INTRODUCTION:

In this first lesson, the student will learn some expressions of common everyday use. In these expressions, the verb अस् (to be) is understood and is not explicitly used.

Sanskrit, like other classical languages, has three genders- masculine (m), feminine (f) and neuter (n). These are indicated in the examples given. The student is advised to learn these expressions by memory.

The prelude to these tutorial lessons introduced the vowels and consonants of Sanskrit and also indicated how they are to be pronounced. The student is advised to refer to this prelude as well to memorize the basic letters.

1.1 Here are some common expressions in the first person.

मम नाम रामः My Name is Rama (m)
mama nāma rāmaḥ

मम नाम सीता My Name is Sita (f)
mama nāma sītā

मम नाम शेखरः My Name is Sekhara (m)
mama nāma śekharaḥ

मम नाम उमा My name is Uma (f)
mama nāma umā

मम देवः शिवः My God is Siva (m)
mama dēvaha śivaḥ

मम देवी पार्वती My Goddess is Parvati (f)
mama dēvī pārvatī

मम पुत्रः माधवः My son is Madhava (m)
mama putraḥ mādhavaḥ

मम पुत्री विजया My daughter is Vijaya (f)
mama putrī vijayā
My husband is Vishnu (m)

mama bhartā viṣṇu

My wife is padma (f)

mama bhāryā padmā

My father is Jayadeva (m)

mama pitā jayadēvaḥ

My mother is subhadra (f)

mama mātā subhadrā

My brother is Vijay (m)

mama bhrātā vijayaḥ

My sister is Mallika (f)

mama svasā mallikā

My friend is Krishna (n)

mama mitraṁ kṛṣṇaḥ

My vehicle is Toyota (n)

mama vāhanaṁ tōyōtā

Note that the verb "to be" (i.e., the form "is" in English) is not used in any of the expressions. The explicit form of the verb अस् (to be) is always implied in expressions of this nature and in Sanskrit, as in most languages, the personal pronoun मम has no gender.

1.2 Simple expressions involving a question.

This subsection deals with expressions involving a question, the answers to which are similar to the expressions in section 1.1.

तव नाम किं What is your name?
tava nāma kim

tव देवः कः Who is your God?
tava dēvah kah

tव देवी का Who is your Goddess?
tava dēvi kā

tव पुत्रः कः Who is your son?
tava pūtra kah
tava putraḥ kaḥ
तव पुत्री का Who is your daughter?
tava putrī kā
tava bhrātā kaḥ
तव भ्राता कः Who is your brother?
tava svasā kā
तव स्वसा का Who is your sister?
tava mitraṁ kim
tava vāhanaṁ kim
तव मित्र किं Who is your friend?
तव वाहनं किं What is your vehicle?

Observe that there are no question marks in any of the sentences. In Sanskrit, no punctuation is ever used. Generally, the punctuation is recognized from the intonation.

Even in the interrogative form, the verb अस् (to be) is not explicitly used.

Gender becomes apparent in these sentences as can be observed with the ending अक्षरा of the words i.e., कः, का and किं.

कः is the masculine form known as पुलिंगहः (pumliṅgah)
का is the feminine form known as स्त्रीलिंगहः (stṛliṅgah)
किं is the neuter form known as नपुंसकलिंगहः (napumsakaliṅgah)

Among the words used in the sentences given above, the following words are masculine in gender.

रामः, शेखः, देवः, पुत्रः, शिवः, माधवः,
जयदेवः, विजयः, पिता, भ्राता
The following are feminine words

सीता, उमा, पार्वती, विजया, देवी, पुत्री,
भार्या, माता, स्वसा, श्यामा, सुभद्रा, मल्लिका

Some examples of nouns in the neuter gender are

मित्र, वाहनम्, नाम, धनम्, जलम्,
कमलम्, आभरणम्

In Sanskrit, gender is not decided by the meaning of the word but is fixed by other considerations such as the form of the word and its ending.

A Note on the word तव .

