

LEARN SANSKRIT -- CONSOLIDATED MODULE-1

THE SANSKRIT ALPHABET -- संस्कृत वर्णमाला

4.8. PRONUNCIATION OF 'र' :

The letter 'र' is seen pronounced in two ways, viz.,  
(a) Before a letter and (b) After a letter.

(a) When 'र' is pronounced (As a half sound) before a Consonant with which it is joined, it assumes the form of a small curve and is written above the letter concerned, as shown in the following examples:

‘मार्गः’ (र+ग) ‘कार्यालयः’ (र+य)  
mārgaḥ kāryālayaḥ

(b)(i) When 'र' is pronounced (As a full sound) after a Consonant having a Vertical Line, it assumes the form of a small left slanting stroke and is written to the left of the Vertical Stroke of the letter concerned from a 'convenient junction' as shown in the following examples:

‘नम्रः’ (म्+र) ‘चक्रः’ (क्+र)  
namraḥ cakraḥ

**Exception:**

‘श्रीमान्’ (श्+र)

śrīmān

‘श्रीधरः’ (श्+र)

śrīdharah

(ii) And when ‘र’ is pronounced (As a full sound) after a Consonant not having a Vertical Line, it assumes the form of a small left slanting stroke immediately followed by a small right slanting stroke and written below the letter concerned as shown in the following examples:

‘राष्ट्रः’ (ष्+ट्+र)

rāṣṭrah

‘द्रामा’ (ङ्+र)

ḍrāmā

**Exception:**

‘दरिद्रः’ (द्+र)

Daridrah

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