Meanings which are synonymous or nearly so, are separated by commas; those which differ considerably from each other, are separated by semicolons or by full-faced dashes and figures (-1., etc.). The colon is often used to show that several meanings which follow it and are separated by semicolons are co-ordinate with each other. Thus on p. 268, under samipa -2b, the meanings "before," "near," "hard by," and "by" are co-ordinate, and are equivalent to "in the presence or neighborhood of"; cf. suvareas.

The arrangement for matter in heavy brackets at the end of articles is: in the case of primary derivatives, first, the root from which the word comes, with reference, if necessary, to the section giving the suffix of derivation; second, cognate words from allied languages; and third, words showing a development of meaning analogous to that shown by the Sanskrit word or illustrative of it. If the derivation of a simple word is not given, it is because it is unknown or too uncertain to be worth mentioning. In the case of secondary derivatives, the primary is given, with a reference to the section showing its treatment. The analysis of compounds is often indicated by a hyphen; but if one member ends and the next begins with a vowel or diphthong, the latter member is given in square brackets at the end of the article; cf. nalopākhyāna.

Where words of different languages are given together, separated only by commas, the definition given after the last applies to them all; or, if no definition is given, the English word in italies at the end is both a cognate and a definition of all at the same time; for examples, see ákṣa ('axle'), aṣṭa, ūrṇa.

The references to the Grammar may seem too numerous; but they are really a device for avoiding the frequent repetition of explanations which would otherwise have to be given in full. It would take half a dozen lines to explain the etymology of manmatha, for instance; but the references to 1148.4 and 1002b make this needless; cf. the references under daridra, cicu, sunva.

It often happens that the statement in the section referred to does not directly cover the point aimed at in citing it; but a moment's thought will show what is meant. Thus under samkranti, the two references to be compared mean that the derivative suffix is ti, and that before it the root-vowel suffers the same peculiar change that is seen in the past participle. Under samyatendriya reference is made to 1298, which states that possessive descriptives "are very much more common than [simple] descriptives of the same form." The real point of the reference is plainly, not to bring out this fact, but to show the beginner in what category of compounds this word belongs. So 1290 states that "other compounds with adverbial prior members are quite irregularly accented"; but the section is cited, e.g., under sadha-māda, to indicate that this is a descriptive compound (see the heading of the preceding right-hand page, 441) in which the first member is an adverbial element with the function (cf. 1289) of an adjective. Many roots form verb-stems in aya, but without causative signification; this is briefly indicated by the reference 10412. In the case of secondary derivatives in vant, mant, ta, and tva, a simple reference to one of the sections treating of these endings (1233, 1235, 1237, 1239) is put instead of a repetition of the primitive.