

Hanákana

Lance Pollard

Every time you start to learn a new language, unless you are born speaking it natively, you have to learn how it is written. This takes an enormous amount of effort, days if not weeks. Even if the language uses the Latin alphabet, there are subtle variations in its usage that make it impossible to imply the rules you learned in English to reading Chinese Pinyin or IAST Sanskrit. According to traditional methodology, this is part of the sludge that you must work through in order to get to learning words, and ultimately how to speak a language.

The real secret to learning languages, however, is that there is no need to learn how it is written. All languages use the same basic sounds allowed by the human mouth and vocal chords, in order to construct their words and ultimately to express their information. They may have slight variations on some fundamental sound building blocks, but there are only about 32 very obvious sounds which differ significantly in their quality. You can double that count as a rough estimate for how many sound variations there are (not including tones). Learning just those 60 or 70 sounds is all you need to learn any language in the world. You don't need to learn their writing system or a new Romanization scheme.

Learning to pronounce words is not hard. It does not take weeks of dedicated learning. It takes what we will suggest is only one day of learning the writing system outlined in this book. Once you learn that, you can pick up any Hanákana dictionary for any language on Earth and instantly be able to pronounce those words in the foreign language. From there you can go on to the real difficult task of language learning, learning the grammar. But learning how to pronounce the words does not require learning how to read the language.

This book is a reference guide to the Hanákana writing system, the solution to this problem of learning to pronounce words in any language. In a way it is similar to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), but it is not as technical. Hanákana does not aim to be the standard for representing exact linguistic utterances. Instead it aims to be a common ground that covers 99% of speaking use cases of any language on Earth, so that you can read, write, and pronounce them with ease.

It begins with the 22 basic consonants, followed by the 10 common verbs, for a total of 32 primitive sound forms. It then goes into the rest of the sound variations and the clicks and silences that give you the full spectrum of human vocal sounds. Once you finish this book, which can be done in one sitting in a day, you will be able to read and write and pronounce any language in the world that you choose.

Note that there are only 3 core symbol forms, the "n" shape, the "m" shape, and the "s" shape. From these we add tails, dots, and arcs to get the sound variations. Knowing this is all you need to know to memorize how to write the language. Mapping the sounds to the letter shapes is what the rest of this book is about.

၇

၈

၉

ጠሀን

mun

The moon in English

ጠፎር

mek

To make in English

ጠፎኔ

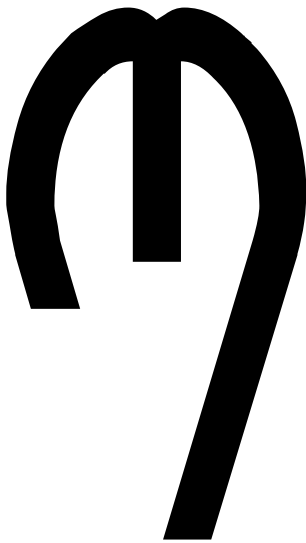
mex

To mesh in English

ጠፈረ

mold

To mold something in English



This symbol is pronounced by closing the lips and making sound subtly through your nose. This is the "m" sound in English.

ገጋፎ

not

A note in English

ገጻፍፎ

nəst

A nest in English

ገሠሮ

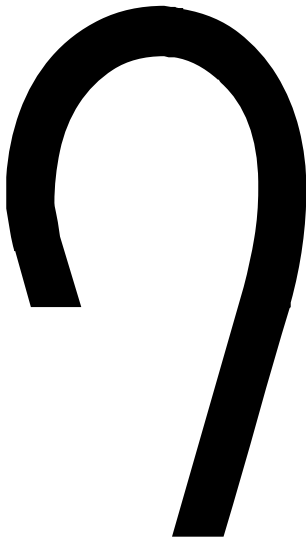
nid

To need in English

ገጋሠጓ

noiz

Noise in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting your tongue on the roof of your hard palette near your teeth, and making the sound subtly through your nose. This is the "n" sound in English.

