



The Desiderative



Introduction.

By 3.1.7, the suffix *saN* is optionally added to a root if the agent desires to be the agent of the action expressed by that root:

कर्तुमिच्छति → चिकीर्षति The marker *N* indicates that the form has an accent on the initial syllable. [6.1.197]
ज्ञातुमिच्छति → जिज्ञासते



The suffix *saN* is conjugated like a sixth-class (तुदादिः) verb. The stem does not change, because it is a thematic conjugation, but the suffix *saN* triggers reduplication.

Stem formation.

REDUPLICATION. The reduplicated syllable is formed in almost the same way as third-class (ह्लादिः) presents:

- ✿ The reduplicating syllable must be light.
(The roots √मान्, √बध्, √दान्, and √शान् are exceptions: see *right*.)
- ✿ No velars, aspirates, or conjuncts are allowed. [3.1.6]
- ✿ The vowels *ṛ*, *ṝ*, *a*, and *ā* reduplicate with *i*.
- ✿ In some roots, the reduplication merges with the root syllable; see *right*.

ROOT SYLLABLE. The root generally stands in the zero grade before *saN*.

- ✿ Some verbs take the augment *iT̄*, which generally requires *gunah*.
 - ✿ Roots that begin with a consonant, end with a consonant other than *y* or *v*, and contain a medial *i* or *u*, optionally take zero grade instead of *gunah*. [1.2.26] √लिख् → लिलिखिषति, लिलेखिषति
 - ✿ A few roots (√रुद्, √विद्, √मुष्, √ग्रह्, √स्वप्, √प्रच्छ्) necessarily take zero grade and *samprasāraṇam* if possible, with or without *iT̄*. [1.2.8] √विद् → विविदिषति √ग्रह् → जिघृक्षति
- ✿ Verbs ending in a vowel, as well as √हन् and √गम्, are lengthened. [6.4.16] √श्रु → शुश्रूषते
- ✿ *-ṛ/-ṝ* lengthens to *-īr*. √कृ → चिकीर्षति
- ✿ ... or to *-ūr* after labials. √म् → मुमूर्षति
- ✿ Retroflexion of an initial *s* happens only if the *s* of the suffix is not retroflexed. [8.3.61] √सिच् → सिसिक्षति √स्वप् → सुषुप्सति
- ✿ Initial palatals generally become velars. [7.3.57] √चित् → चिकित्सति √जि → जिगीषति
- ✿ The roots √दा, √धा, √मी, √मा, √शक्, √पत्, √पद्, √रभ्, and √लभ् form a “collapsed” desiderative stem by rejecting reduplication and replacing the vowel of the root with *i*. (√आप् with *ī*.) [7.4.54] √शक् → शिक्षति √धा → धित्सति

Common Roots.

√भू	बुभूषति
√कृ	चिकीर्षति
√पा	पिपासति
√भुज्	बुभुक्षते
√गम्	जिगमिषति
√श्रु	शुश्रूषते
√ज्ञा	जिज्ञासते
√बुध्	बुभुत्सति
√भिद्	बिभित्सति
√ज्ञा	जिज्ञासति
√वस्	विवत्सति
√मन्	मीमांसते
√स्वप्	सुषुप्सति
√ग्रह्	जिघृक्षति
√प्रच्छ्	पिपृक्षति

√दा	दित्सति
√लभ्	लित्सति
√रभ्	रित्सते
√मा	मित्सति
√आप्	ईत्सति
व्युत्-	√पद् व्युत्पित्सति
√ज्ञा+णिच्	ज्ञीत्सति

Nominal forms.

AGENT NOUNS. By adding *-su-* to the verbal stem to which the desiderative suffix *saN* is added, an nominal form referring to the agent is produced, which can be inflected in all three genders:

विजिगीषुः one who wishes to conquer
बुभुक्षुः one who wishes to eat



ACTION NOUNS. By adding *-sā-* to the verbal stem to which the desiderative suffix *saN* is added, a feminine noun referring to the action is produced:

विजिगीषा the desire to conquer
बुभुक्षा the desire to eat, hunger
जिघृक्षा the desire to seize, greed
भीभत्सा the desire to stop, disgust
जुगुप्सा the desire to avoid, loathing