



Learn to Read Sanskrit

A beginners resource to reading Sanskrit

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0.0 An offering at his lotus feet

Sri Gurubhyo Namah!



“The root of meditation is the guru’s form. The root of worship are the guru’s feet. The root of mantra are the guru’s words. The root of liberation is the guru’s grace.”

- Sri Guru Gita

We offer this work at his Lotus Feet, our guru Sri Chitanyananda Natha Saraswati of Sri Rajarajeswari Peetham, Rush, NY, USA.

This guide, “Learn to Read Sanskrit”, is mostly a compilation of resources from various Sanskrit Literature and works from the world-wide-web. Although we used several resources, major credit goes to the “Learn Sanskrit through self-study” guide at the following web site:

<http://acharya.iitm.ac.in/sanskrit/tutor.php>

Following are other resources that we extensively used in this work:

<http://www.avashy.com/hindiscripttutor.htm>

<http://www.arshakulam.org/index.html>

<http://www.omniglot.com>

(Ager, Simon. "Omniglot - writing systems and languages of the world". Omniglot was first published on the web in November 1998)

We are not Sanskrit scholars; however we have some exposure to Sanskrit. Inspired by our Guru, we have a strong desire to do something for younger generation. This life time is not enough to read all the Vedic scriptures, but we believe that learning to read Vedas in its original form can definitely be achieved. This work attempts to aid in reading Sanskrit and vedas. With Guru’s grace, it is our sincere hope that this work will achieve its goal.

Devotees of Sri Rajarajeswari Peetham,
Rush, NY, USA

Sri Gurubhyo Namah!

1.0 Introduction

Sanskrit is the language of Vedas. A meaningful study of Vedas will not be complete without the knowledge its script - Devanagari. Although Vedas can be learnt using English diacritics, it will be almost impossible to master the correct pronunciation. It is our firm belief that Sanskrit can be learnt by anyone. In order to enjoy the nectar of Vedas, it is essential that we learn to read Sanskrit.

There are many resources available on the web that will help you to learn read, write and speak in Sanskrit. The main aim of this guide is to teach you reading Sanskrit. Not writing or speaking. However, while learning to read Sanskrit you will also learn to write in Devanagari script - at least we hope. You may realize that it is easy to remember the letters when you practice writing. We encourage that you print the alphabets from this guide and practice writing.

This guide starts with an introduction to Devanagari Script and writing in Sankrit. It then introduces the Swaras, the "sounds" of Sanskrit and reading methodology. In later sections you will learn how to pronounce Sanskrit sounds. It then gradually takes you to reading simple words to complex words. In the final sections you will learn to read simple slokas, complex slokas and Suktams. We have already published reading modules for Suktams and Lalitha Sahasra Nama and they are available on our web site for download. We hope you will use all the resources and learn to read Vedic scriptures.

We pray that the Guru's Grace and Devi's blessings be always with you. Have a happy reading!

2.0 Sanskrit Writing System

The writing system used for Sanskrit is known as **Devanagari**. Indian languages are phonetic in nature and the written shapes represent unique sounds.

In Sanskrit and other Indian languages, unlike in English, there is no specific name given to the letters. The sound the letter stands for is actually the name for the letter. In a phonetic language, like Indian languages, you need to read out the words by uttering the sound, the **Swara** associated with each **Akshara** (the letter).

Note on Reading Devanagari using Diacritics: There are many methods being adopted to read Sanskrit. One of such method is through special notation on Roman letters called diacritics. The diacritics, which consist of marks written above or below a letter of the alphabet, indicate variations in the sound associated with the letter. Dictionaries also follow this method to help the reader identify the manner in which the word should be pronounced. Following example illustrate diacritics notation scheme:

कमला खलु गणपति अनघा चतुरङ्गं
kamalā khalu gaṇapati anaghā caturaṅgaṃ

Notable Features in Sanskrit Alphabets:

- Consonant letters carry an inherent vowel which can be altered or muted by means of diacritics or *matra*.
- Vowels can be written as independent letters, or by using a variety of diacritical marks which are written above, below, before or after the consonant they belong to. This feature is common to most of the alphabets of South and South East Asia.
- When consonants occur together in clusters, special conjunct letters are used.
- The order of the letters is based on articulatory phonetics.

2.1 Sanskrit Aksharas (Alphabets)

Sanskrit alphabet is called Varnamala, literally means garland of letters. Sanskrit alphabets are classified into four groups. Here is the list. We will cover each of these in detail in later sections:

स्वराः (svarāḥ) – Vowels

व्यञ्जनानि (vyañjanāni) – Consonants

स्वरयुक्त-व्यञ्जनानि (svarayukta-vyañjanāni) – Consonants with vowels

संयुक्त-व्यञ्जनानि (saṃyukta-vyañjanāni) – Conjunct consonants

2.2 Sanskrit Alphabet Chart

संस्कृतवर्णमाला - sanskritvarnamala

Short Vowels	अ	इ	उ	ऋ	ॠ			
	a	i	u	r̄	ṝ			
Long Vowels	आ	ई	ऊ	ऋ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ
	ā	ī	ū	r̄	ē	ai	ō	au
Support Vowels	अं	अः						
	aṁ	aḥ						

Consonant Group-1: Gutturals	क	ख	ग	घ	ङ			
	ka	kha	ga	gha	ṅa			

Consonant Group-2: Palatals	च	छ	ज	झ	ञ			
	ca	cha	ja	jha	ña			

Consonant Group-3: Cerebrals	ट	ठ	ड	ढ	ण			
	ṭa	ṭha	ḍa	ḍha	ṇa			

Consonant Group-4: Dentals	त	थ	द	ध	न			
	ta	tha	da	dha	na			

Consonant Group-5: Labials	प	फ	ब	भ	म			
	pa	pha	ba	bha	ma			

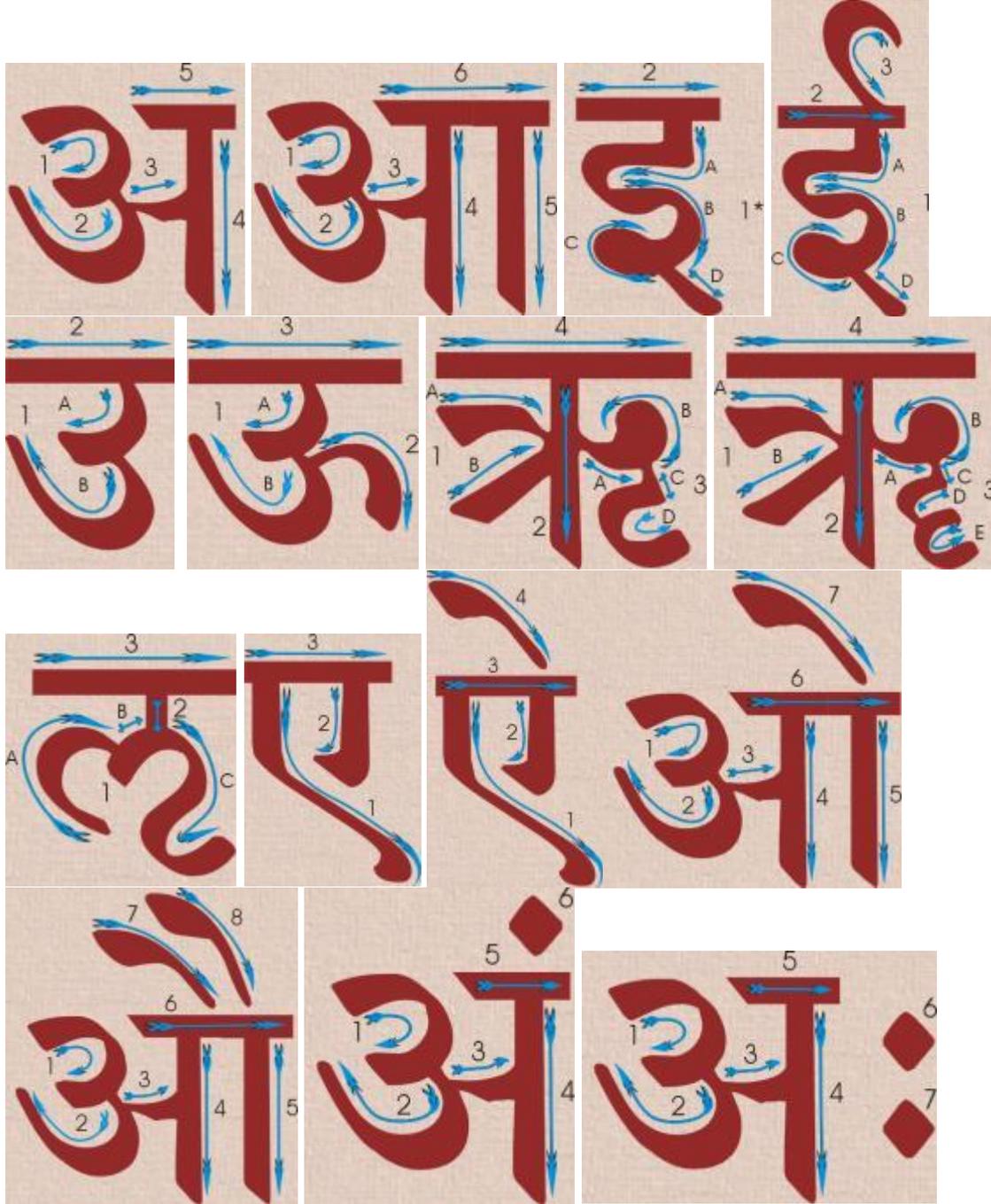
Group 6: consists of three subgroups.

