Tibetan

alphabet

Tibetan script consists of 30 basic characters and four symbols for vowels, which can be added to these characters.

Each of the consonants in the writing system includes an 'a'. This is because consonants in Tibetan are represented as syllabic units and all have an inherent 'a' sound in their basic form. Consonants are arranged according to where the sound comes from in your mouth (from the throat to the lips).

Symbols are added above or below the consonant to indicate different vowel sounds – we've used the first consonant, ཀ (ka), as an example. Note that the Tibetan symbol for each vowel can be pronounced in different ways because the pronunciation is affected by the letters around it.

Vowels (consonant 'ka' used as example)			
ཀི ki	ཀུ ku	ཀེ ke	ཀོ ko

Consonants			
ཀ ka	ཁ kha	ག ga	ང nga
ཅ ca	ཆ cha	ཇ ja	ཉ nya
ཏ ta	ཐ tha	ད da	ན na
པ pa	ཕ pha	བ ba	མ ma
ཙ tsa	ཚ tsha	ཛ dza	
ཝ wa	ཞ zha	ཟ za	
འ 'a	ཡ ya	ར ra	ལ la
ཤ sha	ས sa		
ཧ ha	ཨ a		