

Pāli Primer

- Language Guide -

This guide is prepared to help students who are studying the Pāli Primer (ISBN: 81-7414-014-X). It is divided into three sections. The first two sections deal with (noun) declension and (verb) conjugation. The third section contains a list of words occurred in the book arranged according to the Pali alphabet.

1. Grammar: Nouns

1.1 Declension of masculine nouns ending in -a

nara (man)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	naro	Narā
Accusative	naraṃ	nare
Instrumental	narena	narehi (narebhi)
Ablative	narā, naramhā, narasmā	narehi (narebhi)
Dative	narāya, narassa	narānaṃ
Genitive	narassa	narānaṃ
Locative	nare, naramhi, narasmiṃ	naresu
Vocative	nara	narā

1.2 Declension of neuter nouns ending in -a

phala (fruit)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	phalaṃ	phalā, phalāni
Accusative	phalaṃ	phale, phalāni
Vocative	phala	phalāni

The rest is similar to the declension of masculine nouns ending in -a.

1.3 Declension of feminine nouns ending in -ā

vanitā (woman)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	vanitā	vanitā, vanitāyo
Accusative	vanitaṃ	vanitā, vanitāyo
Instrumental	vanitāya	vanitāhi (vanitābhi)
Ablative	vanitāya	vanitāhi (vanitābhi)
Dative	vanitāya	vanitānaṃ
Genitive	vanitāya	vanitānaṃ
Locative	vanitāya, vanitāyaṃ	vanitāsu
Vocative	vanite	vanitā, vanitāyo

1.4 Declension of masculine nouns ending in -i

aggi (fire)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	aggi	aggī, aggayo
Accusative	aggiṃ	aggī, aggayo
Instrumental	aggina	aggīhi (aggībhi)
Ablative	aggina, aggimhā, aggismā	aggīhi (aggībhi)
Dative	aggino, aggissa	aggīnaṃ
Genitive	aggino, aggissa	aggīnaṃ
Locative	aggimhi, aggismiṃ	aggīsu
Vocative	aggi	aggī, aggayo

1.5 Declension of masculine nouns ending in -ī

pakkhī (bird)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	pakkhī	pakkhī, pakkhino
Accusative	pakkhinam, pakkhim	pakkhī, pakkhino
Locative	pakkhini, pakkhimhi, pakkhismiṃ	pakkhīsu
Vocative	pakkhī	pakkhī, pakkhino

The rest is similar to the declension of masculine nouns ending in -i.

1.6 Declension of neuter nouns ending in -i

aṭṭhi (bone, seed)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	aṭṭhi	aṭṭhī, aṭṭhīni
Accusative	aṭṭhiṃ	aṭṭhī, aṭṭhīni
Vocative	aṭṭhi	aṭṭhī, aṭṭhīni

The rest is similar to the declension of masculine nouns ending in -i.

1.7 Declension of feminine nouns ending in -ī

bhūmi (earth)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	bhūmi	bhūmī, bhūmiyo
Accusative	bhūmiṃ	bhūmī, bhūmiyo
Instrumental	bhūmiyā	bhūmīhi (bhūmībhi)
Ablative	bhūmiyā	bhūmīhi (bhūmībhi)
Dative	bhūmiyā	bhūmīnaṃ
Genitive	bhūmiyā	bhūmīnaṃ
Locative	bhūmiyā, bhūmiyaṃ	bhūmīsu
Vocative	bhūmi	bhūmī, bhūmiyo

1.8 Declension of feminine nouns ending in -ī

nārī (woman)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	nārī	nārī, nārīyo
Vocative	nārī	nārī, nārīyo

The rest is similar to the declension of feminine nouns ending in -ī.

1.9 Declension of masculine nouns ending in –u

garu (teacher)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	garu	garū, garavo
Accusative	garuṃ	garū, garavo
Instrumental	garunā	garūhi (garūbhi)
Ablative	garunā	garūhi (garūbhi)
Dative	garuno, garussa	garūnaṃ
Genitive	garuno, garussa	garūnaṃ
Locative	garumhi, garusmiṃ	garūsu
Vocative	garu	garū, garavo

1.10 Declension of masculine nouns ending in –ū

vidū (wise man)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	vidū	vidū, viduno
Accusative	viduṃ	vidū, viduno
Vocative	vidū	vidū, viduno

The rest is similar to the declension of masculine nouns ending in –u.

