Speaking tablā compositions

Once you have learned the rhythm of the ṭukḍā, learning to speak the tabla bol should become easier. Our Guide to the pronunciation of Indian music terms can help you learn how to pronounce the bol, as accurately as possible.

Using both the video and the notated ṭukḍā – both the word-rhythms and tablā bol, as necessary – repeat it as many times as you need in order to remember it. Don’t be discouraged if in the beginning it is challenging to remember the ṭukḍā. It may be that Indian music is a new genre for you and hence may take time to commit to memory.

Advice to ‘take away’: if you work for a school or large organisation, you may be working with a colleague who is familiar with one of the Indian languages and therefore familiar with the Devanāgri script. Don’t be afraid to ask for support from colleagues to help with pronunciation.