

॥ ஒம் நம: ஸவஜ்ஞாய ॥

| ॐ नमः सर्वज्ञाय । ॐ नमः षवर्जज्ञाय ।



ॐकारो मुखः सर्वधर्माणां आद्यनुत्पन्नत्वात् ॥

ॐकारो मुखः सर्वधर्माणां आद्यनुत्पन्नत्वात् ॥

॥ अकारो मुखः सर्वधर्माणां आद्यनुत्पन्नत्वात् ॥

॥ अकारो मुखः सर्वधर्माणां आद्यनुत्पन्नत्वात् ॥

॥ 'a' is the door to all Dharmas, for they are all originally unproduced ॥

Vijayadashami is usually a very special day to start, any related to Vidya. It is very auspicious to start Akshara Abhyasa [अक्षर अभ्यास अक्षर अभ्यासा] at this day.

Traditionally, Children are made to write the letter "अ अ", and start their education.

So, in this auspicious day of Vijayadashami, lets start our lessons on Grantha Lipi. :-)

We'll start our lesson with the Vowels a.k.a Svara-s. [ स्वराः स्वरः - स्वरः ]

Sanskrit has 14 Svara-s and 2 Ubhayākṣara-s [ उभयाक्षर उभयाक्षर ] that go along with the Svara-s.

The 14 Svāra-s in order are:

a अ अ



ā आ आ



i इ इ



ī ई ई



u உ ஓ

உ

ū ஊ ஔ

ஊ

ṽ ள் ழ்

ழ

ḷ ள் ழ்

ழ

ḷ ள் ழ்

ழ

आ॑ ई॒ लृ॑

आ॑

e ए॑ ऎ

ए॑

ai ङ॑ ऐ

ऐ॑

o ऋ॑ ओ॑

ऋ॑

au ऌ॑ ऎ॑ औ॑

ऌ॑

As you would have noted, some letters are same as that in Tamil and some are similar to that of Tamil.  
Lets sum up the similar letters:

**Same letters as in Tamil:**

உ உள

**Letters similar to that in Tamil:**

ஆ கூ ஈ ஶ

ஏ ஊ ஒ ட

ஒள டள

Therefore, you would need to remember, only the following distinct forms.

அ கூ ரு « ட ஐ ஶெள

The other letters are only used very rarely, learn them at your own pace :-)

ஐ ள ளு

## Pronunciation of Letters

I want to specifically write about the pronunciation of the following 4 letters. The other letters have the same pronunciation as in Tamil.

ஐ - Must be pronounced similar to the 'ரு' in கி'ரு'ஷ்ணன்.

Approximately, it has a pronunciation between /ri/ and /ru/

ஐ - It is the longer counterpart of the above letter.

ள - Similar to the pronunciation of ஐ , but with an /l/ sound instead of /r/.

It is highly erroneous to pronounce it as /lri/ as some people do.

ளு - The longer variant of the above letter

I end the lesson with this. Next week, we can see about the *Ubhayākṣara*-s in detail.

Wouldn't it be fair, to end the lesson without home work :-P. Try identifying the Akshara-s in the below jumbled text.

ளஃ ஹ ஃ டௌ

ட ஃ ஃ ஹௌ ள

ஹ ஃ ஃ ஃ ஃ

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|| யஃஃஃ ஃஃஃஃஃ ஃஃஃஃஃ ||

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