

## सुप्रवेशः

### INTRODUCTION:

In this first lesson, the student will learn some expressions of common everyday use. In these expressions, the verb अस् (to be) is understood and is not explicitly used.

Sanskrit, like other classical languages, has three genders- masculine (m), feminine (f) and neuter (n). These are indicated in the examples given. The student is advised to learn these expressions by memory.

The prelude to these tutorial lessons introduced the vowels and consonants of Sanskrit and also indicated how they are to be pronounced. The student is advised to refer to this prelude as well to memorize the basic letters.

#### 1.1 Here are some common expressions in the first person.

मम नाम रामः mama nāma rāmaḥ	My Name is Rama (m)
मम नाम सीता mama nāma sītā	My Name is Sita (f)
मम नाम शेखरः mama nāma śekharaḥ	My Name is Sekhara (m)
मम नाम उमा mama nāma umā	My name is Uma (f)
मम देवः शिवः mama dēvaha śivaḥ	My God is Siva (m)
मम देवी पार्वती mama dēvī pārvatī	My Goddess is Parvati (f)
मम पुत्रः माधवः mama putraḥ mādhavaḥ	My son is Madhava (m)
मम पुत्री विजया mama putrī vijayā	My daughter is Vijaya (f)

मम भर्ता विष्णु mama bhartā viṣṇu	My husband is Vishnu (m)
मम भार्या पद्मा mama bhāryā padmā	My wife is padma (f)
मम पिता जयदेवः mama pitā jayadēvaḥ	My father is Jayadeva (m)
मम माता सुभद्रा mama mātā subhadrā	My mother is subhadra (f)
मम भ्राता विजयः mama bhrātā vijayaḥ	My brother is Vijay (m)
मम स्वसा मल्लिका mama svasā mallikā	My sister is Mallika (f)
मम मित्रं कृष्णः mama mitraṃ kṛṣṇaḥ	My friend is Krishna (n)
मम वाहनं तोयोता mama vāhanaṃ tōyōtā	My vehicle is Toyota (n)

Note that the verb "to be" (i.e., the form "is" in English) is not used in any of the expressions. The explicit form of the verb अस् (to be) is always implied in expressions of this nature and in Sanskrit, as in most languages, the personal pronoun मम has no gender.

## 1.2 Simple expressions involving a question.

This subsection deals with expressions involving a question, the answers to which are similar to the expressions in section 1.1.

तव नाम किं tava nāma kiṃ	What is your name?
तव देवः कः tava dēvaḥ kaḥ	Who is your God?
तव देवी का tava dēvī kā	Who is your Goddess?
तव पुत्रः कः	Who is your son?

tava putraḥ kaḥ	
तव पुत्री का	Who is your daughter?
tava putrī kā	
तव भ्राता कः	Who is your brother?
tava bhrātā kaḥ	
तव स्वसा का	Who is your sister?
tava svasā kā	
तव मित्रं किं	Who is your friend?
tava mitraṃ kiṃ	
तव वाहनं किं	What is your vehicle?
tava vāhanaṃ kiṃ	

Observe that there are no question marks in any of the sentences. In Sanskrit, no punctuation is ever used. Generally, the punctuation is recognized from the intonation.

Even in the interrogative form, the verb अस् (to be) is not explicitly used.

Gender becomes apparent in these sentences as can be observed with the ending akshara of the words i.e., कः , का and किं .

कः	is the masculine form known as
पुंलिङ्गः	(pumliṅgaḥ)
का	is the feminine form known as
स्त्रीलिङ्गः	(strīliṅgaḥ)
किं	is the neuter form known as
नपुंसकलिङ्गः	(napumsakaliṅgaḥ)

Among the words used in the sentences given above, the following words are masculine in gender.

रामः, शेखरः, देवः, पुत्रः, शिवः, माधवः,  
जयदेवः, विजयः, पिता, भ्राता

The following are feminine words

सीता, उमा, पार्वती, विजया, देवी, पुत्री,  
भार्या, माता, स्वसा, पद्मा, सुभद्रा, मल्लिका

Some examples of nouns in the neuter gender are

मित्रं, वाहनम्, नाम, धनम्, जलम्,  
कमलम्, आभरणम्

In Sanskrit, gender is not decided by the meaning of the word but is fixed by other considerations such as the form of the word and its ending.

A Note on the word तव .

