A Practical Guide to Pāļi Grammar Ānandajoti Bhikkhu



A Practical Guide to Pāļi Grammar

by

Ānandajoti Bhikkhu

(Ver. 3, January 2016)

Preface

Verbs

Summary of Verb Meanings Conjugations Indeclineables **Participles Special Verb Formations**

Nouns

Paradigms Examples

Noun Syntax

Nominative subject, adnominal, list, destination Vocative Accusative Agentive Instrumental **Associative Instrumental** Dative Ablative

> Genitive Locative

Preface

The guide that is presented here is based on tables and notes I typed up when I was first learning Pāļi, which have rather surprisingly lasted in my work until today.

The emphasis here is on being practical, so rather than overwhelming the student with forms he will rarely come across, it is more important that he master the most common forms and meanings, and use reference works to find and understand things that are outside the scope of this work.

The tables and notes present the subject from various points of view, looking at how the forms are made, what is their meaning, and then giving examples so it can be seen how they are used in the texts themselves.

For more comprehensive reference tables please see Ven N̄āṇatusita's tables at the following address: http://www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/nyanatusita/

And for nouns, together with illustrations, see: http://www.ancient-buddhist-texts.net/Textual-Studies/Navapadamanjari/index.htm

I would be grateful to anyone using this work if they could give feedback so that it can be made more useful for the student in the future.

Ānandajoti Bhikkhu August 2014

Verbs

In Pāļi there are 7 conjugations which have different signs, viz:

$$1 = a$$
 $2 = \dot{m} - a$ $3 = ya$ $4 = \dot{n}o$ $5 = \dot{n}a$ $6 = o$ $7 = aya, e$

and there are 8 modes:

Present Indicative, Imperative, Aorist, Future, Optative, Conditional, Imperfect, Perfect

and two voices:

Active (attanopada) Middle (parassapada)

the 2nd however is used as active, and only the form is different.

Summary of Verb Meanings

Present Indicative	karoti	he does, he is doing, he was doing
Passive	karīyati	it is done
Causative	kāreti	he had it done, he causes to do
Imperative	karotu	do, please do, must do
Aorist (active)	akāsi	he did
Aorist (passive)	*kariyi, *karīyi	it was done
Future (active)	karissati	he will do
Future (passive)	kariyassati	it will be done

Optative	kareyya	he may/could/should/might do	
Conditional	*akarissa	if it were done	
Absolutive	katvā, karitvā	having done, after doing, done	
Infinitive	kātuṁ	to do	

Past Participle	kata	done
Past Participle Active	*kartāvin	having done, who has done
Present Participle	karonta, kariyamāna	doing
Future Passive Participle	kātabba, karaņīya, kicca	what should/must/could be done

Conjugations

Present Indicative (vattamānā) he does, he is doing, he was doing (near past, near future)

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
Active:	karo ti	karonti	karosi	karotha	karo mi	karo ma
	gacchati	gaccha nti	gaccha si	gacchatha	gacchā mi	gacchā ma
	muñca ti	muñca nti	muñcas i	muñca tha	muñcā mi	muñcā ma
Middle:	kuru te	kurunte	kuruse	kuruvhe	kubbe	kurumhe
	gaccha te	gacchante	gaccha se	gaccha vhe	gacch e	gaccha mhe

transitive verbs (sakammaka) require an object e.g. sūdo bhattam pacati the chef cooks rice

intransitive verbs (akammaka) are complete without object

e.g. puriso gacchati

the person goes (no object required)

the active voice is used when the effect is on another the passive voice is used when the effect is on oneself

Passive (kammakāraka) to be done

(formed by adding -ya, -yya, -iya, -īya, -iyya to root or stem)

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
√kar	karīyati	karīyanti	karīyasi	karīyatha	karīyāmi	karīyāma
√muc	muccati	muccanti	muccasi	muccatha	muccāmi	muccāma

the 3rd conjugation and the passive often look alike as they both take the suffix ya the passive has the agent in the instrumental case

Causative Forms (kāritakāraka) make do, have done, cause to be done

(formed by strengthening root vowel and/or adding causal suffix, -pe, -ape, -paya, -apaya)

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
Active:	kāreti	kārenti	kāresi	kāretha	kāremi	kārema
	deseti	desenti	desesi	desetha	desemi	desema
	muñcāpeti	muñcāpenti	muñcāpesi	muñcāpetha	muñcāpemi	muñcāpema
Middle:	desayate	desayante	desayase	desayavhe	deseye	desayamhe

the 7th conjugation and the passive often look alike as they both can take the suffix e in the causative the agent is in the nominative the person through whom the action is done is accusative or instrumental