Semivowels		Sibilants		Aspirate			
य	र	ल	व	श	ष	स	ह
ya	ra	la	va	śa	ṣa	sa	ha

2.3 Writing Sanskrit Alphabets

As we mentioned in the beginning of this book it is not necessary to learn to write Sanskrit in order to learn reading. However, if you learn to write, it will be easier to read. You can use following as a guide to practice writing Sanskrit.

Sanskrit Writing – Vowels



Sanskrit Writing – Consonants, Semivowels and Sibilants





3 Reading Sanskrit

As we discussed in the beginning of this book, main focus here is reading Sanskrit. In the following sections we will provide Sanskrit alphabets and reading method. Along with Sanskrit alphabets we also have provided the Roman letters with diacritic notations to aid in reading. In the beginning use the Roman diacritics as a guide to read Sanskrit. Eventually you should be reading Sanskrit letters without the help of Roman diacritics.

3.1 Vowels

Vowels form an independent group from the consonants. The vowels are called "swaras" in Sanskrit. "Swara", means sound and each vowels represent a certain "sound". There are fifteen vowels which comprise of five short ones, eight long ones and two support vowels. Among these fifteen, only thirteen are in normal use these days.

There are two types of vowels:

- Short Vowels –
- Long Vowels

3.1.1 The short vowels

- The short ones are referred to as "hraswa" swaras. .

अ	इ	उ	ऋ	ॠ
a	i	u	r̄	ṝ

अ is pronounced as in cup, bus etc.

इ is pronounced as in inform, init etc.

उ is pronounced as in look, book etc.

ऋ has no direct equivalent and is pronounced somewhere in between ri and ru, like crystal.

ॠ is also like ऋ and is pronounced somewhere in between li and lu similar to glycerene.

3.1.2 Long Vowels

- There are eight long vowels.
- These are pronounced for a duration typically twice that of the short ones. The long vowels also include two vowels that are treated as diphthongs. However as far as Sanskrit is concerned they are not strictly diphthongs.

आ ई ऊ ऋ ए ऐ ओ औ

ā ī ū ṛ ē ai o au

The first four are the long forms of the corresponding short vowels.

ए and ओ are long vowels which do not have short forms in Sanskrit.

ऐ and औ are often likened to diphthongs though they are not strictly combinations of two vowels.

आ is pronounced as in far, bar, fall etc.

ई is pronounced as in easy, eagle etc.

ऊ is pronounced as in rooster, fool etc.

ऋ is the long form of ऀ

ए is pronounced as in fable, gray etc.

ऐ is pronounced as in my, fly etc.

ओ is pronounced as in road, goat etc.

औ is pronounced as in down, noun etc.

3.1.3 Support Vowels

The support vowel concept is somewhat unique to Indian languages.

A support vowel adds a specific sound to the normal vowel in a syllable. Hence the resulting syllable will sound a little different. Interestingly, the sound added by the support vowel is almost equivalent to the sound of a consonant. Yet, a subtle difference will be heard.

The visarga is seen typically at the end of most masculine names.

The two support vowels are known as "ubhayakshara" and are mostly appended to syllables. They are not used independently like other vowels.

They add specific sounds to the syllables they are appended to. These two support vowels are represented using the first vowel

अं अः
am ah

The first is known as the "anuswara" and the second "visarga" The anuswara adds a sound similar to the sound of m in "sum" to the syllable. The visarga adds a sound similar to "ha" to the syllable.

The "ha" will change depending on the vowel ending the syllable. The visarga more or less extends the vowel in the syllable with h+the same vowel as in the syllable.

Example: if the syllable ends in vowel i then the visarga would add a sound like "hi".

There may be differences in the manner in which these two are introduced in conventional Sanskrit Primers. When reading Sanskrit, it will be necessary to render the visarga in a way that will distinguish it from the syllables ha, hi, hu etc. This may be accomplished by shortening the vowel in the visarga.

3.2 *Consonant*

3.2.1 *Generic form of a consonant*

The consonants in Sanskrit are known as "vyanjanani" and there are total thirty three in number.

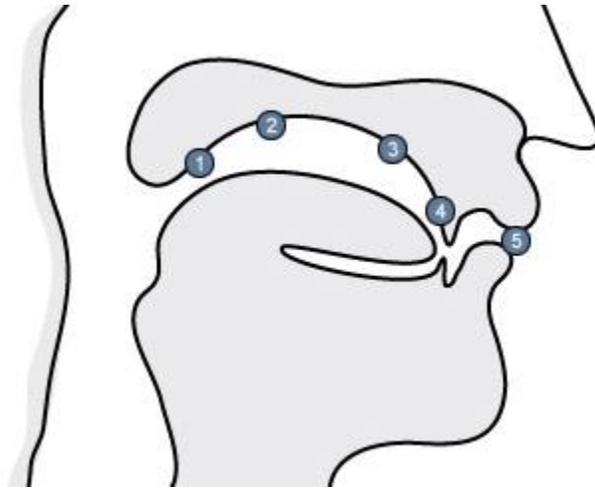
The consonants are grouped into six groups. The first five have five consonants each and the last one has eight. The grouping is based on the natural ordering of sounds such as gutturals, palatals etc., depending on the anatomical region involved in the generation of the sound associated with the consonants.

The letters of Sanskrit are given names exactly matching the sound they represent. A consonant derives its name from the sound when the basic vowel "a" is sounded with the consonant.

In Sanskrit and in other Indian languages, each consonant has a generic form in which its pronunciation will not have any vowel sound associated with it.

Consonants are pronounced in following way:

1. Guttural (Velar) - Using the back of the tongue against the soft palate.
2. Palatal - Using the flat of the tongue against the back of the hard palate.
3. Cerebral (Retroflex) - Using the tip of the tongue against the top of the hard palate.
4. Dental - Using the tip of the tongue against the top front teeth.
5. Labial - Using the lips.



The generic form applies when more than one consonant is used in forming syllables and there are many such combinations in Sanskrit.

The writing system in Devanagari has a representation for the generic form of a consonant through the use of a special mark written at the bottom of the consonant's familiar representation. This mark is known as the "nether stroke" or the "halanth".

क (ka)

The generic form of क is क् . The nether stroke ् is attached below the letter क. Now, the familiar form of a consonant in Sanskrit is the form when it is sounded with the first vowel i.e., अ . Thus क् + अ = क

Pronouncing a consonant in its generic form requires that no vowel sound be added to the consonant's generic sound. The generic sound is quite similar to the sound associated with a basic phoneme corresponding to a consonant in English.

For the consonant क the associated generic sound will be like the ending syllable of the words "lake", "bake" etc..

A pure consonant is linguistically defined to be one without any vowel attached to it. Consonants can be meaningful in practice only when uttered along with a vowel. Ancient linguistic scholars referred to the vowels as "life giving" aksharas while the consonants were likened to the body.

It is common practice to introduce the consonants to the student, in the form where the first vowel अ forms the syllable with the generic sound of the consonant. Thus the student learns that क is pronounced like the first syllable of "cup". In India, children are often taught the aksharas in this manner.

3.2.2 Consonant Group-1: Gutturals

- The gutturals consist of five sounds.
- The last one is a nasal consonant.
- The second and the fourth are aspirated versions of the first and third respectively.
- Typically, when a consonant is aspirated, a short "ha" gets added to the consonant.

क ख ग घ ङ

ka kha ga gha ṅa

क sounds like the first syllable in cup

ख is the aspirated form of क

ग sounds like the g in gum

घ is the aspirated form of ग

ङ sounds like the ng in finger

3.2.3 Consonant Group-2: Palatals

The second group consists of the Palatals.

च छ ज झ ञ

ca cha ja jha ña

च sounds as in chair

छ is the aspirated form of च

ज sounds as in jar, just

झ is the aspirated form of ज

ञ sounds similar to the last syllable of the spanish word espana where the n has the combination sound of the English n and y

3.2.4 Consonant Group-3: Cerebrals

The third group of consonants are the cerebrals.

ट ठ ड ढ ण
ṭa ṭha ḍa ḍha ṇa

ट sounds similar to the t in taylor

ठ is the aspirated form of ट

ड sounds similar to the d in day, differ etc.

ढ is the aspirated form of ड

ण sounds similar to the n in fund.

3.2.5 Consonant Group-4: Dentals

The fourth group is made up of the dentals.

त थ द ध न
ta tha da dha na

त sounds like the first syllable of thirty

थ is the aspirated form of त

द sounds like the first syllable of thus

ध is the aspirated form of द

न sounds like the n in null, name etc..

3.2.6 Consonant Group-5: Labials

The fifth group of consonants are the Labials.

प फ ब भ म

pa pha ba bha ma

प sounds like p in pun

फ is the aspirated form of प

ब sounds like the b in butter

भ is the aspirated form of ब

म sounds like the m in man

3.2.7 Consonant Group-6: Semivowels, Sibilants etc.

Group six consists of three subgroups.

