

Introduction to Sanskrit (SAM 101)

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Lesson 0. Introduction

Introduction

Course Overview

Sage Pāṇini पाणिनि and the book of Grammar

Table: 1 Aphorisms in the अष्टाध्यायी aṣṭādhyāyī of Sage Pāṇini पाणिनि

# Pāda # Aphorisms # adhyāya	प्रथमपाद prathamapāda Pāda 1	द्वितीयपाद dvitīyapāda Pāda 2	तृतीयपाद tṛtīyapāda Pāda 3	चतुर्थपाद caturthapāda Pāda 4	सम्पूसंख्या sampūrṇasaṅkhyā Total per adhyāya
adhyāya 1	75	73	93	100	341
adhyāya 2	72	38	73	85	268
adhyāya 3	150	188	176	117	631
adhyāya 4	178	145	168	144	635
adhyāya 5	136	140	119	160	555
adhyāya 6	223	199	139	175	736
adhyāya 7	103	118	120	97	438
adhyāya 8	74	108	119	68	369
Total number of Aphorisms					3973

Suggestions for Fast Tracking the Learning Process

Suggestions for fast tracking the learning process are given in this section. These are based on the age old process that has been used in ancient India for over several millennia. **This process is NOT new. It is proven and tested.** The process can be summarized as follows:

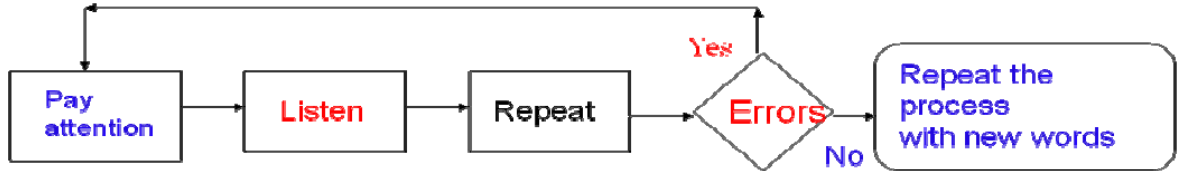


Fig 1: Process flow for Language learning Process

The above process was also the way we all learnt to speak languages during our childhood:

- We paid attention and listened, when elders spoke. We repeated the words till we got them right, then repeated the process with new words. Remember!, during a short period, we all became masters in listening, speaking and composing our own sentences with a little or no help from elders. We built up a large vocabulary of words. *Remember the time we had fun and gave joy to elders!*

As we grew, we have forgotten the very process we depended on when we were children. Sanskrit, not being a spoken language in the English speaking world, requires discipline and a clear methodology to master the basics. However, the very thought of learning a strange language like Sanskrit can be daunting for adults. Fortunately, there is no difference between the spoken and written version of the language - "You pronounce the words as they are written". This is one of the primary advantages of Sanskrit compared to other languages such as English. Use it to your advantage!.

Take it from me, learning Sanskrit can be fun and may even lead to a more fruitful way of spending one's own time.

1. *Get familiar with pronunciation of Sanskrit words and Phrases:*
 - Listen to your favorite songs, Ślōkās while driving. The audio version of various Ślōkās are available in the market. Get Audio CDs of Bhagavadgītā or one of your favorite books and listen when ever time permits.
 - Since we spend a lot of time driving, listening to Sanskrit sounds is one of the better ways of utilizing the time while driving.
 - If you use computers, listen to Sanskrit CDs while doing your normal work.

Note: Pay attention to the driving rules when driving.
2. Try to attend Sanskrit classes, if they are offered close to your place.
3. Collect a good set of books (see the list given in the References section)
4. Devote at least 1 to 2 hours per day, preferably 30 minutes of which every day before the day break.
5. Get familiar with Dēvanāgarī alphabets, *Sandhi* or union between two alphabets in contact, and grammar rules.
6. During the early morning time, try to read, aloud, at least some of the Ślōkās from Gītā and get them by heart.
7. At every opportunity, write down the Gītā Ślōkās and sentences from books. Analyze *sandhi*, word meanings and practice grammar rules.
8. If you happen to attend lectures on Vēdānta or on Bhagavadgītā,
 - read the Sanskrit text before attending the class, analyze *sandhi* and write down word meanings using a good dictionary like Apte.
 - Compare with the meanings given by your *Guru* in the class. Since Sanskrit words can have many meanings, understand the reasons why a specific meaning was selected by the *Guru*.

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- The idea is to use the Vēdānta class not only for spiritual studies but also as practical laboratory classes for learning Sanskrit.
 - **This way you can have the cake and eat it too!**
9. Repeat this no matter what difficulties come in the way. You will be surprised to find that learning Sanskrit is not as difficult and daunting as you imagined, at the beginning.

Remember the cardinal rule – you are not the first person to learn the language. You are not going to be the last either. Many have mastered the language before, even with limited resources.

The Sanskrit books are written by people like you and me. If they are written by people, they must be simple to master! – this is Bandaru's 1st Law of Learning.

*Do not get disheartened and - "**Let no one tell you that you can not make it!**"*

Note: As far as possible, use Dēvanāgarī (देवनागरि) as opposed to transliteration for reading and writing.

