



शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



अल्लटाचार्योद्भावितः पाठक्रमः  Designed by Andrew Ollett



THE IMPERATIVE

lōṭ



लोट्



THE IMPERATIVE

The imperative is a **mood**. In contrast to the **indicative**, which is used to describe (or ask questions about) events which are imagined as happening (or already happened, or about to happen), the imperative is used to **give commands**.



THE IMPERATIVE

You can recognize the imperative in English because it's the only mood where it's grammatical in Standard English to drop the subject:

Go!

Think about it.



THE IMPERATIVE

In Sanskrit, the imperative is represented by a special set of endings. These endings are added to the **present stem**, so the imperative is one of the *tense-moods* (*lakārah*) that forms part of the **present system** of verbs.

- ❖ In Proto-Indo-European, it was probably possible to use imperative endings also with other stems, associated with different aspects (aorist and perfect). But these were always rare, even in the earliest Sanskrit texts.



THE IMPERATIVE

In fact the imperative **endings** are a bit of a mash-up. There are dedicated endings for the second and third person, but the paradigm is completed, in the first person, by forms of the **subjunctive** (*lēt*), a form used for the future in Vedic Sanskrit but no longer used in classical Sanskrit.



THE IMPERATIVE

Note that imperatives are used **in all three persons** in Sanskrit. First-person imperatives are used where English would use “let me...” or “let us...,” and third-person imperatives are used where English would use “let him...” or “he must...” or “he is to...” (etc.).



THE IMPERATIVE

The (non-first-person) endings of the imperative are **secondary**, that is, they are similar to the endings of the imperfect (distinguished, in some cases, only by the fact that the imperative does not have an augment):

अब्रूत

ब्रूत

You (pl.) spoke.

Speak!



THE IMPERATIVE

But there are always **special** imperative endings in the **second person singular**, and in the **third person singular and plural**.

If the stem changes, the **strong stem** is only used in the first person (the old subjunctive) and the third person singular *parasmaipadam*. All other forms are weak (including the 2nd sg. *parasmai*!)



THE IMPERATIVE

The third person *parasmaipadam* (both singular and plural) simply uses *u* where the present indicative uses *i*. Note that only the singular uses the strong stem:

ब्रवीति

He speaks.

ब्रवीतु

Let him speak!



THE IMPERATIVE

The third person *parasmaipadam* (both singular and plural) simply uses *u* where the present indicative uses *i*. Note that only the singular uses the strong stem:

ब्रुवन्ति

They speak.

ब्रुवन्तु

Let them speak!



THE IMPERATIVE

In the *ātmanēpadam*, the endings are *-tām* and *-(n)tām* in the third person singular and plural:

ब्रूते

He speaks.

ब्रूताम्

Let him speak!

ब्रुवते

They speak.

ब्रुवताम्

Let them speak!



THE IMPERATIVE

The most variation is found in the **second person singular** endings. But these are still quite straightforward:

ātmanēpadām: -*svá* everywhere.

ब्रूष्व

Speak!

मन्यस्व

Think!



THE IMPERATIVE

parasmaipadám:

- in all the thematic classes, the ending is zero:

भव

कथय

Become!

Tell!



THE IMPERATIVE

parasmaipadám:

- in the athematic classes, the ending is generally *hí* after a vowel and *dhí* after a consonant, in both cases following the weak stem:

इहि जहीहि जानीहि

Go! Leave it! Know!



THE IMPERATIVE

parasmaipadám:

- in the athematic classes, the ending is generally *hí* after a vowel and *dhí* after a consonant, in both cases following the weak stem:

दुग्धि

Milk!

विद्धि

Know!

युद्धि

Join!



THE IMPERATIVE

parasmaipadám:

- in a few cases the form is irregular:

एधि Be! (√अस्)

धेहि Place! (√धा)

देहि Give! (√दा)



THE IMPERATIVE

parasmaipadám:

- fifth and eighth class roots take zero:

कुरु Do! (√कृ)

शृणु Listen! (√श्रु)

सुनु Press! (√सु)



THE IMPERATIVE

parasmaipadám:

- ninth class roots **ending in a consonant** use
the ending *-ānā́:*

गृहाण Take! (√ग्रह्)

बधान Tie! (√बन्ध्)



THE IMPERATIVE

The **first person** endings always take the strong form of the stem, if one exists, and they always have the same endings (*-āni, -āva, -āma; -ai, -āvahai, -āmahai*).