ᠷᠢᠭ

riq

To ring in English

ᠠ

qa

I in Tibetan

ᠰᠢᠭᠢᠭ

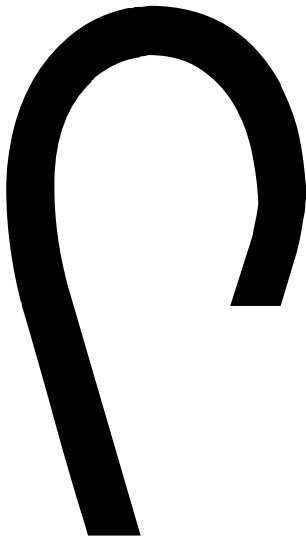
siqiq

Singing in English

ᠠᠷᠲᠢ

qrti

To understand in Indonesian



This symbol is pronounced by putting the back of tongue on the roof of your throat, like you are swallowing, and making the sound subtly through your nose. This is the "ng" sound in English.

ጎር

gad

God in English

ጎጤ

gem

Game in English

ጎረቤት

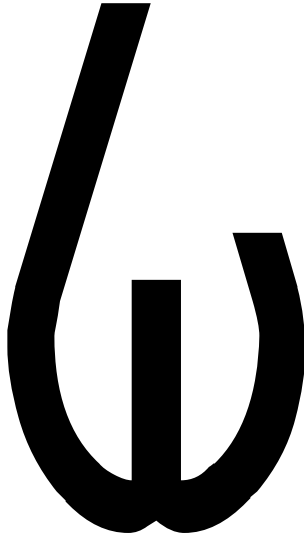
grin

Green in English

ፍጋ

fig

Fig (the fruit) in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting the back of your tongue on the roof of your throat quickly, with your voice. This is the "g" sound in English.

ᐃᓯᐱᓂ

drim

A dream in English

ᐃᓯᓯ

dark

The dark in English

ᐃᓯᓂ

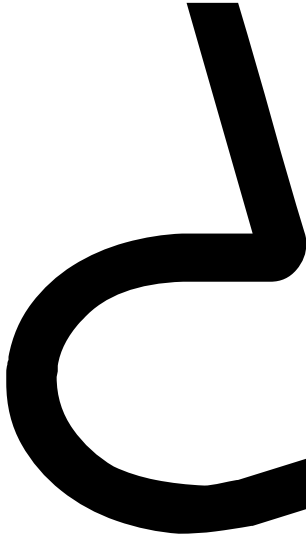
dan

Dawn in English

ᐃᓯᓂᓂ

drum

Drum in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting the tip of the tongue on the roof of your hard palette behind your teeth quickly, with your voice. This is the "d" sound in English.

ᐆᓃᓴ

bok

A book in English

ᐆᐅᐆᐅ

bīd

To build in English

ᐆᓴᐅ

bųg

A bug in English

ᐆᐅᐅᓃᓃ

bitx

The beach in English

A large, bold, black lowercase letter 'b' is centered on a white background. The letter is thick and has a slight shadow, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

This symbol is pronounced by putting your lips together quickly and releasing, with your voice. This is the "b" sound in English.

ᖅᕈᕐᕐ

pitx

A peach in English

ᖅᕈᕐᕐ

pre

To pray in English

ᖅᕈᕐᕐᕐᕐ

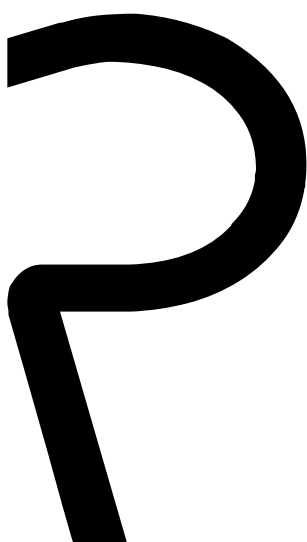
sport

A sport in English

ᖅᕈᕐᕐ

plap

To plop in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting your lips together quickly and releasing, without your voice. This is the "p" sound in English.