Have fun and enjoy the nectar of the Sanskrit language -The divine language - Dēvavānī (देववाणी) and Sanskrit literature such as śrīmadbhāgavatamahapurāṇam (श्रीमद्भागवतमहापुराणम्)-

निगमकल्पतरुर्गलितं फलं शुकमुखादमृतद्रवसंयुतम् ।

पिबत भागवतं रसमालयं मुहुरहो रसिका भुवि भावुकाः ।१-१-३।

nigamakalpatarōrgalitaṃ phalaṃ śukamukhāt amṛtadravasamyutam ।

pibata bhāgavataṃ rasamālayaṃ muhurahō rasikā bhuvī bhāvukā: ॥ 1.1.3 ॥

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Lesson 1. Sanskrit Alphabets

1.1 Classification of Alphabets

The Sanskrit alphabets are divided into two broad classes - vowels and consonants. They are

- Vowels (अच् akṣara or स्वर svāra) are:
अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ī, उ u, ऊ ū, ऋ ṛ, ॠ ṝ, ऌ ḷ, ए ē, ऐ ai, ओ ō, औ au
- Consonants (akṣara) are:
क् k, ख् kh, ग् g, घ् gh, ङ् ṅ; च् c, ज् j, झ् jh, ञ् ñ; ट् ṭ, ठ् ṭh, ड् ḍ, ढ् ḍh, ण् ṇ;
प् p, फ् ph, ब् b, भ् bh, म् m; य् y, र् r, ल् l, व् v; श् ś, ष् ṣ, स् s; ह् h,

Note 1: Please refer to Table 6 -6G for pronunciation guide.

Note 2: The long form ऌ ḷ is rarely used in the literature.

The vowels are further divided into two classes -

- basic vowels - अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ī, उ u, ऊ ū, ऋ ṛ, ॠ ṝ, ऌ ḷ, and
- derived vowels or Diphthongs - ए ē, ऐ ai, ओ ō, औ au

The consonants क् k, ख् kh, ग् g, घ् gh, ङ् ṅ; etc. are normally written along with the vowel अ a, as:

- क ka = क् + अ or (ka = k + a); ख kha = ख् + अ or (kha = kh + a); ग ga = ग् + अ or (ga = g + a); घ gha = घ् + अ or (gha = gh + a); ङ ṅa = ङ् + अ or (ṅa = ṅ + a)
- च ca = च् + अ or (ca = c + a); छ cha = छ् + अ or (cha = ch + a); ज ja = ज् + अ or (ja = j + a); झ jha = झ् + अ or (jha = jh + a); ञ ña = ञ् + अ or (ña = ñ + a);
- ट ṭa = ट् + अ or (ṭa = ṭ + a); ठ ṭha = ठ् + अ or (ṭha = ṭh + a); ड ḍa = ड् + अ or (ḍa = ḍ + a); ढ ḍha = ढ् + अ or (ḍha = ḍh + a); ण ṇa = ण् + अ or (ṇa = ṇ + a)
- त ta = त् + अ or (ta = t + a); थ tha = थ् + अ or (tha = th + a); द da = द् + अ or (da = d + a); ध dha = ध् + अ or (dha = dh + a); न na = न् + अ or (na = n + a)
- प pa = प् + अ or (pa = p + a); फ pha = फ् + अ or (pha = ph + a); ब ba = ब् + अ or (ba = b + a); भ bha = भ् + अ or (bha = bh + a); म ma = म् + अ or (ma = m + a)
- य ya = य् + अ or (ya = y + a); र ra = र् + अ or (ra = r + a); ल la = ल् + अ or (la = l + a); व va = व् + अ or (va = v + a)
- श śa = श् + अ or (śa = ś + a); ष ṣa = ष् + अ or (ṣa = ṣ + a); स sa = स् + अ or (sa = s + a)
- ह ha = ह् + अ (ha = h + a)

The vowel अ a, is added merely for the sake of pronunciation (उच्चारणार्थम् ucchāraṇārtham) only. When we refer to consonants, normally they are written along with the associated vowel unless only a pure consonant, shown with a down-word stroke (विराम virāma) is indicated eg: क् k.

The consonants are divided into five major groups such as

- Gutturals (कण्ठ्य kaṇṭhya)- pronounced with Throat - क् k; ख् kh; ग् g; घ् gh; ङ् ṅ
- Paletels (तालव्य tālavya) - pronounced with Palette - च् c; छ् ch; ज् j; झ् jh; ञ् ñ
- Cerebrals or Linguals (मूर्धन्य mūrdhanya) - pronounced with Tongue bent - ट् ṭ; ठ् ṭh; ड् ḍ; ढ् ḍh; ण् ṇ
- Dentals (दन्त्य dantya) - pronounced using teeth - त् t; थ् th; द् d; ध् dh; न् n

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- Labials (ओष्ठ्य oṣṭhya) - pronounced with Lips - प् p; फ् ph; ब् b; भ् bh; म् m based on the primary organ used in pronouncing the alphabet.

The groups are also referred to as क-वर्ग ka-varga, the Group of क ka; च-वर्ग ca-varga, the Group of च ca; ट-वर्ग ṭa-varga, the Group of ट ṭa; त-वर्ग ta-varga, the Group of त ta; and प-वर्ग pa-varga, the Group of प pa; based on the first letter of the group.

The final consonants ङ ṅ, ञ ṅ, ण ṇ, न् n and म् m, of each of the five groups are known as Nasals (नासिका nāsikā) because they are to be pronounced with the nose

The remaining consonants are grouped as follows:

- The consonants य् y; र् r; ल् l; व् v; are referred to as Semivowels because sometimes these four consonants behave like vowels and are replaced with their corresponding vowels इ i, उ u, ऋ ṛ, ॠ ṛ, respectively. As will be explained later, the process by which these changes take place is called सम्प्रसारणम् samprasāraṇam.
- The three consonants श् ś; ष् ṣ and स् s; are referred to as Sibilants (स्पर्शः sparśa).

