

HINTS ON SPECIAL PRONUNCIATION

Bengali script is no longer pronounced truly phonetically. The pronunciation is often modified when certain consonants are joined in “conjuncts”. In these cases the first consonant is emphasized, and the second is effectively neglected. The main instances are:-

ক্ষ	=	ক	+	ষ	sounds like	ক্ক, ক'ক
kṣa	=	k	+	ṣa	"	kka, k'ka
ত্ম	=	ত	+	ম	sounds like	ত্ৰ, ত'ত
tma	=	t	+	ma	"	tta, t'ta

Trailing য y or য় ya are written as য় ("yafla"). The effect on pronunciation is as shown above, for example:-

দ্য	=	দ	+	য (য়)	sounds like	দ্দ, দ'দ
dya	=	d	+	yā (ya)	"	dda, d'da

The pronunciation of some conjuncts is changed more drastically:-

জ্ঞ	=	জ	+	ঞ	sounds like	গ্য, গ'য়
jñ²a	=	j	+	n²a	"	gya, g'ya
হ্য	=	হ	+	য (য়)	sounds like	জ্জ, জ'জ
hya	=	h	+	yā (ya)	"	jja, j'ja

Where appropriate, assistance is given in the dictionary after the romanized version of particularly problematical words.