

TEACH YOURSELF

AVESTA

A beginner's guide to the
SCRIPT, GRAMMAR & LANGUAGE
of the Zoroastrian scriptural texts

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Introduction

Avesta, originally a language of the ancient Indo-Iranian stock of languages, is presently the language of the Zoroastrian scriptures. It is no more used for day to day communication purposes, and hence is referred to as a ‘dead language.’

This elementary book, helps beginners to study the Avestan script, learn the language and understand its basic texts. It is prepared in the format of ‘Teach Yourself’ books, with the view that a student may learn the language without much help from a tutor. Each chapter is prepared as a separate unit. Most footnotes provide alternative words or contemporary versions of grammatical terminologies. They are intended for reference and are not essential to learning the language.

Exercises have been provided at the end of each chapter along with keys to most exercises at the end of the book. A Question Bank has been provided at the end for those who want to evaluate themselves.

The book is based on the Avesta grammar notes given by late Dasturji Dr. Hormazdyar Kayoji Mirza to his students. The style, content and layout of this book is a result of the teaching experience and interaction during the past several years.

Considering the elementary nature of the book, grammatical rules have been simplified. Wherever there are multiple options in terminations, only the most frequently used alternative has been given in the book. This book may also be used as a sourcebook for teaching Avestan script and grammar.

To study Avestan grammar in greater detail one may refer to “A Practical Grammar of the Avesta language” by Kavasji Edalji Kanga (Bombay, 1891), “An Avesta Grammar in comparison with Sanskrit” by A.V.Williams Jackson (Stuttgart, 1892), “Avestan Language III. The Grammar of Avestan” by Karl Hoffmann (Encyclopaedia Iranica III, pp.35-44) and An Introduction to Young Avestan by P. O. Skjaervo (Online, 2003).

I hope this book will enable people to get familiar with the Avestan script, grammar and language.

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I. THE AVESTAN ALPHABET

The Avestan language

Avesta is the oldest extant Iranian language. It belongs to the Indo-Iranian family of languages. It is the mother of other Iranian languages like Old Persian, Middle Persian, Kurdish, Pashtu and Ossetic. Avesta heads the Iranian branch of Indo-Iranian language, just as Vedic Sanskrit is the source for the Indian branch, which has languages like Hindustani, Bengali and Marathi. The striking similarity between Vedic Sanskrit and Avestan is on account of their common origin.

The Iranian language family can be understood as follows:

Language	Period
Hypothetical proto-Aryan language (now lost)	Proto-Aryan period
Avesta	Peshdad-Kayan period
Old Persian	Achaemenian
Inscription Pahlavi	Ashkanian & early Sasanian
Pahlavi (Middle Persian), Manichaenian, Tokharish etc.	Sasanian
Neo-Persian	Post-Sasnian

Other important languages in the Indo-European family are Armenian, Baltic – Lithuanian, Latvian, Old Prussian, Anatolian – Hittite, Celtic – Hittite, Gallic, Hispanic, Irish, Scot, Welsh, Tocharian, Hellenic – Classical Greek – Modern Greek, Germanic – Old Saxon – Modern German, Norwegian, Icelandic, Italic and Latin.

Account of the Avestan texts

Avestan texts were composed in absolute prehistory when the art of reading and writing had not yet been adequately developed. They were handed down by oral tradition from generation to generation since very ancient times.

The Iranian historical traditions regarding the transmission of the Avestan texts are recorded in the *Dēnkard*, on the basis of which a succinct account of their transmission, can be formulated.

According to this tradition, one written copy of the entire Avestan texts, comprising of 21 Nasks (Volumes), was deposited in the royal archives of King Vishtasp. 21 priestly families were entrusted the task of memorizing one Nask each and the Nasks were orally transmitted from generation to generation. During the Achaemenian times, the written Avestan texts in the royal archives was destroyed during Alexander's invasion and conquest of Iran in 330 B.C. Emperor Vologeses/Valkhash I (51–77 A.C.) of the Parthian/Arshkanian dynasty (250 BC-226 AC) made an unsuccessful attempt to regather the 21 Avestan Nasks.

The Sasanian Emperor Artakhshir Pāpakān (226-241 A.C.) instructed his Head Priest Dastur Tansar (Tosar) to compile a standard edition of the 21 *Nasks* from the scattered Avestan texts. This work was completed under Dastur Adarbad Marespand during the reign of Emperor Shapur II (309-379 A.C.).

The Avestan texts were endangered once again when the Arabs invaded and conquered Iran in 641 A. C. However, they were not completely destroyed. Out of 21 Avestan Nasks, 20 were in existence till the 9th century. A summary of 19 Nasks, based on their Pahlavi

translations, is found in the VIII and IX books of the *Dēnkard*. After the 9th century, most of the Avestan Nasks and their Pahlavi translations have been lost, mainly due to the large scale massacre and destruction brought about in Iran by the Huns Changiz Khan and Halagu Khan in the 14th century and later by the Tartar Timur The Lame in the 15th century.

The Extant Avestan texts

The extant Avestan texts may be divided as follows:

1. The Yasna (including the Gathas)
2. The Visparad
3. The Vidēvdād /Vendidad
4. The Khordeh Avesta (including the Yashts)
5. Fragments of some of the lost Nasks.¹

Origin of the Avestan script

Though Avestan is the oldest known Iranian language, and it even pre-dates the times of prophet Zarathushtra, it had no script of its own and was orally transmitted from generation to generation. There is a tradition that a copy of the Avestan texts were committed to writing and deposited in the royal archives during the Kayanian and Achaemenian times. However, the script used in writing is not known. They may have been written in primitive indigenous scripts of those times, used for inscribing royal records and edicts.

According to literary and archaeological references, attempts were made to commit Avestan to writing during the Parthian period, in the script of those times. However, this attempt was not successful. The Avestan script, as it is used today, was developed in the Sasanian period during the reign of Shapur II, and modified till the times of Cosroe II/ Khushru Purviz (590-628 A.C.). This script, known as the *Dīn Dabireh* “the script for religious (purposes)”, is the script with which we write the Avestan language today.

Indian and Iranian Styles

There is a slight variance in the way some of the letters of the Avestan script were written by scribes in Iran and India. The Iranian scribes wrote in an ornamental manner with a greater flourish and curves at the end. The Indian scribes used straight strokes. In this book the Avestan script of Indian style has been used.

¹ Fragments have been preserved in the commentaries given in Pahlavi translations, colophons of manuscripts, Avesta-Pahlavi Frahang and other Pahlavi works.

1. The Avestan characters (1)

Special distinguishing features of the Avestan script:

- 1) The Avestan script is written from right to left.
- 2) The direction of writing and relative positions of each letter have to be noted.
- 3) One sound may be represented by more than one character, depending on their placement in the word.
- 4) Each Avestan character has an equivalent for transcription. Most of these character are from the English alphabet, but some are adopted from the Greek alphabet, and a few special characters have been introduced. By and large the system of Karl Hoffmann has been adopted for transcription.
- 5) Every complete Avesta word is followed by a dot (like a *full stop*), called a word-separator.
- 6) Three dots ∴ are used to indicate the end of a sentence. Sometimes three small circles used in a similar way, indicate the end of a paragraph.

Avesta letter	Transcription	Pronunciation
—𐬀—	<i>a</i>	a - as in <u>critical</u>
—𐬁—	<i>ā</i>	a - as in <u>father</u>
—𐬂—	<i>i</i>	i - as in <u>it</u>
—𐬃—	<i>ī</i>	ī - as in <u>feet</u>
—𐬄—	<i>u</i>	u - as in <u>put</u>
—𐬅—	<i>ū</i>	oo - as in <u>shoot</u>
—𐬆—	<i>k</i>	k - as in <u>kite</u>
—𐬇—	<i>x</i>	kh - as in <u>Khan</u> ¹
—𐬈—	<i>x'</i>	kh - as in <u>khyal</u>
—𐬉 ² —	<i>x^v</i>	khv - as in <u>khvāb</u>
—𐬊—	<i>g</i>	g - as in <u>girl</u>
—𐬋—	<i>γ</i> ³	gh - as in <u>Ghana</u>

¹ This and the following two words showing pronunciation are not from the English language as these sounds are not available in this language.

² A combination of two Pahlavi letters 'x' and 'v'

³ This is the Greek letter *gamma*.

Unlike Sanskrit, the consonants in Avestan, do not have inherent vowel sounds, and hence cannot stand by themselves. A consonant needs to be followed by a vowel to depict a full sound. Thus:

𐬀 ka	𐬀𐬎 ki	𐬀𐬎𐬌 ku
𐬀𐬎 kā	𐬀𐬎𐬌 kī	𐬀𐬎𐬌 kū

Exercise:

1. Practice the following:

𐬀	𐬎	𐬌	𐬍
𐬀𐬎	𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬍	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬍𐬎
𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬍	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬍𐬎	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬍𐬎𐬌

2. Write the following in Avestan script. Speak as you write:

ga		ya		xi	
gā		yā		xā	
gu		ki		kū	

2. The Alphabets (2)

Avesta letter	Transcription	Pronunciation
𐬀-	<i>o</i>	O - as in <u>g</u> oing
𐬀𐬎-	<i>ō</i>	O - as in g <u>o</u>
𐬀𐬎𐬌-	<i>e</i>	e - as in pl <u>e</u> nty
𐬀𐬎𐬌 ¹ -	<i>ē</i>	e - as in Andre <u>e</u>
𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬍-	<i>θ</i> ²	th - as in bath <u>th</u>
𐬀𐬎-	<i>d</i>	d - as in <u>d</u> ay

¹ It is used as final vowel in Gathas and in the diphthong combination 𐬀𐬎𐬌 aē.

² This sign is similar to the Greek letter *theta*.

Avesta letter	Transcription	Pronunciation
-𐬀-	δ^1	dh - as in <u>ad</u> here
-𐬁-	r	r - as in <u>r</u> un
-𐬂-	f	f - as in <u>f</u> an
-𐬃-	b	b - as in <u>b</u> at
-𐬄-2	t	t - as in ten
-𐬅-3	\underline{t}	t - as in put

Exercise:

1. Practice the following:

𐬅	𐬃	𐬂	𐬁
𐬀	𐬄	𐬃	𐬁
𐬁	𐬂	𐬃	𐬄

2. Write the following in Avestan script. Speak as you write:

<i>de</i>	<i>at̄</i>	<i>bō</i>	<i>rāt̄</i>
<i>daē</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>baō</i>	<i>raē</i>

3. The Alphabets (3)

Avesta letter	Transcription	Pronunciation
-𐬆- ⁴	∂^5	e - as in <u>re</u> d
-𐬇- ⁶	$\bar{\partial}$	e - as in <u>re</u> d

1 This sign is similar to the Greek letter *delta*.

2 It is used at the beginning and middle of words.

3 It is used at the end of words or when followed by 𐬅 'k' or 𐬃 'b'

4 Generally replaces 𐬀 'a' when followed by final 𐬄 'm' and 𐬃 'n'. Also used as the final vowel after 𐬁 'r'.

5 This sign is similar to an inverted 'e'.

6 It is generally used as final vowel, especially in Gathas

Avesta letter	Transcription	Pronunciation
-𐬀𐬀𐬀- ¹	<i>ərə</i>	ere - as in <u>ber</u> et
-𐬎-	<i>ç</i>	ch - as in <u>ch</u> air
-𐬑-	<i>j</i>	j - as in j <u>a</u> m
-𐬎-	<i>n</i>	n - as in <u>n</u> ut
-𐬎𐬀- ²	<i>ṅ</i>	n as in gr <u>u</u> nt
-𐬎-	<i>m</i>	m - as in <u>m</u> an
-𐬎-	<i>ŋ</i>	ng - as in so <u>ng</u>
-𐬎- ³	<i>ñ</i>	ng - as in play <u>ing</u>
-𐬑-	<i>p</i>	p - as in p <u>a</u> n
-𐬑-	<i>h</i>	h - as in <u>h</u> en
-𐬀- ⁴	<i>w</i>	W - as in <u>w</u> ater

Exercise:

1. Practice the following:

𐬀	𐬑	𐬎	𐬎
𐬀	𐬑	𐬎	𐬎
𐬎	𐬑	𐬎	𐬀

2. Transcribe the following into Avestan script. Speak as you write:

<i>bərət</i>		<i>dadāt</i>		<i>ahurō</i>	
<i>āθra</i>		<i>manan̄h</i>		<i>ahi</i>	

¹ This cluster of three letters, is treated as one sound in Avesta.² Used instead of } 'n' when followed by a guttural or dental consonant.³ It generally follows an } 'i'⁴ It generally follows 𐬀 'd' and 𐬑 'θ'.

3. Transcribe the following in Roman script. Speak as you write:

•٤٤٩		•٤٦١٤٣		•٤٦١٤٣	
•٤٦١٤٣		•٤٦١٤٣		•٤٦١٤٣	

4. The Alphabets (4)

Avesta letter	Transcription	Pronunciation
—٤—	$\overset{\circ}{a}$	OW — as in <u>cow</u>
—٤—	q	an — as in <u>France</u>
—٤ ¹ —	y	y - as in <u>lawyer</u>
—٤ ² —	Y	Y - as in <u>year</u>
—٤—	s	S - as in <u>sit</u>
—٤ ³ —	š	sh _ as in <u>harsh</u>
—٤ ⁴ —	š	sh _ as in <u>ashame</u>
—٤ ⁵ —	š	sh _ as in <u>Shyam</u>
—٤—	Z	Z - as in <u>zebra</u>
—٤—	ž	zh _ as in <u>azure</u>
—٤ ⁶ —	V	V - as in <u>saye</u>
—٤ ⁷ —	V	V - as in <u>verse</u>

Self study:

1. Transcribe the following in Roman script. Speak as you write:

¹ It is used only in the middle of words. Hence it is known as medial 'y'.

² It is used only in the beginning of words. Hence it is known as initial 'y'.

³ It is used at the end of words and also when followed by ٤ 'c' and ٤ 't'.

⁴ It is used at the beginning and within a word.

⁵ It is used at the beginning and within a word, when followed by the letter 'y'.

⁶ It is used only within the word.

⁷ It is used only at the beginning of a word.

4. Transcribe the following in Avestan script. Speak as you write:

kā vərəθrəm jā θwā pōi səṅhā yōi həntī
ciθrā mōi dəm ahūmbīš ratūm ciždī
aṭ hōi vohū sraošō jaṅtū manəḥā
mazdā ahmāi yahmāi vaštī kahmāicīṭ.