1.11 Declension of neuter nouns ending in –u

cakkhu (eye)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	cakkhu	cakkhū, cakkhūni
Accusative	cakkhuṃ	cakkhū, cakkhūni
Vocative	cakkhu	cakkhū, cakkhūni

The rest is similar to the declension of masculine nouns ending in –u.

1.12 Declension of feminine nouns ending in –u

dhenu (cow)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	dhenu	dhenū, dhenuyo
Accusative	dhenuṃ	dhenū, dhenuyo
Instrumental	dhenuyā	dhenūhi (dhenūbhi)
Ablative	dhenuyā	dhenūhi (dhenūbhi)
Dative	dhenuyā	dhenūnaṃ
Genitive	dhenuyā	dhenūnaṃ
Locative	dhenuyā, dhenuyaṃ	dhenūsu
Vocative	dhenu	dhenū, dhenuyo

1.13 Declension of masculine nouns ending in –u/–ar

sattu/satthar (teacher)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	sattā	sattāro
Accusative	sattāraṃ	sattāro
Instrumental	sattārā	sattārehi, sattūhi
Ablative	sattārā	sattārehi, sattūhi
Dative	sattu, sattuno, satthussa	sattārānaṃ, sattūnaṃ
Genitive	sattu, sattuno, satthussa	sattārānaṃ, sattūnaṃ
Locative	sattari	sattāresu, sattūsu
Vocative	sattā, sattha	sattāro

1.14 Declension of masculine nouns expressing relationships

pitu/pitar (father)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	pitā	pitāro
Accusative	pitaraṃ	pitāro
Instrumental	pitārā	pitārehi, pitūhi
Ablative	pitārā	pitārehi, pitūhi
Dative	pitu, pituno, pitussa	pitārānaṃ, pitūnaṃ
Genitive	pitu, pituno, pitussa	pitārānaṃ, pitūnaṃ
Locative	pitari	pitāresu, pitūsu
Vocative	pitā, pita	pitāro

Bhātu (brother) is similarly declined.

1.15 Declension of feminine nouns expressing relationships

mātu/mātar (mother)	Singular	Plural
Nominative	mātā	mātāro
Accusative	mātaraṃ	mātāro
Instrumental	mātārā, mātuyā	mātārehi, mātūhi
Ablative	mātārā, mātuyā	mātārehi, mātūhi
Dative	mātu, mātuyā, mātāya	mātārānaṃ, mātūnaṃ, mātānaṃ
Genitive	mātu, mātuyā, mātāya	mātārānaṃ, mātūnaṃ, mātānaṃ
Locative	mātari, mātuyā, mātuyaṃ	mātāresu, mātūsu
Vocative	mātā, māta, māte	mātāro

Dhītu (daughter) and duhitu (daughter) are similarly declined.

1.16 Declension of personal pronouns

The first personal pronoun

amha	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ahaṃ = I	mayāṃ, amhe = we
Accusative	maṃ, mamaṃ = me	amhe, amhākaṃ, no = us
Instrumental	mayā, me	amhehi, no
Ablative	mayā	amhehi
Dative	mama, mayhaṃ, mamaṃ, me	amhaṃ, amhākaṃ, no
Genitive	mama, mayhaṃ, mamaṃ, me	amhaṃ, amhākaṃ, no
Locative	mayi	amhesu

The second personal pronoun

tumha	Singular	Plural
Nominative	tvam, tuvaṃ = you	tumhe = you
Accusative	taṃ, tavaṃ, tuvaṃ	tumhe, tumhākaṃ, vo
Instrumental	tvayā, tayā, te	tumhehi, vo
Ablative	tvayā, tayā	tumhehi, vo
Dative	tava, tuyhaṃ, te	tumhaṃ, tumhākaṃ, vo
Genitive	tava, tuyhaṃ, te	tumhaṃ, tumhākaṃ, vo
Locative	tvayi, tayi	tumhesu

