

# Limbu / ལུམ་བུ་ ཡེ་ཁྱུ་

romanization: KNAB 2012

## I. Consonant characters

1	ཨ	a <sup>A</sup>	9	ཨ	ja	17	པ	pa	25	ཡ	wa
2	ཀ	ka	10	ཁ	jha*	18	ཕ	pha	26	ཤ	sha
3	ཁ	kha	11	ཎ	ña*	19	བ	ba	27	ཤ	sha*
4	ག	ga	12	ཐ	ta	20	བ	bha	28	ག	sa
5	ག	gha	13	ཐ	tha	21	མ	ma	29	ཅ	ha
6	ཇ	ña	14	ད	da	22	ཙ	ya			
7	ཇ	cha	15	ད	dha	23	ར	ra			
8	ཅ	chha	16	འ	na	24	ལ	la			

<sup>A</sup> This character is used for combinations with vowel characters syllable-initially: ཨྱ à, ཨྲ e.

\* Characters with an asterisk are obsolete.

## II. Vowel characters (z stands for any consonant character)

1	ཨྱ	à	4	ཨྲ	e	7	ཨླ	au
2	ཨྲ	i	5	ཨླ	ai	8	ཨྴ	è
3	ཨླ	u	6	ཨྴ	o	9	ཨྵ	ò

## III. Adscript consonant characters (z k stands for any base character)

1	ཨྱ	kya	2	ཨྲ	kra	3	ཨླ	kwa
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## IV. Syllable-final consonant characters (z stands for any initial character)

1	ཨྱ	-k	3	ཨྲ	-t	5	ཨླ	-p	7	ཨྴ	-r
2	ཨླ	-ñ	4	ཨྴ	-n	6	ཨྵ	-m	8	ཨྶ	-l

## V. Other characters (z stands for any base character)

1	ཨྱ	-ñ <sup>A</sup>	3	ཨྲ	<sup>(C)</sup>	5	ཨླ	!
2	ཨླ	-a' <sup>B</sup>	4	ཨྴ	<sup>(D)</sup>	6	ཨྵ	?

<sup>A</sup> Sandhi sign, not actively used.

<sup>B</sup> Denotes a glottal stop: z, ka' [kaʔ].

<sup>C</sup> Denotes vowel length (see Notes 1 and 2).

<sup>D</sup> End-of-syllable character (see Note 2).

## Numbers

o 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

## Notes

1. Vowel length in an open syllable is denoted by *kemphreng* (Table V No. 3), in romanization it is marked by a macron, or a circumflex if the base character has a grave accent:  $\bar{z}$  *kā*,  $\tilde{z}$  *kâ*,  $\bar{z}$  *kū*,  $\tilde{z}$  *ke*.
2. Vowel length in a closed syllable may be marked following two methods: a) in the same way as in an open syllable, adding a syllable-final consonant, e.g.  $\bar{z}^c$  *kāk*,  $\tilde{z}^c$  *kām*; b) by writing the syllable-final consonant in normal size and adding an underline (Table V No. 4), e.g.  $\bar{z}\bar{z}$  *kāk*,  $\tilde{z}\bar{z}$  *kām*. The first method is more used in Nepal, the second one in Sikkim. The underline is also used to denote syllable-final consonants that do not have special forms, e.g.  $\bar{z}\bar{z}$   $\rightarrow$  *nèssè*,  $\bar{z}\bar{z}$   $\rightarrow$  *lâb*.

## Pronunciation

**a** [ɔ], **ā** [ɔ:], **à** [a], **â** [a:], **ch** [c], **e** [e], **ē** [e:], **è** [ɛ], **ê** [ɛ:], **j** [ʃ], **ñ** [ɲ], **o** [o], **ō** [o:], **ò** [ɔ], **ô** [ɔ:], **sh** [ʃ], **y** [j].

## Sources

1. *Limbu alphabet*. — Wikipedia, [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org), 2012-10-21.
2. *Limbu / Kirati alphabet*. — Omniglot, <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/limbu.htm>, 2012-10-21.
3. *South Asian Scripts: Limbu*. — The Unicode Standard, Version 6.1. <http://www.unicode.org/versions/Unicode6.1.0/ch10.pdf>, 2012-10-21.