

# Sanskrit Glossary and Index

Each entry word is given a simple translation (in single quotes where it is literal); followed by a brief description, and page reference(s) to where the word may be more fully described or applied.

**A-ghoṣa**, unvoiced: characteristic of those consonants that are uttered with the vocal cords not vibrating. [14, 73]

**Aṅga**, stem: that part of an inflected word that remains unchanged (except for *sandhi*) in the process of inflection. [9]

**An-udātta**, ‘not raised’: one of the three pitches or tones (*svara*) of the vowel accent system of Vedic Sanskrit. [71]

**Anunāsika**, nasal: characteristic of those sounds uttered through both nose and mouth. [14, 73]

**Anubandha**, ‘bound along with’: a letter or syllable attached to a *dhātu* and marking some peculiarity in its inflection. [110]

**Anusvāra**, ‘after sound’: (1) a nasal sound following a *svara*. [6] (2) *sandhi* substitute for an **m** before a consonant. [64, 86]

**Antahstha**, ‘stand between’: general name for the semi-vowels *ya ra la va*. [21, 79]

**Artha**, ‘meaning’: the word(s) provided in the *Dhātu-Pāṭha* as the sense of the meaning of a *dhātu*. [109–112]

**Ardha-sprṣṭa**, ‘half-contact’: the ‘inner effort’ applicable to the *ūṣman* consonants *śa ṣa sa* and *ha*. [22]

**A-luk Samāsa**: a *samāsa* wherein the first word does not lose its *vibhakti*. [83]

**Alpa-prāṇa**, ‘little breath’: characteristic of those consonants uttered with minimal breath. [14–15, 73]

**Avagraha**, ऽ: symbol for the elision of ॐ at the beginning of a word due to *sandhi*. [63, 80]

**Avasāna**: cessation of sound, e.g. at the end of a line of verse. [85, 87]

**Avyaya**, indeclinable: that class of words that do not have *vibhakti* endings. [9, 75]

**Avyayībhāva Samāsa**: an adverbial compound, the first word of which is the more important. [83, 89]

**Aṣṭan**, eight: the cardinal number; the figure eight. [64]

**Ātmane-pada**, ‘expression for oneself’: verbal voice. [25, 104, 113]

**Ātmane-bhāṣā**, ‘expression for oneself’: verbal voice, synonymous with *ātmane-pada*. [113]

**Ābhyantara-prayatna**, ‘inner effort’: the method (within the mouth) of articulating sounds. [13, 73]

**Itaretara Dvandva Samāsa**: the basic copulative compound whose number is the sum of its members. [88]

**Iti**, ‘thus’: used as inverted commas, or separating a word from its definition. [75]

**Īṣat-sprṣṭa**, ‘slight contact’: the ‘inner effort’ applicable to the semi-vowels *ya ra la* and *va*. [21, 73]

**Īṣad-vivṛta**, ‘slightly open’: the ‘inner effort’ applicable to the *ūṣman* consonants *śa ṣa sa* and *ha*. [22, 73]

**Uttama-Puruṣa**, ‘last person’: grammatical person, distinction in verb endings denoting the agent of the verb (= English first person). [9]

**Udātta**, ‘raised’: one of the three pitches or tones (*svara*) of the vowel accent system in Vedic Sanskrit. [71, 91]

**Upadhmānīya**, ॐ: the rare half *visarga* before *pa* or *pha*. [22, 63]

**Upapada Tatpuruṣa Samāsa:** determinative compound having a *dhātu* derivative as its final member. [89]

**Upasarga,** verbal prefix: (1) a prefix to verbs to qualify or change its meaning. [60] (2) one of the four types of words. [75]

**Ubhayato-bhāṣā,** ‘expression for both’: verbal voice, *dhātu* conjugation in *parasmai-bhāṣā* or *ātmane-bhāṣā*. [113]

**Ūṣman,** ‘heated’: general name for the group of four consonants *śa, ṣa, sa* and *ha*. [22, 73]

**Eka,** one: the cardinal number; the figure one. [64]

**Eka-vacana,** ‘one-speaking’: grammatical singular number; the word suffix denoting that one person or thing is referred to. See also *dvi-, bahu-vacana*. [17, 26]

**Eka-śruti,** ‘single hearing’: the neutral sound of Classical Sanskrit, as contrasted with the tonal accent (*svara*) system of Vedic Sanskrit. [71]