1.2 Classification of Alphabets based on the effort required for Pronunciation

Based on the effort (प्रयत्न prayatna) required to pronounce each of the alphabets, the consonants are divided further as Hard (महाप्राणः mahāprāṇa: = high effort) or Soft (अल्प-प्राणः alpa-prāṇa: = low effort) consonants as follows:

- Hard (महाप्राणः mahāprāṇa:) consonants - क् k; ख् kh; च् c; छ् ch; ट् ṭ; ठ् ṭh; त् t; थ् th; प् p; फ् ph; श् ś; ष् ṣ; स् s and ह् h
- Soft (अल्प-प्राणः alpa-prāṇa:) consonants - ग् g; घ् gh; ङ ṅ; ज् j; झ् jh; ञ ṅ; ढ् ḍ; ढ्ह ḍh; ण ṇ; द् d; ध् dh; न् n; ब् b; भ् bh; म् m; य् y; र् r; ल् l; व् v;

The first two letters of each of the five groups of consonants (क्, ख् ; च्, छ्; ट्, ठ् ; त्, थ् ; प्, फ्), the Sibilants (श् ; ष् ; स्) and ह् are hard consonant. The rest of the consonants (ग्, घ्, ङ्, ज्, झ्, ञ् ; ढ्, ढ्ह, ण् ; द्, ध्, न् ; य्, र्, ल्, व्) are soft consonants.

Based on the accent required to pronounce, the vowels are classified as Short or Long. A third category known as protracted or prolated (प्लूत plūta) will be explained later.

- Short (ह्रस्वः hrasva:) अ a, इ i, उ u, ऋ ṛ, ॠ ṛ
- Long (दीर्घः dīrgha:) आ ā, ई ī, ऊ ū, ऋ ṛ, ए ē, ऐ ai, ओ ō, औ au

In addition to the classification of vowels discussed above, all the vowels can be nasalized (with an anunāsika - अनुनासिका i.e. with a candrabindu चन्द्रबिन्दुँ) or without nasalized sound (ananunāsika अननुनासिका i.e. without a candrabindu चन्द्रबिन्दु). Examples are: अँ aṁ, ईँ iṁ, उँ uṁ, ऋँ ṛṁ, ॠँ ṛṁ and ॡँ ḷṛṁ etc.

Note: the use of the alphabets with anunāsika will be explained in the later sections.

The following are not in the above list:

anusvāra (अनुस्वारः), visarga (विसर्गः), jihvāmūlīya: (जिह्वामूलीयः), upadhmānīya: (उपध्मानीयः) and avagraha ऽ (अवग्रह)

Note: Semivowels य्, ल् and व् also have the corresponding nasalized (anunāsika

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अनुनासिका) versions: यँ , लँ , वँ

The classification of vowels and consonants discussed above is summarized in the following Tables

Table: 2. Sanskrit Consonants based on their Positions

	Hard		Soft			Hard
Gutturals (कण्ठः kaṇṭha:) क-वर्ग ka-varga	क् k	ख kh	ग् g	घ gh	ङ ṅ	ह h
Palatals (तालु tālu) च-वर्ग ca-varga	च् c	छ ch	ज् j	झ jh	ञ ñ	श् ś
Cerebrals (मूर्धा mūrdhā) ट-वर्ग ṭa-varga	ट् ṭ	ठ् ṭh	ड् ḍ	ढ् ḍh	ण् ṇ	ष् ṣ
Dentals (दन्ता dantā) त-वर्ग ta-varga	त् t	थ् th	द् d	ध् dh	न् n	स् s
Labials (ओष्ठौ oṣṭhau) प-वर्ग pa-varga	प् p	फ् ph	ब् b	भ् bh	म् m	

Table 3: Classification of Sanskrit Alphabets based on the effort required for Pronunciation

	Gutturals कण्ठ्य	Paletels तालव्य	Cerebrals मूर्धन्य	Dentals दन्त्य	Labials ओष्ठ्य	कण्ठतालु	कण्ठोष्ठम्	दन्त्योष्ठम्
Vowels	अ, आ	इ, ई	ऋ, ॠ	ऌ	उ, ऊ	ए, ऐ	ओ, औ	
Hard consonants	क्	च्	ट्	त्	प्			
	ख्	छ्	ठ्	थ्	फ्			
Soft consonants	ग्	ज्	ड्	द्	ब्			
	घ्	झ्	ढ्	ध्	भ्			
Nasals Soft	ङ्	ञ्	ण्	न्	म्			
Semivowels (Soft)		य्	र्	ऌ				व्
				व्				
Sibilants (Hard)		श्	ष्	स्				
Hard	ह्							

- The semivowel व् belongs to both त-वर्ग and प-वर्ग - दन्त्य and ओष्ठ्य (दन्त्योष्ठम्)
- The diphthongs ए and ऐ belong to both क-वर्ग and च-वर्ग - कण्ठ्य and तालव्य (कण्ठतालु)
- The diphthongs ओ and औ belong to both क-वर्ग and प-वर्ग - कण्ठ्य and ओष्ठ्य (कण्ठोष्ठम्)

Table 3A: Classification of Sanskrit Alphabets based on the effort required for Pronunciation

	Consonants						Vowels			
	Hard Non-asp	Hard Asp	Soft Non-asp	Soft Aspirate	Soft Nasals	Soft Semi-vowels	Hard Sibilants	Basic Vowels	Diphthongs	
Gutturals कण्ठ्य	क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	ह a	: kkk	अ आ	ए ,ऐ	
Paletels तालव्य	च	छ	ज	झ	ञ	य	श	इ ई	c	
Cerebrals मूर्धन्य	ट	ठ	ड	ढ	ण	र	ष	ऋ ॠ		
Dentals दन्त्य	त	थ	द	ध	न	ल	स	ऌ		
Labials ओष्ठ्य	प	फ	ब	भ	म	व a	: ff	उ ऊ	ओ औ d	

