Learn to Read Sanskrit
A beginners resource to reading Sanskrit

Compiled by Devotees of
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### Table of Contents

0.0 An offering at his lotus feet .................................................................................................................. 3
1.0 Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 4
2.0 Sanskrit Writing System ....................................................................................................................... 5
  2.1 Sanskrit Aksharas (Alphabets) ........................................................................................................... 5
  2.2 Sanskrit Alphabet Chart ..................................................................................................................... 6
  2.3 Writing Sanskrit Alphabets .................................................................................................................. 7
3  Reading Sanskrit ....................................................................................................................................... 10
  3.1 Vowels ................................................................................................................................................ 10
  3.1.1 The short vowels ............................................................................................................................. 10
  3.1.2 Long Vowels .................................................................................................................................. 11
  3.1.3 Support Vowels .............................................................................................................................. 12
  3.2 Consonant .......................................................................................................................................... 13
  3.2.1 Generic form of a consonant ........................................................................................................... 13
  3.2.2 Consonant Group-1: Gutturals ....................................................................................................... 15
  3.2.3 Consonant Group-2: Palatals .......................................................................................................... 15
  3.2.4 Consonant Group-3: Cerebrals ...................................................................................................... 16
  3.2.5 Consonant Group-4: Dentals .......................................................................................................... 16
  3.2.6 Consonant Group-5: Labials .......................................................................................................... 17
  3.2.7 Consonant Group-6: Semivowels, Sibilants etc. ............................................................................ 17
  3.3 Consonant Vowel combinations – Swarayukta Vyanjana ................................................................. 18
  3.4 Conjuncts (Samyuktakshar) .............................................................................................................. 22
  3.5 Writing methods for Conjuncts .......................................................................................................... 22
  3.6 Samyuktakshar and vowel combinations ......................................................................................... 25
  3.7 Conjuncts with "ra" ............................................................................................................................ 25
  3.8 List of Conjuncts ................................................................................................................................. 27
  3.9 Aksharas that look very similar .......................................................................................................... 37
  3.10 Vedic Symbols .................................................................................................................................... 38
  3.11 Rarely used Aksharas ....................................................................................................................... 39
  3.12 Numerals (संख्या: – saṅkhya:) ............................................................................................................ 40
  3.13 Practice – Akshara Recognition ........................................................................................................ 41
  3.14 Practice - Aksharas .......................................................................................................................... 44
3.15 Practice - Words ................................................................. 45
3.15.1 Short Words ................................................................. 45
3.15.2 Long Words ................................................................. 46
3.16 Common words in Vedas .................................................... 47
4 Simple words and phrases ..................................................... 49
  4.1 Gods names ...................................................................... 49
  4.2 Grahas ............................................................................. 50
  4.3 Directions ........................................................................ 50
  4.4 Guardians of directions (दिक्पाल - dikipāla) ......................... 51
  4.5 Fruits (फलानि - phalānī) .................................................... 51
  4.6 पुष्पाणि - puspānī (Flowers) .............................................. 52
  4.7 Body parts (शरीरस्य भागः - śarīrasya bhāga:) ....................... 52
  4.8 वासरा: – Days .................................................................. 54
  4.10 Simple phrases .................................................................. 55
5 Slokas - Small ........................................................................ 56
6 Shanti – Mantras (शांतिमन्त्रः - Śāntimantrāḥ) ........................... 57
7 Slokas, Suktams and Sahasranamam ........................................ 62
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 is 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 चतुर्गाः
kamalā khalu gaṇapati anaghā caturṛgāṃ

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:

स्वरा: ( svarā: ) – Vowels

व्यञ्जनानि ( vyañjanāni ) – Consonants

स्वव्यञ्जनानि ( svaravyaṅjanāni ) – Consonants with vowels

संयुक्त-व्यञ्जनानि ( sāmyukta-vyañjanāni ) – Conjunct consonants
### Sanskrit Alphabet Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>संस्कृतवर्णमाला - sanskritvarnamala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Short Vowels</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Vowels</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Support Vowels</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Consonant Group-1: Gutturals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Consonant Group-2: Palatals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Consonant Group-3: Cerebrals</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Consonant Group-4: Dentals</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consonant Group-5: Labials</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group 6: consists of three subgroups.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semivowels</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sibilants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aspirate</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 ल

a i u ū

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.

ऋ is also like Ṛ 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  उ  ऊ  ए  ऐ  ओ  औ

ा  इ  उ  ऊ  े  ऐ  ो  ौ  ए  ै  ओ  औ

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

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

ए  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.

उ  is pronounced as in rooster, fool etc.

ऊ  is the long form of ऊ

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

arṇaḥ

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 क. The nether stroke क 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 क + 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.

\[
\begin{array}{llll}
\text{k} & \text{Kh} & \text{g} & \text{G} \\
\text{ka} & \text{kha} & \text{ga} & \text{gha} \text{ na}
\end{array}
\]

- \( \text{k} \) sounds like the first syllable in cup
- \( \text{Kh} \) is the aspirated form of \( \text{k} \)
- \( \text{g} \) sounds like the g in gum
- \( \text{G} \) is the aspirated form of \( \text{g} \)
- \( \text{na} \) sounds like the ng in finger

3.2.3 Consonant Group-2: Palatals

The second group consists of the Palatals.

\[
\begin{array}{llll}
\text{c} & \text{Ch} & \text{j} & \text{Z} \\
\text{ca} & \text{cha} & \text{ja} & \text{jha} \text{ na}
\end{array}
\]

- \( \text{c} \) sounds as in chair
- \( \text{Ch} \) is the aspirated form of \( \text{c} \)
- \( \text{j} \) sounds as in jar, just
- \( \text{Z} \) is the aspirated form of \( \text{j} \)
- \( \text{na} \) 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.

\( \text{ṭ} \quad \text{ṭha} \quad \text{ḍ} \quad \text{ḍha} \quad \text{ṇa} \)

\( \text{ṭ} \) sounds similar to the t in taylor
\( \text{ṭha} \) is the aspirated form of \( \text{ṭ} \)
\( \text{ḍ} \) sounds similar to the d in day, differ etc.
\( \text{ḍha} \) is the aspirated form of \( \text{ḍ} \)
\( \text{ṇa} \) sounds similar to the n in fund.

3.2.5 Consonant Group-4: Dentals

The fourth group is made up of the dentals.

