

Sanskrit Sounds

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0 Introduction

0.1 Sanskrit Language Transliteration Guide

Given below the list of commonly used vowels (10) and consonants (31).

<i>a</i> like “a” in “Roman” <i>A</i> like “a” in “far” <i>i</i> like “i” in “pin” <i>I</i> like “ea” in “peak” <i>u</i> like “u” in “pull”	<i>U</i> like “u” in “rule” <i>E</i> like “ey” in “they” (without the off-glide) <i>ai</i> like “ai” in “aisle” <i>O</i> like “o” in “note” <i>ou</i> like “ow” in “now”
<i>k</i> like “k” in “sky” <i>kh</i> k with strong expulsion of breath <i>g</i> like “g” in “go” <i>gh</i> g with strong expulsion of breath <i>ch</i> like the second “ch” in “church” <i>cch</i> c with strong expulsion of breath <i>j</i> like “j” in “jam” <i>jh</i> j with a strong expulsion of breath <i>T</i> like “t” in “stop” with tongue curled further backward <i>Th</i> T with strong expulsion of breath <i>D</i> like “dd” in “odd” with tongue curled further backward <i>Dh</i> D with strong expulsion of breath <i>N</i> like “n” in “land” with tongue curled further backward <i>t</i> T with tongue starting just behind and touching upper teeth <i>th</i> t with strong expulsion of breath <i>d</i> D with tongue starting just behind and touching upper teeth <i>dh</i> d with a strong expulsion of breath <i>n</i> like “n” in “no” with tongue starting just behind and touching upper teeth	<i>p</i> like “p” in “spin” <i>ph</i> p with strong expulsion of breath <i>b</i> like “b” in “ban” <i>bh</i> b with strong expulsion of breath <i>m</i> like “m” in “man” <i>y</i> like “y” in “yes” <i>r</i> like “r” in “drama” <i>l</i> like “l” in “lion” <i>v</i> or <i>w</i> like “w” in “we” <i>S</i> like “sh” in “shall” <i>sh</i> approach the roof of the palatal dome with tip of the tongue and expel breath <i>s</i> like “ss” “lesson” <i>h</i> like “h” in “hope”

0.2 Vowel Projection Techniques

Language is used for expression. For clear and powerful expression, the mouth must open freely while producing vowel sounds. This principle applies to all the world languages. In Sanskrit (and other Indian languages that use the same vowel sounds), here are the vowel production techniques:

- ‘A’ sound: Jaw drops down; sound resonates in the throat
- ‘I’ sound: Mouth expands sideways; sound resonates in the ears
- ‘U’ sound: Mouth comes forward forming a nozzle, cheeks bulging out due to air pressure inside the mouth; sound resonates in the mouth and the abdomen
- ‘E’ sound: Mouth expands sideways with tips going up; sound resonates in the heart
- ‘O’ sound: Mouth comes forward forming a circle; sound resonates in the abdomen

0.3 Consonant Projection Techniques

Each consonant is produced from a specific part of the head. Vowels are used to project the consonant sounds. For each of the 31 consonants listed in the above table, practice the vowel technique. For example, using ‘k’: kA, kI, kU, kE and kO.

1 Level 1

1.1 gaNESa SIOka 1-4

- 1 *vakra tuNDa mahA kAya sUrya kOTi sama prabha
nirvighnam kuru mE dEva sarva kAryEshu sarvadA*
- 2 *SuklAmbara dharam vishNum SaSi varNam chaturbhujam
prasanna vadanam dhyAyEt sarva vighnOpa SantayE*
- 3 *agajAnana padmArkam gajAnana maharNiSam
anEka dantam bhaktAnAm Ekadanta mupAsmahE*
- 4 *gajAnanam bhUta gaNAdi sEvitam kapitta jambUphala sAra bhakshitam
umAsutam Soka vinASa kAraNam namAmi vighnEsvara pAda pankajam*

1.2 sarasvati SIOka 1-2

- 1 *sarasvatI namastubhyam varadE kAmarUpiNI
vidyArambham karishyAmi siddhirbhavatu mE sada*
- 2 *yA kundEndu tushAra hAra dhavaLA yA Subhra vastrAnvita
yA vINA varadaNDa maNDitakarA yA svEta padmAsana
yA brahmAchyuta Sankara prabhrtibhir dEvai sada pUjita
sAmAmpAtu sarasvatI bhagavatI niSSEsha jADyApahA*

