

# 8

## उपसर्गाः *Prefixes*

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Upasargas or prefixes are added to the verb roots, to modify, intensify and sometimes to alter the original sense of the roots. Sometimes they are prefixed without any alteration to the root sense. There are twenty two upasargas in all.

- |           |   |                                 |
|-----------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. प्र    | – | More, higher                    |
| 2. परा    | – | Opposite, against               |
| 3. अप     | – | Away, separation                |
| 4. सम्    | – | Coincide, congruently           |
| 5. अनु    | – | Favourable, after, according to |
| 6. अव     | – | Downwards                       |
| 7. निस्   | – | Low                             |
| 8. निर्   | – | Low                             |
| 9. दुस्   | – | Wicked                          |
| 10. दुर्  | – | Bad                             |
| 11. वि    | – | More, opposite, divergent       |
| 12. आ     | – | On this side                    |
| 13. नि    | – | To vacate, to empty             |
| 14. अधि   | – | In, on, above, over             |
| 15. अपि   | – | Moreover                        |
| 16. अति   | – | Very much                       |
| 17. सु    | – | Best                            |
| 18. उत्   | – | On, above, over                 |
| 19. अभि   | – | In front of                     |
| 20. प्रति | – | Contrary to                     |
| 21. परि   | – | Everywhere                      |
| 22. उप    | – | Near, more                      |

*The application of upasarga to verbal roots:*

अति, the upasarga, combines with the verbal root कम् to become अतिक्रामति.

अति + कम् = अतिक्रामति – goes beyond.



The following is a sample list of verbal formations when the upasarga joins with the verbal root.

Sl.No	Prefix	Root	Verbal Form	Meaning
1	अधि	गम्	अधिगच्छति	To get
2	अनु	कृ	अनुकरोति	Imitates
3	अप	नी	अपनयति	Takes away
4	अपि	धा	अपिदधाति	Covers
5	अभि	गम्	अभिगच्छति	Goes after
6	अव	मन्	अवमन्यते	Disrespects
7	आ	गम्	आगच्छति	Comes
8	उत्	गम्	उद्गच्छति	Goes up
9	उप	कृ	उपकरोति	Obliges
10	दुस् / दुर्	आ+चर्	दुराचरति	Acts badly
11	निर्	दिश्	निर्दिशति	Commands
12	निस् / निर	गम्	निर्गच्छति	Goes out
13	परा	जि	पराजयते	Defeats
14	परि	धा	परिदधाति	Places all round
15	प्र	हृ	प्रहरति	Strikes
16	प्रति	कृ	प्रतिकरोति	Acts in opposite
17	वि	क्री	विक्रीणाति	Sells
18	सम्	हृ	संहरति	Destroys
19	सु	कृ	सुकरोति	Does well

Note how the meaning of the root हृ (to take away) changes when it combines with various upasargas:

प्र	+	हृ	=	प्रहरति	-	beats
सं	+	हृ	=	संहरति	-	kills
आ	+	हृ	=	आहरति	-	brings
वि	+	हृ	=	विहरति	-	plays
परि	+	हृ	=	परिहरति	-	removes



Following are the changes effected in the meaning by different upasargas coming together with the derivatives of root भू (to be):

प्र	+	भू	=	प्रभूतम्	-	abundant
			=	प्रभवः	-	birth
			=	प्रभावः	-	influence, impact
			=	प्रभुः	-	lord, husband
परा	+	भू	=	पराभवः	-	defeat
अप	+	भू	=	अपभूतिः	-	ruin
सम्	+	भू	=	सम्भवति	-	create
अनु	+	भू	=	अनुभवः	-	experience
वि	+	भू	=	विभवः	-	wealth
अति	+	भू	=	अतिभवनम्	-	being the greatest of all
उद्	+	भू	=	उद्भवम्	-	birth
परि	+	भू	=	परिभवम्	-	defeat



Two or more upasargas may also be combined and prefixed to one verbal root:

अभि + नि + विश् = अभिनिविशते – to enter into with resolution

सम् + उप + आ + गम् = समुपागच्छति – to come into close contact



The following sentences are given as examples to illustrate how the upasargas are used in constructing sentences:

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. बालिका परमेश्वरम् अभ्यर्चति । | Girl worships the Lord.    |
| 2. बालकः विद्यालयात् आगच्छति ।   | Boy comes from the school. |
| 3. सा जलम् अपनयति ।              | She takes away water.      |
| 4. सः भवनं प्रविशति ।            | He enters the house.       |

