

Sanskrit pronunciation glossary

Throughout the course Sanskrit words are written as they sound. However, there is a technical way of writing Sanskrit in English script, which clarifies the emphasis of accent. Here is a list of the Sanskrit words used throughout the course with the correct accents included.

A note on the transliteration and pronunciation of the sounds:

Diacritical marks have been used only to show the correct pronunciation of the Sanskrit words. They have not been done according to convention i.e. compound words have not been broken according to convention and the rules of Sandhi (word-junctions within the compounds) have not been systematically observed. In this respect the transliterations should not be copied from this work, or be used for any other purpose other than learning the correct pronunciation of the word.

The following list gives the reader an indication for correct pronunciation of Sanskrit, which contains both long and short vowels; glottal, palatal, retroflex, dental and labial stops all of which can be aspirated, un-aspirated, voiced, or unvoiced. The following table lists the primary sounds according to: where they are pronounced in the throat and mouth; whether they are voiced, unvoiced, aspirated and unaspirated in the relative combinations; and length of the vowels viz., short, or long. The table is to be read both down and across i.e. 'ka' is a glottal stop, pronounced in the throat, it is unvoiced and unaspirated; 'bha' is a labial stop, pronounced at the lips, it is both voiced and aspirated.

Consonants:

Consonants have an inherent a for pronunciation

| Place of Utterance | Throat | Soft Palate | Hard Palate | Back Teeth | Lips |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------|
| Name | Glottal | Palatal | Retroflex | Dental | Labial |
| Unvoiced, unaspirated | ka cricket | ca charaka | ṭa | ta | pa |
| Unvoiced, aspirated | kha | cha | ṭha | tha | pha |
| Voiced, unaspirated | ga | ja | ḍa | da | ba |
| Voiced, Aspirated | gha | jha | ḍha | dha | bha |
| Voiced, nasal | ñā ink | ñā inch | ṇā conundrum | na nut | ma |
| Semi-vowels | | ya | ra | la | va |
| Sibilants, unvoiced | | śa sham | ṣa shnapps | sa satisfaction | |
| Aspirate | | ha | | | |

Primary Vowels

Vowels are pronounced short, or long (double the length of the short)

Voiced

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| a | a, as in aromatic | au | au, as in taunt |
| ā | aa, as in father | e | e, as in excellent |
| i | i, as in thin | ai | ai, as in aisle |
| ī | ee, as in bleed | u | u, as in flute |
| ṛ | ri, as in thrill | ū | oo, as in food |
| o | o, as in poke | | |

mahāmr̥tyuñjaya-mantram

Om tryambakam yajāmahe
sugandhim puṣṭivardhanam
urvārukam iva bandhanād
mr̥tyor mukṣīya māmṛtāt

Sanskrit

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| abhiṣyandin | asātmya indriya artha | bṛhmaṇa |
| agni | samyoγa | bṛhmaṇīya |
| āhāra | āsava | brāhmī |
| āhāra rasa | āśaya | bṛhad trayī |
| ajīrṇa | aśoka | buddhi |
| ākāśa | asṭāṅga hr̥idaya saṃhitā | cakra |
| ālocaka pitta | asṭasthānaparikṣā | cakradatta |
| āma | asthi | cakrapāṇi |
| āmalakī | asthi dhātu agni | cakrapāṇidatta |
| āmapacana | aśvagandhā | caraka |
| āmāśaya | ārtavavahasrotas | caraka saṃhitā |
| ambuvahasrotas | atharva veda | caraka saṃhitā |
| amlā | ātman | indriyasthāna |
| annavahasrotas | avalambakakapha | caraka saṃhitā |
| antara mārga | avaleha | sūtrasthāna |
| anupāna | avidyā | chāya |
| āp | avipattikāra cūrṇa | chedana |
| apānakṣetra | āyurveda | chyavanaprāśa |
| apāna vāyu | bhāvaprakāśa nigaṇṭu | cikitsā |
| ariṣṭa | bhedanīya | cikitsā samgraha |
| arjuna | bhodaka kapha | citta |
| arka | bhrājaka pitta | cūrṇa |
| artha | bhr̥īgrāja | daśamūla |
| arogya | bhūtāgni | dhamanī |
| | bibhitakī | dhanvantari nighaṇṭu |

