

Malayalam / മലയാളം Malayāḷam

romanization: UN 1972/77 + KNAB modifications

I. Independent vowel characters

1	ଓ	a	5	ঔ	u	9	ঔ	e	13	ঔ	au
2	ଓ	ā	6	ঔ	ū	10	ৈ	ai			
3	ଇ	i	7	ୟ	r̥	11	ଙ	ɔ			
4	ଔ	ī	8	ୟ	ě	12	ଙ	o			

II. Consonant characters

1	କୁ	ka	11	ଶୁ	ତା	21	ପୁ	ପା	31	ଷ୍ଟୁ	ଶା
2	ଖୁ	kha	12	ଓୟୁ	ଥା	22	ଫୁୟୁ	ଫା	32	ମୁୟୁ	ସା
3	ଗୁ	ga	13	ଯୁୟୁ	ଦା	23	ବୁୟୁ	ବା	33	ହୁୟୁ	ହା
4	ଙୁୟୁ	gha	14	ଉୟୁୟୁ	ଧା	24	ବୁୟୁୟୁ	ବହା	34	କୁଷ୍ଟୁ	କଷା
5	ଣୁୟୁ	na	15	ଣୁୟୁୟୁ	ନା	25	ମୁୟୁୟୁ	ମା	35	ଲୁୟୁ	ଲା
6	ଚୁୟୁ	cha	16	ତୁୟୁ	ତା	26	ଯୁୟୁ	ଯା	36	ଲୁୟୁ	ଲା
7	ଛୁୟୁ	chha	17	ତୁୟୁୟୁ	ଥା	27	ରୁୟୁ	ରା	37	ଇୟୁୟୁ	ରା ^A
8	ଜୁୟୁ	ja	18	ଦୁୟୁ	ଦା	28	ଲୁୟୁ	ଲା			
9	ଝୁୟୁ	jha	19	ଦୁୟୁୟୁ	ଧା	29	ବୁୟୁୟୁ	ବା			
10	ଞୁୟୁ	ña	20	ନୁୟୁ	ନା	30	ଶୁୟୁୟୁ	ଶା			

^A Special ligature: Q ſ.

III. Abbreviated vowel characters and other symbols (S stands for any consonant)

1	S	a	6	S	ꝝ	ꝑ ^B	11	ꝑ	CSꝑ	14	S	(F)
2	CS	ā	7	S	ꝝ	ꝑ ^C	12	ꝑ	CSꝑ			
3	ꝝ	i	8	ꝝ	ꝝ	ꝑ	13	ꝑ	ꝑ	au ^D		
4	ꝝ	ī	9	ꝝ	ꝝ	e	12	ꝑ	o	ń, m ^E		
5	ꝝ	u ^A	10	ꝝ	ꝝ	ai	13	ꝑ	ꝑ	h		

^A Traditional script forms: ດຸ khu, ໂ mu, etc., exceptionally: ກຸ kku, ນຸ nkku), ກູ gu, ດູ chhu, ຈຸ ju, ນົ nu, ຕຸ tu, ນົ nu (ນົ nnu), ບູ bhu, ຮູ ru, ສູ shu, ຫູ hu.

^B Traditional script forms: ຂູ khū, ມູ mū, etc., exceptionally: ກູ kū, ກົ gū, ທູ chhū, ຈູ jū, ນູ nū, ຕູ tū, ນຸ nū, ບູ bhū, ຮູ rū, ສູ shū, ຜູ hū.

^c Traditional script form (conjunct): ක්‍රු.

^D Traditional script form: ଶୁଣ

^E Word-finally also before b hh n ph s sh

^F Pronunciation without a vowel [a], e.g. କୁ k, ମୁ s. Special, so-called *chillu*-forms: ନୁ n, ମୁ m, ରୁ r, ଲୁ l, ଶୁ ſ; see also Note 2.

IV. Ligatures

Adscript forms of some consonants

Example

r- ḷṣṣ̄ rgga (newer style; earlier a dot above the next character was used instead of ḷ)

-r (ଓ kra (traditional script form: ଓ)

-y ⑩, { tya

Other ligatures (the list is not complete)

ക്ര	ക്സ	ക്റ്റ	ക്ഷ	ക്ല	ഗ്ര	ഗ്ര	ഗ്രം	ഗ്രം	ഗ്രം	ഗ്രം	ഗ്രം
kka	kṭa*	kta	kṣha	kla	gga	gda*	gddha*	gna	gma	gla	nka
ഓ	ഒ	ഒ	ഒ	ഒ	ഒ	ഒ	ഒ	ഒ	ഒ	ഒ	ഒ
ñña	chcha	chchha	jja	jña	ñcha	ñchha*	ñja*	ñña	tta	dha	nṭa
ണ്ട	ണ്യ	ണ്ട	ണ്മ	ണ്ട	ണ്മ	ണ	ണ്ട	ണ്ട	ണ	ണ	ണ
nṭha*	ndha	nna	nma	tta	ttha	tna*	tbha	tma	tsa	dda	ddha
ന്ത	ന്ദ	ന്വ	ന്യ	ന്ന	ന്മ	ന്ത	ന്ത	ന്ത	ന്ത	ന്ത	ന്ത
nta	nthha	nda	ndha	nna	nma	nṛa*	pta*	pna*	ppa	pla	psa*
ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര	ബ്ര
bda	bdha	bba	bla	mna*	mpa	mma	mla	yka*	ykka	yta*	ytta*
യ്പ	യ്പ	യ്മ	യ്ക	ല്ക	ല്ക്കൈ	ല്മ	ല്മ	ഡ	ഡവ	ഡ്ര	ഡ്ര
ypa*	yma*	yya	lka*	lkka*	lpa*	lma*	lla	vva	shcha	shla	shsha

ഷക ഷു ഷു ഷീ ഷു ഷപ ഷമ സക ലു സത സമ ലു
 shka* shṭa shṭha* shṇa* shpa* shpha* shma* ska* ṣṭa sta* stha sna*
 സപ സഹ സമ ലു ലു ഫ മ വു ത്ര ശക ശച ശത
 spa* spha* sma* sla ssa hna hma hla lla lka* lcha* lta*
 ശമ ശപ
 lma* lpa*

Notes

1. The Malayalam script has been simplified during the 1980's, abolishing several complex signs for abbreviated vowel characters and reducing the number of ligatures. Traditional script forms have been added in notes to tables. Obsolete ligatures (marked with an asterisk) have been substituted by character combinations whereby the first character bears the sign ̄, e.g. പ്രം *pna*. The use of ligatures, however, varies greatly. (For the table here some ligatures have not been available, others have been taken from the font for traditional Malayalam.)
2. The sign of absence of the inherent vowel (̄) is generally not romanized, although word-medially it may be romanized by ". The *chillu*-forms word-finally are romanized without a vowel, word-medially they are romanized by ". Should there be a word-final character with ̄ instead of a *chillu*-character, this shall be romanized by ū (in older spelling often *u* + ̄ was used, e.g. കോഴിക്കോട് *Kolikkot̄*, now കോഴിക്കോട്).
3. In the UN romanization ñ → m; ū and " are omitted.
4. In names of the Kerala State often l → zh, sh → s, t → t/d, t → th, ū → (0)/e.