5. Phonetic divisions of the Alphabets

The Avesta alphabet has 50 characters, divided into two groups - 15 Vowels and 35 Consonants. A vowel is a sound produced by letting air flow cleanly through the mouth. A consonant is a sound produced by interrupting the flow of air through the mouth. These letters are divided into various phonetic divisions as under:

15 VOWELS

Simple Vowels:

Phonetic Division	Short	Long
Guttural (by letting air flow from the <u>throat</u>)	𐬀 <i>a</i>	𐬀̄ <i>ā</i>
Palatal (by moving the tongue near the <u>palate</u>)	𐬀̄ <i>i</i>	𐬀̄̄ <i>ī</i>
Labial (by pursing the <u>lips</u>)	𐬀̄ <i>u</i>	𐬀̄̄ <i>ū</i>
Cerebral (by <u>rolling the tongue</u>)	𐬀̄̄̄ <i>ə</i>	-----

Diphthongs:

Diphthong's is a secondary vowel sound. Its sound is devised by the combination of the sounds of two simple vowels. Some languages use two vowels to represent a diphthong sound. In Avesta a single letter is used. There are three diphthongs sounds in Avesta. Each sound is represented by two letters, three indicated as short and the other three as long. The short and long diphthongs differ only in their placement, and not in their sound value. Phonetically the short and long diphthongs represent the same sound.

Short	Long
𐬀̄̄ <i>e</i>	𐬀̄̄̄ <i>ē</i>
𐬀̄̄̄ <i>ə</i>	𐬀̄̄̄̄ <i>ē</i>
𐬀̄̄̄̄ <i>o</i>	𐬀̄̄̄̄̄ <i>ō</i>

Special Vowels:

These two characters are referred to as special since there are no similar letters in the alphabets of other related languages.

𐬀̄̄̄̄̄ <i>ā</i>	𐬀̄̄̄̄̄̄ <i>q</i>
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35 CONSONANTS

Phonetic Division	Unaspirant ¹	Aspirant	Unaspirant	Aspirant
Guttural (obstructing of the flow of air by the throat)	گ k	خ / ڪ x'	گ g	گھ gh
Palatal (obstructing of the flow of air by the palate)	چ c	- -	چ j	- -
Dental (obstructing of the flow of air by the teeth)	ت / ٿ t / ٺ t'	ٺ ٺ'	د d	ڍ ڍ'
Labial (obstructing of the flow of air by lips)	پ p	ف f	ب b	-
Nasal (making the air flow from the nose)	} n; ڙ n; م m; ڻ ڻ; ڻ ڻ			
Sibilant (making hissing sound by the tongue)	س s; ڇ ڇ; ڙ ڙ; ڙ ڙ; ڙ ڙ; ڙ ڙ			
Semi-vowel / Liquid (sound transmuted from simple vowels)	ي y; ڇ y; ڻ v; ڻ v; ڻ r			
Aspiration (sound produced exhalation of air)	ه h			
Bi-labial (obstructing the flow of air by lips after pursing them)	و w			
Ligatures ² (combination of two Avesta or Pahlavi letters)	ڙ ڙ ڙ; ڙ ڙ			

Exercise:

1. Give the transcripts and phonetic divisions of the following letters:

Av. letter	Transcript	Phonetic Division
ک		
ه		
ڪ		
چ		
ڇ		
ڙ		
ڻ		
ڻ		
ڻ		

¹¹ The Unaspirate consonants are those without the aspiration sound 'h' inherent in it. The Aspirant consonants have an inherent 'h' sound to the corresponding Unaspirant consonant.

² This is not a phonetic but an orthographic division. Its given here to have all the characters together in one place.

2. Give the consonants in the following phonetic groups:

Phonetic Group	Consonants
Dental	
Sibilant	
Palatal	

6. Orthographic rules for placement of letters

-ሁ- x´ is used before the letter ‘y’. Eg: ዓሁን “country.”
-ሎ- t is used at the beginning and in middle of words. Eg: ዓሎ “body.”
-ደ- ṭ is used at the end of words or when followed by ኃ ‘k’ or ጋ ‘b’. Egs: ደሙ “then”; ሙሉህህደ “teaching.”
-ደ- ə replaces ህ when followed by final ል / ገ . Eg: ልደህህደ = ል+ህህደ “lord.”
It is also used as the final vowel after ገ ‘r’. Eg: ደህደ “O Creator!”
-የ- ē is generally used as final vowel, eg: የሆ “my”; or in the combination ገየ
-ኸ- ḥ is used instead of ገ ‘n’ when followed by a guttural or dental consonant. Egs: ሙሉህህኸ “toe, finger”; ደኸህህደ “how many?”
-ሩ- ḥ follows an ገ ‘i’. Eg: ዓህሩ “country”
-ሠ- W follows ደ ‘ፊ’ and ህ ‘ፍ’. Eg: ሙሉህህሠ “timely.”
-ህ- ṣ is used at the end of words and when followed by ሆ ‘c’ and ሎ ‘t’. Egs: ሙሉህህህህ “best”; ህህህህህ “the mountain.”
-ህ- ṣ is used in the beginning and within a word. Eg: ሙህህ “dawn.”
-ህ- ṣ is used only when followed by ገ ‘y’. Eg: ሙህህህ “blessed.”
-ህ- y is used only within the word.
-ህ- y is used only at the beginning of words.
-ህ- v is used only within the words.
-ህ- v is used only at the beginning of words.

Self study:

Correct the following spellings:

Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Correct
• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د
• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د
• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د

Exercise:

1. Correct the spellings:

• وندک س د		• وندک س د	
• وندک س د		• وندک س د	

II. SANDHI

In Avesta, nouns, adjectives, participles and other parts of speech are formed by adding suffixes to roots. These nouns and adjectives are crude forms. If they have to be used in a sentence, case terminations have to be added to them. In the process of joining suffixes and terminations, letters come into contact, and undergo a change, which is known as **Sandhi** or **Euphony**. Thus, Sandhi is a combination of two or more vowels or consonants resulting in a changed form.¹

Depending on the letters coming in contact, there are two types of Sandhi:

- 1) Vowel Sandhi, in which both the letters are vowels.
- 2) Consonantal Sandhi, in which both the letters are consonants.

When one letter is a vowel and the other a consonant, no change takes place.

1. Vowel Sandhi

There are four types of Vowel Sandhi :

- A. DIRGHA SANDHI,
- B. GUNA SANDHI,
- C. VRIDDHI SANDHI
- D. ANTARGATA SANDHI.

A. DIRGHA SANDHI is a combination of two similar simple vowels resulting in a long vowel:

• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د
• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د
• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د
• وندک س د	• وندک س د	• وندک س د

¹ Exceptional cases, when the rules of vowel Sandhi, do not apply, is called Pragrihya. Eg: • وندک س د – “then”.

Examples:

“for Mazda” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“for Ahura” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“comes towards” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$

D. ANTARGATA SANDHI is the combination of two dissimilar vowels. The first vowel changes into a consonant, and the second vowel remains unchanged.

$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{ن}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ن}}$	$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{ن}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ن}}$	$\underline{\text{ن}} + \underline{\text{ن}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ن}}$
$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{و}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{و}}$	$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{و}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{و}}$	$\underline{\text{و}} + \underline{\text{و}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{و}}$
$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{ئ}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ئ}}$	$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{ئ}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ئ}}$	$\underline{\text{ئ}} + \underline{\text{ئ}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ئ}}$
$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{ئ}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ئ}}$	$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{ئ}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ئ}}$	$\underline{\text{ئ}} + \underline{\text{ئ}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ئ}}$
$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{ئ}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ئ}}$	$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{ئ}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ئ}}$	$\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{ئ}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{ئ}}$

Examples:

“speaking thus” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“opposing” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“Spityura” (King Jamshed’s brother) $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“for the holy (lady)” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“from the body” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“greatly beloved” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“widely flowing water” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“small” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“time” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“with the cow/bull” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“of the cows/bulls” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$
“pain, affliction” $\underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}} \leftarrow \underline{\text{م}}$

Exercise:

1. Fill in the blanks and name the Sandhi:

“indeed, surely” _____ $\leftarrow \underline{\text{م}} + \underline{\text{م}}$	1
---	---

	“speaking in accordance” _____ ← <u>‏</u> ‏ + <u>‏</u> ‏	2
	“approached” _____ ← <u>‏</u> ‏ + <u>‏</u> ‏	3
	“and the women” _____ ← <u>‏</u> ‏ + <u>‏</u> ‏	4
	“for the world” _____ ← <u>‏</u> ‏ + <u>‏</u> ‏	5
	“to be old” _____ ← <u>‏</u> ‏ + <u>‏</u> ‏	6
	“silvern” _____ ← <u>‏</u> ‏ + <u>‏</u> ‏	7
	“spoke forth” _____ ← <u>‏</u> ‏ + <u>‏</u> ‏	8

2. Which Vowel Sandhis involve

a. Similar Vowels : _____

b. Dissimilar Vowels : _____

2. Consonantal Sandhi

When two consonants come together in the formation of a word, the first consonant generally undergoes a change, as per certain rules. This is called Consonantal Sandhi. Some of the important rules of consonantal sandhi are:

Rule 1:

When ‏ / ‏ / ‏ / ‏ / ‏ / ‏ are added to unaspirate Guttural, Palatal and Labial consonants, the latter change to their corresponding aspirate forms. If the consonant does not have a corresponding aspirate form, it changes to ‏.

‏ / ‏ / ‏ / ‏ / ‏ + Aspirate Consonant ← ‏ / ‏ / ‏ / ‏ / ‏ + Unaspirate consonant

Examples:

“poured” ‏‏ ← ‏‏ + ‏‏

“divided; apportioned” ‏‏ ← ‏‏ + ‏‏

Rule 2:

When a dental consonant is followed by ‏-, it changes to ‏. When a dental consonant is followed by ‏ / ‏-, it changes to ‏.

‏‏ ← ‏‏ + ‏‏ / ‏‏ / ‏‏

‏‏ ← ‏‏ + ‏‏ / ‏‏ / ‏‏

Examples:

“dead” ‏‏ ← ‏‏ + ‏‏

Examples:

“veneration” $\text{.m} \leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$

“carrying” $\text{.m} \leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$

Rule 7:

When the last letter of the first word is $\text{)}-$, and the first letter of the second word/termination is $\text{-\text{m}}$, the two letters merge to form m . In this rule the second letter merges with the first, unlike other consonantal sandhis.

$\text{m} \leftarrow \text{-\text{m}} + \text{)}-$

Examples:

“man” $\text{.m} \leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$

“Fravashi – Guardian Spirit” $\text{.m} \leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$

Exercise:

1. Fill in the blanks :

“seed” _____	$\leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$	1
“fever; heat” _____	$\leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$	2
“exhilaration” _____	$\leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$	3
“knowledge” _____	$\leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$	4
“vomitted” _____	$\leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$	5
“rubbed” _____	$\leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$	6
“teaching” _____	$\leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$	7
“righteousness” _____	$\leftarrow \text{m} + \text{m}$	8

2. Give the Avestan word for :

1	“poured”	4	“divided”
2	“venerated”	5	“questioned”
3	“he wears”	6	“carrying”

III. ROOTS & THEIR GRADATIONS

1. Roots

A root is the basic component of a word. From the root, other parts of speech like nouns, adjectives, verbs, participles etc. are formed. In Avesta, a root is **always monosyllabic**, that is, it contains only one vowel. There may or may not be consonants along with the vowel. The number of consonants in a root may vary from one to four.

A root is indicated by the sign ‘√’ and followed by a dash ‘-’. The dash indicates that a root is not a complete word. The meaning of a root or any other word has to be placed in open and closed double inverted commas.

A root by itself is not generally used as a word in a sentence. However, a few roots, indicated by an asterisk (*) in the following list, can be directly used as nouns:

√-م	“to obtain; to value; to go; to move”	√-ج	“to go; to move”
√-عس	“to heat”	√-سج	“to protect”
√-سج	“to rule; to shine”	√-سد	“to bathe”
√-سج	“to work”	*√-سج	“to give; to know; to create”
√-سج	“to burn; to shine”	*√-سج	“to speak”
√-سج	“to do”	*√-سج	“to lie; to hurt; to deceive”
√-سج	“to praise”	*√-سج	“to love”
√-سج	“to wish”	*√-سج	“to think”
√-سج	“to ask, to inquire”	*√-سج	“to join”
√-سج	“to tear”	*√-سج	“to exalt”

Exercise:

1. Give the roots:

1	√-	“to go, to move”	5	√-	“to exalt”
2	√-	“to think”	6	√-	“to praise”
3	√-	“to bathe”	7	√-	“to wish”
4	√-	“to rule; to shine”	8	√-	“to ask, to inquire”

2. Vowel Gradation (Guna and Vriddhi)

We have studied above that every Avestan root has a simple vowel. This simple vowel has two grades Guna and Vriddhi.¹ A root is generally changed to either of the grades before being used in a word, as per the constructional requirement of the word. This

¹ Also referred to as full or zero grades respectively.

change is referred to as vowel gradation.¹ The transformation of a simple vowel into the two grades takes place in the following manner:

SIMPLE VOWEL	GUNA	VRIDDHI
ᵛ	ᵛ	ᵛ
ᵛ / ॠ	ᵛᵛ ²	ᵛᵛᵛ
ᵛ / ॡ	ᵛᵛ ³	ᵛᵛᵛ
ᵛᵛ	ᵛᵛ	ᵛᵛᵛ

Examples :

ROOTS	MEANINGS	GUNA	VRIDDHI
√-ᵛᵛᵛ	“to heat”	-ᵛᵛᵛ	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛ
√-ᵛᵛᵛ	“to think”	-ᵛᵛᵛ	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛ
√-ᵛᵛᵛᵛ	“to rule”	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ
√-ᵛᵛᵛ	“to lie down”	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛ	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ
√-ᵛᵛᵛᵛ	“to hear”	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ
√-ᵛᵛᵛ	“to pound”	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛ	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ
√-ᵛᵛᵛᵛ	“to carry”	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ
√-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	“to rub”	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ

Exercise:

1. Fill in the blanks:

a) The Vriddhi form of √-ᵛᵛᵛᵛ “to go” is _____.

b) The Guna form of √-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ “to ask” is _____.

c) The Guna form of √-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ “to love” is _____.

d) The Vriddhi form of √-ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ “to praise” is _____.

2. Arrange in your note-book the roots studied above in alphabetical order.

3. Give the Guna and Vriddhi forms of the following roots:

	ROOT	GUNA FORM	VRIDDHI FORM
1.	√-ᵛᵛᵛᵛ “to stretch”		

¹ Also known as ablaut grades.

