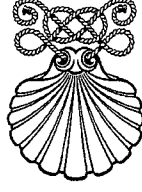


SANSKRIT

An Introductory Course from Year 7





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Draft in progress: August 2014

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>The Sanskrit Alphabet and its Pronunciation</i>	vii
CHAPTER 1 — The Sanskrit Alphabet	1
1.1 The Families of Sounds	1
1.2 The अ (Throat) Family	2
1.3 The इ (Soft Palate) Family	3
1.4 The ए (Hard Palate) Family	4
1.5 The लृ (Teeth) Family	5
1.6 The उ (Lips) Family	7
1.7 Vocabulary 1	8
CHAPTER 2 — Combining Consonants and Vowels	11
2.1 Consonants and Short Vowels	11
2.2 Vocabulary 2	12
2.3 Long Vowels	13
2.4 Consonants and Long Vowels	14
2.5 Vocabulary 3	16
2.6 Diphthongs	17
2.7 Consonants and Diphthongs	17
2.8 Vocabulary 4	19
2.9 Revision Exercises	20

CHAPTER 3 — Consonant Combinations	22
3.1 <i>Halantas</i>	22
3.2 Vocabulary 5	23
3.3 <i>Halantas</i> in the Middle of a Word	25
3.4 Combined Consonants	26
3.5 Vocabulary 6	27
3.6 ‘Double-Decker’ Combined Consonants	28
3.7 Vocabulary 7	29
3.8 <i>Halanta</i> Consonants with ऋ — the ‘Leg’	30
3.9 <i>Halanta</i> ऋ with Consonants — the ‘Hook’	32
3.10 Vocabulary 8	33
3.11 Special Combinations	34
3.12 Vocabulary 9	36
3.13 Revision Exercises	36
3.14 <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> Story 1 — The Royal Household	39
CHAPTER 4 — The Sanskrit Sentence 1	41
4.1 Nouns	41
4.2 Verbs	41
4.3 The Basic Sanskrit Sentence	42
4.4 The Object	43
4.5 The Object in Sanskrit	44
4.6 Translating a Sentence that Contains the Object	45
4.7 Adjectives	46
4.8 Vocabulary 10	46
4.9 Agreement between Adjectives and Nouns	47
4.10 <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> Story 2 — Rāma Slays Demoness Tātakā	49
CHAPTER 5 — The Sanskrit Sentence 2:	
Vocative and Instrumental	51
5.1 Vocabulary 11	51
5.2 The Vocative	51
5.3 The Vocative in Sanskrit	52
5.4 The Instrumental	54
5.5 The Instrumental in Sanskrit	55
5.6 Special Use of the Instrumental with सह	57
5.7 <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> Story 3 — Rāma Receives a Weapon	58

CHAPTER 6 — The Sanskrit Sentence 3:	
Dative and Ablative	60
6.1 Vocabulary 12	60
6.2 The Dative	60
6.3 The Dative in Sanskrit	61
6.4 Using the Dative with नमति ('bows')	63
6.5 The Ablative	64
6.6 The Ablative in Sanskrit	65
6.7 <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> Story 4 — Rāma Marries Sītā	67
CHAPTER 7 — The Sanskrit Sentence 4:	
Genitive and Locative	69
7.1 Vocabulary 13	69
7.2 The Genitive	69
7.3 The Genitive in Sanskrit	70
7.4 Special Use of the Genitive — 'To Have'	72
7.5 The Locative	73
7.6 The Locative in Sanskrit	74
7.7 <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> Story 5 — Kaikeyī Demands Her Wish	76
CHAPTER 8 — The Singular Forms of Rāma, Sītā and 'mitram'	78
8.1 Vocabulary 14	78
8.2 The Singular Forms of Rāma	78
8.3 Masculine and Feminine Words	80
8.4 Feminine Words in Sanskrit	81
8.5 Neuter Words	84
8.6 Neuter Words in Sanskrit	85
8.7 <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> Story 6 — Rāvaṇa's Sister is Mutilated	89
CHAPTER 9 — Dual Nouns and Verbs	90
9.1 Vocabulary 15	90
9.2 The Dual	90
9.3 The Dual of Masculine Words like Rāma	91
9.4 The Dual of Feminine and Neuter Words	92
9.5 Singular Verbs	94
9.6 Dual Verbs	95
9.7 Subject–Verb Agreement	96
9.8 <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> Story 7 — Rāvaṇa Kidnaps Sītā	99

