

What is that morpheme?

Part 2 — *ta* / त

The element *-ta-* is found in many nominal and verbal forms. Examples are given below, mostly using the verbal root *kṛ* / कृ 8 *ubhaya*. ‘do, make.’

1. NOMINAL FORMS.

Note that the sequence *-ta-* can often result from a stem-final *-t-* and a suffix-initial *-a-* in internal *sandhi*, as in the following cases:

- सोमसुतः *sōmasutaḥ*
 - ‘sōma-pressers’ (*sōmasut* + *Jas*, nom. pl.)
- भवतः *bhavataḥ*
 - ‘yours, belonging to you’ (*bhavat* [weak stem of *bhavān* ‘you’] + *Ñas*, gen. sg.)
- श्रीमतः *śrīmataḥ*
 - ‘of the glorious one’ (*śrī* + *matUP* + *Ñas*)
- कुर्वतः *kurvataḥ*
 - ‘of the one who is doing’ (*kurvat* [weak stem of the present participle of *kṛ*] + *Ñas*)
- तावतः *tāvataḥ*
 - ‘after so much’ (*tāvat* ‘so much, so many’ + *ÑasI*, abl. sg.)

In the following examples the *-ta-* is part of the nominal stem itself:

- कृतः *kṛtaḥ*
 - ‘done.’ *Kta* (“past passive participle,” really “past absolutive participle”), an adjective that refers to either the *patient* of the verbal action or the *verbal action* itself. The verbal root appears in the zero grade. Because *Kta* is added directly onto a verbal root, it is called a *kṛt* or primary suffix.
 - *kṛ* + *Kta* [+ *sUP*]
- कृतवान् *kṛtavān*
 - ‘having done.’ *KtavatU* (“past active participle”), an adjective referring to the *agent* of the verbal action. It is inflected like possessive adjectives with the suffix *vatUP*.
 - *kṛ* + *KtavatU* [+ *sUP*]
- कर्तव्यः *kartavyaḥ*
 - ‘to be done.’ A *kṛtya* (“passive potential participle”), an adjective referring to the *patient* of the verbal action.
 - *kṛ* + *tavya* [+ *sUP*]
- तत् *tat*
 - It is worth remembering the pronominal stem *tat-* (i.e., *ta-*) because most of its forms will feature the sequence *ta* (*tasmai*, *tasyaī*, *tasmāt*, *tasyaḥ*, *tayā*, etc.). Similarly *ētat*.

In one case *-ta-* is part of a nominal suffix:

- ततः *tataḥ*
 - ‘from that, after that.’ The suffix *tasIL*, added to a pronominal stem (*prātipadikam*), generally has the sense of the ablative case. Similarly for the homophonous suffix *tasI* when added to nominal stems (*vrkṣataḥ* ‘from the tree’)
 - *tat* + *tasI*

2. VERBAL FORMS

Sometimes *-ta* is the *sandhi* outcome of a final *-tē* (i.e., the primary ending of the third person singular *ātmanēpadam*) followed by a vowel:

- क्रियत एव *kriyata ēva*
 - ‘it is just made’ (*kriyatē + ēva*)
- क्रियन्त एव
 - ‘they are just made’ (*kriyantē + ēva*)

For the suffix *-taḥ* (which becomes *-ta* when followed by a vowel other than *a*) see below.

In the following examples, *-ta* is the **secondary ending** of the **second person plural *parasmaipadam***:

- कुरुत *kuruta* ‘do!’ (imperative / लोट्)
- अकुरुत *akuruta* ‘you used to do’ (imperfect / लङ्)
- अकुर्यात *akuryāta* ‘you would do’ (optative / लिङ्)
- अकृत *akṛta* ‘he did’ (aorist / लुङ्) [root aorist / सिच्-लुक् and *s*-aorist / सिच्]
- अकरिष्यत *akarīṣyata* ‘he would have done’ (hypothetical / लृङ्)

In the following examples, *-ta* is the **secondary ending** of the **third person singular *ātmanēpadam***:

- अकुरुत *akuruta* ‘he used to do’ (imperfect / लङ्)
- कुर्वीत *kurvīta* ‘he would do’ (optative / लिङ्)
- अकृत *akṛta* ‘you did’ (aorist / लुङ्) [root aorist / सिच्-लुक् and *s*-aorist / सिच्]
- अकरिष्यत *akarīṣyata* ‘you would have done’ (hypothetical / लृङ्)

-ta- also appears in the suffix *-tas*, the **primary ending** of the **third person dual *parasmaipadam***:

- कुरुतः *kurutaḥ* ‘they [2] do’ (present / लट्)
- करिष्यतः *kariṣyataḥ* ‘they [2] will do’ (future / लृट्)

-ta- also appears in the suffixes *-anta* and *-ata*, the **secondary endings** of the **third person plural *ātmanēpadam*** (although *-īran* is used in the optative). Generally *-anta* is used in thematic conjugations and *-ata* in athematic conjugations.

- अकुर्वत *akurvata* ‘they used to do’ (imperfect / लङ्)
- अकरिष्यन्त *akarīṣyanta* ‘they would have done’ (hypothetical / लृङ्)
- अक्रत *akrata* ‘they did’ (aorist / लुङ्) [root aorist / सिच्-लुक्]
- अकृषत *akṛṣata* ‘they did’ (aorist / लुङ्) [*s*-aorist / सिच्]