

# A Fast and Easy way to Memorize the Hindi Alphabet

**Velar (tongue against back of mouth.)**

क

This Character looks like two letter “c”’s. One is on the left side and the other is on the right side, upside down. The letter “c” reminds you that this character is pronounced as “ka”.

ख ख

Imagine that this character looks like the letter “c” in a gerbil wheel. Picture the letter c running around the interior and he is out of breath. Being out of Breath will remind you, that this character kha is pronounced breathy. (**aspirated**).

ग

Imagine that the first part of this character looks like a baby on a swing, and the second part is his very skinny, dad pushing him. The baby is saying “ga ga, ga ga” the name of this character.

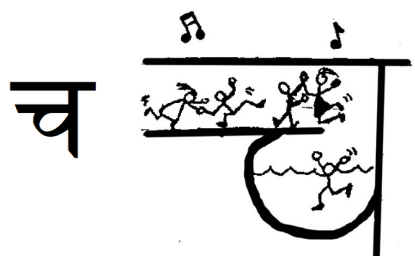
घ

This character looks like the letter B backwards, and Baby begins with B. Babies say “Gha Gha”, the same sound as this character. (I know it’s a bit of a stretch but, it’ll do.) **aspirated**

ङ sin

Imagine that this character is the first part of the word SIN. Once you remember this it is easy to remember that the “n” is the sound of this character.

**Palatal** (tongue touching the top of the palate or roof of the mouth.)



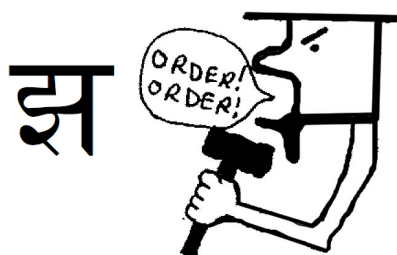
Imagine this character a lot bigger. Pretend it is a pool party and everybody is dancing the “Cha Cha”, the sound of this character.



This Character kind of looks like a cup of Chai tea. You can just make out the steam and you can see the handle of the tea cup. The billowing steam reminds you that this character is **aspi-rated**. The sound of the “Ch” in Chai reminds you of the sound “Cha”



This Character looks like a chair. In Bible times and present, judges always sit to judge. This should remind you of this characters sound, Ja.



If you put an eyeball in this character he looks like a judge. He is out of breath from saying “Order!, Order!” This reminds us to pronounce this character **aspirated**. Also the hair on his chin reminds us as well. ( h for hair)



This character looks like the claws on a scorpion. Pretend that a man gets his nose stuck in one. He screams out a fast “NO!” The word no reminds us of the sound of this character, “Na”

## Curled Tongue Characters - Retroflex

(Tip of the tongue turned against the roof of the mouth.)

ट

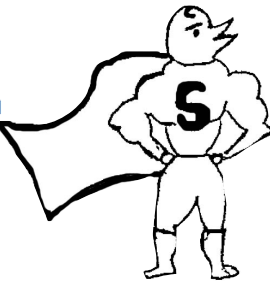
This character looks like an upside down number 2. The first letter of the number Two, “t” reminds you that the sound is “Ta’  
Pretend that your tongue curls like this character in order to pronounce it.

ठ



This character looks like a scale. Imagine that the letters “T” and “H” are being weighed on it. the “H” reminds you to pronounce it breathy. (**aspirated**)

ड



Picture the letter S on Super Duck’s chest. The “Du” in Duck reminds you of this character’s sound. (Du)

ढ



This character looks like those old perfume bottles. Some guy asks a sophisticated lady if it’s another perfume. She says “Duh! It’s Dhu Dhu.”, This reminds you of the sound. The air coming out of the bottle reminds you to pronounce it **aspirated**.

ण

𑖦

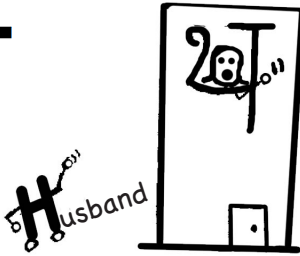
If you extend this character above the line it looks like a backward capital letter “N”. The letter “N” reminds us what sound this character makes.

