

Dina's Saṅskṛt Pronunciation Guide

This system of transliteration (Romanized Saṅskṛt) has been almost universally accepted by Saṅskṛt scholars all over the world in the last seventy years. Each and every syllable is accurately reproduced from the original with no loss of information nor any ambiguity.

Numerals: 1-१, 2-२, 3-३, 4-४, 5-५, 6-६, 7-७, 8-८, 9-९, 0-०

13 Vowels: N.B. Long vowels are twice as long as short ones

a अ ā आ i इ ī ई u उ ū ऊ e ए ai ऐ o ओ au औ ṛ ऋ ṛ ऌ ḷ

Short Vowels (V)		Long Vowels (W)		Long Vowels (W)	
a _{v1}	अ As in <u>but</u>	ā _{w1}	आ As in <u>far</u>	e _{w4}	ए As in <u>they</u>
i _{v2}	इ As in <u>pin</u>	ī _{w2}	ई As in <u>peace</u>	ai _{w5}	ऐ As in <u>aisle</u>
u _{v3}	उ As in <u>push</u>	ū _{w3}	ऊ As in <u>rule</u>	o _{w6}	ओ As in <u>foam</u>
-	-	-	-	au _{w7}	औ As in <u>how</u>
ṛ _{v8}	ऋ As in <u>rim</u> but without the 'i'***	ṛ _{w8}	ऋ As in <u>rim</u> , but held longer	-	-
ḷ _{v9}	ऌ As in <u>rim</u> , but with 'L' sound	***ṛ is a short rolling of the tongue, <i>not</i> 'ree' nor 'ru' as it is in Hindi / Bengali / Telugu etc			

Symbols for vowels:

a-(nil)	ā-।	i-।	ī-।	u-ॊ	ū-ो	e-॑	ai-॑	o-॑	au-॑	ṛ-॑	ṛ-॑	ḷ-॑	m-॑	h-:	॑
क	का	कि	की	कु	कू	के	कै	को	कौ	कृ	कृ	कू	कं	कः	क्
ka	kā	ki	kī	ku	kū	ke	kai	ko	kau	kṛ	kṛ	kl	kaṁ	kaḥ(a)	k
(V1)	(W1)	(V2)	(W2)	(V3)	(W3)	(W4)	(W5)	(W6)	(W7)	(V8)	(W8)	(V9)			

	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt
Symbols	ऽ	,	॑	(nil)
	Avagraha (pronounced as a very short 'a')		Virāma (drop the final 'a')	
How to decipher the script	ma + e + ' + ½ca + ½ya + u + ta = म + ॑ + ऽ + ½च + ½य + ॊ + त = म + ॑ + ऽ + च + य + ॊ + त = मेऽच्युत = me'cyuta (me + acyuta)		राम् = rām = ra + ā + ma - a वाक् = vāk = va + ā + ka - a = व + । + क + ॑	

35 Consonants:

	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	
25 SPARŚAS	Guttural (G) (Throat)	क	ka _{G1}	ख	kha _{G2}	ग	ga _{G3}	घ	gha _{G4}	ङ	ṅa _{G5}
		as in 'cut'		walk <u>h</u> ut		gullible		dig <u>h</u> ard		sing <u>u</u> p	
	Palatal (P) (Middle of Tongue)	च	ca _{P1}	छ	cha _{P2}	ज	ja _{P3}	झ	jha _{P4}	ञ	ña _{P5}
		<u>ch</u> uckle		stitch- <u>h</u> ut		ju <u>ng</u> le		hed <u>g</u> e- <u>h</u> ard		cany <u>o</u> n jña=ज्ञ (not 'gya') ¹ sing <u>y</u> art	
	Cerebral (C) (Ridge)	ट	ṭa _{C1}	ठ	ṭha _{C2}	ड	ḍa _{C3}	ढ	ḍha _{C4}	ण	ṇa _{C5}
		t <u>u</u> b		light- <u>h</u> ut		do <u>v</u> e		red- <u>h</u> ot		n <u>u</u> t	
	(NB:Dots below each letter) Tongue curled up, tip touching hard part of palate										
	Dental (D) (Teeth)**	त	ta _{D1}	थ	tha _{D2}	द	da _{D3}	ध	dha _{D4}	न	na _{D5}
		thor <u>u</u> gh		ment(<u>th</u>) <u>h</u> ol**		th <u>o</u>		rhy <u>th</u> (<u>h</u> a)m		'in <u>th</u> ee end'	
	**But tongue must press against all upper teeth for all 5 dental sounds										
Labial (L) (Lips)	प	pa _{L1}	फ	pha _{L2}	ब	ba _{L3}	भ	bha _{L4}	म	ma _{L5}	
	pu <u>d</u> dle		top- <u>h</u> ut (Not 'f' sound) ¹		bu <u>n</u> dle		ro <u>b</u> - <u>h</u> ut		mo <u>th</u> er		
4 SEMI-VOWELS (antaḥ-sthaḥ) (SV)	य	ya _{SV1}	र	r _{SV2}	ल	la _{SV3}	व	va _{SV4}			
	y <u>a</u> rd		ru <u>n</u>		la <u>r</u> d		va <u>r</u> nish (But as 'wa' if joined with a consonant in the same syllable eg. 'svāmi')				
3 SIBIL-ANTS (ūsmas) (SS)	श	śa _{CS1}	ष	ṣa _{PS2}	स	sa _{DS3}					
	(tālavya - Cerebral) 'as <u>sh</u> arp', tongue in front (light sound)		(mūrdhanya - Palatal) 'pu <u>sh</u> ' but with tongue pulled back (heavy sound)			(dantya - Dental) As in ' <u>s</u> un' (pure 'ss')					
3 MORE CONSONANTS	ः	ṁ (anusvāra)			:	ḥ (visarga*)		ह	ha		
	कं	= kaṁ			कः	= kaḥ(a)		(aspirate)			
	A nasal sound, as in 'om'				* (see explanation below)			As in <u>h</u> t			

*If the ḥ is at the end of a line, repeat the previous vowel lightly: eg aḥ=aḥa, iḥ= iḥi

¹ Sounds like 'gya' & 'fa' exist in Hindi, Bengali etc but are not in Saṅskṛt

Full list of Romanized Saṅskṛt Alphabets

Below are all the alphabets that are used in various combinations to accurately represent the entire spectrum of the Saṅskṛt alphabet, with zero ambiguity:

a	अ	à	·
ā	आ	n	न्
b	ब्	ì	ङ्
c	च्	ë	ण्
d	द्	o	ओ
ḍ	ड्	p	प्
e	ए	r	र्
g	ग्	â	ऋ
h	ह्	è	ऌ
ḥ	:	s	स्
i	इ	ç	श्
ī	ई	ñ	ष्
j	ज्	t	त्
k	क्	ö	ट्
l	ल्	u	उ
ḷ	ळ	ü	ऊ
m	म्	v	व्
		y	य्