1.3 guru SIOka 1-9

- 1 *sahanA vavatu sahanau bhunaktu saha vIryam karavAvahai
tEjasvinA vadhIta mastu mAvidh viSavahai Om SANTih SANTih SANTih*
- 2 *asatOmA sad gamaya tamasOmA jyOtir gamaya
mrityOrmA amritang gamayA Om SANTih SANTih SANTih*
- 3 *tvamEva mAtA cha pitA tvamEva tvamEva bandhuscha sakhA tvamEva
tvamEva vidyA draviNam tvamEva tvamEva sarvam mama dEva dEva*
- 4 *gurur brahma gurur vishnu gurur dEvO mahESvarah
guruh sAkshAt para brahma tasmai SrI guravE namaha*
- 5 *Om namah SivAya guravE satchidAnanda mUrtayE
nishprapanchAya SantAya nirAlambAya tEjase*
- 6 *ajnAna timirAndhasya jnAnAnjana SalAkayA
chakshurun mIlitam yEna tasmai SrI guravE namaha*
- 7 *akhanDa manDalAkAram vyAptam yEna charAcharam
tatpadam darSitam yEna tasmai SrI guravE namaha*
- 8 *yasya smaraNa mAtrENa jnAnam utpadyatE svayam
ya Eva sarva samprAptis tasmai SrI guravE namaha*
- 9 *chaitanyam SaSvatam SANTam vyOmAtItam niranjanam
nAda bindu kaLAtitam tasmai SrI guravE namaha*
- 10 *nAda brahmAnandam parama sukhadam kEvalam jnAna mUrtim
dvandvAtItam gagana sadriSam tatvamasyAdi lakshyam
Ekam nityam vimalam achalam sarvadhI sAkshi bhUtam
bhAvAtItam triguNa rahitam sadgurum tam namAmi*

1.4 vEnkaTESa suprabhAtam 1-6

- 1 *kausalyA suprajA rAma pUrvA sandhyaA pravartatE
uttishTha naraSArDUla kartavyam daiva mAhnikaM
uttishThO-ttishTha gOvinda uttishTha garuDa dhvaja
uttishTha kamala kanta trailOkyam mangaLam guru*
- 2 *mAtas smasta jagatAm madhukaiTa bhArEh
vakshO vihAriNi manOhara divya mUrtE
SrI svAmini Sritajana priya dAnaSIIE
SrI vEnkaTESa dayitE tava suprabhAtam*
- 3 *tava suprabhAta maravinda lOchanE
bhavatu prasanna mukha chandra manDale
vidhi SangkarEndra vanitAbhi darchitE
vrshaSaila nAtha dayitE dayA nidhE*
- 4 *artyAdi sapta rshayas samupAsya sandhyaA
mAkASa sindhu kamalAni manOharANi
AdAya pAdayuga marchayitum prapannAh
SEshAdri SEkhara vibhO tava suprabhAtam*
- 5 *panchAnanAbja bhava shanmukha vAsa vAdyAh
traivikramAdi charitam vibudhAh stuvanti
bhAshApatih paThati vAsaraSuddhi mArAt
SEshAdri SEkhara vibhO tava suprabhAtam*
- 6 *Ishat praphulla sarasIruha nArikELa
pUgadrUMadi sumanOhara pAlikAnAm
AvAti manda manilah saha divya gandhaih
SEshAdri SEkhara vibhO tava suprabhAtam*

