

Malayalam

Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 1)

| | | | |
|---|----------------|---|----|
| അ | a | ഈ | ഈ |
| ആ | ā | ഞ | ഈ |
| ഃ | ā (see Note 2) | എ | e |
| ഇ | i | ഏ | ē |
| ഈ | ī | ഐ | ai |
| ഉ | u | ഓ | o |
| ഊ | ū | ഔ | ō |
| ഋ | r̄ | ഘ | au |

Consonants (see Note 3)

| Gutturals | | Palatals | | Cerebrals | | Dentals | |
|-----------|-----|------------|-----------------|-----------|-----|----------|-----|
| ക | ka | ച | ca | ട | ṭa | ത | ta |
| ഖ | kha | ഛ | cha | ഠ | ṭha | ഥ | tha |
| ഗ | ga | ജ | ja | ഡ | ḍa | ദ | da |
| ഘ | gha | ഝ | jha | ഢ | ḍha | ധ | dha |
| ങ | ṅa | ഞ | ñā | ണ | ṇa | ന | na |
| Labials | | Semivowels | | Sibilants | | Aspirate | |
| പ | pa | യ | ya | ശ | śa | ഹ | ha |
| ഫ | pha | ര | ra | ഷ | ṣa | | |
| ബ | ba | റ | ra | സ | sa | | |
| ഭ | bha | ററ | ṛṛ (see Note 4) | | | | |
| മ | ma | ല | la | | | | |
| | | ള | ḷa | | | | |
| | | ഴ | ḷa | | | | |
| | | വ | va | | | | |

Anusvāra (see Note 5)

ം ṁ

Visarga

ഃ ḥ

Avagraha

‿ ' (apostrophe)

Notes

1. Only the vowel forms that appear at the beginning of a syllable are listed; the forms used for vowels following a consonant can be found in grammars; no distinction between the two is made in transliteration.
2. When [◌] is used in combination with the vowel *u* (u), the combination is also transliterated *á*.
3. The vowel *a* is implicit after all consonants and consonant clusters and is supplied in transliteration, with the following exceptions:
 - a) when another vowel is indicated by its appropriate sign;
 - b) when the absence of any vowel is indicated by the superscript sign [◌] (also used for the vowel *á*); and
 - c) when the following modified consonantal forms are used:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ക | ക | ന | ന | ല | ല | ര | ര |
| ക | ന | ത | ത | ! | ! | | |
4. When _o appears as a subscript in a cluster, it is transliterated *ta*.
5. Exception: *Anusvāra* is transliterated by:
 - a) *ṅ* before gutturals,
 - b) *ñ* before palatals,
 - c) *ṇ* before cerebrals,
 - d) *n* before dentals, and
 - e) *m* before labials.