

# The Sanskrit Alphabet

संस्कृतवर्णमाला SAṆSKṚTA-VARṆA-MĀLĀ

## Vowels (SVARA)

simple - short & long:

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अ A आ Ā  
guttural

इ I ई Ī  
palatal

उ U ऊ Ū  
labial

ऋ R ॠ Ṛ  
cerebral (retroflex)

diphthongs - long:

ANUSVĀRA

VISARGA

dental:

ए E ऐ AI ओ O औ AU

अं AM (Ñ) अः AH

लृ Ḍ लृ Ḍ

## Consonants (VYAÑJANA)

Stops (SPARŚA)

Class / Location

hard (unvoiced)

soft (voiced)

simple

aspirate

simple

aspirate

nasal

Gutturals / throat  
(Velars)

क KA ख KHA ग GA घ GHA ङ ṅA

Palatals / middle of  
mouth

च ČA छ ČHA ज JA झ JHA ञ ṅA

Cerebrals / roof of  
(Retroflex) mouth

ट ṬA ठ ṬHA ड ḌA ढ ḌHA ण ṆA

Dentals / teeth

त TA थ THA द DA ध DHA न NA

Labials / lips

प PA फ PHA ब BA भ BHA म MA

Semivowels (ANTAḤSTHA) - soft

य YA  
palatal

र RA  
cerebral

ल LA  
dental

व VA  
labio-dental

Sibilants - hard & Pure Aspirate - soft (ŪṢMAN)

श ŚA  
palatal

ष ṢA  
cerebral

स SA  
dental

ह HA  
guttural

Special Conjunct Consonants:

क्ष KṢA

त्र TRA

ज्ञ JṅA