CHAPTER 10 — Plural Nouns and Verbs	101
10.1 Vocabulary 16	101
10.2 The Plural	101
10.3 The Plural of Masculines like Rāma	102
10.4 The Plural of Feminine and Neuter Words	104
10.5 The Use of च ('and')	107
10.6 Plural Verbs	108
10.7 Subject–Verb Agreement	110
10.8 The Use of इति after Speech	112
10.9 Rāmāyaṇa Story 8 — Hanumān Finds Sītā	113

CHAPTER 11 — Present, Future and Past	115
11.1 Vocabulary 17	115
11.2 Person	115
11.3 Conjugation of the Present Tense	116
11.4 Translation of Verbs	117
11.5 The Three Tenses	118
11.6 The Future Tense	119
11.7 Unusual Future Forms	122
11.8 The Past Tense	123
11.9 The Present and Past Tenses of अस्ति	127
11.10 The Usage of अस्ति	128
11.11 Rāmāyaṇa Story 9 — Hanumān Reports Back To Rāma	130

CHAPTER 12 — Other Areas of Grammar	132
12.1 Vocabulary 18	132
12.2 The Pronoun तत् ('that') in the Neuter	133
12.3 The Masculine Forms of तत्	134
12.4 The Feminine Forms of तत्	135
12.5 तत् + Noun	136
12.6 The -त्वा Ending	138
12.7 Prefixes	139
12.8 Prefixes in Sanskrit	140
12.9 When there is -य instead of -त्वा	141
12.10 Commands	142
12.11 Rāmāyaṇa Story 10 — Rāma Kills Rāvaṇa	144

APPENDICES

1. English - Sanskrit Vocabulary	146
2. Sanskrit - English IGCSE Vocabulary	149

The Sanskrit Alphabet and its Pronunciation

अ	a	as in	approach	ढ	ḍha	as in	godhood*
आ	ā	as in	star	ण	ṇa	as in	under*
इ	i	as in	if	त	ta	as in	table
ई	ī	as in	feel	थ	tha	as in	anthill
उ	u	as in	book	द	da	as in	day
ऊ	ū	as in	food	ध	dha	as in	godhead
ऋ	ṛ	A sound made with the tip of the tongue raised but not quite touching the roof of the mouth (something like the ri in 'ring').		न	na	as in	no
ए	e	as in	say	प	pa	as in	pure
ऐ	ai	as in	my	फ	pha	as in	loop-hole
ओ	o	as in	home	ब	ba	as in	baby
औ	au	as in	now	भ	bha	as in	abhor
क	ka	as in	kite	म	ma	as in	mother
ख	kha	as in	block-head	य	ya	as in	yellow
ग	ga	as in	gate	र	ra	as in	rosy*
घ	gha	as in	log-hut	ल	la	as in	lady
ङ	ṅa	as in	long	व	va	as in	awake
च	ca	as in	chalk	श	śa	as in	shall
छ	cha	as in	catch him	ष	ṣa	as in	show*
ज	ja	as in	jug	स	sa	as in	slug
झ	jha	as in	hedgehog	ह	ha	as in	heaven
ञ	ña	as in	cringe	.	ṁ	as in a pure nasal	
ट	ṭa	as in	take*	:	ḥ	as in an exhaled breath	
ठ	ṭha	as in	anthill*				
ड	ḍa	as in	do*				

* with the tongue raised to the roof of the mouth

1. THE SANSKRIT ALPHABET

1.1 The Families of Sounds

The Sanskrit alphabet has groups or families of letters which are set out below. The table shows the range of sounds that the human mouth can make.