\( \text{त} \quad \text{थ} \quad \text{द} \quad \text{ध} \quad \text{न} \)

\( \text{त} \) sounds like the first syllable of thirty
\( \text{थ} \) is the aspirated form of \( \text{त} \)
\( \text{द} \) sounds like the first syllable of thus
\( \text{ध} \) is the aspirated form of \( \text{द} \)
\( \text{न} \) 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  śa  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


\[ \text{श} \text{ has no direct equivalent in English. It is like} \]
\[ \text{the "g" a German would pronounce while} \]
\[ \text{speaking English and saying Germany!} \]
\[ \text{ष sounds like the first syllable in shall} \]
\[ \text{स similar to the s in same} \]
\[ \text{ह sounds like the h in harmony.} \]

### 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 con-sonant i.e., before drawing the consonant.

The matras associated with the vowels are shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowel:</th>
<th>अ</th>
<th>आ</th>
<th>इ</th>
<th>ई</th>
<th>उ</th>
<th>ऊ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>ā</td>
<td>ī</td>
<td>ī</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>ū</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| matra | । | । | । | । | । |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ex. :</th>
<th>क</th>
<th>का</th>
<th>कि</th>
<th>की</th>
<th>कु</th>
<th>कू</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ka</td>
<td>kā</td>
<td>ki</td>
<td>kī</td>
<td>ku</td>
<td>kū</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowel:</th>
<th>ऋ</th>
<th>ए</th>
<th>ऐ</th>
<th>ओ</th>
<th>औ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ō</td>
<td>ē</td>
<td>ā</td>
<td>ō</td>
<td>ō</td>
<td>au</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
matra :

Ex. : क्र के की को कौ
kr kē kai kō kau

No matra is used for the combination with आ 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 द for example.

द द दि दी दु द०
da dā dī du dū
dṛ dē dē dō dō
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 र and र respectively.
The combination of ह and झ is written as ह. As seen above द and झ will be द.

Following tables list all the combinations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>अ</th>
<th>आ</th>
<th>इ</th>
<th>ई</th>
<th>उ</th>
<th>ऊ</th>
<th>ऋ</th>
<th>ऌ</th>
<th>ए</th>
<th>ऐ</th>
<th>ओ</th>
<th>औ</th>
<th>अं</th>
<th>आः</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>क</td>
<td>क</td>
<td>का</td>
<td>कि</td>
<td>की</td>
<td>कु</td>
<td>कू</td>
<td>क़</td>
<td>के</td>
<td>को</td>
<td>क़े</td>
<td>क़ो</td>
<td>क़़े</td>
<td>क़ो</td>
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<tr>
<td>ख</td>
<td>ख</td>
<td>खा</td>
<td>खि</td>
<td>खी</td>
<td>खु</td>
<td>खू</td>
<td>ख़</td>
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<td>ख़ो</td>
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<td>ग</td>
<td>ग</td>
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<td>गि</td>
<td>गी</td>
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<td>ङे</td>
<td>ङो</td>
<td>ङ़े</td>
<td>ङो</td>
<td>ङ़ो</td>
<td>ङ़ो</td>
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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 णा. The first syllable has the consonant क combining with the vowel ओ and the second syllable is a combination of ण , ण and आ.

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

Here are some examples of two consonant conjuncts.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ग्र} & = \text{ग} + \text{न} \\
\text{म्प} & = \text{म} + \text{प} \\
\text{स्त्र} & = \text{स} + \text{त}
\end{align*}
\]

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.

क ग घ च ज झ ञ ण त थ ध न प ब

ña 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.

ट छ ट ठ ड ढ

ña cha ta tha ḍa

ठ द र ढ

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.**

| अ + च = भ | प + त = स | ट + ट = टट | द + म = बम | थ + य = धय | द + व = दव | ड + क = कड | क + त = कट | श + र = श्र |
| ह + म = हम | ठ + र = ठर | ड + म = डम | म + ट + र = मटर | स + त + र = स्टर | प + ट + व = प्टव |
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.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{र} + \text{क} &= \text{कँ} \\
\text{र} + \text{त} &= \text{तँ} \\
\text{र} + \text{क} + \text{य} &= \text{कङ्ग} \\
\text{र} + \text{त} + \text{य} &= \text{तङ्ग}
\end{align*}
\]

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.

कात्स्त्यां Just two syllables in the word!

Let us now look at someconjuncts 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 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 र छ प म

kra cra tra 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 क्ष क्च क्ज कट क्ट्र कण क
kka kkha kca kja k̄ta k̄tra k̄na kta
कव कवत कवथ कवश कवय कव
ktva k̄tra kthna k̄thya kda
c कवः कवम कवय कव
kna knya kpa kba kma kmya kya kra
cः कवः कवश कवस्त कवत्व कवः
kla kva k̄sa k̄sa ksta ksva k̄la

----------Conjuncts with "kha"----------
खः खः खः खः खः खः खः खः
khkha k̄hta khna khma khya khra khla khva
खः खः खः खः
kh̄a kh̄a khk̄a kh̄a

----------Conjuncts with "ga"----------
गः गः गः गः गः गः गः गः
gga ggha gca gcha gja ḡta ḡtha
गङ गण गत गद गध गन्य गप
gda gña gta gda gdha gna gnya gpa

gब गभ गम गय ग्र गध गत
gba gbha gma gya gra grya gla

gव गन्य गष गस गछ
gva gvya gşa gsa gla

----------Conjuncts with "gha"----------
घः घण घ्र घन्य घम घय घ्र घल
gghha ghña ghna ghnya ghma ghya ghra ghla

gः घश घष घस घछ
g hva ghşa ghşa ghsa ghḷa

----------Conjuncts with "nga"----------
ङः ङण ङ्र ङन्य ङम ङय ङ्र ङल
ṅka ṅkta ṅkya ṅkra ṅksa ṅkha ṅkhya ṅga

gङः ङगः ङगः ङगः ङगः ङगः ङगः
ṅgya ṅgra ṅgla ṅgha ṅghya ṅghra

gङः ङतः ङतः ङतः ङतः
ṅña ṅta ṅtva ṅma ṅya ṅksa

----------Conjuncts with "cha"----------
चः चण च्र चन्य चम चय च्र चल
cga cca ccha cchca cchra cchva cña

cः चप चफ चभ चम चय च्र चल
cna cpa cpha cbha cma cya cra cla
c्ह च्ह च्ठ च्घ
cva cśa cśa cśa clśa