Semivowels

य र ल व

ya ra la va

Sibilants

श ष स

śa ṣa sa

Aspirate

ह

ha

य sounds like the y in young

र sounds like the r in real, similar to the Scottish pronunciation.

ल sounds like the l in laugh

व sounds like the v in vast

श has no direct equivalent in English. It is like the "g" a German would pronounce while speaking English and saying Germany !

ष sounds like the first syllable in shall

स similar to the s in same

ह sounds like the h in harmony.

3.3 Consonant Vowel combinations – Swarayukta Vyanjana

- Sanskrit is a phonetic language.
- Any of the consonants can form a syllable with any of the vowels.
- Such combinations are written using special ligatures (specific shapes different from those of normal vowels).
- The Devanagari script follows fairly consistent rules to write consonant vowel combinations.

Each vowel has a special shape associated with it for use with a combining consonant. This is known as a "matra" or simply vowel extension. A matra, when added to the basic shape of a consonant, results in a syllable consisting of the consonant and the vowel.

Some matras are added to the right of the consonant, some above or below the consonant and one specific matra in Sanskrit is added to the left of the consonant i.e., before drawing the consonant.

The matras associated with the vowels are shown below.

Vowel:	अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ
	a	ā	i	ī	u	ū
matra :		ा	ि	ी	ु	ू
Ex. :	क	का	कि	की	कु	कू
	ka	kā	ki	kī	ku	kū
Vowel:	ऋ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ	
	r̄	ē	ai	ō	au	

matra :

८ ॡ ॢ ॣ ।

Ex. :

कृ के कै को कौ

kr̥ kē kai kō kau

No matra is used for the combination with अ since this is considered the basic syllable for a consonant.

In consonants having a vertical stroke in their shapes, the matras that get added above or below are drawn coinciding the vertical stroke. For consonants not having a vertical stroke, the matras are usually added centered with respect to the horizontal span of the consonant. Take द् for example.

द	दा	दि	दी	दु	दू
da	dā	di	dī	du	dū
दृ	दे	दै	दो	दौ	
dr̥	dē	dai	dō	dau	

All the thirty three consonants strictly follow the above convention with very few exceptions. The consonant र has an exception for combinations with उ and ऊ .

The forms for र with उ and ऊ are रु and रू respectively.

The combination of ह and ऋ is written as ह्र. As seen above द् and ऋ will be दृ .

Following tables list all the combinations.

	अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ	ॠ	ऌ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ	अं	अः
क	क	का	कि	की	कु	कू	कृ	कृ	कळ	के	कै	को	कौ	कं	कः
ख	ख	खा	खि	खी	खु	खू	खृ	खृ	खळ	खे	खै	खो	खौ	खं	खः
ग	ग	गा	गि	गी	गु	गू	गृ	गृ	गळ	गे	गै	गो	गौ	गं	गः
घ	घ	घा	घि	घी	घु	घू	घृ	घृ	घळ	घे	घै	घो	घौ	घं	घः
ङ	ङ	ङा	ङि	ङी	ङु	ङू	ङृ	ङृ	ङळ	ङे	ङै	ङो	ङौ	ङं	ङः
च	च	चा	चि	ची	चु	चू	चृ	चृ	चळ	चे	चै	चो	चौ	चं	चः
छ	छ	छा	छि	छी	छु	छू	छृ	छृ	छळ	छे	छै	छो	छौ	छं	छः
ज	ज	जा	जि	जी	जु	जू	जृ	जृ	जळ	जे	जै	जो	जौ	जं	जः
झ	झ	झा	झि	झी	झु	झू	झृ	झृ	झळ	झे	झै	झो	झौ	झं	झः
ञ	ञ	जा	जि	जी	जु	जू	जृ	जृ	ञळ	जे	जै	जो	जौ	जं	जः
ट	ट	टा	टि	टी	टु	टू	टृ	टृ	टळ	टे	टै	टो	टौ	टं	टः
ठ	ठ	ठा	ठि	ठी	ठु	ठू	ठृ	ठृ	ठळ	ठे	ठै	ठो	ठौ	ठं	ठः
ड	ड	डा	डि	डी	डु	डू	डृ	डृ	डळ	डे	डै	डो	डौ	डं	डः
ढ	ढ	ढा	ढि	ढी	ढु	ढू	ढृ	ढृ	ढळ	ढे	ढै	ढो	ढौ	ढं	ढः
ण	ण	णा	णि	णी	णु	णू	णृ	णृ	णळ	णे	णै	णो	णौ	णं	णः

	अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ	ॠ	ऌ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ	अं	अः
त्	त	ता	ति	ती	तु	तू	तृ	तृ	त्ल	ते	तै	तो	तौ	तं	तः
थ्	थ	था	थि	थी	थु	थू	थृ	थृ	थ्ल	थे	थै	थो	थौ	थं	थः
द्	द	दा	दि	दी	दु	दू	दृ	दृ	द्ल	दे	दै	दो	दौ	दं	दः
ध्	ध	धा	धि	धी	धु	धू	धृ	धृ	ध्ल	धे	धै	धो	धौ	धं	धः
न्	न	ना	नि	नी	नु	नू	नृ	नृ	न्ल	ने	नै	नो	नौ	नं	नः
प्	प	पा	पि	पी	पु	पू	पृ	पृ	प्ल	पे	पै	पो	पौ	पं	पः
फ्	फ	फा	फि	फी	फु	फू	फृ	फृ	फ्ल	फे	फै	फो	फौ	फं	फः
ब्	ब	बा	बि	बी	बु	बू	बृ	बृ	ब्ल	बे	बै	बो	बौ	बं	बः
भ्	भ	भा	भि	भी	भु	भू	भृ	भृ	भ्ल	भे	भै	भो	भौ	भं	भः
म्	म	मा	मि	मी	मु	मू	मृ	मृ	म्ल	मे	मै	मो	मौ	मं	मः
य्	य	या	यि	यी	यु	यू	यृ	यृ	य्ल	ये	यै	यो	यौ	यं	यः
र्	र	रा	रि	री	रु	रू	रृ	रृ	र्ल	रे	रै	रो	रौ	रं	रः
ल्	ल	ला	लि	ली	लु	लू	लृ	लृ	ल्ल	ले	लै	लो	लौ	लं	लः
व्	व	वा	वि	वी	वु	वू	वृ	वृ	व्ल	वे	वै	वो	वौ	वं	वः
श्	श	शा	शि	शी	शु	शू	शृ	शृ	श्ल	शे	शै	शो	शौ	शं	शः
ष्	ष	षा	षि	षी	षु	षू	षृ	षृ	ष्ल	षे	षै	षो	षौ	षं	षः
स्	स	सा	सि	सी	सु	सू	सृ	सृ	स्ल	से	सै	सो	सौ	सं	सः
ह्	ह	हा	हि	ही	हु	हू	हृ	हृ	ह्ल	हे	है	हो	हौ	हं	हः

3.4 Conjuncts (*Samyuktakshar*)

- Samyuktakshar or a conjunct character represents a syllable made up of two or more consonants from the basic set.
- In forming syllables, the Samyuktakshar will combine with one of the vowels.

In respect of Sanskrit, the term conjunct refers to a syllable formed with two or more consonants and a vowel. Let us look at an example of a conjunct.

The name Krishna is familiar to one and all. In Devanagari it is written as कृष्णा and the word is made up of the two syllables कृ and ष्णा . The first syllable has the consonant क combining with the vowel ऋ and the second syllable is a combination of ष , ण and आ .

In Sanskrit, we reckon कृष्णा as being made up of two aksharas.

Here are some examples of two consonant conjuncts.

ग्र	=	ग	+	न
म्प	=	म	+	प
स्त	=	स	+	त

Note that in the first conjunct a half form of न is attached to the vertical stroke of the first consonant. In the second and third case, the first consonant has lost its vertical stroke while the second consonant is written in full.

Over the centuries, different conventions have been adopted for writing conjuncts. We will see some variations in the next section.

3.5 Writing methods for Conjuncts

- Traditionally, Sanskrit verses were composed to conform to specific metre comprising a fixed number of aksharas.
- Hence the writing systems also provided some mechanism to form conjuncts from the consonants. The use of the "half form" introduced earlier is a practice allowed for many conjuncts particularly those which include a vertical stroke in their shapes.

- Since the half form is not clearly defined for all the consonants, special shapes were introduced for some of the conjuncts. Thus the actual shapes for many conjuncts were altered but in a way allowing enough clues to identify the individual consonants.

In many cases, the individual consonants were written one below the other vertically but with reduced sizes to accommodate writing the conjunct within a vertical span.

- In some cases, a combination of "half form" and writing one below the other was adopted.
- It must be pointed out that considerable flexibility exists in writing the conjuncts, though by convention, some shapes have become the standard.

As a general rule, consonants in a conjunct are written in their half form except for the final consonant which is written in its full form. There are exceptions to this rule when the consonants do not have a clear half form. The consonants which do not have the vertical stroke in their shape come under this category.

The following 22 consonants have a vertical stroke in them.

