

## Sinhalese / සිංහල Siṁhala

KNAB romanization 1989

### I. Independent vowel characters

|   |       |    |      |    |       |    |        |
|---|-------|----|------|----|-------|----|--------|
| 1 | අ a   | 6  | ඇ ī  | 11 | ඉ ē   | 16 | ඐ අ au |
| 2 | අං ā  | 7  | උ ū  | 12 | උ e   |    |        |
| 3 | ඇ ඇ ē | 8  | ඇං ū | 13 | ඇං ai |    |        |
| 4 | ඇං ē  | 9  | ඄ a  | 14 | ඄ ඕ   |    |        |
| 5 | ඄ i   | 10 | ඄ං a | 15 | ඄ං o  |    |        |

### II. Consonant characters

|   |                       |    |                        |    |                     |    |                     |
|---|-----------------------|----|------------------------|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | ක ka                  | 10 | ශ්‍ර̥ ūna <sup>A</sup> | 19 | ද dha <sup>A</sup>  | 28 | ල la                |
| 2 | ඁ kha <sup>A</sup>    | 11 | ත̥ ta                  | 20 | න na                | 29 | ං va                |
| 3 | ග ga                  | 12 | ත̥̥ tha <sup>A</sup>   | 21 | ප pa                | 30 | (ව fa)              |
| 4 | ඝ gha <sup>A</sup>    | 13 | ඩ̥ da                  | 22 | ඡ̥ pha <sup>A</sup> | 31 | ශ̥ sha <sup>A</sup> |
| 5 | ඩ̥ ña <sup>A</sup>    | 14 | ඩ̥̥ dha <sup>A</sup>   | 23 | ඩ̥ ba               | 32 | ෂ̥ šha <sup>A</sup> |
| 6 | ච̥ cha <sup>A</sup>   | 15 | ඙̥ na                  | 24 | ඛ̥ bha <sup>A</sup> | 33 | ස̥ sa               |
| 7 | ච̥̥ chha <sup>A</sup> | 16 | ත̥̥ ta                 | 25 | ඘̥ ma               | 34 | හ̥ ha               |
| 8 | ජ̥ ja                 | 17 | ත̥̥̥ tha <sup>A</sup>  | 26 | ය̥ ya               | 35 | ල̥ la               |
| 9 | ජ̥̥ jha <sup>A</sup>  | 18 | ද̥̥ da                 | 27 | ර̥̥ ra              |    |                     |

<sup>A</sup> These consonants are used only in Sanskrit and Pali loanwords.

### III. Abbreviated vowel characters and other symbols

|   |                      |    |                     |    |          |    |                             |
|---|----------------------|----|---------------------|----|----------|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | අ a                  | 6  | ඇ ī                 | 11 | ඉ ē      | 16 | ඐ අ au                      |
| 2 | ං ā                  | 7  | ං ū <sup>B</sup>    | 12 | ං e      | 17 | ං ම̥ m̥, න̥ n̥ <sup>E</sup> |
| 3 | ං ඇ̥ ē <sup>A</sup>  | 8  | ං ආ̥ ū <sup>C</sup> | 13 | ංං ai    | 18 | ං ඩ̥̥ h̥                    |
| 4 | ං ඇ̥̥ ē <sup>A</sup> | 9  | ං a                 | 14 | ංං ඕ     | 19 | ං ඔ̥̥ " (D)                 |
| 5 | ං i                  | 10 | ංං a                | 15 | ංං ත̥̥ o |    |                             |

<sup>A</sup> Variations: ඇ r̥e, ඇ r̥ē.

<sup>B</sup> Variations: ග̥ ku, ග̥ gu, ග̥ tu, ග̥ bhu, ග̥ ru, ග̥ shu, ග̥ lu.

<sup>C</sup> Variations: ග̥ kū, ග̥ gū, ග̥ tū, ග̥ bhū, ග̥ rū, ග̥ shū, ග̥ lū.

<sup>D</sup> Marks absence of the inherent vowel (see also Note 3). Special forms: ඔ kh, ඔ n, ඔ ch, ඔ t,  
ඔ d, ඔ dh, ඔ b, ඔ m, ඔ v.

<sup>E</sup> Before ch, d, d, g, j, k, s, sh, sh, t, t, y.

## IV. Consonant ligatures

### Examples

r- කී · rka, ඔ · rta, ඔ · rma, ඔ · rva, ඔ · rsha.

ග -r ග kra, ග gra, ග ghra, ග jra, ග tra, ග dra, ග tra, ග dra, ග dhra, ග pra, ග bra, ග bhra, ග shra.

ඔ -y කා kya, තා tya, වා vya.

Prenasalized sounds: ඔ · ñga, ඔ · ñja, ඔ · ñda, ඔ · nda, ඔ · mba.

Other ligatures: ඔ ksha, ඔ jña, ඔ ñda.

### Notes

1. The character ඔ m is used, as a rule, before h, l, r, s, sh, sh, v and y, and is generally used to substitute ඔ n. In other cases it is often used in the absence of the corresponding ligatures.
2. In order to distinguish ligatures from combinations with the sign of absence of the inherent vowel ඔ, middle dot is used before several ligatures, cf. කොලඹ Kōla·mba and අමබලංගොධ Ambalañgōda.
3. The sign of absence of the inherent vowel ඔ is generally not romanized, except when it is needed to avoid ambiguity, e.g. if it should be followed by an independent vowel character.
4. In local romanization: è, ê → e, v → w.
5. In Unicode the ligatures are distinguished by using the ZWJ code (U+200D), inserted after the code for the sign of absence of the inherent vowel.

### Pronunciation

è [æ], ê [æ:], jñ [gnj], r [ru] / [ir]<sup>A</sup>, sh [ʃ]~[ç], v [w] / [v]<sup>B</sup>

<sup>A</sup> Word-initially.

<sup>B</sup> Before i.