----------Conjuncts with "chha"----------
च्छ च्छ च्ं च्र च्म च्य छ च्ठ च्व
chca chcha chna chma chya chra chla chva
च्छस
chsa

----------Conjuncts with "ja"----------
ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ज ज्च ज्म ज्य ज्त
jga jca jja jjva jjha jña jñya jta
ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्म ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ
jda jdha jna jpa jpha jba jbha jma
ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ
jya jra jla jva jśa jśa jśa

----------Conjuncts with "jha"----------
ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञ
jhjha jhna jhma jhya jhra jhla jhva jhśa
इस
jhsa

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

tka tka tgha tca tta ttta ttha thiya
tta tttra tpa tba tma tya tra
tla tya tsa tsta tla

---Conjuncts with "tta"---

thka ththa thya thra thva thla

---Conjuncts with "dda"---

dga dgha dghra dca dja ddha dta
dma dya dra dla dla

---Conjuncts with "ddha"---

dhtha dhyaa dhra dhla
----------Conjuncts with "nna"----------
षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ
ṇka  ṇga  ṇta  ṇtya  ṇthya  ṇda  ṇdha
षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ
ṇa  ṇpa  ṇba  ṇma  ṇya  ṇva  ṇla

----------Conjuncts with "tha"----------
तङ  तङ  तङ  तङ  तङ  तङ  तङ  तङ
tka  tkra  tca  tja  tta  ttpha  ttya  ttra
t्थ  त्थ  त्थ  त्थ  त्थ  त्थ  त्थ  त्थ
ttha  tna  tnya  tpa  tbha  tma  tmya  tya
t्र  त्र  त्र  त्र  त्र  त्र  त्र  त्र
tra  trya  tla  tva  tsa  tsa  tsna
t्थ  त्थ  त्थ  त्थ
tsya  tsva  tkṣa  ṇla

----------Conjuncts with "ttha"----------
ठङ  ठङ  ठङ  ठङ  ठङ  ठङ  ठङ  ठङ
ṭthha  ṭthhya  thna  ṭpha  ṭbhha  ṭbhya  thma  thya
षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ  षङ
thra  thla  thva  thsā  thsa  thla

----------Conjuncts with "da"----------
ढङ  ढङ  ढङ  ढङ  ढङ  ढङ  ढङ  ढङ
dga  dgha  dca  dja  dda  ddha  ddhya
---------Conjuncts with "dha"--------
ध ध्र धन धन्य धम धय ध्र धय ध्र

dhdha dhna dhnya dhma dhya dhra dhva dhla
ध्र
---------Conjuncts with "na"---------
न्क नग नच नज नत नय नः
nka nga nca nja nta ntya ntra
नतव नथ नन्द नन्द्र नन्य नन्ध्र
ntva nthya nda ndra ndha ndhya ndhra
न्र नथ नन्द नन्द्र नन्य नन्ध्र
nna npa npra nbha nma nya
न्र नल नच नन्द नन्द्र नन्य नन्ध्र
nra nla nva nsa nsa nha
---------Conjuncts with "pa"---------
प प्र पच पव पच्र पप
pka pta ptya ptva pdha pdhva pna ppa
पच प्र पच्र पव पस पस्र पप
pma pya pra pla pva psa psva pла
--------Conjuncts with "pha"--------
phka phta phtva phpha phya phra ph\la

--------Conjuncts with "ba"--------
bka bja bta bda bdha bdhva bna bba
bbha bma bya bra bva b\la

--------Conjuncts with "bha"--------
bhka bhna bbhha bhya bhra bh\a

--------Conjuncts with "ma"--------
mka mca mcha mja mna mpa mpra
mpha mba mbya mbha mma mya mra m\y\a
mla mva m\s\a msa mha m\a

--------Conjuncts with "ya"--------
yka ykka yga y\n\a yca yta y\d\ a yna
यप  यय  यर  यरु  यस
ypa  yya  yra  yla  yva  ysa

----------Conjuncts with "ra"----------
कँ  कर्ष  सं  गँ  गर्य  घं  घर्य  घँ
rka  rksa  rkha  rga  rgya  rgha  rña

dूँ  दं  चर्य  छं  जं  जर्य  झं  झं
rṇja  rca  rcy a  rcha  rja  rjya  rjha  rṛa

tूं  टं  पर्य  तं  तर्य  थं  थर्य  दं  दर्य
rṛa  rṛha  rṛa  rṛya  rṛta  rṛtma  rṛtya  rṛtha  rṛthya  rṛda  rṛdra

dृं  द्रं  धर्य  ध्रं  नं  पं  पर्य  बं
rdha  rdhna  rdhya  rdhva  rna  rpa  rpha  rba

dूं  दं  मर्य  रं  रल्य  तर्य
rbh a  rma  rmya  rya  rra  rla  rva  rvy a

dूं  दर्य  धर्य  ध्रं  द्रं  पर्य  प्रं
rṣa  rṣya  rṣva  rṣa  rṣka  rṣta  rṣña  rṣya

dूं  हं  हर्य  हर्य
rṣa  rha  rksa  rksya  rksva

----------Conjuncts with "la"----------
लक  लग  लट  लठ  लत  लर्य  लद्द  लन
lka  lga  lṭa  lṭha  lta  ltha  lda  lna

dूं  दं  लर्य  लर्य  लप्य  लर्म  लर्म  लर्म  लर्म
lpa  lpya  lba  lbh a  lbh ya  lbhra  lma

dूं  दं  लर्य  लर्य  लर्म  लर्म
lmya lya lla lva lha

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

vka vta vna vya vra vva vla

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

śka śkha śca śhya śha śna sta śna
śma śya śra śrya śla śva śvya śśa
śspa śšba śla

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

śka śkra sta śtya śtra śtha śthyā
śtha śhva śna śnya spa spra śma śmya
śya śra śva śśa śla

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

ska skha sja sta stha sta styā
स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र
stra stva stha sthya sna snya spa spra
स्फ स्फ स्फ स्फ स्फ स्फ स्फ स्फ
sphya sma sra sla sva ssa sstha ssya
स्वस स्वस
ssva sla

----------Conjuncts with "ha"----------
ह अ ह ह अ ह ह ह ह
hka hña hna hnya hma hya hla hva
ह ह ह ह
hha hḷa

