

# Understanding Varnamala Parichay (Introduction to Sanskrit Alphabet)

Chapter 1: Varnamala Parichay (Introduction to Sanskrit Alphabet) · Topic 1

---

## Key Concept

Sanskrit vowels (swar) include अ, इ, उ, ए, ओ, ऋ, ॠ, ॡ, ॢ, ॣ, ।, ॥, each with a distinct sound, some short and some long in pronunciation.

Sanskrit consonants (vyanjan) are grouped by how they are pronounced, like क, ख, ग, घ, ङ (ka-varga: क, ख, ग, घ, ङ) formed at the back of the throat, and similar groups for other sounds.

Correct pronunciation of each letter is important in Sanskrit, since the language has a strong oral tradition and precise sounds carry meaning in chanting and recitation.

Learning the Varnamala is the foundation for reading, writing, and pronouncing Sanskrit words correctly, just as the alphabet is foundational in any language.

## Quick Revision Notes

- Varnamala means the Sanskrit alphabet.
- Swar (vowels) include अ, इ, उ, ए, ओ, ऋ, ॠ, ॡ, ॢ, ॣ, ।, ॥ and more.
- Vyanjan (consonants) are grouped by pronunciation, like क, ख, ग, घ, ङ.
- क, ख, ग, घ, ङ includes क, ख, ग, घ, ङ.
- Correct pronunciation matters in Sanskrit's oral tradition.
- Sanskrit has a tradition of precise chanting and recitation.
- Varnamala is foundational for reading and writing Sanskrit.
- Learning letters correctly helps with correct word formation.

## Practice Questions

- 1 Practice writing the Sanskrit vowels (swar).
- 2 Practice writing the क, ख, ग, घ, ङ consonants.
- 3 Practice pronouncing five Sanskrit letters correctly.
- 4 Identify vowels and consonants in a simple Sanskrit word.
- 5 Recite the Sanskrit alphabet aloud with a partner.
- 6 Write five Sanskrit letters from memory.