1.17 Declension of relative, demonstrative and interrogative pronouns

Masculine gender, singular number

	Relative	Demonstrative	Interrogative
Nominative	yo = he, who	so = he, that	ko = who
Accusative	yaṃ	taṃ	kaṃ
Instrumental	yena	tena	kena
Ablative	yamhā, yasmā	tamhā, tasmā	kasmā, kismā
Dative	yassa	tassa	kassa, kissa
Genitive	yassa	tassa	kassa, kissa
Locative	yamhi	tamhi, tasmim	kamhi, kasmim

Neuter gender, singular number

	Relative	Demonstrative	Interrogative
Nominative	yaṃ = that, which	taṃ = it, that	kim = which
Accusative	yaṃ	taṃ	kim

The rest is similar to the masculine declension.

Feminine gender, singular number

	Relative	Demonstrative	Interrogative
Nominative	yā = she, who	sā = she, that	kā = who
Accusative	yaṃ	taṃ	kaṃ
Instrumental	yāya	tāya	kāya
Ablative	yāya	tāya	kāya
Dative	yassā, yāya	tassā, tāya	kassā, kāya
Genitive	yassā, yāya	tassā, tāya	kassā, kāya
Locative	yassaṃ, yāyaṃ	tassaṃ, tāyaṃ	kassaṃ, kāyaṃ

Masculine gender, plural number

	Relative	Demonstrative	Interrogative
Nominative	ye = they, who	te = they, those	ke = who
Accusative	ye	te	ke
Instrumental	yehi	tehi	kehi
Ablative	yehi	tehi	kehi
Dative	yesaṃ (yesānaṃ)	tesaṃ (tesānaṃ)	kesaṃ(kesānaṃ)
Genitive	yesaṃ (yesānaṃ)	tesaṃ (tesānaṃ)	kesaṃ(kesānaṃ)
Locative	yesu	tesu	kesu

Neuter gender, plural number

	Relative	Demonstrative	Interrogative
Nominative	yāni, ye = those, which	tāni, te = those	kāni, ke = which
Accusative	yāni, ye	tāni, te	kāni, ke

The rest is similar to the masculine declension.

Feminine gender, plural number

	Relative	Demonstrative	Interrogative
Nominative	yā, yāyo = they, who	tā, tāyo = they, those	kā, kāyo = who
Accusative	yā, yāyo	tā, tāyo	kā, kāyo
Instrumental	yāhi	tāhi	kāhi
Ablative	yāhi	tāhi	kāhi
Dative	yāsaṃ (yāsānaṃ)	tāsaṃ (tāsānaṃ)	kāsaṃ(kāsānaṃ)
Genitive	yāsaṃ (yāsānaṃ)	tāsaṃ (tāsānaṃ)	kāsaṃ(kāsānaṃ)
Locative	yāsu	tāsu	kāsu

1.18 Declension of adjectives ending in –vantu and –mantu

Attributive adjectives ending in –vantu and –mantu can be declined in all three genders. They agree with the nouns they qualify in gender, number and case.

Masculine gender

guṇavant
(virtuous)

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	guṇavā, guṇavanto	guṇavanto, guṇavantā
Accusative	guṇavantam	guṇavanto, guṇavante
Instrumental	guṇavatā, guṇavantena	guṇavantehi (guṇavantebhi)
Ablative	guṇavatā, guṇavantamhā, guṇavantasmā	guṇavantehi (guṇavantebhi)
Dative	guṇavato, guṇavantassa	guṇavantam, guṇavantānam
Genitive	guṇavato, guṇavantassa	guṇavantam, guṇavantānam
Locative	guṇavati, guṇavante, guṇavantamhi, guṇavantasmim	guṇavantesu
Vocative	guṇavā, guṇava, guṇavanta	guṇavanto, guṇavantā

Note the similarities of this declension to the declension of the present participle masculine gender ending in –nta (2.4). Adjectives ending in –mantu are declined as cakkhumā, cakkhumanto etc.

Neuter gender

guṇavant
(virtuous)

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	guṇavantam	guṇavantāni
Accusative	guṇavantam	guṇavantāni

The rest is similar to the declension of masculine adjectives ending in –vantu and –mantu.