किं करवानि (√कृ)
[karō-āni]

What am I to do?



| | sg. | du. | pl. |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|
| 3 rd | ०तु | ०ताम् | ०अन्तु, ०अतु |
| 2 nd | ०धि, ०हि, ∅ | ०तम् | ०त |
| 1 st | ०आनि | ०आव | ०आम |
| 3 rd | ०ताम् | ०आताम् | ०न्ताम्, ०अताम् |
| 2 nd | ०स्व | ०आथाम् | ०ध्वम् |
| 1 st | ०ऐ | ०आवहै | ०आमहै |

Imperative endings (overview)



| | sg. | du. | pl. |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|
| 3 rd | ०तु | ०ताम् | ०अन्तु, ०अतु |
| 2 nd | ०धि, ०हि, ∅ | ०तम् | ०त |
| 1 st | ०आनि | ०आव | ०आम |
| 3 rd | ०ताम् | ०आताम् | ०न्ताम्, ०अताम् |
| 2 nd | ०स्व | ०आथाम् | ०ध्वम् |
| 1 st | ०ऐ | ०आवहै | ०आमहै |

Imperative endings (overview)



| | sg. | du. | pl. |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|
| 3 rd | ०तु | ०ताम् | ०अन्तु, ०अतु |
| 2 nd | ०धि, ०हि, ∅ | ०तम् | ०त |
| 1 st | ०आनि | ०आव | ०आम |
| 3 rd | ०ताम् | ०एताम् | ०न्ताम्, ०अताम् |
| 2 nd | ०स्व | ०एथाम् | ०ध्वम् |
| 1 st | ०ऐ | ०आवहै | ०आमहै |

Imperative endings (overview)



3rd

sg.
नमतु

du.
नमताम्

pl.
नमन्तु

2nd

नम

नमतम्

नमत

1st

नमानि

नमाव

नमाम

Imperative of \sqrt{nam}



3rd

मन्यताम्

मन्येताम्

मन्यन्ताम्

2nd

मन्यस्व

मन्येथाम्

मन्यध्वम्

1st

मन्यै

मन्यावहै

मन्यामहै

Imperative of √man



3rd

अस्तु

स्ताम्

सन्तु

2nd

एधि

स्तम्

स्त

1st

असानि

असाव

असाम

Imperative of √as



3rd

एतु

इताम्

यन्तु

2nd

इहि

इतम्

इत

1st

अयानि

अयाव

अयाम

Imperative of √i



| | sg. | du. | pl. |
|-----------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| 3 rd | करोतु | कुरुताम् | कुर्वन्तु |
| 2 nd | कुरु | कुरुतम् | कुरुत |
| 1 st | करवानि | करवाव | करवाम |
| 3 rd | कुरुताम् | कुर्वाताम् | कुर्वताम् |
| 2 nd | कुरुष्व | कुर्वाथाम् | कुरुध्वम् |
| 1 st | करवै | करवावहै | करवामहै |

Imperative of \sqrt{kr}



| | sg. | du. | pl. |
|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 3 rd | ददातु | दत्ताम् | ददतु |
| 2 nd | देहि | दत्तम् | दत्त |
| 1 st | ददानि | ददाव | ददाम |
| 3 rd | दत्ताम् | ददाताम् | ददताम् |
| 2 nd | दत्स्व | ददाथाम् | दद्धम् |
| 1 st | ददै | ददावहै | ददामहै |

Imperative of $\sqrt{dā}$



| | sg. | du. | pl. |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 3 rd | गृह्णातु | गृह्णीताम् | गृह्णन्तु |
| 2 nd | गृहाण | गृह्णीतम् | गृह्णीत |
| 1 st | गृह्णानि | गृह्णाव | गृह्णाम |
| 3 rd | गृह्णीताम् | गृह्णाताम् | गृह्णताम् |
| 2 nd | गृह्णीष्व | गृह्णाथाम् | गृह्णीध्वम् |
| 1 st | गृह्णै | गृह्णावहै | गृह्णामहै |

Imperative of √grah



SURPRISE!

There is also an imperative form in *-tāt* (added to the weak stem) which is used in the sense of the second person, but it is archaic and rare in Classical Sanskrit.

कुरुतात् ब्रूतात्

Do!

Say!

(√कृ)

(√ब्रू)

