

Basic Nepali Pronunciation

There are 12 vowels in the Nepali language. For most purposes, you need just the following 10:

- ❖ a - as in "all"
- ❖ aa - as in "father"
- ❖ I - as in "it"
- ❖ Ee - as in "eat"
- ❖ u - as in "put"
- ❖ oo - as in "root"
- ❖ e - as in "egg"
- ❖ ai - pronounce vowels a + i in swift succession
- ❖ o - as in "over"
- ❖ au - pronounce vowels a + u in swift succession

There are 36 consonants in the Nepali language. Three of them are minor variants of other consonants and you can ignore them. The 33 that you should learn how to pronounce are listed below:

- ❖ Ka - as in "call"
- ❖ Kha - as in "khaki"
- ❖ Ga - as in "gone"
- ❖ Gha - as in "Ghana"
- ❖ Nga - similar to English "ing"
- ❖ Cha - as in "church"
- ❖ Chha - aspirated cha (see note below to understand aspirated consonants)
- ❖ za - as in "zombie"
- ❖ zha - aspirated "za"
- ❖ na - as in "nausea"
- ❖ tta - as in "talk"
- ❖ ttha - aspirated ta
- ❖ dda - as in "dog"
- ❖ ddha - aspirated dda
- ❖ ta - as in "talk", but with tongue behind upper teeth
- ❖ tha - as in "thunder"
- ❖ da - same as "the"
- ❖ dha - aspirated da
- ❖ pa - as in "Paul"
- ❖ pha - as in "fall"
- ❖ ba - as in "ball"
- ❖ bha - as in "vault"
- ❖ ma - as in "mall"
- ❖ ya - as in "yawn"
- ❖ ra - as in "raw"
- ❖ la - as in "law"
- ❖ wa - as in "wok"
- ❖ sa - as in "saw"
- ❖ sha - as in "shawl"
- ❖ ha - as in "haw"
- ❖ chhya - pronounce chha + ya as a single syllable
- ❖ tra - pronounce ta + ra as a single syllable
- ❖ gya - pronounce ga + ya as a single syllable

🚩 Hello -	Namaste
🚩 Good morning, good evening -	Namaste
🚩 Good night -	Shubha raatri
🚩 How are you? (casual) -	Ke chha?
🚩 I am fine -	Tthik chha
🚩 And you? -	Timi laai?
🚩 How are you? (formal) -	Sanchai hunu hunchha?
🚩 I am fine -	Sanchai chhu
🚩 And you? -	Tapaai~ laai?
🚩 Good -	Raamro
🚩 Very Good -	Dherai raamro
🚩 Bad -	Naraamro
🚩 Yes -	Ho
🚩 No -	Hoina
🚩 Thank you -	Dhanya baad
🚩 I am sorry -	Maaph garnus
🚩 See you again -	Pheri bhetau~ laa
🚩 See you later -	Pachhi bhetau~ laa

🚩 I don't know -	Thaahaa chhaina
🚩 I don't understand -	Maile buzhina
🚩 Please speak slowly -	Bistaarai bolnus
🚩 Please repeat that -	Pheri bhannus ta
🚩 I like it -	Malaai man paryo
🚩 I don't like it -	Malaai man parena
🚩 What? -	Ke?
🚩 Who? -	Ko?
🚩 When? -	Kahile?
🚩 Where? -	Kahaa?
🚩 Why? -	Kina?
🚩 How? -	Kasari?
🚩 How much? -	Kati?
🚩 How many? (objects) -	Kati wataa?
🚩 How many? (people) -	Kati zanaa?