Էադ

tim

The team in English

ՔՏԷԷդՆՆ

pʉténxl

Potential in English

ԹՆՐԷ

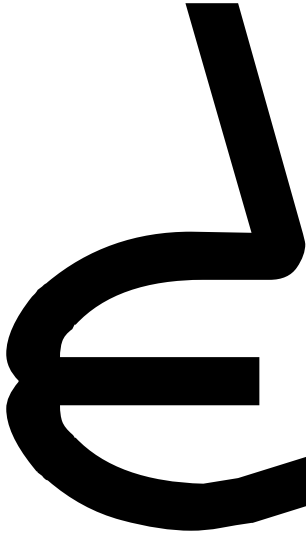
heart

Heart in English

ԷՐԷՆ

trel

A trail in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting the tip of the tongue on the roof of your hard palette behind your teeth quickly, without your voice. This is the "t" sound in English.

ᑭᑦᑭ

kiz

Keys in English

ᑭᑭᑦᑭ

skai

The sky in English

ᑭᑭᑭᑭ

brek

To break in English

ᑭᑭᑭᑭ

klik

To click in English

9

This symbol is pronounced by putting the back of your tongue on the roof of your throat quickly, without your voice. This is the "k" sound in English.

ᲞႈᲗᲐ

hint

A hint in English

ᲞᲕᲐᲕᲗᲗᲗᲐᲗᲐᲗ

hyumānḡti

Humanity in English

ᲞᲗᲐ

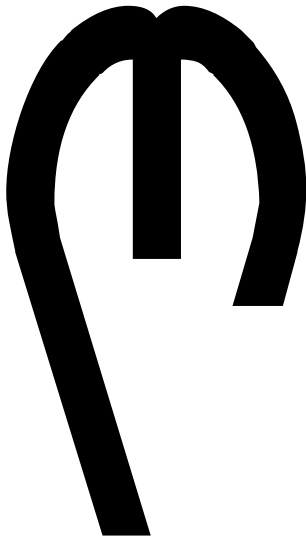
hai

Hi in English

ᲞᲗᲞᲗᲗᲗ

prḡaps

Perhaps in English



This symbol is pronounced by breathing silently without voice or blocking the flow of air. This is the "h" sound in English.

slip

slip

To sleep in English

tas

tas

Toss in English

pasubiluti

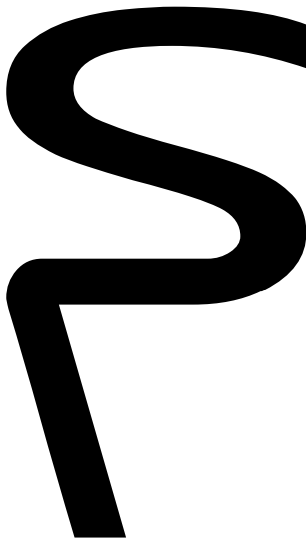
pasubiluti

Possability in English

si

si

To see in English

A large, bold, black letter 'S' is centered on the page. The letter is thick and has a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance.

This symbol is pronounced by breathing silently without voice or blocking the flow of air, while tightening the middle of your tongue to the hard palette of your mouth. This is the "s" sound in English.

፻፲፱

fri

Free in English

፱፻፳፻

inuf

Enough in English

፻፲፱፻

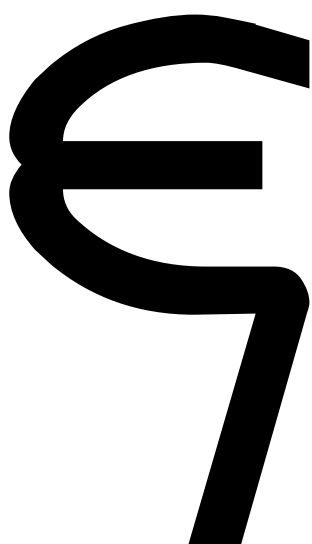
fair

Fire in English

፻፲፱፻፳፻

snoflek

Snowflake in English



This symbol is pronounced by breathing silently without voice or blocking the flow of air, while pressing your top teeth to your lower lip on the inside. This is the "f" sound in English.