## Dental Characters (Tongue touches upper teeth.)

त क

This character looks like an elephant's trunk. The "T" in trunk reminds you of the sound of this character, "ta".

थ



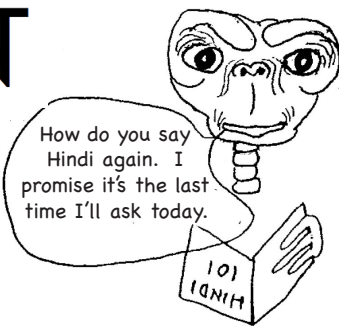
Imagine that this character is a window and a lady is warning "ta ta, ta ta" to her Husband. The H in husband reminds you that it's breathy. (**aspirated**) And "ta ta" reminds you of the character's sound.

द



This character looks like an ear with a cotton swab stuck in it. Because of the obstruction the man is deaf. The "d" in deaf reminds you of the character's sound "da".

ध



This character looks like the letters E & T. Pretend that the Alien E.T. is trying to learn Hindi from you. He is doing a very poor job and you are out of breath, and irritated. (**aspirated**) So you say to him "dha." The "dha" reminds you of the character's sound.

न



Picture a nun blowing a whistle. This character looks like a whistle. The "n" in nun reminds you of this character's sound.

## Labial (using the lips)

प

This character is very easy. It looks like it sounds. It looks like a backwards P and its sound is Pa.

फ

This character is also a “pha” or “Fa” sound. The only difference is that it is pronounced **aspirated**. It looks like a P and H put together. The h in the character reminds you that it is breathy.

ब

This character looks like the letter d. But since it has a crossed out mark in it, this lets you remember it is not a d but a “ba’ or like b in the english language.



This character looks like a basement sink near the laundry machine. Imagine that a mother is bathing her baby in it. The B in Baby should remind you of this characters sound “bha” She is working hard and out of breath. So this is **aspirated**.

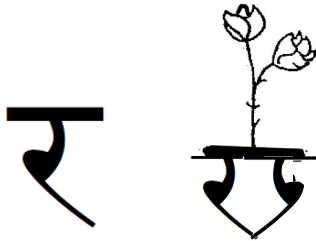
म

This character is “ma” but it looks like a square. Because of the generation gap some kids think their moms are squares. When you see the square think of “ma”.

## Semi-vowels ( partly open )

य

Imagine that there is no top to this character then it kind of resembles a letter Y. “Ya” is it’s sound.



One of my favorites. . . This one looks like a hull of a vase. Imagine their are roses inside of the vase. **R**oses begin with the same letter of this character. “Ra”

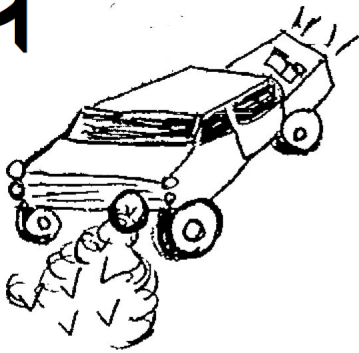
Or remember that the english letter R is shaped like the Hindi R taking away the left side. example:

**R**

ल

This character looks like the letter “m” Just remember it’s sound is the letter before in the english alphabet, “la’ or “L”

व



This character looks like the back end of a car exhaust. The sound from the exhaust tail pipe is “Va Room!” Picture letter v’s in the smoke coming from the opening. The sound it makes.

ज़

Imagine that this character is a Zoo gate. And the little dot is an animal that has escaped. “z” in zoo remind sound of this characters sound “za”.

