

## II. Consonants

There are 28 consonant symbols in Vietnamese alphabet but only 21 consonant phonemes and only eight of them may be in final positions. They are marked with an asterisk in the following chart :

Vietnamese spelling	Phoneme	Rough English Equivalent	Remarks	Examples (Sounds initial, middle & final positions)	Meaning			
<b>b</b> or * <b>p</b> * <b>c</b> or <b>k</b> or <b>q</b>	/ <b>b</b> /  / <b>k</b> /	bed  can	Fortis preglottalised imploded in final position : unreleased. Fortis, unaspirated	<b>ba</b> <b>tập</b> <b>ca</b> <b>học</b> <b>kem</b> <b>qua</b> <b>cho</b> <b>cách</b> <b>da</b> <b>gi</b> <b>di</b> <b>ga</b>	three to practise to sing to study ice-cream to cross to give manner skin what to go railway station horrible two not			
* <b>ch</b>  <b>d</b> or <b>gi</b> <b>đ</b> <b>g</b> or <b>gh</b>	/ <b>c</b> /  / <b>z</b> /  / <b>d</b> / / <b>g</b> /	chop  zone  do go	Unaspirated palatal, less friction than in English Ordinary: Lenis lamino-dental Fortis preglottalized imploded Elsewhere: Voiced dorsorelar spirant.	<b>ghê</b> <b>hai</b> <b>không</b>	horrible two not			
<b>h</b> <b>kh</b>	/ <b>h</b> / / <b>x</b> /	hat as in	Glottal fricative and voiceless Lenis voiceless dorsorelar common spirant	<b>làm</b> <b>mai</b> <b>tim</b> <b>Nam</b> <b>in</b> <b>ngon</b> <b>mang</b> <b>nghe</b> <b>nhô</b> <b>nhanh</b> <b>phải</b> <b>ra</b> <b>sữa</b> <b>tôi</b> <b>tốt</b> <b>thăm</b>	to do tomorrow heart South to print delicious to bring to hear grape quick right to go out milk me good visit			
* <b>l</b> * <b>m</b>  * <b>n</b>  * <b>ng</b> or <b>ngh</b> * <b>nh</b>	/ <b>l</b> / / <b>m</b> /  / <b>n</b> /  / <b>ŋ</b> /  / <b>ɲ</b> /	lot me him not in singer canyon	Lamino - Alveolar - lateral Bilabial - nasal in final position: unreleased Post dental - nasal in final position: unreleased Similar to / <b>ŋ</b> / sound in medial positions is in singer. Velar - nasal in final position: short unreleased Palatal in final position: short unreleased often backed.	<b>ph</b> <b>r</b> <b>s</b> * <b>t</b>  <b>th</b>  <b>tr</b>	phone run show top  thin  entry	Voiceless labio dental Voiced Palato - Alveolar Voiceless Palato - Alveolar Voiceless unaspirated - dental in final position: unreleased. Lenis aspirated dental to / <b>o</b> / but with stronger aspiration. Fortis unaspirated Palatal, less than in English. Somewhat similar to / <b>tr</b> / in entry, but with the tip of the tongue pulled back.	<b>và</b> <b>xa</b>	and far
<b>v</b> <b>x</b>	/ <b>v</b> / / <b>s</b> /	very see	Voiced labio - dental Voiceless alveolar similar to / <b>s</b> / in see					