----------Conjuncts with "ksha"----------
क्ष  क्ष  क्ष  क्ष  क्ष  क्ष  क्ष  क्ष
kṣa kṣta kṣna kṣpa kṣma kṣya kṣla kṣva
क्ष kṣkṣa
3.9  *Aksharas that look very similar*

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

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{इ} & \quad \text{ड} & \quad \text{ह} \\
\text{i} & \quad \text{da} & \quad \text{ha} \\
\text{थ} & \quad \text{य}, \quad \text{भ} & \quad \text{म}, \quad \text{घ} & \quad \text{ध}, \\
\text{tha} & \quad \text{ya}, \quad \text{bha} & \quad \text{ma}, \quad \text{gha} & \quad \text{dha}, \\
\text{ढ} & \quad \text{द}, \quad \text{त} & \quad \text{न}, \quad \text{प} & \quad \text{ष}, \\
\text{dha} & \quad \text{da}, \quad \text{ta} & \quad \text{na}, \quad \text{pa} & \quad \text{sa}, \\
\text{ब} & \quad \text{व} \\
\text{ba} & \quad \text{va}
\end{align*}
\]

\text{kha} may be confused with \text{र} followed by \text{व} i.e., \text{रव}.

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

\text{kha}

\text{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 Swaritam

\[दीर्घस्वरितम् क\]

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, ऋ.
3.11 Rarely used Aksharas

Among ऋ, ऌ, and ऌ, 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

ऋ is seen mostly with क

When र combines with ऋ, it is generally shown as 

रः and not रः.

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.
### Numerals (संख्या: - saṅkhyā: )

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanskrit</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Devanagari</th>
<th>Mean Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>० शून्य</td>
<td>0 sūnya</td>
<td>शून्य</td>
<td>११ एकादश</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>१ एकम्</td>
<td>1 ekam</td>
<td>एकम्</td>
<td>१२ द्वादश</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>२ द्वे</td>
<td>2 dve</td>
<td>द्वे</td>
<td>१३ त्रयोदश</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>३ त्रिणि</td>
<td>3 triṇi</td>
<td>त्रिणि</td>
<td>१४ चतुर्दश</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>४ चत्वारि</td>
<td>4 catvāri</td>
<td>चत्वारि</td>
<td>१५ पञ्चदश</td>
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<tr>
<td>५ पञ्च</td>
<td>5 pañca</td>
<td>पञ्च</td>
<td>५६ षोडश</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>६ षोडः</td>
<td>6 saṭ</td>
<td>षोडः</td>
<td>१७ सप्तदश</td>
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<tr>
<td>७ सप्त</td>
<td>7 sapta</td>
<td>सप्त</td>
<td>१८ अष्टदश</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>८ अष्ट</td>
<td>8 aṣṭa</td>
<td>अष्ट</td>
<td>१९ नवदश</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>९ नव</td>
<td>9 nava</td>
<td>नव</td>
<td>/ येकोनविंशति</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>१० दश</td>
<td>10 daśa</td>
<td>दश</td>
<td>२० विंशति</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the number nineteen can be represented as: नवदश and एकोनविंशति: उन means less. एक - उन - विंशति: 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 | क्र | kr | आ | a | ऊ | ū | ओ | oe | au |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| उ | u | ई | ī | अ | a | आ | ā | ए | e | ऐ | ai | ई | ī | ओ | oe | e |
| आ | a | ऐ | ai | उ | u | ऊ | ū | आ | ā | ऐ | ai | ऊ | ū | आ | ā | ऐ | ai |
| ओ | o | ई | ī | ए | e | ओ | oe | ऊ | ū | आ | ā | ऐ | ai | ऊ | ū |
| ल | l | आ | ā | ई | ī | ए | e | ओ | oe | ऊ | ū |

#### Consonants

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<th>bha</th>
<th>ज</th>
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<th>ठ</th>
<th>th</th>
<th>छ</th>
<th>cha</th>
<th>ड</th>
<th>da</th>
<th>फ</th>
<th>pha</th>
<th>ढ</th>
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<td>प</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>th</td>
<td>प</td>
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### Exercise 1 Vowels Following Consonants

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### Exercise 2 Consonant Vowel Recognition

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<td>-----</td>
<td>----</td>
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<td>they</td>
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<td>talking</td>
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<td>what</td>
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<td>Bhagavan</td>
<td>cause</td>
<td>speech</td>
<td>object</td>
<td>immortal</td>
<td>diminution</td>
<td>increase</td>
<td>dejection</td>
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<tr>
<td>विवेकः</td>
<td>उपाधिः</td>
<td>निरूपणं</td>
<td>अवश्य</td>
<td>विनाशः</td>
<td>भूतानि</td>
<td>शरीरम्</td>
<td>हननम्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viveka</td>
<td>conditioning adjunct</td>
<td>ascertaining</td>
<td>object</td>
<td>destruction</td>
<td>beings</td>
<td>body</td>
<td>killing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{i} & & \text{ê} & & \text{k} & & \text{l} & & \text{h} \\
&\text{O} & & \text{y} & & \text{d} & & \text{k} & & \text{x} & & \text{t} \\
&\text{G} & & \text{h} & & \text{D} & & \text{r} & & \text{u} & & \text{ç} & & \text{ç} \\
\end{align*}
\]

2. Speak out the following aksharas.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{s} & & \text{ç} & & \text{h} & & \text{e} \\
&\text{B} & & \text{i} & & \text{n} & & \text{d} & & \text{e} \\
&\text{v} & & \text{a} & & \text{m} & & \text{a} & & \text{t} & & \text{l} & & \text{ç} & & \text{h} & & \text{o} \\
\end{align*}
\]

3. Speak out the following conjuncts.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{t} & & \text{r} & & \text{e} & & \text{h} & & \text{e} & & \text{d} & & \text{i} & & \text{r} & & \text{e} & & \text{s} & & \text{l} & & \text{ç} & & \text{e} \\
\end{align*}
\]

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

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{注销} & & \text{扔} & & \text{书} \\
&\text{守} & & \text{里} & & \text{世} \\
&\text{里} & & \text{r} & & \text{建} \\
&\text{不} & & \text{为} & & \text{要} \\
&\text{加} & & \text{p} & & \text{n} & & \text{s} & & \text{n} & & \text{u} & & \text{t} & & \text{a} \\
&\text{为} & & \text{里} & & \text{见} & & \text{要} \\
&\text{么} & & \text{里} & & \text{见} & & \text{要} \\
&\text{么} & & \text{里} & & \text{见} & & \text{要} \\
&\text{见} & & \text{里} & & \text{要} \\
&\text{为} & & \text{里} & & \text{要} \\
&\text{里} & & \text{里} & & \text{要} \\
\end{align*}
\]
3.15 Practice - Words

