

Shahmukhi Gurmukhi Sanskrit IPA Transliteration Letter Chart

الله ۞ ॐ		SIBILANTS	CONSONANTS (vyañjana ⁴)						SEMI-VOWELS ¹	VOWELS ² (svara ⁵)				
voicing		unvoiced [hard] (aghoṣa ⁶)			voiced [soft] (saghoṣa)				independent form		dependent form			
phonetics		fricative (ūṣman ⁷)	plosive (sparśa ⁸)			nasal (anunāsika)	approximant (antastha ⁹)		simple ² [pure]	compound ³ [impure]	simple ² [pure]	compound ³ [impure]	consonantal allophones ¹⁰	
aspiration		aspirate (mahāprāṇa ¹¹)	simple (alpaprāṇa ¹²)	aspirate ("h") (mahāprāṇa)	simple (alpaprāṇa)	aspirate ("h") (mahāprāṇa)	simple (alpaprāṇa)	pure aspirate	short (hrasva)	long (dīrgha, pluta)		(anusvāra & visarga)		
guttural/velar (kaṇṭhya)	throat		क क ^A क /k/ /q/ /k/ /k/	ख ख /kʰ/ /kʰ/ /kʰ/	ग ग /g/ /g/ /g/	घ घ /gʱ/ /kə/ /gʱ/	ङ ङ /ŋ/ /ŋ/ /ŋ/	ह ह ^B ह /ɦ/ /ɦ/ /ɦ/ /ɦ/	अ अ ^C अ /ə/ /ə/ /ə/ /ə/	ए ए /e:/ /e:/ /e:/	आ आ /a:/ /a:/ /a:/	अं अं /ʌ/ /n ɳ ŋ/ /ʌ/	am/ṁ	
palatal (tālavya)	soft palate	श श /ʃ/ /ʃ/ /s/	च च /tʃ/ /tʃ/ /tʃ/	छ छ /tʃʰ/ /tʃʰ/ /tʃʰ/	ज ज /dʒ/ /dʒ/ /dʒ/	झ झ /dʒʱ/ /tʃə/ /dʒʱ/	ञ ञ /ɲ/ /ɲ/ /ɲ/	य य ^D य /j/ /e:/ /j/ /j/	इ इ /i/ /i/ /i/	e	ई ई /i:/ /i:/ /i:/	अः अः /ʌ/ /ʌ/ /x/	aḥ	
cerebral/ retroflex (mūrdhanya)	hard palate	ष ष /ʃ/ /ʃ/ /ʃ/	ट ट /ʈ/ /ʈ/ /ʈ/	ठ ठ /ʈʰ/ /ʈʰ/ /ʈʰ/	ड ड /ɖ/ /ɖ/ /ɖ/	ढ ढ /ɖʱ/ /tʃə/ /ɖʱ/	ण ण /ɳ/ /ɳ/ /ɳ/	र र /r/ /r/ /r/ /r/	ऋ ऋ /ɻ/ /ɻ/ /ɻ/		ऌ ऌ /ɻ/ /ɻ/ /ɻ/	क्ष क्ष /kʃ/	kṣ	
dental (dantya)	teeth	स स ^E स /s/ /s/ /s/ /s/ /s/	त त ^F त /t/ /t/ /t/ /t/	थ थ /tʰ/ /tʰ/ /tʰ/	द द /d/ /d/ /d/	ध ध /dʱ/ /tʃə/ /dʱ/	न न /n/ /n/ /n/	ल ल /l/ /l/ /l/	लृ लृ /l/ /l/ /l/		ओ ओ /o:/ /o:/ /o:/	ऌृ ऌृ /l/ /l/ /l/	त्र त्र /tɾ/	tr
labial (oṣṭhya)	lips		प प /p/ /p/ /p/	फ फ /pʰ/ /pʰ/ /pʰ/	ब ब /b/ /b/ /b/	भ भ /bʱ/ /pə/ /bʱ/	म म /m/ /m/ /m/	व व ^G व /v/ /v/ /v/	उ उ /u/ /u/ /u/	o	ऊ ऊ /u:/ /u:/ /u:/	अउ अउ /əu/ /əu/ /əu/	ज्ञ ज्ञ /dʒɳ/	jñ
letters in loanwords		ज़ ज़ /z/ /z/ /z/ /z/ /z/	ज़ ज़ /z/ /z/ /z/ /z/ /z/	ख ख /x/ /x/	ग़ ग़ /ɣ/ /ɣ/	फ़ फ़ /f/ /f/		simple (alpaprāṇa)					some conjunct consonants	

Notes:

- 1 SEMI-VOWELS: The five letters in this column are the beej (seed) mantras of first five chakras, respectively (number of chakra indicated in brackets with transliteration). The four [semi-vowels](#) (y, r, l, v) are sometimes also referred to as "[liquids](#)". In the English language, for example, the letters "w" and "y" are considered semi-vowels, the letters "r" and "l" are considered liquids. Although the actual etymology of the word "liquid" here most probably differs, it could also be understood as the state of aggregation between solid (consonants) and gaseous (vowels): "*Vowels embody the infinity of the Spirit, the consonants the limits of the Matter and the semi-vowels, antastha, the intermediaries.*" - Sri Aurobindo
- 2 VOWELS: The vowels are arranged according to the development of sound production of the tongue in the mouth. The vowels "i" and "u" develop from "a"; the three together being termed primary [1] or cardinal [3]. The vowels "ī" and "ū" then develop further from "i", therefore appearing after that; these five together being termed simple or basic. Since "e" is produced by "sounding a through the i mouth position" and "o" by "sounding a through the u mouth position" they are termed compound or composite. Furtheron, "a-i" is described by combining an "e" with an "a" (sounding like in "aisle" or "pie"), and "a-u" by combining an "a" with a "u" (sounding like in "down" or "hound"). Consequently, all four letters e, o, a-i, and a-u are termed compound or composite. [1] The vowel "e" is considered palato-guttural (kaṇṭhātāvya), the vowel "o" is considered labio-guttural (kaṇṭhoṣṭhya), hence their position in the diagram. [3,4]
- 3 Also termed DIPHTHONG: A diphthong (literally "double sound"), also known as a gliding vowel, is a combination of two adjacent vowel sounds within the same syllable. In most varieties of English, the phrase "no highway cowboys" /noʊ ˈhaɪweɪ ˈkaʊboɪz/ has five diphthongs, one in every syllable. [WP] Listening to the pronunciation of Sanskrit letters on [5] and [6], it becomes evident why the letters "a-i" and "a-u" are considered diphthongs, not so, however, in case of the letters "e" and "o". Listening to the pronunciation of Gurmukhi letters on [7], none of the vowels seems to sound like a diphthong. Hence the difference in the notation "ai" and "au" for the Gurmukhi letters and "a-i" and "a-u" for the corresponding Sanskrit letters, respectively. However, [1] states that even the sounds "a-i" and "a-u" should be produced without any glide or slide between "a" and "i" and between "a" and "u", respectively. Elsewhere [1] also states that ALL vowels "may be sounded continuously for a full breath, there is no glide from one sound to another." (!)
- 4 vyañjana: decoration, ornament; manifestation, indication; specification; insignia, paraphernalia [MW]
- 5 svāra: sound, noise, voice, tone, accent; air breathed through the nostrils; note of the musical scale; symbolical expression for the number seven [MW]
- 6 ghoṣa: noise, sound, cry, roar, the soft sound heard in the articulation of the sonant (voiced) consonants [MW]
- 7 ūṣman: heat, glow, ardour, hot vapour, steam, vapour [MW]
- 8 sparśa: touch, contact, tangibility, feeling, sensation, collective Name of the twenty-five consonants constituting the five classes from k to m [MW]
- 9 antastha: (literally) standing at the end [MW]
- 10 anusvāra: nasal after-sound following a vowel; visarga: unvoiced breath following a vowel; both together called the sixteen mātṛkā or śakti [1]
- 11 maha: great, mighty, strong, big, large, excessive [MW]
- 12 alpa: small, minute, little, few, short [MW]

Multiple mapped Shahmukhi Letters:

- A क - क [kāf /k/] क [qāf /q/ sometimes क]
- B च - च [baṛī ḥē /h/] च [choṭī hē or gol hē /h, Ø/]
- C ख - ख [alef /x, ə, ʔ, Ø, æ, a:/] ख [ˈain /ɑ:, o:, e:, ʔ, ʃ, Ø/]
- D छ - छ [choṭī yē, छ /j, i:, a:/] छ [baṛī yē, छे छे /j, ɛ:, e:/]
- E स - स [sē /s/] स [sīn /s/] स [swāt/suād /s/] & ष - ष [śīn]
- F त - त [tē /t/] त [toe /t/]
- G व - व [wā'o /v, u:, o:, ɔ:/]
- H ज - ज [zāl /z/] ज [zē /z/] ज [zhē /ʒ/] ज [zwāt/zuād /z/] ज [zoe /z/]
- do-cashmī hē /h/ or /h/ (to form all aspirated letters)

Some more ancient forms of Sanskrit letters: झ=झ ण=ण ल=ल अ=अ

Shahmukhi approximate letters classification: ङ, ञ guttural; ढ, ढ labial/labio-dental; ण palatal to dental

References:

- [1] Wikner, Charles (1996), [A Practical Sanskrit Introductory](#)
- [2] Robert P. Goldman; Sally J Sutherland Goldman (2002), [Devavāṇīpraveśikā: An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language](#)
- [3] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit>
- [4] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devanagari>
- [9] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurmukhi>
- [5] <http://enjoylearningsanskrit.com/sanskrit-alphabet-tutor>
- [6] <https://www.sanskrit-trikashaivism.com/en/learning-sanskrit-pronunciation-1-1/456>
- [7] http://www.discoversikhism.com/punjabi/punjabi_gurmukhi_alphabet.html
- [8] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vowel> (especially note the audio samples in the IPA vowels diagram)
- [10] <https://www.omniglot.com/writing/persian.htm> (audio samples)

PLEASE SEND comments, corrections, etc. to Sat Siri Singh, sss@kundalini-khalsa.com. Thank you!