

LIFELOVEME LEARNING SERIES

HOW TO READ A SANSKRIT SENTENCE

Level 0 • For someone starting from zero

रामः • फलम् • खादति

THE LEARNING PROMISE

Examples first. Patterns next. Technical names only when they help the reader understand a sentence.

Sudhir K Agarwal, PhD

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LifeLoveMe: learning connected to life

LifeLoveMe is a developing human-centered framework for learning, reflection, wellness, relationships, memories and practical life assistance. It uses technology and AI as companions—to organize knowledge around a person’s goals and make learning easier to explore at one’s own pace.

SINGLE SOURCE FOR REFERENCE MATERIAL

Use the Sanskrit Learning Helper v0.2 for alphabet and transliteration, visarga and halant, sandhi patterns, vibhakti summaries, selected dhātus, noun and verb grids, lakāras and the glossary. This level book teaches their use through examples and does not reproduce those charts.

About the Author

Sudhir K Agarwal, PhD, is an engineer, educator, researcher, entrepreneur and writer. He earned his doctorate in Electrical Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan and has spent more than four decades applying probabilistic methods, computer modeling and engineering software to electric-power reliability and planning.

His interests extend across artificial intelligence, education, Sanskrit and Indian knowledge traditions, spirituality, consciousness, wellness, history and community learning. Through LifeLoveMe, he is exploring how AI can support people without replacing experience, judgment, relationships or the search for the Self.

Contact	Details
Name	Sudhir K Agarwal, PhD
Location	San Diego, California, USA
Phone	+1 858 213 7564
Email	info@lifeloveme.com
Framework	LifeLoveMe

1. Begin with one clear sentence

रामः बालकम् पश्यति।

Rāma sees the boy.

Word	Form clue	Role here
रामः (rāmaḥ)	nominative singular	seer: subject / agent
बालकम् (bālakam)	accusative singular	one seen: object / patient
पश्यति (paśyati)	finite verb, singular	sees: predicate

THREE QUESTIONS

What is happening? Who performs or experiences it? Who or what is affected?

2. A practical human method

- Read the whole sentence before translating word by word.
- Find the likely predicate. It may be a finite verb, participle, noun/adjective, or an implied अस्ति.
- Treat endings as clues to possible forms, not as isolated magic letters.
- Ask what participants the predicate normally invites.
- Use case, agreement, ordinary order, meaning and context together.
- If two readings remain possible, keep both and explain the uncertainty.

3. Finding the verb

A finite verb is recognized by the combination of its stem, ending and ability to serve as the predicate.

Form	Unsafe shortcut	Better analysis
पश्यामः	"It ends in मः."	पश्य- + -आमः: verbal stem and full ending fit "we see."
रामः	"It also ends in ः."	राम- + -ः: noun form here.
पश्यति	"Every -ति word is a verb."	Here yes; शक्ति, सुमति and पति are nouns.
अगच्छः	"Every ः word is a noun."	A verb: "you went."

HELPER LINK

Consult Helper §§6–9 for selected dhātus, the 3×3 verb framework, noun patterns and beginner lakāras.

4. Noun forms and roles

Case is a strong beginner clue, but it does not equal one permanent English role. The construction and verb decide more.

Clue	Beginner question	Frequent use
Nominative	who/what is presented?	subject; passive patient
Accusative	whom/what? where to?	object or goal
Instrumental	by/with what?	instrument; passive agent
Dative	to/for whom?	recipient
Ablative	from what? why?	source or cause
Genitive	whose?	relation
Locative	where?	location

5. Word order moves, roles may remain

Sentence	Reading	Observation
रामः बालकं पश्यति।	Rāma sees the boy.	ordinary S–O–V
बालकं पश्यति रामः।	Rāma sees the boy.	fruit/action may be foregrounded
पश्यति रामः बालकम्।	Rāma sees the boy.	verb-first is possible

SAFE HABIT

Compose early sentences in Subject–Object–Verb order. When reading, never assume that position alone determines role.

6. Context comes after grammar

फलम् जलं स्पृशति। Both neuter forms can be nominative or accusative singular. Grammar permits two assignments.

Possible reading	Translation	Supporting context
फलम् subject; जलम् object	The fruit touches the water.	fruit falls or floats in water
जलं subject; फलम् object	The water touches the fruit.	rain or rising water

RIGHT CONCLUSION

Context ranks grammatically possible readings; it does not repair impossible grammar.

7. Where the shortcut breaks

Construction	Example	What changes
Passive	रामेण बालकः दृश्यते।	बालकः is patient; रामेण is agent.
Nominal	रामः राजा।	“is” may be unspoken.
Participle	रामः गतः।	गतः carries the predication.
Experiencer	मह्यं पुस्तकं रोचते।	experiencer is dative.

8. Practice

- बालकः फलम् खादति। Identify eater, food and action.
- फलम् खादति बालकः। Did the roles change?
- रामेण फलम् खाद्यते। Identify agent and patient.
- फलम् जलं स्पृशति। Give both readings and suitable contexts.

ANSWERS

1 बालकः / फलम् / खादति. 2 No; endings preserve the reading. 3 रामेण agent, फलम् patient. 4 Fruit touches water / water touches fruit.

9. Ready for Level 1?

Continue when you can identify a likely predicate, use common case clues, respect agreement, and report ambiguity honestly. Level 1 adds regular noun/verb patterns, active/passive comparison and short prose.