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देवनागरी अक्षराणि (वर्णमाला)

*devanāgarī-akṣarāṇi (varṇamālā)*

**devanāgarī letters with pronunciation guide**

**(Sāṃskṛitaṃ is usually written in devanāgarī characters)**

**PRONUNCIATION GUIDE OF devanāgarī LETTERS  
EQUIVALENT SOUNDING LETTERS IN ENGLISH**

अ a (a as woman). आ ā (ā as in all),

इ i (i as in it), ई ī (ī sounds as in eat),

उ u (u as in put), ऊ ū (ū as in room)

ए e (e as in where), ऐ ai (ai as kite or ripe)

ओ o (o as in go or as in boat), औ au (au as in house or mouse)

ऋ = ṛ (ṛ as in Kṛ shṇa), अं = am, अः = aḥ

क = ka, (ka as in king), ख = kha (kha is the aspirated sound of ka)

ग = ga (ga as in good girl), घ = gha (gha is the aspirated sound of ga)

ङ = ṅa (ṅa sound like ng as in ring, king),

च = ca (ca as in chair), छ = cha (cha is the aspirated sound of ca)

ज = ja (ja as in jungle), झ = jha (jha is the aspirated sound of ja)

ञ = ña (ña as in Soñya or पञ्च pañca = means five in Sanskritam.)

ट = ṭa (ṭa as in tool or timber), ठ = ṭha (ṭha is the aspirated sound of ṭa)

ड = ḍa (ḍa as in dog or dig), ढ = ḍha (ḍha is the aspirated sound of ḍa)

ण = ṇa (ṇa sound is not in the English vocabulary), like in word Brahmaṇa.

त = ta (ta as thing or thumb), थ = tha (tha is the aspirated sound of ta)

द = da (as in the or there), ध = dha (dha is aspirated sound of da)

न = na (na as in nail or name)

प = pa (pa as in pen), फ = pha (pha is the aspirated sound of pa)

ब = ba (ba as in ball), भ = bha (bha is aspirated sound of ba)

म = ma (ma as in mother)

य = ya (ya as in yellow), र = ra (ra as real or ready),

ल = la (la as in love), व = va (va as in valley or as in Victor)

श = śa (śa as in Śhiva), ष = ṣa (ṣa as in rush), स = sa (sa as in sun)

ह = ha (ha as in hall or hill), क्ष = kṣa (kṣa as in Lakṣmi or kṣatriya)

रामं (ī as in rāmaṁ) ṁ ( ṁ as chum) is called *anusvāra*.

रामः (ī as in rāmaḥ) is called *visarga*.

राम् = rām. The down stroke at 45 degrees at bottom of the letter म् is called

**हलन्त halanta**, म = ma without अ a becomes म् m.

ऽ ' This symbol is called *avagraha* which represents ( 1/2 अ ) and is

employed to mark elision of a short अ a after (ए e or ओ o)

### Examples

- (1) (नमः) नमस् + ते (namaḥ) namas + te = Saltations to you.
- (2) नमः अस्तु ते namaḥ astu te = नमोऽस्तु ते namo'stu te = May salutations be to you (blessing).
- (3) ते + अपि = तेऽपि or te + api = is written as तेऽपि te'pi pronounced as tepi = They also.
- (4) जले अस्मिन् jale asmin = जलेऽस्मिन् jale'smin. pronounced as jalesmin = In this water.
- (5) अहं ब्रह्मास्मि ahaṁ brahmāsmi = I am *Brahman*.

- (6) सः अहम् saḥ aham = सोऽहम् so'ham = = I am Him *Brahman*.
- (7) सर्वं खलु इदं ब्रह्म sarvaṁ khalu idaṁ brahma = सर्वं खल्विदं ब्रह्म sarvaṁ khalvidaṁ brahma = Indeed all this is *Braman*.

ऽ ' is called अवग्रहः avagraḥ stands for अ a is

is silent in pronunciation.

। ॥ These signs are called विराम *virāma* The first one with only one vertical line denotes the end of a sentence or the first half of a shloka and later with two vertical lines is to denote the close of a shloka.

