

Vedic Accents in External Sandhi

The Vedic accents considered here are the udātta, anudātta, and the independent svarita. The accent-sandhi rules will be explained for the praśliṣṭa, abhinihita, and the kṣaipra sandhis. The appendix contains the corresponding rules from the Aṣṭādhyāyī and the Prātiśākhya.

1. Praśliṣṭa Sandhi

(a, ā) + (a, ā) => ā
(i, ī) + (i, ī) => ī
(u, ū) + (u, ū) => ū
(a, ā) + (i, ī) => e
(a, ā) + (u, ū) => o
(a, ā) + (r) => ar
(a, ā) + (e, ai) => ai
(a, ā) + (o, au) => au

1.1 If both of the 2 vowels are anudātta the combined vowel is anudātta.

(anudātta, anudātta) => anudātta;
[tvā | agne => tvāgne (RV 1.1.7); uśmāsi | iṣṭāye => uśmāsiṣṭāye (RV 1.30.12); ānu | uśāsaḥ => ānūśāsaḥ (RV 1.44.10)]

*1.2 If at least one of the 2 vowels is udātta the accent of the combined vowel is udātta.
(Compare with PA 8.2.5, RVPr 3.11, TPr 10.10, VPr 4.132, CA 3.66)*

(anudātta, udātta) => udātta;
[nākasya | ādhi => nākasyādhi (RV 1.19.6); tāva | ít => tāvét (RV 1.1.6); asya | ṛddhiḥ => asyārdhiḥ (TS 6.6.10.2)]

(udātta, anudātta) => udātta;
[pitā | asi => pitāsi (RV 1.31.10); abhī | īm = abhīm (RV 1.51.2); ā | ihā => éhá (RV 1.1.2); purú | urú => purúrú (RV 8.25.16); āgneyyā | ṛcā => āgneyyārcā (TS 3.1.6.1)]

(udātta, udātta) => udātta;
[ihā | ā => ihā (RV 1.12.3); ihā | úpa => ihópa (RV 1.16.2); prá | étaśam => práitaśam (RV 1.61.15); evá | ṛṣiḥ => evārṣiḥ (TS 5.1.10.1)]

(svarita, udātta) => udātta;
[kvà | ávaram => kvávaram (RV 1.168.6); kvà | ít => kvét (RV 1.161.4); kvà | ékam => kvaíkam (RV 10.85.19); kāryā | íti => kāryéti (TS 7.5.5.1)]

Exception to rule 1.2 for RV, Śukla YV Samhitā, SV and AV:

1.3 Short i (udātta) + short i (anudātta) => ī (svarita); (Compare with PA 8.2.6, RVPr 3.13, VPr 4.133, CA 3.56)

[diví-iva => divīva (RV 1.22.20); abhí | ihi => abhīhi (RV 1.80.3); diśí | itáh => diśītaḥ (AV 11.2.12)]

Exception to rule 1.2 for Kṛṣṇa YV:

1.4 Short u (udāṭṭa) + short u (anudāṭṭa) => ū (svarita); (Compare with TPr 10.17)

[dikṣú | upa-dádḥāti => dikṣūpadádḥāti (TS 5.5.5.4); sú-udgātā => sūdgātā (TS 7.1.8.1)]

Exception to rule 1.2 for the Śatapatha Brāhmana of Śukla YV:

1.5 If the first vowel is udāṭṭa and the second vowel anudāṭṭa the combined vowel is svarita.

(udāṭṭa, anudāṭṭa) => svarita;

[sá ná + evá => sá naivá => saṅ naivā (MŚB 14.4.2.24)]

[aryamá + āyúr íti => aryamāyúr íti => aryamāyurīti (MŚB 13.5.1.18)]

1.6 If the first vowel is svarita and the second vowel is anudāṭṭa the accent of the combined vowel is svarita. (Compare with RVPr 3.12, TPr 10.12, Vpr 4.131)

(svarita, anudāṭṭa) => svarita;

[kanyā-iva => kanyēva (RV 1.123.10); yajyā | eṣá => yajyaiṣá (TS 2.6.2.6); kvā | asyāḥ => kvāsyāḥ (TS 5.7.4.2); chavyā | upa-ākṛtāya => chavyòpākṛtāya (TS 5.7.20); pathyā-iva => pathyēva (MVS 11.5)]