- a) ह्, though not a semi-vowel is shown in that column to save space. It is a hard consonant

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- b) The semi-vowel व belongs to both Labial and Dental groups, but shown in the Labial group to save space
- c) The diphthongs ए and ऐ belongs to both Guttural and Paletel groups
- d) The diphthongs ओ and औ belongs to both Guttural and Labial groups.
- e) The jihvāmūlīya: (जिह्वामूलीयः) “kkk” belong to क-वर्ग
- f) The upadhmānīya: (उपध्मानीयः) “fff” belong to प-वर्ग

1.3 Consonants followed by a Vowel:

When a vowel follows a consonant, the consonant loses its stroke (विराम virāma) and the vowel is written in the abbreviated form, as we have seen above, where we added the vowel अ a, to each of the consonants. Some examples are:

Table 4. Consonants followed by a Vowel

vowel	short form	impact on consonant
अ	is not written at all	क् + अ = क or (k + a = ka)
आ	is written as ा	क् + आ = का or (k + ā = kā)
इ	is written as ि	क् + इ = कि or (k + i = ki)
ई	is written as ी	क् + ई = की or (k + ī = kī)
उ	is written as ु	क् + उ = कु or (k + u = ku)
ऊ	is written as ू	क् + ऊ = कू or (k + ū = kū)
ऋ	is written as ृ	क् + ऋ = कृ or (k + ṛ = kṛ)
ॠ	is written as ॠ	क् + ॠ = कृ or (k + ṝ = kṝ)
ऌ	is written as ॡ	क् + ऌ = क्लृ or क्लृ, (k + ḷṛ = kḷṛ)
ॡ	is written as ॡ	क् + ॡ = क्लृ or क्लृ, (k + ḷṝ = kḷṝ)
ए	is written as े	क् + ए = के or (k + ē = kē)
ऐ	is written as ै	क् + ऐ = कै or (k + ai = kai)
ओ	is written as ो	क् + ओ = को or (k + ō = kō)
औ	is written as ौ	क् + औ = कौ or (k + au = kau)

Note 1: र् + उ = रु or (r + u = ru); र् + ऊ = रू or (r + ū = rū)

Note 2: As noted above the long form of the vowel ॡ is rarely used in the literature.

The semivowel र् without any vowel is also called rēpha and is written differently when adding either उ and ऊ. All other consonants followed by a vowel are written using the examples shown above with the consonant क् and ऊ

Note: A vowel by itself or a consonant, simple or conjunct with a vowel added to it is called an akṣarara (अक्षर) or a syllable.

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Table 6. Dēvanāgarī Alphabets -Transliteration and Pronunciation Guide

		sounds like			sounds like
Basic vowels			Dentals (दन्ता dantā) त-वर्ग		
अ	a	o in son	त	ta	th close to <u>think</u>
आ	ā	a in car	थ	tha	th close to <u>thumb/ pathetic</u>
इ	i	i in pin	द	da	th close to <u>father/ then</u>
ई	ī	ee in feet	ध	dha	<u>Theh</u> in <u>breath</u> e here
उ	u	u in full	न	na	n in <u>numb</u>
ऊ	ū	oo in boot/pool	Labials (ओष्ठौ oṣṭhau) प-वर्ग		
ऋ	r	r in rig	प	pa	p in <u>purse</u>
ॠ	ṛ	long r	फ	pha	ph in <u>sapp</u> hire
ऌ	Ṛ	no English equivalent	ब	ba	b in <u>but</u>
Derived Vowels or Diphthongs			भ	bha	bh in <u>ab</u> hor
ए	e	ay in play	म	ma	m in <u>mo</u> ther
ऐ	ai	hi in high	Semivowels		
ओ	o	o in over	य	ya	y in <u>yo</u> ung
औ	au	ow in cow	र	ra	r in <u>ru</u> n
Gutturals (कण्ठः kaṅṭha:) क-वर्ग			ल	la	l in <u>lu</u> ck
क	ka	k in <u>ki</u> nd	व	va	v in <u>vi</u> rtue
ख	kha	chk in <u>block</u> head	Sibilants		
ग	ga	g in <u>go</u>	श	śa	sh in <u>sh</u> ove
घ	gha	gh in <u>log</u> -hut	ष	ṣa	sh in <u>bush</u> el
ङ	ṅa	ng in <u>si</u> ng	स	sa	s in <u>si</u> r
Palatals (तालु tālu) च-वर्ग ca-varga					
च	ca	ch in <u>ch</u> unk	ह	ha	h in <u>ho</u> use
छ	cha	chh in <u>mat</u> ch <u>cat</u> ch			
ज	ja	j in <u>ju</u> g	ॐ	om	om as in <u>ho</u> me
झ	jha	dgeh in <u>hed</u> gehog	अं	aṃ	nasalization of preceding vowel
ञ	ña	n in <u>bu</u> nch	अः	aḥ	Aspiration of preceding vowel
Cerebrals (मूर्धा mūrdhā) ट-वर्ग			क्ष	kṣa	ksh in <u>work</u> sheet
ट	ṭa	t in <u>hu</u> t <u>to</u> uch	ज्ञ	jña	no English equivalent
ठ	ṭha	th as in <u>ant</u> -hill	ऽ		Unpronounced, signifies 'a अ '
ड	ḍa	d in <u>do</u> g			
ढ	ḍha	dh in <u>god</u> -hood	ऽऽ		Unpronounced, signifies 'ā आ '
ण	ṇa	n in <u>un</u> der			dropped

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as in षष्ठी ṣaṣṭhī, ष्फ or ष्फ ṣ-pha as in निष्फलम् niṣphalam,