	The Throat Family	The Soft-Palate Family	The Hard-Palate Family	The Teeth Family	The Lips Family
VOWEL	अ a	इ i	ऋ ṛ	लृ ḷ	उ u
HARD (produced without using the vocal chords)	क ka	च ca	ट ṭa	त ta	प pa
HARD + BREATH	ख kha	छ cha	ठ ṭha	थ tha	फ pha
SOFT (produced by using the vocal chords)	ग ga	ज ja	ड ḍa	ढ ḍha	ब ba
SOFT + BREATH	घ gha	झ jha	ढ ḍha	ध dha	भ bha
NASAL (sound produced through the nose)	ङ ṅa	ञ ña	ण ṇa	न na	म ma
SEMI-VOWEL	ह ha	य ya	र ra	ल la	व va
SIBILANT (s-type sound produced with hissing)		श śa	ष ṣa	स sa	

EXERCISE 1

Write the letter that fits the description. Use both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts.

1. lips, vowel
2. soft palate, soft
3. throat, hard + breath
4. hard palate, nasal
5. teeth, sibilant

1.2 The अ (Throat) Family

अ	क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	ह
a	ka	kha	ga	gha	ṅa	ha

EXERCISE 2

Practise writing out each letter five times. Write using both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts.

EXERCISE 3

Practise writing out the अ family in sequence three times. Then, write the अ family sequence once from memory.

EXERCISE 4

Read the following letters:

ह अ क ग ङ ख घ

1.3 The इ (Soft Palate) Family

इ	च	छ	ज	झ	ञ	य	श
i	ca	cha	ja	jha	ña	ya	śa

EXERCISE 5

Practise writing out each letter five times. Write both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts.

EXERCISE 6

Practise writing out the इ family in sequence three times. Then, write it from memory.

EXERCISE 7

Read the following letters from both the अ and इ families:

च ह क अ ग ख श य ह ञ

EXERCISE 8

Write out the अ and इ families together, in sequence.

1.4 The ऋ (Hard Palate) Family

ऋ	ट	ठ	ड	ढ	ण	र	ष
r	ṭa	ṭha	ḍa	ḍha	ṇa	ra	ṣa

EXERCISE 9

Practise writing out each letter five times. Write in both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts.

EXERCISE 10

Practise writing out the ऋ family in sequence three times. Then, write it from memory.

EXERCISE 11

Read the following letters from the three families you have learnt:

ह इ ट छ ण ष घ ड ढ र

EXERCISE 12

Write the following *devanāgarī* letters using Roman script:

1. क
2. श
3. ड
4. ख
5. ठ
6. ऋ
7. ह
8. च
9. य
10. ष

EXERCISE 13

Write out the अ, इ and ऋ families together, in sequence.

1.5 The लृ (Teeth) Family

लृ	त	थ	द	ध	न	ल	स
l̥	ta	tha	da	dha	na	la	sa

EXERCISE 14

Practise writing out each letter five times. Write using both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts.

EXERCISE 15

Using both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts, practise writing out the लृ family in sequence three times. Then, write it from memory.

EXERCISE 16

Read the following sequences of letters from all four families you have learnt:

1. ङ ङ इ
2. च ज ञ न
3. घ ध
4. थ य श
5. ट द ठ

EXERCISE 17

Write the following Roman letters in *devanāgarī*:

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. sa | 6. ta |
| 2. ḷ | 7. la |
| 3. gha | 8. na |
| 4. ḍha | 9. ña |
| 5. cha | 10. ṇa |

EXERCISE 18

Write out the अ, इ, ऋ and लृ families together, in sequence.
Use both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts.

1.6 The उ (Lips) Family

उ	प	फ	ब	भ	म	व
u	pa	pha	ba	bha	ma	va

EXERCISE 19

Practise writing out each letter five times. Use both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts.

EXERCISE 20

Practise writing out the उ family in sequence three times. Then, write it once from memory. Use both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts.

EXERCISE 21

Read the following sequences of letters:

1. व ब ष
2. भ भ म स
3. प फ
4. ख र व स
5. उ ह छ

EXERCISE 22

Write the following Roman letters in the *devanāgarī* script:

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. ma | 6. ya |
| 2. ra | 7. da |
| 3. kha | 8. śa |
| 4. bha | 9. u |
| 5. va | 10. ja |

EXERCISE 23

Write out the whole Sanskrit alphabet from memory, using both the *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts.

