

एदितर'इ नोटइ

The system of Romanized Saṅskṛt in this book has been used by almost all Saṅskṛt scholars in the past 70 years. It has been further simplified in this book without losing any details of the original system, in order to make Saṅskṛt more accessible for beginners. The additional marks guide one towards far better pronunciation.

◆ **Red slashes (/)** have been added immediately after every 'dīrgha' (long) syllable. The ugliest and most common mistake that beginners make is to mix up the long and short vowels. This is further complicated by the fact that the existing system is confusing: some long letters (ā, ī & ū) have top-lines above them, but 'e', 'ai', 'o' & 'au', do not have them, even though these four sounds are always long (i.e. there is no short version of these four vowels unlike 'a - ā', 'i - ī' and 'u - ū'). These red slashes thus offer invaluable help to beginners. It also helps to introduce the concept of 'breaks' in the sound after every long vowel, which make the difference between the sounds of long and short vowels. (Please see the course notes at the end of the book for further elaboration).

◆ Letters **underlined in red** indicate that they should be joined together and pronounced as one syllable. In the existing system, the original Saṅskṛt lines are broken into words but those who are expert know how to join them back when chanting the verse. To de-mystify the process for beginners, all such cases have been underlined in red for easy identification.

◆ Lines which end with 'ḥ' are to be pronounced in a special way: the vowel which appears just before it should be repeated softly immediately after it. To make this 'hidden rule' more easy to follow, the vowel appears in brackets in red eg. (a) or (o).

Notes have also been added in **dark grey**. They will be extremely useful to persons who begin to recite from this book every day, especially to those who begin memorizing the sacred verses.

◆ Wherever there are **similar verses elsewhere** in the Gītā the cross reference is given for the student to confer with (cf). See the all-new index of *all four lines* at page 428 - similar lines are in *italics*.

◆ Lines which are printed in *italics* indicate that the same line appears in almost identical form elsewhere in the Gītā.

◆ Whenever the **meter changes** because of sudden changes in the number of lines or the number of syllables, these have been highlighted.

◆ Verses that tend to be **tricky** have been labelled as such.

◆ The **translations** of the Four Seed Verses of the Bhagavad Gītā (Catur Ślokī) have been highlighted in **RED** along with certain verses that are held dear by devotees of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. *Happy Chanting!*

(Future edition of this book will have word-by-word synonyms in recitation format as shown in the sample on Pg 2 of this book along with a full word-by-word index of the Gita)

Dīna-Anukampana Dāsa, Editor

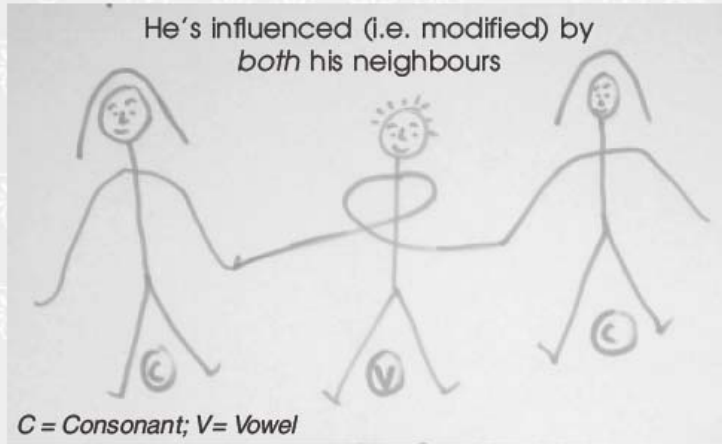
[Śrīmad bhagavad gītā ślokaḥ for daily recitation](#)

* the **I.A.S.T.** – International Alphabet for Sanskrit Transliteration adopted in Athens in 1912 (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IAST>)