ՆՈՎՆ

vaib

Vibe in English

ԴՐՆՈՂՏ

nrvánų

Nirvana in English

ՆՐԵՆԿՍ

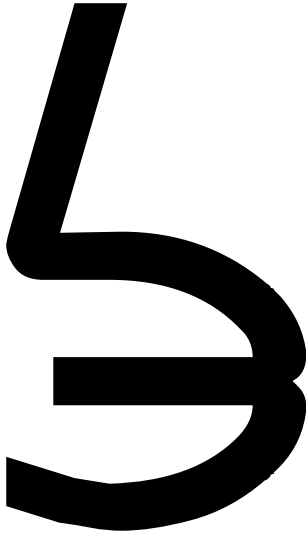
vrtxyu

Virtue in English

ԼՏՆ

lųv

Love in English



This symbol is pronounced by breathing with voice but blocking the flow of air, while pressing your top teeth to your lower lip on the inside. This is the "v" sound in English.

զշո

zon

Zone in English

Կրէշ

grez

To graze in English

Ժրշշ

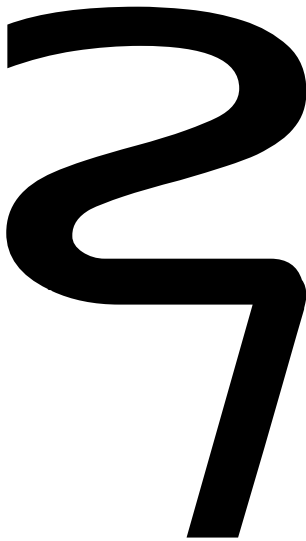
drizl

To drizzle in English

շս

zu

Zoo in English



This symbol is pronounced by with your voice by sort of
clenching your teeth and letting air out above your tongue.
This is the "z" sound in English.

ყელა

yelo

Yellow in English

პლაჟი

plaiyú

The beach in Spanish

კაიაკი

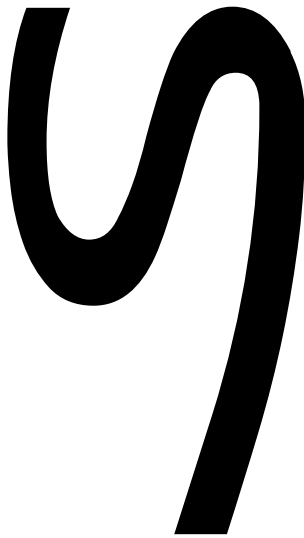
kaiyak

Kayak in English

ჟეს

yēs

Yes in English



This symbol is pronounced by with your voice without clenching your teeth and pushing your tongue toward the roof of your mouth yet letting air out above it. This is the "y" sound in English.

ወጋካሮ

wɪnd

Wind in English

ኔባኛወሾሮኛ

bəkwɜːds

Backwards in English

ወሾኛ

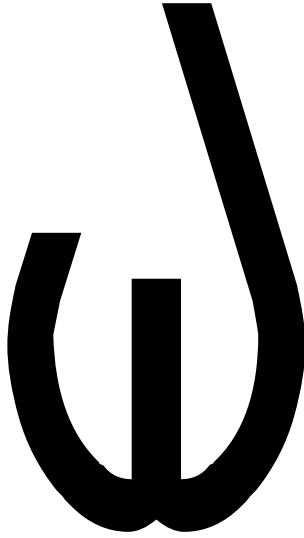
wɜːk

Work in English

ወሎወ

wai

Why in English



This symbol is pronounced by turning your lips into a tight circle and sweeping air through it as it morphs into the next vowel. This is the "w" sound in English.

Տարհ

ciqk

Think in English

Մաճաղ

wıçın

Within in English

Կնոցհաճ

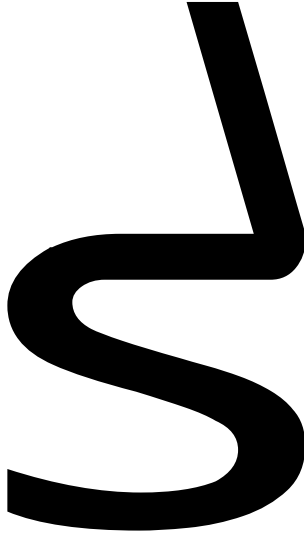
bląksmıç

Blacksmith in English

Տըշս

crou

Throw in English



This symbol is pronounced by putting your tongue up slightly in between your teeth and pushing air through them. This is the voiceless "th" sound in English.