1.7 Vocabulary 1

You need to know the starred words both ways.

The two dots (:) are called *visarga* and sound like a breath!

* अचलः mountain

* जनकः father

ऋषभः bull

* रथः chariot

* खगः bird

* नरः man

* गजः elephant

* शरः arrow

गणः group

शशकः rabbit

* जनः person

यमः death

EXERCISE 24

Read the above vocabulary words and copy them into your exercise book.

EXERCISE 25

Without looking at the above list, draw a line to match each Sanskrit word to its English meaning.

जनकः
शशकः
गजः
अचलः
शरः
जनः
रथः
गणः
खगः
ऋषभः
यमः
नरः

arrow
bird
chariot
elephant
father
mountain
death
person
group
man
bull
rabbit

EXERCISE 26

Here are some vocabulary words that you have learnt. They are printed in the *devanāgarī* script. Write each word using the Roman script. Then, translate into English.

For example: नरः naraḥ, man

Note that the visarga (:) is 'ḥ' in Roman script.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. खगः | 6. जनः |
| 2. गजः | 7. यमः |
| 3. अचलः | 8. ऋषभः |
| 4. रथः | 9. गणः |
| 5. शशकः | 10. शरः |

2. COMBINING CONSONANTS AND VOWELS

2.1 Consonants with Short Vowels

All consonants of the Sanskrit alphabet can be combined with the vowels अ, इ, उ or ऋ. For example:

अ	इ	उ	ऋ
a	i	u	ṛ
क	कि	कु	कृ
ka	ki	ku	kr

Exceptions: 1. We do not show any consonants with लृ because the only one that combines with लृ is क, forming कृ. 2. Also, र combines with उ, forming रु.

EXERCISE 27

Write out the above table in both *devanāgarī* and Roman scripts using the following letters: श, त, म and ग.

EXERCISE 28

- (a) Add an इ to each of these two letters:
1. प
 2. स
- (b) Add an उ to each of these two letters:
1. भ
 2. व
- (c) Add a ऋ to each of these two letters:
1. ज
 2. त

EXERCISE 29

Write the following in the *devanāgarī* script:

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. tu | 6. śṛ |
| 2. vi | 7. phi |
| 3. nṛ | 8. ri |
| 4. ṭhu | 9. jṛ |
| 5. ñi | 10. ñu |

2.2 Vocabulary 2

NOUNS

* ऋषिः sage

* कपिः monkey

* नृपः king

* मुनिः sage

* गुरुः teacher

VERBS

* उपविशति sits down

* चरति walks

तुदति hits

* नमति bows

* पतति falls / flies

* पिबति drinks

* भवति becomes

लिखति writes

* वदति speaks / says

EXERCISE 30

Read the above vocabulary words and copy them into your exercise book.

EXERCISE 31

Read the following sentences. Then, write them in Roman script. Finally, translate. For example:

ऋषभः पिबति ।
r̥ṣabhaḥ pibati.
The bull drinks.

1. कपिः पिबति ।
2. नृपः वदति ।
3. नरः नमति ।
4. गुरुः लिखति ।
5. मुनिः उपविशति ।

2.3 Long Vowels

The vowels of the Sanskrit alphabet all have long counterparts. Each long vowel is twice the length of the short one. Thus:

अ	इ	उ	ऋ
a	i	u	r̥
आ	ई	ऊ	ऋ
ā	ī	ū	r̄

EXERCISE 32

Copy the above table into your exercise book.

EXERCISE 33

Fill in the blank on each line with the vowel's short or long counterpart:

1. अ /

2. . . . / ऊ

3. ऋ /

4. इ /

2.4 Consonants and Long Vowels

All consonants of the Sanskrit alphabet can be combined with the long vowels. For example::

आ	ई	ऊ	ऋ
ā	ī	ū	ṛ
का	की	कू	कृ
kā	kī	kū	kṛ

Exception: र combines with ऊ, forming रू.