3.15.1 Short Words

अनन्त आकाश: इतिहास: ईश्वरी उमा
anantarā ākāśaḥ itihāsaḥ īśvarī umā

उन्न ऋषि: एकदेश: पेरावत: औषध: औषधं
utāṁ ṛṣi: ākadeśa: āryāvata: oṣṭha: auṣadhhaṁ

कमला खलु गणपति अनघा चतुर्जः
kamalā khalū ganaṇapati anaghā caturāṅgaḥ

चतुर: छेदनं ज्ञानकी श्रमं: आँठ
catura: chēdanaṁ jānakī śrīmaṇaṁ: āṅṭha

catura: chēdanaṁ jānakī jhampa: nālaṁ
dṛk: pātha: paṇḍitaḥ: dōlha: aṅkaṇa

तन्कह पथा: पन्धिताः धौलह आरुः
tančaḥ pātha: paṇḍitaḥ dhāulah aruṇā

सुमती यथा दन्त: अधर्मं नयनी
sumatī yathā dantaḥ adharmaṁ nayanī

गोपिका फलेषु बालिका भारती महां
gopikā phaleṣu bālikā bhāratī maṅgalam

ययाति रम्या लक्षणां वर्षं शारदा उषा
yayāti ramyā lakṣaṇaṁ varṣā śāradā uṣā

संस्कृतं सरसिजनाम हरिणी अहंकारः
saṁskṛtam sarasijanābha hariṇī ahaṅkāraḥ
3.15.2 Long Words

परित्राणायसाधूनां विनाशायचुष्क्रूतां

paritrāṇāyasādhūnāṁ vināśāyacaduṣkr̥tāṁ

धर्मसम्पन्नार्थय सम्भवामियुगेयुगें

dharmasamśṭhāpanārthāya sambhavāmiyugēyugē

यदापदाहिधर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवित्वत्वं

yadāyadāhidharmasya glānirbhavatibhārata

अभ्युत्तेनधर्मस्य तदात्मानसुजान्म्यहम्

abhyuttānadharmasya tadātmanasmajāmyaham

यत्रयोगेश्वरकृष्णो यत्रपार्थोधनुधरः

yatrayōgēśvarahkr̥ṣṇo yatrapārthödhanurdharaḥ
tatraśrīvijayōbhūtirdhruvānītīrmatirmama
### 3.16 Common words in Vedas

These words are commonly used in Vedantic texts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brahman</th>
<th>Atma</th>
<th>Jiva:</th>
<th>Jagat</th>
<th>Ishvarah</th>
<th>Maya</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>सत्</td>
<td>चित्</td>
<td>आनन्द्:</td>
<td>सत्यम्</td>
<td>ज्ञानम्</td>
<td>अनन्तम्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sat</td>
<td>cit</td>
<td>ānandah</td>
<td>satyam</td>
<td>jñānam</td>
<td>anantam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>वेदान्तः</td>
<td>उपाणिषद्</td>
<td>प्रमाणम्</td>
<td>प्रकरणम्</td>
<td>मोक्षः</td>
<td>वन्धनम्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vedāntah</td>
<td>upanisad</td>
<td>pramāṇam</td>
<td>prakaraṇam</td>
<td>mokṣaḥ</td>
<td>bandhana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>विद्या</td>
<td>अविद्या</td>
<td>ज्ञानम्</td>
<td>अज्ञानम्</td>
<td>ज्ञानिन्</td>
<td>संसारिन्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vidyā</td>
<td>avidyā</td>
<td>jñānam</td>
<td>ajñānam</td>
<td>jñānin</td>
<td>saṁsārin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>प्रमा</td>
<td>प्रत्यक्ष</td>
<td>परोक्ष</td>
<td>अपरोक्ष</td>
<td>वृत्ति:</td>
<td>बुद्धि:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pramā</td>
<td>pratyakṣa</td>
<td>parokṣa</td>
<td>aparokṣa</td>
<td>vṛttih</td>
<td>buddhiḥ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>स्थूल</td>
<td>सूक्ष्म</td>
<td>कारणम्</td>
<td>शरीरम्</td>
<td>देह:</td>
<td>उपाधि:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sthul</td>
<td>suksma</td>
<td>kāraṇam</td>
<td>śarīram</td>
<td>dehah</td>
<td>upādhiḥ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कर्म:</td>
<td>अकर्म:</td>
<td>कर्मयोगः</td>
<td>सन्यास:</td>
<td>सन्यासिन्</td>
<td>मुमुक्षु:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>karman</td>
<td>akarman</td>
<td>karmayogah</td>
<td>sannyāsaḥ</td>
<td>sannyāsin</td>
<td>mumukṣuḥ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>अधिकारिन्</td>
<td>विवेक:</td>
<td>वैराज्यम्</td>
<td>शमाधिष्ठितकम्</td>
<td>मुमुक्षुत्वम्</td>
<td>मनस्</td>
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<tr>
<td>adhikārin</td>
<td>vivekaḥ</td>
<td>vairāgyam</td>
<td>śamādisatkam</td>
<td>mumukṣutvam</td>
<td>manas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>शामः</td>
<td>दमः</td>
<td>उपरति:</td>
<td>तितिक्षा</td>
<td>समाधानम्</td>
<td>श्रद्धा</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>śamaḥ</td>
<td>damah</td>
<td>uparatiḥ</td>
<td>titikṣā</td>
<td>samādhānam</td>
<td>śraddhā</td>
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<td>संसारिन्</td>
<td>अधिकारिन्</td>
<td>विवेकिन्</td>
<td>मुमुक्षु:</td>
<td>ज्ञानिन्</td>
<td>संसारिन्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saṁsārin</td>
<td>adhikārin</td>
<td>vivekin</td>
<td>mumukṣuḥ</td>
<td>jñānin</td>
<td>sanyāsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>अच्छ:</td>
<td>अभ्यासः</td>
<td>अपवाद:</td>
<td>आरोप:</td>
<td>वस्तु</td>
<td>अवस्तु</td>
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<td>adhyasah</td>
<td>adhyāropah</td>
<td>apavadah</td>
<td>aropah</td>
<td>vastu</td>
<td>avastu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कर्तृत्वम्</td>
<td>भोक्त्रत्वम्</td>
<td>सुखित्वम्</td>
<td>दुःखित्वम्</td>
<td>रज्जुः</td>
<td>सर्पः</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kartṛtvam</td>
<td>bhokṛtvam</td>
<td>sukhitvam</td>
<td>duḥkhitvam</td>
<td>raijūḥ</td>
<td>sarpaḥ</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>माया</th>
<th>प्रकृति:</th>
<th>सत्त्व</th>
<th>रजस्</th>
<th>तमस्</th>
<th>गुणः</th>
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<tr>
<td>māyā</td>
<td>prakṛti</td>
<td>sattva</td>
<td>rajas</td>
<td>tamas</td>
<td>gunaḥ</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>पृथ्वी</th>
<th>आपः</th>
<th>अग्नि:</th>
<th>वायुः</th>
<th>आकाशः</th>
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<tr>
<td>bhūtāni</td>
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<td>āpah</td>
<td>agniḥ</td>
<td>vāyuh</td>
<td>ākāśah</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>रूपम्</th>
<th>रसः</th>
<th>गन्धः</th>
<th>चेतन्यमूः</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>śabdaḥ</td>
<td>sparśaḥ</td>
<td>rūpam</td>
<td>rasah</td>
<td>gandhaḥ</td>
<td>caitanyam</td>
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</table>