स्वराः (अचाः) svarāḥ (ac ḥ)

VOWELS

अ a आ ā इ i ई ī उ u ऊ ū ऋ ṛ ॠ ṝ ल l लृ l̄

ए e ऐ ai ओ o औ au अं am अः aḥ

व्यञ्जनानि (हलः) vyañjanāni (halaḥ)

CONSONANTS

क् k	ख kh	ग g	घ gh	ङ ṅ कण्ठ्य kaṅṭhya
च् c	छ ch	ज j	झ jh	ञ ñ तालव्य tālavya
ट t	ठ th	ड d	ढ dh	ण ṇ मूर्धन्य mūrdhanya
त् t	थ th	द् d	ध dh	न् n दन्त्य dantya
प् p	फ ph	ब् b	भ bh	म् m ओष्ठ्य oṣṭhya
य् y	र् r	ल् l	व् v	श् ś
ष् ṣ	स् s	ह् h	क्ष kṣa	

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ङ ṅ	ञ ñ	ण ṇ	न् n	म् m soft nasal
ह् h	य् y	र् r	ल् l	व् v semi vowels
ः ḥ	श् ś	ष् ṣ	स् s	sibilants

क ka	ख kha	ग ga	घ gha	ङ ṅa
का kā	खा khā	गा gā	घा ghā	--
कि ki	खि khi	गि gi	घि ghi	--
की kī	खी khī	गी gī	घी ghī	--
कु ku	खु khu	गु gu	घु ghu	--
कू kū	खू khū	गू gū	घू ghū	--
कृ kṛ	खृ khṛ	गृ gṛ	घृ ghṛ	--
के ke	खे khe	गे ge	घे ghe	--
कै kai	खै khai	गै gai	घै ghai	--
को ko	खो kho	गो go	घो gho	--
कौ kau	खौ khau	गौ gau	घौ ghau	--
कं kaṁ	खं khaṁ	गं gaṁ	घं ghaṁ	--
कः kaḥ	खः khaḥ	गः gaḥ	घः ghaḥ	--

च ca	छ cha	ज ja	झ jha	ञ ña
चा cā	छा chā	जा jā	झा jhā	जा ñā
चि ci	छि chi	जि ji	झि jhi	जि ñi
ची cī	छी chī	जी jī	झी jhī	जी ñī
चु cu	छु chu	जु ju	झु jhu	जु ñu
चू cū	छू chū	जू jū	झू jhū	जू ñū
चृ cṛ	छृ chṛ	जृ jṛ	झृ jhṛ	जृ ñṛ
चे ce	छे che	जे je	झे jhe	जे ñe
चै cai	छै chai	जै jai	झै jhai	जै ñai
चो co	छो cho	जो jo	झो jho	जो ño
चौ cau	छौ chau	जौ jau	झौ jhau	जौ ñau
चं cam	छं cham	जं jam	झं jham	जं ñam
चः caḥ	छः chaḥ	जः jaḥ	झः jhaḥ	जः ñaḥ

ट ṭa	ठ ṭha	ड ḍa	ढ ḍha	ण ṇa
टा ṭā	ठा ṭhā	डा ḍā	ढा ḍhā	णा ṇā
टि ṭi	ठि ṭhi	डि ḍi	ढि ḍhi	णि ṇi
टी ṭī	ठी ṭhī	डी ḍī	ढी ḍī	णी ṇī
टु ṭu	ठु ṭhu	डु ḍu	ढु ḍhu	णु ṇu
टू ṭū	ठू ṭhū	डू ḍū	ढू ḍhū	णू ṇū
ट्र ṭṛ	ठ्र ṭhṛ	ड्र ḍṛ	ढ्र ḍhṛ	ण्र ṇṛ
टे ṭe	ठे ṭhe	डे ḍe	ढे ḍhe	णे ṇe
टै ṭai	ठै ṭhai	डै ḍai	ढै ḍhai	णै ṇai
टो ṭo	ठो ṭho	डो ḍo	ढो ḍho	णो ṇo
टौ ṭau	ठौ ṭhau	डौ ḍau	ढौ ḍhau	णौ ṇau
टं ṭam	ठं ṭham	डं ḍam	ढं ḍham	णं ṇam
टः ṭaḥ	ठः ṭhaḥ	डः ḍaḥ	ढः ḍhaḥ	णः ṇaḥ