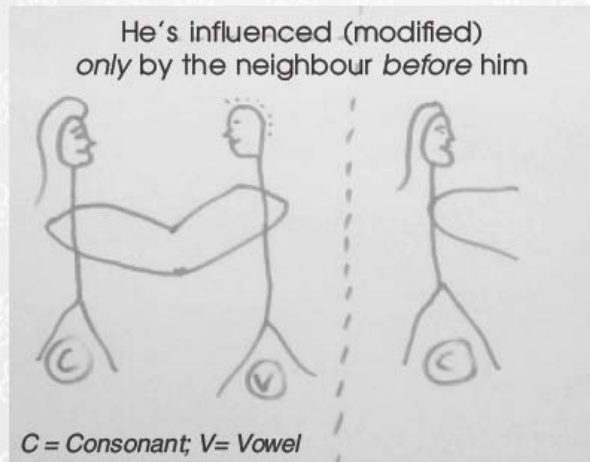
The Concept of 'Breaks' After Loong Vowels

An extract from 'Perfect Sanskr̥t Pronunciation for Beginners'
Course taught by Dīna-Anukampana Dāsa (dinaanu@gmail.com),
author of Śrīmad Bhagavad Gītā Ślokas Book For Daily Recitation

'Shot' Vowels: The Man With 2 Wives



'Loong' Vowels: The Man With Only 1 Wife



'SHOT' 'LOONG'



EACH
VOWEL
LINKS
ITS

NEIGHBOURS

EACH
VOWEL
BREAKS
ITS

NEIGHBOURS

In any language, if a 'loong' vowel is changed to a 'shot' (short) one, the original word cannot be recognized. Therefore we must *consciously* stress the consonant *after* every 'shot' vowel. Similarly, we must place the stress/emphasis *on* the vowel itself when it's a 'loong' one. The mark indicates where to place the stress. (In this book, all 'loong' vowels are marked with /.)

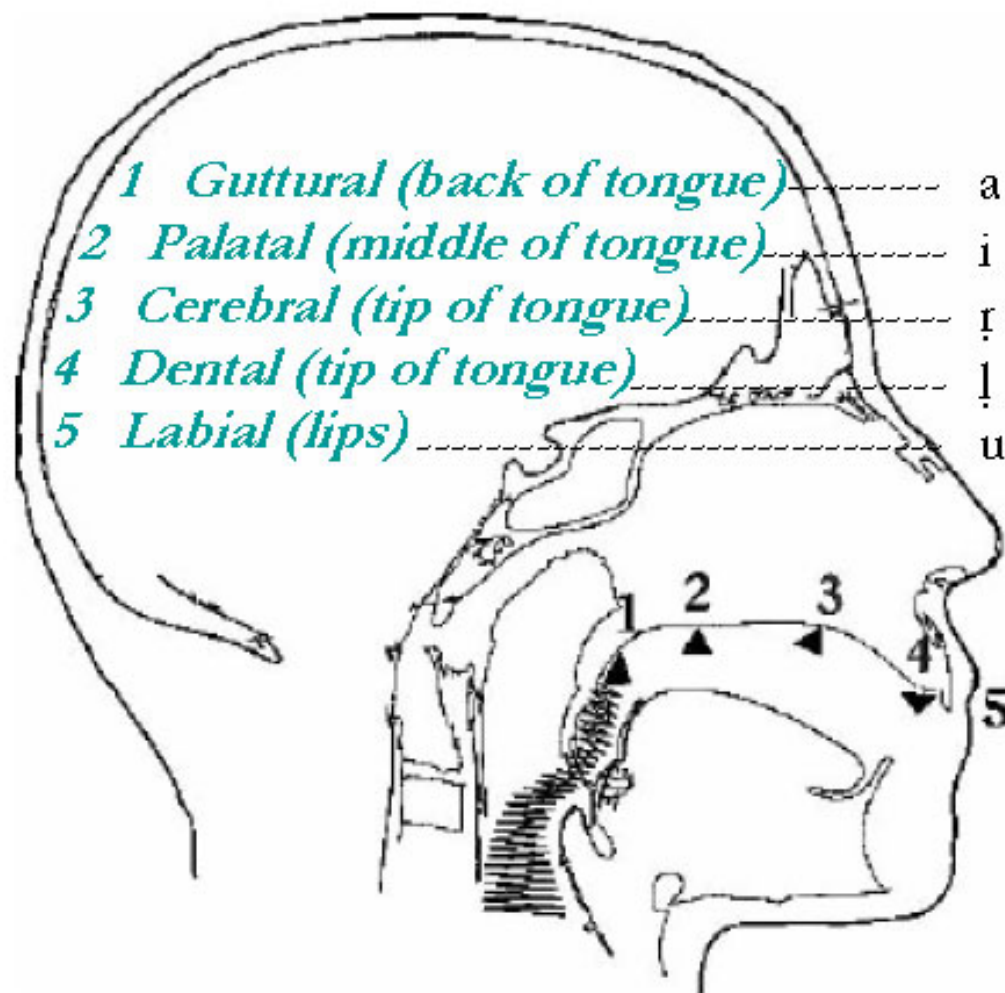
An example to illustrate how mispronouncing a long vowel as a short one produces the opposite meaning:

yasya prasā/dā/n na gatiḥ kuto/`pi

= By the mercy of my spiritual master, I'll never go back to Godhead. (yasya=by whose, prasādā=mercy)

yasya/prasā/dā/n na gatiḥ kuto/`pi

= Without the mercy of my spiritual master, I'll never go back to Godhead. (yasya=by whose, aprasāda=without mercy)



- 1 Guttural (back of tongue)
- 2 Palatal (middle of tongue)
- 3 Cerebral (tip of tongue)
- 4 Dental (tip of tongue)
- 5 Labial (lips)

a	ā	ka	kha	ga	gha	ṅa		
i	ī	ca	cha	ja	jha	ṅa	ya	śa
ṛ	ṛī	ṭa	ṭha	ḍa	ḍha	ṇa	ra	ṣa
l	lī	ta	tha	da	dha	na	la	sa
u	ū	pa	pha	ba	bha	ma	wa	

Throat-Diaphragm: ha & ḥ
 Guttural-Palatal: e & ai
 Guttural-Labial: o & au
 Dental-Labial: va
 Head-Nasal: m

Saṅskṛt Pronunciation Guide

This system of transliteration (Romanized Saṅskṛt) has been almost universally accepted by Saṅskṛt scholars all over the world in the last seventy years. Each and every syllable is accurately reproduced from the original with no loss of information nor any ambiguity.

Numerals: 1-१, 2-२, 3-३, 4-४, 5-५, 6-६, 7-७, 8-८, 9-९, 0-०

13 Vowels: N.B. Long vowels are twice as long as short ones

a अ ā आ i इ ī ई u उ ū ऊ e ए ai ऐ o ओ au औ ṛ ऋ ṛ ऌ ṛ

Short Vowels (V)		Long Vowels (W)		Long Vowels (W)	
a _{v1}	अ As in <u>but</u>	ā _{w1}	आ As in <u>far</u>	e _{w4}	ए As in <u>they</u>
i _{v2}	इ As in <u>pin</u>	ī _{w2}	ई As in <u>peace</u>	ai _{w5}	ऐ As in <u>aisle</u>
u _{v3}	उ As in <u>push</u>	ū _{w3}	ऊ As in <u>rule</u>	o _{w6}	ओ As in <u>foam</u>
-	-	-	-	au _{w7}	औ As in <u>how</u>
ṛ _{v8}	ऋ As in <u>rim</u> but without the 'r' ²	ṛ _{w8}	ऋ As in <u>rim</u> , but longer	-	-
ḷ _{v9}	ऌ As in <u>lree</u>	² ṛ is a short rolling of the tongue, not 'ree' nor 'ru' as it is in Hindi / Bengali / Oriya etc			