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<th>चक्षुः</th>
<th>जिह्वा</th>
<th>ग्राणाम्</th>
<th>इन्द्रियानि</th>
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<td>tvak</td>
<td>cakṣuḥ</td>
<td>jihva</td>
<td>ghranam</td>
<td>indriyāni</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>पाणिः</th>
<th>पादः</th>
<th>पायुः</th>
<th>उपस्थः</th>
<th>स्वरूपः</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>vak</td>
<td>paṇiḥ</td>
<td>padaḥ</td>
<td>payuḥ</td>
<td>upasthaḥ</td>
<td>svarūpaḥ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Simple words and phrases

4.1 Gods names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanskrit</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>shri raja-rajaswari</td>
<td>srī rājarājēśvari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>devi</td>
<td>dēvi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lalita</td>
<td>lalita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kāmākśi</td>
<td>kāmākśi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lakṣmi</td>
<td>lakṣmi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sarasvati</td>
<td>sarasvati</td>
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<tr>
<td>gaṇēśa</td>
<td>gaṇēśa</td>
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<tr>
<td>gaṇapati</td>
<td>gaṇapati</td>
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<td>subrahmaṇyaṃ</td>
<td>subrahmaṇyaṃ</td>
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<td>mahādeva</td>
<td>mahādeva</td>
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<td>mahēśvara</td>
<td>mahēśvara</td>
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<td>naṭarāja</td>
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<td>brahmā</td>
<td>brahmā</td>
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<tr>
<td>viṣṇu</td>
<td>viṣṇu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>krṣṇa</td>
<td>krṣṇa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rāma</td>
<td>rāma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dattātrēya</td>
<td>dattātrēya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caitanyānaṃda</td>
<td>caitanyānaṃda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2 **Grahas**

- सूर्य: sūrya  
- चंद्र: caṇḍra  
- मंगल: maṃgaḷa  
- 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  
- आग्रे: āgnēya - South East  
- वायाव्य: vāyavya - North West  
- नैर्ति: naiṛti - South West  
- उर्ध्व: ūrdhva - Zenith  
- अधो: adhō - Nadir
4.4 *Gaurdians of directions* (दिक्पाल-दिक्पाला)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>तात्कालिक</th>
<th>शरीर</th>
<th>(North)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>कुबेर</td>
<td>kubēra</td>
<td>(North)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>यम</td>
<td>yama</td>
<td>(South)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>इन्द्र</td>
<td>indra</td>
<td>(East)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>वरुण</td>
<td>varuṇa</td>
<td>(West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>इशान</td>
<td>īśāna</td>
<td>(North East)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>अग्नि</td>
<td>agni</td>
<td>(South East)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>वायु</td>
<td>vāyu</td>
<td>(North West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नैर्ति</td>
<td>naiṛti</td>
<td>(South West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>विष्णु</td>
<td>viṣṇu</td>
<td>(Nadir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ब्रह्मा</td>
<td>brahmā</td>
<td>(Zenit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5 *Fruits* (फलानि - phalāni)

| नारदगङ्गाफलम् | nāraṇagaphalam | - Orange |
| त्रणा-बदरफलम् | traṇā-badaraphalam | - Strawberry |
| द्राक्षाफलम्    | drākṣāphalam    | - Grape  |
| आम्रफलम्      | āmraphalam      | - Mango  |
| नारिकेलं      | nārikēlaṃ       | - Coconut |
| पनसफलम्      | panasaphalam    | - Jack Fruit |
| फलग्रन्थादफलम् | phalaprabhēdaphalam | - Apple  |
कदलिफलम्  kadalīphalam  -  Banana
बीजपूरफलम्  bijapūraphalam  -  Citron Medica
जंबिरफलम्  jambīraphalam  -  Lemon
कपित्थफलम्  kapitthaphalam  -  Wood Apple
जंबुफलम्  jambūphalam  -  Rose Apple
आमलकफलम्  āmalakaphalam  -  Indian Gooseberry
बदरफलम्  badaraphalam  -  Red Date
दाढिमफलम्  dāḍimaphalam  -  Pomegranate
बहुबीजफलम्  bahubījaphalam  -  Guava

4.6 पुष्पाणि - puṣpāṇi (Flowers)
कमलम्  -  kamalam  -  Lotus flower
जपाकुसुमम्  -  japākusumam  -  Hibiscus
गुलाबपुष्पम्  -  gulābapuṣpam  -  Rose
मल्लिका  -  mallikā  -  Jasmine
सूर्यकान्ति:  -  süryakānti:  -  Sunflower