Imperative (pañcamī) do, please do, should do

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
Active:	karotu	karontu	karohi	karotha	karomi	karoma
	gaccha tu	gacchantu	gaccha gacchā hi	gaccha tha	gacchā mi	gacchāma
	desetu	desentu	dese hi	desetha	desemi	desema
Middle:	kurutaṁ	karontaṁ	karassu	karuvho	kar e	kuromase
	gaccha taṁ	gacchantam	gacchassu	gacchavho	gacch e	gacchā mase
	desetam	desayantaṁ	desaya ssu	desaya vhe	desay e	desayamhe

Aorist (ajjatanī) he did, he has done, all past actions

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
√kar	(a)kar i	(a)kari ṁsu	(a)kar i	(a)kari ttha	(a)kar iṁ	~
	akās i	akaṁsu	akās i	akattha	akās iṁ	aka mha
		akāsuṁ				
√gam	gacchi	gañch uṁ	gacchi	gacchittha	gacch iṁ	gacchimha
	agam i	agamis uṁ	agam i	agami ttha	agam iṁ	agami ṁsu
√dis	desesi	desesum	desesi	desittha	desesim	desimha
√vac	avoc a	avoc uṁ	avoc a	avocuttha	avocum	avocumha
	avac a	avacum	avac a	avacuttha	avacum	avacumha

aorists sometimes show the augment a- before the root

Future (bhavissanti) he will do, he can do, he must do

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
Active:	karissati	karissa nti	karissa si	karissatha	karissā mi	karissā ma
	gamissa ti	gamissa nti	gamissa si	gamissatha	gamissā mi	gamissā ma
	laccha ti	laccha nti	lacchasi	laccha tha	lacchā mi	lacchā ma
	dakkha ti	dakkha nti	dakkha si	dakkha tha	dakkhā mi	dakkhā ma
Middle:	gamissa te	gamissa nte	gamissa se	gamissa vhe	gamissam	gamissā mhe

$\label{eq:continuous} Optative~(sattam\overline{\imath})$ he may do, he could do, he would do, he should do, he might do

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
Active:	kar e	kareyyu	kar e	kareyyā tha	kar e	kareyyāma
	gacch e	gaccheyyu	gacch e	gaccheyyātha	gacch e	gaccheyyāma
	gaccheyya	gaccheyyum	gaccheyya	gacchetha	gaccheyyam	gacchema
	gaccheyyāti		gaccheyyāsi		gaccheyyāmi	gacchemu
Middle:	gacchetha	gaccheram	gacchetho	gaccheyya vho	gaccheyyam	gaccheyyāmhe
	karetha	kareram	karetho	kareyya vho	kareyyam	gacchemase
						kareyyā mhe
						karemase

Conditional (kālātipatti) if he went

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
Active:	agamissa	agamissamsu	agami ssa	agamissatha	agamissam	agamissāma
			agami ssi		agamiss āmi	
Middle:	agamissatha	agamissimsu	agamisse	agamissavhe	agamissam	agamissāmhase

Perfect (parokkhā)

he has said

few forms found in the Canon

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
Active:	āh a	āhu	āha	-ttha	-a	-mha
		āhaṁs u				
		vid ū				
		vidu ṁ				
Middle:	-ttha	-re	-ttho	-vho	-i	-mhe

Imperfect (hīyattanī) he did

(not found in the Canon)

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
Active:	-ā	-ū	-0	-ttha	-a, -aṁ	-mhā
Middle:	-ttha	-tthuṁ	-se	-vhaṁ	-iṁ	-mhase

Some Irregular Verb Forms

	3rd sing.	3rd plural	2nd sing.	2nd plural	1st sing.	1st plural
√as (present)	atthi	santi	asi	attha	asmi, amhi	amha, amhā
√as (optative	assa	assu	assa	assatha	assum	assāma
	siyā	siyaṁsu,	siyā		siyaṁ	
		siyaṁ				
√hū (aorist)	ahosi	ahesum	ahosi	ahuvattha	ahosiṁ	ahuma
nū (root aorist)	ahū	ahuṁ	ahu		ahuṁ	ahuṁ
	ahud	ahū	ahū			
√vac (aorist)	avoca	avocum	avoca	avocuttha	avocaṁ	avocumha/ā
				avacuttha		
√dis (aorist)	addasā	addasaṇsu	addasā	addasatha	addasaṁ	addasāma
√gam (aorist)	agamāsi	agamaṁsu	agamā	agamittha	agamāsiṁah	agamamhā
√gam (root	aga	agu	aga	aguttha	agaṁ	agamhā
aorist)	agā	agū	agā			
√su (aorist)	assosi	assosum	assosi	assutha	assosiṁ	assumha
√labh (aorist)	alattha	alatthuṁ	alattha		alatthaṁ	alatthamha/ā

Indeclineables

Absolutive (Gerund) (pubbakiriya, tvādiyantapada) having done, after doing, action precedes main verb

indeclinable past participle stem + tvā, itvā or ya (assimilated) the verbs are infinite and are always subservient to the main finite verb in the sentence

examples:

...uṭṭhāyāsanā Bhagavantam abhivādetvā, pakkāmi.

