nape

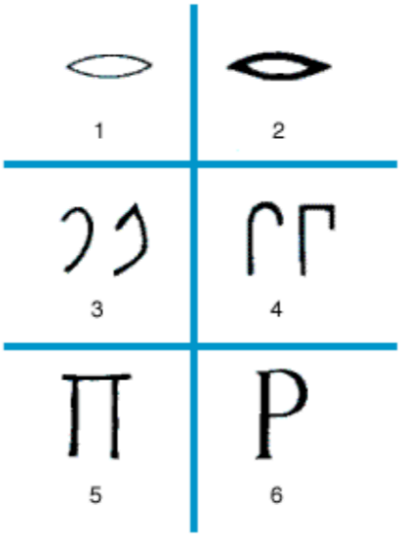
Pattern power

A deeper dive into p

p is found in different parts of at least 134,734 words.

p frequency is 1.929%. It is the ninth most frequent beginning of a word letter. link

p is most commonly positioned in the middle of words. Norvig



Development of the letter p.

The letter p is of uncertain origin. Picture signs of the human mouth are found in Egyptian hieroglyphic writing

(1) and perhaps also in a very early Semitic writing used about 1500 BCE on the Sinai Peninsula

(2) They hardly resemble the form of the p sign which was developed about 1000 BCE in Byblos and other Phoenician and Canaanite centres

(3) From it all later forms are derived. In the Semitic languages the sign was called pe, meaning “mouth.” The Greeks renamed the Semitic sign pi (Π) and turned the letter around to suit the left-to-right direction of their writing. They used both a curved and an angular form of the sign.

(4) Later the Greeks gave the angular sign more symmetry by lengthening the right-stroke tail.

(5) The Romans closed the Greek curved form into a loop.

(6) From the Latin the shape of the capital letter P came unchanged into English.The English small handwritten p is a copy of the capital.

source: Encyclopedia Britannica

Michelangelo's sonnet describing his toil on the Sistine Chapel ceiling (1508-1512) poetically references his "nape falls in" from strain, using the word to symbolize the physical and artistic suffering in creating monumental frescoes. - On the Painting of the Sistine Chapel.