

Devanāgarī Typing and Keyboard Layouts

[\[Back to Main Page\]](#)

Quick Links

[How to type in Devanāgarī](#)
[Setup: Microsoft Windows XP/Vista](#)
[Setup: Mac OSX](#)
[Keyboard layout character map](#)

How type in Devanāgarī

The Devanāgarī-QWERTY keyboard layout is designed to ease the process of typing in the Devanāgarī script for those using Roman-alphabet. Wherever possible, Devanāgarī letters are mapped to similar Roman-alphabet keys. The layout is quite simple and consistent, with only a few exceptions.

Consonants

- Most keystrokes type a single full syllable (with inherent "a" vowel):
t = त | d = द | n = न | s = स
- The Shift-key usually imply aspiration, or alternate nasals/sibilants:
T = थ | D = ध | N = ण | S = श
- The AltGr-key(⌘) (*Option* in Mac OS, *Ctrl+Alt* or *Right-Alt* in Windows) allows access to Retroflex consonants, as well as additional nasals/sibilants. Again, adding the Shift-key usually implies aspiration or alternate nasals/sibilants:
(⌘) t = ट | D = ढ | n = ञ | S = ष

Vowels

- Vowel keys typically represent post-consonantal forms. The Shift-key allows access to long forms.
t + i = त + ि = ति | d + I = द + ी = दी
- The AltGr-key(⌘) (*Option* in Mac OS, *Ctrl+Alt* or *Right-Alt* in Windows) allows access to full vowel forms:
(⌘) a = अ | A = आ | e = ए | E = ऐ

Special Characters, Conjuncts, and Shortcuts

- Common characters like the Anusvara, Visarga, Virama, Avagraha, and Danda can be accessed using the following keys:
M = ँ | H = ः | f = ् | (⌘) ' = ऽ
. = । | (⌘) > = ॥
- Consonantal Conjuncts can be formed by placing a Virama in between each consonant in the conjunct:
t + f + v = त + ् + व = त्व
- Several common letters and conjuncts can be accessed through shortcuts:
x = ष | X = क्ष | (⌘) s = श्र | (⌘) j = ज्ञ

Roman Letters

- Should you need quick access, the Caps Lock key will allow you to type in the Roman alphabet. Pressing Shift while Caps Lock is active will allow you to type in Roman capitals.

Setup: Microsoft Windows XP/Vista

Installing the Devanāgarī-QWERTY Keyboard

- Download and run [Devanāgarī-QWERTY Keyboard Layout](#).

2. Choose a folder to extract to.
3. Navigate to that folder and run **setup.exe**.
4. Open **Control Panel** and click **Regional and Language Options**.
5. (XP) Click the **Languages** tab, and then click **Details** under "Text Services and Input Languages".
(Vista) Click the **Keyboards and Languages** tab, and then click **Change Keyboards**.
6. Click **Add**.
7. (XP) Under "Input language" choose **Sanskrit**, under "Keyboard Layout/IME" choose **Devanāgarī-QWERTY**.
(Vista) Scroll to and double-click **Sanskrit**, then **Keyboard**. Select the checkbox next to **Devanāgarī-QWERTY**.
8. Click **OK**.
9. (XP) Click **Language Bar**. Select the checkboxes next to **Show the Language Bar** and **Show additional Language Bar icons**.
(Vista) Click the **Language Bar** tab, and select **Docked in the taskbar**.

To switch between keyboard layouts in Windows:

1. Click on the **Language Bar** (it may be free-floating, or docked in the bottom-left taskbar). It should display an "EN", "FR", or "SA" icon depending on your input language.
2. Choose **Sanskrit (India)** from the menu and start typing.

Setup: Mac OSX

Installing the Devanāgarī-QWERTY Keyboard

1. Open **System Preferences** and click **International**.
2. Click **Input Menu**.
3. Select the checkbox next to "Devanāgarī-QWERTY".
4. Select the "Show input menu in menu bar" checkbox.

To switch between keyboard layouts in Mac OSX:

1. Click the **Input Menu** icon (international symbol) in the upper-right corner of the menu bar.
2. Choose "Devanāgarī-QWERTY" from the menu and start typing.

Keyboard layout character map

Below is a complete map of the Devanāgarī-QWERTY keyboard layout with every possible combination of keys:

Windows/Mac: Base Keyboard Layout

ॐ	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	०	-	=	Backspace
Tab	ँ	अ	े	र	त	य	ु	ि	ो	प	०	र०	ो
Caps	ा	स	द	्	ग	ह	ज	क	ल	;	'	Return	
Shift	इ	ष	च	व	ब	न	म	,	।	/	Shift		
Control	Alt	SP										Alt	Control

Windows/Mac: Shift

ऐ	!	@	#	\$	%	^	&	*	()	_	+	Backspace
Tab	ँ	आ	ै	ृ	थ	य	्र	ी	ौ	फ	[]	ओ
Caps	ा	श	ध	ः	घ	:	झ	ख	ळ	:	"		Return
Shift	ँ	क्ष	छ		भ	ण	ं	<	>	?			Shift
Control	Alt							SP				Alt	Control

Windows: Ctrl+Alt / (Right-Alt)**Mac: Option**

`	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	_	=	Backspace
Tab	ँ		ए	ऋ	ट	य	उ	इ	ओ		[]	\
Caps	अ	श्च	ड				ज्ञ		ळ	;	'		Return
Shift							ञ	ँ		.			Shift
Control	Alt											Alt	Control

Windows: Shift+Ctrl+Alt / Shift+(Right-Alt)**Mac: Shift+Option**

~	...	©	®	™	'	'	-	•	—	×	-	+	Backspace
Tab	ऑ		ऐ	र	ठ		ऊ	ई	औ		{	}	
Caps	आ	ष	ढ							:	"		Return
Shift	ओ						त्त			॥			Shift
Control	Alt											Alt	Control

Windows/Mac: (Caps Lock On)

`	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	-	=	Backspace
Tab	q	w	e	r	t	y	u	i	o	p	[]	\
Caps	a	s	d	f	g	h	j	k	l	;	'	Return	
Shift		z	x	c	v	b	n	m	,	.	/	Shift	
Control	Alt	SP										Alt	Control

Windows/Mac: Shift (Caps Lock On)

~	!	@	#	\$	%	^	&	*	()	_	+	Backspace
Tab	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	{	}	
Caps	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	:	"	Return	
Shift	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	<	>	?	Shift		
Control	Alt	S P										Alt	Control