



शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



अल्लटाचार्योद्भावितः पाठक्रमः  Designed by Andrew Ollett



THE IMPERFECT

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THE IMPERFECT

The imperfect (*lañ*) is one of the *lakāras* or tense-moods in Sanskrit. It is the **past tense** of the **present system**. Its mood is **indicative**, so it is usually used to refer to actions that actually did take place (or are described as having taken place).



THE IMPERFECT

There are **two** other finite past tenses in Sanskrit — the **aurist** (*luṅ*) and the **perfect** (*liṭ*) — and Pāṇini has distinguished them in terms of **remoteness** from the time of utterance, but nobody really uses them that way. For all intents and purposes they are **synonymous**.

FORMS

The imperfect is part of the **present system**, so it is formed with the **present stem**. What distinguishes it from the present tense is:

- ❁ the use of a prefix *a-* **before** the verb (but **after** any preverbs);
- ❁ the use of a distinct (but related) set of verbal endings.



FORMS

a + bhava + t

past tense
augment

present stem

inflectional
ending

ENDINGS

Here are the **primary** endings (those used in the **present tense**):

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	-ti	-taḥ	-nti
2 nd	-si	-thaḥ	-tha
1 st	-mi	-vaḥ	-maḥ

parasmaipadám

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	-tē	-ētē	-ntē
2 nd	-sē	-ēthē	-dhvē
1 st	-ē	-vahē	-mahē

ātmanēpadám

ENDINGS

The **secondary** endings are similar but generally shorter (without a final *-i* or *-ḥ*):

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	-t	-tām	-n
2 nd	-ḥ	-tam	-ta
1 st	-m	-va	-ma

parasmaipadām

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	-ta	-ētām	-nta
2 nd	-thāḥ	-ēthām	-dhvam
1 st	-i	-vahi	-mahi

ātmanēpadām

ENDINGS

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	-ti	-taḥ	-nti
2 nd	-si	-thaḥ	-tha
1 st	-mi	-vaḥ	-maḥ

parasmaipadám

ENDINGS

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	-t	-tām	-nt
2 nd	-s	-tam	-ta
1 st	-m	-va	-ma

parasmaipadām

ENDINGS

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	-t	-tām	-n
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1 st	-m	-va	-ma

parasmaipadām

ENDINGS

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	-tē	-ētē	-ntē
2 nd	-sē	-ēthē	-dhvē
1 st	-ē	-vahē	-mahē

ātmanēpadām

ENDINGS

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	-ta	-ētām	-nta
2 nd	-thāḥ	-ēthām	-dhvam
1 st	-ē	-vahi	-mahi

ātmanēpadām

PARADIGMS

Imperfect indicative (लट्) of √भू “become” (1st class):

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	ábhavat t	ábhavat tām	ábhavan n
2 nd	ábhava h	ábhavat am	ábhavata a
1 st	ábhavam m	ábhavā va	ábhavā ma

parasmaipadám

PARADIGMS

Imperfect indicative (लट्) of √मन् “think” (4th class):

	sg.	du.	pl.
3 rd	ámanyata	ámanyētām	ámanyanta
2 nd	ámányathāḥ	ámányēthām	ámanyadhvam
1 st	ámanyē	ámanyāvahi	ámanyāmahī

ātmanēpadām

USE

Exactly parallel to the present indicative, but referring to past time. The forms made from the class-based present stem (first class, fourth class, etc.) are **active**.

वदति • सः • ताम् •

“He **speaks** to her.”

USE

Exactly parallel to the present indicative, but referring to past time. The forms made from the class-based present stem (first class, fourth class, etc.) are **active**.

अवदत् · सः · ताम् ·

“He spoke to her.”

