

### Hints on Transliteration (and Pronunciation)

[For the esteemed readers of this book who do not know at all or are not fully familiar with the Sanskrit alphabet, the following guidance on transliteration is provided.]

In this book, the Devanagari (i.e.Sanskrit) characters are transliterated according to the scheme adopted by the International Congress of Orientalists at Athens in 1912 and since then generally acknowledged to be the only rational and satisfactory scheme. In it, the inconsistency, irregularity and redundance of English spelling are ruled out; f, q, w, x, and z are not called to use; one fixed value is given to each letter; the third letter of the English alphabet viz. *c* which serves or stands for two very different sounds even in a single word, as for example *circle & circus* or *cancer & cancel* is reserved for the sound in words such as *chair, cheese, church*, etc, the present sounds of *c* as above being represented by *s* and *k* respectively.

According to this scheme, certain dots and dashes, called diacritical marks have to be added to some letters. For easy pronunciation while reading or reciting, in some publications, the break-up of the transliteration is based on the phonetic sounds and not on the basis of Sanskrit (saṁskṛta) grammar or rules, as it should ideally be.

### THE TRANSLITERATION GUIDE FOR SAṂSKṚTA WORDS ACCORDING TO THIS SCHEME :

following the English alphabet sequence:

letter in the English alphabet	stands for in Devanagari (Sanskrit)	and sounds like (pronunciation)	Additional illustrations (with underlining)
a	अ*	o as in son	per, sir, another, baboon
ā	आ (ऀ)*	a as in master	bar, car
b	ब्	b as in book	ball, bear
c	च्	ch as in check	chair, catch
d	द्	d as in Das Capital	Notre dame, Dar-e-Salam
ḍ	ड्	d as in do	date, dear
e	ए (ँ)*	a as in evade	best, crest
g	ग्	g as in good	game, gear
h	ह्	h as in hard	hair, hear
ḥ	अः (ः)*	h as in oh!	Ah
i	इ (ि)*	i as in if	give, live
ī	ई (ी)*	ee as in feel	team, keen
j	ज्	j as in jar	Jane, jewel
k	क्	k as in kite	king, kit
l	ल्	l as in Lord	life, love
ḷ	लृ*	ḷ as in kḷpti	
ḻ	लृ*	ḻ as in ḻ	

m	म्	<i>m</i> as in man	<u>m</u> edia,
m̐	अं ( ' )*	<i>m</i> as in simple	u <u>m</u> brella, di <u>m</u> ple
n	न्	<i>n</i> as in nose	<u>n</u> either, <u>n</u> or
n̐	इ	<i>n</i> as in monkey	u <u>n</u> cle
n̄	ञ्	<i>n</i> as in lunch	mu <u>n</u> ch
ṅ	ण्	<i>n</i> as in under	thu <u>n</u> der
o	ओ ( ो )*	<i>o</i> as in over	ro <u>o</u> pe, so <u>o</u> p
p	प्	<i>p</i> as in put	<u>p</u> en, <u>p</u> iano
r	र्	<i>r</i> as in run	<u>r</u> ain, <u>r</u> ear
r̐	ऋ* ( ृ )	<i>r</i> as in kṛṣṇa	
r̄	ऌ* ( ॄ )	<i>r̄</i> as in nṛnām	
ś	श्	<i>sh</i> as in shut	<u>sh</u> arp, <u>sh</u> ine
ṣ	ष्	<i>sh</i> as in Krishna	Ri <u>sh</u> hikesh
s	स्	<i>s</i> as in sit	<u>s</u> ane, <u>s</u> een
t	त्	<i>t</i> as in Tao	<u>t</u> ete-à- <u>t</u> ete, <u>T</u> aiwan
t̐	ट्	<i>t</i> as in touch	<u>t</u> it, <u>t</u> at,
u	उ ( ु )*	<i>u</i> as in full	<u>u</u> sh, <u>u</u> t
ū	ऊ ( ू )*	<i>oo</i> as in boot	<u>u</u> oom
v	व्	<i>v</i> as in van, avert	<u>v</u> ice, <u>v</u> irtue
y	य्	<i>y</i> as in yak	<u>y</u> arn, <u>y</u> en
ai	ऐ ( ै )*	<i>ai</i> as in Jain	<u>K</u> aiser
au	औ ( ौ )*	<i>au</i> as in Maulana	<u>D</u> raupadi
bh	भ्	<i>bh</i> as in abhor	<u>B</u> hopal, <u>B</u> harat
ch	च्	<i>chh</i> as in catch-him	<u>C</u> hintz (a kind of cloth)
dh	ध्	<i>th</i> as in breathe (hard)	<u>t</u> his, <u>t</u> hat

