The Cambridge Introduction to Sanskrit

Ideal for courses in beginning Sanskrit or self-study, this textbook employs modern, tried-and-tested pedagogical methods and tools, but requires no prior knowledge of ancient languages or linguistics. Devanāgarī script is introduced over several chapters and used in parallel with transliteration for several chapters more, allowing students to progress in learning Sanskrit itself while still mastering the script. Students are exposed to annotated original texts in addition to practice sentences very early on, and structures and systems underlying the wealth of forms are clearly explained to facilitate memorisation. All grammar is covered in detail, with chapters dedicated to compounding and nominal derivation, and sections explaining relevant historical phenomena.

Online resources include:

- Flash cards custom-made for the vocabulary and forms in the book
- Video tutorials for all chapters
- Up-to-date links to writing, declension and conjugation exercises and online dictionaries, grammars and textual databases

A. M. Ruppel was the Townsend Senior Lecturer in the Greek, Latin and Sanskrit Languages at Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) for nine years, and currently is Head of Sanskrit at St James Senior Boys' School in Ashford (Surrey), UK. Ruppel has received the Stephen and Margery Russell Distinguished Teaching Award as well as a grant from the Cornell Center for Teaching Excellence, and is the author of *Absolute Constructions in Early Indo-European* (Cambridge, 2012).
THE CAMBRIDGE INTRODUCTION TO

Sanskrit

A. M. RUPPEL

Cornell University, St James Senior Boys’ School
This book is dedicated to my students.
I hope that they have learned as much from me as I have from them.
CONTENTS

Acknowledgements xiii

CHAPTER 0
Studying Sanskrit 1
Why Learn Sanskrit? 1
How to Use This Book 2
Study Techniques 4
Supplementary Materials 5
Further Study - Language and Literature 6
List of Abbreviations 7
Notes for the Reader 8

CHAPTER 1
Writing Sanskrit 9
Writing Single Characters 10
Writing Words 12

CHAPTER 2
The System of Sanskrit Sounds 18
Vowels 19
Consonants 19
Use of this Chapter for Reference 21

CHAPTER 2A
Word Stress: Heavy and Light Syllables 25

CHAPTER 3
Road Map: Verbs 29
1) The Categories of the Sanskrit Verb 29

CHAPTER 4
The Present Tense 38
Verbal Endings of the Present Indicative Active; Class I, IV, VI Verbs 38
Technical Note: Sandhi 39

CHAPTER 5
Road Map: Nominals 43
Definition 43
1) Case 43
2) Number 47
3) Gender 48
Three Aspects of Nominal Usage 48
‘Postpositions’ 50

CHAPTER 6
a-Stems 57
a-Stem Nouns 57
a-Stem Adjectives 58
Dictionary Matters 58
Retroflexion of n 59
Syntactic Note: Iriti and Direct Speech 59
CHAPTER 7
Vowel Gradation and Why We Need to Know about It 68
Vowel Gradation 68
Applications: 70
  Verb Classes  71
  Class X Presents  71
  Causatives  71
  Verbal Roots Ending in a Vowel  72
  Verbal Roots Cited in Guṇa  72

CHAPTER 8
Absolutes, ta-Participles and Infinitives; Introduction to Internal Sandhi 80
Formation and Meaning of the Absolutive and the ta-Participle 80
Brief Introduction to Internal Sandhi: internal sandhi before t 82
Use of Participles and Especially the ta-Participle 84
The Infinitive 85

CHAPTER 9
ā-Stems 92
ā-Stem Nouns 92
Adjectives 93
Adverbs 95
More Internal Sandhi: The Ruki Rule on the Retroflexion of s 95
Stylistic Note: ‘to go’ and Abstract Nouns 96
Syntactic Note: Relative Clauses in a Nutshell 96

CHAPTER 10
Prepositions and Preverbs 101
  Prepositions 101
  Preverbs 101
  More Internal Sandhi: Vowels and Nasals 104

CHAPTER 11
Introduction to External Sandhi I:
  Consonant Sandhi 109
  Introduction to External Sandhi 109
  Consonant Sandhi 110

CHAPTER 12
Imperfect Indicative and Present
  Potential 118
  Meaning 118
  Forms 118

CHAPTER 13
i- and ū-Stems; Sandhi II: Visarga Sandhi 125
  i- and ū-Stems 125
  Regular i-Stems 125
  Root i-Stems 125
  ū-Stems 125
  Feminine Nouns Formed from Masculine Nouns 127
  Adjective Agreement 127
  Visarga Sandhi 128
  Stylistic Note: Word Repetition 130

CHAPTER 14
Compound Nouns 137
  General 137
  Stems 138
Types of Sanskrit Compound
Nouns 138
Analysing Compounds 142
Formal Note: Stem Changes 144

CHAPTER 15
Consonant Stems I 150
Consonant-Stem Endings 150
Dental Stems I 151
Palatal Stems 152
Verb-Final Tatpurusas 153
Stylistic Note: The Use of स- in Compounds 153

CHAPTER 16
Sandhi III: Vowel Sandhi 160
Vowel Sandhi 160
Internal vs. External Sandhi: A Comparison 162
Stylistic Note: Men like Tigers 162

