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Devanagari Script

Mastering Devanagari Script for Sanskrit Success

DEFINITION

> Devanagari is the script used for writing Sanskrit and several other Indian languages. It consists of vowels, consonants, and various diacritical marks.

KEY CONCEPTS

Vowels

Devanagari has 14 vowels that represent different sounds in Sanskrit.

Consonants

There are 33 consonants in Devanagari, each with its unique pronunciation.

Matras

Matras are diacritical marks that modify the sound of vowels when combined with consonants.

Syllables

Each character in Devanagari represents a syllable, combining vowels and consonants.

Writing Direction

Devanagari is written from left to right, unlike some other scripts.

EXAMPLES

→ अ (a) is a vowel.

→ क (ka) is a consonant.

→ का (kaa) combines क and the matra for 'aa'.

MEMORY TIPS

★ Visualize vowels as colorful flowers and consonants as sturdy trees.

★ Group similar consonants together to remember their sounds.

★ Practice writing each character repeatedly to build muscle memory.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing similar-looking characters, like क and फ .

✗ Forgetting to add matras when needed.

✗ Writing from right to left instead of left to right.

QUICK RECAP

Devanagari script is essential for writing and understanding Sanskrit. It includes vowels, consonants, and matras, all contributing to the pronunciation and meaning of words. Remember to practice writing to avoid common mistakes.