...having risen from the seat and worshipped the Gracious One, he left.

...yānā paccorohitvā pattiko va ārāmam pāvisi.

... after descending from the vehicle he entered the park by foot.

Seyyathā pi nāma purāṇam bandhanam chinditvā

It is as though having cut off an old bond

anuvicca viññū garahanti

wise people investigate and blame (him)

Infinitive (tumanta, indeclinable)

formed strong root or present stem + tum, itum, tave e.g. to make, to do

examples:

katham me ajja kātave?

how to make it for me today?

Buddhānam Sāsanam manasi kātum

to give (lit: to make) thought to the Buddha's Dispensation

icchāmaham, Tāta, janapadam gantum

I desire, Dear to go to the country

pañhe pucchitum abhikankhamano

longing to ask questions

bhikkham icchāmi dātave

I desire to give alms-food

Participles

Past Participle (missakiriyā) remembered, conquered, heard

formed from root with suffix -ta or -ita or -na

	Examples:	
root	suffix	form
	formed with -ta	
√sar (remembers)	+ -ta	sata, paṭissata
√ji (conquers)	"	jita, parājita
√su (hears)	"	suta
√bhū (is)	"	bhūta
√sudh (purifies)	"	suddha
√labh (receives)	"	laddha
√dis (sees)	"	diṭṭha
√kam (moves)	"	kanta
1	with some the end nasal drops	7
√gam (goes)	+ -ta	gata
√nam (bends)	"	nata
√han (kills)	"	hata
-	formed with -ita	<u> </u>
√vid (knows)	+ -ita	vidita
√gah (takes)	"	gahita
√mud (rejoices)	"	mudita
√yāca (requests)	"	yācita
√nanda (rejoices)	"	nandita
1	formed with -na	-
√chad (covers)	+ -na	channa
√chid (cuts)	"	chinna
√tar (crosses)	"	tiṇṇa
√pur (fills)	"	puṇṇa

decline like nouns, but all can be used like adjectives e.g. bhāsitaṁ = what was said, also means a speech, a saying

Past Participle Active having eaten, being one who has eaten

root + tāvim or tavant(u), declined like adjectives (very few verbs use this form) examples:

gahapatissa bhuttavissa

the householder who has eaten

sutavā ariyasāvako

the noble disciple who is learned

bhikkhū ... vusitavanto katakaraņīyā

monastics ... who have lived correctly, having done what has to be done

Future Passive Participle (gerundive) (kicca) what should/must/could be done

used like adjectives qualifying nouns which they agree with root + tabba or anīya or ya (assimilated)

examples:

bhikkhunā kammam kātabbam hoti

this is the deed that should be done by the monk

vusitam brahmacariyam, katam karanīyam...

accomplished is the spiritual life, done is what ought to be done

akiccam karonto kiccam aparadhento

doing what should not be done and failing to do what should be done

nirālayena piņdāya gantabbam

he should go on almsround free from attachment

$Present\ Participle\ (missakiriy\bar{a})$

present stem + nta or māna, declined like adjectives

		Mas	sculine		
	nt/nta	forms	māna f	orms	
Nominative:	gaccham	gaccha ntā	gacchamāno	gacchamānā	
	gacchanto	gacchante			
Accusative:	gacchantam	gacchante	gacchamānam	gacchamāne	
Instrumental:	gaccha tā	gacchantehi	gacchamānena	gacchamānehi	
	gacchatena	gacchantebhi			
Dative:	gacchato	gacchatam	gacchamānāya	gacchamānaṁ	
		gacchantānam	gacchamānassa		
Ablative:	gaccha tā	gacchantehi	gacchamānā	gacchamānehi	
	gacchata mhā	gacchantebhi	gacchamānamhā		
			gacchamānasmā		
			gacchamanto		
Genitive:	gacchato	gacchatam	gacchamānāya	gacchamānam	
		gacchantānam	gacchamānassa		
Locative:	gacchati	gacchantesu	gacchamāne	gacchamānesu	
	gacchante		gacchamānasmim		
	gacchanta mhi				
	gacchantasmim				