ᖃᖅ

xip

Ship in English

ᖃᖅᖅ

oxin

Ocean in English

ᖃᖅᖅᖅᖅ

florix

Flourish in English

ᖃᖅ

xo

Show in English

ś

This symbol is pronounced by pressing air between your tongue and the top of the back of your teeth, like the sound of rushing water. This is the voiceless "sh" sound in English.

րաՇ

rid

Read in English

բշրՅՅր

foręvr

Forever in English

րսՆ

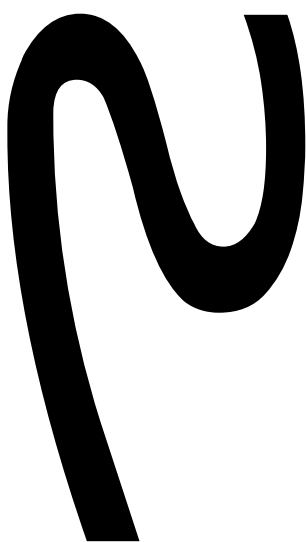
rul

Rule in English

ռՏդԷր

huntr

Hunter in English



This symbol is pronounced by curling your tongue slightly and letting air flow smoothly out of your mouth. This is the "r" sound in English.

ԼՏԵ

luy

Love in English

ՖաՆ

fil

To feel in English

ՖշՆԸ

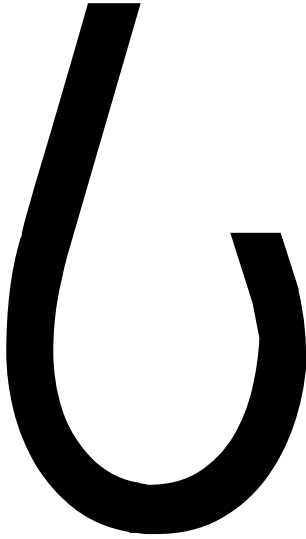
fold

Fold in English

ԼԱՐԳ

liqk

Link in English



This symbol is pronounced by pressing the tip of your tongue firmly on the front roof of your mouth and breathing air smoothly out of your mouth. This is the "l" sound in English.

ኒጻገ

çen

Then in English

ፍጥረት

kloç

To clothe in English

ՅԷԿԿԱՐՍՍ

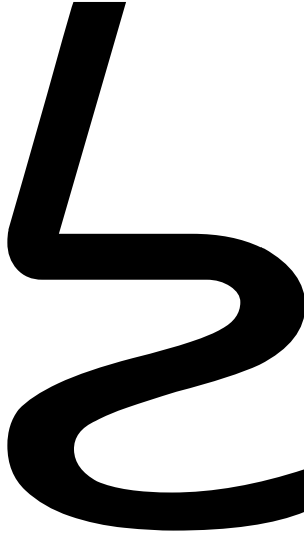
ęc'kuruu

Remember in Arabic

სტუდენტები

uci'b

A wolf in Arabic



This symbol is pronounced by putting your tongue up slightly in between your teeth and pushing air through them. This is the voiced "th" sound in English.

ᐃᐅᐳᑦ

djok

A joke in English

ᐃᐅᐳᑦ

męjr

To measure in English

ᑭᑭᐃᐅ

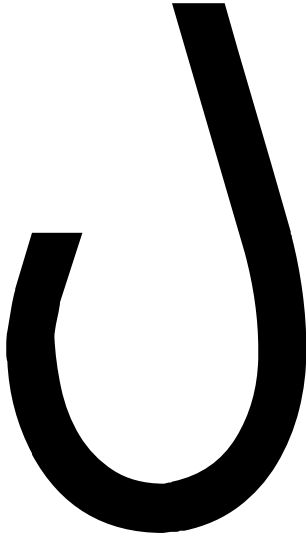
srdj

Surge in English

ᐃᐅᐳᑦ

djẹm

Gem in English



This symbol is pronounced by pressing air between your tongue and the top of the back of your teeth, like the sound of rushing water. This is the voiced "j" sound in English.