² ॠ in Gathic texts.

³ ॡ in Gathic texts.

2.	√-ⲉⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to spread”		
3.	√-ⲛⲓⲛ “to divide		
4.	√-ⲛⲓ “to lead		
5.	√-ⲛⲓⲛ “to speak”		
6.	√-ⲛⲓⲛ “to nourish”		
7.	√-ⲛⲓⲛ “to hear”		
8.	√-ⲉⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to cross”		

IV. NOUNS

1. Primary and Secondary Nouns

Almost all nouns are formed by adding suffixes to the root. Before taking on the suffix, the roots may have to be graded. A noun thus formed is called a base or crude form, which have to be inflected before being used in a sentence. There are two types of Nouns – Primary Nouns and Secondary Nouns.

1) Primay Nouns: When nouns are formed by adding suffixes to roots, they are called Primary Nouns. There are several suffixes which form primary nouns. The root may have to be graded before adding the suffix. Some primary nouns are:

Root	Noun suffix	Primary Noun
√-ⲉⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to be courageous”	ⲛ	ⲉⲓⲛⲓⲛⲛ “courage”
√-ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to flow”	ⲓⲛ	ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “river”
√-ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to nourish”	ⲓⲛ	ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “food”
√-ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to age”	ⲛⲓⲛ	ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “time”
√-ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to pound”	ⲛⲓⲛ	ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “time of pounding.” Name of the first Geh.
√-ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to throw”	ⲓⲛ	ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “arrow”
√-ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to throw”	ⲓⲛ	ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “existence”
√-ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “to arrange”	ⲓⲛ	ⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓⲛ “truth”

Specific Noun suffixes: Some Primary noun suffixes are used for specific purposes.

a. Suffix **𐬀𐬎-** forms *Agentive nouns*. Egs:

“one who pours libations” chief priest” 𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎¹ ← 𐬀𐬎- + “to pour” √-𐬎𐬎

“one who nourishes; father” 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 ← 𐬀𐬎- + “to nourish” √-𐬎𐬎

b. Suffix **𐬀𐬎-** forms *Neuter nouns* which are indeclinable. Egs:

“a mat”² 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 ← 𐬀𐬎- + “to spread” √-𐬎𐬎

“weapon”³ 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 ← 𐬀𐬎- + “to cut” √-𐬎𐬎

c. Suffix **𐬀𐬎-** forms *Neuter nouns*. Egs:

“a thought” 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 ← 𐬀𐬎- + “to think” √-𐬎𐬎

“throne” 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 ← 𐬀𐬎- + “to sit” √-𐬎𐬎

d. Suffix **𐬀𐬎-** forms *Abstract feminine nouns*. Egs:

“immortality” 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 ← 𐬀𐬎- + “to be immortal” √-𐬎𐬎

“perfection” 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 ← 𐬀𐬎- + “all, entire” 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎

2) Secondary Nouns: When nouns are formed by adding suffixes to nominal bases. They are called Secondary Nouns. Egs:

“Lord of existence” 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 ← 𐬀 + “life; world; existence” 𐬎𐬎

“mankind” 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 ← 𐬎 + “man” 𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎

V. ADJECTIVES

Adjectives in Avesta always agree in gender, number and case with the nouns they qualify. There are two main types of Adjectives – Simple and Derivative.

1. Simple adjectives: They are derived directly from roots. Egs:

Derived from	Adjective
“to be beautiful” √-𐬎𐬎	“beautiful” 𐬎𐬎𐬎
“to be good” √-𐬎𐬎	“good” 𐬎𐬎(𐬎)𐬎 or 𐬎𐬎
“to hasten” √-𐬎𐬎	“swift” 𐬎𐬎

¹ The root is changed to its Guna form.

² Epenthesis.

³ Epenthesis

2. Derivative Adjectives: They are derived from nouns by adding adjectival suffixes like *man-*, *man-*, *yan-*, *yan-*, *yan-*, *yan-* or *yan-* - Egs:

- “material; corporeal” *yan-* ← *yan-* + “bone; matter” *yan-*
- “manly” *man-* ← *man-* + “man” *man-*
- “courageous; strong” *yan-* ← *yan-* + “courage” *yan-*
- “filthy; having pollution” *yan-* ← *yan-* + “dirt, filth” *yan-*

Degrees of Adjectives

The Comparative and Superlative degrees of adjectives are formed by adding terminations to the adjectives. There are two sets of terminations. Generally adjectives ending in *yan-* and *man-* take the first set of terminations and adjectives ending in *yan-* and consonants take the second set. Very rarely an adjective may take terminations from two different sets.

First set: The Comparative degree is formed by adding *man-* and the Superlative degree is formed by adding *yan-* to the adjective. Egs:

Superlative degree	Comparative degree	ADJECTIVE
<i>yan-</i> “strongest.”	<i>man-</i> "stronger"•	“strong” <i>yan-</i>
<i>yan-</i> “most vigorous.”	<i>man-</i> ¹ “more vigorous.”	“vigorous” <i>yan-</i>
<i>yan-</i> “most victorious”	<i>man-</i> “more victorious”	“victorious” <i>yan-</i>

Second set: The Comparative degree is formed by adding *yan-* and the Superlative degree is formed by adding *man-* to the root from which the adjective is derived. Egs:

Superlative degree	Comparative degree	ADJECTIVE
<i>man-</i> “best” <i>yan-</i>	<i>yan-</i> “better” <i>yan-</i>	“good” <i>yan-</i>
<i>man-</i> “swiftest” <i>yan-</i>	<i>yan-</i> “swifter” <i>yan-</i>	“swift” <i>yan-</i>
<i>man-</i> “greatest” <i>yan-</i>	<i>yan-</i> “greater” <i>yan-</i>	“great” <i>yan-</i>

Note that final *yan-* is dropped in the first two adjectives in both the degrees

¹ Phonetic change - final *man-* changes to *yan-*.

Exercise:

1. Fill in the blanks:

1.	“legal” .سدرم راس ← _____ + “law” .سدرم
2.	“righteous” .سدرم ← _____ + “righteousness” .سدرم

2. Give Comparative and superlative degrees with meanings of :

_____ ← _____ ← “holy” .سدرم (I set)

_____ ← _____ ← “near” .سدرم (II set)

VI. GENDERS

The Avesta has three genders – Masculine, Feminine and Neuter. Words designating male and female beings are masculine and feminine respectively. Words designating inanimate objects, abstract nouns and concepts are not always neuter, and may be masculine or feminine. In Avesta genders are grammatical and not natural, that is, they do not always indicate sex.

There is no rule to ascertain the genders. Words designating male and female can be easily identified. Eg.:

Masculine: .سدرم “son”, .سدرم “father”, .سدرم “brother”, .سدرم “man”

Feminine: .سدرم “daughter”, .سدرم “mother”, .سدرم “sister”, .سدرم “a woman”

In some cases, genders may be ascertained by suffixes. Eg.: .سدرم- indicates masculine, .سدرم- and .سدرم- indicate feminine and .سدرم-, .سدرم-, .سدرم-, .سدرم- and .سدرم- indicate neuter genders.

Changing to feminine gender: Masculine and neuter words can be changed to the feminine gender by adding a suffix, depending on the base of the word:

1. When a word ends in .سدرم-, feminine is formed either by adding .سدرم or substituting final .سدرم by .سدرم to it.

Egs: “stronger” .سدرم “strong” .سدرم

“grandmother” .سدرم ← “grandfather” .سدرم

“a demoness” .سدرم ← “a demon” .سدرم

“a ewe” .سدرم ← “a ram” .سدرم

2. When a word ends in ف -, feminine is formed either by adding ة to it.

Egs: “wide” عَاطِفَةٌ ← “wide” عَاطِف

“youthful” شَبَابَةٌ ← “youthful” شَبَاب

3. When a word ends in مَراد - feminine is formed by substituting it by مَرادة -.

Egs.: “greater” أَكْبَرُ ← “greater” أَكْبَرَةٌ

“better” أَحْسَنُ ← “better” أَحْسَنَةٌ

4. When a word ends in any consonant, feminine is formed by adding ة ¹ to it.

Egs.: “filthy” فَسَادٌ ← “filthy” فَسَادَةٌ

“righteous” بِرٌّ ← “righteous” بِرَّةٌ

“nourisher” رِزْقٌ ← “nourisher” رِزْقَةٌ

Exercise:

1. Form the feminine of the following words:

	Masculine	Feminine
1	جَمِيلٌ “beautiful”	
2	جَمِيلٌ “good”	
3	جَمِيلٌ “horse”	
4	مَادِيَةٌ “material”	
5	أَقْوَمٌ “stronger”	

VII. DECLENSIONS

Before using a noun, adjective, participle or pronoun in a sentence, certain terminations have to be added to them. These terminations determine the place of the word in a sentence and serve as preposition/post positions like to, with, for and from. The adding of terminations is referred to as declensions.²

Before the addition of terminations, the nouns, adjectives, participles and pronouns are referred to as **crude forms**. They are categorized on the basis of their last letter (base) and gender. In all, there are eight cases of declensions, each having three numbers – singular, dual and plural.

¹ ة -is added to the weaker base, whenever the word shows two bases.

² This is similar to the eight Kārah in the Hindi language: Kartā – *ne*, Karma – *ko*, Karna – *se*, Sampradān – *ke liye*, Apādān *se*, Sambandh – *kā/ki/ke*, Adhikaran – *me / par*, Sambandh – *are/oh*

1. General Case Terminations

General case terminations is a standard table of terminations. For each base and gender, these terminations slightly vary from case to case:

	CASES	Prepositions, Purpose	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
1	Nominative	Subject	ⲁ- ¹ or ⲁⲘ- ²	Crude form / ⲙ-	ⲁⲙ-
2	Accusative	To, (direct object)	Ⲙ-	Crude form / ⲙ-	ⲁⲙ-
3	Instrumental	by, with, (means or instrument)	Crude form / ⲙ-	ⲙⲓⲛ-	ⲙⲓⲛ-
4	Dative	to, for (indirect object)	ⲙⲓ-	ⲙⲓⲛ-	ⲙⲓⲛ-
5	Ablative	from, (separation)	ⲙⲓⲛ-	ⲙⲓⲛ-	ⲙⲓⲛ-
6	Genitive	Of (possession or relation)	ⲙⲓⲛ- or ⲙⲓⲛ-	ⲙⲓ-	ⲙⲓⲛ- / ⲙⲓⲛ-
7	Locative	in, at, towards, on, (location)	ⲙⲓ, ⲙⲓⲛ-, ⲙⲓⲛ-	ⲙⲓⲛ-	ⲙⲓⲛ- / ⲙⲓⲛ- ⁴ ⲙⲓⲛ- / ⲙⲓⲛ-
8	Vocative	Oh! (direct address)	Crude form / ⲁ-	ⲙ-	ⲁⲙ-

Crude form is used for vowel bases and ⲙ- is added to consonantal bases.

Note:

1. Irregular forms, variations and. exceptions occur in some cases which have not been dealt in this book. Moreover highly irregular bases like ⲛ-, ⲛ- and Ⲙ- have also not been covered. This being a basic book, only the regular forms and cases are provided in the tables that follow.

2. Some nouns like ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ “coin”, ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ “sun”, ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ “strength”, ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ “mouth” and ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ “mat” do not take any case terminations, and are used in sentences in their crude forms. Such words are called **indeclinables**.

3. The paradigms of some of the bases given in the examples that follow are hypothetical. They may not make sense or have any meaning, as all words do not occur in all cases and numbers. For instance, a proper noun may never be in dual or plural.

¹ Used after ⲙ and ⲙ

² Used after ⲛ and ⲛ

³ ⲙ- is used for consonantal bases.

⁴ Used only after ⲛ-, ⲙ-, ⲙ-

2. Vowel Bases

1. Bases ending in u – Masculine

• u “son”

CASES	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
Nominative	• u ¹ The son	• u The two sons	• u ² The sons
Accusative	• u ³ To the son	• u To the two sons	• u To the sons
Instrumental	• u With the son	• u With the two sons	• u With the sons
Dative	• u For the son	• u For the two sons	• u For the sons
Ablative	• u From the son	• u From the two sons	• u From the sons
Genitive	• u Of the son	• u ⁴ Of the two sons	• u Of the sons
Locative	• u ⁵ At/in the son	• u At/in the two sons	• u At/in the sons
Vocative	• u Oh! the son	• u Oh! The two sons	• u Oh! the sons

Some other words of the base u – Masculine

• u “lord”	• u “Haoma” Pr. noun	• u “man”
• u “hand”	• u Mithra - Proper noun	• u “man”
• u “horse”	• u “bliss”	• u “wolf”
• u “immortal”	• u “Mazdayasna”	• u “beneficent”

¹ Final u is retained only if the word is followed by an enclitic particle, as in u , otherwise u —is changed to u .

² In u base and u base the termination u changes to u —on account of complex linguistic rules.

³ Adjectives ending in u change the ending to u

⁴ This is a variation from the general case termination.

⁵ In some cases, like this one, the final vowel is dropped.

2. Bases ending in ۛ – Neuter

• ۛ ۛ ۛ “Righteousness”

CASES	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
Nominative	• ۛ ۛ ۛ	• ۛ ۛ ۛ	• ۛ ۛ ۛ
Accusative	• ۛ ۛ ۛ	• ۛ ۛ ۛ	• ۛ ۛ ۛ
Instrumental to Locative cases take the terminations as in ۛ – Masculine.			
Vocative	• ۛ ۛ ۛ	• ۛ ۛ ۛ	• ۛ ۛ ۛ

Some other words of the base ۛ – Neuter.

• ۛ ۛ ۛ “law”	• ۛ ۛ ۛ ۛ “kingdom”	• ۛ ۛ ۛ ۛ ۛ “friendship”
• ۛ ۛ ۛ ۛ “propitiation”	• ۛ ۛ ۛ “house”	• ۛ ۛ ۛ ۛ “action”
• ۛ ۛ or • ۛ ۛ “evil”	• ۛ ۛ ۛ ۛ “untimely”	• ۛ ۛ ۛ ۛ “best”

Note: There are no cases ending in ۛ – Feminine.

Exercise:

1. Give the declensions with meanings of • ۛ ۛ ۛ Base: _____ Meaning: “ _____ ”

CASES	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL

3. Bases ending in ۛ – Masculine

• ۛ ۛ ۛ “All-knowing”

CASES	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	• ۛ ۛ ۛ	• ۛ ۛ ۛ ۛ
Accusative	• ۛ ۛ ۛ	• ۛ ۛ ۛ ۛ

Instrumental	•سوس	•سوسرد
Dative	•سوسر	•سوسردر
Ablative	•سوسر	•سوسردر
Genitive	•سوسر	•سوسردر
Locative	•سوسر	•سوسردر
Vocative	•سوسر ¹	•سوسردر

Some other words of the base •س- Masculine

•سوسر "evil giving"	•سوسر "intellect-giving"
•سوسر "promise-breaker"	•سوسر "righteousness-giving"
•سوسر "good giving"	•سوسر "warrior"

4. Bases ending in س- Feminine

•سوسر "Weapon"

CASES	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
Nominative	•سوسر	•سوسرد	•سوسردر
Accusative	•سوسر	•سوسرد	•سوسردر
Instrumental	•سوسرد	•سوسردرد	•سوسردردر
Dative	•سوسردر	•سوسردردر	•سوسردردردر
Ablative	•سوسردر	•سوسردردر	•سوسردردردر
Genitive	•سوسردر	-	•سوسردردر
Locative	•سوسردر	-	•سوسردردر
Vocative	•سوسر	•سوسرد	•سوسردر

Note: ردر/رد is added to the singular bases from Instrumental to Locative.

Some other words of the base س- Feminine.

•سوسر "religion; conscience"	•سوسر "brave"	•سوسر "libation"
•سوسر "Gāthā; song"	•سوسر "maiden"	•سوسر "tongue"
•سوسر "world"	•سوسر "fairy"	•سوسر "plant"

¹ Irregular form.

• 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀 “eye”	• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 “woman”	• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎 “woman”
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Note: There are no cases ending in 𐬎 – Neuter.

Exercise:

1. Give the cases, numbers and meanings of the following words:

	Case	Number	Meaning
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎𐬎			

2. Give the Avesta words for

Meanings	Avesta word
Of righteousness	
With two hands	
Of the religion	
From the house	
For the warriors	
The two kingdoms	
For the two horses	

5. Bases ending in 𐬰 – Masculine

𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌 “Mountain”

CASES ⁷	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
Nominative	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌
Accusative	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌
Instrumental	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌
Dative	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌
Ablative	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌
Genitive	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	-	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌
Locative	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	-	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌
Vocative	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌

Some other words of the base 𐬰 – Masculine

𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌 “lord” ¹	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌 “A Zoroastrian”	𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌 “serpent”
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6. Bases ending in 𐬱 – Feminine

Bases ending in 𐬱 – Feminine are declined in the same way as 𐬰 – Masculine

However there is no Dual number and no Locative case.

Some words of the base 𐬱 – Feminine:

𐬱𐬀𐬎𐬌 “blessing”	𐬱𐬀𐬎𐬌 Ārmaiti “right-minded”	𐬱𐬀𐬎𐬌 “dwelling”
𐬱𐬀𐬎𐬌 “strength”	𐬱𐬀𐬎𐬌 “Guardian Spirit”	𐬱𐬀𐬎𐬌 “capability”

7. Bases ending in 𐬲 – Neuter

𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌 “Light”

CASES	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
Nominative	𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌
Accusative	𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌
Instrumental to Locative cases take the terminations as in 𐬰 – Masculine.			
Vocative	𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌	𐬲𐬀𐬎𐬌

¹ It is declined irregularly.

Some other words of the base ʾ- Neuter.

• ڤڤاڤا “prosperity”	• ڤڤاڤا “intellect”	• ڤڤاڤا “eye”
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8. Bases ending in ʾ- Masculine

• ڤڤاڤا “animal”

CASES	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
Nominative	• ڤڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا
Accusative	• ڤڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا
Instrumental	• ڤڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا
Dative	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا
Ablative	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا
Genitive	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	-	• ڤڤاڤاڤا
Locative	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا
Vocative	• ڤڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا

Some other words of the base ʾ- Masculine

• ڤڤاڤا (ڤڤا) “good”	• ڤڤاڤا “wind”	• ڤڤاڤا “protection”
• ڤڤاڤا “arm”	• ڤڤاڤا “India”	• ڤڤاڤا (ڤڤا) “life; world; lord”

Note: ʾ- base Mas. words ending in ڤڤا- like ڤڤاڤا “lord”, ڤڤاڤاڤا “wisdom”, ڤڤاڤاڤا “place” and ڤڤاڤاڤا “sorcerer” have a weaker form (-ڤڤاڤا), -ڤڤاڤاڤا, -ڤڤاڤاڤا, -ڤڤاڤاڤا) in the following bases: Instrumental, Dative, Genitive and Locative singular, and Genitive plural.

9. Bases ending in ʾ- Feminine

• ڤڤاڤا “body”

Bases ending in ʾ- Feminine are declined in the same way as ʾ- Masculine from Nominative to Dative. There is no Dual number.

Ablative	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا
Genitive	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا
Locative	• ڤڤاڤاڤا	• ڤڤاڤاڤا

Vocative	مَدِينَا	مَدِينَتُنَا
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Some words of the base ى – Feminine

مَدِينَتُنَا “country”	مَدِينَتُنَا “pollution”
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10. Bases ending in ى – Neuter

مَدِينَتُنَا “Wood”

CASES	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
Nominative	مَدِينَتُنَا	مَدِينَتُنَا	مَدِينَتُنَا
Accusative	مَدِينَتُنَا	مَدِينَتُنَا	مَدِينَتُنَا
Instrumental to Locative cases take the terminations as in ى – Masculine.			
Vocative	مَدِينَتُنَا	مَدِينَتُنَا	مَدِينَتُنَا

Other word of the base ى – Neuter: مَدِينَتُنَا “broad”

3. Consonantal Bases

The rules for forming declensions of bases ending in consonants are somewhat different from Vowel bases. Though the same general case terminations are appended to both, there are certain differences:

1) Some consonantal bases have Changeable and Unchangeable forms. Changeable bases have strong and weak forms. The Nominative and Accusative forms are considered strong and the rest are weak. Some Vocatives and plurals of Instrumental, Dative and Ablative cases may either be strong or weak. Unchangeable bases include a single letter or cluster of letters where bases end in suffixes like }^uḡ-, ṽ^uḡ- and ḡ^uḡ-

2) The final letter or group of letters is dropped in some cases (Nominative and Vocative singulars, Instrumental, Dative and Ablative plurals).

3) In Instrumental singular forms, ^u- is added to the base, unlike in vowel bases where the crude forms are generally used.

Apart from the declensions of bases given below there are other bases which are quiet irregular and hence not given in this book. They are : ḡ- base, ṽ- base and ^u- base.

1. Bases ending in ḡ(^uḡ)- Masculine

•ḡ^uḡ^uḡ (st); •ḡ^uḡ (wk) “Carrying”

CASES	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	•ḡ ^u ḡ	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ
Accusative	•ḡḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ
Instrumental	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ
Dative	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ
Ablative	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ
Genitive	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ	•ḡḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ
Locative	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ
Vocative	•ḡ ^u ḡ	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ

(Note: Dative and Ablative singular and Accusative to Genitive and Vocative plural can also take on the strong base.)

Some other words of the base ḡ(^uḡ)- Masculine

•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ “coming, going”	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ “conquering”
•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ “ruling”	•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ “living”
•ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ / •ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ ^u ḡ “evil; wicked”	

Another word of the base **•(m)**– Neuter: **•m** “material; corporeal”

4. Bases ending in }– Masculine

•m (st); **•m** (wk) “Righteous, holy”

CASES	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
Nominative	•m	•m	•m
Accusative	•m	•m	•m
Instrumental	•m	–	•m
Dative	•m	–	•m
Ablative	•m	–	•m
Genitive	•m	–	•m
Locative	•m	–	–
Vocative	•m	–	•m

Some other words of the base }– Masculine:

•m (st);	•m (st);	•m (st);
•m (wk) “priest”	•m (wk) “soul”	•m (wk) “youth”

5. Bases ending in }– Feminine

•m “A maiden”

CASES	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	•m	•m
Accusative	•m	•m
Instrumental	•m	•m
Dative	•m	•m
Ablative	•m	•m
Genitive	•m	•m
Locative	–	–
Vocative	–	–

Another word of the base }– Feminine : **•m** (st); **•m** (wk) “night”
(Note: Here Instr. to Gen. singular & Nom., Accus.& Gen. plural take the weak base.)

6. Bases ending in } (𐎠𐎥) – Neuter

𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺 “Creation”

CASES	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	𐎠𐎥𐎢	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺
Accusative	𐎠𐎥𐎢	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺
Instrumental	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺𐎠
Dative	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺𐎠	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺𐎠
Ablative	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺𐎠
Genitive	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺
Locative	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺𐎠
Vocative	–	–

Some other words of the base } (𐎠𐎥) – Neuter.

𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺 “Ceremonial implement.”	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺𐎠 “eye”	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺 “name”
	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺 “joy”	𐎠𐎥𐎢𐎺𐎠 “friend”

7. Bases ending in } (𐎠) – Masculine

𐎠𐎢𐎺 “Man”

CASES	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
Nominative	𐎠𐎢	𐎠𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎢𐎺
Accusative	𐎠𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎢𐎺
Instrumental	𐎠𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎢𐎺𐎠	𐎠𐎢𐎺𐎠
Dative	𐎠𐎢𐎺𐎠	𐎠𐎢𐎺𐎠	𐎠𐎢𐎺𐎠
Ablative	𐎠𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎢𐎺𐎠	𐎠𐎢𐎺𐎠
Genitive	𐎠𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎢𐎺
Locative	𐎠𐎢𐎺	–	–
Vocative	𐎠𐎢	𐎠𐎢𐎺	𐎠𐎢𐎺

Another word of the base } (𐎠) – Masculine : 𐎠𐎢𐎺 “star”

10. Bases ending in ທ(ນ)– Neuter

• ທນ ທ “Mind, thought”

CASES	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	• ທນ	• ທນ
Accusative	• ທນ	• ທນ
Instrumental	• ທນ ທນ	• ທນ ທນ
Dative	• ທນ ທນ ທນ	• ທນ ທນ ທນ
Ablative	• ທນ ທນ ທນ	• ທນ ທນ ທນ
Genitive	• ທນ ທນ ທນ	• ທນ ທນ ທນ
Locative	• ທນ ທນ	• ທນ ທນ
Vocative	• ທນ	• ທນ

Some other words of the base ທ(ນ)– Neuter:

• ທນ ທນ “word”	• ທນ ທນ “darkness”
• ທນ ທນ “homage”	• ທນ ທນ “light”
• ທນ ທນ “strength”	• ທນ ທນ “divine energy”
• ທນ ທນ “harm, injury”	

Note: Apart from the regular bases of declensions given above, there are other bases like ດ–, ທ– and ທ–, mostly with irregular forms.

Exercise :

1. Give the case, number and meaning of the following words:

	Case	Number	Meaning
• ທນ ທນ			
• ທນ ທນ ທນ			
• ທນ ທນ ທນ ທນ			
• ທນ ທນ ທນ ທນ			
• ທນ ທນ ທນ ທນ			
• ທນ ທນ ທນ ທນ			
• ທນ ທນ ທນ ທນ ທນ ທນ			

Instrumental	•ደገሥጦም; •ሥጦም “with him”	•ደገሥጦሎም “with them”
Dative	•ገሥጦህ; •ገሥጦህ; •ገሥጦህ “for him”	•ገሥጦህሎም “for them”
Ablative	•ደገሥጦም “from him”	•ገሥጦህሎም “from them”
Genitive	•ገሥጦህ; •ገሥጦህ “his”	-
Locative	-	-
Vocative	-	-

Third Personal Pronoun – Feminine •ሥጦም “she ”

CASES	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	•ሥጦም; •ሥጦህ “she”	•ደገሥጦህ; •ሥጦም “they”
Accusative	•ገሥጦህ “to her”	•ደገሥጦህ; •ሥጦም “to them”
Instrumental	-	-
Dative	•ገሥጦህ; •ገሥጦህ “for her”	-
Ablative	-	-
Genitive	•ገሥጦህ “her”	-
Locative	-	-
Vocative	-	-

Third Personal Pronoun – Neuter •ደገሥጦም “it ”

CASES	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	•ደገሥጦም “it”	•ሥጦም “they”
Accusative	•ደገሥጦም “to it”	•ሥጦም “to them”

The rest of the cases are same as Third Personal Pronoun – Masculine.

2. Demonstrative Pronoun:

Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Meaning
•ደገሥጦም	•ሥጦም	•ደገሥጦም	“this, that”
•ደገሥጦም	•ሥጦም	•ደገሥጦም	“that”
•ደገሥጦም	•ሥጦም	•ደገሥጦም	“this”
•ደገሥጦም or •ደገሥጦም	-	-	“this”

3. Relative Pronoun: “which, who”

•ደገሥጦም (Masculine); •ሥጦም (Feminine); •ደገሥጦም / •ደገሥጦም (Neuter)

4. Reflexive Pronoun : “self”

•ደገሥጦም or •ደገሥጦም (Masculine & Neuter) “self, himself, itself”

•ሥጦም or •ሥጦም (Feminine) “self, herself”

5 Interrogative Pronoun : “who, when, what, which, why ?”

•م (Masculine); •م (Feminine); •م (Neuter)

6. Pronominal Adjectives:

Masculine & Neuter	Feminine	Meaning
•م	•م	“every, all ”
•م	•م	“other, another”
•م	•م	“whole, entire”

Note: All pronouns have to be declined before being used in a sentence.

Self Study: Declined forms of pronoun which occur in basic Zoroastrian prayers:

Word	Pronoun	Case	Number	Meaning
•م	Demonstrative & Personal	Dative	Singular	For /unto this; unto him”
•م	Relative	Accusative	Singular	Who
•م	Interrogative	Accusative	Singular	Who, which?
•م	Relative	Nominative	Singular	Who
•م	Relative	Dative	Singular	For whom
•م	Interrogative	Dative	Singular	For whom?
•م	Relative	Genitive	Singular	Of / among whom
•م	Reflexive	Genitive	Singular	Of the self
•م	Pronominal Adjective	Genitive	Plural	Of / among all
•م	Pronominal	Accusative	Singular	To another

Exercise:

1. Identify the types of pronouns and its gender and give its meaning:

Word	Type of pronoun	Gender	Meaning
•م			
•م			
•م			
•م			
•م			

IX. NUMERALS

The numerals in Avesta are expressed only in words. There are no figures to indicate the numerals. The following are the Cardinal and Ordinal Numbers. All numerals have to be declined before being used in a sentence.

CARDINAL NUMBERS

•محلل One	•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Sixteen
•محلل Two	•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Seventeen
•محلل Three	•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Eighteen
•محلل مدهم Four	•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Nineteen
•محلل مدهمدهم Five	•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Twenty
•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Six	•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Thirty
•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Seven	•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Forty
•محلل مدهمدهم Eight	•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Fifty
•محلل مدهمدهم Nine	•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Sixty
•محلل مدهمدهم Ten	•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Seventy
•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Eleven	•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Eighty
•محلل مدهمدهمدهم Twelve	•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Ninety
•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Thirteen	•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Hundred
•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهمدهم Fourteen	•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Thousand
•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهمدهم Fifteen	•محلل مدهمدهمدهمدهم Ten-thousand

ORDINAL NUMBERS

They signify order of occurrence. They are derived from cardinal numbers.

.მანაქმე First	.მამცხე Twelfth
.მანაქ Second	.მამცხეც Thirteenth
.მანაქც Third	.მამცხეცამ Fourteenth
.მანაქმ Fourth	.მამცხეცამე Fifteenth
.მანაქმე Fifth	.მამცხეცამეც Sixteenth
.მანაქმეც Sixth	.მამცხეცამეცამე Seventeenth
.მანაქმეცამ Seventh	.მამცხეცამეცამეც Eighteenth
.მანაქმეცამე Eighth	.მამცხეცამეცამეცამე Nineteenth
.მანაქმეცამეც Ninth	.მამცხეცამეცამეცამეც Twentieth
.მანაქმეცამეცამეც Tenth	.მანაქმეცამეცამეცამეც Thirtieth
.მამცხეცამეცამეცამე Eleventh	

Exercise:

1. Transliterate into Avesta, and identify the declined forms of ordinal numbers therein :
 bityō vqθwyō, θrityō ava-tanuyō, tūirya aša vahišta, puxδa vīspa vohū mazdaδāta aša-
 ciθra, xšt̥vō yaḡ ahmi xratuš, haptaθō xratumā ašt̥mō yaḡ ahmi cištiš, nāumō cistivā.

Transliteration: _____

Ordinal Numbers:

Second:

Third:

Fourth:

Fifth:

Sixth:

Seventh:

Eighth:

Ninth:

X. VERBS

Verbs are words that show action. In Avesta, the verbs indicate numbers, person, tense and sometimes also associated auxiliary verbs. They are formed by adding terminations to roots, after the later are modified into bases by applying certain rules.

Verbal terminations indicate one of the three numbers - Singular, dual or plural. They also indicate one of the three personal forms - First, second or third. The terminations denoting persons in different numbers are called *personal verbal terminations*.

The verbs are conjugated in two voices:

1. *Parasmaipada* (literally voice or step for another).¹ It implies that the action of the verb, or its consequence tends to a person or thing other than the agent.
2. *Atmanepada* (literally voice or step for one's self).² It implies that the action of the verb, or its consequence, is confined to the agent. Atmanepada is sometimes used to express passive voice.

Generally the two *padas* does not express any particular meaning or nuance while being translated. Most roots are conjugated both in Parasmaipada and Atmanepada. Rarely, a root like $\sqrt{-\text{𐬀𐬀𐬀}}$ are conjugated in one *pada* only.

Conjugation of verbs:

The verb is conjugated in eight tenses or moods, subdivided in two groups as follows:

A. Conjugational or Special Tenses and Moods : The Personal terminations of these four forms are added to specially inflected bases formed according to the rules of Ten classes of conjugation. Hence they are also called Special Tenses and Moods. They are:

1. Present Tense
2. Imperfect Tense (Generally signifies Past Tense)
3. Imperative Mood (Signifies order or command)
4. Potential Mood (Signifies Request)

B. Non- Conjugational or General Tenses and Moods: The Personal terminations of each of these four forms are added to a base formed by one general rule applied to all roots. Hence they are also called General Tenses and Moods.

1. Future Tense
2. Perfect Tense
3. Aorist Tense (Signifies Past Perfect Tense)
4. Precative or Benedictive Mood (Signifies Blessings)

1. Ten Classes of Conjugation

Every Avestan root belongs to one of the ten classes of Conjugation. A special base, referred to as a tense stem, is formed from the root, depending on the class to which it belongs. To this stem, the terminations of Conjugational Tenses and Moods are added. The ten classes are sub-divided into Thematic and Non-thematic (or athematic) Classes.

¹ It is also referred to as Active voice

² It is also referred to as Middle voice

Rarely, a root may belong to more than one class and thus form their base in more than one way. For Eg: $\sqrt{-\text{ክህ}}$ “to hide, to conceal” belongs to Class I as well as Class VI.

Self study:

1. Give the bases of the following roots according to the ten classes of Conjugation.:

Root	Base
$^1\sqrt{-\text{ቅ}}$ “to become”	-መገኘ
$^4\sqrt{-\text{ጸይህ}}$ “to beseech”	-መገጸይህ
$^6\sqrt{-\text{ደገጽ}}$ “to ask”	-መደገጽ
$^3\sqrt{-\text{ወ}}$ “to see”	(st)-ወገዘ, (wk)-ወወ
$^4\sqrt{-\text{ገላ}}$ “to pass; to flow”	-መገላ
$^2\sqrt{-\text{ገላድ}}$ “to praise”	(st)-ገላድ, (wk)-ገላ
$^5\sqrt{-\text{ገባ}}$ “to hear”	(st)-ገባድ, (wk)-ገባ
$^7\sqrt{-\text{ቅርጽ}}$ “to cut”	(st)-ቅርጽ, (wk)-ቅርጽ
$^{10}\sqrt{-\text{ገባረ}}$ “to learn”	-መገባረ
$^5\sqrt{-\text{ገላረ}}$ “to pound”	(st)-ገላረ, (wk)-ገላረ
$^8\sqrt{-\text{ገላረ}}$ “to stretch”	(st)-ገላረ, (wk)-ገላረ
$^4\sqrt{-\text{ጸይህ}}$ “to fight”	-መገጸይህ
$^9\sqrt{-\text{ገላረ}}$ “to procreate” (evil)	-መገላረ
$^7\sqrt{-\text{ገላረ}}$ “to think”	(st)-ገላረ, (wk)-ገላረ

¹ ለ- before the terminations ገላ-, ገላ-, ገላረ-, ገላረ.

2. Conjugational Tenses and Moods

The conjugational tenses and moods are formed by adding the respective personal verbal terminations to the base formed according to the rules of Ten Classes of Conjugation.

1. Present Tense

Personal Verbal terminations of PRESENT TENSE are added to the base of the root, formed according to the rules of ten classes of Conjugation.

Parasmaipada

	Singular	Dual	Plural
I Person	ገራ-	ገራገራ--	ገራገራገራ-
II Person	ገራህ-	-	ገራህ- ¹
III Person	ገራ-	ገራገራ- ²	ገራገራ(ገራ)- ³

Atmanepada

	Singular	Plural
I Person	ገራ-	ገራገራገራገራ-
II Person	ገራህ-	ገራገራገራገራ-
III Person	ገራ-	ገራገራ(ገራ)-

Self study: 1. Paradigm of ገራገራ “to carry”.

Class I, base -ገራ

Parasmaipada

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
I	ገራገራገራ ⁴ “I carry”	ገራገራገራገራገራ “We two carry”	ገራገራገራገራገራ “We carry”
II	ገራገራህ “Thou carriest”	-	ገራገራህ “You carry”
III	ገራገራገራ “He/she/it carries”	ገራገራገራገራ “They two carry”	ገራገራገራ(ገራ) “They carry”

Atmanepada

Person	Singular	Plural
I	ገራገራገራ “I carry”	ገራገራገራገራገራ “We carry”
II	ገራገራህ “Thou carriest”	ገራገራገራገራገራ “You carry”

¹ Also ገራ-

² Also ገራገራ-

³ The vowels ገ/ገ, given in brackets, are used when the tense stem is not ending in ገ-

⁴ Terminations starting with ገ / ገ and followed by a vowel, change the final ገ- of the tense stem to ገ-

III	“He/she/it carries” . 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀	“They carry” . 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀
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2. Conjugation / Paradigm of $\sqrt{-\text{to be}}$ in Present Tense,¹ with meanings.

Class II, Base $-\text{to be}$

Parasmaipada¹

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
I	. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀 “I am”	-	. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀 “We are”
II	. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀 “Thou art”	-	. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀 “You are”
III	. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀 “He/she/it is”	. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀 “They two are”	. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀 “They are”

3. Meaning and explanation of some Present tense forms:

. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀: Present Tense, Parasmaipada, 1st Person, Plural from $\sqrt{-\text{to love}}$,
Class 9, base $-\text{to love}$ “We love”

. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀: Present Tense, Parasmaipada, 1st Person, Singular from $\sqrt{-\text{to be}}$ “to be”, Class 2,
base $-\text{to be}$ “I am”

. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀: Present Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Plural from $\sqrt{-\text{to be}}$ “to be”,
Class 2, base $-\text{to be}$ “They are”

. 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀: “We venerate” Present Tense, Atmanepada, 1st Person, Plural from
 $\sqrt{-\text{to venerate}}$ “to venerate”, Class 6, base $-\text{to venerate}$

4. Avesta equivalents of English words:

We two carry : . 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀 Present Tense, Parasmaipada, 1st Person, Dual from
 $\sqrt{-\text{to carry}}$ “to carry”, Class 1, base $-\text{to carry}$

He crosses : . 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀 Present Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from
 $\sqrt{-\text{to cross}}$ “to cross”, Class 10, base $-\text{to cross}$

They two fight: . 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀𐬵𐬀 Present Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Dual from
 $\sqrt{-\text{to fight}}$ “to fight”, Class 4, base $-\text{to fight}$

¹ The conjugated forms of this root are irregular. Its inflected forms are found only in the Parasmaipada.

2. Imperfect Tense

IMPERFECT TENSE is formed by adding its Personal Verbal terminations to the base of the root, formed according to the rules of ten classes of Conjugation. Imperfect Tense is generally used to indicate Past tense. However, it may also indicate an action without reference to time and it can be general, past or future.

Parasmaipada

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
I	၆-	မၤ)-	မၤ၆-
II	သ-	-	မၤလ-
III	ဋ-	၆၆လ-	}){ξ) ¹

Atmanepada

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
I	ၵ-	-	ၵၵမၤ၆-
II	မၤဗ-	-	၆၆ဃၤ၆-
III	မၤလ-	ၵၵမၤၵ-	မၤမၤန့(မ)-

Self study:

1. Conjugation / Paradigm of $\sqrt[4]{\text{ဝေဃ်}}$ “to beseech” in Imperfect Tense, with meanings.

Parasmaipada

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
I	•၆၆ၵၵဝေဃ် “I beseeched”	•မၤၵၵဝေဃ် “We two beseeched”	•မၤမၤဝေဃ် “We beseeched”
II	•ၵၵဝေဃ် “Thou beseeched”	-	•မၤမၤဝေဃ် “You beseeched”
III	•ဋဝေဃ် “He/she/it beseeched”	•၆၆လဝေဃ် “They two beseeched”	•}){ξဝေဃ် “They beseeched”

Atmanepada

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
I	•ၵၵဝေဃ် “I beseeched”	-	•ၵၵမၤမၤဝေဃ် “We beseeched”
II	•မၤမၤဝေဃ် “Thou beseeched”	-	•၆၆ဃၤမၤမၤဝေဃ် “You beseeched”
III	•မၤမၤဝေဃ် “He/she/it beseeched”	•ၵၵမၤမၤဝေဃ် “They two beseeched”	•မၤမၤန့(မ)ဝေဃ် “They beseeched”

¹ The final vowel မ is replaced by ξ in Thematic classes. In Non-Thematic classes ξ is used before the personal verbal termination.

2. Meaning and explanation of some Imperfect tense forms:

• **•ዳዎዳ**: “He created/gave” Imperfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from

³√-ዳ “to create / to give”, Class 3, base -ዳ

• **•ዳዳኅ**: “He asked” Imperfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from

⁶√-ዳኅ “to ask”, Class 6, base -ዳኅ

• **•ዳዳ**: “They carried” Imperfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Plural from

¹√-ዳ “to carry”, Class 1, base -ዳ

3. Avesta equivalents for English words:

Thou carried : • **ዳዳ** Imperfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 2nd Person, Singular from

¹√-ዳ “to carry”, Class 1, base -ዳ (ዳ ← ዳ+ዳ)

He spoke: • **ዳዳ**: Imperfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from

²√-ዳ “to speak”, Class 2, base -ዳ

He venerated : • **ዳዳ** Imperfect Tense, Atmanepada, 3rd Person, Singular from

⁶√-ዳ “to venerate”, Class 6, base -ዳ

3. Imperative Mood

Personal Verbal terminations of IMPERATIVE MOOD are added to the base of the root, formed according to the rules of ten classes of Conjugation. Imperative Mood is used to express order or command. It is expressed by using modal auxiliary verbs like ‘should’ and ‘must’.¹

Parasmaipada

Person	Singular	Plural
I	ዳ-	ዳ-
II	ዳ-(non-thematic). No termination in thematic classes.	ዳ-
III	ዳ-	ዳ(ዳ)-

Atmanepada

Person	Singular	Plural
I	ዳ-	ዳዳ-
II	ዳ(ዳ)- ²	ዳዳ ³
III	ዳ-	ዳዳ(ዳ)-

¹ In some cases, the imperative, especially second person, is used to denote advise, request, threat, invitation, determination or desire

² ዳ(ዳ) in the Gathas.

³ ዳዳ in the Gathas.

Self study:

1. Conjugation / Paradigm of $\sqrt{-\xi}$ “to carry” in Imperative Mood, with meanings.

$\sqrt{-\xi}$ “to carry”, Class 1, base - द

Parasmaipada

Person	Singular	Plural
I	“I must carry” दु	“We must carry” दुम
II	“Thou must carry” दु ¹	“You must carry” दुम
III	“He/she/it must carry” दु	“They must carry” दुम

Atmanepada

Person	Singular	Plural
I	“I must carry” दु	“We must carry” दुम
II	“Thou must carry” दु	“You must carry” दुम
III	“He/she/it must carry” दु	“They must carry” दुम

2. Meaning and explanation of some Imperative Mood forms:

दु : “He should speak” Imperative Mood, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from

$\sqrt{-\text{श}}$ “to speak”, Class 2, base - द

4. Potential Mood

POTENTIAL MOOD is formed by adding its Personal Verbal terminations to the base of the root, formed according to the rules of ten classes of Conjugation.² Potential Mood implies the potentiality or possibility of the action to be performed. It is expressed by using modal auxiliary verbs like ‘can, could, may or might.’

