

Pāli Pronunciation

Letter	International phonetic Alphabet	Pronounced as in	Alternatively	Extra information	Phonology
a	ə	another, academic		Short	Vowel [mid; central]
ā	[a:]	arm, father		Long	Vowel [low; central]
i	[i]	ilk, pint		Short	Vowel [high; front]
ī	[i:]	see, seem		Long	Vowel [high; front]
u	[u]	utter, under		Short	Vowel [high; back]
ū	[u:]	prudent, doom		Long	Vowel [high; back]
e	[e], [e:]	age	Long before a conjunct consonant as in end		Vowel [mid; front]
o	[o], [o:]	own	Long before a conjunct consonant as in orange		Vowel [mid; back]
m̐		ng		the anusvāra (lit. "after-sound")	pure nasal sounded through the nose
k	[k]	cat, keen			Consonants [stop; voiceless; unaspirated; velar]
kh	[k ^h]	blackheath			Consonants [stop; voiceless; aspirated; velar]
g	[g]	gadfly, gate			Consonants [stop; voiced; unaspirated; velar]
gh	[g ^h]	log house			Consonants [stop; voiced; aspirated; velar]

n̄	[ŋ]	S <u>ang</u>			Consonants [nasal stop; velar]
c	[tʃ]	Anc <u>ient</u>	Similar to ch in <u>cheese</u> except unaspirated		Consonants [stop; voiceless; unaspirated; palatal]
ch	[tʰ]	w <u>itch</u> <u>h</u> azel			Consonants [stop; voiceless; aspirated; palatal]
j	[dʒ]	<u>jet</u> , <u>jaw</u>			Consonant [stop; voiced; unaspirated; palatal]
jh	[dʒʰ]	sledge <u>h</u> ammer			Consonants [stop; voiced; aspirated; palatal]
ñ	[ɲ]	ca <u>nyon</u> , se <u>ñor</u>			Consonants [nasal stop; palatal]
ʈ	ʈ [tʰ]	ta <u>p</u> , ti <u>ck</u>		with the tongue drawn back, thereby producing a hollow sound:	Consonants [stop; voiceless; unaspirated; retroflex central]
ʈh	ʈh [tʰʰ]	ant <u>h</u> ill	Never as <u>th</u> at	As above	Consonants [stop; voiceless; aspirated; retroflex central]
ɖ	[ɖ]	<u>di</u> d, <u>du</u> g		As above	Consonants [stop; voiced; unaspirated; retroflex central]
ɖh	[ɖʰ]	re <u>d</u> <u>h</u> ot		As above	Consonants [stop; voiced; aspirated; retroflex central]

n	[ŋ]	k <u>no</u> w		As above	Consonants [nasal stop; retroflex central]
t	t [t̪]	t <u>u</u> b, t <u>e</u> n		the tongue touching the tip of the teeth:	Consonants [stop; voiceless; unaspirated; dental]
th	th [tʰ]	cat <u>h</u> ouse		As above	Consonants [stop; voiceless; aspirated; dental]
d	d [d̪]	<u>d</u> en, <u>d</u> og		As above	Consonants []
dh		ma <u>d</u> <u>h</u> ouse		As above	Consonants []
n		<u>n</u> ip, <u>n</u> ape		As above	Consonants []
p	p [p]	<u>p</u> at, <u>p</u> inch			Consonants [stop; voiceless; unaspirated; bilabial]
ph	ph [pʰ]	top <u>h</u> at	Never as <u>ph</u> oto		Consonants [stop; voiceless; aspirated; bilabial]
b	[b]	<u>b</u> ang, <u>b</u> ig			Consonants [stop; voiced; unaspirated; bilabial]
bh	[bʰ]	<u>ab</u> hor			Consonants [stop; voiced; aspirated; bilabial]
m	[m]	<u>m</u> en, <u>m</u> ice			Consonants [nasal stop; bilabial]

y	[j]	y <u>e</u> s, y <u>e</u> ar			Consonants [approximant unaspirated; palatal]
r	[ɹ]	r <u>e</u> d, but with a stronger trill			Consonants [approximant unaspirated; retroflex; central]
l	[l]	l <u>e</u> ad, l <u>e</u> nd			Consonants [approximant unaspirated; alveolar; lateral]
ɫ	[ɫ]	l <u>e</u> ad, l <u>e</u> nd	but with the tongue drawn back		Consonants [approximant unaspirated; retroflex; lateral]
v	[v]	beginning of a word, as in V <u>o</u> lkwagen, elsewhere it more closely resembles <u>w</u> an, wane	aspirated ([h [ʰ])		Consonants [approximant unaspirated; labiodental]
s	[s]	s <u>a</u> y, s <u>e</u> nd			Consonants [fricative; central alveolar]
h	[h]	<u>h</u> at, <u>h</u> eight			Consonants [fricative; glottal]
character	ASCII rendering	character name	Unicode number	key combination	HTML code
ā	aa	a macron	U+0101	Alt+A	ā
ī	ii	i macron	U+012B	Alt+I	ī
ū	uu	u macron	U+016B	Alt+U	ū
ṁ	.m	m dot-under	U+1E43		ṁ
ṅ	.n	n dot-under	U+1E47	Alt+N	ṇ
ñ	~n	n tilde	U+00F1	Alt+Ctrl+N	ñ
ṭ	.t	t dot-under	U+1E6D	Alt+T	ṭ
ḏ	.d	d dot-under	U+1E0D	Alt+D	ḍ
ṅ	"n	n dot-over	U+1E45	Ctrl+N	ṅ

!	.l	l dot-under	U+1E37	Alt+L	ḷ
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bh, ch, dh, ḍh, gh, jh, kh, ph, th, ṭh

These two-lettered notations denote a single letter in Pāli.