

The Demonstrative Pronoun

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Sanskrit does not possess a personal pronoun in the *prathama-puruṣaḥ* ('he, she, it, they'), nor does it possess a definite article ('the'). The pronouns that are often translated in these senses are actually *demonstratives*, words that specifically point out persons or things. In English, demonstratives are represented by the terms 'this, these, that, those.' Similarly, four demonstratives appear in Sanskrit: *tat*, *etat*, *idam*, and *adaḥ*. *Tat* and *adaḥ* are [-near], i.e., they refer to remoteness either in space or in time in relation to the speaker. *Etat* and *idam* are [+near], i.e., they refer to a person or object near to the speaker either spatially or temporarily. If there is a difference in sense between *etat* and *idam* and between *tat* and *adaḥ*, it is this: *etat* refers to 'nearness,' whereas *idam* implies 'presence,' and *tat* refers to 'absence,' whereas *adaḥ* indicates 'remoteness.' The pronouns occur in the first seven cases.

Declension of Pronouns (*sarvanāman-*)

<i>tat</i> 'that'	<i>vibhakti</i>	<i>eka-vacanam</i>	<i>dvi-vacanam</i>	<i>bahu-vacanam</i>
		pum-liṅgam napuṃsaka-1° strī-1°	pum-1° napuṃsaka-1° strī-1°	pum-1° napuṃsaka-1° strī-1°
and	<i>prathamā-</i>	saḥ (eṣaḥ) (e)tat sā (eṣā)	(e)tau (e)te (e)te	(e)te (e)tāni (e)tāḥ
	<i>dvitīyā-</i>	(e)tam (e)tat (e)tām	(e)tau (e)te (e)te	(e)tān (e)tāni (e)tāḥ
<i>etat</i> 'this'	<i>trītiyā-</i>	(e)tena (e)tayā	(e)tābhyām (e)tābhyām	(e)tailḥ (e)tābhiḥ
	<i>caturthī-</i>	(e)tasmai (e)tasyai	(e)tābhyām (e)tābhyām	(e)tebhyaḥ (e)tābhyaḥ
	<i>pañcamī-</i>	(e)tasmat (e)tasyās	(e)tābhyām (e)tābhyām	(e)tebhyaḥ (e)tābhyaḥ
	<i>saṣṭhī-</i>	(e)tasya (e)tasyās	(e)tayoḥ (e)tayoḥ	(e)teṣām (e)tāsām
	<i>saptamī</i>	(e)tasmin (e)tasyām	(e)tayoḥ (e)tayoḥ	(e)teṣu (e)tāsu

	<i>vibhakti'</i>	<i>eka-vacanam</i>	<i>dvi-vacanam</i>	<i>bahu-vacanam</i>
		puṃ-1° napuṃsaka-1° strī-1°	puṃ-1° napuṃsaka-1° strī-1°	puṃ-1° napuṃsaka-1° strī-1°
idam 'this'	<i>prathamā-</i>	ayam idam iyam	imau ime ime	ime imāni imāḥ
	<i>dviṭiyā-</i>	imam idam imām	imau ime ime	imān imāni imāḥ
	<i>trṭiyā-</i>	anena anayā	ābhyām ābhyām	ebhiḥ ābhiḥ
	<i>caturthī-</i>	asmai asyai	ābhyām ābhyām	ebhyaḥ ābhyaḥ
	<i>pañcamī-</i>	asmāt asyāḥ	ābhyām ābhyām	ebhyaḥ ābhyaḥ
	<i>saṣṭhī-</i>	asya asyāḥ	anayoḥ anayoḥ	eṣām āsām
	<i>saptamī</i>	asmin asyām	ābhyām anayoḥ	eṣu āsu

	<i>vibhakti'</i>	<i>eka-vacanam</i>	<i>dvi-vacanam</i>	<i>bahu-vacanam</i>
		puṃ-1° napuṃsaka-1° strī-1°	puṃ-1° napuṃsaka-1° strī-1°	puṃ-1° napuṃsaka-1° strī-1°
	<i>prathamā-</i>	asau adaḥ asau	amū amū	amī amūni amūḥ
adaḥ 'that'	<i>dviṭiyā-</i>	amum adaḥ amūm	amū amū	amūn amūni amūḥ
	<i>trṭiyā-</i>	amunā amuyā	amūbhyām amūbhyām	amibhiḥ amūbhiḥ
	<i>caturthī-</i>	amuṣmai amuṣyai	amūbhyām amūbhyām	amibhyaḥ amūbhyaḥ
	<i>pañcamī-</i>	amuṣmāt amuṣyāḥ	amūbhyām amūbhyām	amibhyaḥ amūbhyaḥ
	<i>saṣṭhī-</i>	amuṣya amuṣyāḥ	amuyoḥ amuyoḥ	amiṣām amūṣām
	<i>saptamī</i>	amuṣmin amuṣyām	amuyoḥ amuyoḥ	amiṣu amūṣu