

शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

# प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

#### **FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT**

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



अल्लटाचार्योद्धावितः पाठऋमः 🎇 Designed by Andrew Ollett



samāsāh



समासाः





A **compound** is a word that is formed from two other words.

The use of compounds is a distinctive part of the Sanskrit language.





English uses compounds a lot, too.

But we generally write spaces between the elements of a compound, so we don't generally think of words like "garbage truck noise" or "water buffalo race" as compounds.





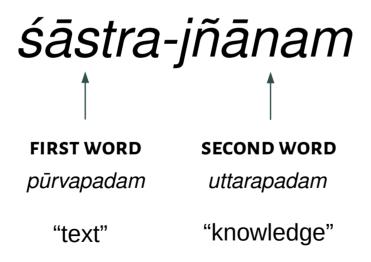
**Any** compound word can be analyzed into two constituents:

śāstrajñānam





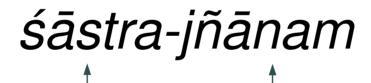
**Any** compound word can be analyzed into two constituents:







A pretty common feature of Sanskrit compounds is that the first word is found in its **stem form**:



**FIRST WORD** 

**SECOND WORD** 

pūrvapadam

uttarapadam

"text"

"knowledge"





These compounds are called **luk-samāsaḥ** after the elision (**luk**) of the nominal ending (*vibhaktiḥ*) of the first word. There are also **aluk-samāsāḥ**, in which the first word appears with its case ending:

divam-gatah

"heaven" + acc.sg. "gone"





NOTF:

Compounds can be divided into two broad classes:

- Endocentric compounds
- Exocentric compounds

Linguists often just use the Sanskrit names for different types of compounds, even when talking about languages other than Sanskrit, and the distinction between "endocentric" and "exocentric" (introduced by Leonard Bloomfield) is in fact based on Sanskrit grammar.





An **endocentric** compound is one in which the reference of one of the words (the "head" of the compound) describes the reference of the compound as a whole:





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blackbird





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blackbeard





An endocentric compound is one in which the reference of one of the words (the "head" of the compound) describes the reference of the compound as a whole:

blackbird (is a bird → endocentric)

**blackbeard** (is NOT a beard → exocentric)





There are three broad categories of endocentric compounds in Sanskrit:

- **Coordinative** ("polycentric") compounds

  dvandvaḥ ~ द्वन्द्वः
- Modifier compounds tatpurusah ~ तत्पुरुषः
- [Adverbial] modifier compounds avyayībhāvaḥ ~ अव्ययीभावः





Exocentric compounds only have one type (with several subdivisions):

Exocentric compounds

bahuvrīhiḥ ~ बहुव्रीहिः





# VIGRAHAVĀKYĀNI

Sanskrit compounds are usually explained either by classifying them in the categories just provided, or, what is usually more informative, by providing an analytic paraphrase in which each of the constituents of the compound appears as a separate word. The latter is called a *vigrahaḥ* or *vigrahavākyam* in Sanskrit.





# VIGRAHAVĀKYĀNI

"water buffalo race"

[a race [of buffalo [that live in water]]]

"garbage truck noise"

[the noise [of trucks [that carry garbage]]]