त ta	थ tha	द da	ध dha	न na
ता tā	था thā	दा dā	धा dhā	ना nā
ति ti	थि thi	दि di	धि dhi	नि ni
ती tī	थी thī	दी dī	धी dhī	नी nī
तु tu	थु thu	दु du	धु dhu	नु nu
तू tū	थू thū	दू dū	धू dhū	नू nū
तृ tṛ	थृ thṛ	दृ dṛ	धृ dhṛ	नृ nṛ
ते te	थे the	दे de	धे dhe	ने ne
तै tai	थै thai	दै dai	धै dhai	नै nai
तो to	थो tho	दो do	धो dho	नो no
तौ tau	थौ thau	दौ dau	धौ dhau	नौ nau
तं taṁ	थं thaṁ	दं daṁ	धं dhaṁ	नं naṁ
तः taḥ	थः thaḥ	दः daḥ	धः dhaḥ	नः naḥ

प pa	फ pha	ब ba	भ bha	म ma
पा pā	फा phā	बा bā	भा bhā	मा mā
पि pi	फि phi	बि bi	भि bhi	मि mi
पी pī	फी phī	बी bī	भी bhī	मी mī
पु pu	फु phu	बु bu	भु bhu	मु mu
पू pū	फू phū	बू bū	भू bhū	मू mū
पृ pṛ	फृ phṛ	बृ bṛ	भृ bhṛ	मृ mṛ
पे pe	फे phe	बे be	भे bhe	मे me
पै pai	फै phai	बै bai	भै bhai	मै mai
पो po	फो pho	बो bo	भो bho	मो mo
पौ pau	फौ phau	बौ bau	भौ bhau	मौ mau
पं paṁ	फं phaṁ	बं baṁ	भं bhaṁ	मं maṁ
पः paḥ	फः phaḥ	बः baḥ	भः bhaḥ	मः maḥ

य ya	र ra	ल la	व va
या yā	रा rā	ला lā	वा vā
यि yi	रि ri	लि li	वि vi
यी yī	री rī	ली lī	वी vī
यु yu	रु ru	लु lu	वु vu
यू yū	रू rū	लू lū	वू vū
यृ yṛ	--	लृ lṛ	वृ vṛ
ये ye	रे re	ले le	वे ve
यै yai	रै rai	लै lai	वै vai
यो yo	रो ro	लो lo	वो vo
यौ yau	रौ rau	लौ lau	वौ vau
यं yaṁ	रं raṁ	लं laṁ	वं vaṁ
यः yaḥ	रः raḥ	लः laḥ	वः vaḥ

श śa	ष ṣa	स sa	ह ha	क्ष kṣa
शा śā	षा ṣā	सा sā	हा hā	क्षा kṣā
शि śi	षि ṣi	सि si	हि hi	क्षि kṣi
शी śī	षी ṣī	सी sī	ही hī	क्षी kṣī
शु śu	षु ṣu	सु su	हु hu	क्षु kṣu
शू śū	षू ṣū	सू sū	हू hū	क्षू kṣū
शृ śṛ	षृ ṣṛ	सृ sṛ	हृ hṛ	क्षृ kṣṛ
शे śe	षे ṣe	से se	हे he	क्षे kṣe
शै śai	षै ṣai	सै sai	है hai	क्षै kṣai
शो śo	षो ṣo	सो so	हो ho	क्षो kṣo
शौ śau	षौ ṣau	सौ sau	हौ hau	क्षौ kṣau
शं śam	षं ṣam	सं sam	हं ham	क्षं kṣam
शः śaḥ	षः ṣaḥ	सः saḥ	हः haḥ	क्षः kṣaḥ

## THE CONJUNCT CONSONANTS

### संयुक्ताक्षराणि

samyuktākṣarāṇi

क् + क = क्क अक्का k + ka = kka as in akkā (**kka**) means mother.

क् + त = क्त भक्तः k + ta = kta as in bhak<sup>t</sup>aḥ means devotee.

क् + म = क्म रुक्मम् K + ma = kma as in ruk<sup>m</sup>am means gold.

क् + य = क्य वाक्यम् K + ya = kya as in vā<sup>k</sup>yaṃ means sentence.

क् + र = क्र वक्रम् k + ra = kra as in va<sup>k</sup>ram means crooked.

क् + ल = क्ल शुक्लम् k + la = kla as in śu<sup>k</sup>lam means white.

क् + व = क्व पक्वम् K + va = pak<sup>v</sup>am means ripe.

क् + ष = क्ष दक्षः k + ṣa = kṣa as in dak<sup>ṣ</sup>aḥ means expert.

क्ष + ण = क्षण तीक्ष्णः kṣ + ṇa = kṣṇa as in tī<sup>kṣ</sup>ṇaḥ means sharp.