Feminine gender

Guṇavati/guṇavantī and cakkhumati/cakkhumantī are the feminine forms of the adjectives ending in –vantu and –mantu. They are declined like kumārī, i.e. feminine nouns ending in –ī (1.8).

1.19 Declension of pronominal adverbs

Relative	Demonstrative	Interrogative
yattha - where	tattha - there	kattha - where
yatra - where	tatra - there	kutra - where
yato - whence, where	tato - thence, therefore	kuto - whence
yathā - how, in what manner	tathā - in that manner	katham - how
yasmā - because	tasmā - therefore	kasmā - why
yadā - when	tadā - then	kadā - when
yena - where	tena - there	
yāva - how long/far	tāva - so long/far	

Notes:

2. Grammar: Verbs

2.1 Present Tense, Active Voice

pacati (cooks)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	pacati	pacanti
Second Person	pacasi	pacatha
First Person	pacāmi	pacāma
coreti/corayati (steals)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	coreti/corayati	corenti/corayanti
Second Person	coresi/corayasi	coretha/corayatha
First Person	coremi/corayāmi	corema/corayāma
kiṇāti (buys)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	kiṇāti	kiṇanti
Second Person	kiṇāsi	kiṇātha
First Person	kiṇāmi	kiṇāma
karoti (does)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	karoti	karonti
Second Person	karosi	karotha
First Person	karomi	karoma
atthi (is)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	atthi	santi
Second Person	asi	attha
First Person	asmi/amhi	asma/amha

2.2 Future Tense

pacati (cooks)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	pacissati	pacissanti
Second Person	pacissasi	pacissatha
First Person	pacissāmi	pacissāma
coreti (steals)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	coressati	coressanti
Second Person	coressasi	coressatha
First Person	coressāmi	coressāma
kiṇāti (buys)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	kiṇissati	kiṇissanti
Second Person	kiṇissasi	kiṇissatha
First Person	kiṇissāmi	kiṇissāma
karoti (does)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	karissati	karissanti
Second Person	karissasi	karissatha
First Person	karissāmi	karissāma

Special cases:

- āgacchati: āgamissati
- gacchati: gamissati
- tiṭṭhati: ṭhassati
- dadāti: dadissati, dassati

2.3 Past Tense

pacati (cooks)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	apaci, paci	apaciṃsu, paciṃsu
Second Person	apaci, paci	apacittha, pacittha
First Person	apaciṃ, paciṃ	apacimha, pacimha
coreti (steals)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	coresi, corayi	coresuṃ, corayiṃsu
Second Person	coresi	corayitha
First Person	coresiṃ, corayiṃ	corayimha
kiṇāti (buys)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	akiṇi, kiṇi	akiṇiṃsu, kiṇiṃsu
Second Person	akiṇi, kiṇi	akiṇittha, kiṇittha
First Person	akiṇiṃ, kiṇiṃ	akiṇimha, kiṇimha

Special cases:

- āgacchati: āgacchi, āgamāsi
- ādadāti: ādiyi
- gacchati: agacchi, agami
- dadāti: adadi, adāsi

2.4 The Present Participle

Present participles function as adjectives and agree in gender, number and case with the nouns they qualify. The **masculine and neuter genders** are formed by adding -nta/māna to the verbal base. They are declined like -a ending nouns in the masculine and neuter.

- **kiṇāti: kiṇanta / kiṇamāna**
- **coreti: corenta / corayamāna**
- **pacati: pacanta / pacamāna**

The **feminine gender** is formed by adding -ntī/mānā to the verbal base. When -ntī is added, the present participle feminine is declined like feminine nouns ending in -ī. When -mānā is added, it is declined like feminine nouns ending in -ā.

- **kiṇāti: kiṇantī / kiṇamānā**
- **coreti: corentī / corayamānā**
- **pacati: pacantī / pacamānā**

2.5 The Past Participle

Past participles are mostly formed by added -ta to the root with or without the connecting vowel -i-. Past participles have a passive meaning when they are formed from transitive verbs, but from intransitive verbs they have an active meaning. They are declined in the three genders, as -a ending nouns in the masculine and the neuter, and -ā ending nouns in the feminine.

