












The Basic Syllables (Akṣara Wreṣāstra)

Table 1 Basic Syllables

| No | Regular Form | Appended Form | Romanized | No | Regular Form | Appended Form | Romanized |
|----|---|---|-----------|----|---|---|-----------|
| 1 |  |  | ha or a | 10 |  |  | la |
| 2 |  |  | na | 11 |  |  | ma |
| 3 |  |  | ca | 12 |  |  | ga |
| 4 |  |  | ra | 13 |  |  | ba |
| 5 |  |  | ka | 14 |  |  | nga |
| 6 |  |  | da | 15 |  |  | pa |
| 7 |  |  | ta | 16 |  |  | ja |
| 8 |  |  | sa | 17 |  |  | ya |
| 9 |  |  | wa | 18 |  |  | nya |

There are eighteen basic syllables that are used for writing pure Balinese language. Each syllable has an appended form, which kill the previous syllable sound. The appended form appears below the syllable that precedes it.

The Vowels (Aksara Suara)

There are twelve distinct vowel sounds in Balinese. They appear as either vowel signs attached to the syllables, or as independent letters if the word started with a vowel. If the vowels appear in the middle of a word, the vowel signs are attached to the syllable *ha*











Suku and suku ilut can be attached to *gantungan* or *gempelan* as well.

Table 2 Vowel Signs

| No | Vowel Sign | Name | Romanized | No | Vowel Sign | Name | Romanized |
|----|---------------|---------------|-----------|----|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1 | N/A (implied) | N/A (implied) | a | 7 | | taleng | e |
| 2 | | tedong | ā | 8 | | taleng-repa | ai |
| 3 | | ulu | i | 9 | | taleng tedong | o |
| 4 | | ulu-sari | ī | 10 | | taleng-repa tedong | au |
| 5 | | suku | u | 11 | | pepet | ě |
| 6 | | suku-ilut | ū | 12 | | pepet tedong | ö |

Tedong, *ulu sari*, and *suku ilut* are pronounced longer than their counterparts (inherent vowel, *ulu*, *suku*). It is often used for prefixing words. One example is prefix 'ma' + 'adep' becoming *mādep*. If it appears in the holy texts, that are meant to be recited, those vowels can be pronounced even longer than normal reading.









Table 3 Independent Vowels

| No | Independent Vowel Form | Name | Romanized | No | Independent Vowel Form | Name | Romanized |
|----|---|---------------|-----------|----|---|---------------|-----------|
| 1 |  | a kara | a | 6 |  | u kara tedong | ū |
| 2 |  | a kara tedong | ā | 7 |  | e kara | e |
| 3 |  | i kara | i | 8 |  | airsania | ai |
| 4 |  | i kara tedong | ī | 9 |  | o kara | o |
| 5 |  | u kara | u | 10 |  | o kara tedong | au |

All of the basic syllables can have any of the vowel signs, except:
ra cannot have ě or ö appended to it.
la cannot have ě or ö appended to it.

The exceptions are summarized in the following table.




Table 4 Illegal Combination of Syllable - Vowel Signs

| No | Illegal Combination | Replaced by | The Appended Form | Name | Romanized |
|----|---------------------|---|---|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 | <i>ra + ě</i> |  |  | <i>ra repa</i> | rě |
| 2 | <i>ra + ö</i> |  |  | | rö |
| 3 | <i>la + ě</i> |  |  | <i>la lenga</i> | lě |
| 4 | <i>la + ö</i> |  |  | | lö |

Semi-Vowels (Arda Suara)

The Balinese script has four semi-vowels attached to syllable: *ra*, *wa* (ua), *la*, *ya* (ia).

Table 5 Semi Vowels

| No | Semi Vowel Sign | Name | Romanized | Remarks |
|----|---|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| 1 |  | guwung | ra | Same glyph as <i>gantungan ra</i> |
| |  | guwung macelek | rě | Only happened when arda suara ra + ě (pepet) |
| |  | guwung macelek tedong | rö | Only happened when arda suara ra + ö (pepet tedong) |
| 2 |  | suku kembang | ua | Same glyph as <i>gantungan wa</i> |
| 3 |  | gantungan la | la | Same glyph and name as <i>gantungan la</i> |
| 4 |  | nania | ia | Same glyph as <i>gantungan ya</i> |

Aksara Şwalalita

In addition to the eighteen basic syllables, there are other syllables that are used for writing Kawi (Old Javanese) language. The rule of usage is the same as the basic syllables.





