



AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT











The particle *iti* has a number of related uses in Sanskrit. Most importantly, it is the **marker of direct discourse**.

In this function it is like a quotation mark in written English (or the word *like* in informal spoken English).





Indirect discourse:

He said that he was hungry.

sequence of tenses

changing pronouns

This is basically non-existent in Sanskrit.





Direct discourse:





Direct discourse:

He said, "I am hungry."

बुभुक्षुः • अहम् • इति • अवदत् •





इति immediately follows the speech or thought that is quoted.





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If it helps, you can think of *iti* as marking the **clausal complement** of a verb: think of it as a direct object, but as an entire sentence (or even group of sentences) rather than a single noun.

किम् • अवदत् •

What did he say?





If it helps, you can think of *iti* as marking the **clausal complement** of a verb: think of it as a direct object, but as an entire sentence (or even group of sentences) rather than a single noun.





Besides being commonly used with verbs of saying, it is commonly used with verbs of *thinking* as well:

"This is strange," he thought.





It can also be used to mark a clausal modifier of a **noun**, especially one referring to a thought, decision, or speech:

Their decision is that they will go.





And as a modifier of a noun, it can be used to quote names, words, etc.

My name is Andrew.





And as a modifier of a noun, it can be used to quote names, words, etc.

शास्त्रम् • इति • शब्दः

The word "śāstram."





The idiom *iti krtvā*, or more briefly (and commonly) just *iti*, also gives a reason or explanation for a following statement.

It's because I am a foreigner that I am asking.





STRATEGIES

Iti marks the end of a quotation, but generally **nothing will mark the beginning of a quotation**. You need to therefore figure out where the *iti*-clause begins.



From Speijer §493c.



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The cause is that he does not read the *dharmaśāstras*.







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Iti marks the end of a quotation, but generally **nothing will mark the beginning of a quotation**. You need to therefore figure out where the *iti*-clause begins.

The cause is not that he reads the *dharmaśāstras*.