ḍh	ढ	<i>dh</i> as in godhood	<u>D</u> holak, <u>D</u> haka (Bangladesh)
gh	घ	<i>gh</i> as in ghost	<u>G</u> hana
jh	झ	<i>z</i> as in Zone	<u>J</u> ohn
kh	ख्	<i>kh</i> as in khāki	<u>S</u> ikh,
ph	फ्	<i>ph</i> as in photo	<u>p</u> hilosophy
th	थ्	<i>th</i> as in thumb	<u>t</u> hin, <u>t</u> hink
ṭh	ठ्	<i>th</i> as in ant-hill	<u>K</u> ath <u>m</u> andu
'	ऽ	as unwritten 'a' sound	
''	ऽऽ	as unwritten 'aa' sound	

Also, letters ḷ and Ḹ represent लृ\* and लृ\* respectively and F, Q, W, X, and Z are not called to use.

Note: In saṁskṛta, consonants represented with a stroke below e.g. as in क् (k) cannot be pronounced singly except in conjunction with, say, a vowel marked \*in the above table e.g. क् (k) + अ (a) = क (ka). When suffixed, each vowel is represented with a short stroke or symbol, as shown above, in brackets. To illustrate,

क् + अ = क i.e. ka e.g. कमल (kamala) lotus  
क् + आ = का i.e. kā e.g. काव्य (kāvyā) poem  
क् + इ = कि i.e. ki e.g. किरण (kīraṇa) ray of light  
क् + ई = की i.e. kī e.g. कीर्ति (kīrti) fame  
क् + उ = कु i.e. ku e.g. कुमार (kumāra) son

क् + ऊ = कू	i.e. kū	e.g. कूबर (kūbara)	ocean
क् + ऋ = कृ	i.e. kṛ	e.g. कृपालु (kṛpālu)	merciful
क् + ए = के	i.e. ke	e.g. केयूर (keyūra)	bracelet
क् + ऐ = कै	i.e. kai	e.g. कैलास (kailāsa)	A Himalayan Peak

क् + ओ = को	i.e. ko	e.g. कोश (kośa)	treasury
क् + औ = कौ	i.e. kau	e.g. कौमुदी (kaumudī)	moonlight
क् + अं = कं	i.e. kaṁ	e.g. कंबल (kaṁbala)	blanket
क् + अः = कः	i.e. kaḥ	e.g. कः (kaḥ)	who

**Rearranged Devanagari alphabet sequencewise (but with different illustrations to avoid repetition and to re-emphasise):**

Letter in the Devanagari (Sanskrit)	stands for in English alphabet	and sounds like (pronunciation)	other illustrations (with underlining)
<b>vowels:</b>			
अ	a	o as in come	b <u>u</u> t, a <u>b</u> out
आ (ऀ)	ā	a as in far	a <u>ar</u> m, j <u>a</u> r
इ (ः)	i	i as in bit	l <u>i</u> ps, t <u>i</u> ps,
ई (ः)	ī	ee as in feel	s <u>ie</u> ve, t <u>ee</u> m
उ (ः)	u	u as in full	tr <u>u</u> th
ऊ (ः)	ū	oo as in cool	soo <u>u</u> the
ऋ (ः)	ṛ	ṛ as in ṛṣi may be pronounced as <i>ri</i> as in ring	<u>r</u> ishi
ॠ (ः)	ṛī	ṛī as in nṛnām	
ऌ	ḷ	ḷ as in kḷpti	

