

How to Compose Text Using Pothana Keyboard

When you start Tavultesoft Keyman Desktop, it puts a small Diamond shaped icon at the bottom of the screen, near where the time and other icons are displayed. If you click on this icon, you will see the Pothana Telugu keyboard identified by a small icon Te as one of the selectable items. Click on this and then select Pothana2000 as your Complex font in any text processing or other program. If a program doesn't have the facility to change font, it defaults to Gautami for Telugu, which comes as part of your Windows installation. The Pothana keyboard mapping and text composition logic works for this and other Telugu fonts also installed on your computer. I have noticed sometimes in Windows XP, the selection keeps on reverting to Gautami, although you have selected Pothana2000 for the complex font. An easy solution for this is to define a style with Poathana2000, and use this style for your text composition.

If you want to switch back to English (for ex., you want to insert English text in your Telugu document), you have to click on the Diamond icon again and click on 'Switch Keyman Desktop Off' to inactivate Te icon. After entering the English text, you have to reactivate Te icon to type Telugu again.

You notice that the following principles are used in designing this keyboard:

- The Telugu Characters are assigned to similar sounding English keys.**
For ex, క is assigned to k, గ to g, స to s, ద to d, అ to a, ఇ to i, ఎ to e, ఒ to o etc.
- The aspirates and long vowels are assigned to the shifted positions of the same keys.**
For ex, ఖ is assigned to K, ఘ to G, శ to S, ఢ to d, ఆ to A, ఈ to I, ఏ to E, ఓ to O etc.
- Following are exceptions to the above rules because you cannot perfectly match English to Telugu:**
త to w, థ to W, ష to x, ఙ to X, ఞ to V, జ to M, హ to H, ఋ to q, ౠ to Q, ఐ to Y, ఔ to [
- Following are the mappings for other frequently used symbols for Telugu.**

సున్న to f, అరసున్న to F, పొల్లు to h, విసర్గ to]

Notice that, సున్న, అరసున్న, and పొల్లు are placed on home row because of their very frequent occurrence:

- Other infrequently used symbols are assigned as follows:**
అవగ్రహ to RALT /, అర్ధవిసర్గ LALT f, ఉదాత్త RALT quote, రెట్టింపు ఉదాత్త RALT Semi-Colon
- The matra symbols such as deergham, gudi, kommu, aitvam etc., that are NEVER used to compose Telugu text, are mapped to hard to access LALT locations of the corresponding vowel keys.**

To compose Telugu text, you phonetically type the basic alphabet characters. You never have to enter the matra symbols such as deergham, gudi, kommu etc., so they don't even appear on the main (shifted and unshifted) keyboard mappings. This ability saves a lot of real estate on the keyboard, and enables this Keyboard to very closely map Telugu alphabet to the corresponding keys on a QWERTY keyboard. It is very easy to compose Telugu using this method, and I will make it clear by giving some examples:

General rule: Type the required vowel after a consonant or a cluster of consonants, to get the corresponding guninatham (i.e., vowel conjugated form). Note that the Pollu (also called Halanth) character ె is mapped to lower case h. Examples:

a) Simple forms:

క ఆ -> కా, క ఇ -> కి, క ఈ -> కీ, క ఉ -> కు, క ఊ -> కూ, క ఋ -> కృ,

క ౠ -> కౄ, క ఎ -> కె, క ఏ -> కే, క ఒ -> కొ, క ఓ -> కో, క ఔ -> కౌ

క ం -> కం, క ః -> కః, క ె -> కె, క ః -> కః,

and so on for other consonants and other ligatures.

b) Complex forms: Type phonetically to form the complex consonant cluster first and then end it either with a guninatham form or a pollu form. Examples:

ర ం త ఆ -> ర్రా, ర ం త ఋ -> ర్ర్ష, ర ం త ఋ -> ర్ర్షీ, ర ం త ఐ-> ర్ర్షై,
 భ ర ం త ఋ హ ర ఙ ః -> భర్ర్షహరిః,
 న ం ద ం ర -> న్న్ర, న ం ద ం ర ః -> న్న్రః, న ం ద ం ర ఐ ః -> న్న్రైః
 చ న ం ద ం ర ఆ -> చన్న్రా; న ం ట ం ర ఠ ట ం -> న్న్ట్టీట్,
 న ం త ం ర ఠ -> న్న్త్రి; న ం త ం ర ఐ -> న్న్త్రి; న ం త ం ర ఐ ణ మ ఉ -> న్న్త్రిణము,
 క్ష ం మ ఐ -> క్ష్మై, శ ఙ ష ం ట ం ల ఆ -> శ్శ్ష్మ, శ క్ య ఓ ఽ ప ఙ -> శక్యోఽపి,
 ధ ఆ ర ం ష ం ట ం య మ ఉ -> ధార్ష్యము; శ ఆ ర ం జ ం ఙ ఙ -> శార్జ్జ

c) To compose Vedic text with swaras, you type single udatta and double udatta swaras first then the required ligature as shown below. For anudatta, you just underline the required ligature.

'క ఆ -> కా, 'క -> క, "క ఉ -> కు, 'స ఙ -> సా, "య ఊ -> యూ, "క ం ర ఓ -> క్రో,
 'ష ం ణ -> ష్ష; "ష ం ణ ఓ -> ష్షో, ఇ న ం ద ం ర ఐ ః -> ఇన్న్రైః

If you have any comments or questions you can email me at Krishna.desikachary@gmail.com