शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

अल्लटाचार्योद्द्रावितः पाठक्रमः *Designed by Andrew Ollett*

SOME PARTICLES

kānicid avyayāni ❦ कानिचिदव्ययानि

PARTICLES

A **particle** is a short word that does not have a meaning of its own (in the same way as nouns and verbs) but modifies the meaning of the phrase or sentence in which it occurs.

Particles are **not inflected** for any grammatical category (hence they are called *avyayāni*, "indeclinables").

PARTICLES

Four to start out with:

ēvá	exclusion
ápi	inclusion
ca	conjunction
vā	disjunction

PARTICLES

The particle *ēvá*

ēvá gives the sense of *excluding* other elements from a set. It is **postpositive**, i.e., it follows the word it modifies. It can add an important nuance to predication relationships:

PARTICLES

The particle *ēvá*

pārthaḥ · ēva · dhanurdharaḥ

Arjuna   archer

Arjuna **alone** is an archer.

i.e., nobody else except for Arjuna is an archer
[excluding the possibility of predicating "archer" of anyone *except* Arjuna]

PARTICLES

The particle _ēvá_

pārthaḥ · dhanurdharaḥ · ēva

Arjuna   archer

Arjuna is **indeed** an archer.

i.e., it is not the case that Arjuna *could not be* an archer
[excluding the possibility of predicating "not an archer" of Arjuna]

PARTICLES

The particle *ápi*

$\dot{\epsilon}\pi\acute{\iota}$ "on top of that"

h_1epi

ápi gives the sense of *including* elements within a set. It is **postpositive**, i.e., it follows the word it modifies. It can be translated in a number of ways: "also," "even," "in addition" or "besides," etc.

PARTICLES

The particle *ápi*

pārthaḥ · api · dhanurdharaḥ

Arjuna   archer

Arjuna **too** is an archer.

i.e., Arjuna, **in addition to** the people you might have
otherwise considered as archers, is an archer.

PARTICLES

The particle *ápi*

pārthaḥ · dhanurdharaḥ · api

Arjuna   archer

Arjuna is **also** an archer.

i.e., Arjuna, **in addition to** whatever else he is, is an archer.

PARTICLES

The particle *ca*

que   "and"

*$k^u e$

ca is another particle. It is also **postpositive**, i.e., it follows the word or phrase it modifies. It is used for **conjunction**. It is thus like the English "and," except for its position. It is used either after **every** member of a set, or after the **last** member:

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PARTICLES

The particle *ca*

rāmaḥ · ca · lakṣmaṇaḥ · ca · vīrau

Rāma   and   Lakṣmaṇa   and   heroes

Rāma **and** Lakṣmaṇa are heroes.

ca coordinates *rāmaḥ* and *lakṣmaṇaḥ*

PARTICLES

The particle *ca*

rāmaḥ · lakṣmaṇaḥ · ca · vīrau

Rāma   Lakṣmaṇa   and   heroes

Rāma **and** Lakṣmaṇa are heroes.

ca coordinates *rāmaḥ* and *lakṣmaṇaḥ*

PARTICLES

The particle *ca*

rāmaḥ · dhīraḥ · ca · udāttaḥ · ca

Rāma   brave   and   noble   and

Rāma is brave and noble.

ca coordinates *dhīraḥ* and *udāttaḥ*

PARTICLES

The particle *ca*

rāmaḥ · dhīraḥ · udāttaḥ · ca

Rāma   brave   noble   and

Rāma is brave and noble.

ca coordinates *dhīraḥ* and *udāttaḥ*

PARTICLES

The particle _vā_

ve   "or"

*_u̯ō_

_vā_ is also **postpositive**, i.e., it follows the word or phrase it modifies. It is used for **disjunction**. It is thus like the English "or," except for its position. Just like _ca_, _vā_ is used either after **every** member of a set, or after the **last** member:

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PARTICLES

The particle *vā*

pāṇḍityam · vā · mṛtyuḥ · vā

scholarship   or   death   or

"Scholarship or death"