

Saṃskṛta Paṭha 1

SANSKRIT LESSON 1

BHUMIKA INTRODUCTION

There are twelve main vowels (*swaras*) in the Sanskrit language:

अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ	अं	अः
ă	ā	i	ī	u	ū	ä	a	ō	au	ng	ăḥ
ʌ	ɑ	ɪ	ɪ̄	ʊ	ū	e	æ	o	æw	ŋ	əna

Phonetic sounds produced by these vowels (or *swaras*):

- ✓ ă as in portal
- ā as in fār
- ✓ i as in pin
- ✓ ī as in mē
- ✓ u as in bull
- ✓ ū as in mōve
- ✓ ä as in fāte
- ✓ a as in fat
- ✓ ō as in nōte
- ✓ au as in now
- ng as in sung
- ăḥ as in namăḥ

There are four special vowels. These are very rarely used in modern Sanskrit. They are:

ऋ	ॠ	ऌ	ॡ
ri	rī	li	lī

These vowels (*swaras*) are placed after उ (u) and ऊ (ū) in the original list of the twelve vowels. So they take the full number of sixteen vowels in Sanskrit.

* अ is also written like अ. Therefore forms are also used in writing and printing.

अ आ ओ औ अं अः