

## Sanskrit Grammar-3

### Nouns (नामन्; नामानि ): An Overview

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Declension provides the following information:

#### 1. Gender (लिङ्गम्)

- a. masculine gender (पुंलिङ्गम्)
- b. feminine gender (स्त्रीलिङ्गम्)
- c. neuter gender (नापुंसकलिङ्गम्)

#### 2. Number (वचनम्)

- a. singular (एकवचनम्)
- b. dual (द्विवचनम्)
- c. plural (बहुवचनम्)

### 3. Case (Declension: विभक्तिः)

- a. nominative (प्रथमाविभक्तिः): subject (complement)
- b. accusative (द्वितीया-): direct object
- c. instrumental (तृतीया-): sociative and instrument by which something is done: *by, with.*
- d. dative (चतुर्थी-): indirect object: indicates the thing wished for or the aim of the action: *to, for*
- e. ablative (पञ्चमी-): point of departure and motive: *from, because (of)*
- f. genitive (षष्ठी-): possession: *of, 's, s'*
- g. locative (सप्तमी-): location in space and time: *in(to), on(to, at, to, upon, by, among*
- [h. vocative (सम्बोधनम्)]: address, calling

The names of the cases are identified according to ordinal numbers: first case or declension, second, third, etc. The vocative is the “calling” case. Pāṇini considers the vocative to be part of the ‘first’ or nominative case.

## **Examples of the use of cases**

*The king (1) defeated his enemies (2).*

*I (1) am going to the exhibit (2).*

*Heaven (1) is gained by the righteous (3).*

*The boy (1) left with his father (3).*

*He (1) gave everything (2) to his wife (4).*

*He (1) told her (4) so.*

*They (1) went for fruits (4).*

*He (1) came from the village (5).*

*The messenger (1) spoke out of fear (5).*

*Having heard the speech (2) of Nala (6), he (1) replied.*

*Put it in the bowl (7) of the beggar (6).*

*Brahmā (1) was born in this egg (7).*

*O Indra and Bṛhaspati (8), drink the soma (2).*