क्ष + म = क्ष्म सूक्ष्मम् kṣ + ma = kṣma as in sū<sup>kṣ</sup>mam means minute.

क्ष + य = क्ष्य लक्ष्यम् kṣ + ya = kṣya as in lak<sup>ṣ</sup>yaṃ means aim.

ख् + य = ख्य सख्यम् kh + ya = khya as in sak<sup>h</sup>yaṃ means friendship.

ग् + ध = क्ध मुक्धः g + dha = kdha as in muk<sup>d</sup>haḥ means fool.

ग् + न = ग्न मग्नम् g + na = gna as in ma<sup>g</sup>nam sunk, immersed.

ग् + र = ग्र उग्रम् g + ra = gra as in u<sup>g</sup>ram means cruel.

घ् + न = घ्न विघ्नः gh + na = ghna as in vi<sup>g</sup>hnaḥ means obstacle.

घ् + र = घ्र शीघ्रम् gh + ra = ghra as in śī<sup>g</sup>hram means quickly.

ङ् + क = ङ्क अङ्कः ṅ + ka = ṅka as in aṅkaḥ means number.

च् + च = च्च उच्चः c + ca = cca as in uccaḥ means high.

च् + छ = च्छ गुच्छः c + cha = ccha as in guccaḥ means bunch.

च् + य = च्य वाच्यम् c + ya = cya as in vācyam means meaning.

ज् + ज्ञ = ज्ञ आज्ञा j + ña = jña as in ājñā (jñaa) means order.

ज् + य = ज्य राज्यम् j + ya = jya as in rājyam means kingdom.

ट् + य = ट्य नाट्यम् ṭ + ya = ṭya as in nāṭyam means dance.

ठ् + य = ठ्य पाठ्यम् ṭh + ya = ṭhya as in pāṭhyam means lesson.

त् + त = त्त चित्तम् t + ta = tta as in cittam means mind.

त् + न = त्न रत्नम् t + na = tna as in ratnam means jewel.

त् + र = त्र नेत्रम् t + ra = tra as in netram means eye

थ् + य = थ्य रथ्यः th + ya = thya as in rathyaḥ means horse.

द् + ध = द्ध बुद्धः d + dha = ddha as in buddhaḥ scholar or Buddha.

द् + म = द्म सद्म d + ma = dma as in sadma means house.

द् + य = द्य पद्यम् d + ya = dya as in padyam means poem.

द् + र = द्र मुद्रा d + ra = dra as in mudrā (draa) means seal.

द् + र् + य = द्र्य दारिद्र्यम् d + r + ya = drya as in dāridryam poverty.

द् + व = द्व विद्वान् d + va = dva as in vidvān (dva) means scholar.

ध् + य = ध्य मध्यः dh + ya = dhya as in madhyaḥ means middle.

न् + त = न्त सन्तः n + ta = nta as in **santaḥ** great & noble person.

न् + न = न्न अन्नम् n + na = nna as in **annam** means food.

प् + र = प्र प्रतिमा p + ra = pra as in **pratimā** means image (idol).

ब् + द = ब्द अब्दः b + da = bda as in **abdaḥ** means year.

ब् + र = ब्र ब्रह्मा b + ra = bra as in **brahmā** means the Creator.

म् + व = म्ब अम्बा m + ba = mba as in **ambā (mbaa)** means Mother.

म् + भ = म्भ स्तम्भः m + bha = mbha as in **stambhaḥ** means pillar.

म् + र = म्र ताम्रम् m + ra = mra as in **tāmram** means copper.

र् + म = र्म कर्म r + ma = rma as in **karma** means duty.

र् + व = र्व पर्वतः r + va = rva as in **parvataḥ** means mountain.

ल् + य = ल्य कल्याणम् l + ya = lya kalyāṇam (kalyaṇam) happiness.

श् + र = श्र मिश्रम् ś + ra = śra as in **miśram** means mixture.

स् + त् + र = स्त्र शास्त्रम् s + t + ra = stra as in **śāstram** science.

स् + म = स्म विस्मयः s + ma = sma as in **vismayaḥ** means wonder.

स् + र = स्त्र अस्त्रम् s + ra = sra as in **asram** means (eye) tear.

ह्र + न = ह्र चिह्नम् h + na = hna as in **cihnam** means symbol.

ह्र + य = ह्य गुह्य h + ya = hya as in **guhya** means secret.