

Sanskrit Tibetan Equivalencies

- 1st line = Tibetan representation of a Sanskrit letter
 2nd line = Wylie System of Romanization (the academic standard)
 3rd line = Devanagari (Sanskrit) original
 4th line = Standard romanization of Sanskrit with diacritical marks

In both the Tibetan and the Sanskrit alphabets, there is an inherent 'a' included with every consonant. In Tibetan it is pronounced as a long 'ah' sound. In Sanskrit, it is a short 'uh' sound.

The 4th column here is included only for the sake of the Sanskrit. The Tibetan alphabet just uses a combination of letters to represent these Sanskrit sounds. I am leaving out the letter 'a' here because you wouldn't necessarily write it, for example, when there is a different vowel sound.

Also, the order of the letters is according to Sanskrit, not Tibetan (although Tibetan is very similar).

ཀ་	ཁ་	ག་	མ་	ང་	ཏ་	ཐ་	ད་	ལ་	ན་
k	kh	g	gh	ng	t	th	d	dh	n
ཀ་	ཁ་	ག་	མ་	ང་	ཏ་	ཐ་	ད་	ལ་	ན་
k	kh	g	gh	ñ	t	th	d	dh	n
ཅ་	ཆ་	ཇ་	མ་	ཉ་	པ་	ཕ་	བ་	མ་	མ་
ts	tsh	dz	dzh	ny	p	ph	b	bh	m
ཇ་	ཉ་	འ་	མ་	འ་	པ་	ཕ་	བ་	མ་	མ་
c	ch	j	jh	ñ	p	ph	b	bh	m
ཏ་	ཐ་	ད་	ལ་	ན་	ཡ་	ར་	ལ་	ས་	
T	TH	D	DH	N	y	r	l	w	
ཏ་	ཐ་	ད་	ལ་	ན་	ཡ་	ར་	ལ་	ས་	
t	th	d	dh	n	y	r	l	v	

श ष स ह

sh Sh s h

श ष स ह

ś ṣ s h

Special characters in Devanagari:

ॐ

om

क्ष

kṣa – A difficult letter even for Indian speakers. Functions as an 'x', but at the beginning of a word, can become 'ch'. Tibetans treat it as 'khya'.

ज्ञ

jña – Actually pronounced 'gya' by both Indian and Tibetan speakers.

Vowels

In Tibetan writing, all vowels have to be held up by another letter, except for 'a,' . The Tibetan alphabet indicates long Sanskrit vowels by adding the short a (ཨ) at the bottom

of the consonant, with the specific vowel marker going wherever it goes. In order to show this, the letter 'k' is going to hold up the Tibetan vowels. The Sanskrit is shown both with the letter 'k' and alone.

Important: Sanskrit has long and short vowels and some extra vowels that Tibetan doesn't have.

ཀ་ ཀྲ་ ཀི་ ཀྲི་ ཀུ་ ཀུ་ ཀྱི་ *

ka ka ki ki ku ku kir

ཀ་ ཀ་ ཀི་ ཀི་ ཀུ་ ཀུ་ ཀྱི་ ཀྱི་

ka k̄a ki k̄i ku k̄u kṛ k̄ṛ

Devanagari vowels alone:

अ आ इ ई उ ऊ ऋ ॠ

a ā i ī u ū ṛ ṝ

ཀི་ * ཀེ་ ཀེ་ ཀོ་ ཀོ་ ཀཱ་ ཀྱཱ་ ཀཱ་ ཀཱ་

kil ke ke ko ko kang kang ka **

ཀྲི་ ཀྲི་ ཀེ་ ཀེ་ ཀོ་ ཀོ་ ཀཱ་ ཀཱ་ ཀཱ་

kṛ kṛ ke kai ko kau kaṁ kaṁ kaḥ

Devanagari vowels alone:

ल लृ ए ऐ ओ औ अं

l l̄ e ai o au aṁ aḥ

* rarely occurs

** Tibetans usually ignore the visarga-H sound