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Part 3
Summary

Vowels:

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

Note: *a i u ṛ ḷ* are *short*; all other vowels are *long*.

Note: Retroflex letters *ṭ ṭh ḍ ḍh ṇ* = *dental* letters *t th d dh n* — except that for the former the tongue touches the roof of the mouth, for the latter it touches the back of the teeth.

Consonants:

b bh = English b
c ch = ch in church
d dh = English d
g gh = g in good
h = English h
j jh = English j
k kh = English k
l = English 1
m = English m
n = English n
ṅ = ng in singing
ñ = ny in canyon
p = p in spin
ph = p in pat (never = f)
r = English r
s = English s
ś ṣ = English sh
t = t in stop
th = t in top,
    th in Thomas
    (not = th in thin or
    this)
v = English v or w
y = y in yodel (not the y
    in gym)

The aspirate letters, **kh gh ch jh ṭh ḍh 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*