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पुरुषः वचनं च

Person and Number

In Sanskrit, just as in many other languages like English, there are three persons (puruṣāḥ). They are: (1) प्रथमपुरुषः – Third person (2) मध्यमपुरुषः – Second person and (3) उत्तमपुरुषः – First person.

Sanskrit permits three numbers: (1) एकवचनम् – Singular (2) द्विवचनम् – Dual and (3) बहुवचनम् – Plural.

The dual number is unique to Sanskrit.

	एकवचनम् Singular	द्विवचनम् Dual	बहुवचनम् Plural
प्रथम-पुरुषः III Person	सः – He सा – She तत् – It	तौ – They two ते – They two ते – They two	ते – They all ताः – They all तानि – They all
मध्यम-पुरुषः II Person	त्वम् – You	युवाम् – You two	यूयम् – You all
उत्तम-पुरुषः I Person	अहम् – I	आवाम् – We two	वयम् – We all



Please note that the verbal terminations depend on the person, number and tense/mood.

Now, that we have seen person and number, let us go back to the verb terminations seen earlier and see how the terminations of the verb change according to person and number.

The present tense verbal formations for the various persons and numbers have been indicated below with the example of the verb पठ्.

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथम-पुरुषः	पठति	पठतः	पठन्ति
मध्यम-पुरुषः	पठसि	पठथः	पठथ
उत्तम-पुरुषः	पठामि	पठावः	पठामः