ख	ग	घ	च	ज	झ	ञ	
kha	ga	gha	ca	ja	jha	ña	
ण	त	थ	ध	न	प	ब	
ṇa	ta	tha	dha	na	pa	ba	
भ	म	य	ल	व	श	ष	स
bha	ma	ya	la	va	śa	ṣa	sa

The following do not have a vertical stroke in them.

ड	छ	ट	ठ	ड
ṅa	cha	ṭa	ṭha	ḍa
ढ	द	र	ह	
ḍha	da	ra	ha	

क and फ have a stroke in the middle.

For the twenty two shown first, the half form is obtained by simply removing the vertical stroke.

For क , the half form is व (not to be confused with व). The half form for फ is very close to that of प itself.

For the nine in the middle row above, a clear half form is not standardized. Often the letters are just reduced in size and placed before the succeeding consonant in the conjunct. Considerable flexibility exists in writing conjuncts with these consonants.

Here are some examples of conjuncts. Please note that there are nearly a thousand of these. Only some are included here. .

ज	+	च	=	ञ		
प	+	त	=	प्त		
ट	+	ट	=	ट्ट		
द्	+	म	=	द्म		
ड	+	य	=	ड्य		
द	+	व	=	द्व		
ड	+	क	=	डक		
क	+	त	=	क्त		
श	+	र	=	श्र		
ह	+	म	=	ह्य		
ट	+	र	=	ट्र		
द्	+	ग	=	द्ग		
न	+	द्	+	र	=	न्द्र
स	+	त	+	र	=	स्त्र
प	+	ट	+	व	=	प्ट्व

3.6 *Samyuktakshar and vowel combinations*

The rules for writing syllables with samyuktakshar and vowels are the same as the ones for writing consonant-vowel combinations. The matras are used exactly the same way as before and will apply to the last consonant in the syllable except for "i" where the matra will appear before all the half-forms when half-forms are used. When the shape of the conjunct is very different, its shape may be viewed as that of a consonant itself and the matras added appropriately.

3.7 *Conjuncts with "ra"*

Samyuktakshars involving the consonant "ra" get special shapes. Unlike the other consonants which retain part of their shapes in samyuktakshars, Samyuktakshars with "ra" are written with special ligatures depending on the position occupied by "ra" within the conjunct. When "ra" occurs as the first consonant, it is given a shape called a "Repham", a hook like ligature written above the succeeding consonant. When "ra" occurs as the last consonant in a conjunct, the ligature can vary considerably depending on the consonant involved, if it has a vertical stroke in it etc.

Among the Samyuktakshars, the ones with "ra" in them are quite many in number (typically exceeding 80). Next to "ra", "ya" occurs in many conjuncts.

Conjuncts with र as the first consonant.

The consonant र is special in that conjuncts where र occurs as the first consonant, are written using a special ligature. In these conjuncts, the presence of र is indicated by a shape resembling a hook above the last consonant of the conjunct.

Let us look at a few examples.

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} \text{र} & + & \text{क} & = & \text{र्क} \\ \text{र} & + & \text{त} & = & \text{र्त} \\ \text{र} & + & \text{क} & + & \text{य} & = & \text{र्क्य} \\ \text{र} & + & \text{त} & + & \text{य} & = & \text{र्त्य} \end{array}$$

र combines with almost every other consonant and one finds several words in Sanskrit with र as well as य in a conjunct.

Earlier, we had mentioned about a conjunct with five consonants. Here is the word with the conjunct.

कात्स्न्याँ Just two syllables in the word!

Let us now look at some conjuncts in which र appears as the second or third consonant. We have already seen that र belongs to the group of semivowels. Most consonants will combine with with र and the resulting conjunct will usually end with र and an appropriate vowel. The presence of र in the conjunct will be seen through a special stroke added to the first consonant. Please observe the following carefully and remember the writing method for the consonant.

क	च	ट	त्र	प्र	म
kra	cra	ṭra	tra	pra	mra

Sanskrit books printed during the early part of the twentieth century may show variations from the above.

3.8 List of Conjuncts

Following is the list of conjuncts (Samyuktakshar) most frequently seen in Sanskrit texts. Conjuncts from languages which also use the Devanagari script are also included in the list. The list is by no means complete.

Each generic consonant is indicated by an equi-valent Roman string so that the reader may quickly identify it. The list does not include conjuncts with four or more consonants which are also seen in occasional use.

-----Conjuncts with "ka"-----

क क्ख क्च क्ज क्ठ क्द्र क्ण क्त
kka kkha kca kja kṭa kṭra kṇa kta
क्त्य क्त्र क्त्व क्थ क्थ्र क्थ्य क्द
ktya ktra ktva ktha kthna kthya kda
क्न क्न्य क्प क्ब क्म क्म्य क्य क्र
kna knya kpa kba kma kmya kya kra
क्ल क्व क्श क्स क्स्त क्स्व क्ल
kla kva kṣa ksa ksta ksva kḷa

-----Conjuncts with "kha"-----

क्ख्व क्ख्त क्ख्र क्ख्म क्ख्य क्ख्र क्ख्ल क्ख्व
khkha khhta khna khma khya khra khla khva
क्ख्श क्ख्ष क्ख्क्ष क्ख्ल
khśa khṣa khkṣa khḷa

