Part 3
Summary

Vowels:

\(\text{a} = \text{a in sofa}\)
\(\text{ā} = \text{a in father}\)
\(\text{i} = \text{i in pin}\)
\(\text{ī} = \text{i in pique}\)
\(\text{u} = \text{u in put}\)
\(\text{ū} = \text{u in rune}\)
\(\text{ṛ} = \text{re in fibre (or = ri)}\)
\(\text{ṝ} = \text{like ṛ but long}\)
\(\text{l} = \text{le in able}\)
\(\text{e} = \text{ei in rein}\)
\(\text{ai} = \text{ai in aisle}\)
\(\text{o} = \text{o in opal}\)
\(\text{au} = \text{ou in out}\)

Note: \(\text{a} \; \text{i} \; \text{u} \; \text{ṛ} \; \text{ṝ}\) are short; all other vowels are long.

Note: Retroflex letters
\(\text{ṭ} \; \text{ṭh} \; \text{ḍ} \; \text{ḍh}\) = dental letters
except that for the former
the tongue touches the
roof of the mouth, for the
latter it touches the back
of the teeth.

Consonants:

\(\text{b bh} = \text{English b}\)
\(\text{c ch} = \text{ch in church}\)
\(\text{d dh} = \text{English d}\)
\(\text{g gh} = \text{g in good}\)
\(\text{h} = \text{English h}\)
\(\text{j jh} = \text{English j}\)
\(\text{k kh} = \text{English k}\)
\(\text{l} = \text{English l}\)
\(\text{m} = \text{English m}\)
\(\text{n} = \text{English n}\)
\(\text{ṅ} = \text{ng in singing}\)
\(\text{ṅ} = \text{ny in canyon}\)
\(\text{p} = \text{p in spin}\)
\(\text{ph} = \text{p in pat (never = f)}\)
\(\text{r} = \text{English r}\)
\(\text{s} = \text{English s}\)
\(\text{ś s} = \text{English sh}\)
\(\text{t} = \text{t in stop}\)
\(\text{th} = \text{t in top,}\)
\(\text{th in Thomas}\)
\(\text{(not = th in thin or this)}\)
\(\text{v} = \text{English v or w}\)
\(\text{y} = \text{y in yodel (not the y in gym)}\)
The aspirate letters, *kh* *gh* *ch* *jh* *th* *dh* *th* *dh* *ph* *bh*, are single letters pronounced with a heavy breath — something like *big-horn* or *wart-hog*, if divided as *bi-ghorn* and *war-thog*.

The consonant cluster *jñ*, found in many words derived from *jñā* (know), is pronounced as *nny*, *dny*, or *gy* — never as *j-n*. Thus, *prajñā* (wisdom) is pronounced *pran-nyā*, *prad-nyā*, or *pra-gyā* — never as *praj-nyā* or *praj-nā*.

The letter *ḥ* stands for an aspiration (a light *h* sound) after a vowel.

The letter *ṃ* or *ṁ* is a nasal. Before *y* *r* *l* *v* *ś* *ṣ* *s* *h* it indicates a nasalized vowel (as in French *bon*), or it can be pronounced *n*. Before other consonants it stands for the corresponding nasal consonant: *saṃtāna* = *santāna*, *śaṃkara* = *śaṅkara*. At the end of a word it is pronounced *m*.

Accentuation: A *light* syllable contains a short vowel at the end of a word or followed by a single consonant. A *heavy* syllable contains a long vowel, or a short vowel followed by two or more consonants. Generally, the heavy syllable closest to the end of a word is stressed. Thus:

*rā-mā-ya-ṇa, ve-dān-ta, ma-hā-bhā-ra-ta*