		Fen	ninine		
	ī 1	forms	ā fo	orms	
Nominative:	gaccha ntī	gacchantī	gacchamānā	gacchamānā	
		gacchantiyo		gacchamānāyo	
Accusative:	gacchantim	gaccha ntī	gacchamānam	gacchamānā	
		gacchantiyo		gacchamānāyo	
Instrumental:	gacchatiyā	gacchantīhi	gacchamānāya	gacchamānāhi	
		gacchantībhi		gacchamānābhi	
Dative:	gacchatiyā	gacchantīnam	gacchamānāya	gacchamānam	
Ablative:	gacchatiyā	gacchantīhi	gacchamānāya	gacchamānehi	
		gacchantībhi		gacchamānābhi	
				gacchamānohi	
				gacchamānobhi	
Genitive:	gacchatiyā	gacchantīnam	gacchamānāya	gacchamānam	
Locative:	gacchatiyā	gacchantīsu	gacchamānāya	gacchamānāsu	
	gacchatiyam		gacchamānāyam		

	Neuter			
	nt/nta	forms	māna	forms
Nominative:	gaccham	gaccha ntā gaccha ntāni	gacchamānam	gacchamānāni
Accusative:	gacchantam	gaccha nte gaccha ntāni	gacchamānam	gaccha mānāni
	rest as masculine			

Special Verb Formations

Intensive does something repeatedly

(root redoubled + normal endings) e.g. walks up and down

examples:

pāsādapacchāyāyam abbhokāse cankamati

he walks up and down in the open air on the east of the palace

tesam lālappitam sutvā

having heard them conversing excitedly

sikkhāya kankhati vicikicchati

he doubts and he thinks and thinks about the training

athāparam parivīmamsamāno parivīmamsati

then, after he has thoroughly investigated

Desiderative (tumicchattha)

(root redoubled + sa + normal endings)
e.g. desires to hear
examples:

Dhamme desiyamāne sussūsati

desiring to listen to the teaching of the Dhamma

khamo hoti sītassa uņhassa jighacchāya pipāsāya

He is one who bears up with cold, heat, desire to eat, desire to drink

Denominative (dhāturūpakasadda)

noun used as root, and formed according to 7th conjugation e.g. smokes

examples:

kathañ-ca, bhikkhave, bhikkhu dhūpāyati? (from dhūpa, smoke)

And how, monastics, does a monastic smoke?

kim kīļamānam saddāyati? (from sadda, sound, noise)

Why is he shouting while playing?

Dhammam suddham piyāyati (from piya, dear)

he holds dear the pure Dhamma

Nouns

Nouns are normally declined on the stem form of the word, with the endings changing to match their role or function in the sentence. There are three basic sets of declension in Pali: the masculine (including, with small variations, the neuter), the feminine and the pronominal.

The masculine is the most common, but as it will also take some pronominal endings they are often found, and become more common in the later language. There is also a tendency for all words to follow the masculine declension in the later language, so that neuters and occasionally feminines are found declined with masculine endings.

The masculine nominative is more irregular than the oblique forms, and needs to be learned; but most variations in the oblique cases can be inferred:

if the stem ends not in -a but -i, or -u then replace the endings below like this: -a with -i, -u; $-\bar{a}$ and -e with $-\bar{i}$, $-\bar{u}$ to make the declension.

There are a number of masculine forms which do not follow these paradigms, and those need to be learned separately; these include masculine forms ending in *-vanta*, like *Bhagavanta*) and *-an* (*attan*), which behave unexpectedly in the stem; and *Satthā*, which has somewhat different endings.

Below I give the abstract paradigms of the most frequent forms, followed by illustrative examples. Again these are not complete, but must be supplemented by more detailed works, like Navapadamañjarī (from which most of this section is drawn).

Paradigms

Masculine

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	stem + o	stem + $\bar{\mathbf{a}}$
Vocative	$stem + a, \bar{a}$	stem + ā
Accusative	stem + am	stem + e
Instrumental	stem + ena	stem + ehi, ebhi
Dative	stem + āya, assa	stem + ānam
Ablative	stem + ā , ato stem + asm ā , amh ā (pron.)	stem + ehi, ebhi
Genitive	stem + assa	stem + ānam
Locative	stem + e	stem + esu
	stem + asmim, amhi (pron.)	