Symbols for vowels:

a-(nil)	ā-ī	i-ī	ī-ī	u-ū	ū-ū	e-ē	ai-ē	o-ō	au-ō	ṛ-ṛ	ṛ-ṛ	ḷ-ḷ	ḷ	:	ḷ
क	क़	कि	की	कु	कू	के	कै	को	कौ	कृ	कृ	कु	कं	कः	क्
ka	kā	ki	kī	ku	kū	ke	kai	ko	kau	kr	kṛ	kl	kaṁ	kaḥ(a)	k
(V1)	(W1)	(V2)	(W2)	(V3)	(W3)	(W4)	(W5)	(W6)	(W7)	(V8)	(W8)	(V9)			

	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt
Symbols	ऽ	'	ṁ	(nil)
How to decipher the script	Avagraha (pronounced as a very short 'a')	Virāma (drop the final 'a')	Virāma (drop the final 'a')	
	मेऽच्युत = me'cyuta = me + acyuta	राम् = rām = ra + ā + ma - a	वाक् = vāk	
	= m + e + ' + ½ca + ½ya + u + ta	= va + ā + ka - a	= v + ā + k + ḷ	
	= m + ḷ + S + ½च + ½य + उ + त			
	= m + ḷ + S + च + य + उ + त			

35 Consonants:

	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	Saṅskṛt	Romanized Saṅskṛt	
25 SPARŚAS	Guttural (G) (Throat)	क	ka _{G1}	ख	kha _{G2}	ग	ga _{G3}	घ	gha _{G4}	ङ	ṅa _{G5}
		As in 'cut'		Walk <u>hut</u>		Gullible		Dig <u>hard</u>		Sing <u>up</u>	
	Palatal (P) (Middle of Tongue)	च	ca _{P1}	छ	cha _{P2}	ज	ja _{P3}	झ	jha _{P4}	ञ	ña _{P5}
		Chuckle		Stitch- <u>hut</u>		Jungle		Hedge- <u>hard</u>		Canyon jña=ञ (not 'gya') ¹ Sing <u>yellow</u> yard	
	Cerebral (C) (Ridge)	ट	ṭa _{C1}	ठ	ṭha _{C2}	ड	ḍa _{C3}	ढ	ḍha _{C4}	ण	ṇa _{C5}
(NB: Dots below all) Tongue curled up, tip touching hard part of palate											
Dental (D) (Teeth)**	त	ta _{D1}	थ	tha _{D2}	द	da _{D3}	ध	dha _{D4}	न	na _{D5}	
Thorough		Ment(th)hol**		Thou		Rhyth(ha)m		In the end			
**But tongue must press against all upper teeth for all 5 sounds											
Labial (L) (Lips)	प	pa _{L1}	फ	pha _{L2}	ब	ba _{L3}	भ	bha _{L4}	म	ma _{L5}	
Puddle		Top- <u>hut</u> (Not 'f' sound) ¹		Bundle		Rob- <u>hut</u>		Mother			
4 SEMI-VOWELS (antah-sthah) (SV)	य	ya _{SV1}	र	ra _{SV2}	ल	la _{SV3}	व	va _{SV4}	Varnish (But as 'wa' if joined with a consonant in the same syllable eg. 'svāmī')		
3 SIBIL-ANTS (ūśmas) (SS)	श	śa _{SS1}	ष	ṣa _{SS2}	स	sa _{SS3}					
(tālavya) As in 'as sharp', tongue in front (light sound)		(mūrdhanya) As in 'push' but with tongue pulled back (heavy sound)				(dantya) As in 'sun' (pure 'ss')					
3 MORE CONSONANTS	ः	ḥ (anusvāra)	:	ḥ (visarga*)	ह	ha					
कं = kaṁ		कः = kaḥ(a)		(aspirate) As in <u>hut</u>							
Nasal sound as in 'oṅi'					* (see explanation below)						

*If the ḥ is at the end of a line, repeat the previous vowel lightly: eg aḥ=aḥa, iḥ= ihi