-----Conjuncts with "ga"-----

ग्ग ग्घ ग्च ग्छ ग्ज ग्ठ ग्ढ
gga gggha gca gcha gja gṭa gṭha

ग्द गण ग्त ग्द ग्घ ग्ग ग्न्य ग्प

gḍa gṇa gta gda gdha gna gnya gpa

ग्ब ग्भ ग्म ग्य ग्ग ग्य ग्ल

gba gbha gma gya gra grya gla

ग्व ग्व्य ग्ष ग्स ग्ल

gva gvya gṣa gsa gla

-----Conjuncts with "gha"-----

घघ घण घ्न घ्न्य घम घ्य घ्न घल

ghgha ghṇa ghna ghnya ghma ghya ghra ghla

घ्व घश् घष घ्स घळ

ghva ghśa ghṣa ghśa ghḷa

-----Conjuncts with "nga"-----

ङ्क ङ्क ङ्क्य ङ्क्र ङ्क् ङ्क्व ङ्क्व्य ङ्क्

ṅka ṅkta ṅkya ṅkra ṅkṣa ṅkha ṅkhya ṅga

ङ्क्य ङ्ग् ङ्गल ङ्घ ङ्घ्य ङ्घ्न

ṅgya ṅgra ṅgla ṅgha ṅghya ṅghra

ङ्ङ ङ्ङ्त ङ्ङत्व ङ्ङ् ङ्ङ्य ङ्ङ्

ṅṅa ṅṅta ṅṅtva ṅṅma ṅṅya ṅṅkṣa

-----Conjuncts with "cha"-----

च्ग च्च च्छ च्छ्च च्छ् च्छ्व च्ज

cga cca ccha cchca cchra cchva cña

चन च्प च्फ च्भ च्म च्य च्र च्ल

cna cpa cpha cbha cma cya cra cla

चव चश चष चस चळ

cva cśa cṣa csa cḷa

-----Conjuncts with "chha"-----

छ्च छ्छ छ्न छ्म छ्य छ् छ्ल छ्व

chca chcha chna chma chya chra chla chva

छ्स

chsa

-----Conjuncts with "ja"-----

ज्ग ज्च ज्ज ज्ज्व ज्झ ज्ञ इय ज्त

jga jca jja jjva jjha jña jñya jta

ज्द ज्ध ज्न ज्प ज्फ ज्ब ज्भ ज्म

jda jdha jna jpa jpha jba jbha jma

ज्य ज्ञ ज्ल ज्व ज्श ज्ष ज्स

jya jra jla jva jśa jṣa jsa

-----Conjuncts with "jha"-----

इज्ञ इन इम इय इ्ञ इल इव इष

jhjha jhna jhma jhya jhra jhla jhva jhṣa

इस

jhsa

-----Conjuncts with "nja"-----

-----Conjuncts with "nna"-----

णक णग णट णटय णठ णठय णड णढ

ṅka ṅga ṅṭa ṅṭya ṅṭha ṅṭhya ṅḍa ṅḍha

ण्ण ण्प ण्ब ण्म ण्य ण्व णळ

ṅṇa ṅpa ṅba ṅma ṅya ṅva ṅḷa

-----Conjuncts with "tha"-----

त्क त्क त्च त्ज त्त त्फ त्त्य त्त्र

tka tkra tca tja tta ttpha ttya ttra

त्थ त्त त्त्य त्प त्तम त्तम त्तम्य त्त्य

ttha tna tnya tpa tbha tma tmya tya

त्र त्र्य त्तल त्तव त्तश त्तष त्तस त्तस्र

tra trya tla tva tśa tṣa tsa tsna

त्स्य त्तस्व त्तक्ष त्तळ

tsya tsva tkṣa ṭḷa

-----Conjuncts with "ttha"-----

थ्य थ्य थ्र थप थम थभ्य थम थ्य

ththa ththya thna thpa thbha thbhya thma thya

थ्र थल थव थश थस थळ

thra thla thva thśa thsa thḷa

-----Conjuncts with "da"-----

द्ग द्घ द्च द्ज द्द द्ध द्धय

dga dggha dca dja dda ddha ddhya

द्ब्र द्भ्र द्भ्रय द्भ्र घ द्र

dbra dbha dbhya dma dya dra

द्ब्रल द्ब्र द्ब्रय द्ब्रळ

dla dva dvyā dḷa

-----Conjuncts with "dha"-----

धघ धघ्न घ्न्य धम घ्य घ्र घ्व घळ

dhdha dhna dhnya dhma dhya dhra dhva dhḷa

घळ

-----Conjuncts with "na"-----

न्क न्ग न्च न्ज न्ठ न्त न्त्य न्त्र

nka nga nca nja ṅṭa nta ntya ntra

न्त्व न्थ न्थ्य न्द न्द्र न्ध न्ध्य न्ध्र

ntva nthā nthya nda ndra ndha ndhya ndhra

न्न न्प न्प्र न्भ न्म न्य

nna npa npra nbha nma nya

न्न न्ल न्व न्श न्ष न्स न्ह

nra nla nva ṅśa ṅṣa nsa nha

-----Conjuncts with "pa"-----

प्क प्त प्त्य प्तव प्ध प्ध्व प्र प्प

pka pta ptya ptva pdha pdhva pna ppa

प्म प्य प्र प्ल प्व प्स प्स्व प्ळ

pma pya pra pla pva psa psva pḷa

-----Conjuncts with "pha"-----

फक फत फत्व फफ फय फ्र फळ

phka phta phtva phpha phya phra phḷa

-----Conjuncts with "ba"-----

बक बज बत ब्द बध ब्द्व ब्र ब्ब

bka bja bta bda bdha bdhva bna bba

बम ब्म ब्य ब्र ब्व ब्ळ

bbha bma bya bra bva bḷa

-----Conjuncts with "bha"-----

भक भ्र भ्म भ्य भ्र भ्व

bhka bhna bhbha bhya bhra bhva

-----Conjuncts with "ma"-----

मक म्च म्छ म्ज म्र म्प म्प्र

mka mca mcha mja mna mpa mpra

म्फ म्ब म्ब्य म्म म्म म्य म्र म्र्य

mpha mba mbya mbha mma mya mra mrya

म्ल म्व म्श म्स म्हा म्ळ

mḷa mva mśa msa mha mḷa

-----Conjuncts with "ya"-----

यक यक्क या य्द य्च य्त य्द य्न

yka ykka yga yña yca yta yda yna

य्य य्य य्य य्य य्य य्य

ypa yya yra yla yva ysa

-----Conjuncts with "ra"-----

र्क क्य र्ख र्ग र्ग्य र्घ र्घ्य र्ङ

rka rkṣa rkha rga rgya rgha rghya rṅa

र्ज र्च र्छ र्ज र्ज्य र्झ र्ढ

rṅja rca rcya rcha rja rjya rjha rṛa

र्ढ र्ढ र्ण र्ण्य र्त् र्त् र्थ र्थ्य र्द र्द्य

rṛa rṛha rṇa rṇya rta rtma rtya rtha rthya rda rdra

र्ध र्ध र्ध र्ध र्ध र्ध र्ध र्ध र्ध र्ध

rdha rdhna rdhya rdhva rna rpa rpha rba

र्भ र्भ र्भ र्भ र्भ र्भ र्भ र्भ र्भ र्भ

rbha rma rmya rya rra rla rva rvya

र्श र्श र्श र्श र्श र्श र्श र्श र्श र्श

rśa rśya rśva rṣa rṣka rṣṭa rṣṇa rṣya

र्स र्स र्स र्स र्स र्स र्स र्स र्स र्स

rsa rha rkṣa rkṣya rkṣva

-----Conjuncts with "la"-----

लक ल्ग ल्ढ ल्ढ ल्त ल्थ ल्द ल्न

lka lga lṭa lṭha lta ltha lda lna

ल्प ल्प्य ल्ब ल्भ ल्भ्य ल्भ्र ल्म

lpa lpya lba lbha lbhya lbhra lma

ल्म्य ल्य ल्ल ल्व ल्ह

lmya lya lla lva lha

-----Conjuncts with "va"-----

व्क व्त व्र व्य व्र व्व वळ

vka vta vna vya vra vva vḷa

-----Conjuncts with "ca"-----

श्क श्ख श्च श्छ श्ज श्त श्र

śka śkha śca ścya ścha śña śta śna

श्म श्य श्र श्र्य श्ल श्व श्व्य शश

śma śya śra śrya śla śva śvya śśa

श्शप श्शब शळ

śśpa śśba śḷa

-----Conjuncts with "sha"-----

ष्क ष्क ष्ट ष्ट्य ष्ट्र ष्ट्रव ष्ट्र ष्ट्र्य

ṣka ṣkra ṣṭa ṣṭya ṣṭra ṣṭva ṣṭha ṣṭhya

ष्ष्ट्र ष्ट्रव षण षण्य षप षप्र षम षम्य

ṣṭhra ṣṭhva ṣṇa ṣṇya ṣpa ṣpra ṣma ṣmya

ष्य ष्र ष्व षष षळ

ṣya ṣra ṣva ṣṣa ṣḷa

-----Conjuncts with "sa"-----

स्क स्व स्र्ज स्ट्ठ स्त स्त्य

ska skha sja ṣṭa ṣṭha sta stya

स्त्र स्त्व स्थ स्थ्य स्र स्न्य स्प स्प

stra stva stha sthya sna snya spa spra

स्फ स्म स्र स्ल स्व स्स स्थ्य स्स्य

sphya sma sra sla sva ssa sstha ssya

स्स्व स्ळ

ssva śla

-----Conjuncts with "ha"-----

हृक हृ हृ हृय हृ हृ हृ हृ

hka hṛa hna hnya hma hya hla hva

हृह हृळ

hha hḷa

-----Conjuncts with "ksha"-----

क्षण क्षत क्षन क्षप क्षम क्षय क्षल क्षव

kṣṇa kṣta kṣna kṣpa kṣma kṣya kṣla kṣva

क्षक्ष

kṣkṣa

3.9 *Aksharas that look very similar*

Letters which look similar and thus might confuse the student initially are shown below..

इ	ड	ह			
i	ḍa	ha			
थ	य,	भ	म,	घ	ध,
tha	ya,	bha	ma,	gha	dha,
ढ	द,	त	न,	प	ष,
ḍha	da,	ta	na,	pa	ṣa,
ब	व				
ba	va				

ख may be confused with र followed by a व i.e., रव.

The first part of ख will in general be more curved than र but in the case of the guttural ख, the bottom stroke will overlap with the round of the व. The comparison will be effected by writing the two aksharas one below the other.

ख

रव

The student is urged to keep these similar looking shapes in mind when learning the script.

3.10 Vedic Symbols

The Vedas constitute the oldest literature known to man. It has not been possible to determine exactly when the Vedas were written. In India, the view held is that they were not the creation of any human being but divine sounds heard by the seers who understood them, interpreted them and gave them to this world. From the beginning, Vedas have been learnt following the oral tradition and never was the need felt to have a written form. With the western scholars developing deeper interests in the scriptures of India and the advanced made in printing techniques, specific notations were proposed to indicate the swaras to be applied when chanting the mantras.

There has been very little standardization in the notations but in respect of the first two Vedas (Rig and Yajur), three swaras have specific diacritics associated with them. The figure below explains the notation.

Swaras

Anudatam	अनुदातम्	क
Swaritam	स्वरितम्	क
Deergha Swaritham	दीर्घ स्वरितम्	क

In the above, the swaras are indicated on क.

Special Anuswara is also seen in Vedic Texts. One of these is known as Jihvamulya and is usually seen as, ँ .

3.11 Rarely used Aksharas

Among ऋ ॠ and ॡ only ऋ is normally used as a vowel with consonants. The other two are mostly used as independent vowels and in cases where they do combine with consonants, the following consonants are the ones which figure most.

ट त द ध न स combine with ऋ

ॡ is seen mostly with क

When र combines with ऋ , it is generally shown as

र्ऋ and not रृ .

Note on timing:

The short vowels are pronounced for one unit of time and the long ones two units. The unit of time is not an absolute value by itself.

3.12 Numerals (सङ्ख्याः - saṅkhyā:)

० शून्य	-	0 śūnya	११ एकादश	-	11 ēkādaśa
१ एकम्	-	1 ekam	१२ द्वादश	-	12 davādaśa
२ द्वे	-	2 dve	१३ त्रयोदश	-	13 trayōdaśa
३ त्रिणि	-	3 triṇi	१४ चतुर्दश	-	14 caturdaśa
४ चत्वारि	-	4 catvāri	१५ पञ्चदश	-	15 pañcadaśa
५ पञ्च	-	5 pañca	१६ षोडश	-	16 ṣōḍaśa
६ षट्	-	6 ṣaṭ	१७ सप्तदश	-	17 saptadaśa
७ सप्त	-	7 sapta	१८ अष्टदश	-	18 aṣṭadaśa
८ अष्ट	-	8 aṣṭa	१९ नवदश	-	19 navadaśa
९ नव	-	9 nava	/ येकोनविंशति	/	yekōnaviṁśati
१० दश	-	10 daśa	२० विंशति	-	20 viṁśati

Note that the number nineteen can be represented as: नवदश and एकोनविंशतिः ऊन means less. एक - ऊन - विंशतिः means, 1 less than 20.

