

Bengali

বাংলা

Spoken in: Bangladesh, India, and several other countries

Region: Eastern South Asia

Total speakers: 207 million

Genetic Classification: Indo-European Indo-Iranian Indo-Aryan Eastern Zone Apabhhransa Avahattha Bengali

Official language of: Bangladesh, India, and Indian states of West Bengal and Tripura

Bengali is native to the region of eastern South Asia known as Bengal, which comprises Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal. There are also significant Bangla-speaking communities in the Indian states of Assam and Tripura and in immigrant populations in the West and the Middle East. With more than 200 million native speakers, it is the fourth or fifth most widely spoken language in the world.

The emergence of New Indo-Aryan speeches was not all synchronized. But some of them, including Bengali, certainly originated by the middle of the tenth century at the latest. The Bengali script, like all other Indian scripts, originated from Brahmi alphabet of the Asokan inscriptions. The Bengali alphabet in its present printed form took shape in 1778 when printing types were first cast by Charles Wilkins. There still remained a few archaic forms and these were finally replaced in the middle of the nineteenth century.

The spelling system is based on an older version on the language and thus does not take into account some vowel mergers that have taken place in the spoken language; thus it cannot be described as a completely phonemic orthography.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 11 Auslan sessional interpreters.

Bengali alphabet:

Vowels and vowel diacritics

অ	আ	ই	ঈ	উ	ঊ	ঋ	এ	ঐ	ও	ঔ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	ṛ	e	ai	o	au
[ɔ, o]	[ɑ:]	[i, e]	[i]	[u, o]	[u]	[ri]	[e, æ]	[oj]	[o]	[ow]
ক	কা	কি	কী	কু	কূ	ক্	কে	কৈ	কো	কৌ
ka	kā	ki	kī	ku	kū	kṛ	ke	kai	ko	kau

Consonants

ক	ka [kɔ]	খ	kha [kʰɔ]	গ	ga [gɔ]	ঘ	gha [gʱɔ]	ঙ	ŋa [ŋɔ]
চ	ca [tʃɔ]	ছ	cha [tʃʰɔ]	জ	ja [dʒɔ]	ঝ	jha [dʒʱɔ]	ঞ	ɲa [ɲɔ]
ট	ṭa [ʈɔ]	ঠ	ṭha [ʈʰɔ]	ড	ḍa [ɖɔ]	ঢ	ḍha [ɖʱɔ]	ণ	ṇa [ɳɔ]
ত	ta [tɔ]	থ	tha [tʰɔ]	দ	ḍa [dɔ]	ধ	dha [dʱɔ]	ন	na [nɔ]
প	pa [pɔ]	ফ	pha [pʰɔ]	ব	ba [bɔ]	ভ	bha [bʱɔ]	ম	ma [mɔ]
য	ya [dʒɔ]	র	ra [rɔ]	ল	la [lɔ]				
শ	śa [ʃɔ/ʂɔ]	ষ	ṣa [ʃɔ]	স	sa [sɔ/ʂɔ]	হ	ha [ɦɔ]		