

Introduction to Sanskrit (SAM 101)

Instructor: V. Raja Bandaru

Course Objectives:

- To gain an understanding of sentence constructs; identify the etymology (derivation of words from basic constructs and root) of words; and to comprehend grammar of Sanskrit prose and verses.
- At the end of the course, the attendees are expected to read Sanskrit text, break sandhis and understand the meaning of commonly chanted slokas from Gita & Valmiki Ramayana.
- Ability to email in Devanagari and in other Indian languages

Pre-requisites

- All though there are no formal prerequisites to attend the course, familiarity with the Devanagari Alphabets and basic Sandhi rules would be helpful.
- It is expected that the attendees will have knowledge of grammar of at least one of the Indian languages or English
- The primary requirement: Interest in the language and time
- The medium of instruction will be partly in English and partly in Sanskrit.
- Use of Computers: though not required, but will be useful

Location: Arsha Bodha Center, 84 Cortelyous Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873, www.arshabodha.org
Phone: (732) 940-4008
Wednesdays: 7.30 pm to 9.00pm, starting from September 24, 2008

Course Outline

- Introduction to Sanskrit language & Grammar
- Devanagari Alphabets, pronunciation
- Analysis of Sandhi
 - Vowel Sandhi
 - Consonant Sandhi
 - Visarga Sandhi
- Gender, Number, Person
- Nominal forms – Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives
- Declensions
- Roots and Stems and Verbs (1st Conjugation)
- Suffixes and Prefixes
- Roots and Stems and Verbs (4th Conjugation)
- Passive Constructs
- Pronouns
- Roots and Stems and Verbs (6th Conjugation)
- Indeclinables - Participles and Adverbs
- Adjectives
- Roots and Stems and Verbs (10th Conjugation)
- Indeclinable Particles – Gerund, Infinitive
- Compounds

Note: Reading exercises will be an integral part of the course

Course Registration Fee:

- There is no formal registration fee for the course. However, we use the Ashram facilities. The facilities require maintenance and upkeep. The Ashram is for your use. Please donate generously for the maintenance and upkeep of the Ashram.
- Make checks payable to Arsha Bodha Center. Donations are tax deductible.

Course Material:

Text book: V. Raja Bandaru, *Learning Sanskrit – SanskritReader* © Vol 1, 2008.
Printed notes, as appropriate, will be provided during the course.
(The class notes will be made available on the Ashram's URL)

Note: A copy of the text book will be supplied to those who need a copy.

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Reference Material:

Books: In addition to the text book and the class notes, it is recommended that attendees get the following books for reference

1. R. Antoine, *Sanskrit manual for High Schools, Part 1*, Allied Publishers.
2. M. R. Kale "A Higher Sanskrit Grammar", Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, New Delhi, India
3. Vaman Apte: *Practical Sanskrit – English, English-Sanskrit Dictionary*, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi (Not the Student Dictionary) ISBN 9788120815681, P. 1768 Pages.
4. Vidyasagar K. L. V. Sastry and L. Anatarama Sastri, *Dhaturupa Manjari*, R. S. Vadhyar & Sons, Kalpathi, Palghat, S. India
5. Vidyasagar K. L. V. Sastry and L. Anatarama Sastri, *Shabda Manjari*, R. S. Vadhyar & Sons, Kalpathi, Palghat, S. India

OR any book on *Dhaturupa or Shabda Manjari* that give the roots, derivatives and declensions

6. A copy of Bhagavadgita in Devanagari script.

Note: Students can get the books 1-3 from the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam Bookstore or any other Bookstore

Computer Software:

- If you are familiar and use computer, a copy of "iLEAP" software from CDAC India (<http://cdac.in>) would be very helpful for writing and emailing in Devanagari and in other Indian languages.
- We will use computer for transmitting assignments and class notes
- We will make an attempt to obtain copies of the software, for those interested.

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