

## Genders

**Objective:** To understand how the genders work in sanskrit

**Concept A:** Sanskrit is a highly inflected language with three grammatical genders: masculine (पुंलिङ्ग पुलिङ्ग), feminine (स्त्रीलिङ्ग स्त्रीलिङ्ग), and neuter (नपुंसकलिङ्ग नपुंसकलिङ्ग).

Every noun in Sanskrit has a gender. There are 3 genders in Sanskrit: masculine, feminine, and neuter. Although the genders of some nouns correspond to their physical gender (e.g. पुरुष = 'man' is masculine, स्त्री = 'woman' is feminine), the gender of most nouns is arbitrary. The gender of a noun must be looked up in a dictionary. In this book, the gender of a noun is indicated in the vocabulary lists following each exercise, as well as in the lexicon at the back of the book, with the letters *m.*, *f.*, and *n.*

The noun फल is neuter. It declines exactly the same as देव, except for the First, Second and Eighth case. Its singular and plural forms for both First and Second case are फलम् and फलानि. The forms of फल serve as a template for every neuter noun in Sanskrit that ends in -अ.

**TIP:** Since the First and Second case forms for neuter nouns are exactly the same, it can be difficult to decide whether a neuter noun in a sentence is in First or Second case. Assume it is in First case unless you can connect it to a specific verb as its object. If both the subject and object of a verb are neuter, only context can tell which is in First case and which is in Second case.

**Concept B:** Let's do some more examples of all cases quickly

Prathama (Nominative) :

अहं रमेशः

त्वं लिखसि

Dwitiya (Accusative)

पाठं पठामि अम्ब

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