

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, √: 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, √: 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 ṇa*. [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, ^{◌̣} ‘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 ṇa*. [13, 63]

Jihvāmūliya, ^z: 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]

Tṛtīyā 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 (*tin-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]

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

Sprṣṭa, ‘contact’: the ‘inner effort’ for the 25 *sparsā 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]