



Sanskrit (Teach Yourself)

Michael Coulson , James D. Benson (Revised by)

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From Reader Review Sanskrit (Teach Yourself) for online ebook

Gary Donnelly says

I am seeing progress with this book, but I have been using this in conjunction with (to a lesser extent) the Maurer Sanskrit textbooks - both have their uses but if you intend to 'learn' Sanskrit in any meaningful sense then I think it is best to use the books in conjunction with a Sanskrit teacher. Others have noted the issues re misprints (there are a lot!) and the poor quality of devanagari - this seems to be exacerbated from chapter six onward, where the script appears to be printed in a smaller size than in prior chapters. This may seem a minor gripe, but for beginners it really does make life rather difficult. I also found that Coulson addressed the cases of address rather haphazardly, doing half a job in the appendices rather than spending sufficient time on them in the main body of text; this might be because he assumes knowledge of other Indo-European languages, specifically of Latin. For us younger students, this is an assumption too far (though the book was published in the 70s, I think). Coulson also spends a lot of time talking about grammatical features and paradigms that are largely irrelevant to students like me who are reading Sanskrit in order to study Indian philosophy - not everybody is a grammarian! Overall, the book is helpful and it has proved valuable in my making rapid progress with Sanskrit, but I stress that this progress has come in conjunction with regular meetings with a PhD supervisor fluent in Sanskrit who can address things omitted from the book. Still, it is definitely worth perusal by any budding student of Sanskrit.

Mckinley says

Good one, for D.

Butsuri says

Sanskrit

Fiona says

Hardly concise and presupposes knowledge of linguistic terms beyond what textbooks often require a student to know. If you are familiar with what my lecturer calls "meta language" and/or other classical languages, you'll be able to manage this book.

However, I would not recommend this as a volume for individual study unless you are very confident; works brilliantly alongside more modern text books, though. I studied this alongside Egenes and Killingley- excellent combination.