4.7 Body parts (शरीरस्य भागः śarīrasya bhāga: )

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>शरीरं</th>
<th>śarīraṁ</th>
<th>Body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>Sanskrit</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>शिरः</td>
<td>śīra:</td>
<td>Head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>वदनं</td>
<td>vadanaḥ</td>
<td>Mouth, Face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कण्ठ:</td>
<td>kaṇṭha:</td>
<td>Neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>करः</td>
<td>kara:</td>
<td>Hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>स्कन्ध:</td>
<td>skandha:</td>
<td>Shoulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>वक्षः</td>
<td>vakṣa:</td>
<td>Chest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उदरं</td>
<td>udaraṃ</td>
<td>Belly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नाभिः</td>
<td>nābhi:</td>
<td>Navel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ऊरु:</td>
<td>ūru:</td>
<td>Thigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>जानु:</td>
<td>jānu:</td>
<td>Knee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>पादः</td>
<td>pāda:</td>
<td>Foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>अक्षं, नेत्रम्</td>
<td>akṣa:, netram</td>
<td>Eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कर्णः</td>
<td>karṇa:</td>
<td>Ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नासिका</td>
<td>nāṣikā</td>
<td>Nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>मुखं</td>
<td>mukhaṃ</td>
<td>Mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>जिहवा</td>
<td>jihvā</td>
<td>Tongue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>दन्तः</td>
<td>danta:</td>
<td>Tooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>अङ्ग ली</td>
<td>aṅguli</td>
<td>Finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>हिन्दी</td>
<td>इंग्लिश</td>
<td>अर्थ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नखः</td>
<td>nakha:</td>
<td>Nail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>केशः</td>
<td>kēśa:</td>
<td>Hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>भुजः</td>
<td>bhuja:</td>
<td>Arm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.8 वासरा: – Days

रविवासर: – Sunday
gुरुवासर: – Thursday
सोमवासर: – Monday
शुक्लवासर: – Friday
मक्षिकवासर: – Tuesday
शनिवासर: – Saturday
बुधवासर: – Wednesday

4.9 मास: – Month

मार्गशीर्ष: – November-December
dेशेष: – May-June
पौष: – December-January
आषा: – June-July
माघ: – January-February
श्रावण: – July-August
फाल्गुन: – February-March
अष्टमी: – August-September
चैत्र: – March-April
आशिन: – September-October
वैशाख: – April-May
cार्तिक: – October-November
4.10 Simple phrases

नम: - nama:
आवाहयामि - āvāhayāmi
पूजयामि - pūjayāmi
धूप आग्रापयामि - dhūpaṇ āghrāpayāmi
dीपम् दर्षयामि - dīpam darṣayāmi
आत्म प्रदक्षिण नमस्कारं समर्पयामि - ātma pradakṣiṇa namaskāraṇ samarpayāmi
5  Slokas - Small

(i) ॐ गणानां त्वा गणपतिः हवामहे कविं कविनामुपमश्रवस्तमम्।
ज्ञेष्ठराजं ब्रह्मणं ब्रह्मस्पतं आनं शुण्यवृत्तिः स्वसदसांनम्॥
ॐ महागणपत्ये नमः ॥
om ganānāṁ tvā gaṅapatiṁhavāmahe kaviṁ kaviṁcāmupamaśravastamam ।
jyeṣṭhara.daṁ brahmaṇam brahmaṇaspata ānahaśṛṇvannūtībhiḥśiddaṣādānam ॥
om mahāgaṇapataye namah ॥

(ii) ॐ Namstē astu bhagavanviśvesvarāya mahādevāya tryambakāya tripuraṇṭakāya
विकालालिमिकाय कालालिमिकाय मृत्युंजयाय सर्वेश्वराय सदाशिवाय स्रीमन्महादेवाय
नमः ॥
namaste astu bhagavanviśvesvarāya mahādevāya tryambakāya tripuraṇṭakāya
trikālaṁkālāya kālāgnirudrāya nilakaṇṭhāya mṛtyunjjayāya sarveśvarāya sadāśivāya
śrīmanmahādevāya namah ॥

(iii) त्यम्बकं जयामहे सुगन्धियं पुष्यिवचनम्।
उर्वरसतिमिव वन्धनान्मृत्योंपुःशीयं मां मृत्तात॥
tryambakaṁ yajāmahe sugandhim puṣṭiyāntāh ।
uvrārkaṁcaṁ va bandhanāṁmṛtyorumkṣiṣyā maṁmṛtāt ॥

(iv) ॐ नमो भगवते दक्षिणामुर्तये महां मेघां प्रजाः प्रयच्छ स्वाहा
om namo bhagavate daksināmūrtaye mahāṁ meghāṁ prajāṁ praya.ch svāha
6 Shanti – Mantras (शान्तिमन्त्र: – Śāntimantrāḥ)

(१) ॐ शं नो मित्र: शं वरुणः। शं नो भवत्वर्यमा। शं न इन्द्रो वृहस्पतिः। शं नो विश्वेश्वरमः। नमः ब्रह्मणः। नमस्ते वायो। त्वमेव प्रत्यक्षं ब्रह्मासि। त्वमेव प्रत्यक्षं ब्रह्म
वदिश्यामि। व्रतं वदिश्यामि। सत्यं वदिश्यामि। तन्नमामवतु। तद्वक्तामवतु। अवः मामू। अवः वक्तामू।॥ शान्ति: शान्ति: शान्ति:॥

Om ॐ शं नो भवत्वर्यमाः। शं न इन्द्रो वृहस्पतिः। शं नो भवत्वर्यमाः। शं न इन्द्रो वृहस्पतिः।

(२) ॐ सह नावचतु सह नौ सुनकु सह वीर्येमववाहे।
	तेजसिव नावप्रीतमस्तु मा विद्धिपावाहे।
	ॐ शान्ति: शान्ति: शान्ति:॥

Om ॐ सह नावचतु सह नौ सुनकु सह वीर्येमववाहे।

(३) ॐ यश्चन्द्रसामृषभो विश्वभो। छन्दोम्योध्यमृतातु सम्भूव। स मेन्द्रो भेर्या स्पृणोतु।
अमृतस्य देव धारणो भूयास्मू। शरीरें में विवर्णामू। जिह्वा में मधुमत्तमा। कुमार्यां भूरि विश्रुवमू।
ब्रह्मणः कोशासिं मेश्या भिधित्। श्रुतः में गोपाय। ॐ शान्ति: शान्ति: शान्ति:॥

Om ॐ यश्चन्द्रसामृषभो विश्वभो। छन्दोम्योध्यमृतातु सम्भूव। स मेन्द्रो भेर्या स्पृणोतु।
अमृतस्य देव धारणो भूयास्मू। शरीरें में विवर्णामू। जिह्वा में मधुमत्तमा। कुमार्यां भूरि विश्रुवमू।
ब्रह्मणः कोशासिं मेश्या भिधित्। श्रुतः में गोपाय। ॐ शान्ति: शान्ति: शान्ति:॥