## Sibilants (makes a hissing noise)

श

This character looks like the number 21. Imagine a woman who looks 21 but she is really 41. So she says “sh” don’t tell my age. the “sh” reminds you of this character’s sound “sha”

ष

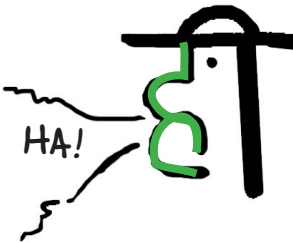


Imagine that someone is using their finger over their open mouth to say “Shhh” Be quiet. The many H’s remind us that it is heavily **aspirated**, unlike the previous character.

स

This character looks like two things that begin with “s”, a square and string hanging on the bottom. The “s” in square and string remind of the character’s sound “sa”.

ह



This character looks like a man with a hat on who is huffing and puffing. The ‘h’ in huffing and hat reminds us of the sound of this character, “Ha”

ॠ

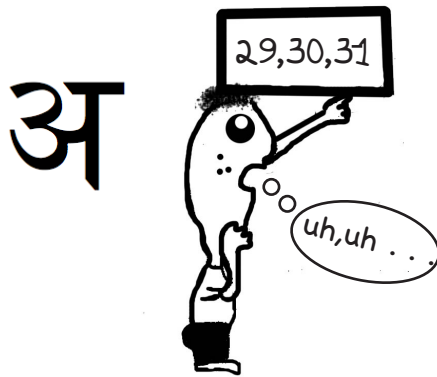
The dot reminds the letter before S that it is R. The letter before S. The letter of this character, heavy, rolled “ R”

ॡ

Remember the perfume bottle (duh) only this time with a rolled or flipped tongue.

# Hindi Vowels Made Easy

The letter क will be used to show the vowels in their dependant form.



This vowel is the same sound that ends all consonants that don't have a vowel after them. You could call it the inherent vowel sound of all consonants. (a) The sound of this vowel is "uh" To remember it imagine that the vowel looks like the number 31 and a dumb guy is trying to remember the next number. Since he is having difficulty he's saying "uhhh I just had it." It's sound is like "u" in the word **Ugly**.

*(Remember that this character is used to "carry" other certain vowels.)*



The **dependant** form of this vowel looks like a corkscrew. Imagine that you have just used it to open a can of your favorite drink. As you delightfully drink it you let out a satisfying "ah" (as in **apple**) The sound of your satisfaction "h" reminds you of this vowel "ah".

## आ

As you become used to recognizing the "ah" vowel in its dependant form, you will have no difficulty (hopefully) in recognizing it in its **independent** form as shown here. The only difference is the addition of the vowel carrier, which is not pronounced.

की  
a b c d e f g h i

The **dependant** form of this vowel looks like a backwards letter F. Imagine that it is in the alphabet along with the other letters. The direction that it faces shows the sound that it has, since it is facing the letter "e", as in **meet**.



The **independent** form of this vowel "ee", looks like a snake. Imagine that woman (or a dainty man) is running from a snake screaming "EEE!" at the top of their lungs. the scream "EE" as in deep reminds you of the sound of this vowel.



## Hindi Vowels Made Easy

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कि

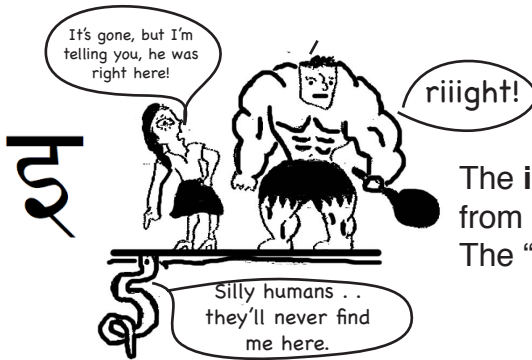


This **dependent** form of this vowel looks like a proper letter F. Imagine that it is in the alphabet with the other letters. The direction that it faces shows the sound that it has since it is facing the letter "i". Pronounced like "i" in the word **it**.

