

## Why a Hittite cuneiform clay tablet?

The invention of writing— together with the invention of the wheel – can be considered one of the most important driving forces in human development.


Hittite was spoken in Asia Minor and parts of the Middle East in the 2nd millennium BC. The Hittites wrote in cuneiform, a kind of syllabic script. Thousands of clay tablets have been preserved: In contrast to paper or modern electronic storage media, burnt clay tablets can be kept for a very, very long time (depending on the climate).


Hittite also has the advantage that there is a *genus commune* for men and women. The basic text of the tablets reads:


*UM.MA AQ.BI handatarassares nu XY hattanza eszi.*


„Thus say the coordinators: XY is a learned person.“

After the particle *nu*, the name of the doctoral researcher is written. Depending on the tablet and the length of the name, the line breaks may vary.

  
UM- MA AQ- BI

  
ha- an- da- ta- ra- as- sa- re- es

  
nu

  
hat- ta- an- za es- zi

[numeral sign]

For further reading if you are interested:

Bryce, Trevor R. (2002): *Life and Society in the Hittite World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hoffner, Harry A., & Melchert, H. Craig (2008): *A grammar of the Hittite language I + II*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns.