



Beginning Letters in the Tibetan Script: Learning to Write

Developing the ability to write the 30 Consonants properly is a great aid to learning Tibetan. The script we teach at the Tibetan Language Institute is called *U-chen* (literally meaning “with a head.” The word head refers to the line forming the top stroke of each letter/consonant. In writing a consonant, closely follow the stroke order shown (note that the Tibetan letters *hang*, like prayer flags, from the upper guideline of the calligraphy paper; in contrast, English letters are written *standing* on a line.” Generally speaking, each consonant is made from left to right and from top to bottom. To write any of the consonants, start with the “headline” made from left to right. Then lift the pen, with each subsequent stroke growing out of a previous stroke. Finally, we conclude the writing of each consonant with a dot to the right of the consonant, the dot being written on the “headline.”

Row 1:

ཀ་ KA



ཁ་ K'A



ག་ GA

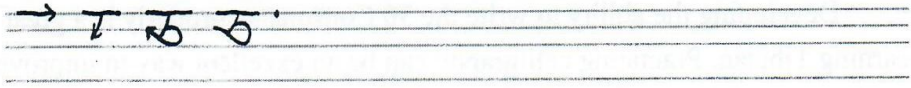


ང་ NGA



Row 2:

ཅ་ CHA



ཆ་ CH'A



ཇ་ JA



ཉ་ NYA