**Oṣṭhya,** labial: the mouth position used with the pronunciation of *u, pa-varga,* and *va*. [13, 23, 73]

**Kaṅṭhatālavya,** guttural and palatal: the mouth position associated with the pronunciation of *e,* and *ai*. [13, 73]

**Kaṅṭhoṣṭhya,** guttural and labial: the mouth position associated with the pronunciation of *o,* and *au*. [13, 73]

**Kaṅṭhya,** guttural: the mouth position associated with the pronunciation of *a, ka-varga* and *ha*. [13, 23, 73]

**Kartṛ:** the agent of the verb, expressed in *prathamā* with an active verb, or *ṛtṛtyā* with a passive verb. [49]

**Karmadhāraya Tatpuruṣa Samāsa:** determinative compound which, if dissolved, the members would have the same case ending. [88]

**Karman:** the immediate object of the agent, expressed in *dvitīyā* with an active verb, or *prathamā* with a passive verb. [49]

**Ka-varga,** *ka*-group: the group of stops beginning with *ka,* i.e. *ka kha ga gha ṅa*. [13, 63]

**-kāra,** ‘action’: suffix appended to a Sanskrit letter/sound to name it, e.g. *ka-kāra*. [21]

**Kriyā,** verb: (1) fully inflected form of the verb. [9] (2) one of the four types of word. [75]

**Kriyā-viśeṣaṇa,** adverb: an indeclinable that qualifies a verb. [67, 75]

**Kṣa:** pronunciation of. [56]

**Gaṇa,** ‘class’: there are ten classes of *dhātu*. [17, 109, 113]

**Guṇa,** ‘quality’: the secondary form of vowels. [78]

**Ghoṣa,** voiced: a characteristic of those consonants that are uttered with the vocal cords vibrating. [14, 73]

**Catur,** four: the cardinal number; the figure four. [64]

**Caturthī Vibhakti,** fourth case: dative affix of nouns and adjectives. [33, 51]

**Candrabindu,** <sup>◌̣</sup> ‘moon-dot’: the symbol placed above a vowel or *ya la* or *va* to indicate that the sound is nasalized. [63]

**Ca-varga,** *ca*-group: the group of stops beginning with *ca,* i.e. *ca cha ja jha ṅa*. [13, 63]

**Jihvāmūliya, ॠ:** a rare half-*visarga* before *ka* or *kha*. [6, 22, 63]

**Jña:** pronunciation of. [57]

**Tatpuruṣa Samāsa,** determinative compound: in which the first word qualifies the second. [83, 88]

**Tālavya,** palatal: the mouth position associated with the pronunciation of *i, ca-varga, ya* and *śa*. [13, 23, 73]

**Tiñ-Vibhakti**, verbal suffix: the suffix of the *kriyā* indicating *puruṣa* and *vacana*. [9, 32]

**Tr̥tīyā Vibhakti**, third case: instrumental suffix to nouns and adjectives. [33, 51]

**Tri**, three: the cardinal number; the figure three. [64]

**Dantoṣṭhya**, dental and labial: the mouth position associated with the pronunciation of the English ‘f’ and ‘v’. [15, 21]

**Dantya**, dental: the mouth position associated with the pronunciation of *l*, *ta-varga*, *la* and *sa*. [13, 23, 73]

**Daśan**, ten: the cardinal number; the figure ten. [64]

**Dīrgha**, ‘long’: the long measure, or vowels having this measure. [1, 5]

**Devanāgarī**, ‘city of immortals’: (1) the name of the Sanskrit script. [1] (2) variations in symbols. [71] (3) used in dictionary. [92]

**Dva**, two: the cardinal number; the figure two. [64]

**Dvandva Samāsa**, copulative compound: a type of compound in which the words are of equal importance. [83, 88]

**Dvigu Tatpuruṣa Samāsa**: a determinative compound having a numeral or word denoting direction as its first member. [88]

**Dvitīyā Vibhakti**, second case: accusative affix to nouns and adjectives. [26, 51]

**Dvi-vacana**, ‘two-speaking’: grammatical dual number; the word suffix denoting that two persons or things are referred to. See also *eka-bahu-vacana*. [17, 26]