᠑ᠠᠳᠴ

fɪd

Smoke of a fire in Navajo

᠒ᠠᠩᠰᠡᠨᠠᠰ

nɪftx'i

Wind, air, gas, or spirit in Navajo

᠑ᠵᠵᠠ

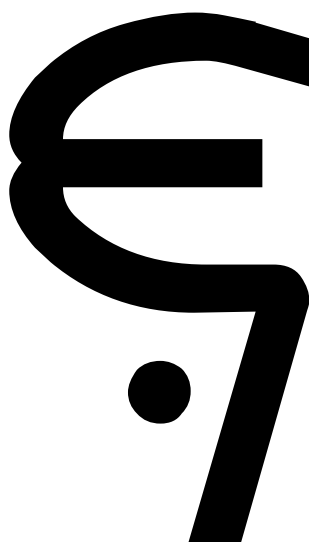
fôô'

A fish (as in a fish in the water) in Navajo

᠑ᠡᠬᠡᠰᠵᠢᠰ

fê'êtsoh

Rat (as in a rodent) in Navajo



This symbol is pronounced by putting the tip of your tongue on the arch of your hard palette, and breathing the "l" sound through the sides of your tongue. This is the Navajo "ł" sound.

ἰἶἶἶἶἶἶ

jaala

To eat in Zulu

ἠἰἰἰἠἠἠἠ

ijoji

Ancestral spirit in Zulu

ἠἡἰἡἡἡἡἡἡ

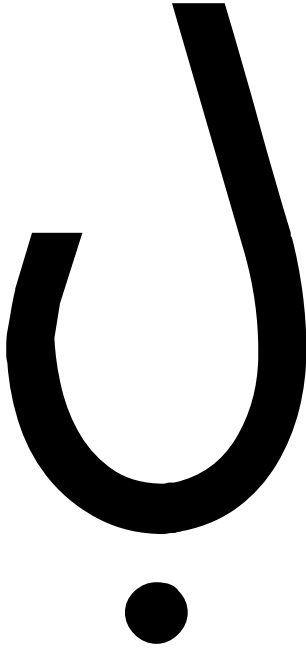
injebe

Ear in Zulu

ἠἰἶἶἠἠἠἠ

ijaka

Loincloth in Zulu



This symbol is pronounced by putting the tip of your tongue on the arch of your hard palette, and breathing the "l" sound through the sides of your tongue with your voice. This is the Zulu "dl" sound.

ՀՀԹԵՆՆ

k̶hela

To adapt in Xhosa

ՀՀԹՈՊՊՆ

k̶hama

To bear fruit in Xhosa

ՆՀԹԱՆՆ

g̶khiba

To complete in Xhosa

ՀՀԹՍՆՆ

k̶huba

To drive in Xhosa



This is a click sound like making an "l" shape in your mouth,
but letting it snap down like a clock tick.

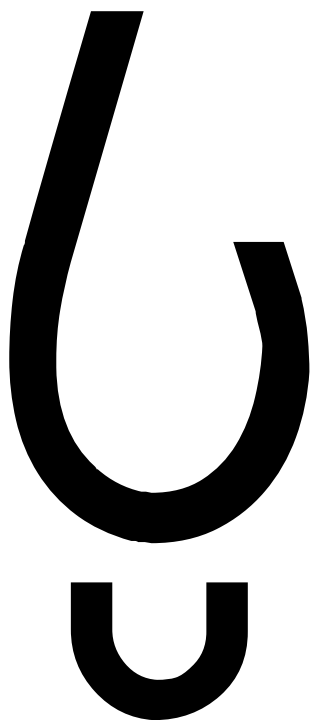
q!hi

q!hola

g!heka

g!huma

To jump in Xhosa



This is a click sound like making sucking sound.

