

Identifying alphabets - Vowels and Consonants

Class objective: I will be able to understand the basics of Gujarati language.

Concept A: About Gujarati language

- Gujarati language is more than 700 years old and is spoken by more than 55 million people worldwide.
- Outside of Gujarat, Gujarati is spoken in many other parts of South Asia by Gujarati migrants, especially in Bombay and Pakistan (mainly in Karachi).
- Gujarati is also widely spoken in many countries outside South Asia by the Gujarati diaspora. In North America, Gujarati is one of the fastest growing and most widely spoken Indian languages in the United States and Canada.
- In Europe, Gujaratis form the second largest of the British South Asian speech communities, and Gujarati is the fourth most commonly spoken language in the UK's capital London.
- Gujarati is also spoken in Southeast Africa, particularly in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, and South Africa.

Concept B: Gujarati Alphabets

- The Gujarātī script is also known as the śarāphi (banker's), vāṇiāśāi (merchant's) or mahājani (trader's) script.
- Gujarātī is a syllabic alphabet in that consonants all have an inherent vowel.
- Vowels can be written as independent letters, or by using a variety of diacritical marks which are written above, below, before or after the consonant they belong to.
- The Gujarati alphabet consists of 47 letters ordered according to phonetic principles (below each one the standard transliteration is shown followed by its International Phonetic Alphabet equivalent).
- It contains 11 initial vowels as shown below.

અ	આ	ઇ	ઈ	ઉ	ઊ	ઋ
a	aa	e	i	u	u'	ru
એ	ઐ	ઓ	ઔ	અં	અઃ	
ae	ai	o	au	am	ah	

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