Reading Skills

The art of vocal percussion using syllables for rhythm is known as Konnakol. Recitation of Konnakol helps develop a stronger understanding of rhythm and rhythmic patterns. It is important to keep *talam* while reciting these exercises. The Konnakol for groups of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 syllables are given below:

Number of syllables in the group	Konnakol
3	Tha Ki Ta
4	Tha Ka Dhi Mi
5	Tha Ka Tha Ki Ta
6	Tha Dhin , Gi Na Thom
7	Tha Ki Ta Tha Ka Dhi Mi
8	Tha Ka Dhi Mi Tha Ka Ja Nu
9	Tha Ka Dhi Mi Tha Ka Tha Ki Ta

A *korvai* is a rhythmic pattern of syllables or *swaram* phrases that is repeated three times. The *swaram* phrases may or may not have a gap in between them. A *korvai* is, usually, sung at the end of the improvisation section (*kalpana swaram*) or percussion solos in a Carnatic music concert.

Click here to download the recording for the Reading Skills test. As preparation for the test, candidates should recite the following exercises, comprising groups of two *korvais* in Adi *talam* and two *korvais* in Rupaka *talam*. The exercise starts on the beat. Note that, in the first speed, there is 1 syllable in 1 beat; in the second speed, there are 2 syllables in 1 beat; in the third speed, there are 4 syllables in 1 beat.

Korvais in Adi Talam: Adi *talam* is a cycle of 8 beats. It has 8 syllables in the first *kalam*, 16 syllables in the second *kalam*, and 32 syllables in the third *kalam*.

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     >                    >
1. Tha Ka Dhi Mi Tha Ka Ja Nu Thaam , , ,

     >                    >
   Tha Ka Dhi Mi | Tha Ka Ja Nu Thaam , , , |

     >                         >
   Tha Ka Dhi Mi Tha Ka Ja Nu || Thaam
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     >         >              >
2. Tha Ki Ta Tha Ka Tha Ki Ta Thaam , , ,

     >         >              >
   Tha Ki Ta Tha | Ka Tha Ki Ta Thaam , , , |

     >         >              >
   Tha Ki Ta Tha Ka Tha Ki Ta || Thaam
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Korvais in Rupaka Talam: Rupaka *talam* is a cycle of 3 beats. It has 3 syllables in the first *kalam*, 6 syllables in the second *kalam*, and 12 syllables in the third *kalam*.

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     >                 >
1. Tha Dhin , Gi | Na Thom Tha Dhin | , Gi Na Thom ||
     >           >
   Thaam , , , | , , Tha Dhin | , Gi Na Thom ||
     >                 >
   Tha Dhin , Gi | Na Thom Thaam , | , , , , ||
     >                 >                      >
   Tha Dhin , Gi | Na Thom Tha Dhin | , Gi Na Thom || Thaam
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     >                 >
2. Tha Dhin , Gi | Na Thom Thaam , | , , , , ||
     >                 >
   Tha Dhin , Gi | Na Thom Tha Dhin | , Gi Na Thom ||
     >           >
   Thaam , , , | , , Tha Dhin | , Gi Na Thom ||
     >                 >                      >
   Tha Dhin , Gi | Na Thom Tha Dhin | , Gi Na Thom || Thaam
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