

Visually the Indian languages might be annoyingly dissimilar to one another. But phonetically there is an underlying identity. The arrangements of the sound symbols go according to a set pattern. The vowels, in each case, are sounds which emanate from an open mouth. The difference between two vowel sounds is contrived by changing the shape of the open mouth. This is what obtains in every Indian language. On an average there are about twelve vowels in each language. Giving them Roman symbols is not a problem because the sound value of the respective vowels in each case is the same. There are no exceptions. Some South Indian languages have a few more and these pose no problems.

Let us jot the vowels down on a table along with their respective Roman fonts. Vide

**Table 1.:**

**Table 1. Vowels**

Language													
Assamese	অ	আ	ই	ঐ	উ	ঊ		এ	ঐ		ও	ঔ	
Bengali	অ	আ	ই	ঐ	উ	ঊ		এ	ঐ		ও	ঔ	
Odissi	ଅ	ଆ	ଇ	ଐ	ଉ	ଊ		ଏ	ଐ		ଓ	ଔ	
Tamil	அ	ஆ	இ	ஈ	உ	ஊ	எ	ஏ	ஐ	ஔ	ஓ	ஔ	ஔள
Telugu	అ	ఆ	ఇ	ఈ	ఉ	ఊ	ఎ	ఏ	ఐ	ఔ	ఓ	ఔ	
Kannada	ಅ	ಆ	ಇ	ಈ	ಉ	ಊ	ಎ	ಏ	ಐ	ಉ	ಊ	ಋ	
Malayalam	അ	ആ	ഇ	ഈ	ഉ	ഊ	എ	ഐ	ഔ	ഒ	ഔ	ഔ	ഔ
Marathi	अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ		ए	ऐ		ओ	औ	
Gujarati	અ	આ	ઇ	ૈ	ઉ	ઊ		એ	ૈ		ઓ	ઔ	
Gurmukhi	ਅ	ਆ	ਇ	ਈ	ਉ	ਊ		ਏ	ਐ		ਓ	ਔ	

Hindi	अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ		ए	ऐ		ओ	औ		
Sanskrit	अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ		ए	ऐ		ओ	औ	ऋ	
Indian-in-Roman	a	ā	i	ī	u	ū		e	ē	ÿ	o	ō	ö	#

# explained in note preceding **Table 6. Miscellaneous**

Number of "Indian-in-Roman" characters for vowels = 12