3.13 Practice – Akshara Recognition

Practice reading until you recognizes all the aksharas.

Vowels

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

Consonants

ग ga	भ bha	ज ja	ठ ṭha	छ cha	द da	फ pha	ह ha
ज ñ	त ta	घ gha	स sa	र ra	ष ṣa	ख kha	म ma
श śa	ब ba	ध dha	व va	प pa	ढ ḍha	क ka	झ jha
ल la	ड ḍ	फ pha	ड ḍa	छ cha	ण ṇa	ख kha	ढ ḍha
द da	म ma	ठ ṭha	ष ṣa	थ tha	त ta	ज ja	झ ha
ब ba	ज ja	भ bha	ण ṇa	च ca	ट ṭa	ध dha	व va
न na	व va	ल la	थ tha	व va	क ka	प pa	न na
झ jha	ड ḍa	श śa	ज ja	र ra	स sa	ज ña	च ca
ट ṭa	न na	प pa	ग ga	स sa	ल la	र ra	घ gha

Exercise 1 Vowels Following Consonants

क	का	कि	की	कु	कू	कृ	कृ	के	कै	को	कौ
च	चा	चि	ची	चु	चू	चृ	चृ	चे	चै	चो	चौ
ट	टा	टि	टी	टु	टू	टृ	टृ	टे	टै	टो	टौ
त	ता	ति	ती	तु	तू	तृ	तृ	ते	तै	तो	तौ
प	पा	पि	पी	पु	पू	पृ	पृ	पे	पै	पो	पौ

Exercise 2 Consonant Vowel Recognition

दा	ची	शु	को	ता	नू	सृ	गा
शै	घु	मै	झा	ढा	ठी	षी	ता
णा	हि	चै	मू	घी	हौ	जी	है
खु	नौ	कृ	सौ	गी	ग	डौ	शो
सि	हो	छौ	कौ	जा	डौ	गू	चु
जौ	डो	बै	पौ	चौ	ना	शी	हु
गौ	मा	वृ	दै	चा	दौ	गि	शू
ला	ढ	जे	शृ	भो	शि	बि	सु
जो	जि	के	ती	भा	पे	गृ	पो
टा	ढे	थे	रा	भे	हृ	यि	दृ
की	जै	टे	छे	नि	बु	ला	से

Simple Words without Conjunct Consonants

नमः salutations	च and	हि indeed	न not	सा she	ते they	वा or	तु but
अपि also	किम् what	एतत् this	तत् that	यथा just as	तथा similarly	इव like	चेत् if
मृषा falsely	एव indeed	तान् them	ततः therefore	तेन by that	येन by which	पुनर् again	बहु many
वयम् we	परम् other	कथं how	असुः breath	वादः talking	गत gone	किं what	आह said
जरा old age	घटः pot	धनं wealth	देहः body	जीवः soul	सुखं pleasure	शोकः sorrow	मोहः delusion
धीरः brave	धीमान् wise	असत् nonexistence	सत् existence	शीत cool	उदकम् water	जगत् world	माया maya
वेद Veda	भावः being	अभावः nonexistence	शीलम् dispostion	पुराणः ancient	आकाशः space	विकारः modification	विरोधः oppositon
भगवान् Bhagavan	कारणं cause	वचनानि speech	विषयः object	अमृतम् immortal	अपचयः diminution	उपचयः increase	विषादम् dejection
विवेकः viveka	उपाधिः conditioning adjunct	निरूपणं ascertaining	अवयवः limb	विनाशः destruction	भूतानि beings	शरीरम् body	हननम् killing

3.14 Practice - Aksharas

Now that you have learnt the basic writing system used in Sanskrit, you might want to see for yourself how well you can identify and read the Devanagari script.

1. Identify the following aksharas and speak them. You might also wish to distinguish vowels from the consonants.

इ ऐ क ल ह

ओ य द ख त

घ ध र उ छ

2. Speak out the following aksharas.

सी हो बी नौ दे

वा मा तृ लू ढो

3. Speak out the following conjuncts.

ट्रै क्रो द्वि प्रे स्ले

4. Figure out what the words are. We have put spaces between the letters for you to identify the aksharas easily.

इ ङ् ग् लि ष्

ग् री क्

ला टि न्

ही ब्रू

अ वे स् ता

जा प नी स्

अ मे रि क न्

ओ मै गाङ्

दिस् ईस् नीट्

गुङ् एक्सेसेस्

3.15 Practice - Words

3.15.1 Short Words

अनन्तं आकाशः इतिहासः ईश्वरी उमा
anantaṃ ākāśaḥ itihāsaḥ īśvarī umā
ऊनं ऋषिः एकदेशः ऐरावतः ओष्ठः औषधं
ūnaṃ ṛṣiḥ ēkadēśaḥ airāvataḥ oṣṭhaḥ auśadhaṃ
कमला खलु गणपति अनघा चतुरङ्गं
kamaḷā khalu gaṇapati anaghā caturaṅgaṃ
चतुरः छेदनं जानकी झम्पः जालं
caturaḥ chēdanaṃ jānakī jhampaḥ jālaṃ
टङ्कः पाठः पण्डितः दौलः अरुणा
ṭaṅkaḥ pāṭhaḥ paṇḍitaḥ ḍhauḷaḥ aruṇā
सुमती यथा दन्तः अधर्मं नयनी
sumatī yathā dantaḥ adharmaṃ nayani
गोपिका फलेषु बालिका भारती मङ्गळं
gōpikā phaleṣu bālikā bhāratī maṅgaḷaṃ
ययाति रम्या लक्षणं वर्षा शारदा उषा
yayāti ramyā lakṣaṇaṃ varṣā śāradā uṣā
संस्कृतं सरसिजनाभ हरिणी अहङ्कारः
saṃskṛtaṃ sarasijanābha hariṇī ahaṅkāraḥ

3.15.2 Long Words

परित्राणायसाधूनां विनाशायचदुष्कृतां

paritrāṇāyasādhūnāṃ vināśāyacaduṣkṛtāṃ

धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय सम्भवामियुगेयुगे ॥

dharmasamsthāpanārthāya sambhavāmiyugēyugē ॥

यदायदाहिधर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवतिभारत

yadāyadāhidharmasya glānirbhavatibhārata

अभ्युत्तानमधर्मस्य तदात्मनंसृजाम्यहम् ॥

abhyuttānamadharmasya tadātmanasṛjāmyaham ॥

यत्रयोगेश्वरःकृष्णो यत्रपार्थोधनुर्धरः

yatrayōgēśvaraḥkṛṣṇō yatrapārthōdhanurdharaḥ

तत्रश्रीर्विजयोभूतिर्ध्रुवानीतिर्मतिर्मम ॥

tatraśrīrvijayōbhūtirdhruvānītirmatirmama ॥

3.16 Common words in Vedas

These words are commonly used in Vedantic texts.

ब्रह्मन् brahman	आत्मा ātmā	जीवः jīvaḥ	जगत् jagat	ईश्वरः īśvaraḥ	माया māyā
सत् sat	चित् cit	आनन्दः ānandaḥ	सत्यम् satyam	ज्ञानम् jñānam	अनन्तम् anantam
वेदान्तः vedāntaḥ	उपनिषद् upaniṣad	प्रमाणम् pramāṇam	प्रकरणम् prakaraṇam	मोक्षः mokṣaḥ	बन्धनम् bandhana
विद्या vidyā	अविद्या avidyā	ज्ञानम् jñānam	अज्ञानम् ajñānam	ज्ञानिन् jñānin	संसारिन् saṁsārin
प्रमा pramā	प्रत्यक्ष pratyakṣa	परोक्ष parokṣa	अपरोक्ष aparokṣa	वृत्तिः vṛttiḥ	बुद्धिः buddhiḥ
स्थूल sthūla	सूक्ष्म sūkṣma	कारणम् kāraṇam	शरीरम् śarīram	देहः dehaḥ	उपाधिः upādhiḥ
कर्मन् karman	अकर्मन् akarman	कर्मयोगः karmayogaḥ	संन्यासः sannyāsaḥ	संन्यासिन् sannyāsin	मुमुक्षुः mumukṣuḥ
अधिकारिन् adhikārin	विवेकः vivekaḥ	वैराग्यम् vairāgyam	शमादिषट्कम् śamādiṣaṭkam	मुमुक्षुत्वम् mumukṣutvam	मनस् manas
शमः śamaḥ	दमः damaḥ	उपरतिः uparatiḥ	तितिक्षा titikṣā	समाधानम् samādhānam	श्रद्धा śraddhā
संसारिन् saṁsārin	अधिकारिन् adhikārin	विवेकिन् vivekin	मुमुक्षुः mumukṣuḥ	ज्ञानिन् jñānin	संन्यासिन् sannyāsin
अध्यासः adhyāsaḥ	अध्यारोपः adhyāropaḥ	अपवादः apavādaḥ	आरोपः āropaḥ	वस्तु vastu	अवस्तु avastu