ᛖᛞᚱᛖ

ᛞᛖore

To prophesize in Khoekhoe

ᛖᛞᛖᛖᛚ

ᛞᛖheta

To be happy in Hadza

ᛚᛖᛞᛞᛚᛚᛚ

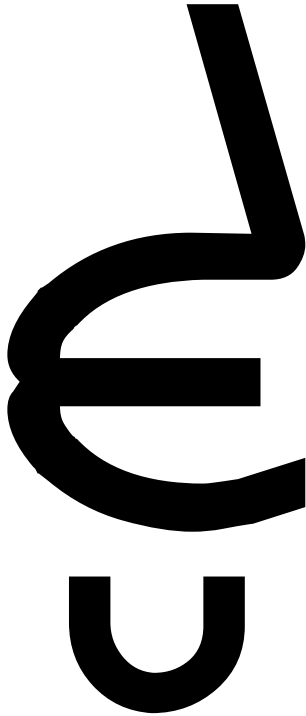
gᛞᛖhina

To end in Zulu

ᛚᛖᛞᛞᚱᛚᛚᛚ

gᛞᛖhona

To make fun of in Zulu



This is a click sound like making sucking sound with your t shaped mouth.

ጥንታዊ

křořo

To dream in !Xóõ

ᠭᠣᠷ᠎ᠠ

kp̣ôu

Wild cat in !Xóõ

հրշոմնվե

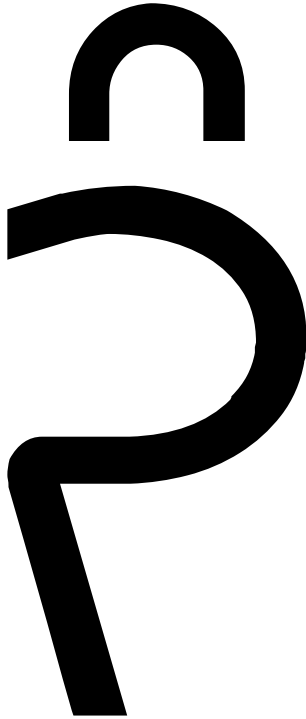
'qřaǎje

Tree in !Xóõ

სწავლა

gǝkḥǎna

To make fire with sticks in !Xóõ



This is a click sound like making popping sound with your lips.

սհշ

u'o

Uh-oh in English

न्हॆ॑अ॒

a'fəl

Dark in Hebrew

ᐃᐱᐃᐱᐱ

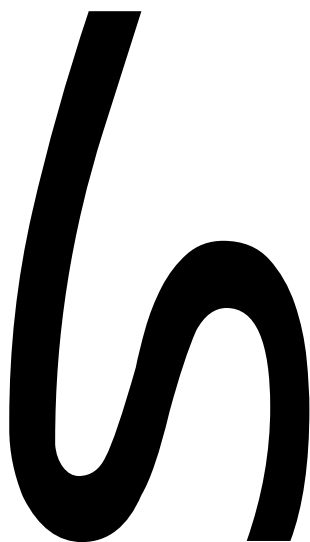
tiv'ii

Natural in Hebrew

ᐃᐱᐱᐱᐱ

ragu'a

Calm in Hebrew



This is the blocking of a sound.

amr

Immortality in Sanskrit

lr

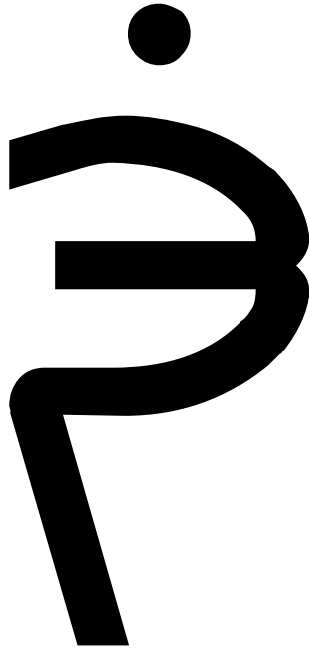
A mother in Sanskrit

djr

To excel in Sanskrit

r

A sage in Sanskrit



This is the r sound where you put the tip of your tongue on the highest part of the ridge in the middle of your mouth while you say it. It is the Indian "r" sound.

