

## Sanskrit Lesson

### From the Vajra Prajña Paramita Sutra

This lesson gives more information concerning nouns belonging to the Short -a Declension, also known as nouns whose stem ends in -a. This was discussed previously in VBS #178 (March, 1985).

अथ खड्गायुष्मान्स्मृतिरुत्थायासनाद्  
एकांसमुत्तरासङ्गं कृत्वा दक्षिणं जानु-  
मण्डलं पृथिव्यां प्रतिष्ठाप्य येन  
भगवांस्तेनाञ्जलिं प्रणम्य भगवन्तम्  
एतदवीचत्

Atha khalv Āyusmān Subhūtir  
utthāyāsanād ekāṃsam  
uttarāsaṅgam krtvā dakṣiṇaṃ  
jānu-maṇḍalaṃ pṛthivyāṃ  
pratiṣṭhāpya yena Bhagavāṃs  
tenāñjaliṃ praṇamya  
Bhagavantam etad avocat.

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DECLENSION OF MASCULINE NOUNS WITH STEMS IN -A "THE SHORT -A DECLENSION"			
Case	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nominative	buddhas	buddhau	buddhās
Accusative	buddham	buddhau	buddhān
Instrumental	buddhena	buddhabhyam	buddhais
Dative	buddhāya	buddhābhyām	buddhebhyas
Ablative	buddhāt	buddhābhyām	buddhebhyas
Genitive	buddhasya	buddhayos	buddhānām
Locative	buddhe	buddhayos	buddheṣu
Vocative	buddha	buddhau	buddhās
DECLENSION OF NEUTER NOUNS WITH STEMS IN -A "THE SHORT -A DECLENSION"			
Case	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nominative	maṇḍalam	maṇḍale	maṇḍalāni
Accusative	maṇḍalam	maṇḍale	maṇḍalāni
Instrumental	maṇḍalena	maṇḍalābhyām	maṇḍalais
Dative	maṇḍalāya	maṇḍalābhyām	maṇḍalebhyas
Ablative	maṇḍalat	maṇḍalabhyam	maṇḍalebhyas
Genitive	maṇḍalasya	maṇḍalayos	maṇḍalānām
Locative	maṇḍale	maṇḍalayos	maṇḍaleṣu
Vocative	maṇḍala	maṇḍale	maṇḍalāni

Then the Elder Subhuti, having arisen from his seat, having bared one shoulder of his upper garment, having placed his right knee on the ground, and having placed his palms together before the Honored One, said this to the Honored One:

Note that for the neuter nouns the following have the same forms:

**Dual:** Nominative, Accusative and Vocative (*maṇḍale*).

Instrumental, Dative and Ablative (*maṇḍalābhyām*).

Genitive, Locative (*maṇḍalayos*).

**Plural:** Nominative, Accusative, Vocative (*maṇḍalāni*).

Dative, Ablative (*maṇḍalebhyas*).

Whereas in English proper names and titles are capitalized, Sanskrit does not have capital letters, so all letters are the same. The word "Buddha" is not capitalized in the transliteration given on the chart to reflect the actual situation in the Sanskrit language. But words ordinarily capitalized in English are capitalized in the transliteration of the Sutra text given here.

Note that for masculine nouns the same places have the same forms as for neuter nouns; except for the accusative plural. Masculine nouns have a different form for the accusative plural, whereas for the neuter nouns the nominative and accusative plural have the same form:

**Dual:** Nominative, Accusative and Vocative (*buddhau*).

Instrumental, Dative and Ablative (*buddhābhyām*).

Genitive, Vocative (*buddhayos*).

**Plural:** Nominative, Vocative (*buddhās*).

Dative, Ablative (*buddhebhyas*).