कर्तृत्वम् kartṛtvam	भोक्तृत्वम् bhokṛtvam	सुखित्वम् sukhitvam	दुःखित्वम् duḥkhitvam	रज्जुः rajjuḥ	सर्पः sarpaḥ
माया māyā	प्रकृतिः prakṛtiḥ	सत्त्व sattva	रजस् rajas	तमस् tamas	गुणः guṇaḥ
भूतानि bhūtāni	पृथिवी pṛthivī	आपः āpaḥ	अग्निः agniḥ	वायुः vāyuḥ	आकाशः ākāśaḥ
शब्दः śabdaḥ	स्पर्शः sparśaḥ	रूपम् rūpam	रसः rasaḥ	गन्धः gandhaḥ	चैतन्यम् caitanyam
श्रोत्रः śrotraḥ	त्वक् tvak	चक्षुः cakṣuḥ	जिह्वा jihvā	घ्राणम् ghraṇam	इन्द्रियानि indriyāni
वाक् vāk	पाणिः pāṇiḥ	पादः pādaḥ	पायुः pāyuḥ	उपस्थाः upasthāḥ	स्वरूपः svarūpaḥ

4 Simple words and phrases

4.1 Gods names

श्री राजराजेश्वरि	śrī rājarājēśvari
देवि	dēvi
ललित	lalita
कामाक्षि	kāmākṣi
लक्ष्मि	lakṣmi
सरस्वति	sarasvati
गणेश	gaṇēśa
गणपति	gaṇapati
सुब्रह्मण्यं	subrahmaṇyaṃ
महादेव	mahādēva
महेश्वर	mahēśvara
नटराज	naṭarāja
ब्रह्मा	brahmā
विष्णु	viṣṇu
कृष्ण	kṛṣṇa
राम	rāma
दत्तात्रेय	dattātrēya
चैतन्यानंद	caitanyānanda

4.2 *Grahas*

सूर्य	sūrya
चंद्र	caṁdra
मंगळ	maṁgala
बुध	budha
ब्रह्मस्पति (गुरु)	brahaspati (guru)
शुक्र	śukra
शनि	śani
राहु	rāhu
केतु	kētu

4.3 *Directions*

पूर्व	pūrva	- East
पश्चिम	paścima	- West
दक्षिण	dakṣiṇa	- South
उत्तर	uttara	- North
ईशान्य	īśānya	- North East
आग्नेय	āgnēya	- South East
वायव्य	vāyavya	- North West
नैऋति	nair̥ti	- South West
ऊर्ध्व	ūrdhva	- Zenith
अधो	adhō	- Nadir

4.4 Gaurdians of directions (दिक्पाल-dikpāla)

कुबेर	kubēra	(North)
यम	yama	(South)
इन्द्र	indra	(East)
वरुण	varuṇa	(West)
ईशान	īśāna	(North East)
अग्नि	agni	(South East)
वायु	vāyu	(North West)
नैऋति	nair̥ti	(South West)
विष्णु	viṣṇu	(Nadir)
ब्रह्मा	brahmā	(Zenit)

4.5 Fruits (फलानि - phalāni)

नारडगफलम्	nāraṅgaphalam	-	Orange
त्रणा-बदरफलम्	traṅā-badaraphalam	-	Strawberry
द्राक्षाफलम्	drākṣāphalam	-	Grape
आम्रफलम्	āmrapphalam	-	Mango
नारिकेलं	nārikēlaṃ	-	Coconut
पनसफलम्	panasaphalam	-	Jack Fruit
फलप्रभेदफलम्	phalaprabhēdaphalam	-	Apple

कदलीफलम्	kadalīphalam	-	Banana
बीजपूरफलम्	bījapūrāphalam	-	Citron Medica
जम्बीरफलम्	jambīrāphalam	-	Lemon
कपित्थफलम्	kapitthāphalam	-	Wood Apple
जम्बूफलम्	jambūphalam	-	Rose Apple
आमलकफलम्	āmalakāphalam	-	Indian Gooseberry
बदरफलम्	badarāphalam	-	Red Date
दाडिमफलम्	dāḍimāphalam	-	Pomegranate
बहुबीजफलम्	bahubījāphalam	-	Guava

4.6 पुष्पाणि - *puṣpāṇi* (Flowers)

कमलम्	-	kamalam	-	Lotus flower
जपाकुसुमम्	-	japākusumam	-	Hibiscus
गुलाबपुष्पम्	-	gulābapuṣpam	-	Rose
मल्लिका	-	mallikā	-	Jasmine
सूर्यकान्तिः	-	sūryakānti:	-	Sunflower

4.7 Body parts (शरीरस्य भागः *śarīrasya bhāga:*)

शरीरं	śarīraṃ	Body
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शिरः	śira:	Head
वदनं	vadaṇaṃ	Mouth, Face
कण्ठः	kaṇṭha:	Neck
करः	kara:	Hand
स्कन्धः	skandha:	Shoulder
वक्षः	vakṣa:	Chest
उदरं	udaraṃ	Belly
नाभिः	nābhi:	Navel
ऊरुः	ūru:	Thigh
जानुः	jānu:	Knee
पादः	pāda:	Foot
अक्षः, नेत्रम्	akṣa:, netram	Eye
कर्णः	karṇa:	Ear
नासिका	nāsikā	Nose
मुखं	mukhaṃ	Mouth
जिह्वा	jihvā	Tongue
दन्तः	danta:	Tooth
अङ्गुली	aṅguli	Finger

नखः	nakha:	Nail
केशः	kēśa:	Hair
भुजः	bhuja:	Arm

4.8 वासराः – Days

रविवासरः – Sunday

गुरुवासरः – Thursday

सोमवासरः – Monday

शुक्रवासरः – Friday

मङ्गलवासरः – Tuesday

शनिवासरः – Saturday

बुधवासरः – Wednesday

4.9 मासः – Month

मार्गशीर्षः – November-December

ज्येष्ठः – May-June

पौषः – December-January

आषाढः – June-July

माघः – January-February

श्रावणः – July-August

फाल्गुनः – February-March

भाद्रपदः – August-September

चैत्रः – March-April

आश्विनः – September-October

वैशाखः – April-May

कार्तिकः – October-November

4.10 Simple phrases

नमः	-	nama:
आवाहयामि	-	āvāhayāmi
पूजयामि	-	pūjayāmi
धूपं आघ्रापयामि	-	dhūpaṃ āghrāpayāmi
दीपम् दर्शयामि	-	dīpam darṣayāmi
आत्म प्रदक्षिण नमस्कारं समर्पयामि	-	ātma pradakṣiṇa namaskāraṃ samarpayāmi

5 Slokas - Small

(i) ॐ गणानां॑ त्वा गणपति॑ हवामहे॒ कविं॑ कवीनामुपमश्रवस्तमम् ।
ज्येष्ठराजं॑ ब्रह्मणां॒ ब्रह्मणस्पत॑ आनःशृण्वन्नूतिभिः॒ स्सीदसादनम्॑ ॥
ॐ महागणपतये॒ नमः॑ ॥

om gaṇānām tvā gaṇapatim havāmahe kavim kavīnam upamaśravastamam ।
jyeṣṭharājam brahmaṇām brahmaṇaspata ānaḥśṛvannūtibhiḥssīdasādanam ॥
om mahāgaṇapataye namah ॥

(ii) ॐ नमस्ते॑ अस्तु॒ भगवन्विश्वेश्वराय॑ महादेवाय॒ त्र्यम्बकाय॑ त्रिपुरान्तकाय॑
त्रिकालाग्निकालाय॑ कालाग्निरुद्राय॑ नीलकण्ठाय॑ मृत्युञ्जयाय॑ सर्वेश्वराय॑ सदाशिवाय॑ श्रीमन्महादेवाय॑
नमः॑ ॥

namaste astu bhagavanviśveśvarāya mahādevāya tryambakāya tripurāntakāya
trikālāgnikālāya kālāgnirudrāya nīlakaṇṭhāya mṛtyuñjayāya sarveśvarāya sadāśivāya
śrīmanmahādevāya namah ॥

(iii) त्र्यम्बकं॑ यजामहे॒ सुगन्धिं॑ पुष्टिवर्धनम् ।
उर्वारुकमिव॑ बन्धनान्मृत्योर्मुक्षीय॑ माऽमृतात् ॥

tryāmbakaṁ yajāmahe sugandhim puṣṭivardhanam ।
urvārukamiva bandhanānmṛtyormukṣīya mā'mṛtāt ॥

(iv) ॐ नमो॑ भगवते॒ दक्षिणामूर्तये॑ मह्यं॒ मेधां॑ प्रज्ञां॒ प्रयच्छ॑ स्वाहा
om namo bhagavate dakṣiṇāmūrtaye mahyam medhām prajñām
prayaccha svāhā

6 Shanti - Mantras (शान्तिमन्त्राः - Śāntimantrāḥ)

(१) ॐ शं नो॑ मि॒त्रः शं वरु॑णः । शं नो॑ भव॒त्व॒र्य॒मा । शं न॑ इन्द्रो बृहस्पतिः । शं नो॑ विष्णु॒रुरु॒क्रमः॑ । नमो॑ ब्रह्म॒णे । नम॑स्ते वा॒यो । त्वमे॒व प्र॒त्यक्षं॑ ब्रह्मा॒सि । त्वामे॒व प्र॒त्यक्षं॑ ब्रह्म॒ वदि॑ष्यामि । ऋ॒तं वदि॑ष्यामि । स॒त्यं वदि॑ष्यामि । तन्मा॒मवतु॑ । तद्व॒क्तार॑मवतु । अवतु॑ माम् । अवतु॑ व॒क्तारम् ॥ ॐ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ ॥

