

## Segment 1 .2

### Introduction to Conjunct Consonants

For complete listing of conjunct Consonants please refer to

1. <http://www.arshakulam.org/pdf/sanskrit/sanskritalphabetbookrevised.pdf> (pages 11 to 15)
2. [http://sanskritdocuments.org/learning\\_tutorial\\_wikner/P058.html](http://sanskritdocuments.org/learning_tutorial_wikner/P058.html)
3. [http://www.omniglot.com/writing/devanagari\\_conjuncts.php](http://www.omniglot.com/writing/devanagari_conjuncts.php)
4. <http://www.learnssanskrit.org/references/devanagari/conjunct>

In words two or more consonants can come together before a vowel sound. In संस्कृतम् as many as five consonants can come together in this way! This combination of two or more consonants is called a conjunct consonant. Although the phonetic integrity of the combined letter is always maintained, there structural integrity is not. The new form is usually – but not always – a combination of elements from the component letters. A certain amount of familiarity with the formation of conjunct consonants is a must for anyone starting study of संस्कृतम्: a mastery of all possible conjunct consonants , fortunately, can wait!

Some general principles are followed in forming the conjunct consonants.

Type 1. A fragment of the first consonant is retained and the second consonant is written in full. Often the vertical line (a characteristic of many letters of the alphabet) of the first member is dropped.

Examples: सख्य (friendship); मुग्ध (fool); विघ्न (obstacle); गुच्छ (bunch); राज्य (kingdom); मध्य (middle), सन्त (great people), अम्बा (mother), चिन्ता (worry), शब्द (word), तालव्य (palatel), दन्त्य (dental), स्वर (vowel), व्यञ्जन (consonant), सरस्वती , कल्पना, कृष्ण, रामः पश्यति (Rama sees).

Type 2: The second consonant is placed below the first consonant.

गङ्गा , शङ्कर , विद्या (knowledge), पद्म (प्+अ+द्+म्+अ), पट्टण (प्+अ+ट्+ट्+अ+ण्+अ), उद्भव (उ+द्+भ्+अ+व्+अ)

Type 3: Conjunct consonants with श् as the first member have a special symbol for श् when the consonant that follows is ल्, व्, र्, or च्। If any other consonants follow , श् drops the vertical line, as in type 1 consonants.

Examples: विश्लेषण (analysis), ईश्वर (God), अश्व (horse), मिश्र (mixed), पश्चिम (west).

Type 4: Conjunct consonants with (र्) are formed differently. The way they are formed depends on whether the (र्) is the first or the second member of the conjunct consonant. When (र्) is the first member of the conjunct consonant, the symbol for (र्) is placed above the second member. When (र्) is the second member of the conjunct consonant, it is represented by a slanted line attached to the side of the first member.

Examples: कर्म (क्+अ+ र्+ म्+ अ ; duty); सर्व ( स्+अ + र्+ व्+ अ; all); चर्चा (च्+अ+र्+च्+आ; discussion). सर्प ( स्+ अ + र्+ प्+अ ; snake); दर्प ( द्+ अ + र्+ प्+ अ ; mirror).

वज्र (व्+ ज्+ र्+ अ; hard ); चक्र ( च्+ क्+ र्+ अ; wheel ); प्रीति ( प्+र्+ई+त्+इ ; affection ) ; क्रम ( क्+ र्+ अ + म्+ अ , system); क्रान्ति ( क्+ र्+ आ + न्+ त्+ इ ; proceeding); क्रन्द ( क्+ र्+ अ + न्+ द्+ अ ; cry)

Type 5: Some special forms of commonly used conjunct consonants are given below:

Examples : ज्ञान (ज् + ज्ञ् + आ + न् + अ ; knowledge); चित्र (च् + इ + त् + र् + अ ; picture); क्षेत्र (क् + ष् + ए + त् + र् + अ ; field); चित्त ( च् + इ + त् + त् + अ ; mind); चित्त ( च् + इ + त् + त् + अ ), भक्ति ( भ + क् + त् + इ ), प्रश्न ( प् + र् + अ + श् + न् + अ ), बुद्धि ( ब् + उ + द् + ध् + इ )

## Guruvandanam

श्रुतिस्मृतिपुराणानाम् आलयं करुणालयम् । नमामि भगवत्पादं शङ्करं लोकशङ्करम् ॥ १ ॥

śru-ti-smṛ-ti-pu-rā-ṇā-ṇā-m ā-la-ya-m ka-ru-ṇā-la-ya-m,

na-mā-mi bha-ga-va-t-pā-da-m śa-ṅ-ka-ra-m lo-ka-śa-ṅ-ka-ra-m

शङ्करं शङ्कराचार्यं केशवं बादरायणम् । सूत्रभाष्यकृतौ वन्दे भगवन्तौ पुनः पुनः ॥ २ ॥

śa-ṅ-ka-ra-m śa-ṅ-ka-rā-cā-r-ya-m ke-śa-va-m bā-da-rā-ya-ṇa-m, sū-t-ra-bhā-ṣ-ya-kṛ-tau va-n-de  
bha-ga-va-n-tau pu-na-ḥ pu-na-ḥ

ईश्वरो गुरुरात्मेति मूर्तिभेदविभागिने । व्योमवद्व्याप्तदेहाय दक्षिणामूर्तये नमः ॥ ३ ॥

ī-ś-va-ro gu-ru-rā-t-me-ti mū-r-ti-bhe-da-vi-bhā-gi-ne,

v-yo-ma-va-d-v-yā-p-ta-de-hā-ya da-kṣi-ṇā-mū-r-ta-ye na-ma-ḥ

गुकारस्त्वन्धकारो वै रुकारस्तन्निवर्तकः । अन्धकारनिरोधित्वाद् गुरुरित्यभिधीयते ॥ ४ ॥

gu-kā-ra-s-t-va-n-dha-kā-ro vai ru-kā-ra-s-ta-n-ni-va-r-ta-ka-ḥ,

a-n-dha-kā-ra-ni-ro-dhi-t-vā-d gu-ru-ri-t-ya-bhi-dhī-ya-te

सदाशिवसमारम्भां शङ्कराचार्यमध्यमाम् । अस्मदाचार्यपर्यन्तां वन्दे गुरुपरम्पराम् ॥ ५ ॥

sa-dā-śi-va-sa-mā-ra-m-bhā-m śa-ṅ-ka-rā-cā-r-ya-ma-dh-ya-mā-m,

a-s-ma-dā-cā-r-ya-pa-r-ya-n-tā-m va-n-de gu-ru-pa-ra-m-pa-rā-m