


# Sanskrit Pronunciation Guide


Vowels		
अ	<i>a</i>	Like the <b>a</b> in <i>organ</i> or the <b>u</b> in <i>but</i>
आ	<i>ā</i>	Like the <b>ā</b> in <i>fār</i> but twice as long as <i>a</i>
इ	<i>i</i>	Like the <b>i</b> in <i>pin</i>
ई	<i>ī</i>	Like the <b>ī</b> in <i>pīque</i> but twice as long as <i>i</i>
उ	<i>u</i>	Like the <b>u</b> in <i>push</i>
ऊ	<i>ū</i>	Like the <b>ū</b> in <i>rūle</i> but twice as long as <i>u</i>
ऋ	<i>ṛ</i>	Like the <b>ṛ</b> in <i>Rita</i> but more like French <b>ru</b>
ॠ	<i>ṝ</i>	Like <b>ṛ</b> but twice as long (trilled)
ऌ	<i>ḷ</i>	Like <i>lree</i> , or sometimes <i>lruu</i>
ए	<i>e</i>	Like the <b>e</b> in <i>they</i>
ऐ	<i>ai</i>	Like the <b>ai</b> in <i>aisle</i>
ओ	<i>o</i>	Like the <b>o</b> in <i>go</i>
औ	<i>au</i>	Like the <b>ow</b> in <i>how</i>
ँ	<i>ṁ</i>	Like the nasal <b>n</b> in the French word <i>bon</i>
ः	<i>ḥ</i>	Like the <b>ha</b> in <i>aha</i> , but only at the end of a line, otherwise silent. Takes the sound of the preceding vowel, ex. <i>vāpuḥ</i> = <i>vā+pu+hu</i>
Consonants		
क	<i>ka</i>	Like the <b>k</b> in <i>kite</i>
ख	<i>kha</i>	Like the <b>kh</b> in <i>Ekhart</i>
ग	<i>ga</i>	Like the <b>g</b> in <i>give</i>
घ	<i>gha</i>	Like the <b>gh</b> in <i>dig-hard</i>
ङ	<i>ṅa</i>	Like the <b>n</b> in <i>sing</i>
च	<i>ca</i>	Like the <b>ch</b> in <i>chair</i>
छ	<i>cha</i>	Like the <b>chh</b> in <i>staunch-hearted</i>
ज	<i>ja</i>	Like the <b>j</b> in <i>joy</i>
झ	<i>jha</i>	Like the <b>geh</b> in <i>hedgehog</i>

Consonants, continued		
ञ	<i>ña</i>	Like the <b>ny</b> in <i>canyon</i>
ट	<i>ṭa</i>	Like the <b>t</b> in <i>tub</i>
ठ	<i>ṭha</i>	Like the <b>th</b> in <i>lighthearted</i>
ड	<i>ḍa</i>	Like the <b>d</b> in <i>dove</i>
ढ	<i>ḍha</i>	Like the <b>dh</b> in <i>red-hot</i>
ण	<i>ṇa</i>	Like the <b>n</b> in <i>not</i> but with the tongue on the roof of the mouth.
त	<i>ta</i>	Like the <b>t</b> in <i>tub</i> but with tongue against teeth
थ	<i>tha</i>	Like the <b>th</b> in <i>lighthearted</i> but tongue against teeth
द	<i>da</i>	Like the <b>d</b> in <i>dove</i> but with tongue against teeth
ध	<i>dha</i>	Like the <b>dh</b> in <i>red-hot</i> but with tongue against teeth
न	<i>na</i>	Like the <b>n</b> in <i>nut</i> but with tongue between teeth
प	<i>pa</i>	Like the <b>p</b> in <i>pine</i>
फ	<i>pha</i>	Like the <b>ph</b> in <i>uphill</i>
ब	<i>ba</i>	Like the <b>b</b> in <i>bird</i>
भ	<i>bha</i>	Like the <b>bh</b> in <i>rub-hard</i>
म	<i>ma</i>	Like the <b>m</b> in <i>mother</i>
य	<i>ya</i>	Like the <b>y</b> in <i>yes</i>
र	<i>ra</i>	Like the <b>r</b> in <i>run</i>
ल	<i>la</i>	Like the <b>l</b> in <i>light</i>
व	<i>va</i>	Like the <b>v</b> in <i>vine</i>
श	<i>śa</i>	Like the <b>s</b> in the German word <i>sprechen</i>
ष	<i>ṣa</i>	Like the <b>sh</b> in <i>shine</i>
स	<i>sa</i>	Like the <b>s</b> in <i>sun</i>
ह	<i>ha</i>	Like the <b>h</b> in <i>home</i>
ऽ	,	Replaces a leading vowel in compound words: <i>manoharaḥ + ajita = manoharo'jita</i>

## Consonant & Vowel Combinations

क	<i>ka</i>	कु	<i>ku</i>	कृ	<i>kṛ</i>	कौ	<i>kau</i>
का	<i>kā</i>	कू	<i>kū</i>	के	<i>ke</i>	अः	<i>aḥ</i>
कि	<i>ki</i>	कृ	<i>kṛ</i>	कै	<i>kai</i>	अं	<i>aṁ</i>
की	<i>kī</i>	कृ	<i>kṛ</i>	को	<i>ko</i>		

 Short vowels

 Long vowels