

Transliteration and Pronunciation Guide

In the book, Devanāgarī characters are transliterated according to the scheme adopted by the International Congress of Orientalists at Athens in 1912. In it one fixed pronunciation value is given to each letter; f, q, w, x and z are not called to use. According to this scheme:

Devanāgarī	Translit- eration	Sounds Like	Devanāgarī	Translit- eration	Sounds Like
अ	a	son	द	dh	adhesive*
आ	ā	f <u>a</u> ther	ण	ṇ	u <u>n</u> der*
इ	i	different	त	t	ṭ <u>a</u> bla
ई	ī	f <u>ee</u> l	थ	th	ṭ <u>h</u> umb
उ	u	f <u>u</u> ll	द	d	ṭ <u>h</u> is
ऊ	ū	b <u>oo</u> t	घ	dh	G <u>a</u> nd <u>h</u> i
ऋ	r̥	rhythm*	न	n	n <u>o</u> se
ॠ	r̄	**	प	p	p <u>e</u> n
ल	l	**	फ	ph	p <u>h</u> antom*
ए	e	ev <u>a</u> de	ब	b	b <u>o</u> il
ऐ	ai	del <u>i</u> ght	भ	bh	ab <u>h</u> or
ओ	o	c <u>o</u> re	म	m	m <u>i</u> nd
औ	au	n <u>o</u> w	य	y	y <u>e</u> s
क्	k	c <u>a</u> lm	र	r	r <u>i</u> ght
ख	kh	k <u>h</u> an	ल	l	l <u>o</u> ve
ग	g	g <u>a</u> te	व	v	v <u>e</u> ry
घ	gh	g <u>h</u> ost	श	ś	sh <u>u</u> t
ङ	ṅ	an <u>k</u> le*	ष	ṣ	sug <u>a</u> r
च	c	ch <u>u</u> ckle	स	s	s <u>i</u> mple
छ	ch	w <u>i</u> ch*	ह	h	h <u>a</u> ppy
ज	j	ju <u>s</u> tice	ॠ	m̐	im <u>p</u> ro <u>v</u> ise
झ	jh	l <u>h</u> ansi	ः	ḥ	**
ञ	ñ	ban <u>y</u> an	क्ष	kṣ	ac <u>t</u> ion
ट	ṭ	ṭ <u>a</u> nk	त्र	tr	ṭ <u>h</u> ree*
ठ	ṭh	**	ज्ञ	jñ	gn <u>o</u> sis
ड	ḍ	d <u>o</u> g	ऽ	ˆ	a silent 'a'

* These letters don't have an exact English equivalent. An approximation is given here.

** These sounds cannot be approximated in English words.