CHAPTER 17
Noun Formation 172
The Suffixes -a-, -ana-, -tra-, -tva- and -tâ- 172
Vṛddhi Derivatives 173

CHAPTER 18
Athematic Verbs I 180

CHAPTER 19
Athematic Verbs II 189
Imperfect 189
Potential 190
Noteworthy Paradigms 190

CHAPTER 20
Introduction to Pronouns;
Pronouns I 200
स:/िद्- ‘he, she, it; this’ 201
अयम/इदम्- ‘this, that’ 202

CHAPTER 21
The Future Tense; Middle and Passive Voice 207
The Future Tense 207
The Middle Voice 208
The Passive Voice 210

CHAPTER 22
More Participles; Pronouns II 221
Middle and Passive Participles of Present and Future 221
Pronouns II: More Third-Person Pronouns 222
Pronominal Adjectives 223
Lexical Note: पर- 223

CHAPTER 23
Relative and Correlative Clauses 232
Relative Clauses 232
Correlative Clauses 233
Indefinites 235
Stylistic Note: Alternatives to Relative Clauses 235

CHAPTER 24
Consonant Stems II;
Imperatives 241
s-Stems 241
Imperatives 242
CHAPTER 25
Noun Stem Gradation; Consonant Stems III 251
Noun Stem Gradation 251
More Dental Stems: vant-/mant-Stems; tavant-Participles; (a)nt-Participles; mahānt- 251
Lexical Note: The Earth 254

CHAPTER 26
i- and u-Stems 261
i-Stem Nouns 261
u-Stem Nouns 263
i- and u-Stem Adjectives 263

CHAPTER 27
The Perfect Tense I: Regular Perfect Formation 271

CHAPTER 28
The Perfect Tense II: Irregular and Unexpected Forms 278

CHAPTER 29
ṛ-Stems, n-Stems; the Periphrastic Future 285
ṛ-Stems 285
n-Stems 286
The Periphrastic Future 289

CHAPTER 30
Secondary Middle Endings I: Thematic Verbs 297
Lexical Note: १युज्, युत-, योग- 298

CHAPTER 31
Secondary Middle Endings II: Athematic Verbs 305

CHAPTER 32
Pronouns III: 1st- and 2nd-Person Pronouns 310

CHAPTER 33
Desideratives and Gerundives 316
Desideratives 316
Gerundives 317

CHAPTER 34
The Periphrastic Perfect; ta-Participles Ending in -na 322
The Periphrastic Perfect 322
ta-Participles Ending in -na 323

CHAPTER 35
Perfect Participles; More Comparatives 328
Perfect Active and Middle Participles 328
Comparatives in -(i)yas- 329

CHAPTER 36
Absolute Constructions;
Pronouns IV 334
Locative and Genitive Absolute 334
Pronouns IV: ena- ‘this’ 335
How to Use a Sanskrit Dictionary 336

CHAPTER 37
Numerals 341

CHAPTER 38
Aorists 346

CHAPTER 39
Pronouns V: asau/adas- 351
CHAPTER 40
Some Irregular Nouns 357
गो- ‘bull’; ‘cow’ 357
चौ- ‘sky’ 357
पथ्- ‘path’ 358
पुंस्- ‘man’ 359

APPENDICES
Appendix I) Devanāgarī Practice Handouts 366
Appendix II) Background 373
Index of Quoted Passages 373
Index of Sanskrit Grammatical Terms 374

Sanskrit Metre: A Brief Introduction 375
Vedic Sanskrit: A Brief Introduction 378

Appendix III) Reference 382
Literature Introductions 382
Conjunct Consonants: Reference List 385
Devanāgarī Numerals 386
Sandhi 387
Reference Grammar 393
Vocabulary: Sanskrit–English 411

Index 430
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On my own, I could not have succeeded at any stage of the work on this book. At CUP, I am indebted to Michael Sharp for suggesting I turn my teaching materials into a book, to Kate Brett for helping me with the early stages of preparing the manuscript and to the fantastic and resourceful Laura Morris for seeing the process through to fruition. I used this book in my Introductory Sanskrit classes at Cornell for several years, and adapted it each summer based partly on my observations of what had worked and what hadn't, and partly on feedback and observations of many terrific students. Among them, my warmest thanks go to Eloïse Cucui, Sumana Raj, Aletheia Cui and Marit Imsdahl. Several scholars who have been incredibly generous with their time have given me valuable feedback on different parts of the manuscript. I am especially grateful to Bernhard Forssman, Sadananda Das, Jared Klein, Larry McCrea and Alan Nussbaum. Many others have helped by offering their support and their advice on technical, literary, linguistic and pedagogical questions, or have granted me practical support, among them Allison Boex, Charles Brittain, Harold Brown, Koen Claeyss, Eileen Daly-Boas, Nicholas Denyer, Lorraine Fitzmaurice, Coulter George, Anya Golovkova, Ben Gravell, Erik Kenyon, Andrew Ketley, Martin Kümmel, Sabine Masanetz, Torsten Meißner, Erich Merkel, Penny Needham and Jesse Noar. Together, they have prevented me from making many rookie and ruki mistakes; any remaining errors are entirely my own.