

Sanskrit Verbs and the Present System

There are three *verbal systems*: present, aorist, and perfect. The *stem* and the *endings* of the verb are formed differently in each. Each system has its own set of *tenses* and *moods*.

Present system

Subjunctive mood (let)

Optative mood (lin)

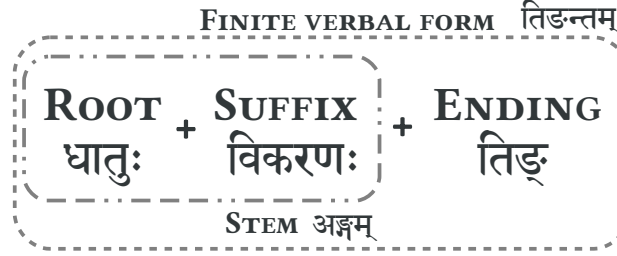
Imperative mood (lot)

Indicative mood

present tense (lat)

imperfect tense (lan)

- The ten present-stem *classes* (*gaṇa*) correspond to ten different combinations of *vikaraṇas*.
- All of these *vikaraṇas* are reserved for the active (*kartari prayogaḥ*); a separate *vikaraṇa yaK* is used for the passive (*karmaṇi prayogaḥ*) and impersonal (*bhāve prayogaḥ*)
- Some stems are subject to *vowel gradation*:
 - strong stem*: before *paramaipada ekavacana*
 - weak stem*: before all other endings



NB: In the chart below, capitalized letters are Pāṇinian diacritics (*anubandha*) which are not part of the suffix, but give us information about how to use the suffix. **Bold** represents *gaṇa*.

		strong stem		weak stem	
1. bhvādigaṇaḥ	ŚaP	<i>dhātu</i> + -a-	भव०	==	
2. adādigaṇaḥ	luK	<i>dhātu</i> + ∅	ए०	<i>dhātu</i> + ∅	इ०
3. juhotyādigaṇaḥ	Ślu	<i>abhyāsa</i> + <i>dhātu</i> + ∅	जुहो०	<i>abhyāsa</i> + <i>dhātu</i> + ∅	जुहु०
4. divādigaṇaḥ	ŚyaN	<i>dhātu</i> + -ya-	दिव्य०	==	
5. svādigaṇaḥ	Śnu	<i>dhātu</i> + -no-	सुनो०	<i>dhātu</i> + -nu-	सुनु०
6. tudādigaṇaḥ	Śa	<i>dhātu</i> + -a-	तुद०	==	
7. rudhādigaṇaḥ	ŚnaM	<i>dhātu</i> + -na- (CV-na-C)	रुणध्०	<i>dhātu</i> + -n- (CV-n-C)	रुन्ध्०
8. tanādigaṇaḥ	u	<i>dhātu</i> + -o-	तनो०	<i>dhātu</i> + -u-	तनु०
9. kryādigaṇaḥ	Śnā	<i>dhātu</i> + -nā-	क्रीणा०	<i>dhātu</i> + -nī-	क्रीणी०
10. curādigaṇaḥ	ṆiC	<i>dhātu</i> + -aya-	चोरय०	==	

- In *gaṇas* 1, 4, 6 and 10, the stem always has the same form. Because they end in the “theme vowel” -a-, they are called *thematic* (or *akārānta*).
- In *gaṇas* 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9, the stem changes, and always ends in a consonant (including *i/y* and *u/v*), or historically ended in a consonant (*kri-nā- < *kri-naH-*). These are called *athematic*.

ENDINGS (तिङ्)

These are the *primary* endings, used in the *present* tense (*laṭ*).

	परस्मैपदम्			आत्मनेपदम्			Notes
	एक०	द्वि०	बहु०	एक०	द्वि०	बहु०	
प्र०	ति	तः	अन्ति	प्र०	ते	आते अन्ते	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the “theme vowel” -a- (in <i>gaṇas</i> 1, 4, 6 and 10) is lengthened to -ā- before endings that start with -m- or -v- (e.g., <i>bhavāmi</i>)the <i>prathamapurusa bahuvacana</i> endings have several variants:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-ati/-ate in <i>gaṇa</i> 3 (reduplicating presents)-anti/-ante everywhere else (the -a- of the ending is deleted after a stem ending in -a-)
म०	सि	थः	थ	म०	से	आथे ध्वे	
उ०	मि	वः	मः	उ०	ए	वहे महे	

These are the *secondary* endings, used in the *imperfect* tense (*lañ*).

	परस्मैपदम्			आत्मनेपदम्			Notes
	एक०	द्वि०	बहु०	एक०	द्वि०	बहु०	
प्र०	त्	ताम्	अन्	प्र०	त	आताम् अन्त	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the <i>prathamapurusa bahuvacana</i> endings have several variants:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-an/-anta in thematic presents-an/-ata in <i>gaṇas</i> 2, 5, 7 and 8-uḥ/-ata in <i>gaṇa</i> 3<ul style="list-style-type: none">NB the ending -uḥ causes <i>guṇa</i> of a preceding syllable (e.g., <i>ajuhavuh</i>)the <i>ātmanepada uttamapurusa ekavacana</i> ending -i combines with a preceding -a- or -ā- to become -e.
म०	स्	तम्	त	म०	थाः	आथाम् ध्वम्	
उ०	अम्	व	म	उ०	इ	वहि महि	

AUGMENT (अट्)

The imperfect (like the aorist) adds an augment before the root.

- Before consonants, this augment is simply *a-* (e.g., *akaravam*).
- Before vowels, the augment takes the form of *vṛddhi* of the following vowel (e.g., *a + ita = aita*, *a + ṛcchat = ārchat*).
- The augment comes between any *upasarga* and the *dhātu* (e.g., *abhyāgacchat*).

PARTICIPLES

These suffixes go on the weak stem.

परस्मैपदे

Athematic -a(n)t-:

- *kurv-an*
- *kurv-antam*
- *kurv-atā* etc.

Thematic -(n)t-:

- *bhava-n*
- *bhava-ntam*
- *bhava-tā* etc.

Feminine formed by -ī suffix on weak stem (*kurv-at-ī*, *bhava-t-ī*, etc.)

आत्मनेपदे

Athematic -āna-:

- *kurv-ānaḥ*
- *kurv-ānam*
- *kurv-ānena* etc.

Thematic -māna-:

- *bhava-mānaḥ*
- *bhava-mānam*
- *bhava-mānena* etc.

Feminine formed by -ā suffix (*kurvānā*, *bhavamānā*)

Participles have *verbal rection* (they can govern accusatives, etc.) and as adjectives, agree with their head in gender, number, and case.