The form of address तव , it should be noted, is mostly used in circumstances involving persons who enjoy a close relationship with the person speaking the sentence. Often, the form with respect भवतः (m) or भवत्या: (f) is used.

However, it is observed that the form तव was in regular use in earlier times and did not mean any disrespect. In keeping with modern trends, we are following the practice of using तव for the familiar form of address and भवतः/भवत्या: for the respectful form. This is similar to the usage of the German words "dein" and "ihr".

Demonstrative pronouns.

Masculine
एषः  He (who is nearby)
सः  He (who is farther away)

Feminine
एषा  She (who is nearby)
सा  She (who is farther away)

Neuter  पत्त्  This
tतत्  That
The use of the demonstrative pronoun will depend on whether the speaker is referring to a person in the immediate vicinity or someone at a distance. Essentially, this is equivalent to the difference between "this" and "that". In Sanskrit this distinction applies for all the three genders.

एषः and सः (masculine)
ेशाः saḥ
एषा and सा (feminine)
ेशा sā
एत्तः and तत्तः (neuter)
ेतत tat

Let us look at some examples.

एषः काकः This (is a) crow
ेशाह काकः
एषा माला This (is a) garland
ेशा माला
एषः मम गजः This (is my elephant
ेशाह मम गाजः
एषा मम भायाः This (is my wife
ेशा मम भायाः
एत्तः कमलम् This (is a) lotus
tat kamalam
एत्तः तव कमलम् This (is your lotus
tat tava kamalam
सः कृष्णः That (is) Krishna
saḥ kṛṣṇaḥ
सा कृष्णा That is Krishianna (f)
(Krishnaa is a feminine name)
तत्तः आसनम् That (is a) seat
tat āsanam
तत्तः तव आसनम् That (is your seat
1.3 Some common expressions used in daily life.

नमस्ते  Greetings
namastē
suङ्गभातम्  Good Morning
suprabhātam
कुशालम् वा  How do you do?
kusālam vā
dhanyavādā:
स्वागतम्  Welcome
svāgatam
धन्योऽस्मि  I am thankful
(I am grateful)
dhanyōsmini
पुनर्मिलामः  See you again
punarmilāmaḥ
क्षमायताम्  Please excuse me
kṣamyatām
शुभमस्तू  Best wishes
śubhamastu

Glossary:
Words already seen in the sections.

deva: - God
devī - Goddess
mitra: - friend
pitā - father
mātā - mother
nāma - name
putra: - son
putrī - daughter
vahnam - vehicle
brāhma - brother
śvasta - sister
मम - my
भर्ती - husband भार्या - wife

Here are some more (new) words.

1. Masculine gender

नारः - man काकः - crow
मखूरः - peacock बानरः - monkey शुनकः - dog
कः - hand गाजः - elephant अचरः - mountain
माज़री - cat अश्व - horse

2. Feminine gender

माल्ना - garland कथा - story
द्यावा - mercy सभा - hall भाषा - language
कृपा - sympathy लता - creeper शृंगारी - female dog
बानरी - female monkey बद्वास - mare मखूरी - peahen
माज़री - female cat नारी - woman
शार्दु - name of a Goddess सरस्वती - Goddess of learning

3. Neuter gender

भवनम् - house कमलम् - lotus
आनम् - face आसनम् - seat जलम् - water
धनम् - wealth
Exercises.

1. Learn to pronounce all the words introduced in the earlier sections. Correct pronunciation is essential for Sanskrit. Make use of the Roman transliteration given alongside when necessary.

Try and pronounce the following words.

- गोविन्द: भरत: वामन: पुस्तकम्
- चारूमती: अरुणा लक्ष्मी अन्ना
- भास्कर: गणित: लेख: पणिड़त:
- सुकुमारा: लक्ष्मी वाणी गोमति

2. Using the words introduced in section 1.4, try to form sentences similar to those in sections 1.1 and 1.2.

3. Try and form sentences in Sanskrit.

This is your husband.
That is your son.
This is my lotus.
That is your lotus.
This is Govinda. (m)
That is Vimalaa. (f)
Salutations, Krishna.
See you again, daughter.