

among people working in these fields is very strong on the whole today.

This cuneiform writing is a very complex matter, but a few of its principles are rather simple and important to get in mind. The fact that the capitals ~~a~~ represent the Sumerian and the small letters the Babylonian form, and as I said this ~~cod in your rocki~~ ~~===~~ this same text exactly might have it written out here in capitals. I might have it written in small letters badly, and the two would stand for exactly the same thing. Because one would be putting it the way the people read it when they read the text, the other would be putting it the way the symbols were ~~XXXXXXXX~~ originally written.

It's just like, if you were reading and you came to etc. If you were reading aloud you are not apt to say etcetera, you are apt to say and so forth. And so forth isn't a bit like etc.! But that is what etc. is apt to mean to you, because you are using Latin to represent something that you say in your own language. The Sumerian was used that way. They would probably never say cod in your rocki; they'd say badly. One thing in this writing it is good to know about is this letter c up here. It stands for one sign which is pronounced allou which means a city. As you read it right along you'll see one sign after another. One of them will be a sign that means what follows is the name of a city. They would not ordinarily pronounce it. They ~~===~~ it just says what follows is the name of a city. Then there is the name of the city. If you put one straight stroke, straight up and down -- it is used for the name of a man. What follows is the name of a man. You put ki after the name of a place -- a few of these signs use that. As a rule they/used before. You put mesh after a word: it means poorer. In writing it you might write meshow to indicate the word was written that way. You might put a pl after it up high to indicate the plural sign was used there. Or they might simply write the plural.