

# Understanding Vowels and Consonants

Vowels have a long form and short form.

- The long form might be used at the beginning or ending of a word.
- Usually in the middle of a word, the vowel is changing the way a consonant is spoken and the short form is attached to the consonant.

Notice "a" doesn't have visible short-form. Consonants are assumed to have "a" attached to them unless the short-form of another vowel is used.

Notice "ā" adds a stick after the consonant it is affecting, and you hold the "ā" longer.

Letter	Long Form	Sounds	Consonant	Consonant with Short Vowel Form Matra
a	अ	Da ra naa (to fear)	ड	डरना
Do not hold "a" for a long time – short		Ba taa naa (to explain)	ब	बताना
	अ	Use long form at the start of a word	A s l ī (genuine)	असली
Ā	आ	V+aa	व	वा
Hold "ā" longer than "a" Like "aa"		B+aa	ब	बा
		M+aa	म	मा
		Ch+aa	च	चा
	आ	Use long form at the start of a word	Ā l s ī (lazy)	आलसी

Notice the short ĩ – like igloo, adds a stick **before** the consonant and attaches with a curved line on top to the consonant it is affecting.

Notice ī, which sounds like “ee” adds a stick **after** the consonant and attaches with a curved line on top to the consonant it is affecting.

Letter	Long Form	Sounds	Consonant	Consonant with Short Vowel Form Matra
ĩ	इ	$\text{ĩ} + \text{H} = \text{hĩ}$ Line before letter and connected on top = ĩ	ह	हि
		$\text{ĩ} + \text{V} = \text{vĩ}$	व	वि
		$\text{ĩ} + \text{N} = \text{nĩ}$	न	नि
	इ	Use long form at the start of a word	I ma n da r (honest)	इमानदार
ī	ई	$\text{D} + \text{ī} = \text{dee}$ Line after letter and connected on top = ī	द	दी
		$\text{Dh} + \text{ī} = \text{dhee}$	ड़	ड़ी
		$\text{K} + \text{ī} = \text{kee}$	क	की
		$\text{L} + \text{ī} = \text{lee}$	ल	ली
		$\text{Sh} + \text{ī} = \text{shee}$	श	शी
		$\text{S} + \text{ī} = \text{see}$	स	सी
		$\text{Kō} + \text{ī} = \text{kō ee}$ Long form used after another vowel	को	कोई

Notice that “u” and “ū” add a curl or a tail under the consonant they are affecting.

Letter	Long Form	Sounds	Consonant	Consonant with Short Vowel Form Matra
u	उ	L+u	ल	लु
Make short “u” sound. Don’t hold as long		T+u	त	तु
		H+u	ह	हु
		S+u	स	सु
		M+u	म	मु
		G+u	ग	गु
		G+u	Gu n gu naa (lukewarm)	गुनगुना
	उ	Use long form at the start of a word	U daa r (generous)	उदार
ū	ऊ	J+uu	ज	जू
Hold “u” sound longer		D+uu	द	दू
		R+uu	र	रू
		B+uu	ब	बू
		Y+uu	य	यू
		Dh+uu	ध	धू
	ऊ	Use long form at the start of a word	Oo n chaa (exalted)	ऊंचा
	उ ऊ	Use long form after another vowel	U ba oo (boring)	उबाऊ

Notice the “e” and “ai” add one or two feathers on top of the existing letter.

Letter	Long Form	Sounds	Consonant	Consonant with Short Vowel Form Matra
e	ए	D+ā=day	ड	डे
		B+ā=bay	ब	बे
		S+ay=say	स	से
	#1	Use long form at the start of a word, or after another vowel	e k (one)	एक
ai	ऐ	T+ai=Tai	त	तै
Like ai in air		L+ai=Lai	ल	लै

Notice that “ō” and “au” add a stick with one or two feathers on top after the consonant it’s affecting.

Letter	Long Form	Sounds	Consonant	Consonant with Short Vowel Form Matra
ō	ओ	H+ō = Hō	ह	हो
	#2	D+ō = Dō	द	दो
		K+ō = Kō	क	को
		M+ō = Mō	म	मो
		N+ō = Nō	न	नो
		Chh+ō = Chhō	छ	छो
		Kr+ō = Krō	क्र	क्रो
au	औ	ch+au	च	चौ
		T+au	त	तौ
	#9	N+au	न	नौ
	#14	Chaudah	चौ	चौदह
	#100	S+au	स	सौ