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# Lonely Planet Sinhala Phrasebook (Lonely Planet Phrasebook: Sinhala)



## Synopsis

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher According to Sinhalese tradition, this language was introduced to Sri Lanka by a banished prince in the 6th century who conquered the local 'demons'. It has a relatively flexible grammar, so it won't take you long to conquer that language barrier. Comprehensive dictionary Guide to pronunciation and grammar Fail-safe small talk Practicalities - how to catch a train or ask for antibiotics Lonely Planet gets you to the heart of a place. Our job is to make amazing travel experiences happen. We visit the places we write about each and every edition. We never take freebies for positive coverage, so you can always rely on us to tell it like it is. Authors: Written and researched by Lonely Planet, and Swarna Pragnaratne. About Lonely Planet: Started in 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel guide publisher with guidebooks to every destination on the planet, as well as an award-winning website, a suite of mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet's mission is to enable curious travellers to experience the world and to truly get to the heart of the places they find themselves in. TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards 2012 and 2013 winner in Favorite Travel Guide category 'Lonely Planet guides are, quite simply, like no other.' - New York Times 'Lonely Planet. It's on everyone's bookshelves; it's in every traveller's hands. It's on mobile phones. It's on the Internet. It's everywhere, and it's telling entire generations of people how to travel the world.' - Fairfax Media (Australia)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Lonely Planet Phrasebooks. Portable, pocket-size, cheap, and available for almost any country you might want to visit..." (National Geographic Traveler)

Sinhalese, with its nine cases and unique alphabet, is a difficult nut to crack. The author did not make it easier with this phrase book. Some examples of its shortfalls: We are provided a tantalizing glimpse of the language's grammar, but only the present/future tense. Many of the phrase examples are given in the past. The dictionary is maddeningly incomplete. Why the translation for man, but not woman? Tomorrow but not yesterday? Examples are rife. The selection might have been improved by referencing words included in any dictionary aimed at junior high school students. Phonemic modifications of common case endings are not provided. Several pages are devoted to written Sinhalese, and its difference from spoken Sinhalese. Why would we care? After a two and a half week stay in Sri Lanka, I was able, with some effort, to make out perhaps a tenth of the alphabet. Those sections could have been used to better advantage. I could continue to nit pick. On the plus side, the index is good, and close attention will provide you with a few hidden gems - words not in the dictionary used as examples. And finally, its workable, helpful, and what's the alternative for a small book that you can slip in a pocket? I couldn't find one, and I can say that the book helped me get around in Sri Lanka, and break the ice with the Sri Lankans who I met - my fumbling attempts to communicate with them in Sinhalese garnered me many a smile.

Phrase books exist in many languages. For those who don't know the grammar, they are not useful. I bought this one for a friend who asked for it, and it's just like others. It's more usable by those who already can handle the grammar. Sinhala is eminently learnable, particularly by those who know other north Indian languages. There is an older Foreign Service Institute method, now free and available for download (no audio). The best known one remains the Fairbanks, Gair, and Karunatilake book and tapes, still available from Cornell University. The tapes have apparently not been digitized yet and cost around \$150. But for the serious learner the expense is worth it. That method starts using the script after lesson 24, and thus becomes harder to read quickly. Incidentally, the link next to the review is a fake. The website does not include Sinhalese. One computer dictionary that can be bought is Madura, and it requires knowledge of the script. Free sinhalese dictionary opens new browser window[...] - Download Free sinhalese dictionary White smoke - accurate and easy!

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