

MEANING

The perfect (लिट्) is one of three past tenses in Sanskrit.

- भूते (३-२-८४) “With reference to the past tense,”
- लुङ् (३-२-११०) “the **ao**rist”
- अनघतने लङ् (३-२-१११) “the **im**perfect, for events that have occurred before the present day”
- परोक्षे लिट् (३-२-११५) “the **per**fect, for events that one has not personally witnessed”

रावणः सीतां जहार “Rāvaṇa carried off Sītā”

कर्णो दानं ददौ “Karna gave a gift”

रामो रावणं जघान “Rāma killed Rāvaṇa”

सुप्तोऽहं किल विललाप “I was apparently talking in my sleep”

FORMATION

REDUPLICANT + ROOT + ENDING

अभ्यासः + धातुः + लिङ्

NB: Not all roots form a reduplicated perfect. Some (e.g., विद्) have no reduplication, and others—including all polysyllabic roots, such as desideratives—form a “periphrastic perfect” described below.

REDUPLICATION

The reduplicant (अभ्यासः) is a modified version of the root syllable. It is always *light* (short vowel and no following consonants).

- *mahāprāṇa* → *alpaprāṇa* (*bh* → *b*)
- *kaṇṭhya* → *tālavya* (*k* → *c*)
- *dīrgha* → *hrasva* (*ā* → *a*)
- **coda** consonants are dropped
- **complex onsets** are simplified to a single *sparśa*
 - *gr* → *g* → *j*
 - *sp* → *p*
- *saṃprasāraṇa* where applicable
 - *va* → *u*
 - *ya* → *i*

Some roots beginning with *a-* or *r-* reduplicate with *ān-* (e.g., *ān-añj-a*)

VOWEL GRADE

Strong forms: *parasmaipada*, *ekavacana*

- *guṇa* of root vowel
- *vṛddhi* in the *prathamapurusa* (optional also in the *uttamapurusa*) of a final vowel and medial *-a-*

Weak forms: all others

- no *guṇa* or *vṛddhi*
 - *saṃprasāraṇa* where applicable
- Special rules for the weak forms of *CaC* (i.e., roots with short *a*):
- if final consonant is a nasal, *a* is deleted (*ja-gam-* → *jagm-*)
 - if the initial consonant is *unchanged* in the reduplication, the *reduplicant* and the *root* together form a *collapsed stem* with the vowel *e* (*pa-pac-* → *pec-*; *ya-yam-* → *yem-*)

ENDINGS

The perfect has a special set of endings. Strong cases are circled below.

NB: Most roots (not including कृ-) affix -इ- before endings that begin with a consonant.

NB: Roots ending in -आ- use the ending -औ (which merges with the root vowel) in the first and third person singular (*parasmaipada*).

	परस्मैपदम्			आत्मनेपदम्		
	एक०	द्वि०	बहु०	एक०	द्वि०	बहु०
प्र०	अ	अतुः	उः	ए	आते	रे
म०	थ	अथुः	अ	से	आथे	ध्वे
उ०	अ	व	म	ए	वहे	महे

Periphrastic Perfect: This is the regular formation for *secondary* roots (intensives, desideratives, denominatives, and causatives) as well as for most roots that begin with a long vowel (*upasargas* do not count). Affix -आम् to the present stem and follow this deverbial noun with the perfect of अस् -, भू-, or कृ-, in the परस्मैपदम् or आत्मनेपदम्, e.g. गमयां चकार “He made someone go.”

चकार	चक्रतुः	चक्रुः	चक्रे	चक्राते	चक्रिरे
चकर्थ	चक्रथुः	चक्र	चकृषे	चक्राथे	चकृध्वे
चकर	चकृव	चकृम	चक्रे	चकृवहे	चकृमहे

उवाच	ऊचतुः	ऊचुः	ऊचे	ऊचाते	ऊचिरे
उवक्थ	ऊचथुः	ऊच	ऊचिषे	ऊचाथे	ऊचिध्वे
उवच	ऊचिव	ऊचिम	ऊचे	ऊचिवहे	ऊचिमहे

ददौ	ददतुः	ददुः	ददे	ददाते	ददिरे
ददाथ	ददथुः	दद	ददिषे	ददाथे	ददिध्वे
ददौ	ददिव	ददिम	ददे	ददिवहे	ददिमहे