Parasmaipada

Person	Singular		Plural	
	Thematic Cl.	Non-thematic Cl.	Thematic Cl.	Non-thematic Cl.
I	दु	दुम	दुम	दुम
II	दु	दुम	दुम	दुम
III	दु	दुम	दुम	दुम

¹ Since the root belongs to thematic class, no termination is added.

² The Potential mood Thematic terminations are regarded as those of Imperfect tense prefixed with an – , and Non- Thematic terminations as those of Imperfect tense prefixed with a– .

Atmanepada

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
I	•••	–	•••••
II	•••••	–	•••••
III	•••	•••••	••••• ¹

Self Study:

1b. Conjugation / Paradigm of $\sqrt{\text{to venerate}}$ in Potential Mood.²

Atmanepada

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
I	••• “I may venerate”	–	••••• “We may venerate”
II	••••• “Thou mayest venerate”	–	••••• “You may venerate”
III	••• “He/she/it may venerate”	••••• “They two may venerate”	••••• “They may venerate”

Exercise:

1. Make an alphabetical list of all the roots studied by you.
2. Give the Tense/Mood, pada, person, number and base of the following words:

<u>Verbs</u>	<u>Meanings and roots</u>	<u>Tense/Mood, pada, person and number</u>
•••••	“Dost Thou show”, from $\sqrt{\text{to show}}$ “to show”	
•••••	“He should speak”, from $\sqrt{\text{to speak}}$ “to speak”	
•••••	“He should come”, from $\sqrt{\text{to come}}$ “to come”	
•••••	“He created/gave”, from $\sqrt{\text{to give / create}}$	
•••••	“He spoke” from $\sqrt{\text{to speak}}$ “to speak”	
•••••/ •••••	“Thou should be banished”, from $\sqrt{\text{to flee}}$ “to flee”	Imperative Mood, Parasmaipada, 2 nd person, singular

¹ Also •••••

² $\sqrt{\text{to venerate}}$ is conjugated in Atmanepada only.

2. Perfect Tense

The Perfect Tense is used more in the Gathic dialect and very sparsely in rest of the scriptures. It indicates the state arrived at as a result of an action. The Perfect tense is formed by reduplicating the root and then adding the following terminations:

Parasmaipada

	Singular	Dual	Plural
I Person	ॡ-	-	ॡॢ-
II Person	ॡॣ-	-	ॡ-
III Person	ॡ-	ॡॢॡॡ-	ॡॢ-

Atmanepada

	Singular	Dual	Plural
I Person	ॡॣ-	-	-
II Person	ॡॣॡ-	-	-
III Person	ॡॣॡ- / ॡॣॡ-	ॡॣॡॡ-	ॡॢ-

Egs: ॡॢॡॡॡॡ ॡॢ “he has / had formed.” Perfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person,

Singular from √-ॡॢ “to form.” Base -ॡॢॡॡ

ॡॢॡॡ ॡॢ “we have / had heard.” Perfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 1st Person, Plural from

√-ॡॢ “to hear.” Base -ॡॢॡ

ॡॢॡॡॡॡ ॡॢ “they two have / had worked.” Perfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd

Person, Dual from √-ॡॢ “to work.” Base -ॡॢॡॡ

3. Aorist Tense

The word Aorist indicates an indefinite tense. It may denote past, present or future time. It is also used to indicate the completion of an action in its entirety. The Aorist tense is generally found in the Gathic dialect. It is generally translated as Imperfect tense.¹

There are four ways in which the base of the Aorist Tense is formed. All the four forms take on the terminations of Imperfect Tense only:

1. Root Aorist : It is formed by adding the terminations of Imperfect Tense directly to the root. Egs: ॡॢॡ “we gave.” Root Aorist, Parasmaipada, 1st Person, Plural from

√-ॡ “to give.”

ॡॢॡ “we believed.” Root Aorist, Atmanepada, 1st Person, Plural from √-ॡ “to believe.”

¹ In several instances the imperfect and the aorist are used indiscriminately (See Kanga, p.311)

2. **𐬨 Aorist:** It is formed by adding **𐬨-** to the root, and then adding the terminations of Imperfect Tense.

Egs: **𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “he became.” **𐬨 Aorist, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular** from **𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “to become.”

𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀 (or **𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀**) “he did.” **𐬨 Aorist, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular** from **𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “to do.”

3. **𐬨 Aorist:** It is formed by adding **𐬨-** to the root, and then the terminations of Imperfect Tense are added.

Egs: **𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “he stood.” **𐬨 Aorist, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular** from **𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “to stand.”

𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀 “I gave, I dedicated.” **𐬨 Aorist, Atmanepada, 1st Person, Singular** from **𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “to give.”

4. **Reduplicated Aorist:** It is formed by reduplicating the root, and then adding the terminations of Imperfect Tense.

Eg: **𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “he showed.” **Reduplicated Aorist, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular** from **𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “to show.”

4. Precative or Benedictive Mood

The Precative or Benedictive Mood is used in the Avesta, when blessings or benedictions are to be showered. It is formed by adding the following terminations directly to the root.

Parasmaipada

Person	Singular	Plural
I	𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
II	𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
III	𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀

Egs: **𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “mayest thou be.” **Precative Mood, Parasmaipada, 2nd Person, Singular** from **𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “to become.”

𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀 “may we be.” **Precative Mood, Parasmaipada, 1st Person, Plural** from **𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “to become.”

𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀 “mayest thou give.” **Precative Mood, Parasmaipada, 2nd Person, Singular** from **𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀** “to give.”

Atmanepada

In Precative Mood, verbal forms of only 3rd Person Plural دندد are met with:

• دندد “may they be.” Precative Mood, Atmanepada, 3rd Person, Plural from

$\sqrt{\text{د}}$ “to become.”

• دندد “may they reach.” Precative Mood, Atmanepada, 3rd Person, Plural

from $\sqrt{\text{د}}$ “to reach.”

Subjunctive Mood: Over and above the 8 Tenses and Moods, the *Subjunctive mood*, is used to either express wish and expectation or for emphasis. It is formed by adding ـ to the verbal stem and then the terminations of Present or Imperfect tense are added.

Eg: دندد : “He asked” Imperfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from

$\sqrt{\text{د}}$ “to ask”, Class 6, base دندد

Exercise:

1. Give with meanings the grammatical notes of the following words studied by you in this chapter:

• دندد :

• دندد :

• دندد :

• دندد :

• دندد :

• دندد :

• دندد :

3. Perfect Participle

The Perfect participle, is formed by reduplicating the root and then adding $\text{st}\text{-(st)}$ or wk for Parasmaipada; and st for Atmanepada.

Egs:

- wk or st “has known.” Perfect participle parasmaipada from $\sqrt{\text{-know}}$ “to know” (-know is the condensed form of -know)
- “has held.” Perfect participle atmanepada from $\sqrt{\text{-hold}}$ “to hold”

4. Past Participle

Past participle passive: It is formed by adding st directly to the root. Sometimes the root may be gunated. Egs:

- “done” . From $\sqrt{\text{-do}}$ “to do”
- “died.” Past participle passive from $\sqrt{\text{-die}}$ “to die.”
- “formed.” Past participle passive from $\sqrt{\text{-form}}$ “to form.”
- “dead.” Past participle passive from $\sqrt{\text{-pass away}}$ “to pass away.”

Very rarely st is also used instead of st to form Past participle passive.

Egs:

- “filled.” Past participle passive from $\sqrt{\text{-fill}}$ “to fill.”
- “exhausted.” Past participle passive from $\sqrt{\text{-exhaust}}$ “to exhaust.”

Past participle active is formed by adding st to Past participle passive.

Egs:

- “has worked.” Past participle active from $\sqrt{\text{-work}}$ “to work.”
- “propitious” st Past participle active from $\sqrt{\text{-propitious}}$ “to be propitious.”

Self study:

1. Identify the participle, and give the meaning, roots and base of the following words :

- “beseeching” Present Participle Parasmaipada from $\sqrt{\text{-beseech}}$ “to beseech”
- “creating” Present/Perfect Participle Atmanepada from $\sqrt{\text{-create}}$ “to create”
- “bound” Past Participle Passive from $\sqrt{\text{-bind}}$ “to bind”

- d. $\cdot\text{දැමැ$ “carrying” Present Participle Parasmaipada from $\sqrt{-\text{දැ}}$ “to carry”
- e. $\cdot\text{ගො$ “has gone” Perfect Participle Parasmaipada from $\sqrt{-\text{ගො}}$ “to go”
- f. $\cdot\text{සැ$ “spoke” Past Participle Passive from $\sqrt{-\text{සැ}}$ “to speak”
- g. $\cdot\text{සැ}$ (wk) or $\cdot\text{සැ}$ (st) “has created.” Perfect participle parasmaipada from $\sqrt{-\text{සැ}}$ “to create”

2. Give with meanings the following participle forms :

- a. Present participle Atmanepada from ${}^2\sqrt{-\text{පැ}}$ “to praise” : $\cdot\text{පැ}$ “praising.”
- b. Present participle Parasmaipada from ${}^5\sqrt{-\text{සැ}}$ “to hear”: $\cdot\text{සැ}$ “hearing.”
- c. Perfect participle Atmanepada from $\sqrt{-\text{සැ}}$ “to forsake”: $\cdot\text{සැ}$ “has been forsaken.”
- e. Past participle passive from $\sqrt{-\text{සැ}}$ “to venerate” : $\cdot\text{සැ}$ “venerated.”

XIII. DERIVATIVE VERBS

Derivative Verbs are used to form special bases or tense stems modify or alter the meaning of the root. Then the personal verbal terminations of conjugational tenses and moods are attached. There are five derivative verbs:

1. Frequentative or Intensive verb
2. Desiderative Verb
3. Denominative or Nominal Verb
4. Causal Verb
5. Incohative Verb

1. Frequentative or Intensive verb

It is used to signify the repetition or intensity of the action denoted by the root.

The base is formed in 3 ways as follows:

A. By reduplicating the root.

Eg.: $\cdot\text{සැ}$ “We frequently do” Frequentative Verb, Present tense, Parasmaipada, 1st Person, Plural from $\sqrt{-\text{දැ}}$ “to do”

B. By adding ආ- to the reduplicated root.

Eg.: $\cdot\text{සැ}$ “He frequently interrupted” Frequentative Verb, Imperfect tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from $\sqrt{-\text{සැ}}$ “to cross, to intercept”

C. By adding ආආ- to the reduplicated root.

- a. •ညီမာမာရမ္မာမာ “he caused to know, he made known, he informed.” Causal Verb, Imperfect tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from √-ဂ္ဂ “to know”
- b. •လူတို့ကုသကုသ “they send down, they distribute.” Causal Verb, Present tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Plural from √-ဧဇ “to cross”. With prefix -ဂ္ဂ
- c. •လူကုသကုသ “He causes to hear, he chants” from √-ဂ္ဂ “to hear”

5. Incohative Verb

The incohative verb indicates the beginning of an action. It is formed by adding မာ- to the root. Egs.:

- a. •ညီမာမာ “he began to grow warm.” Incohative Verb, Imperfect tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from √-မာ “to heat”
- b. •ညီမာမာ “he began to proceed.” Incohative Verb, Imperfect tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from √-ဂ္ဂ “to go”
- c. •လူကုသကုသ “it begins to wane” Incohative Verb, Present tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Singular from √-ဧဇ “to wane”

Exercise:

1. Give the formations of Derivative Verbs in a tabulated form :

Derivative Verb	Modification of root (if any)	Termination (if any)
Frequentative		
Desiderative		
Denominative		
Causal		
Incohative		

XIV. PARTICLES

Particles enhance the meaning and sense of the other parts of speech like the Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs and Participles. Particles can be classified into Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions and Prefixes. Except for a few Adverbs, particles are not declined. There are several particles which can be used either as adverbs, prepositions or prefixes.

1. Adverbs

There are two types of Adverbs:

- A. Adverbs formed from nouns, adjectives and participles, which are generally declined.

•ماددلا “at will”	•ماددلا “long”	•ماددلا “truly, surely”
•ماددلا “aright, truly”	•ماددلا “clearly, visibly”	•ماددلا “inside”
•ماددلا “far”	•ماددلا “outside”	•ماددلا “immediately”
•ماددلا, •ماددلا “for ever, for eternity”		

- B. Adverbs of manner, place and time, which are generally not declined.

•ماددلا, •ماددلا “as, just as, in which manner”	•ماددلا “before”
•ماددلا, •ماددلا, •ماددلا “how, how much, in what manner?”	•ماددلا, •ماددلا “when?”
•ماددلا, •ماددلا “thus, so, in this manner”	•ماددلا “always”
•ماددلا, •ماددلا, •ماددلا “then, thereupon”	•ماددلا “whenever”
•ماددلا “there”	•ماددلا, •ماددلا “now”
•ماددلا, •ماددلا “indeed, surely, certainly”	•ماددلا, •ماددلا “around, about, except”
•ماددلا “after”	•ماددلا “above, on”
	•ماددلا “no”; •ماددلا “not”

2. Prepositions

In Avesta, prepositions are generally inbuilt in the declined forms of nouns, adjectives, participles and pronouns. Hence they are not often used separately in an Avestan sentence. When prepositions are separately used, they are meant to determine the case more precisely. They generally precede the words they govern. If they occur after the word, they are referred to as post-positions. Many prepositions are also used as prefixes, in which case they are attached to the word.

•ماددلا “on, around, upon, from, after, near”	•ماددلا “on”
•ماددلا “on, about, for, concerning”	•ماددلا “beneath, under”
•ماددلا “agreeable to, in accordance”	•ماددلا “to, near, down, off”

•ደጋፎ “along with, together with”	•ጠገጠ “away”
•ጠጠጠ “over, across, through”	•ጠ “near, towards, upto, at”
•ጠጠጠጠ “from, for”	•ጠጠጠጠ “with”

3. Conjunctions

Conjunctions or conjunctive particle show association between two words, phrases or sentences. Some common conjunctive particles are:

•ጠ/ጠጠጠ “also, even, moreover, though”	•ጠጠ “and”
•ጠጠጠጠጠ; ጠጠጠጠጠ “if, although”	•ደጋጋ, •ደጋ “but”
•ጠጠ; •ደጋጋጠ “because”	•ጠጠጠ “or”

Enclitic Conjunctions:

Enclitic conjunctions always cling on to one of the two words that they connect.