Om śam̐ nō mi॒traḥ śam̐ varu॑ṇaḥ । śam̐ nō bhav॒atvāryā॑mā । śam̐ na॑ indro bṛha॒spatiḥ॑ । sam̐ nō viṣṇu॒rurukra॑maḥ । namo॑ brahma॒ṇe । namaste॑ vāyo । tvame॒va pra॒tyakṣam̐॑ brahmā॒si । tvāme॒va pra॒tyakṣam̐॑ brahma॒ vadi॑ṣyāmi । ṛtaṁ vadi॑ṣyāmi । sa॒tṣyam̐ vadi॑ṣyāmi । tanmā॒mavatu॑ । tadv॒aktāra॑mavatu । avatu॑ mām̐ । avatu॑ vā॒ktāram̐ ॥ om śāntiḥ॑ śāntiḥ॑ śāntiḥ॑ ॥

(२) ॐ सह॑ नाववतु सह॑ नौ भुनक्तु सह॑ वीर्य॑ङ्करवावहै ।
तेज॑स्वि नावधी॑तमस्तु मा विद्वि॑षावहै ॥
ॐ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ ॥

Om saha॑ nāvavatu saha॑ nau bhunaktu saha॑ vīryaṅ karavāvahai ।
teja॑svi nāvadhītamastu mā vidviṣāvahai । om śāntiḥ॑ śāntiḥ॑ śāntiḥ॑ ॥

(३) ॐ यश्छन्द॑सामृषभो विश्व॑रूपः । छन्दो॑भ्योऽध्यमृतात् सम्ब॑भूव । स मेन्द्रो॑ मेधया॑ स्पृणोतु ।
अमृ॑तस्य देव धार॑णो भूयासम् । शरी॑रं मे विच॑र्षणम् । जिह्वा॑ मे मधु॑मत्तमा । कर्णा॑भ्यां भूरि॑ विश्रु॑वम् ।
ब्रह्म॑णः कोशो॑ऽसि मेधया॑ पिहितः । श्रु॒तं मे॑ गोपा॒य । ॐ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ ॥

Om yaśchanda॑sāmṛṣabho viśva॑rūpaḥ । chanda॑bhyo'dhyamṛtāt sambab॑hūva । sa mendro॑ medhaya॑ sprṇotu । amṛta॑sya deva dhāra॑ṇo bhūya॑sam । śarīraṁ me vi॒carṣaṇam॑ । jihvā॑ me madhu॑mattamā । karṇā॑

bhyām bhūri viśruvam | brahmaṇaḥ kośo 'si medhayā pihitaḥ | śrutam me
gopāya | om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ ||

(४) ॐ अहं वृक्षस्य रेरिवा । कीर्तिः पृष्ठं गिरेरिव । ऊर्ध्वपवित्रो वाजिनीव स्वमृतमस्मि । द्रविणं
सवर्चसम् । सुमेधा अमृतोऽक्षितः । इति त्रिशङ्कोर्वेदानुवचनम् । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om aham vṛkṣasya rerivā | kīrtiḥ pṛṣṭham gireriva | ūrdhwapavitro
vājiniḥ svamṛtamāsmi | draviṇam savarcasam | sumedhā amṛto'kṣitaḥ |
iti triśaṅkorvedānuvacanam |
om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ ||

(५) ॐ पूर्णमदः पूर्णमिदं पूर्णात्पूर्णमुदच्यते ।
पूर्णस्य पूर्णमादाय पूर्णमेवावशिष्यते ।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om pūrṇamadaḥ pūrṇamidaṁ pūrṇāt pūrṇamudacyate |
pūrṇasya pūrṇamādāya pūrṇamevāvaśiṣyate |
om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ ||

(६) ॐ आप्यायन्तु ममाङ्गानि वाक्प्राणश्चक्षुः श्रोत्रमथो बलमिन्द्रियाणि च सर्वाणि । सर्वं
ब्रह्मोपनिषदम् । माहं ब्रह्म निराकुर्याम् । मा मा ब्रह्म निराकरोत् । अनिराकरणमस्त्वनिराकरणं मे
अस्तु । तदात्मनि निरते य उपनिषत्सु धर्मास्ते मयि सन्तु । ते मयि सन्तु । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः
शान्तिः ॥

Om āpyāyantu mamāṅgāni vākprāṇaścakṣuḥ śrotramatho balamindriyāni
ca sarvāṅi | sarvaṁ brahmaupaniṣadam | māhaṁ brahma nīrākuryām |
mā mā brahma nīrākaroḥ | anīrākaraṇamastvanīrākaraṇaṁ me astu |
tadātmani nirate ya upaniṣatsu dharmāste māyi santu | te māyi santu |
om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ ||

(७) ॐ वाङ्मे मनसि प्रतिष्ठिता । मनो मे वाचि प्रतिष्ठितम् । आविरावीर्म एधि । वेदस्य म
आणीस्थः । श्रुतं मे मा प्रहासीः । अनेनाधीतेन । अहोरात्रान् सन्दधामि । ऋतं वदिष्यामि । सत्यं
वदिष्यामि । तन्मामवतु । तद्वक्तारमवतु । अवतु माम् । अवतु वक्तारमवतु वक्तारम् । ॐ शान्तिः
शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om vāṅme manasi pratiṣṭhitā | mano me vāci pratiṣṭhitam | āvirāvīrmā
edhi | vedasya mā āṅīsthah | śrutaṁ me mā prahāsīḥ | anenādhītena |
ahorātrān sandādhami | ṛtaṁ vadiṣyāmi | satyaṁ vadiṣyāmi |
tanmāmavatu | tadvaktāramavatu | avatu mām | avatu vaktāramavatu
vaktāram || om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ ||

(८) ॐ भद्रं नो अपिवातय मनः । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om bhadraṁ no apivātaya manah | om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ ||

(९) ॐ भद्रं कर्णेभिः शृणुयाम देवाः । भद्रं पश्येमाक्षभिर्यजत्राः ।

स्थिरैरङ्गैस्तुष्टुवाग्ँसस्तनूभिः । व्यशेम देवहितं यदायुः । स्वस्ति न इन्द्रो वृद्धश्रवाः । स्वस्ति नः पूषा
विश्ववेदाः । स्वस्ति नस्तार्क्ष्यो अरिष्टनेमिः । स्वस्ति नो बृहस्पतिर्दधातु ॥ ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः
शान्तिः

Om bhādraṁ karṇebhiḥ śṛṇuyāma devāḥ । bhādraṁ
pāśyemākṣabhīryajatrāḥ । sthiraīraṅgaīstuṣṭuvāg m̐ sāstanūbhiḥ । vyaśēma
devahitam yadāyuh । svasti na indro vṛddhaśravāḥ । svasti naḥ pūṣā
viśvavedāḥ । svasti nastārksyo ariṣṭanemiḥ । svasti no bṛhaspatirdadhātu
॥ om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ

(१०) ॐ यो ब्रह्माणं विदधाति पूर्वं यो वै वेदांश्च प्रहिणोति तस्मै । तग्ँ ह देवमात्मबुद्धिप्रकाशं
मुमुक्षुर्वै शरणमहं प्रपद्ये । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः

Om yo brahmāṇam vidadhāti pūrvam yo vai vedāṁśca prahiṇoti tasmai ।
tagm̐ ha devamātmabuddhiprakāśam mumukṣurvai śaraṇamaham
prapadye । om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ

श्रुतिस्मृतिपुराणानामालयं करुणालयम् ।

नमामि भगवत्पादं शङ्करं लोकशङ्करम् ॥

śrutismṛtipurāṇānāmālayam karuṇālayam ।
namāmi bhagavatpādam śaṅkaram lokaśaṅkaram ॥

शङ्करं शङ्कराचार्यं केशवं बादरायणम् ।

सूत्रभाष्यकृतौ वन्दे भगवन्तौ पुनः पुनः ॥

śaṅkaraṁ śaṅkarācāryaṁ keśavaṁ bādarāyaṇam ।
sūtrabhāṣyakṛtau vande bhagavantau punaḥ punaḥ ॥

नारायणं पद्मभुवं वसिष्ठं शक्तिं च तत्पुत्रपराशरं च ।
व्यासं शुकं गौडपादं महान्तं गोविन्दयोगीन्द्रमथास्य शिष्यम् ॥

nārāyaṇaṁ padmabhuvam vasiṣṭham śaktrim ca tatputraparāśaram ca ।
vyāsam śukam gauḍapādam mahāntam govindayogīndramathāsya śiṣyam
॥

श्रीशङ्कराचार्यमथास्य पद्मपादं च हस्तामलकं च शिष्यम् ।
तं तोटकं वार्त्तिककारमन्यानस्मद्गुरुन् सन्ततमानतोऽस्मि ॥

śrīśaṅkarācāryamathāsya padmapādam ca hastāmalakam ca śiṣyam ।
tam toṭakam vārttikakāramanyānasmadgurūn santatamānato'smi ॥

7 Slokas, Suktams and Sahasranamam

We have published learning modules for following Suktams and Sahasranams on www.atirudram.com:

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