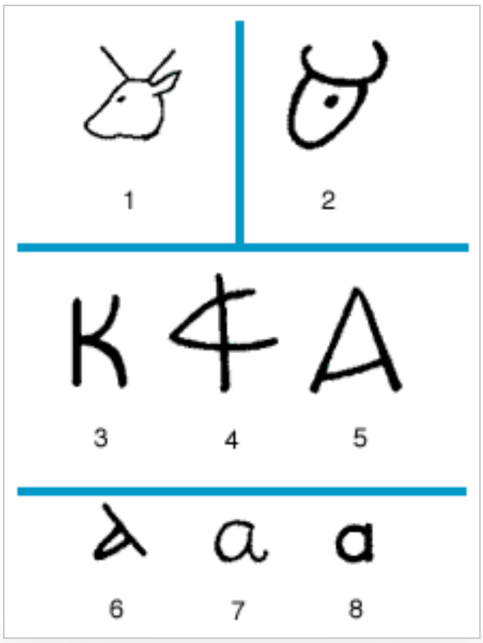
Pattern power

A deeper dive into a

a is found in different parts of at least 367,428 words.

a is the third most commonly letter used in English (8.1% to 8.6% frequency) via Norvig.

The common position of a is middle/start.



Development of the letter a.

Egyptian hieroglyphic writing:

1. gave way to early Semitic writing (about 1500 BCE) on the Sinai Peninsula
2. bout 1000 BCE, in Byblos and other Phoenician and Canaanite centres, the sign was given a linear form
3. The source of all later forms. In Semitic languages this sign was called aleph, meaning “ox.” The Greeks used the sign for the vowel a, changing its name to alpha. They used several forms of the sign, including the ancestor of the English capital A
4. The Romans incorporated this sign into Latin, and it is the source of the English form. The English small a first took shape in Greek handwriting in a form
5. similar to the present English capital letter.
6. About the 4th century CE this was given a circular shape with a projection
7. This shape was the parent of both the English handwritten character
8. and the printed small a..

source: Encyclopedia Britannica

Diving further into the English weeds, readers may enjoy a listen to the TRAP - BATH Split.

nape in film: Caddyshack (1980). A comedic malapropism (mistaken use of a word) by Ty Webb (Chevy Chase):

”So, what brings you to this nape of the woods? Neck of the wape?”