

Chapter 3

A. Full Tables of Masculine and Neuter Declensions in “a.”

गज *gaja* (m.) “elephant”

Case Name	Function	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nominative	Subject of a sentence	गजस्	गजौ	गजास्
		(<i>gajas</i>)	(<i>gajau</i>)	(<i>gajās</i>)
Accusative	Direct object of a sentence	गजम्	गजौ	गजान्
		(<i>gajam</i>)	(<i>gajau</i>)	(<i>gajān</i>)
Instrumental	Means or agency	गजेन	गजाभ्याम्	गजैस्
		(<i>gajena</i>)	(<i>gajābhyām</i>)	(<i>gajais</i>)
Dative	Remote obj., whence	गजाय	गजाभ्याम्	गजेभ्यस्
		(<i>gajāya</i>)	(<i>gajābhyām</i>)	(<i>gajebhyas</i>)
Ablative	Whereto, purpose	गजात्	गजाभ्याम्	गजेभ्यस्
		(<i>gajāt</i>)	(<i>gajābhyām</i>)	(<i>gajebhyas</i>)
Genitive	Possessive, Properties	गजस्य	गजयोस्	गजानाम्
		(<i>gajasya</i>)	(<i>gajayos</i>)	(<i>gajānām</i>)
Locative	Time and Place	गजे	गजयोस्	गजेषु
		(<i>gaje</i>)	(<i>gajayos</i>)	(<i>gajeshu</i>)
Vocative	Direct address	गज	गजै	गजास्
		(<i>gaja</i>)	(<i>gajau</i>)	(<i>gajās</i>)

जल (n.) “water”

Case	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nom.	जलम्	जले	जलानि
	<i>(jalam)</i>	<i>(jale)</i>	<i>(jalāni)</i>
Acc.	जलम्	जले	जलानि
	<i>(jalam)</i>	<i>(jale)</i>	<i>(jalāni)</i>
Instr.	जलेन	जलाभ्याम्	जलैस्
	<i>(jalena)</i>	<i>(jalābhyām)</i>	<i>(jalais)</i>
Dat.	जलाय	जलाभ्याम्	जलेभ्यस्
	<i>(jalāya)</i>	<i>(jalābhyām)</i>	<i>(jalebhyas)</i>
Abl.	जलात्	जलाभ्याम्	जलेभ्यस्
	<i>(jalāt)</i>	<i>(jalābhyām)</i>	<i>(jalebhyas)</i>
Gen.	जलस्य	जलयोस्	जलानाम्
	<i>(jalasya)</i>	<i>(jalayos)</i>	<i>(jalānām)</i>
Loc.	जले	जलयोस्	जलेषु
	<i>(jale)</i>	<i>(jalayos)</i>	<i>(jaleshu)</i>
Voc.	जल	जले	जलानि
	<i>(jala)</i>	<i>(jale)</i>	<i>(jalāni)</i>

In many contemporary languages, such things as locations or instrumentality are expressed with prepositions or, possibly, postpositions (e.g., in Hindi). We might say that something took place “at the house,” and the preposition “at” indicates the location. Sanskrit relies first of all on its

cases to express such relationships, so that, in this example, the locative will perform that function.

Locative: “At the water”: जले. Instrumental: “By means of the elephant”: गजेन

There are preposition-like particles in Sanskrit, but they are usually not separate words. They are prefixes attached to verbs. We will run across some of them shortly.

B. Accented Conjugation in अ (“a”)

If you ever hear Sanskrit spoken by a priest or Sanskrit master, you will detect a little bit of a musical quality in their recitations. This sing-song quality is partially due to the fact that many classical works in Sanskrit were written in short, poetic verses that carefully attempted to maintain a meter and a rhythm. Also, there were rules of where a part of a word should be stressed. For our purposes, since professional-style recitation can hardly be a goal for this course, the more important point is that, depending on the accent, there may also be ramifications in grammar and proper style. In the case of the unaccented vs. the accented a-conjugation, the major difference is that the accented one does not alter the roots with guṇas.

So, as an example of a regular form, take the word कृष् (kṛṣ, to plough) We merely add on

the “á,” and we have the stem कृष. It may strike you as peculiar that you can’t actually see the

“á,” but it’s there in its implicit form since we removed the virama, and its invisibility does not alter the fact that it still receives the accent. It’s pronounced “kṛṣá.” The third person

singular is then कृषति, (kṛṣáti, “he ploughs”). I’m not going to supply accent marks from this point on.

I promised you no guṇas, and I’ll keep my promise. However, Perry has discovered a whole new set of various deviations from the norm, which I will summarize in a table.

Root Feature	Stem	Example	3 rd pers. sing.
ऋ	इर	कृ	किरति
ṛ as ending	ira	kṛ	kirati
इ	इय	क्षि	क्षियति
i	iya	kṣi	kṣiyati
उ	उव	सु	सुवति
u	uva	su	suvati
ऊ	उव	धू	धुवति
ū	uva (same as “u”)	dhū	dhuvati

Specific Verbs with Irregular Forms		
Root	Stem	3 rd pers. sing.
इब्	इच्छ	इच्छति
iṣ (wish)	iccha	icchati
ऋ	ऋ	ऋच्छति
r as root by itself	No Change!	ṛcchati
पृष्	पृच्छ	पृच्छति
pr̥ch (ask)	pr̥ccha	pr̥cchati
सिच्	सिञ्च	सिञ्चति
sic (drip, drop)	siñca	siñcati

Please do Exercise III on page 32 of Perry, Sanskrit Primer

Sample Answers for Exercise III

1. They conceal the riches in the house.
5. The son stands in the house due to fortune.
10. Two men sit on the mat.

15. नरः मर्गे पृच्छति बाल

20. मेघानाम् जलम् यच्छन्ति देवाः

That should do it! Please [send me](#) your translations!