2. Abhinihita / Abhinihata Sandhi

e + a => e

o + a => o

aḥ + a => o + a => o

2.1 If both of the 2 vowels are anudāṭṭa the accent of the combined vowel is anudāṭṭa.

(anudāṭṭa, anudāṭṭa) => anudāṭṭa;

[ūtāye | asmín => ūtāye 'smín (RV 1.30.6); naḥ | ava => no 'va (RV 1.7.4)]

2.2 If at least one of the 2 vowels is udāṭṭa the accent of the combined vowel is udāṭṭa.

(anudāṭṭa, udāṭṭa) => udāṭṭa; (Compare with PA 8.2.5, RVPr 3.11, TPr 12.10, VPr 4.132, CA 3.66)

[sūnāve | ágne => sūnāvé 'gne (RV 1.1.9); manyo | ávidhat => manyó 'vidhat (RV 10.83.1); gāyatrīṇaḥ | árcanti => gāyatrīṇó 'rcanti (RV 1.10.1)]

(udāṭṭa, udāṭṭa) => udāṭṭa; Compare with RVPr 3.11, TPr 12.10, VPr 4.132, CA 3.66

[juhūrē | ávase => juhūrē 'vase (RV 1.48.14); sthāḥ | ávase => sthó 'vase (RV 1.17.2)]

(svarita, udāṭṭa) => udāṭṭa; (Compare with RVPr 3.11, TPr 12.11, VPr 4.131, CA 3.66)

[adyūtyē | ávase => adyūtyé 'vase (RV 1.112.24); ukthyāḥ | átha => ukthyó 'tha (TS 7.1.5.4)]

(udāṭṭa, anudāṭṭa) => svarita; see 2.3

Exception to rule 2.2:

2.3 If the first vowel is udātta and the second vowel anudātta the accent of the combined vowel is svarita. (Compare with PA 8.2.6; RVPr 3.3, 3.13; TPr 12.9; VPr 4.61, CA 3.55)

(udātta, anudātta) => svarita;

[té | avardhanta => tè 'vardhanta (RV 1.85.7); rāyāḥ | avāniḥ => rāyò 'vāniḥ (RV 1.4.10); sáḥ | abravīt => sò 'bravīt (TS 2.1.2.1); sáḥ | aracyata => sò 'rajyata (AV 15.8.1)]

2.4 If the first vowel is svarita and the second vowel is anudātta the accent of the combined vowel is svarita. (Compare with RVPr 3.12, TPr 12.11)

(svarita, anudātta) => svarita;

[budhnyāḥ | ajāḥ => budhnyò 'jāḥ (RV 2.31.6); pitvāḥ | aviśāsya => pitvò 'viśāsya (RV 8.25.20); madhavyāḥ | asāni => madhavyò 'sāni (TS 2.5.9.3)]

3. Kṣaipra Sandhi

(i, ī) + vowel [other than (i, ī)] => y + vowel

(u, ū) + vowel [other than (u, ū)] => v + vowel

3.1 If the first vowel is udātta and the second vowel anudātta the accent of the vowel after (y, v) is svarita. (Compare with PA 8.2.4; RVPr 3.3, 3.13; TPr 10.16; VPr 4.47; CA 3.58)

(udātta, anudātta) => svarita;

[pra-yatī | adhvaré => prayaty ādhvaré (RV 1.16.3); nú | evá => nv èvá (RV 4.51.9); abhí | arcata => abhy ārcata (AV 7.82.12)]

3.2 The accent of the second vowel remains unchanged after the first vowel has been replaced by (y, v) when the two vowels have the following accents:

(anudātta, anudātta) => anudātta;

[pūrvāni | okyā => pūrvāny okyā (RV 8.25.17); bhūtu | eṣām => bhūtv eṣām (RV 1.94.12)]

(anudātta, udātta) => udātta;

[jaráyantī | áyuh => jaráyanty áyuh (RV 1.92.10); mádhu | ágne => mádhv ágne (RV 1.14.10)]

(udātta, udātta) => udātta;

[dhurí | úpa => dhury úpa (RV 1.151.4); nú | índra => nv índra (RV 1.165.5)]

Appendix

Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī (PA)

उदात्तस्वरितयोर्यणः स्वरितोऽनुदात्तस्य ॥

udāttasvaritayor yaṇaḥ svarito 'nudāttasya ||8.2.4||

A svarita accent replaces the anudātta which occurs (immediately) after a semivowel (yaṇaḥ) replacement of an udātta or svarita (vowel).

