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KeymanWeb Help

Tamil Typewriter (Visual Media) Keyboard Help

Keyboard © 2008 Visual Media and Tavultesoft

Overview

This keyboard is designed for the Tamil language and based on the Tamil typewriter layout. The keyboard is designed for users who are familiar with both this layout and the Tamil script, and is intended for use with a normal QWERTY (English) keyboard.

Most computers will automatically download a special font if needed to display this language correctly.

Click here to see other keyboard layouts for Tamil.

Using this Keyboard

Keyboard Layout

Quickstart

This keyboard layout is based on the Tamil typewriter, with separate keys for consonants, vowels and vowel components. Most of the characters used in Tamil are combinations of consonants and vowels, and these do not appear on the keyboard. Instead, the appropriate vowel component is typed after the

consonant.

For example, the standalone vowel இ is entered by typing [.], but in combination with a consonant, the ி component ([p] key) is usually typed instead, after the consonant, and the consonant-vowel combinant will be displayed. Pressing Backspace once will delete only the vowel component, so the character displayed on the screen will change back to the consonant, and change again if a different component is typed.

Grantha letters, which are used for typing Sanskrit, appear on the keyboard and are treated as normal consonants.

Examples

Language	Phrase	Meaning	Type the following keys
Tamil	தமிழ்	Name of language	[j] [k] [p] [H] [;]

Keyboard Details

The visible keyboard layout consists of the eighteen consonants க ங ச ஞ ட ண த ந ப ம ய ர ல வ ழ ள ற ன, the five Grantha consonants and SRii ஸ ஷ ஜ ஹ க்ஷ ஸ்ரீ, eleven vowels அ ஆ இ ஈ உ ஊ எ ஏ ஐ ஒ ஓ, a range of vowel components and combinants characters, and the Pulli ◌் and Aytham ஃ marks, as well as various punctuation marks. The majority of characters are typed using a combination of keystrokes.

Although many Tamil characters are typed using separate keys for consonants and components, the characters that appear on screen will be combinants, which the computer sees as a single character. This means that while two (or more) keystrokes are required to display most consonant-vowel combinants, when you use the arrow keys to move the cursor through the text, only a single keystroke is needed to move past each character. Moving the cursor to the left of a combinant character and pressing Delete will erase the whole character, but if you move the cursor to the right of a combinant and press Backspace, only the vowel component will be erased. This is the case whether the vowel component appears to the left or right of, above or below the consonant.

Vowels and Pulli Marks

The standalone vowel characters which are on the keyboard will produce that character and will not combine with consonants. Long vowels have their own keys. Vowel-consonant combinant characters are entered either by typing a specific key for that combinant or by typing the consonant and vowel components separately.

Vowel components that combine with consonants are always typed after the consonants, even when the vowel component appears before (to the left of) the consonant component (such as கெ or கே). If vowel components are typed before a consonant, they will not be combined with that consonant.

Because the consonants contain the implicit vowel அ, to produce a pure consonant it is necessary to add the Pulli mark ◌் by typing a semicolon [;] immediately after the consonant. Any vowel component that is typed immediately after typing the Pulli mark will not be combined with the consonant. However, because this keyboard acts in a similar way to a typewriter, it is possible to type a preceding vowel component followed by a consonant and the Pulli mark, or even a standalone vowel followed by the Pulli mark, producing odd combinations such as மெ or அ. In every case, a consonant-Pulli mark combinant behaves the same way as a consonant-vowel combinant when you use the arrow, Backspace and Delete keys.

The SRii Character ஸ்ரீ

This character is entered by typing [_] (Shift+Underscore or Shift+Hyphen). Currently, some browsers do not display this character correctly. Click here if you are having difficulty entering this character.

Keystroke Examples

Note: for a complete table of characters and keystrokes, click here.

The following table gives specific examples of how to input characters based on the consonant க. The Grantha consonants, which are entered with [Shift] + key combinations, use the same input method. Examples of these with the consonant ஜ are also given below.