Thus, we get the following table:

अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ	ऋ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	ṛ	ṛ
क	का	कि	की	कु	कू	कृ	कृ
ka	kā	ki	kī	ku	kū	kṛ	kṛ

EXERCISE 34

Write out the above table. Then, replace क with प and write out a new table.

EXERCISE 35

Write the following in Roman script:

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| 1. ती | 6. घृ |
| 2. नू | 7. मा |
| 3. बा | 8. च |
| 4. शि | 9. णी |
| 5. वृ | 10. गृ |

EXERCISE 36

Write the following in the *devanāgarī* script:

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| 1. ṣū | 6. śā |
| 2. vī | 7. sṛ |
| 3. yi | 8. mi |
| 4. bṛ | 9. da |
| 5. tu | 10. lū |

2.5 Vocabulary 3

NOUNS

* आहारः	food	* नदी	river
ईशः	Lord	* नारी	lady
काकः	crow	नासिका	nose
* जननी	mother	पृथिवी	earth
* तारका	star	* बालकः	boy
दूतः	messenger		

VERBS

* खादति	eats	जीवति	lives
गायति	sings	* ददाति	gives
जानाति	knows	* धावति	runs

EXERCISE 37

Read the above vocabulary words and copy them into your exercise book.

EXERCISE 38


Here are some sentences in Roman script. Write them in *devanāgarī*. Then translate into English. For example: *bālakaḥ dhāvati*.


You write: 'बालकः धावति।' 'The boy runs.'

1. *dūtaḥ dhāvati*.
2. *kākaḥ khādati*.
3. *jananī dadāti*.
4. *guruḥ jānāti*.
5. *nṛpaḥ gāyati*.

2.6 Diphthongs

A diphthong is a combination of two vowels. Sanskrit has four diphthongs — two are a combination of अ and इ, and two are a combination of अ and उ. Thus:

ए	ऐ
e	ai
	
अ	and इ

ओ	औ
o	au
	
अ	and उ

EXERCISE 39

Write each diphthong twice, using both Roman and *devanāgarī* scripts.

2.7 Consonants and Diphthongs

We can also add consonants to diphthongs as in the following:

ए	ऐ	ओ	औ
e	ai	o	au
के	कै	को	कौ
ke	kai	ko	kau

EXERCISE 40

Write out all the above table. Then, in place of क, substitute प and then ग and write the table again using these new letters.

EXERCISE 41

(a) Write the following in Roman script:

1. हौ
2. ते
3. वो
4. नै
5. लो

(b) Write the following in *devanāgarī* script:

1. mo
2. sai
3. khau
4. ɖe
5. cai

2.8 Vocabulary 4

NOUNS

*केशः hair

कोपः anger

*देवः lord, god

देहः body

दोषः fault

मेघः cloud

शोकः grief

*सेना army

*सेवकः servant

*सौदरः brother

*सैनिकः soldier

EXERCISE 42

Read the above words and copy them into your exercise book.

EXERCISE 43

Each of the following sentences is missing a verb. Fill in the blank with one of the verbs you have learnt. Then, translate the sentence. For example:

सौदरः उपविशति । The brother sits down.

1. सौदरः ।

2. सैनिकः ।

3. सेना ।

4. देवः ।

5. ऋषिः ।

2.9 Revision Exercises

EXERCISE 44

Read the following:

पि	ता	ले	मृ	शी	ओ	है	रू	गु	ए
घृ	सृ	ची	ठु	नौ	वे	ड	या	णि	दो

EXERCISE 45

Write the following in Roman script:

1. मे
2. तौ
3. शू
4. खी
5. गृ
6. टि
7. लै
8. भा
9. को
10. हु

EXERCISE 46

Write the following in *devanāgarī* script:

1. ṭhū
2. bo
3. nṛ
4. ñā
5. ṇau
6. ṭṛ
7. ve
8. ghai
9. di
10. pa

EXERCISE 47

Translate the following sentences.

1. खगः पतति ।
2. जननी खादति ।
3. दूतः चरति ।
4. नरः नमति ।
5. शशकः धावति ।

EXERCISE 48

Translate the following English sentences into Sanskrit sentences.