•ጠጠ “and” is an enclitic particle which joins two words or sentences. •ደጋጋ “etcetera” is an indefinite particle. It gives an idea of related things connected to the word it clings to.

4. Prefixes

A Prefix is a particle placed before nouns, adjectives, participles or verbs. They either negate, modify or emphasise the meaning of the word. A prefix may or may not be conjoined to the word. Prefixes which are not conjoined to the word are referred to as separable prefix. Some common prefixes are:

-ጠጠ, -ጠጠ, -ጠጠ, -ጠ ¹ Implies negation, want of. “no, not without, away”		
-ጠጠጠ, -ጠጠጠ “forth, forwards, excessive, prominent, out of, free from”		
-ጠጠጠ, -ጠጠጠ “apart, separate from, contrary to, away, against”	-ጠጠጠጠጠጠ “between”	
-ጠጠጠጠ, -ጠጠጠጠ, -ጠጠጠጠ “together, with, completely, wholly”	-ጠጠጠጠጠ, -ጠጠጠጠጠ “far away”	
-ጠጠጠጠ, -ጠጠጠጠጠ “over, across, away, opposite, evil”	-ጠጠጠጠ “with, together with, including”	-ጠጠጠጠጠጠ “back, again, near, nearby, towards”
-ጠጠጠጠጠ “round about, around”	-ጠጠጠጠጠጠ “high, upwards; out; exclusive of”	-ጠጠጠ “after, along, according to”
-ጠጠጠጠጠ, -ጠጠጠጠጠ “sufficiently, abundantly”	-ጠጠ “to, at, towards, near”	-ጠጠጠጠ “near, by down, away, towards”
-ጠጠጠጠጠ, -ጠጠጠጠጠ “towards, upon, around”	-ጠጠጠጠ, -ጠጠጠጠ “bad, evil, contemptible”	-ጠጠጠጠ “full of, around, behind, near, in on”
-ጠጠጠ “good, well, beautiful, proper”		

¹ -ጠጠ is used before consonants and -ጠጠ before vowels..

XV. SOME GRAMMATICAL RULES

1. Reduplication

Reduplication is the rule, wherein the consonant in a root before the vowel and the vowel are doubled according to certain rules.

All roots belonging to the third class of conjugation have to be reduplicated while forming the base. Some grammatical forms like Perfect Tense, Perfect Participle, Frequentative Verb and Desiderative Verb require the root to be reduplicated to form the base.

Though technically any root can be reduplicated, only a select few belong to the third class of conjugation.

Rules for reduplicating the root:

1. Guttural Consonants are prefixed by their corresponding palatal ones. Egs:

Root	Meaning	Reduplicated form (strong)	Reduplicated form (weak)
√-}مذ	“to dig”	-}مذمذ	-}مذم
√-ء)ءذ	“to do”	-ء)ءذء)ءم	-
√-عسع	“to come; go”	-عسعسم	-عسم

2. Aspirate consonants are prefixed by their corresponding unaspirate forms. Egs:

Root	Meaning	Reduplicated form (strong)	Reduplicated form (weak)
√-ا)سحس	“to please”	-ا)سحس	-ا)سحسم

3. The long vowel is substituted either by short vowel or corresponding diphthong. Egs:

Root	Meaning	Reduplicated form (strong)	Reduplicated form (weak)
³ √-اوس	“to give, create”	-اوساوس	-اوسا
³ √-اوس	“to see”	-اوساوسا	-اوسا

4. When the root begins with two consonants only the first consonant, in its unaspirated form, is used in the reduplicative syllable. Egs:

Root	Meaning	Reduplicated form (strong)	Reduplicated form (weak)
√-ا)سح	“to fill, increase”	-ا)سحسح	-
√-ا)سح	“to nourish”	-ا)سحسح	-
√-ا)سح	“to hear”	-ا)سحسح	-

5. -𐬀𐬎 and -𐬀𐬌 are substituted by -𐬀 as the reduplicative syllable. Eg:

Root	Meaning	Reduplicated form (strong)	Reduplicated form (weak)
√-𐬎𐬎	“to stand”	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬎	-
√-𐬎𐬌	“to see”	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎	-

6. The first consonant and vowel are repeated. Egs:

Root	Meaning	Reduplicated form (strong)	Reduplicated form (weak)
√-𐬎𐬌𐬎	“to form”	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎	-
√-𐬎𐬌𐬎	“to work”	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎	-

2. Compounds

When two words come together to form a new word, it is referred to as a compound. The first component of a compound may be a noun, pronoun, adjective, participle, numeral or root, and the second component may be a noun, participle or a root. Such a compound is treated as one word. The compound expresses various relations which may exist between the two components.

In Avesta, though compounds generally have two components, rarely compounds with three or four components are also found.

The meaning of the compound invariably expresses something more than the individual components. For instance, 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎 “country” and 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎 “lord” when joined into a compound word becomes 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎-𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎 “master of the country.”

When the first component of a compound is a noun ending in 𐬀𐬎-, 𐬀𐬎-, 𐬀-, 𐬀-, these letter/s generally change to 𐬀-For instance,

“teachings of Ahura” 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎-𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎 ← 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎

There are four types of compounds:

1. Determinative Compound: The second component of the compound tells us about the first component. For instance, 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎-𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎 “master of the house.”

2. Attributive Compound: An Attributive compound tells us something more than each of the individual components of the compound. This compound is generally used as an adjective.

For instance, “creations originating from Asha” 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎-𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎 ← “origin” 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎 + “Asha” 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎

XVI. TRANSLATION

1. Syntax - Formation of Sentences

After learning the Avestan alphabets, joining and words, we now study the formation of a sentence in Avesta. The rules governing arrangement of words in a sentence is referred to as Syntax. The following are integral parts of a sentence:

1. Nouns, Adjectives, participles, numerals and pronouns which are declined.
2. Particles such as adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions which lend clarity to a sentence. Particles are generally not declined .
3. Verbs, indicating the tense, mode (use of auxiliary verbs like may, can, could, should, has, have, let etc.), person and number.

Example of an Avestan sentence:

∴.𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀 .𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀 .𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀 “Then Ahura Mazda said.”

•𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀 “Then” Particle (Adverb)

•𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀 “Said” Verb

•𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀 .𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀 “Ahura Mazda” Noun.

Some syntax rules to be observed while forming a sentence in Avesta:

1. There are no articles (a, an, the) in Avesta.
2. Generally, in a sentence, the subject comes first, then the object and finally the verb. Certain verbs precede the subject and the object. However, when the object or the verb (like *aoxtaa*, *mraoŋ* and *pərəsaŋ*) is to be emphasized, it generally precedes the subject.
3. Adjectives and participles agree in gender, number and case with the noun or pronoun they qualify.
4. Pronouns agree in gender, number and person with the noun for which they stand.
5. Adjectives generally follow the noun they qualify. However there are exceptions to this rule. Adjectives signifying size always come before the nouns they refer to.
6. Pronominal and numeral adjectives come before the nouns they qualify.
7. The verb agrees in the number and person with its subject. However, collective nouns take a verb in the singular.

Following are a few sentences from Avesta into English, and from English into Avesta. Most of them have been gleaned from texts like Khordeh Avesta, Yasna and Videvdād.

ETYMOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WORDS

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Topic & Ch.	Grammar	Etymology
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	With propitiation	Noun	Declension - VII.2.2	Instr. Sing.	𐬨𐬀 + √-𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Of Ahura	Proper Noun	Declension - VII.2.1	Gen. Sing.	𐬨𐬀 + 𐬎𐬌 + √-𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Of Mazda	Proper Noun	Declension - VII.2.3	Gen. Sing.	𐬨𐬀 + 𐬎𐬌 + 𐬎𐬎𐬀
With propitiation of Ahura Mazda					
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Asha	Proper Noun	Declension - VII.2.2	Nom. Sing.	𐬨𐬀 + √-𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Good	Adjective	Adjective-V.I - Declension - VII.2.10	Acc. Sing.	
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Vahishta	Adjective as Proper Noun	Declension - VII.2.2	Nom. Sing.	Sup. Degree of 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Is	Verb	Present Tense- XI.2.1	3rd Pers. Sing.	√-𐬎𐬎𐬀
Asha Vahishta is good					
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Bliss	Noun	Declension - VII.2.1	Nom. Sing. ¹	𐬨𐬀 + √-𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	is	Verb	Present Tense- XI.2.1	3rd Pers. Sing.	√-𐬎𐬎𐬀
It is Bliss					
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Bliss	Noun	Declension - VIII.2.1	Nom. Sing.	𐬨𐬀 + √-𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Unto him	Dem. Pronoun ²	Pronouns - VIII	Dat. Sing.	From 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Who	Relat. Pron.	Pronoun - VIII	Nom. Sing.	Another form of 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Asha	Proper Noun	Declension - VII.2.2	Dat. Sing.	𐬨𐬀 + √-𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	Vahishta	Adjective as Proper Noun	Adjective-V.I - Declension - VII.2.2	Dat. Sing.	Sup. Degree. of 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀	righteous	Proper Noun	Declension - VII.2.2	Nom. Sing.	𐬨𐬀 + √-𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀
Bliss unto him who (is) righteous for (the sake of) Asha Vahishta.					

¹ This is an irregular form.

² In this case Demonstrative Pronoun is used as third Personal Pronoun.

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Topic & Ch.	Grammar	Etymology
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛ	Just as	Particles	Adverb XIV.1	-	-
• ۛۛۛۛ	The lord	Noun	Declension - VII.2.5	Nom. Sing. ۛ	ۛ+ ۛ-ۛۛۛ
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ	At will	Adjective	Declension - VII.2.1	Gen. Sing.	ۛۛۛۛ+ۛ-ۛۛۛ
• ۛۛۛۛ	So	Noun	Adverb XIV.1	-	
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛ	The spiritual leader	Noun	Declension - VII.2.5	Nom. Sing.	ۛۛ+ ۛ-ۛۛۛ
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ	From Asha and other (such Principles)	Sandhi – Noun – Particles	Sandhi – II.2 Declension - VII.2.2 Conjunctions - XIV.3	Ablat . Sing.	ۛۛۛۛ+ۛۛۛ+ۛ-ۛۛۛ
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛ	From	Particles	Conjunctions - XIV.3	-	

Just as the lord (rules) at will so (does) the spiritual leader from (the power emanating) from Asha and other such principles.

• ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ	Of Vohu	Adj. used as Proper Noun	Declension - VII.2.10	Gen. Sing.	-
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛ	The lord	Sandhi Noun	Sandhi II.2 Declension - VII.2.2	Nom. Plu. ²	ۛۛ+ ۛ-ۛۛۛ
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ	Of Manah	Proper Noun	Declension - VII.3.10	Gen. Sing.	
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ	Of actions	Roots - Noun	Vowel Gradation III.2 Declension - VII.2.2	-	ۛۛۛ+ ۛ- ۛۛۛۛ
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ	Of life	Noun	Declension - VII.2.10	Gen. Sing.	
• ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ	Unto Mazda	Compound– Proper Noun	Compounds– X Declension - VII.2.3	Dat. Sing.	ۛۛۛ+ۛۛۛۛ

The gift of Vohu Manah (comes to him who dedicates) actions of life unto Mazda.

¹ This is an irregular form

² This is an irregular form

• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	And Power	Particles, Noun	Declension - VII.2.1- Conjunctions XIV.3	Acc. Sing.	-
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎	For Ahura	Proper Noun	Declension - VII.2.1	Dat. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀	To	Particle	Preposition - XIV.2	-	-
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎	Who	Pronoun	Pronoun VIII.	-	
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Unto the deserving needy	Noun	Declension - VII.2.5	Dat. Plu.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Gives	Verb	Imperfect Tense - XI.2.2	3 rd Pers. Sing.	Reduplicated form of 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Help	Agentive Noun	Sandhi - II.2 Declension - VII.3.8	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
And the helper to (him) who (is) a deserving needy person gives power for Ahura.					

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Topic & Ch.	Grammar	Etymology
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	I profess	Verbs-Particles	Imperative Mood - XI.2.3 Prefixes - XIV.4	1 st Pers. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Mazdayasnan	Proper Noun	Declension - VII.2.1 Compound - X.	Dat. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀 + 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Follower of Zarathushtra	Adjective	Adjective-V.I - Declension - VII.2.5	Nom. Sing.	Adj. from Noun
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Abstaining from evil	Adjective-Particles	Adjective-V.I - Declension - VII.2.2 Prefixes - XIV.4	Dat. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Following Ahura's teachings	Adjective-Compound	Adjective-V.I - Declension - VII.2.2 -	Dat. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀 + 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Topic & Ch	Grammar	Etymology
With propitiation, veneration, invocation, propitiation and glorification of blessed, strong Sraosha, having the body made of Manthra, having a strong spear, belonging to Ahura.					

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Grammar book Topic & Ch.	Grammar	Etymology
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀	Just as	Particles	Adverb XIV.1	-	-
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭	The lord	Noun	Declension - VII.2.5	Nom. Sing. ¹	𐬀 + √-𐬎𐬭
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬎𐬭	At will	Adjective	Declension - VII.2.1	Gen. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬭 + 𐬀𐬎𐬭
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬎𐬭	The Chief priest	Agentive Noun	Noun - IV.1 Declension - VII.3.8	Nom. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬭 + √-𐬀𐬎𐬭
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭	Forth	Particle	Prefix (Separable) - XIV.4	-	
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭	Unto me	Personal Pronoun	Pronouns VIII	Dat. Sing.	
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬎𐬭	He speaks	Verb	Present Tense - XI.2.1	3 rd Pers. Sing	√-𐬀𐬎𐬭

The chief priest speaks forth unto me “*yaθā ahū vairyō.*”

• 𐬀𐬎𐬭	So	Particle	Adverbs XIV.1	-	
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬎𐬭	The spiritual leader	Noun	Declension - VII.2.5	Nom. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬭 + √-𐬀𐬎𐬭
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬎𐬭	From Asha and other (such Principles)	Sandhi - Noun - Particles	Sandhi - II.2 Declension - VII.2.2 Conjunctions - XIV.3	Ablat. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬭 + 𐬀𐬎𐬭 + √-𐬀𐬎𐬭
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭	From	Particles	Conjunctions - XIV.3	-	
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭	Forth	Particle	Prefix - XIV.4	-	
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬎𐬭	Righteous	Adjective	Adjective V.1	Nom. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬭 + 𐬀𐬎𐬭 + √-𐬀𐬎𐬭
• 𐬀𐬎𐬭𐬀𐬎𐬭	Wise	Participle	Perfect Participle XII.3 Declension -	Nom. Sing.	