Table 6 Aksara Şwalalita

| No | Regular Form | Appended Form | Name | Romanized |
|----|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1 | ꦤꦫꦧꦠ | ꦤꦫꦧꦠꦺꦴ | na <i>rambat</i> | ṅa |
| 2 | ꦢꦩꦢꦸ | ꦢꦩꦢꦸꦺꦴ | da <i>madu</i> | dha |
| 3 | ꦠꦠꦮ | ꦠꦠꦮꦺꦴ | ta <i>tawa</i> | tha |
| 4 | ꦠꦠꦶꦏ | ꦠꦠꦶꦏꦺꦴ | ta <i>latik</i> | ṭa |
| 5 | ꦱꦱꦒ | ꦱꦱꦒꦺꦴ | sa <i>saga</i> | ṣa |
| 6 | ꦱꦱꦥ | ꦱꦱꦥꦺꦴ | sa <i>sapa</i> | śa |
| 7 | ꦒꦒꦫ | ꦒꦒꦫꦺꦴ | ga <i>gora</i> | gha |
| 8 | ꦧꦏꦼꦧꦁ | ꦧꦏꦼꦧꦁꦺꦴ | ba <i>kembang</i> | bha |
| 9 | ꦥꦏꦩꦱ | ꦥꦏꦩꦱꦺꦴ | pa <i>kapal</i> | pha |

Sound Killers (Pangangge Tengenan)

To end the sound of a syllable, one may add one of the signs: *ardha chandra*, *surang*, *cecek*, *bisah*, or *adegadeg*.





Table 7 Sound Killers

| No | Sign | Name | Romanized | Remarks |
|----|---|----------|-----------|--|
| 1 |  | cecek | ...ng | Only appears at the end of a word, with exceptions for words with same vowels |
| 2 |  | surang | ...r | Can appear anywhere |
| 3 |  | bisah | ...h | Only appears at the end of a word, with exceptions for words with same vowels |
| 4 |  | adegadeg | N/A | Appear after a syllable, kill the inherent sound of the syllable. This is the default sound killer |

Miscellaneous Signs

The following two signs, if combined with some syllables, become part of the Akśara *Modre*, which are used to write words in Sanskrit, usually part of prayers.

Table 8 Miscellaneous Signs

| No | Sign | Name | Romanized | Remarks |
|----|--|------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 1 |  or  | Ulu candra | ...ng | Only appears in holy letters |
| 2 |  or  | Ulu ricem | ...m | Only appears in Sanskrit texts |

Holy Symbol Ongkara

When Au Kara meets Ulu Candra, the romanization is not “Aung”, but “Om”. And the letter has a special name Ongkara This word is used almost everywhere in the text, as it is the symbol of God Himself. The most notable sentences using OM are the greetings:

Om Swastiastu
(May God blesses you)






Om Şanti Şanti Şanti, Om
(May peace be everywhere)



Miscellaneous Syllables

There are two more syllables that apparently borrowed from Javanese. Their existence in Balinese script is very rare, but they exist. For the syllable CHA, the normal form of it does not exist. If CHA appears in a text, it is always paired with the normal form of CA

Table 9 Miscellaneous Syllables

| No | Syllabe | Appended Form | Name | Romanized |
|----|---|---|------|-----------|
| 1 | N/A |  | cha | cha |
| 2 |  |  | kha | kha |

Numerals

The Balinese use decimal system for numbers. There is a simple one-to-one mapping to the Arabic digits, as shown in the following table.

Table 10 The Digits

| Digic | Glyph | Digic | Glyph |
|-------|---|-------|---|
| 0 |  | 5 |  |
| 1 |  | 6 |  |
| 2 |  | 7 |  |
| 3 |  | 8 |  |
| 4 |  | 9 |  |

Punctuation

These are some punctuations and symbols specific to the Balinese text.

Table 11 Punctuation

| Glyph | Name | Usage |
|------------|-----------------|--|
| ↵ | Carik | Comma |
| ↵↵ | Carik Pareren | Period. Used at the end of a sentence. |
| ⋈ | Panten | Used at the beginning of letter, story, or verse |
| ⋈↵ | Pasalinan | Used at the end of letter, story, or verse |
| ꦏꦼꦩꦠꦢ | Pamada | Used at the beginning of religious texts |
| ꦏꦼꦩꦠꦢꦏꦼꦩꦠꦢ | Carik Agung | Used at the end of religious texts |
| ꦏꦼꦩꦸꦁꦏꦏ | Carik Pamungkah | Colon |
| ” | Idem | Idem |