

Introduction to Pāli

Sutta Central
(Gair and Karunatillake)

Lesson 2

17/18 March 2024

Pāli Alphabet Review

Vowels: a, ā, i, ī, u, ū, e, o

Consonants:

[Unvoiced, Unvoiced Aspirate, Voiced, Voiced Aspirate, Nasal]

Gutturals: k, kh, g, gh, ṅ (ṅ) (also called Velar)

Palatals: c, ch, j, jh, ñ

Cerebrals: ṭ, ṭh, ḍ, ḍh, ṇ (also called Retroflex)

Dentals: t, th, d, dh, n

Labials: p, ph, b, bh, m

Other: y, r, ḷ, l, v, s, h

Note: This is the Pāli alphabetical order (see G&K p.xiv, also p.179)

Script Symbol Confusion

These 4 symbols are all essentially the same sound and appear in different Pāli texts: ñ ṃ ñ ṅ

At end of word:

naraṃ naraṃ naraṅ

Before a guttural consonant (k, kh, g, gh):

saṅgha saṃgha saṅgha saṅgha sangha

saṅkhāra saṃkhāra saṅkhāra saṅkhāra

sankhāra

Long and Short Syllables

- Pāli doesn't have any pronunciation *stress* the way English does, but it has long and short syllables
- The lengthening of the syllable creates a kind of stress or emphasis
- Distinguishing long and short syllables is *extremely* important for correct pronunciation and chanting

Long and Short Syllables (cont.)

A **Syllable is Long** if:

1. It contains a long vowel - ā ī ū (e or o before a single consonant or at end of a word)
2. It ends in two consonants together (either a doubled consonant or combined consonants, e.g., mm cch ṭṭ nt, ṅk, etc.)

Otherwise, the **Syllable is Short**

Pali Pronunciation Practice

- kevalakappaṃ Jetavanaṃ obhāsetvā

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- vinayo ca susikkhito

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- asokaṃ virajaṃ khemaṃ

^ -- -- ^ ^ -- -- --

- sabbattha sotthiṃ gacchanti

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Pet Pali Pronunciation Peeves

- vinaya
- Ānanda
- Rāhula
- Buddha

Pet Pali Pronunciation Peeves

- vinaya NOT vināya
- Ānanda NOT Anānda
- Rāhula NOT Rahūla
- Buddha NOT Būda

Americans are particular culprits on mispronouncing these words!

More Pali Pronunciation Practice

pāṇātipātā veramaṇī sikkhāpadaṃ samādiyāmi
I undertake the training rule to refrain from taking life.

adinnādānā veramaṇī sikkhāpadaṃ samādiyāmi
I undertake the training rule to refrain from taking what is not given.

kāmesu micchācārā veramaṇī sikkhāpadaṃ samādiyāmi
I undertake the training rule to refrain from sexual misconduct.

More Pali Pronunciation Practice

musāvādā veramaṇī sikkhāpadaṃ samādiyāmi
I undertake the training rule to refrain from false speech.

surāmerayamajjapamādaṭṭhānā veramaṇī
 sikkhāpadaṃ samādiyāmi
I undertake the training rule to refrain from intoxicants that are the cause for heedlessness.

Pāli Declension Cases

- **Gair and Karunatillake p.4**
- **Collins, p.13**
- **Nyanatusita Noun Declension Table**

Gair and Karunatillake Lesson I

- **Grammar I**
 - Pages 4 – 11
- **Glossary for Lesson I initial readings**
 - Pages 2 – 4
- **Readings I**

Homework – Class 2

- **Review and consolidate Gair and Karunatillake**
 - Lesson I: Grammar
- **Study G&K Glossary I-2**
 - Pages 12 – 13
- **Complete Further Readings I**
 - Pages 11 – 12