

Table 1: *The devanāgarī characters*

अ a as in <i>but</i>	आ ā as in <i>father</i>	इ i as in <i>bee</i> , but shorter	ई ī long vowel as in <i>bee</i>	उ u as in <i>put</i>	ऊ ū as in <i>fool</i>	VOWELS
ऋ ṛ short vocalic r, as in <i>father</i> (US pronunciation)	ॠ ṝ like r, but longer	ऌ ḷ short vocalic l, as in <i>table</i>	(ॡ ḹ*) like l, but longer			
ए e long vowel, similar to the first e in <i>where</i>	ऐ ai as in <i>my</i>	ओ o long vowel, as in <i>more</i>	औ au as in <i>loud</i>			

kinds of stops:	unvoiced unspirated	unvoiced aspirated	voiced unspirated	voiced aspirated	nasal	CONSONANTS
velar stops	क ka unspirated k, as in <i>ski</i>	ख kha aspirated k, as in <i>cut</i>	ग ga hard g, as in <i>golf</i>	घ gha aspirated g, as in <i>egghead</i>	ङ ṅa 'velar' n, as in <i>sing</i>	
palatal stops	च ca unspirated palatal, as in <i>charm</i>	छ cha aspirated c, as in <i>ranch house</i>	ज ja as in <i>jam</i>	झ jha aspirated j (rare); as in <i>sponge holder</i>	ञ ña like -n- before consonants, -ny- before vowels	
retroflex stops	ट ṭa retroflex t: see note above	ठ ṭha retroflex aspirated t	ड ḍa retroflex d	ढ ḍha retroflex aspirated d	ण ṇa retroflex n	
dental stops	त ta unspirated t, as in <i>still</i>	थ tha aspirated t, as in <i>hot-headed</i> ; not like English -th-	द da as in <i>dance</i>	ध dha aspirated d, as in <i>mad-house</i>	न na as in <i>name</i>	
labial stops	प pa unspirated p, as in <i>sports</i>	फ pha aspirated p, as in <i>upheaval</i>	ब ba as in <i>but</i>	भ bha aspirated b, as in <i>clubhouse</i>	म ma as in <i>mother</i>	
semi-vowels	य ya as in <i>yes</i>	र ra as in <i>run</i>	ल la as in <i>leave</i>	व va as in <i>water</i>		
sibilants and h	श śa palatal s: as in <i>ship</i>	ष ṣa retroflex s: further back in the mouth than ś: as in <i>wash</i>	स sa dental s as in <i>sing</i>	ह ha as in <i>house</i>		

\* This sound does not actually appear, but is conventionally listed in this place to complete/balance the system. It will not be discussed further in this book.