***This vowel's sound "i" is far away from it, so it has to "jump" over the other letters to get to it.***

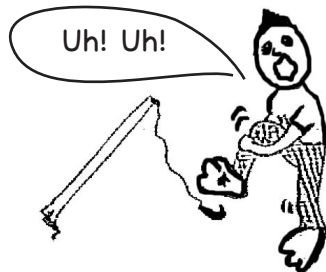
***Likewise in Hindi words it jumps over the consonant it precedes.***

***\*Therefore you pronounce it after the consonant.***



The **independent** form of this vowel looks like the snake from before, but this time "it" has gone underground. The "i" sound in it reminds you of the sound of this vowel.

कु



The **dependent** form of this vowel looks like an up turned fish hook. Imagine that someone has stepped on it and as they jump up and down in pain they're shouting 'uh' uh'. A short "u" sound like in the word **put**.

ऊ

As you become used to recognizing the "uh" vowel in it's dependant form, you will have no difficulty recognizing it in it's **independent** form, as shown here. No doubt you can see the independent form at the bottom.

कू



Imagine that the **dependent** form of this vowel looks like the side of a hill. Then picture mud oozing down it's slope. The action of oozing reminds you of the sound of this vowel which is "oo" as **ooze**.

ऊ



Imagine that the **independent** form of this vowel looks like two smooth rocks side by side. Then imagine the middle piece is mud oozing out from between them. The action of oozing reminds you of the sound of this character.

## Hindi Vowels Made Easy

The letter क will be used to show the vowels in their dependant form.

कृ क

This is the **independent** form of the “r” character. The right side looks like the lower case cursive *h* in english. The shape reminds you of its sound. An example of this character is in the name (Rishi) ऋषि

कू

Imagine that the **dependent** form of this character looks like a ring cut in half. The “r” in **ring** reminds you of its sound.

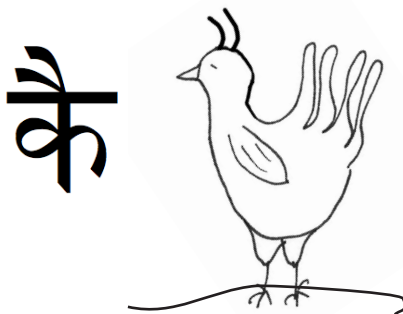
के



Imagine that the **dependent** form of this vowel looks like a lonely strand of hair. So imagine that you go to the “Barber” To get our hair trimmed and he cuts off everything only leaving one strand. Your natural reaction would be resounding. “Ay!!!” Your reaction “Ay” as in **hay** reminds you of the sound of the vowel.



Imagine that the **independent** form of this character looks like a hay loft packed full of hay, with the trap door at the bottom. Picture the trap door is open and all the hay is falling out the bottom. The ‘ay’ sound in hay reminds you of the sound of the vowel.



Imagine that the **dependent** form of this character looks like the two feathers on a hen. The “e” sound in **hen** reminds you of the sound of this vowel.

(independent on next page)

## Hindi Vowels Made Easy

The letter क will be used to show the vowels in their dependant form.

ए ए

Imagine that the top part of the **independent** form of this vowel is the path of the hen finally flying away from the hay loft. The “e” sound in **hen** reminds you of the sound of this vowel. (the dependant form is on the page before.)

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को

Imagine that the **dependant** form of this vowel looks like an old form **hoe**. The “o” sound in hoe will remind you of the sound of this vowel. (Don’t confuse this with the “e” vowel. The “e” vowel looks almost exactly like the letter f at the top. Where as this “o” vowel isn’t nearly as curved at the top.

ओ

As you become used to recognizing the “O” vowel in it’s dependent form, you will have no difficulty recognizing it in it’s **independent** form as shown here. The only difference is the addition of the vowel carrier.

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कौ

Imagine that the **dependant** form of this vowel looks like a man whose body is stuck in the ground upside down with only his legs above ground. (Maybe the hen finally gave the farmer the business or something.) Anyways, this position would hurt, so imagine the poor guy screaming “aw!” in discomfort “aw” us in **awful** reminds you of the sound of the vowel.

औ

As you become used to recognizing the “aw” vowel in its dependent form you will have no difficulty recognizing it in it’s **independent** form as shown here. The only difference is the addition of the vowel carrier.