Masculine Forms of the Pronoun

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	stem + o	stem + e
Accusative	stem + am	stem + e
Instrumental	stem + ena	stem + ehi, ebhi
Dative	stem + assa	stem + esam, esānam
Ablative	stem + asmā, amhā	stem + ehi, ebhi
Genitive	stem + assa	stem + esam, esānam
Locative	stem + asmim, amhi	stem + esu

Neuter only differs in the Nominative, Vocative and Accusative forms

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	stem + am	stem + ā , āni
Vocative	stem + \mathbf{a} , $\bar{\mathbf{a}}$	stem + ā, āni
Accusative	stem + am	stem + ā, āni
	rest as masculine	

As with the masculine, the feminine nominative is more irregular than the oblique forms, and needs to be learned; the variations in the oblique cases can be inferred:

if the stem ends not in $-\bar{a}$ but -i, $-\bar{\iota}$, or -u, $-\bar{u}$ then replace the endings below like this: -a with -i, -u; $-\bar{a}$ and -e with $-\bar{\iota}$, $-\bar{u}$ to make the declension.

Feminine

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	stem + $\bar{\mathbf{a}}$	stem + ā , āyo
Vocative	stem + e, i	$stem + \bar{a}, \bar{a}yo$
Accusative	stem + aṁ	stem $+ \bar{a}, \bar{a}yo$
Instrumental	stem + āya	stem + āhi, ābhi
Dative	stem + āya	stem + ānam
Ablative	stem + āya	stem + ehi, ebhi
Genitive	stem + āya	stem + ānam
Locative	stem + āya, āyam	stem + āsu

Feminine Forms of the Pronoun

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	sā	stem + ā, āyo
Accusative	stem + aṁ	stem + ā, āyo
Instrumental	stem + āya	stem + āhi, ābhi
Dative	stem + āya, assā, issā, issāya	stem + āsam, āsānam
Ablative	stem + āya	stem + āhi, ābhi
Genitive	stem + āya, assā, issā, issāya	stem + esam, esānam
Locative	stem + ayam, assam, āsam, issam	stem + āsu

Examples

Masculine, Buddha

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	Buddho	Buddh ā
Vocative	Buddha, Buddhā	Buddh ā
Accusative	Buddham	Buddhe
Instrumental	Buddhena, Buddhā	Buddhehi, Buddhebhi
Dative	Buddhassa, Buddhāya	Buddhānam
Ablative	Buddh ā , Buddh ato , Buddh asmā , Buddh amhā	Buddhehi, Buddhebhi
Genitive	Buddhassa	Buddhānam
Locative	Buddhe, Buddhasmim, Buddhamhi	Buddhesu

Masculine, Bhagavā

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	Bhagav ā	Bhagavanto, Bhagavantā
Vocative	Bhagava, Bhagavam	Bhagavanto, Bhagavantā
Accusative	Bhagavantam	Bhagavante
Instrumental	Bhagavatā, Bhagavatena	Bhagavantehi, Bhagavantebhi
Dative	Bhagavato, Bhagavatassa	Bhagav antānaṁ
Ablative	Bhagavatā, Bhagavatena, Bhagavasmā, Bhagavatamhā	Bhagavantehi, Bhagavantebhi
Genitive	Bhagavato, Bhagavatassa	Bhagavantehi, Bhagavantebhi
Locative	Bhagavati, Bhagavante, Bhagavatasmim, Bhagavatamhi	Bhagavantesu

Masculine, Satthā

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	Satth ā	Satthāro
Vocative	Sattha, Satthā	Satthāro
Accusative	Satthāram	Satthāro, Satthāre
Instrumental	Sattharā, Satthārā, Satthunā	Satthārehi, Satthārebhi, Satthūbhi, Satthūbhi
Dative	Satthu, Satthuno, Satthussa	Satthānam, Satthārānam
Ablative	Satthārā	Satthārehi, Satthārebhi, Satthūbhi, Satthūbhi
Genitive	Satthu, Satthuno, Satthussa	Satthānam, Satthārānam
Locative	Satthar i	Sattharesu, Satthāresu, Satthusu, Satthūsu

Masculine, muni

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	mun i	munayo, munī, munino
Vocative	muni	munayo, munī
Accusative	mun iṁ	munayo, munī
Instrumental	mun inā	munīhi, munībhi
Dative	munino, munissa	munīnam
Ablative	muninā, munito, munismā, munimhā	munīhi, munībhi
Genitive	munino, munissa	mun īnaṁ
Locative	munismim, munimhi	munīsu

Masculine, bhikkhu

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	bhikkh u	bhikkh ū , bhikkh avo
Vocative	bhikkh u	bhikkhū, bhikkhavo, bhikkhave
Accusative	bhikkh uṁ	bhikkhū, bhikkhavo
Instrumental	bhikkh unā	bhikkhūhi, bhikkhūbhi
Dative	bhikkhuno, bhikkhussa	bhikkh ūnaṁ
Ablative	bhikkh unā , bhikkh uto , bhikkh usmā , bhikkh umhā	bhikkh ūhi , bhikkh ūbhi
Genitive	bhikkhuno, bhikkhussa	bhikkh ūnaṁ
Locative	bhikkh usmiṁ , bhikkh umhi	bhikkh ūsu