1.5 SivAshTakam 1-6

- 1 *prabhum prANa nAtham vibhum viSvanAtham
jagannAtha nAtham sadAnanda bhAjam
bhavad bhavya bhUtESvaram bhUta nAtham
Sivam Sangkaram Sambhu mISAna mIDE*
- 2 *gaLE danDa mAlam tanau sarpa jAlam
mahAkAla kAlam gaNESAdi pAlam
jaTAjhUTA gangOt tarangair viSalam
Sivam Sangkaram Sambhu mISAna mIDE*
- 3 *mudA mAkaram maNDanam maNDa yantam
mahA maNDalam bhasma bhUshA dharam tam
anAdim hyapAram mahA mOha mAram
Sivam Sangkaram Sambhu mISAna mIDE*
- 4 *vaTAdhO nivAsam mahATTATTA hAsam
mahA pApa nASam sadA suprakASam
girISam gaNESam surESam mahESam
Sivam Sangkaram Sambhu mISAna mIDE*
- 5 *girIn-drAtmajAsam grihI-tArdha dEham
girau samsthitam sarpa hAram surESam
para brahma brahmAdibhir vandyamAnam
Sivam Sangkaram Sambhu mISAna mIDE*
- 6 *kapAlam triSULam karAbhyAm dadhAnam
padAmbhOja namrAya kAmam dadhAnam
ball vardayAnam surANAm pradhAnam
Sivam Sangkaram Sambhu mISAna mIDE*

1.6 lingAshTakam 1-8

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | <i>brahma murAri surArchita lingam
janmaja duhkha vinASaka lingam</i> | <i>nirmala bhAsita SObhita lingam
tat praNamAmi sadASiva lingam</i> |
| 2 | <i>dEva muni pravarArchita lingam
rAvaNa darpa vinASaka lingam</i> | <i>kAma dahana karuNAkara lingam
tat praNamAmi sadASiva lingam</i> |
| 3 | <i>sarva sugandhi sulEpita lingam
siddha surAsura vandita lingam</i> | <i>buddhi vivardhana kAraNa lingam
tat praNamAmi sadASiva lingam</i> |
| 4 | <i>kanaka mahAmaNi bhUshita lingam
daksha suyagna vinASana lingam</i> | <i>phaNipati vEshTita Sobhita lingam
tat praNamAmi sadASiva lingam</i> |
| 5 | <i>kungkuma chandana lEpita lingam
sanchita pApa vinASana lingam</i> | <i>pangkaja hAra suSObhita lingam
tat praNamAmi sadASiva lingam</i> |
| 6 | <i>dEva gaNArchita sEvita lingam
dinakara kOTi prabhAkara lingam</i> | <i>bhAvair bhaktibhir Eva cha lingam
tat praNamAmi sadASiva lingam</i> |
| 7 | <i>ashTa daLO parivEshTita lingam
ashTa daridra vinASana lingam</i> | <i>sarva samudbhava kAraNa lingam
tat praNamAmi sadASiva lingam</i> |
| 8 | <i>sura guru suravara pUjita lingam
parama param paramAtmaka lingam</i> | <i>suravara pushpa sadArchita lingam
tat praNamAmi sadASiva lingam</i> |

Level 2

1.7 mahishAsura mardini stOtram 1-21

- 1 *ayi giri nandini nandita mEdini viSva vinOdini nanda nutE
giri vara vindhya SirOdhi nivAsini vishNu vilAsini jishNu nutE
bhagavati hE Siti kanTha kuTumbiNi bhUri kuTumbini bhUri krtE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 2 *sura vara varshiNi durdhara dharshiNi durmukha varshiNi harsha ratE
tribhu vana pOshiNi Sankara tOshiNi kilbisha mOshiNi ghOsha ratE
danuja ni-rOshiNi ditisuta rOshiNi durmada SOshiNi sindhu sutE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 3 *ayi jagadamba madamba kadamba vana priya vAsini hAsa ratE
Sikhari SirOmaNi tunga himAlaya Srnga nijAlaya madhya gatE
madhu madhurE madhu kaiTa bhaganjini kaiTa bhabhanjini rAsa ratE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 4 *ayi Sata khanDa vikhanDita runDa vituNDita SunDa gajAdhi patE
ripu gaja ganDa vidAraNa chanDa parAkrama SunDa mrgAdhi patE
nija bhujja danDa nipAtita khanDa vipAtita munDa bhaTAdhi patE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 5 *ayi raNa durmada Satru vadhOdita durdhara nirjara Sakti bhrte
chatura vichAra dhurINa mahASiva dUta krta prama thAdhi patE
durita durIha durASaya durmati dAnava dUta krtAnta matE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 6 *ayi SaraNA gata vairi vadhU vara vIra varA bhaya dAyi karE
tribhu vana mastaka SUla virOdhi SirOdhi krtAmala SUla karE
dumidumi tAmara dundubhi nAda mahO mukharI krta tigma karE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 7 *ayi nija hngkrti mAtra nirAkrtA dhUmra vilOchana dhUmra SatE
samara viSOshita SONita bIja samudbhava SONita bIja latE
Siva Siva Sumbha niSumbha mahAhava tarpita bhUta piSacha ratE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*