**Dhātu**, root: rudimentary meaningful verbal element from which words are derived. [8, 92, 103, 104, 109, 113]

**Nañ-Tatpuruṣa Samāsa**: determinative compound with a negative particle as its first member. [89]

**Napuṃsāka-liṅga**, neuter: one of the three grammatical genders. [26, 50]

**Navan**, nine: the cardinal number; the figure nine. [64]

**Nāma-dhātu**, nominal verb: a verb derived from a noun. [75]

**Nāman**, ‘name’: a noun, one of the four types of word in Sanskrit. [75]

**Nipāta**, particle: one of the four types of word in Sanskrit. [75]

**Pañcan**, five: the cardinal number; the figure five. [64]

**Pañcamī Vibhakti**, fifth case: ablative suffix to nouns and adjectives. [33, 51]

**Pada**, word: (1) traditionally divided into four types. [75] (2) general name for a fully inflected word. [86] (3) verbal voice, see *ātmane-pada* and *parasmai-pada*. [25, 104, 113]

**Parasmai-pada**, expression for another: verbal voice. [25, 104, 113]

**Parasmai-bhāṣā**, expression for another: verbal voice, synonymous with *parasmai-pada*. [113]

**Pa-varga**, *pa*-group: the group of stops beginning with *pa*, i.e. *pa pha ba bha ma*. [13, 63]

**Pāṇini**: a grammarian (circa 350 BC) whose work, the *Aṣṭādhyāyī*, fully describes the grammar of Sanskrit in minute detail. No other language, to this day, has been so perfectly described. [78, 114]

**Puṃ-liṅga**, masculine: one of the three grammatical genders. [26, 50, 65]

**Puruṣa**, ‘person’: grammatical person, distinction in verbal suffix denoting the person or thing spoken of (*prathama-puruṣa*), spoken to (*madhyama-puruṣa*), and the person speaking (*uttama-puruṣa*). [9]

**Pūrṇa-virāma**, (॥) full stop: indicates the end of a verse or end of a paragraph. [63]

**Praṇava Śabda:** a name applied to the mystical symbol ॐ. [63]

**Pratyaya,** suffix: general name for any type of suffix. [82]

**Prathama-Puruṣa,** ‘first person’: grammatical person, distinction in verbal suffix denoting the person or thing spoken of (= English third person). [9]

**Prathamā Vibhakti,** first case: (1) nominative suffix of nouns and adjectives. [26, 51] (2) and vocative. [38]

**Prayatna,** effort: the method of articulating sounds: divided into *ābhyantara-* and *bāhya-prayatna*. [13]

**Prāṇa,** ‘breath’: see *alpa-prāṇa* and *mahā-prāṇa*. [14]

**Prātipadika,** word stem: the stem form (i.e. without any case ending) of a noun or adjective, as found in the dictionary. [26, 91]

**Pluta,** ‘prolonged’: the prolonged measure, or vowels having this measure. [1, 5]

**Bahu-vacana,** ‘many-speaking’: the grammatical plural number; the word suffix indicating that many (more than two) persons or things are referred to. See also *eka-dvi-vacana*. [17, 26]

**Bahuvrīhi Samāsa,** a descriptive compound: a compound forming an adjective qualifying an external noun. [83, 89]

**Bāhya-prayatna,** outer effort: the method (external to the mouth, i.e. the throat) of articulating sounds. [13, 73]

**Bhāṣā,** speech: verbal voice, see *ātmane-*, *parasmai-*, *ubhayato-bhāṣā*. [113]

**Madhyama-Puruṣa,** ‘middle person’: the second grammatical person; distinction in verbal suffix denoting the person spoken to (= English second person). [9]

**Mahā-prāṇa,** ‘great breath’: a characteristic of those consonants uttered with extra breath. [14, 73]

**Mātrkā:** name applied to the first sixteen sounds of the Sanskrit alphabetical order. [6]

**Mātrā,** ‘measure’: the length or duration for which a vowel is sounded; these may be *hrasva dīrgha* or *pluta*. [1, 2]

**Mūrdhanya,** cerebral: the mouth position associated with the pronunciation of *ṛ*, *ṭa-varga*, *ra* and *ṣa*. [13, 23, 73]