Masculine, atta(n)

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	att ā	attāno
Vocative	atta, attā	attāno
Accusative	attam, attānam	attāno
Instrumental	attanā, attena	attehi, attebhi
Dative	attano, attassa	att ānaṁ
Ablative	attā, attato	attehi, attebhi
Genitive	attano, attassa	attānaṁ
Locative	att ani	attesu

Feminine, kaññā

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	kaññ ā	kaññā, kaññāyo
Vocative	kaññ e , kaññ i	kaññā, kaññāyo
Accusative	kaññ aṁ	kaññ ā , kaññ āyo
Instrumental	kaññāya	kaññāhi, kaññābhi
Dative	kaññāya	kaññ ānaṁ
Ablative	kaññ āya	kaññāhi, kaññābhi, kaññohi, kaññobhi
Genitive	kaññāya	kaññānaṁ
Locative	kaññāya, kaññāyam	kaññāsu

Feminine, ratti

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ratti	rattī, rattiyo
Vocative	ratti	rattī, rattiyo
Accusative	ratt iṁ	rattī, ratt iyo
Instrumental	ratt iyā	rattīhi, rattībhi
Dative	ratt iyā	ratt īnaṁ
Ablative	ratt iyā	rattīhi, rattībhi
Genitive	ratt iyā	ratt īnaṁ
Locative	rattiyā, rattiyam	rattīsu

Neuter, citta

Case	Singular	Plural	
Nominative	cittam	citt ā , citt āni	
Vocative	citta, cittā	cittā, cittāni	
Accusative	cittaṁ	citte, cittāni	
	rest as masculine		

Masculine Forms of the Pronoun

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	so (yo, ko, sabbo)	te (ye, ke, sabbe)
Accusative	tam	te
Instrumental	tena	tehi, tebhi
Dative	tassa	tesam, tesānam
Ablative	tasmā, tamhā	tehi, tebhi
Genitive	tassa	tesam, tesānam
Locative	tasmim, tamhi	tesu

Feminine Forms of the Pronoun, tā

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	sā (yā, kā, sabbā, etc.)	tā tāyo (yā, kā, sabbā) (yāyo, kāyo, sabbāyo, etc.)
Accusative	tam	tā tāyo
Instrumental	tāya	tāhi, tābhi
Dative	tāya, tassā, tissā, tissāya	tāsaṁ, tāsānaṁ
Ablative	tāya	tāhi, tābhi
Genitive	tāya, tassā, tissā, tissāya	tesam, tesānam
Locative	tayam, tassam, tāsam, tissam	tāsu

Neuter Forms of the Pronoun, tam

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	taṁ (yaṁ, kaṁ, sabbaṁ, etc.)	te, tāni (ye, ke, sabbe) (yāni, kāni, sabbāni, etc.)
Accusative	tam	te, tāni
	rest as masculine	

Masculine Forms of the (Demonstrative) Pronoun, a, ima

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ayaṁ	ime
Accusative	imaṁ	ime
Instrumental	iminā, anena	ehi, ebhi, imehi, imebhi
Dative	imesaṁ	esam, esānam, imesam, imesānam
Ablative	imasmā, asmā, imamhā	ehi, ebhi, imehi, imebhi
Genitive	imassa, assa	imesam, imesānam
Locative	asmim, imasmim, imamhi	esu, imesu

Genderless Pronouns, amha

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	aham	mayam, amhe
Accusative	maṁ mamaṁ	amhe, asme, amhākam, asmākam
Instrumental	mayā	amhehi, ambhehi
Dative	mama, mayham, mamam, amham	amhākam, asmākam, amham
Ablative	mayā	amhehi, ambhehi
Genitive	mama, mayham, mamam, amham	amhākam, asmākam, amham
Locative	mayi	amhesu

Forms of the Pronoun, eka (plural)

Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	eke	ekā, ekāyo	ekāni
Accusative	eke	ekā, ekāyo	ekāni
Instrumental	ekehi, ekebhi	ekāhi, ekābhi	ekehi, ekebhi
Dative	ekesam, ekasānam	ekāsam, ekāsānam	ekesam, ekasānam
Ablative	ekehi, ekebhi	ekāhi, ekābhi	ekehi, ekebhi
Genitive	ekesam, ekasānam	ekāsam, ekāsānam	ekesam, ekasānam
Locative	ekesu	ekāsu	ekesu

Forms of the Pronoun, eka (singular)

Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	eko	ekā	ekaṁ
Accusative	ekaṁ	ekam	ekaṁ
Instrumental	ekena	ekāya	ekena
Dative	ekassa	ekāya, ekassā	ekassa
Ablative	ekasmā, ekamhā	ekāya	ekasmā, ekamhā
Genitive	ekassa	ekāya, ekassā	ekassa
Locative	ekasmim, ekamhi	ekāyam, ekassam	ekasmim, ekamhi

Forms of the Pronoun, dvi (plural)

Case	3 genders
Nominative	dve, duve
Accusative	dve, duve
Instrumental	dvihi, dvibhi
Dative	dvinnam, duvinnam
Ablative	dvihi, dvibhi
Genitive	dvinnam, duvinnam
Locative	dvīsu

Forms of the Pronoun, ti (plural)

Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	tayo	tisso	tīni
Accusative	tayo	tisso	tīni
Instrumental	tīhi, tībhi	tīhi tībhi	tīhi tībhi
Dative	tiṇṇam, tiṇṇānam	tissannaṁ	tiṇṇaṁ tiṇṇānaṁ
Ablative	tīhi, tībhi	tīhi tībhi	tīhi tībhi
Genitive	tiṇṇaṁ, tiṇṇānaṁ	tissannaṁ	tiṇṇaṁ tiṇṇānaṁ
Locative	tīsu	tīsu	tīsu

Forms of the Pronoun, catu (plural)

Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	cattāro, caturo	cattasso	cattāri
Accusative	cattāro, caturo	cattasso	cattāri
Instrumental	catūhi, catūbhi	catūhi, catūbhi	catūhi catūbhi
Dative	catunnam	catassannam	catunnam
Ablative	catūhi, catūbhi	catūhi, catūbhi	catūhi catūbhi
Genitive	catunnam	catassannam	catunnam
Locative	catusu	catusu	catusu

Forms of the Pronoun, pañca - dasa

Case	all three genders
Nominative	pañc a
Accusative	pañc a
Instrumental	pañc ahi
Dative	pañcannam
Ablative	pañcahi
Genitive	pañcannam
Locative	pañcasu

Noun Syntax

Nominative subject, adnominal, list, destination

subject or actor in a sentence:

Tena samayena Bhagavā Uruvelāyam viharati

At that time the Gracious One was dwelling near Uruvelā

with passive verbs:

Samano pi tattha na upalabbhati

There a (true) ascetic is not found

in apposition:

Atha Rājā Bimbisāro tam sutvā ... Bhagavantam-evam-āha

Then King Bimbisāra, after hearing that ... said this to the Gracious One

predicate:

Sambuddho paţijānāsi?

Do you claim to be Sambuddha?

adjectives must be in agreement:

Dīgho bālānam samsāro

Long is the round of births and deaths for fools

with ti and iti:

Nigrodho ti akā nāmam

She gave the name Nigrodha

titles:

Dighanikāyo; Mahāparinibbānasuttam

The Long Collection; The Discourse about the Great Emancipation

lists:

Seyyathīdam: sammādiţţhi sammāsankappo sammāvācā sammākammanto, etc.

That is to say: right view, right thought, right speech, right action, etc.

idiomatic usage:

Atha kho Tapussabhallikā vāṇijā ... yena Bhagavā tenupasaṅkamimsu

Then where the Gracious One was ... the merchants Tapussa and Bhallika approached

Vocative

the vocative is the only case that isn't modified by its relation to other words

usually used alone:

Katham bhāvitā ca bhikkhave ānāpānasati?

And how, monastics, is mindfulness while breathing developed?

more than one vocative used:

Ayam kho, āvuso Visākha, sakkāyasamudayo vutto Bhagavatā ti

This, friend Visākha, is said to be the arising of embodiment by the Gracious One

Accusative

object, destination

object of the verb:

Aham Dhammam desemi

I teach the Dhamma

appekacce mam paccuggantvā, pattacīvaram paţiggahesum

and after coming out to meet me, some took my bowl and robe

Odahatha sotam Amatam-adhigatam aham-anusāsāmi

Lend an ear I will instruct you about the attainment of the Deathless

Bhagavato pāde sirasā vandati

Worships the Gracious One's feet with his head

internal object of cognate verb:

tāyam velāyam imam udānam udānesi

on that occasion uttered this exalted utterance

dukkham vā vedanam vediyamāno

or, when experiencing an unpleasant feeling

location or destination:

Sāvatthim piņdāya pāvisi

Was entering Sāvatthī for alms

Hurāhuram dhāvati bhantacitto

The unsteady mind runs here and there

dative-like use:

Ekam samayam Bhagavā Rājagahe viharati

At one time the Gracious One was living near Rājagaha

Agentive Instrumental

the actor with passive and causative verbs

passive:

Tathāgatena evam oļārike nimitte kayiramāne

Despite such a gross hint being made by the Realised One

Cundena Kammāraputtena kammam upacitam

A (good) deed has been accumulated by Cunda the Smith

causative:

Ye na kāhanti ovādam narā Buddhena desitam

Those people who do not follow the advice given by the Buddha

Bhāradvājena pattassa gahitattā

The bowl was grabbed by Bhāradvāja

Associative Instrumental

with, association or means

association:

Yācitvā so pi Rājānam Uparājena pabbaji

After asking (permission) from the King went forth with the Prince

Bhadrena yobbanena samannāgato

Endowed with auspicious youthfulness

saha, saddhim:

Mahatā Bhikkhusanghena saddhim

Together with a great Community of monks

means:

Adhivāsesi Bhagavā tunhībhāvena

The Gracious One consented by maintaining silence

Sukhañ-ca kāyena paţisamvedeti

experiencing happiness through the body

possessive (adnominal):

Ye suppayuttā manasā daļhena ... Gotamasāsanamhi

Those who have firm minds that are devoted to ... Gotama's teaching

time:

Tena samayena Buddho Bhagavā Verañjāyam viharati

At one time the Awakened One, the Gracious One was dwelling near Verañjā

ablative-like:

Atipaņditena puttena, manamhi upakūļito

Through my son Superwise, I am well-nigh roasted

Dative

destination, possession opposite of ablative

destination:

Bhikkhūnam Dhammim katham karoti

He spoke frequently to the monastics about the Teaching

possession (adnominal):

Tassa Rañno duve puttā āsum sodariyā pi vā

To that King there were two sons of the same mother

Pītimanassa kāyo pi passambhati

For one with a joyful mind the body is tranquil

cause, reason:

Sāvatthim piņdāya pāvisi

Entered Sāvatthī for alms

infinitive-like:

Devatā sannipatitā Tathāgatam dassanāya

The gods have assembled to see the Realised One

Ablative

from, origin, cause opposite of dative

starting point:

Darito pabbatāto vā, rukkhato patito naro

Whether that man has fallen from a cleft, a mountain, or a tree

Asmā lokā param lokam, evam pecca na socati

After passing from this world to the next world

Ito tinnam māsānam accayena

After three months have passed from now

separation:

Sammad-eva agārasmā anagāriyam pabbajanti

They rightly go forth from the home to the homeless life

Vivekamhā cāvetukāmo

Desiring to drive her out of seclusion

causal:

Catunnam dhammanam ananubodha appativedha

Because of a lack of understanding and a lack of penetration of four things

Kasmā kampati bhūmī? ti

Why does the earth tremble?

comparison:

Na santhavasmā paramatthi seyyo ... Sappurisena

Nothing is better than intimacy ... with a Good Person

Genitive

possession, therefore adnominal

possession:

Rammakassa brāhmaņassa assamo

The brāhmaṇa Rammaka's hermitage

Bhikkhūnam pattesu pakkhipimsu

He dropped it in the monks' bowls

Paññā narānam ratanam

Wisdom is the people's treasure

mastery:

Bhikkhuno araddhaviriyassa uppajjati

For a monk who has undertaken energy

Sukho paññāya paţilābho, pāpānam akaraṇam

The acquisition of wisdom is good, the non-doing of wicked things is good

Kusalānam dhammānam upasampadāya

The undertaking of wholesome things

Yam yam cajati kāmānam

The giving up of whatever desires there are

Yakkhānam ādhipati, Kuvero, iti nāma so

He is the master of the yakkhas, Kuvera, such is his name

position:

uttaram Nagarassa haritvā

after carrying it to the North of the City

genitive absolute:

Bhagavatā dhammiyā kathāya ovadiyamānānam anusāsiyamānānam

As the Gracious One gave advice and instruction with a talk about Dhamma

Locative

position, relation, aim

place:

Sāvatthiyam piņdāya caritvā

After walking for alms in Sāvatthī

Dhammesu dhammānupassī viharati

Dwells contemplating (the nature of) things in (various) things

participation:

Saraņesu ca Sīlesu thapesi samahājanam

He established the multitude in the Refuges and the Precepts

time:

Yasmim samaye uppajjanti saññī

At which time perception arose

instrumental-like:

Sabbesu dhammesu anūpalitto

Undefiled in regard to (or, by) all things

absolute:

Atha Jețțhamūlamāse, sassesu milāyantesu

Then in the month of Jettha, when the crops were withering away