- स्त s-ta as in स्तम्भ stambha स्थ s-tha as in स्थलम् sthalam, स्न or स्न s-na as in स्नान snāna, स्प s-pa as in स्पर्श sparśa, सफ s-pha, स्व s-va as in सरस्वती sarasvatī
- ह्य or ह्य b-ma as in ब्रह्म brahma, ह्य or ह्य h-ya as in बाह्य bāhya, ह or ह r-ra as in ह्रस्व hrasva, ह or ह्य h-va

Many a times, more than two consonants can be in a conjunct consonant such as तत्त्व tattva

1.5 Technical Terms - गुण guṇa and वृद्धि vṛddhi

Sage पाणिनि paṇini defines several "technical terms" such as गुण guṇa and वृद्धि vṛddhi in his अष्टाध्यायी aṣṭādhyāyī, to explain some functions specific to the Sanskrit Grammar. Some of these technical terms may have a totally different meaning outside the grammar usage.

- गुण guṇa letters - The vowels अ, ए, ओ and the syllables अर् and अल् are called गुण guṇa letters (1.1.2 अदेङ् गुणः, पदानि -- अत्-एङ् गुणः and 1.1.51 उरण्-रणः, पदानि -- उः अण् र-परः ।।) .
- वृद्धि vṛddhi letters - The vowels आ, ऐ, औ and the syllables आर् and आल् are called वृद्धि vṛddhi letters (1.1.1 वृद्धिरादैच्, पदानि--वृद्धिः आत्-ऐच् and 1.1.51 उरण्-रणः, पदानि -- उः अण् र-परः ।।)

The relation between the simple vowels and syllables and the corresponding गुण guṇa and वृद्धि vṛddhi letters is summarized in the Table 7.

Table 7 Classification of Alphabets based on गुण guṇa and वृद्धि vṛddhi

Simple Vowel	अ	इ and ई	उ and ऊ	ऋ and ॠ	ऌ
गुण guṇa	अ	ए	ओ	अर्	अल्
वृद्धि vṛddhi	आ	ऐ	औ	आर्	आल्

1.6 Aphorisms by Sage Mahēśvara (माहेश्वरसूत्राणि Māhēśvarasūtrāṇi)

In order to facilitate better understanding of grammar rules, the Sanskrit alphabets, described above, are arranged into 14 groups or Pratyāhārās (प्रत्याहारः) known as Māhēśvarasūtrāṇi. (Aphorisms by Sage Mahēśvara). They are:

Table 7 Classification of Alphabets based on Māhēśvarasūtrāṇi

1. अ इ उ ण् ।
2. ऋ लृ क् ।
3. ए ओ ङ् ।
4. ऐ औ च् ।
5. ह य व र ट् ।
6. ल ण् ।
7. ज म ङ ण न म् ।
8. झ भ ञ् ।
9. घ ढ ध ष् ।
10. ज ब ग ड द श् ।
11. ख फ छ ठ थ च ट त व् ।
12. क प य् ।
13. श ष स र् ।
14. हल् ।।

The Anusvāra (अनुस्वार) the visarga (:), the Jihvāmūliya (जिह्वामुलीय) and Upadhmaniya (उपध्मानिय) are not contained in the above list. The long form (आ, ई, ऊ, ऋ and ॠ) of the basic vowels (इ, उ, ऋ and ॠ) are also not shown in the above list. According to the above माहेश्वरसूत्राणि the short form of basic or simple vowels (अ, इ उ, ऋ and ॠ) also imply the corresponding long forms (आ, ई, ऊ, ऋ and ॠ) unless otherwise explicitly indicated.

As noted above, the final vowel (अ) in the consonants - ह, य, व, र, etc. is merely for the sake of pronunciation or Uchchāraṇārtham (उच्चारणार्थम्) only. The final pure consonants in the Aphorisms such as ण्, क्, ङ्, च्, etc. are इत् or indicatory (non-efficient) letters only. The Pratyāhāra (प्रत्याहारः) is grammatical term denoting a group. It is formed by taking any non-indicatory or efficient letter and joining it

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with any indicatory (इत्) letter that follows the efficient letter.

Some commonly used Pratyāhārās with an example (उदाहरण udāharaṇa) of पाणिनि –सूत्र where it is referenced are summarized in the Table 8. The detailed explanation of each of the Aphorisms will be given in the following sections.

Table 8. Commonly used Pratyāhārās with a Sample पाणिनि –सूत्र

Pratyāhāra	Explanation	An example उदाहरण-सूत्र
अच्	indicates all letters starting from अ of the 1st aphorism and ending in च् of the 4th Aphorism. Thus अच् indicates all Vowels.	6.1.77 इको यणचि ।
अक्	indicates all of the 5 simple vowels	6.1.101 अकः सवर्णे दीर्घः ।
इक्	includes all vowels (इ, उ, ऋ and ॠ) that can take Guṇa (गुण)	6.1.77 इको यणचि ।
एच्	includes all Diphthongs (ए, ऐ, ओ and औ)	6.1.78 एचोऽयवायावः ।
एङ्	includes two Diphthongs (ए and ओ) which are the Guṇa गुण letters respectively of इ and उ	6.1.109 एङः पदान्तादति । .
अश्	includes all vowels and consonants except the un-aspirate (क, च, ट, त and प) and aspirate (ख, छ, ठ, थ and फ) hard consonants and sibilants (श, ष and स)	8.3.15 भो भगो अघो अपूर्वस्य योऽशि ।
यण्	includes all the semivowels (य, व, र् and ल)	6.1.77 इको यणचि ।
जम्	includes all the nasals (ङ, ञ, ण, न and म)	UN 1.114. जमन्ताङ् डः ।
हल्	includes all efficient letters starting from ह of 5th aphorism and ending with ल् of the last aphorism. Thus हल् includes all consonants.	1.1.7 हलोऽन्तराः संयोगः ।
हश्	includes all consonants except the un-aspirate (क, च, ट, त and प) and aspirate (ख, छ, ठ, थ and फ) hard consonants and sibilants (श, ष and स)	6.1.114 हशि च ।
झष्	includes all five Soft Aspirate letters i.e. letters from the 4th position consonants (घ, झ, ढ, ध and भ)	8.2.40 झषसस्तथोर्धोऽधः ।
झल्	includes all consonants except semivowels (य, व, र् and ल) and nasals (ङ, ञ, ण, न and म).	8.4.53 झलां जश्झशि ।
जश्	includes all un-aspirate soft consonants (ग, ज, ड, द and ब) i.e. the 3rd letters of each of the five consonant Groups -वर्ग	8.2.39 झलां जशोऽन्ते ।
वश्	includes the semivowels व, र् and ल, all the nasals (ङ, ञ, ण, न and म), all soft aspirate letters (घ, झ, ढ, ध and भ) and un-aspirate soft consonants (ग, ज, ड, द and ब) i.e. the 3 rd & 4 th letters of each of the five consonant Groups -वर्ग	7.2.9 नेङ् वशि कृति ।
खर्	includes all un-aspirate (क, च, ट, त and प) and aspirate (ख, छ, ठ, थ and फ) hard consonants	8.4.55 खरि च ।
शर्	includes all sibilants (श, ष and स).	8.3.36 वा शरि ।

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1.7 Use of Pāṇini Sūtrās

As indicated earlier, the grammar rules (सूत्रः Sūtra) developed and codified by the Sage Pāṇini in the अष्टादध्यायी Aṣṭādhyāyī are used extensively in this Reader. As the name indicates, अष्टादध्यायी comprises of eight Adhyāyās or parts and each Adhyāya is further subdivided into four Pādās or Chapters. The सूत्राः Sūtrās or the aphorisms are enunciated in each पादः Pāda. Since this is not a book on Pāṇini, only the pertinent rules as they may be applicable for the specific situations are referenced in this book. The nomenclature used for referencing the rules is:

Adhyāya [1- 8]. Pāda [1-4]. Sūtra [1 - 999], Eg: 1.1.1 वृद्धिरादैच् ॥

Rule "1.1.1" refers to Adhyāya 1, Pāda 1, Sūtra 1

Note 1: As an example, the rule describing the Savaṛṇa Dīrgha Sandhi 6.1.101 अकः सवर्णे दीर्घः is from Adhyāya 6, Pāda 1, Sūtra 101. Sometimes the entire rule including the number will be indicated while in other cases either the number or the rule itself may be given.

Note 2: Although some rules such as 1.3.3 हलन्त्यम् do not explicitly state an condition of applicability, Eg. that the final letters are indicator, the अनुवृत्ति (Anuvṛtti) or the extension application of उपदेशे and इत् continue from some previous rule such as 1.3.2 and they extend down to several rules. The conditions of नुवृत्ति, if any, will be shown in the parenthesis.

Note 3: When stating a rule, we will not only state the way it is given in the अष्टादध्यायी, Eg. 1.3.3 हलन्त्यम्, we will also give the rule with the words separated (पदानि Padāni) from Eg. पदानि -- हल् -अन्त्यम्, along with the अनुवृत्ति if any, in parenthesis.

Note 4: The Aphorisms from अष्टादध्यायी are always given in bold [1.1.1 वृद्धिरादैच्, पदानि -- वृद्धिः आत्-ऐच् ॥]

Note 5: As indicated in the Introduction, the Aphorisms from अष्टादध्यायी are given only for use by the Advanced students, and can be bypassed by others without losing the continuity.

1.8 Indicatory or Non-Efficient (इत्) Letters

The non-efficient or indicatory (इत्) letters play a very significant role in describing the Sanskrit language. Although only eight Aphorisms (1.3.2 to 1.3.9) describe which letters are indicatory letters, the rules describing the functions of the indicatory letters are spread throughout the अष्टादध्यायी Aṣṭādhyāyī. The basic rules that define the इत् letters are summarized below:

- 1. The Nasalized Vowels:** Rule 1.3.2 states that the nasalized vowels are इत् letters in उपदेश (Upadēśa) or in the original the original enunciation. Standard books such as धातुपाठ, गणपाठ (the books which enunciate the roots used in the Language) are known as उपदेश in Sanskrit.
1.3.2. उपदेशेऽजनुनासिक इत् ॥ पदानि - उपदेशे अच् अनुनासिकः इत् ॥
- 2. Final Consonant:** Generally the final consonant of roots, etc. are इत् letters by 1.3.3 हलन्त्यम् ॥ (Note that although this rule does not explicitly state that the final letters are indicator, the अनुवृत्ति or the extension application of उपदेशे and इत् continue from the previous rule 1.3.2 and they extend up to the aphorism 1.3.9. तस्य लोपः ॥
1.3.3 हलन्त्यम् ॥ पदानि -- हल् -अन्त्यम् , (उपदेशे इत्) ॥

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3. **The Vibhakti or Case affixes:** Rule 1.3.4 न विभक्तौ तुस्माः indicates that for Vibhakti affixes, the final dental (त-वर्ग) consonants, the final स् and म् are not इत् letters 1.3.3. हलन्त्यम् hence, are not elided by 1.3.9. तस्य लोपः ॥ As will be seen latter, अम् is the Accusative singular Case affix and आम् is the case affix for Genitive plural. According to the general rule 1.3.3. हलन्त्यम् the final म् of the affixes should have been dropped but the process is overridden by this specific rule 1.3.4 न विभक्तौ तुस्माः ॥ Thus the rule न विभक्तौ तुस्माः is considered to be a negation (प्रतिषेध) of the more general rule हलन्त्यम् for Vibhakti affixes.
1.3.4 न विभक्तौ तुस्माः ॥ पदानि -- न विभक्तौ तु, स-माः ॥
4. **The initial letters जि, टु, and डु -** The rule 1.3.5 आदिर्जिटुडवः states that the initial जि, टु, and डु letters standing at the beginning of a root are not indicative and are dropped by 1.3.9. तस्य लोपः ॥ Eg. the root कृ (to do) is shown in the धातुपाठ as डुकृञ् . The initial डु and the final consonant ञ् are therefore इत् letter respectively by 1.3.5 आदिर्जिटुडवः and 1.3.3. हलन्त्यम् and are dropped by 1.3.9. तस्य लोपः leaving the root as कृ (to do) only.
1.3.5 आदिर्जिटुडवः ॥ पदानि -- आदिः जि-टु-डवः (इत्) ॥
5. **The initial letter ष् -** The rule 1.3.6 षः प्रत्ययस्य states that the initial ष् of an affix gets an इत् sign and therefore is elided by 1.3.9. तस्य लोपः ॥ Note that the initial ष् of an affix is an indicative and NOT every initial ष्. In the word षोडः (six) ष् is not an इत् letter.
1.3.6 षः प्रत्ययस्य ॥ पदानि -- षः प्रत्ययस्य (आदि इत्) ॥
6. **The initial च-वर्ग and ट-वर्ग letters -** The rule 1.3.7 चुटू states that the initial Palatals (च-वर्ग letters च्, छ्, ज्, झ्, and ञ्) and the initial Cerebral (ट-वर्ग letters ट्, ठ्, ड्, ढ् and ण्) letters of an affix are indicative and are dropped by 1.3.9. तस्य लोपः ॥ The word affix (प्रत्यय) comes from the previous Sūtra .
1.3.7 चुटू ॥ पदानि -- चु -टू (प्रत्ययस्य आदिः, इत्) ॥
7. **The initial ल्, श् and क-वर्ग letters -** The rule 1.3.8 लशक्तद्धिते states that the initial ल् and श् and the initial Gutturals (क-वर्ग letters क्, ख्, ग्, घ् and ङ्) of all affixes EXCEPT Taddhita (अ-तद्धिते) affixes are indicative and are dropped by 1.3.9. तस्य लोपः ॥ The words affix (प्रत्यय), initial (आदिः) and the sign इत् come from the previous Sūtrās.
1.3.8 लशक्तद्धिते ॥ पदानि -- ल-श-कु, अतद्धिते (प्रत्ययस्य आदिः, इत्) ॥
8. **Dropping of इत् letters:** -Finally Rule 1.3.9. तस्य लोपः states that of this (तस्य), namely of that which has been called as an indicative or इत्, is elided (लोपः).
1.3.9. तस्य लोपः ॥ पदानि -- तस्य, लोपः (इत्) ॥

1.9 Sanskrit Prosody - An Introduction:

The composition in Sanskrit like many other languages may be either in prose (गद्य Gadya) and/or in verse (पद्य Padya) i.e. in metrical form. Prosody deals with the laws of metrical composition of versification. Sanskrit has several types of verses each type of verse follows unique set of rules. Typically a पद्य or a Verse consists of four lines each called पद (Pada) a or a quarter. In Sanskrit, the word श्लोक (Ślōka) is the term normally used to indicate a verse. The number of syllables (अक्षर Akṣara) or the number of syllabic instances (मात्रा Mātrā) is used to regulate a पद .

- a. As described previously a syllable (अक्षर Akṣara) is a word that can be pronounced distinctly by a single vowel with or without one or more consonants.
- b. A मात्रा (Mātrā) is an unit or measure of time required to pronounce a short vowel. Thus the short vowels अ, इ, उ, ऋ, and ए require 1 मात्रा to pronounce where as the long vowels आ,

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- ई, ऊ, ऋ, लृ, ए, ऐ, ओ and औ require more than a single to pronounce.
- c. A syllable or अक्षर (Akṣara) is "light" (लघु Laghu) or "heavy" (गुरु Guru) according as its vowel is "short" (ह्रस्व Hrasva) or "long" (दीर्घ Dīrgha)
- d. When a short vowel is followed by an अनुस्वार (Anusvāra) or a विसर्ग (Visarga) or by a conjunct consonant, it is converted into what is referred to as a "Prosodically Long vowel". Eg: the short vowel अ following प् in पद्य (Padya), the initial vowel अ in अक्षर (Akṣara) become "prosodically long" forms.

The rule governing लघु and गुरु are:

1.4.10 ह्रस्वं लघु ॥ पदानि -- ह्रस्वम् लघु ॥

A short (ह्रस्व) vowel is called "light" (लघु)

1.4.11. संयोगे गुरु ॥ पदानि -- संयोगे गुरु ॥

A short vowel preceded by a conjunct consonant (संयोग), the short (ह्रस्व) vowel is also termed as heavy (गुरु)

1.4.12 दीर्घश्च ॥ पदानि -- दीर्घः च (गुरु) ॥

And (च) a long (दीर्घः) vowel is also termed as heavy (गुरु)

Among the various metres in Sanskrit language, अनुष्टुभ् (Anuṣṭubh) is the most common metre. It is the primary form used in the two Epics रामायण (Rāmāyaṇa) and महाभारत (Mahābhārata) as well as in many Purānas. This form of the metre is also used extensively in Vēdas and in Classical Sanskrit.

Out of the total of 700 Ślōkas in Śrīmadbhagavadgītā, 642 verses are in अनुष्टुभ् meter, and the remaining 58 are in a meter called त्रिष्टुभ् (Triṣṭubh)

There are 8 syllables in each of the four Pādas of अनुष्टुभ् meter, where as each of the four Pādas of त्रिष्टुभ् meter has 11 syllables.

More details will be given in the later sections. They are given here as representative examples only.

1.10 Sanskrit Numerals –

Sanskrit numerals are written as follows:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	०

The basic numeral are combined to express larger numbers in the same way as we do in other languages such as English as follows:

२५ (25) २९८५ (2985) २१२,३४६,७५४ (212,346,754) etc.

1.11 On More Technical Terms

सञ्ज्ञा sañjñā is a technical term and has many meanings such as

- a short word to convey a lot of meaning;
- a convention or terms used for general nature of things.

There are two main types of सञ्ज्ञा -

- कृत्रिमसञ्ज्ञा (kṛtrimasañjñā) or an artificial term such as घि, टि or भ which is a mainly conventional and
- अकृत्रिमसञ्ज्ञा (akṛtrimasañjñā) which directs to the specific meaning conveyed by words such noun, सर्वनाम (pronoun), विशेषण (adjective), Indclinable (अव्यय) etc.

सवर्ण Savarṇa Letters

Table 6A - Dēvanāgarī Alphabets -Transliteration and Pronunciation Guide

ॐ	oṃ	om as in <u>home</u>
Vowels - Basic Vowels		
		sounds like
अ	a	o in s <u>o</u> n
आ	ā	a in c <u>a</u> r
इ	i	i in p <u>i</u> n
ई	ī	ee in <u>fe</u> et
उ	u	u in <u>fu</u> ll
ऊ	ū	oo in boot/p <u>oo</u> l
ऋ	ṛ	r in <u>ri</u> g
ॠ	ṝ	long ṛ
ऌ	ṝ	no English equivalent
ॡ	ṝ̄	Long ṝ̄ no English equivalent

Table 6B - Dēvanāgarī Alphabets -Transliteration and Pronunciation Guide

ॐ	oṃ	<i>om</i> as in <u>home</u>
Vowels – Derived Vowels - Diphthongs		
		sounds like
ए	e	<i>ay</i> in <u>play</u>
ऐ	ai	<i>hi</i> in <u>high</u>
ओ	o	<i>o</i> in <u>over</u>
औ	au	<i>ow</i> in <u>cow</u>
अं	aṃ	nasalization of preceding vowel
अः	ah	Aspiration of preceding vowel

Table 6C - Dēvanāgarī Alphabets -Transliteration and Pronunciation Guide

Gutturals कण्ठ्य		
consonants		sounds like
क	ka	<i>k</i> in <u>kind</u>
ख	kha	<i>chk</i> in <u>blockhead</u>
ग	ga	<i>g</i> in <u>go</u>
घ	gha	<i>gh</i> in <u>log-hut</u>
ङ	ṅa	<i>ng</i> in <u>sing</u>
Palatals तालव्य		
च	ca	<i>ch</i> in <u>chunk</u>
छ	cha	<i>chh</i> in <u>match</u> <u>catch</u>
ज	ja	<i>j</i> in <u>jug</u>
झ	jha	<i>dgeh</i> in <u>hedgehog</u>
ञ	ña	<i>n</i> in <u>bunch</u>

Table 6D - Dēvanāgarī Alphabets -Transliteration and Pronunciation Guide

Cerebrals मूर्धन्य		
		sounds like
ट	ṭa	<i>t</i> in hut <u>t</u> ouch
ठ	ṭha	<i>th</i> as in ant <u>h</u> ill
ड	ḍa	<i>d</i> in <u>d</u> og
ढ	ḍha	<i>dh</i> in god <u>h</u> ood
ण	ṇa	<i>n</i> in <u>n</u> der
Dentals दन्त्य		
		sounds like
त	ta	<i>th</i> close to <u>t</u> hink
थ	tha	<i>th</i> close to <u>t</u> humb/ pa <u>t</u> hetic
द	da	<i>th</i> close to fa <u>t</u> her/ <u>t</u> hen
ध	dha	<i>Theh</i> in breathe <u>h</u> ere
न	na	<i>n</i> in <u>n</u> umb

Table 6E - Dēvanāgarī Alphabets -Transliteration and Pronunciation Guide

Labials ओष्ठ्य		
		sounds like
प	pa	<i>p</i> in <i><u>p</u>urse</i>
फ	pha	<i>ph</i> in <i>sapp<u>h</u>ire</i>
ब	ba	<i>b</i> in <i><u>b</u>ut</i>
भ	bha	<i>bh</i> in <i>ab<u>h</u>or</i>
म	ma	<i>m</i> in <i><u>m</u>other</i>
Semi-vowels		
		sounds like
य	ya	<i>y</i> in <i><u>y</u>oung</i>
र	ra	<i>r</i> in <i><u>r</u>un</i>
ल	la	<i>l</i> in <i><u>l</u>uck</i>
व	va	<i>v</i> in <i><u>v</u>irtue</i>

Table 6F - Dēvanāgarī Alphabets -Transliteration and Pronunciation Guide

Sibilants स्पर्शाः

		sounds like
श	śa	<i>sh</i> in <u>sh</u> ove
ष	ṣa	sh in bu <u>sh</u> el
स	sa	s in <u>s</u> ir
ह	ha	<i>h</i> in <u>h</u> ouse
क्ष	kṣa	<i>ksh</i> in wo <u>rksh</u> eet
ज्ञ	jña	no English equivalent
ऽ		unpronounced a अ
ऽऽ		unpronounced ā आ