¹ This is an irregular form

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Grammar book Topic & Ch.	Grammar	Etymology
			VII.3.9		
• 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵	He shall speak	Verb	Imperative Mood XI.2.3.	3 rd Pers. Sing	√-𐬀𐬵
The learned wise one (assisting priest) shall speak forth <i>aṭhā ratuṣ aṣāṭ ciṭ hacā.</i> ”					

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Topic & Ch	Grammar	Etymology
• 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵	Sraosha	Roots - Noun	Vowel Grad. -III.2 Declension - VII.2.1	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵 + √-
• 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵	Blessed	Adjective	Adjective-V.1 Declension - VII.2.2	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵 + 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵
• 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵	Well grown	Particles- Roots- Adjective	Prefix- XIV.4 Adjective-V.1 Declension - VII.2.2	Acc. Sing.	𐬀- + √- 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵
• 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵	Victorious	Adjective	Adjective-V.1 Declension - VII.3.4	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵 + 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵
𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵 - 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵 • 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵	Prospering the world	Participle-Compound	Present Participle - XII.1 Declension - VII.2.4 Compounds - X.	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵 + 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵
• 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵	Righteous	Adjective-Sandhi	Adjective-V.I Declension - VII.3.4	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵 + 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵
• 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵	Of righteousness	Noun - Sandhi	Sandhi - II.2 Declension - VII.2.2	Gen. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵 + √- 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵
• 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵	Lord	Noun	Declension - VII.2.8	Acc. sing	𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵 = 𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬀𐬵

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Topic & Ch	Grammar	Etymology
• 𐬨𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	We venerate	Verb	Present Tense- XI.2.1	1st Pers. Plu.	√-𐬎𐬎𐬀
We venerate blessed, well-grown, victorious Sraosha, prospering the world, righteous, Lord of Righteousness.					

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Grammar book Topic & Ch.	Grammar	Etymology
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Ahuna	Proper Noun	Declension VII.2.1	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀+ √-𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Vairya	Proper Noun	Adjective- V.I - Declension VII.2.1	Acc. Sing.	
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Body	Noun	Declension VII.2.8	Acc. Sing.	+√
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	Protects	Verb	Present Tense- XI.2.1	3rd Pers. Sing.	√
Ahuna Vairya protects the body.					

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Topic & Ch.	Grammar	Etymology
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	And veneration	Noun - Particles	Declension VII.2.1 Conjunctions XIV.3	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀+𐬎𐬎𐬀-+ √-𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	And invocation	Noun - Particles	Declension VII.2.1 Conjunctions XIV.3	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀+𐬎𐬎𐬀-+ √-𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	And strength	Noun - Particles	Declension VII.2.8 Conjunctions XIV.3	Acc. Sing.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀+𐬎𐬎𐬀- +√-𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	And vigour	Noun-Sandhi Particles	Sandhi – II.1 Declension VII.2.8 Prefixes - XIV.4 Conjunctions XIV.3	Indeclinable.	𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀-+𐬎𐬎𐬀- +√-𐬎𐬎𐬀
• 𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀	I pray	Verb	Present Tense- XI.2.1	1 st Pers. Sing.	√-𐬀𐬎𐬎𐬀(𐬀)

Word	Meaning	Part of speech	Topic & Ch.	Grammar	Etymology
I pray (for the) veneration, invocation, strength and vigour of blessed, strong Sraosha, having the body made of Manthra, having a strong spear, belonging to Ahura.					

Translation of Srosh Bāj.

With propitiation of Ahura Mazda.

Asha Vahishta (Best Righteousness) is good. It is Bliss. Bliss unto him who (is) righteous for (the sake of) Asha Vahishta.

Just as the lord (rules) at will so (does) the spiritual leader on account of (the power emanating from) Asha and relative principles. The gift of Vohu Manah (comes to him who dedicates) actions of life unto Mazda. And (he) who helps a deserving needy person gives power to Ahura.

I profess to be a Mazdayasna (who is a) follower of Zarathushtra, abstaining from evil (and) following Ahura's teachings. For veneration, invocation, propitiation and glorification unto righteous Hāvani, Lord of righteousness, and for veneration, invocation, propitiation and glorification unto righteous Sāvanghi and Visya, Lord(s) of righteousness.

With propitiation, veneration, invocation, propitiation and glorification of blessed, strong Sraosha, having the body of Manthra, a strong spear, belonging to Ahura.

The chief priest speaks forth unto me “*yaθā ahū vairyō.*”

The learned wise one (assisting priest) shall speak forth *aθā ratuš ašāt ciṭ hacā.*”

We venerate blessed, well-grown, victorious Sraosha, prospering the world, righteous, Lord of Righteousness.

Ahuna Vairya protects the body.

I pray (for the) veneration, invocation, strength and vigour of blessed, strong Sraosha, having the body of Manthra, a strong spear, belonging to Ahura.

QUESTION BANK

First Semester

Ch. I. THE AVESTAN ALPHABET

1. Give the Avesta alphabet with transcription in its phonetic divisions.

2 Write the following in Roman script:

- .սսսսս .ճրք .ճասսսս .սսսս .սսս .հննն .հ .հ .հ (a)
 .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս
 :: .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս
 .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս (b)
 .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս
 .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս
 :: .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս .սսսս

b) Write the following in Avestan script :

(a) *kā vərəθrəm jā θwā pōi sēnhā yōi həntī*
ciθrā mōi dəm ahūmbīš ratūm ciždī
aṭ hōi vohū sraošō jaṅtū mananḥā
mazdā ahmāi yahmāi vaštī kahmāicīṭ.

(b) *ašəm vohū vahištəm astī*
uštā astī uštā ahmāi
hyaṭ ašāi vahištāi ašəm.

3. Transliterate:

āyese yešti āfravaši ahurahe mazdā aməšanəm spəntanəm maṭ vīspābyō aša
onibyō fravaīšibyō yā mainyavanəm yazatanəm. āyese yešti āfravaši gayahe
marəθnō zaraθuštrahe spitāmahe kavōiš vīštāspahe isaṭ.vāstrahe zaraθuštr
ōiš maṭ vīspābyō ašaonibyō fravaīšibyō yā paoiryanəm tkaēšanəm.

Ch.II SANDHI

1. Fill in the blanks :

_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎	_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎
_____ = 𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎	_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎
_____ = 𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎	_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎
_____ = 𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎	_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎
_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎	_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎
_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎	_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎
_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎	_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎
_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎	_____ = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎
𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎 = _____ + 𐬀𐬎	𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎𐬀𐬎 = 𐬀𐬎 + 𐬀𐬎 - _____

2. Explain giving examples any six rules of Consonantal Sandhi.

Ch. III. ROOTS & THEIR GRADATIONS

1. Give any eight roots along with their grades and meanings.
2. Explain giving examples how Vowel Gradation is formed in Avesta.
3. Give the meanings along with Guna and Vriddhi forms of the following roots:

- a) $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎 e) $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎
- b) $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎 f) $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎
- c) $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎 g) $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎
- d) $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎 h) $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎

4.

Guna form of $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎 is _____	Vrddhi form of $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎 is _____
Vrddhi form of $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎 is _____	Vrddhi form of $\sqrt{-}$ 𐬀𐬎 is _____

•လှည့်ကမက •နိမိတ် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်
 •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်

6. Write a note on Conjugational Tenses and Moods.
7. Give the paradigms of √-နိမိတ် with meanings in Present Tense Parasmaipada.
8. Explain giving meaning, the grammatical formation of the following words:
 •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်

Ch. XII. PARTICIPLES

1. Explain giving examples how the following are formed:
 Future Participle - Present Participle – Perfect Participle

Ch. XIII. DERIVATIVE VERBS

1. Explain giving two examples each, how Derivative Verbs are formed.

Ch.XVI. TRANSLATION

1. Transliterate **and** Translate :

∴ အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်
 ∴ အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်
 ∴ အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်
 ∴ အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်
 ∴ အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်
 ∴ အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်
 ∴ အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင် •အိမ်ထောင်

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ch.I.4.2

•အိမ်ထောင်	•အိမ်ထောင်	•အိမ်ထောင်
•အိမ်ထောင်	•အိမ်ထောင်	•အိမ်ထောင်

Ch.I.4.3

kām	tanūm	baoda
ahmāi	nəmaṅh	pairi

1. •ඉච්ඡ	2. •ආලමුආක	3. •ආලමුමල	4. •ආලමුමලාන
5. •ආලමුමලාන	6. •ආල	7. •ආලමුමලාන	8. •ආලමුමලාන

Ch.II.1.2

a. Dirgha Sandhi	b. Guna Sandhi, Vriddhi Sandhi and Antargata Sandhi.
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Ch.II.2.1

1. •ආලමුමල	2. •ආලමුමල	3. •ආලමුමල	4. •ආලමුමල
5. •ආලමුමල	6. •ආලමුමල	7. •ආලමුමල	8. •ආලමුමල

Ch.II.2.2

1. •ආලමුමල	2. •ආලමුමල	3. •ආලමුමල
4. •ආලමුමල	5. •ආලමුමල	6. •ආලමුමල

Ch.III.1.1

1. √-ආ	2. √-ආක	3. √-ආක	4. √-ආක
5. √-ආක	6. √-ආක	7. √-ආක	8. √-ආක

Ch.III.2.3

a)-ආක	b)-ආක	c)-ආක	d)-ආක
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Ch.III.2.3

	GUNA FORM	VRIDDHI FORM		GUNA FORM	VRIDDHI FORM
1	-ආක	-ආක	5	-ආක	-ආක
2	-ආක	-ආක	6	-ආක	-ආක
3	-ආක	-ආක	7	-ආක	-ආක
4	-ආක	-ආක	8	-ආක	-ආක

Ch.V.1.

1. ආක	2. ආක
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Ch. V.2.

Superlative degree	Comparative degree	
“holiest” .ආක	“holier” .ආක	1
“nearest” .ආක	“nearer” .ආක	2

Ch.VI.1

1. ۰د(ا)س	2. ۰ک(ا)س	3. ۰س	4. ۰س	5. ۰س
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Ch.VII.4.1

Word	Case	Number	Meaning
۰س	Dative	Singular	“for the religion”
۰س	Ablative	Singular	“from the Gathas”
۰س	Locative	Singular	“in the worlds”
۰س	Instrumental/Dative /Ablative	Dual	“with/for/from the two eyes”
۰س	Nominative/Accusative	Plural	“to the /the evil giving ones”
۰س	Genitive	Plural	“of the warriors”
۰س	Accusative	Singular	“to the friend”
۰س	Genitive	Plural	“of the actions”
۰س	Genitive	Singular	“of the law”
۰س	Nominative	Singular	“The Mithra”
۰س	Genitive	Plural	“of the Ameshas / immortal ones”
۰س	Genitive	Plural	“of the Spentas / beneficent ones”

Ch.VII.4.2. Give the Avesta words for

	Avesta word
Of righteousness	۰س
With two hands	۰س
Of the religion	۰س
From the house	۰س
For the warriors	۰س
The two kingdoms	۰س
For the two horses	۰س

Ch. VII.3.10.2

Word	Case	Number	Meaning
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Nominative	Singular	“going”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴𐎠𐎢𐎽	Dative	Singular	“for the wicked”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴𐎠𐎢𐎽	Ablative	Singular	“from the eye”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Instrumental	Singular	“with the fire”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴𐎠𐎢𐎽	Genitive	Plural	“of the stars”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴𐎠𐎢𐎽	Dative	Singular	“for the injury”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴𐎠𐎢𐎽	Dative	Singular	“for the friend”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴𐎠𐎢𐎽	Genitive	Plural	“of the nights”
𐎧𐎡𐎴𐎠𐎢𐎽	Dative	Singular	“for the eternity”

Ch. VIII.1

Word	Type of pronoun	Gender	Meaning
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Pronominal Adjective	Masculine	“all”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Third Pers. Pronoun (Instrumental Plural)	Masculine	“with them”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Reflexive Pronoun	Feminine	“herself”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Pronominal Adjective	Masculine	“whole”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Demonstrative Pronoun	Neuter	“this”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Relative Pronoun	Masculine	“Who. which”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Third Pers. Pronoun (Nom & Acc. Singular)	Neuter	“it / to it”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Demonstrative Pronoun	Feminine	“that”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Third Pers. Pronoun (Accusative Singular)	Feminine	“to her”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	Interrogative Pronoun	Feminine	“Who, what?”
• 𐎧𐎡𐎴	First Pers. Pronoun (Dative & Genitive Singular)	-	“for me / my”

Ch. IX.1

<i>bityō</i> “second”	<i>xš tvō</i> “sixth”
<i>θrityō</i> “third”	<i>haptaθō</i> “seventh”
<i>tūrya</i> “fourth”	<i>aštāmō</i> “eighth”
<i>puxda</i> “fifth”	<i>nāumō</i> “ninth”

Ch. XI.3.4

• కామకరణః : “he will work.” Future Tense, Atmanepada, 3rd Person, Singular from $\sqrt{\text{కా}}$ “to work.”

• కామకరణః : “mayest thou be.” Precative Mood, Parasmaipada, 2nd Person, Singular from $\sqrt{\text{కా}}$ “to become.”

• కామకరణః : “we gave.” Root Aorist, Parasmaipada, 1st Person, Plural from $\sqrt{\text{కా}}$ “to give.”

• కామకరణః : “we have / had heard.” Perfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 1st Person, Plural from $\sqrt{\text{కా}}$ “to hear.”

• కామకరణః : “I gave.” ఊ Aorist, Atmanepada, 1st Person, Singular from $\sqrt{\text{కా}}$ “to give.”

• కామకరణః : “they two have / had worked.” Perfect Tense, Parasmaipada, 3rd Person, Dual from $\sqrt{\text{కా}}$ “to work.”

• కామకరణః : “may they reach.” Precative Mood, Atmanepada, 3rd Person, Plural from $\sqrt{\text{కా}}$ “to reach.”

Ch. XIII.5.1

Derivative Verb	Modification of root	Termination
Frequentative	A. Reduplicating the root	-
	B. Reduplicating the root	adding కా -
	C. Reduplicating the root	adding కాకా -
Desiderative	Reduplicating the root	adding కాకా -
Denominative	A. -	-
	B. Gunating the noun's final vowel.	adding కా -
	C. Dropping the noun's final vowel.	adding కాకా -
Causal	Changing the root to Guna or Vriddhi form	adding కాకాకా -
Incohesive	-	adding కాకా -