The form of address तव , it should be noted , is mostly used in circumstances involving persons who enjoy a close relationship with the person speaking the sentence. Often, the form with respect

भवतः (m) or भवत्याः (f) is used.

However, it is observed that the form तव was in regular use in earlier times and did not mean any disrespect. In keeping with modern trends, we are following the practice of using तव for the familiar form of address and भवतः/भवत्याः for the respectful form. This is similar to the usage of the German words "dein" and "ihr".

Demonstrative pronouns.

Masculine एषः He (who is nearby)  
सः He (who is farther away)

Feminine एषा She (who is nearby)  
सा She (who is farther away)

Neuter एतत् This  
तत् That

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The use of the demonstrative pronoun will depend on whether the speaker is referring to a person in the immediate vicinity or someone at a distance. Essentially, this is equivalent to the difference between "this" and "that". In Sanskrit this distinction applies for all the three genders.

एषः	and	सः	(masculine)
ēṣaḥ		saḥ	
एषा	and	सा	(feminine)
ēṣā		sā	
एतत्	and	तत्	(neuter)
ētat		tat	

Let us look at some examples.

एषः काकः	This (is a) crow
ēṣaha kākaḥ	
एषा माला	This (is a) garland
ēṣā mālā	
एषः मम गजः	This (is) my elephant
ēṣaha mama gajaḥ	
एषा मम भार्या	This (is) my wife
ēṣā mama bhāryā	
एतत् कमलम्	This (is a) lotus
ētat kamalam	
एतत् तव कमलम्	This (is) your lotus
ētat tava kamalam	
सः कृष्णः	That (is) Krishna
saḥ kṛṣṇaḥ	
सा कृष्णा	That is Krishnaa (f)
	(Krishnaa is a feminine name)
तत् आसनम्	That (is a) seat
tat āsanam	
तत् तव आसनम्	That (is) your seat

1.3 Some common expressions used in daily life.

नमस्ते namastē	Greetings
सुप्रभातम् suprabhātam	Good Morning
कुशलम् वा kuśalam vā	How do you do?
धन्यवादाः dhanyavādā:	Thank you, Thanks
स्वागतम् svāgatam	Welcome
धन्योस्मि dhanyōsmi	I am thankful (I am grateful)
पुनर्मिलामः punarmilāmaḥ	See you again
क्षम्यताम् kṣamyatām	Please excuse me
शुभमस्तु śubhamastu	Best wishes

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Glossary:

Words already seen in the sections.

देवः	- God	देवी	- Goddess
मित्रम्	- friend		
पिता	- father	माता	- mother
नाम	- name		
पुत्रः	- son	पुत्री	- daughter
वाहनम्	- vehicle		
भ्राता	- brother	स्वसा	- sister

मम	- my		
भर्ता	- husband	भार्या	- wife

Here are some more (new) words.

### 1. Masculine gender

नरः	- man	काकः	- crow
मयूरः	- peacock		
वानरः	- monkey	शुनकः	- dog
करः	- hand		
गजः	- elephant	अचलः	- mountain
मार्जारः	- cat		
अश्वः	- horse		

### 2. Feminine gender

माला	- garland	कथा	- story
दया	- mercy		
सभा	- hall	भाषा	- language
कृपा	- sympathy		
लता	- creeper	शुनी	- female dog
वानरी	- female monkey		
बदवा	- mare	मयूरी	- peahen
मार्जारी	- female cat		
नारी	- woman		
शारदा	- name of a Goddess		
सरस्वती	- Goddess of learning		

### 3. Neuter gender

भवनम्	- house	कमलम्	- lotus
आननम्	- face		
आसनम्	- seat	जलम्	- water
धनम्	- wealth		

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## Exercises.

1. Learn to pronounce all the words introduced in the earlier sections. Correct pronunciation is essential for Sanskrit. Make use of the Roman transliteration given alongside when necessary.

Try and pronounce the following words.

गोविन्दः	भरतः	वामनः	पुस्तकम्
चारुमती	अरुणा	ललिता	अम्बा
भास्करः	गणितः	लोकः	पण्डितः
सुकन्या	लक्ष्मी	वाणी	गोमति

2. Using the words introduced in section 1.4, try to form sentences similar to those in sections 1.1 and 1.2.
3. Try and form sentences in Sanskrit.

This is your husband.

That is your son.

This is my lotus.

That is your lotus.

This is Govinda. (m)

That is Vimalaa. (f)

Salutations, Krishna.

See you again, daughter.