

Pronunciation Guide

As a foreigner you are unlikely to ever attain perfect pronunciation in Sinhala. That should not, however, trouble you. We can all recognise a French man or German when they speak English but (usually) they are perfectly comprehensible. That is our goal here. You should familiarise yourself with this pronunciation guide made using the phonemic script and use it along with the sound files to ensure that your pronunciation while, maybe not perfect, is easily understandable.

Vowels

Symbol	Keyword
ɪ	bit
e	bed
ʌ	cat
ɒ	dog
ʊ	put
ə	about
i:	sheep
u:	boot
a:	father

Diphthongs

eɪ	make
aɪ	lie
ɔɪ	boy
eʊ	note
eɪ	hair
aʊ	now

Consonants

Symbol	Keyword
b	back
tS	cheer
d	day
f	fat
g	get
h	hot
dZ	jump
k	key
l	let
m	sum
n	sun
N	sung
p	pen
r	red
s	soon
S	ship
t	ten
w	wet
j	yet