मीमांसा

miimaamsaa

Critical investigation or reflection in Sanskrit

संज्ञा

saṁjnyaa

Perception in Sanskrit

संसार

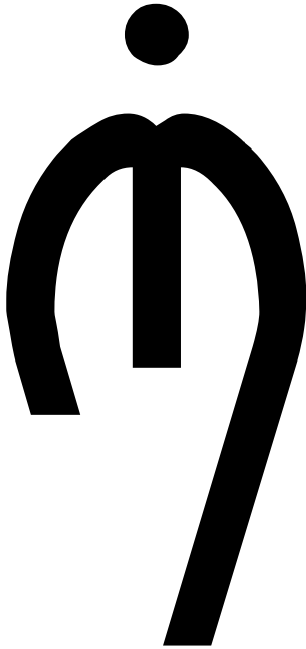
saṁsaara

The world in Sanskrit

पुंस

pums

A human being in Sanskrit



This is the nasal Indian "m" sound.

ज्ञ

ṇa

Knowledge in Sanskrit

ज्जुर्ण

djuurṇi

A blaze in Sanskrit

ननरुर्ण

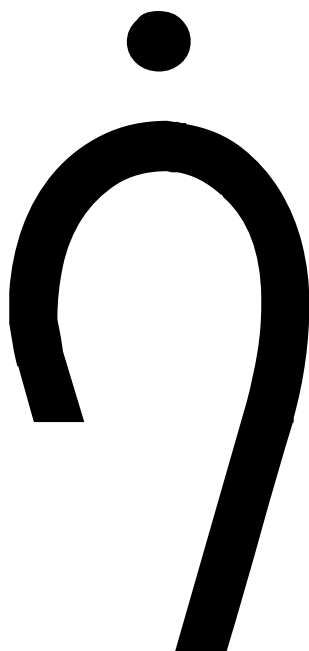
aaraṇa

Depth in Sanskrit

ज्ञा

ṇii

To get in Sanskrit



This is the retroflex Indian "n" sound, where you say the "n" sound with the tip of your tongue high up on the roof of your mouth.

ՆՍԸԹՈՆ

ᵝudha

Holy in Sanskrit

ՆԱՅՆ

ᵝiva

The great god in Sanskrit

ՆԿՆՐ

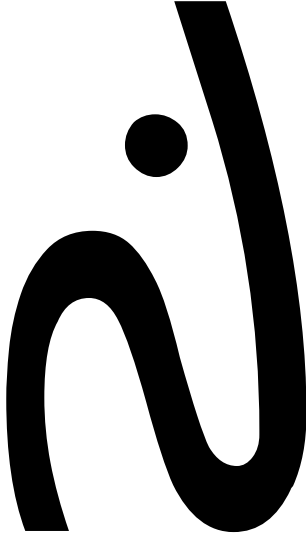
ᵝyâq

Fragrant in Chinese

ՆԿՆՆՆՐ

ᵝyâăâq

To enjoy in Chinese



This is the Chinese or Indian "sh" sound.

अक्ष

akṣa

Sense organ in Sanskrit

आपि

aapi

To touch in Sanskrit

र

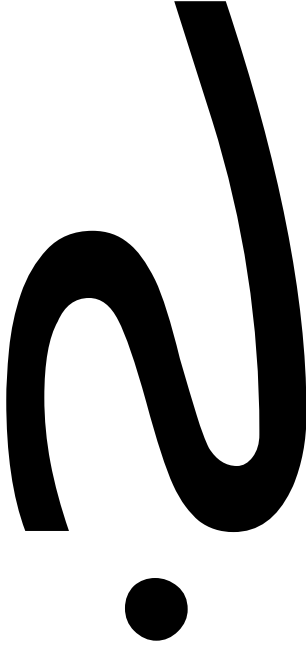
r

To glow in Sanskrit

परुष

paruṣ

A cockroach in Sanskrit



This is the Indian retroflex "sh" sound.