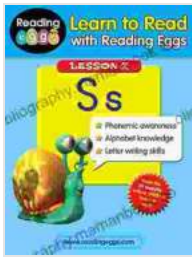# The Letter Ss: Its History, Evolution, and Use in the English Language

The letter Ss is the 19th letter of the modern English alphabet and the 16th letter of the basic Latin alphabet. It is a sibilant consonant, pronounced with the tip of the tongue against the alveolar ridge behind the upper front teeth.

Learn to Read with Reading Eggs: Book 1, Lesson 2: Letter Ss (US version) by Sara Leman

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5256 KB
Screen Reader	: Supported
Print length	: 20 pages
Lending	: Enabled

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The letter Ss has a long and complex history, dating back to the Phoenician alphabet. In this article, we will explore the history, evolution, and use of the letter Ss in the English language.

History of the Letter Ss

The letter Ss is derived from the Phoenician letter "shin", which represented the sound /ʃ/. The Phoenician alphabet was adopted by the Greeks, who modified the letter "shin" to create their own letter "sigma". The sigma was pronounced /s/ in Greek.

The Romans adopted the Greek sigma and renamed it "es". The es was pronounced /s/ in Latin, and it eventually evolved into the letter Ss that we use today.

Evolution of the Letter Ss

The letter Ss has undergone several changes in its shape and pronunciation over time. In early Latin, the Ss was written as a single vertical line. Over time, the line became curved at the top and bottom, and the letter took on its modern shape.

The pronunciation of the Ss has also changed over time. In early Latin, the Ss was pronounced /s/. However, in late Latin, the pronunciation of the Ss began to change to /ʃ/. This change was complete by the 6th century AD.
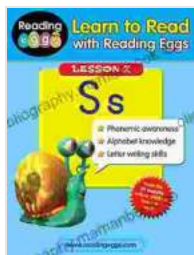
The change in pronunciation of the Ss had a significant impact on the English language. The Anglo-Saxons, who adopted the Latin alphabet, used the Ss to represent the sound /ʃ/. However, in the Middle English period, the pronunciation of the Ss began to change to /s/ again. This change was complete by the 15th century AD.

Use of the Letter Ss in English

The letter Ss is used in a variety of ways in the English language. It is used to represent the sound /s/ or /ʃ/, and it can be used to form the possessive case of nouns and the plural form of verbs.

The letter Ss is also used in a number of abbreviations, such as "SS" (Schutzstaffel),"SS" (Secret Service),and "SS" (Social Security).

The letter Ss is a versatile and important letter in the English language. It has a long and complex history, and it has undergone several changes in its shape and pronunciation over time. The Ss is used in a variety of ways, and it plays an important role in the grammar and spelling of the English language.

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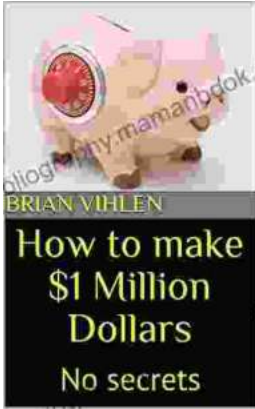File size : 5256 KB
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