ऌ	ḷ	ḷ as in ḷ	
ए (ः)	e	a as in cake	text, br <u>e</u> ast
ऐ (ः)	ai	i as in mite	pl <u>a</u> in, K <u>a</u> ilas
ओ (ः)	o	o as in note	T <u>o</u> e, sl <u>o</u> w
औ (ः)	au	ou as in count	M <u>a</u> ur <u>y</u> a
अं (ः)	ṁ	m as in some	com <u>pl</u> ain
अः (ः)	ḥ	h as in soft, half h	
ऽ	'	as unwritten 'a' sound	
ऽऽ	''	as unwritten 'aa' sound	
<b>Consonants:</b>			
क्	k	k as in king	<u>ch</u> emistry, pick <u>ck</u>
ख	kh	kh as in silk hat (uttered quickly together)	<u>Kh</u> artoum, <u>Kh</u> an
ग्	g	g as in go	girl, <u>G</u> od
घ	gh	gh as in log-hut	Shang <u>gh</u> ai
ङ	ṅ	n as in sing	mi <u>ng</u> le, si <u>ng</u> le, ri <u>ng</u>
च्	c	ch as in church	<u>ch</u> ease
छ	ch	chh as in church-hil	<u>Ch</u> hota-Udaipur
ज्	j	j as in jug	jo <u>u</u> rney, j <u>a</u> de
झ	jh	d <u>gh</u> e as in hedgehog	<u>Jh</u> elum, z <u>eb</u> ra
ञ्	ñ	n as in singe	ti <u>ng</u> , arr <u>a</u> ng <u>e</u> , syri <u>ng</u> e

ट	ṭ	<i>t</i> as in curt	tea, toe
ठ	ʈh	<i>th</i> as in hot-house	lath <u>i</u>
ड	ɖ	<i>d</i> as in bird	di <u>r</u> t, doo <u>r</u> , sa <u>d</u>
ढ	ɖh	<i>dh</i> as in red-hot	da <u>m</u> n (with stronger aspiration)
ण	ɳ	(cerebral) <i>n</i> as in bond	shu <u>n</u> ting (with stronger aspiration)
त्	t	<i>t</i> soft like French	T <u>a</u> pi, ta <u>n</u> tra, T <u>a</u> imur
थ	ʈh	<i>th</i> as in thunder	th <u>r</u> ough, sou <u>th</u>
द्	d	<i>th</i> as in though	de Pa <u>r</u> is
ध	dh	<i>th</i> as in breathe-hard	th <u>e</u> n, th <u>e</u> re
न्	n	<i>n</i> as in pen	nu <u>r</u> se, n <u>o</u>
प्	p	<i>p</i> as in pun	pu <u>b</u> lic, cro <u>p</u>
फ्	ph	<i>ph</i> as in top-hat	ph <u>i</u> losophy, fe <u>a</u> ther
ब्	b	<i>b</i> as in bat	bi <u>l</u> l, bo <u>s</u> s
भ्	bh	<i>bh</i> as in abhor	B <u>h</u> arat
म्	m	<i>m</i> as in miracle	ma <u>r</u> ry
य्	y	<i>y</i> as in young	yo <u>k</u> e, ya <u>c</u> ht
र्	r	<i>r</i> as in rust	roo <u>m</u> , ra <u>t</u>
ल्	l	<i>l</i> as in lump	lu <u>l</u> laby, le <u>tt</u> er
व्	v	<i>v</i> as in levy	yo <u>w</u> el, sha <u>v</u> e
श्	ʃ	(palatal) <i>s</i> as in ship	sh <u>a</u> me
ष्	ʃ	<i>sh</i> as in should	sh <u>e</u> ll
स्	s	<i>s</i> as in sun	so <u>n</u> , si <u>l</u> ent
ह्	h	<i>h</i> as in home	hi <u>n</u> t, ho <u>l</u> d, he <u>a</u> d