	Tamil Consonants				Grantha Consonants		
Consonant	Vowel/Pulli	Combinant	Keystrokes	Consonant	Vowel/Pulli	Combinant	Keystrokes
க	◌்	க்	[f] [;]	ஜ	◌்	ஜ்	[$] [;]
	அ	க	[f]		அ	ஜ	[$]
	ஆ	கா	[f] [h]		ஆ	ஜா	[$] [h]
	இ	கி	[f] [p]		இ	ஜி	[$] [p]
	ஈ	கீ	[f] [P]		ஈ	ஜீ	[$] [P]
	உ	கு	[F]		உ	ஜு	
	ஊ	கூ	[T]		ஊ	ஜூ	
	எ	கெ	[f] [b]		எ	ஜெ	[$] [b]
	ஏ	கே	[f] [n]		ஏ	ஜே	[$] [n]
	ஐ	கை	[f] [i]		ஐ	ஜை	[$] [i]
	ஒ	கொ	[f] [b] [h]		ஒ	ஜொ	[$] [b] [h]
	ஓ	கோ	[f] [n] [h]		ஓ	ஜோ	[$] [n] [h]

ஒள	கௌ	f }		ஒள	ஜௌ	$ }

Troubleshooting

Fonts

Some of the fonts included with Windows do not include all the Tamil characters that are available with this keyboard. In order to display every character correctly, we recommend you download and install **Tamil fonts**.

If the characters you type or those on the On Screen Keyboard do not appear to display correctly, please read the KeymanWeb troubleshooting guide.

Further Resources

Related Keyboard Layouts

Other Keyboard Layouts for the Tamil language:

Tamil99
Suratha Bamuni
Anjal Paangu
ISIS Tamil
Inscript Tamil
Modular (Visual Media)

Other Internet Resources

Download Visual Media Keyboard Package for Keyman Desktop

Tamil Writing System at Omniglot.com
Tamil Language at Wikipedia.org
Tamil Script at Wikipedia.org

Technical Information

System Requirements

It is recommended that you use an English QWERTY hardware keyboard with this keyboard.

Unicode Version

This keyboard complies with Unicode 5.2

Authorship

This keyboard was created by M. S. Murali. Tavultesoft gratefully acknowledges the contribution made by the author in developing this keyboard and making it freely available for use with Keyman Desktop and KeymanWeb. This effort assists in enabling people to communicate in their own language..

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Keyboard Reference Chart

The following chart lists all the characters available with this keyboard. Below each character are the keystrokes required to type it.

\ Vowels Consonants\	◌ ;	அ m	ஆ M	இ ,	ஈ .	உ c	ஊ C	எ v	ஏ V	ஐ I	ஒ x	ஓ X	ஔ x s
க f	க் f ;	க f	கா f h	கி f p	கீ f P	கு F	கூ T	கெ f b	கே f n	கை f i	கொ f b h	கோ f n h	கௌ f }
ங '	ங் ' ;	ங '	ஙா ' h	ஙி ' p	ஙீ ' P	ஙு ' [	ஙூ ' {	ஙெ ' b	ஙே ' n	ஙை ' i	ஙொ ' b h	ஙோ ' n h	ஙௌ ' }
ச r	ச் r ;	ச r	சா r h	சி r p	சீ r P	சு R	சூ N	செ r b	சே r n	சை r i	சொ r b h	சோ r n h	சௌ r }
ஞ "	ஞ் " ;	ஞ "	ஞா " h	ஞி " p	ஞீ " P	ஞு " [	ஞூ " {	ஞெ " b	ஞே " n	ஞை " i	ஞொ " b h	ஞோ " n h	ஞௌ " }
ட l	ட் l ;	ட l	டா l h	டி l p	டீ l P	டு L	டூ {	டெ l b	டே l n	டை l i	டொ l b h	டோ l n h	டௌ l }
ண z	ண் z ;	ண z	ணா z h	ணி z p	ணீ z P	ணு Q	ணூ Q h	ணெ z b	ணே z n	ணை z i	ணொ z b h	ணோ z n h	ணௌ z }
த j	த் j ;	த j	தா j h	தி j p	தீ j P	து J	தூ J h	தெ j b	தே j n	தை j i	தொ j b h	தோ j n h	தௌ j }
ந e	ந் e ;	ந e	நா e h	நி e p	நீ e P	நு E	நூ E h	நெ e b	நே e n	நை e i	நொ e b h	நோ e n h	நௌ e }
ப g	ப் g ;	ப g	பா g h	பி g p	பீ g P	பு g [	பூ g {	பெ g b	பே g n	பை g i	பொ g b h	போ g n h	பௌ g }

ம `k`	ம் `k ;`	ம `k`	மா `k h`	மி `k p`	ம்மீ `k P`	மு `K`	மூ `k {`	மெ `k b`	மே `k n`	மை `k i`	மொ `k b h`	மோ `k n h`	மௌ `k }`
ய `a`	ய் `a ;`	ய `a`	யா `a h`	யி `a p`	யீ `a P`	யு `a [`	யூ `a {`	யெ `n a`	யே `N a`	யை `i a`	யொ `n a h`	யோ `N a h`	யௌ `n a s`
ர `u`	ர் `u ;`	ர `u`	ரா `u h`	ரி `u p`	ரீ `u P`	ரு `U`	ரூ `u {`	ரெ `u b`	ரே `u n`	ரை `u i`	ரொ `u b h`	ரோ `u n h`	ரௌ `u }`
ல `y`	ல் `y ;`	ல `y`	லா `y h`	லி `y p`	லீ `y P`	லு `Y`	லூ `Y h`	லெ `y b`	லே `y n`	லை `y i`	லொ `y b h`	லோ `y n h`	லௌ `y }`
வ `t`	வ் `t ;`	வ `t`	வா `t h`	வி `t p`	வீ `t P`	வு `t [`	வூ `t {`	வெ `t b`	வே `t n`	வை `t i`	வொ `t b h`	வோ `t n h`	வௌ `t }`
ழ `H`	ழ் `H ;`	ழ `H`	ழா `H h`	ழி `H p`	ழீ `H P`	ழு `G`	ழூ `H {`	ழெ `H b`	ழே `H n`	ழை `H i`	ழொ `H b h`	ழோ `H n h`	ழௌ `H }`
ள `s`	ள் `s ;`	ள `s`	ளா `s h`	ளி `s p`	ளீ `s P`	ளு `S`	ளூ `s {`	ளெ `s b`	ளே `s n`	ளை `s i`	ளொ `s b h`	ளோ `s n h`	ளௌ `s }`
ற `w`	ற் `w ;`	ற `w`	றா `w h`	றி `w p`	றீ `w P`	று `W`	றூ `W h`	றெ `w b`	றே `w n`	றை `w i`	றொ `w b h`	றோ `w n h`	றௌ `w }`
ன `d`	ன் `d ;`	ன `d`	னா `d h`	னி `d p`	னீ `d P`	னு `D`	னூ `D h`	னெ `d b`	னே `d n`	னை `d i`	னொ `d b h`	னோ `d n h`	னௌ `d }`

Grantha Consonants

ஜ `$`	ஜ் `$ ;`	ஜ `$`	ஜா `$ h`	ஜி `$ p`	ஜீ `$ P`	ஜு	ஜூ	ஜெ `$ b`	ஜே `$ n`	ஜை `$ i`	ஜொ `$ b h`	ஜோ `$ n h`	ஜௌ `$ }`
ஷ `^`	ஷ் `^ ;`	ஷ `^`	ஷா `^ h`	ஷி `^ p`	ஷீ `^ P`	ஷு	ஷூ	ஷெ `^ b`	ஷே `^ n`	ஷை `^ i`	ஷொ `^ b h`	ஷோ `^ n h`	ஷௌ `^ }`
ஸ `!`	ஸ் `! ;`	ஸ `!`	ஸா `! h`	ஸி `! p`	ஸீ `! P`	ஸு	ஸூ	ஸெ `! b`	ஸே `! n`	ஸை `! i`	ஸொ `! b h`	ஸோ `! n h`	ஸௌ `! }`
ஹ `]`	ஹ் `] ;`	ஹ `]`	ஹா `] h`	ஹி `] p`	ஹீ `] P`	ஹு	ஹூ	ஹெ `] b`	ஹே `] n`	ஹை `] i`	ஹொ `] b h`	ஹோ `] n h`	ஹௌ `] }`
க்ஷ `B`	க்ஷ் `B ;`	க்ஷ `B`	க்ஷா `B h`	க்ஷி `B p`	க்ஷீ `B P`	க்ஷு	க்ஷூ	க்ஷெ `B b`	க்ஷே `B n`	க்ஷை `B i`	க்ஷொ `B b h`	க்ஷோ `B n h`	க்ஷௌ `B }`

Other Characters

ஸ்ரீ `_`	ஃ `'`	ஷ `!`	`,`	? `>`	. `/`	- `?`	` `:`	' `~`	" `@`	% `#`	(`(`	) `)`
	/ `-`	= `=`	+ `+`									