1. The monkey eats.
2. The teacher walks.
3. The elephant gives.
4. The bird flies.
5. The boy speaks.

3. CONSONANT COMBINATIONS

3.1 *Halantas*

A *halanta* is a small diagonal stroke (्) placed after a consonant, cutting off the अ sound. For example:

क	क्
ka	k

म	म्
ma	m

श	श्
śa	ś

प	प्
pa	p

EXERCISE 49

Read the following:

1. त्
2. ल्
3. ण्
4. स्
5. भ्

EXERCISE 50

Put a *halanta* on each of [?? the five letters below. ??] Then, write the *halanta* sound in Roman script. For example:

ग
ग्
ग

1. व
2. द
3. च
4. र
5. न

3.2 Vocabulary 5

NOUNS			
उदरम्	belly	*दानम्	gift
*गगनम्	sky	*फलम्	fruit
*गृहम्	house	*रूपम्	form, beauty
*जलम्	water	*वनम्	forest
तृणम्	grass		

EXERCISE 51

Read the above words and copy them into your exercise book.

EXERCISE 52

Without looking at the above list, draw a line to match each Sanskrit word to its English meaning.

दानम्
रूपम्
उदरम्
गृहम्
तृणम्
गगनम्
जलम्
फलम्
वनम्

grass
fruit
form
water
gift
house
forest
belly
sky

3.3 *Halantas* in the Middle of a Word

When a *halanta* letter is written in the middle of a word, it is written differently. The *halanta* letter loses the small diagonal stroke (्) and also its vertical line. For example:

त्	becomes	त
t		t
श्	becomes	श
ś		ś
च्	becomes	च
c		c

They are still pronounced as a normal letter!

EXERCISE 53

Write the following *halanta* letters in the new way, as if they were in the middle of a word. Then, read them.

1. त्
2. ब्
3. ज्
4. ग्
5. श्
6. प्
7. ण्
8. स्
9. ञ्
10. ख्

3.4 Combined Consonants

We can now add our *halanta* letter to another letter. For example:

स्	with	त	becomes	स्त
s		ta		sta
ष्	with	प	becomes	ष्प
ṣ		pa		ṣpa
न्	with	य	becomes	न्य
n		ya		nya

Note: The first letter loses its downward line and its *halanta* mark, and the second letter remains as it is.

EXERCISE 54

Add the following together. Then, read your answers.

1. श् + व =

6. ष् + प =

2. स् + त =

7. प् + ल =

3. न् + य =

8. न् + त =

4. च् + ह् =

9. ब् + द् =

5. श् + य =

10. स् + त् + य =

EXERCISE 55

Read the following:

अ	अश्	अश्व	अश्वः		
क	कन्	कन्य	कन्या		
ग	गच	गच्छ	गच्छत	गच्छति	
चि	चिन्	चिन्त	चिन्तय	चिन्तयत	चिन्तयति
प	पु	पुष्	पुष्प	पुष्पम्	
म	मत्	मत्स्	मत्स्य	मत्स्यः	
श	शब्	शब्द	शब्दः		
श	शि	शिष्	शिष्य	शिष्यः	
प	पु	पुस्	पुस्त	पुस्तक	पुस्तकम्
अ	अस्	अस्त	अस्ति		

3.5 Vocabulary 6

NOUNS

* अश्वः	horse	* पुस्तकम्	book
* आस्यम्	mouth	* मत्स्यः	fish
कन्या	daughter, girl	शब्दः	sound, voice
* पुष्पम्	flower	* शिष्यः	pupil

VERBS

* अस्ति	is, there is	* चिन्तयति	thinks
* गच्छति	goes	* पश्यति	sees

EXERCISE 56

Read the above vocabulary words and copy them into your exercise book.

3.6 'Double-Decker' Combined Consonants

Some letters cannot combine in the way we have seen because of their shape. Thus, they combine in a different way — they take the 'double-decker' configuration, with the *halanta* letter on the top. For example:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{ङ्} & + & \text{ग} = \text{ङ्ग} \\ \text{ṅ} & & \text{ga} \quad \text{ṅga} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{द} & + & \text{ध} = \text{द्ध} \\ \text{d} & & \text{dha} \quad \text{ddha} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{ष्} & + & \text{ठ} = \text{ष्ठ} \\ \text{ṣ} & & \text{ṭha} \quad \text{ṣṭha} \end{array}$$

EXERCISE 57

Add the following together as 'double-deckers'. Then, read your answers.