**Repha:** traditional name for *ra* which, unlike other sounds, does not use the *-kāra* suffix. [21]

**La-kāra,** *l*-affixes: a common term for the ten primary tenses and moods of Sanskrit verbs. [17]

**Laṭ:** a technical term for the present indicative (simple present tense); one of the *la-kāra*. [17]

**Liṅga,** grammatical gender: there are three genders, *pum-* *strī-* *napuṃsaka-liṅga*. [26]

**Vacana,** ‘speaking’: grammatical number; the word suffix that one, two, or more persons or things are referred to. See *eka-dvi-bahu-vacana*. [17, 26]

**Varga,** group: grouping of consonants according to some common quality, e.g. *ka-varga*, *pa-varga*. [13, 14]

**Vibhakti:** common term for the case endings used for nouns and adjectives (*sup-vibhakti*), as well as the personal endings for verbs (*tiṅ-vibhakti*). [32]

**Virāma,** ( ) stop: indicates a consonant without a following vowel. [53]

**Virāma,** (l) stop: indicates the end of a half-verse or end of a sentence. [63]

**Viśeṣaṇa,** adjective: it has the same case, number, and gender as the noun that it qualifies. [65, 75]

**Visarga,** ‘emission’: unvoiced breath after a vowel. [6, 73]

**Visarjanīya,** ‘emitted’: unvoiced breath after a vowel; synonymous with *visarga*. [6, 22, 63]

**Vṛddhi**, ‘increase’: strengthened form of vowels. [78]

**Vyañjana**, ‘embellishment’: general name for any consonant. [1, 103]

**Vyadhikaraṇa Tatpuruṣa Samāsa**: determinative compound which, if dissolved, the members would have different case endings. [88]

**Śakti**: name applied to the first sixteen sounds of the Sanskrit alphabetical order. [6]

**Ṣaṣ**, six: the cardinal number; the figure six. [64]

**Ṣaṣṭhī Vibhakti**, sixth case: genitive affix to nouns and adjectives. [38, 51]

**Samyoga**, ‘bound together’: a conjunct consonant; consonants not having a separating vowel or pause. [53]

**Samjñā**, proper noun: personal or place name, technical terms whose meanings cannot be etymologically derived. [75]

**Sandhi**, ‘placed together’: the system of euphonic changes that arise when sounds are uttered in proximity; it is the tendency to ease of pronunciation. [77–81, 85–87]

**Sandhi Vighraha**, ‘separation of *sandhi*’: removal of the *sandhi* between words in a sentence so that the words stand separately. [86]

**Sandhyakṣara**, compound vowel: general name for *e ai o au*. [4]

**Saptan**, seven: the cardinal number; the figure seven. [64]

**Saptamī Vibhakti**, seventh case: locative suffix to nouns and adjectives. [38, 51]

**Samānādhikaraṇa Tatpuruṣa Samāsa**: determinative compound which, if dissolved, the members would have different case endings. [88]

**Samāsa**, ‘placed together’: a compound word. [83]

**Samāhāra Dvandva Samāsa**: copulative compound whose members are taken collectively as a unit; the compound is treated as a neuter singular noun. [88]

**Samprasāraṇa**: the process whereby an *antaḥstha* is replaced by a simple vowel. [81]

**Sambodhana**, calling, addressing: case ending of nouns and adjectives, variation of *prathamā-vibhakti*. [38, 51]

**Sarva-nāman**, ‘name of all’: pronoun. [75]

**Savarṇa**, homophonic: categories of sounds having the same mouth position and ‘inner effort’. [63]

**Sup-vibhakti**: case endings used for nouns and adjectives. [26]

**Sthāna**, ‘position’: the various mouth positions used in uttering vowels and consonants. [13]

**Strī-liṅga**, feminine: one of the three grammatical genders. [26, 50, 65]

**Sparśa**, ‘contact’: the general name for the group of 25 stops *ka* through *ma*. [13, 73]

**Sprṣṭa**, ‘contact’: the ‘inner effort’ for the 25 *sparśa ka* through *ma*. [13, 73]

**Svara**, ‘sound’ or ‘tone’: (1) a general term for the vowels. [1] (2) a term for the tonal accents (*udātta an-udātta svarita*) of Vedic Sanskrit. [71]

**Svarita**, mixed tone: one of the three pitches or tones (*svara*) of the vowel accent system of Vedic Sanskrit. [71, 91]

**Halanta**, ‘consonant-final’: ending in a consonant without a following vowel. [53]

**Hrasva**, ‘short’: the short measure, or vowels having this measure. [1]