

Bhuvaneshwar Mandir

New York, USA

VOWELS REPRESENTED BY SIGNS

In written Hindi, vowels are not always used. Instead, they are substituted by signs. These are called maatraas.

VOWEL	SIGN
अ	
आ	ा
इ	ि
ई	ी
उ	ु
ऊ	ू
ऋ	ृ

VOWEL	SIGN
ए	े
ऐ	ै
ओ	ो
औ	ौ
अं	ं
अः	ः

When these signs are applied to the consonants, they change the sounds of them.

APPLICATION:

Consonant + Vowel	Consonant + Vowel sign	Character	Pronunciation
क+अ	क+	क	ka
क+आ	क+ा	का	kaa
क+इ	क+ि	कि	ki
क+ई	क+ी	की	kee

क+उ	क+ ु	कु	ku
क+ऊ	क+ ू	कू	koo
क+ऋ	क+ ृ	कृ	kra
क+ए	क+ े	के	kay
क+ऐ	क+ ै	कै	kai
क+ओ	क+ ो	को	ko
क+औ	क+ ौ	कौ	kow
क+अं	क+ ँ	कं	kam
क+अः	क+ ः	कः	kah

Using the above application, we find that because of the vowels one consonant can give thirteen different sounds.

Exercise: Construct the above chart for all the other consonants.

Jai Shree Ram
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