Om ॐ यश्चन्द्रसामृषभो विश्वभो। छन्दोम्योध्यमृतातु सम्भूव। स मेन्द्रो भेर्या स्पृणोतु।
अमृतस्य देव धारणो भूयास्मू। शरीरें में विवर्णामू। जिह्वा में मधुमत्तमा। कुमार्यां भूरि विश्रुवमू।
ब्रह्मणः कोशासिं मेश्या भिधित्। श्रुतः में गोपाय। ॐ शान्ति: शान्ति: शान्ति:॥
bhūm bhūrī viśrūvam | brahmaṇāḥ kośo 'si medhayā pihitāḥ | śrūtam me
gopāya | om sāntiḥ sāntiḥ sāntiḥ  ||

(४) ॐ अहं वृक्षस्य रेशिव | कीर्तिः पूर्व गिरिव | उध्वपवित्रो वाजिनीव स्वमृतमस्मि | द्रविणं
सच्चिसम् | सुमेधा अमृतोक्षितः | इति त्रिश्रावेदानुवचनम् | ॐ शान्ति: शान्ति: शान्ति: |

Om aham vrksasya reriva | kirtih prstham gireriva | urdhvapavitro
vājīniva svamrtamasmi | draviṇam savarcasam | sumedhā amṛto'ksitaḥ | iti triśaṅkorvedānuvācanam |
om sāntiḥ sāntiḥ sāntiḥ  ||

(५) ॐ पूर्णमद: पूर्णभिदं पूर्णार्पणमुद्यते।
पूर्णस्य पूर्णाद्वय्य पूर्णमिवविशिष्यते।
ॐ शान्ति: शान्ति: शान्ति:।

Om pūrṇamadaḥ pūrṇamidam pūrṇāḥ pūrṇamudacyate |
pūrṇasya pūrṇamādāya pūrṇamevāvasisyate |
om sāntiḥ sāntiḥ sāntiḥ  ||

(६) ॐ आप्यायन्तु ममाङ्कनि वाक्प्राणशक्षु: | श्रोत्रमथो बलमिन्द्रियाणि च सर्वाणि। सर्वं
बहृणपितमद्। माह बहा निराकार्यम्। मा मा बहा निराकरोतु। अनिराकरणस्त्वनिराकरणं में
अस्तु। तदात्मानि निरते य उपनिषतः धर्मास्ते मयि सन्तु। ते मयि सन्तु। ॐ शान्ति: शान्ति: |
शान्ति:।
Om अप्यायान्तु ममाङ्गानि वाकप्राणाशक्सुहं स्रोत्रमाथो बालमिंद्रियाणि

Om vānme manasi pratiṣṭhitatāḥ, mano me vāci pratiṣṭhitam, āvirāvirma edhi, vedaśya mañāṁśthāḥ, śrutam me mā praḥāṣiḥ, anenaśādhitena, ahorātānau sandādhāmi, ṛtam vādiśyāmi, satyam vādiśyāmi, tanmāmāvatu, tadvāktaṃramavatu, avatu mām, avatu vaktāramavatu vaktāram, om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ

(7) ॐ वाक्मे मनसि प्रतिष्ठिताः। भनो मे वाचि प्रतिष्ठितं। आवर्त्तीम पुष्टि। वेदस्य म

Om bhādram no apivātaya manah, om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ

(8) ॐ भद्रे नो अपिवातय मनः। ॐ शान्ति: शान्ति: शान्ति:।

Om bhādram no apivātaya manah, om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ

(9) ॐ भद्रे कर्णे शुणयाम देवः। भद्रे पश्चयेमश्चिः।
Om bhādram karṇebhiḥ śṛṇuyāma devāḥ | bhādram
pasyaṃśabhiryajatrāḥ | sthirarāṅgaśtuṣṭuvāg mḥ sāstānūbhiḥ | vyaśema
devahitam yadāyuḥ | svasti na indrō vṛddhaśravāḥ | svasti naḥ pūṣā
viśvavedāḥ | svasti nastārṣyo ariṣṭanemih | svasti no bṛhaspatirdadhātu
|| om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ

(१०) ॐ यो ब्रह्माण विद्यालित पूर्व यो वे वेदांथ प्रहिणालित तस्मै । तग्म ह देवमात्रमविद्यकाः
mumukṣubhiḥ शरणमहि प्रपद्ये । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः

Om yo brahmāṇaṁ vidadhāti pūrvaṁ yo vai vedāṁśca prahīṇoti tasmai |
tagṁ ha devamātmaruddhiprakaśaṁ mumukṣurvaṁ śaraṇamahāṁ |
prapadye | om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ

श्रुतिस्मृतिपुराणानामधवं करुणालयम् ।
नमामि भगवतपादं शाङ्गं लोकश्राङ्गरम् ॥

śrutismṛtipurāṇānāmādāyaṃ karuṇālayam |
namāmi bhagavatpādaṁ śaṅkaraṁ lokaśaṅkaram ॥
सूत्रभाष्यकृतिः वने भगवन्तौ पुनः पुनः ॥

शङ्कराम शङ्कराचार्यम् केरामम बादरायणम्
सूत्रभृष्याक्र्तां वांदे भगवान्तौ पुनः पुनः ॥

नारायणं पदमभुवं वसिष्ठं श्रीकं च तत्पुन्तपरार्धः च
व्यासं शुकं गौडपादं महानं गोविन्दयोगीन्द्रमाधास्य शिष्यम् ॥

नारायणं पदमभुवं वसिष्ठं श्रीकं च तत्पुन्तपरार्धः च
व्यासं शुकं गौडपादं महानं गोविन्दयोगीन्द्रमाधास्य शिष्यम् ॥

श्रीशंकराचार्यमधास्य पद्मपादं च हस्तामलकं च शिष्यम् ॥
तं तोतकं वार्तिककारमन्यत्यासमढ़ून्नू सन्ततमानन्तोऽस्मि ॥

श्रीशंकराचार्यमाध्यास्य पद्मपादं च हस्तामलकं च शिष्यम् ॥
तं तोतकं वार्तिककारमन्यत्यासमढ़ून्नू सन्ततमानन्तोऽस्मि ॥
7 Slokas, Suktams and Sahasranamam

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- Narayan Suktam
- Medha Suktam
- Neela Suktam
- Sri Suktam
- Durga Suktam