1. द् + व =
2. ङ् + क =
3. ष् + ट =
4. द् + भ =
5. क् + क =

EXERCISE 58

Read the following:

अ	अङ्	अङ्ग	अङ्गम्		
उ	उद्	उद्ध	उद्धर	उद्धरति	
उ	उद्	उद्ध	उद्धव	उद्धवति	
द	द्	द्वा	द्वा	द्वार	द्वारम्
त	ति	तिष्	तिष्ठ	तिष्ठति	
कु	कुक्	कुक्कु	कुक्कुर	कुक्कुरः	

3.7 Vocabulary 7

NOUNS			
अङ्गम्	limb	* द्वारम्	door
* कुक्कुरः	dog (also written कुक्कुरः)	* युद्धम्	battle
VERBS			
उद्धरति	lifts	* तिष्ठति	stays, stands
* उद्धवति	arises, is born		

EXERCISE 59

Read the above vocabulary words and copy them into your exercise book.

EXERCISE 60

Translate the following:

1. युद्धम् अस्ति ।
2. कन्या चिन्तयति ।
3. शिष्यः गच्छति ।
4. पुस्तकम् पतति ।
5. मत्स्यः पश्यति ।

3.8 *Halanta* Consonants with र — the ‘Leg’

The letter र (ra) combines in a special way with other letters. When a *halanta* letter is added to र the result is called a ‘leg’. For example:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{प्} & + & \text{र} = \text{प्र} \\ \text{p} & & \text{ra} \quad \text{pra} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{ग्} & + & \text{र} = \text{ग्र} \\ \text{g} & & \text{ra} \quad \text{gra} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{द्} & + & \text{र} = \text{द्र} \\ \text{d} & & \text{ra} \quad \text{dra} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{त्} & + & \text{र} = \text{त्र} \\ \text{t} & & \text{ra} \quad \text{tra} \end{array}$$

EXERCISE 61

Join the following together. Then, read your answers

1. क् + र =

2. ज् + र =

3. स् + र =

4. घ् + र =

5. व् + र =

EXERCISE 62

Read the following:

श	शी	शीघ्	शीघ्र	शीघ्रम्	
प	पु	पुत्	पुत्रः		
ह	ह	हस्	ह्रस्व		
म	म्र	म्री	म्रीय	म्रीयत	म्रीयते
क	क्र	क्रो	क्रोश	क्रोशति	

3.9 Halanta र with Consonants — the ‘Hook’

When a *halanta* र (ra) combines with other letters, it looks like a hook. The resulting combination is read from top to bottom. See these examples:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{र} & + & \text{प} = \text{र्ष} \\ \text{r} & & \text{pa} \quad \text{rpa} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{र} & + & \text{ग} = \text{र्ग} \\ \text{r} & & \text{ga} \quad \text{rga} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{र} & + & \text{द} = \text{र्द} \\ \text{r} & & \text{da} \quad \text{rda} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{र} & + & \text{श} = \text{र्श} \\ \text{r} & & \text{śa} \quad \text{rśa} \end{array}$$

EXERCISE 63

Join the following together. Then, read your answers

1. र + म =

2. र + ब =

3. र + ष =

4. र + क =

5. र + द =

EXERCISE 64

Read the following:

ग	गर्	गर्द	गर्दभः
ध	धर्	धर्मः	
म	मा	मार्	मार्गः
स	सर्	सर्पः	
स	सू	सूर्	सूर्यः

3.10 Vocabulary 8

NOUNS			
* क्रोधः	anger	* भार्या	wife
गर्दभः	donkey	* मार्गः	road
ग्रामः	village	* मित्रम्	friend
* धर्मः	righteousness, justice	* सर्पः	snake
* पुत्रः	son	* सूर्यः	sun
VERBS			
* क्रोशति	cries out	तिष्ठति	stays, stands

EXERCISE 65

Read the above words and copy them into your exercise book.