- 8 *dhanuranu sangara rakshaNa sanga pari sphura danga naTat kaTake
kanaka piSanga prshatka nishanga rasad bhaTa Srnga hatA vaTuke
krta chatu ranga bala kshiti ranga ghaTad bahu ranga raTad vaTuke
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 9 *sura lalanAta tathEyi tathEyi tathAbhi nayOttama nrtya ratE
hAsa vilAsa hulAsa mayi praNa tArtaja nEmita prEma bharE
dhimi kiTa dhikkaTa dhikkaTa dhimi dhvani ghOra mrdanga ninAda latE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 10 *jaya jaya japyaya jayE jaya Sabda para stuti tatpara viSva nutE
jhaNa jhaNa jhin jhimi jhing krta nUpura Sinjita mOhita bhUta patE
naTita naTardha naTI naTa nAyaka nATita nATya sugAna ratE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 11 *ayi sumanas sumanas sumanas sumanas sumanOhara kAnti yutE
Srta rajanI rajanI rajanI rajanI rajanIkara vaktra vrtE
sunayana vi-bhramara bhramara brhramara bhramara bhramarAdhi patE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 12 *sahita mahAhava mallama tallika mallita rallaka malla ratE
virachita vallika pallika mallika jhillika jhillika varga vrtE
sita krta phulla samulla sitAruNa tallaja pallava sallalitE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 13 *avirala gaNDa galanmada mEdura matta matangaja rAja patE
tribhuvana bhUshaNa bhUta kala nidhi rUpa payO nidhi rAja sutE
ayi sudatI jana lAlasa mAnasa mOhana manmatha rAja sutE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 14 *kamala dalAmala kOmala kAnti kala kalitAmala bhAla latE
sakala vilAsa kala nilaya krama kElicha latkala hamsa kule
alikulula sangkula kuvalaya manDala mauli miladva kulAli kule
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*

- 15 *kara muraLI rava vIjita kUjita lajjita kOkila manju matE
milita pulinda manOhara gunjita ranjita Saila nikunja gatE
nija guNa bhUta mahA SabarI gaNa sadguNa sambhrta kEli talE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 16 *kaTi taTa pIta dukUla vichitra mayUkha tiraskrta chandra ruchE
praNata surAsura mauli maNi sphura damSula sannakha chandra ruchE
jita kanakA chala mauli padOrjita nirjara kunjara kumbha kuchE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 17 *vijita sahasra karaika sahasra karaika sahasra karaika nutE
krta sura tAraka sangara tAraka sangara tAraka sUnu nutE
suratha samAdhi samAna samAdhi samAdhi samAdhi sujAta ratE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 18 *pada kamalam karuNA nilayE vari vasyati yOnu dinam na SivE
ayi kamalE kamalA nilayE kamalA nilayah sa katham na bhavEt
tava padam Eva param padam ityanu SIlayatO mama kim na SivE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 19 *kanaka lasatkala sindhu jalair anusinchi nutE guNa ranga bhuvam
bhajati sa kim na sachI kucha kumbha taTI pari rambha sukhAnu bhavam
tava charaNam SaraNam kara vANi natAmara vANi nivAsi SivE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 20 *tava vimalEndu kalam vadanEndu malam sakalam nanu kUlayatE
kimu puruhUta purIndu mukhI sumukhI bhirasau vimukhI kryatE
mama tu matam Siva nAma dhanE bhavatI krpayA kumuta kryatE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*
- 21 *ayi mayi dIna dayAlu tayA krpa yaiva tvayA bhavitavya mumE
ayi jagatO janani krpayAsi yathAsi tathAnu mitAsi ratE
yaduchita matra bhava tyurarI kurutA durutApa mapA kurutE
jaya jaya hE mahishAsura mardini ramyaka pardini Saila sutE*