- āmasati: āmasita, āmaṭṭha
- ārabhati: āraddha
- āsiñcati: āsitta
- **karoti: kata**
- kasati: kasita, kaṭṭha
- **kiṇāti: kīta**
- kujjhati: kuddha
- khipati: khitta
- gacchati: gata
- gaṇhāti: gahita
- cavati: cuta
- **coreti: corita**
- chindati: chinna
- jānāti: ñāta
- ḍasati: daṭṭha
- tarati: tiṇṇa
- tiṭṭhati: ṭhita
- dadāti: dinna
- dhovati: dhovita, dhota
- nayati/neti: nīta
- nikkhamati: nikkhanta
- **pacati: pacita, pakka**
- pajahati: pahīna
- pavāsati: pavitṭha
- passati: diṭṭha
- pasīdati: pasanna
- pāpuṇāti: patta
- pivati: pīta
- pucchati: pucchita, puṭṭha
- phusati: phuṭṭha
- bhavati: bhūta
- bhindati: bhinna
- bhuñjati: bhuñjita, bhutta
- mināti: mita
- muñcati: mutta
- labhati: labhita, laddha
- vapati: vutta
- vasati: vuttha

- vippakirati: vippakiṇṇa
- vivarati: vivaṭa
- suṇāti: suta
- hanati: hata
- harati: haṭa

2.6 The Future Passive Participle

The future passive participle is formed by adding -tabba/-anīya to the base of the verb; -tabba is mostly added with the connecting vowel -i-. These participles are declined like a ending nouns in the masculine and neuter genders, and like ā ending nouns in the feminine.

- **karoti: kātabba / karaṇīya**
- **pacati: pacitabba / pacaniya**
- bhuñjati: bhuñjitabba / bhojanīya

2.7 The Causative

Causative verbs are formed by adding -e/-aya/-āpe/-āpaya to the root or verbal base. Sometimes the vowel in the root is strengthened when the suffixes are added. Verbal bases ending in -e/-aya invariably take the suffixes -ape/-āpaya to form the causative.

- **karoti: kāreti / kārāpayati**
- **kiṇāti: kiṇāpeti / kiṇāpayati**
- **coreti: corāpeti / corāpayati**
- dadāti/deti: dāpeti / dāpayati
- **pacati: pāceti / pācayati / pacāpeti / pācāpayati**
- bhuñjati: bhojeti / bhojāpeti

2.8 The Potential Mood (Optative)

pacati (cooks)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	paceyya	paceyyuṃ
Second Person	paceyyāsi	paceyyātha
First Person	paceyyāmi	paceyyāma

2.9 The Imperative Mood

pacati (cooks)	Singular	Plural
Third Person	pacatu	pacantu
Second Person	paca, pacāhi	pacatha
First Person	pacāmi	pacāma

2.10 The Absolutive (Gerund or Indeclinable Participle)

- āgacchati: āgantvā, āgamma
- ādadāti: ādāya
- āruhati: āruya
- utṭhahati: utṭhahitvā, utṭhāya
- oruhati: oruya
- **karoti: katvā**
- **kiṇāti: kiṇitvā**
- gacchati: gantvā
- gaṇhāti: gaṇhitvā, gahetvā
- **coreti: coretvā**
- jānāti: jānitvā, ñatvā
- tiṭṭhati: ṭhatvā
- dadāti: daditvā, datvā
- nahāyati: nahāyitvā, nahātvā
- nikkhamati: nikkhamitvā, nikkhamma
- **pacati: pacitvā**
- pajahati: pajahitvā, pahāya
- passati: passitvā, disvā
- pāpuṇāti/pappoti: pāpuṇitvā, patvā
- bhuñjati: bhuñjitvā, bhutvā
- suṇāti: suṇitvā, sutvā
- hanati: hanitvā, hantvā
- hoti: hutvā

2.11 The Infinitive

- **karoti: kātuṃ**
- **kiṇāti: kiṇituṃ**
- gacchati: gantuṃ
- gaṇhāti: gaṇhituṃ, gahetuṃ
- **coreti: coretuṃ**
- jānāti: ñātuṃ
- tiṭṭhati: ṭhātuṃ
- dadāti: dātuṃ
- **pacati: pacituṃ**
- pivati: pivituṃ, pātuṃ
- suṇāti: suṇituṃ, sotuṃ

Notes: