

Balinese Romanization Table 2025 version

Earlier versions: [2012](#), [1997](#)

Preamble

The Balinese script is an abugida belonging to the Indic (a.k.a Brahmic) family of scripts. It is very closely related to the modern Javanese script, with minimal differences of form. The Balinese script consists of a core inventory of consonant graphemes (corresponding to native phonemes in the Balinese language), two sets of additional consonant graphemes (representing phonemes of Indic and non-Indic origin that are not distinct in the Balinese language), and an inventory of vowel signs, as well as numerals and punctuation. Balinese script is traditionally used for representing text in Balinese, Javanese, Sasak¹, Sanskrit, Malay, Arabic and other languages of central Indonesia. It was the mainstream script used in Bali until Dutch colonization from 1849, when Latin script began to predominate.

As in other Indic scripts, most Balinese consonant and vowel graphemes have two forms: a full form and a combining form. Here, the full and combining forms are considered two allographs of a single grapheme, and are therefore represented by a single Latin character in transliteration. Each graphic unit (*aksara*) consists of one full character, to which some combining characters may or may not be attached—this represents a segment of one or more graphemes. The full character is positioned centrally between the top and bottom lines, while combining characters may be placed below, above, to the left or right of the central full character. The full character represents the leading grapheme of the segment, while the combining characters denote subsequent graphemes within the segment. For example, the graphic unit  **stryoh** consists of the full character  **sa** surrounded by a group of combining characters representing the remaining segment **tryoh** (which replaces the inherent **a** of the full character).

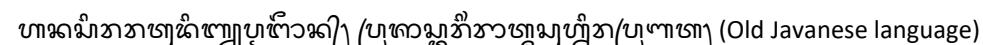
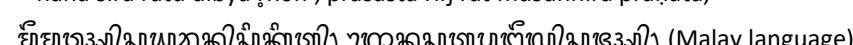
In the tables below, the full and combining forms for each consonant and vowel are shown respectively on the left and right columns.

The vowel **a** is inherent after all consonants except terminal consonants and must therefore be included in transliteration, unless:

- it is replaced by a following combining character; or,
- it is cancelled by use of the vowel-suppressant sign , which is transliterated as the middle dot (·).

The romanization tables below follow the principle of strict transliteration, which aims (as far as practically possible) for one-to-one mapping between the graphemes of the Balinese script and the Latin alphabet. Since the Balinese script belongs to the Indic family, this romanization scheme is primarily based on [ISO 15919:2001](#) (cf. [DHARMA project transliteration guide](#)), with some modifications based on the Puri Kauhan Ubud (PKU) standard used on Balinese [Wikisource](#) and more broadly in the Balinese community.

Some examples to illustrate this romanization scheme:

-  **riñci n a s r d y b t u s a n i n i** (Balinese language)
= riñci n a s r d y b t u s a n i n i,
-  **hana sira ratu dibya rātān·, praśasta rin rāt musuhnira praṇata,** (Old Javanese language)
-  **məmbawaq· sayuran· sikit·, gonda satu puñgəl· sajaq·** (Malay language)

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Balinese consonants (*aksara wresastrā*)

Full form	Combining form	Transliteration
හ	◌	ha ²
න	◌	na
ꦕ	◌	ca
ꦫ	◌	ra
ꦏ	◌	ka
ද	◌	da
ꦠ	◌	ta
ສ	◌	sa
ꦮ	◌	wa ³
ꦭ	◌	la
ꦩ	◌	ma
ꦒ	◌	ga
ꦧ	◌	ba
ߜ	◌	ରା
ପ	ଠ	ପା
ଜ	ଙ	ଜା
ୟ	ଙ୍ଗ	ୟା
ଞ	ଙ୍ଗ୍ର	ଞା ⁵

Terminal consonants⁶

Full form	Combining form	Transliteration
ମ	ମ	ମ ⁷

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ṣ
 ḡ
 ḡ
 ḡ

Indic consonants (*aksara swalalita*)¹⁰

Full form	Combining form	Transliteration
ጀ	ጀ	ṇa
ጀ	ጀ	cha
ጀ	ጀ	kha
ጀ	ጀ	dha
ጀ	ጀ	ḍa
ጀ	ጀ	ḍha
ጀ	ጀ	tha
ጀ	ጀ	ṭa
ጀ	ጀ	ṭha
ጀ	ጀ	śa
ጀ	ጀ	ṣa
ጀ	ጀ	gha
ጀ	ጀ	bha
ጀ	ጀ	p̪ha
ጀ	ጀ	jha

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Non-Indic consonants (*aksara rekan*)^{11 12}

Full form	Combining form	Transliteration
ඔ	ංජ	fa
ඖ	ංඇ	za
ඖ	ංඇ	‘a
ංජ	ංඇ	q ¹³

Vowels¹⁴

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Numerals

៥	1	᭕	2	᭖	3	᭗	4	᭘	5
᭏	6	᭔	7	᭕	8	᭔	9	᭏	0

Punctuation

᭑	,	᭑	.	᭑	-	᭑	:	᭏	᭔
᭑	᭑~	᭑	᭑~	᭑᭑᭑	᭑᭑᭑~	᭑᭑	᭑~	᭑᭑᭑	᭑᭑᭑~
᭑	;	᭑	;;						

Changes from the 2012 version

1. Explanatory preamble added.
2. Principle of strict transliteration applied, based on ISO 15919:2001 with modifications.
3. Explanatory footnotes revised throughout.
4. Changed representative typeface to [Noto Sans Balinese](#) (available at Google Fonts under SIL OFL 1.1 license).
5. Changed character glyphs with rendering issues.
6. Corrected erroneous Balinese character glyphs.
7. Added new and specified existing categories in the table: terminal consonants, Indic consonants, non-Indic consonants, punctuation.

Notes

¹ There is contention over the identity of the script traditionally used to write the Sasak language. It has been variously described as (1) Balinese script with additional special characters for Sasak sounds, (2) an independent script closely related to Balinese, (3) a variant of Javanese script used for Sasak.

² In phonemic transcription, this character may serve as a zero consonant; for example, the word *ampun* may be written either as ॲॲॲॲॲॲ *hampun* or as ॲॲॲॲॲॲ *ampun*. In the strict transliteration scheme presented here, ॲ is always represented by *ha*.

³ The transliteration of this character as *wa* instead of *va* follows the PKU standard and is a deviation from the ISO 15919:2001 standard. It is motivated by the near-universal use of *wa* by Balinese communities, though *va* has gained some currency in scholarly contexts.

⁴ The Unicode block for Balinese includes the character ᭔ (U+1B4C) as a special variant of the graphic unit typically written as ᭔ *jñā*.

⁵ This character represents the palatal nasal. In phonemic transcription practices current in Bali, the character is often transcribed as *ny* when followed by a vowel (e.g. ᭔᭔ *prajña*) but *n* when followed by a consonant (e.g. ᭔᭔᭔ *panca*). In the strict transliteration scheme presented here, the character ᭔ is always represented by *ñā* regardless of position (e.g. ᭔᭔ *prajña*, ᭔᭔᭔ *pañca*).

⁶ This group of characters has the special function of terminating a graphic unit; they therefore exist only in combining forms and have no inherent vowel.

⁷ The transliteration of this character (*ulu ricem*) as *m* follows the PKU standard.

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⁸ The transliteration of this character (*cecek*) as **ŋ** follows the PKU standard, instead of the **ṁ** offered as the ‘simplified nasalization’ option in ISO 15919:2001. This is motivated by the fact that *cecek* in Balinese texts consistently represents the velar nasal phoneme. If input is limited to [MARC-8](#) character set (as in certain Latin-script library cataloging work), use **ṁ**.

⁹ The transliteration of this character (*surang*) as ſ follows the PKU standard, as it is not covered by ISO 15919:2001.

¹⁰ These characters represent graphemes in the inherited Indic inventory that do not correspond to distinct phonemes in the modern Balinese language. They are usually employed when Balinese script is used to represent Sanskrit or Old Javanese text.

¹² A group of *aksara rekan* characters (ጀጀ, ጀጀጀ, ጀጀጀጀ, ጀጀጀጀጀ, ጀጀጀጀጀጀ, ጀጀጀጀጀጀጀ) are present in the Unicode Balinese range (U+1B45 to U+1B48) supposedly to accommodate Sasak orthography. However, [Perdana](#) (2023: 15-17) noted that there is no strong evidence that they were ever used beyond Unicode proposals. They may have been part of an experimental orthography, which did not see meaningful implementation but was prematurely included in Unicode. They are not included in this scheme.

¹⁴ The long-vowel characters (*swara dirgha*) are used primarily for representing vowel length in Sanskrit and Old Javanese texts, since vowel length is not phonemic in the modern Balinese language. Long vowels are transliterated by adding a macron above.

¹⁵ The full character ݢ (known as *akara* in Balinese) can be used as a zero vowel (or “vowel support”) whose phonemic value is determined by a combining vowel character other than ܠ. In such cases, the *akara* is transliterated as **q**, in line with the DHARMA transliteration guide (§3.3.4). Thus ݢ, representing the phoneme *i*, is transliterated here as **qi**.

¹⁶ The combining characters  **i** and  **u** can be attached to a single full character to indicate a cancelled character due to scribal error. This instance should be transliterated by enclosing the original full character within brackets; thus an erroneous  is transliterated {ba}.

¹⁷ This character has an alternative combining form ጀ due to reanalysis of the independent vowel letter as a consonant in Balinese (Everson & Suatiana 2005: 2), which is also transliterated as r in this scheme.

¹⁸ In addition to representing the rare instances of the Sanskrit vocalic rhotic phoneme *r̥*, this character is often used to represent the segment *ra* or *ar* in Balinese and Javanese texts.

¹⁹ This character has an alternative combining form 𩩥 (see note 17), which is also transliterated as *fi* in this scheme.

²⁰ As instances of the Sanskrit vocalic liquid phoneme /l/ are almost non-existent in texts from Bali, besides manuals about the Sanskrit language itself, this character is instead used to represent the segment **la** or **al** in Balinese and Javanese texts.

²¹ The transliteration of this character (*pepet*) as **a** (short) follows the DHARMA transliteration guide (§3.1), since it is not covered by ISO 15919:2001. It only possesses a combining form. If input is limited to MARC-8 character set, use **ĕ**.

²² If input is limited to MARC-8 character set, use é.