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| dharma | kaśāya | mūtra |
| dhātu | kaśāya kalpana | mūtravahasrotas |
| dhātu agni | kaṭhiṇa | mūtravirecana |
| dīpana | kaṭu | nāḍī |
| dīpanīya | kāyacikitsā | nasya |
| dosa | keśika | naulī |
| dosa prakṛti | khala-kapota | nighaṇṭuratnākara |
| dosa pratyanīka | khara | nirāma |
| dosa vikṛti | khicadī | nirāmakapha |
| dūṣaṇatva | kitṭapaka | ojas |
| dravyaguṇa | kledaka kapha | pācaka pitta |
| dravyaguṇa samgraha | kloma | pacana |
| dravyaguṇa śāstra | koṣṭha | pañcakarma |
| dravya(s) | krūra koṣṭha | pañcamahābhūta |
| dṛṣṭi | kṛmighna | pañchatikta ghṛta |
| gandha | kṣīra dadhi | pañca vāyu |
| gokṣūra | kumārī | phala |
| grahaṇī | kuṣṭha | phāṇṭa |
| grahī | kutki | pippalī |
| guḍūcī | kvātha | pippalī vardhaman |
| guggulu | laghu | pippalyādivarga |
| guna(s) | laghu trayī | pitta |
| guru | lavaṇa | pitta dosa |
| gurmar | lekhaniya | pittaprakṛti |
| harītakī | mādhava nidāna | prabhāva |
| haṭha yoga | madhuka | prajñāparādha |
| haṭha yoga pradīpikā | madhura | prakopa |
| hima | madhyama mārga | prakopa dosa |
| hiṅgvaṣṭaka | mahātikta | prakṛti |
| hṛdaya | majja | prakṛtyārambhakatva |
| indra | mala | pramāṇa |
| jala | māṃsa | prāṇa |
| jatāmāṃsi | manas | prāṇayāma |
| jaṭharāgni | manas prakṛti | prāṇavahasrotas |
| jīvanīya | manovahasrotas | prāṇa vāyu |
| jvara | maṇḍa | prāṇayāma |
| kāla | mandāgnī | pr̥thvī |
| kalā | mañjiṣṭa | puriṣa |
| kalka | manusmṛti | puriṣavahasrotas |
| kāma | marman | puruṣa |
| kāṇṭhya | medas | rāga |
| kapālabhātī | medā dhātu | rajas |
| kapha | mitya āhāra vihāra | rakta dhātu |
| kapha dosa | mokṣa | raktamokṣaṇa |
| kapikacchu | mṛdu | raktaśodhana |
| karma | mṛdu dosa | rañjaka pitta |

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|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| rasa | sirā | tulsi |
| rasa dhātu | śīta | tvac |
| rasāyana | ślakṣṇa | udāna vāyu |
| rasa-rakta | ślesakakapha | upadhātu |
| rasaśāstra | snehana | upāya |
| recana | snigdha | uṣṇa |
| rg veda | śodhana | vā |
| rūkṣa | soma | vacā |
| śabda | sparśa | vāgbhaṭa |
| śat darśana | śramaṇa(s) | vaidya |
| sādhaka pitta | sramṣana | vājikarāṇa |
| sādhya | srotas | vamana |
| sāma | srotorodha | varga |
| sāma kapha | stanyavahasrotas | vāta |
| śamana | sthānasamśraya | vāta doṣa |
| samāna vāyu | sthira | vāyu |
| sāma pitta | sthūla | veda(s) |
| sāma vāta | śukra | vegavirodha |
| sāṃkhyakārika | śukra dhātu | virecana |
| sāṃkhya-yoga | sūkṣma | vikṛti |
| samprāpti | sūrya | vikṛti doṣa |
| sandhāṇīya | suśruta | vipāka |
| sapta dhātu | suśruta samhitā | virecana |
| sāra | sūtrasthāna | vīrya |
| śarīra | svarasa | viśamāgni |
| śarīrasthana | sveda | vyāna vāyu |
| sāriva | svedavahasrotas | vyavāyi |
| śāringadhara | tamas | vyāyāma |
| śāringadhara samhitā | tarpakakapha | yakṛt |
| sarpagandha | tattva | yāpya |
| Sarve 'pi rogā | tejas | yaṣṭīmadhu |
| mandāgnihetavaḥ | tīkṣṇa | yoga |
| śatāvarī | tīkṣṇāgni | yogaratnākara |
| śatkarma | triḍoṣa | yogavāhī |
| sātmya | trikāṭu | yoni |
| sattva | tikta | |
| śira | triphalā | |