एकादेश उदात्तेनोदात्तः ॥

ekādeśa udāṭṭenodāṭṭaḥ ||8.2.5||

A single replacement (ekādeśaḥ) of an anudāṭṭa vowel with an udāṭṭa vowel becomes udāṭṭa.

स्वरितो वाऽनुदात्ते पदादौ ॥

svarito vā 'nudāṭṭe padādau ||8.2.6||

The single replacement of an anudāṭṭa which is at the beginning of a word (padādau) and the preceding udāṭṭa vowel optionally (vā) becomes svarita.

Ṛgveda Prātiśākhya (RVPr)

एकाक्षरसमावेशे पूर्वयोः स्वरितः स्वरः ॥

ekākṣarasamāveśe pūrvayoḥ svaritaḥ svaraḥ ||3.3||

When there is a combination of the first two accents (i. e., of the udāṭṭa and the anudāṭṭa) into one syllable, (the resulting) accent is svarita.

उदात्तवत्येकीभाव उदात्तं संध्यमक्षरम् ॥

udāṭṭavatyekībhāva udāṭṭaṁ saṁdhyam akṣaram ||3.11||

In a combination (of two vowels), one of which is udāṭṭa, the syllable resulting from the combination is udāṭṭa.

अनुदात्तोदये पुनः स्वरितं स्वरितोपधे ॥

anudāṭṭodaye punaḥ svaritaṁ svaritopadhe ||3.12||

But (the result of the combination) is svarita, if (there is a combination of) a svarita with a following anudāṭṭa.

इकारयोश्च प्रश्लेषे क्षैप्राभिनिहितेषु च ।

उदात्तपूर्वरूपेषु शाकल्यस्यैवमाचरेत् ॥

ikārayoś ca praśleṣe kṣaiprābhinihiteṣu ca |

udāṭṭapūrvārūpeṣu śākalyasyaivam ācaret ||3.13||

One should, according to Śākalya, proceed in the same way (i. e., should regard the result of the combination as svarita), in the contraction of two short i vowels and in the Kṣaipra and Abhinihita sandhis, if the first element (in the different combinations) is acute.

Taittirīya Prātiśākhya (TPr)

अथैकमुभे ॥

athaikamubhe ||10.1||

Now for the combination of two vowels into one.

(Praśliṣṭa Sandhi 10.1-8)

दीर्गं समानाक्षरे सवर्णपरे ॥

dīrghaṁ samānākṣare savarṇapare ||10.2||

In the case of a simple vowel, followed by a similar vowel, the product is long.

अथावर्णपूर्वे ॥

athāvarṇapūrve |10.3||

Now for cases in which an a-vowel stands first.

इवर्णपर एकारम् ॥

ivarnaṇapara ekāram ||10.4||

When an i-vowel follows, the product is e.

उवर्णपर ओकारम् ॥

uvarṇapara okāram ||10.5||

When an u-vowel follows, the product is o.

एकारैकारपर ऐकारम् ॥

ekāraikārapara aikāram ||10.6||

When e or ai follows, the product is ai.

ओकारौकारपर औकारम् ॥

okāraukārapara aukāram ||10.7||

When o or au follows, the product is au.

अरमृकारपरे ॥

aram ṛkārapare ||10.8||

When ṛ follows, the product is ar.

(Accent for the Praśliṣṭa sandhi)

उदात्तमुदात्तवति ॥

udāttam udāttavati ||10.10||

When an udātta enters into the combination, the result is udātta.

स्वरितानुदात्तसंनिपाते स्वरितम् ॥

svaritānudāttasaṁnipāte svaritam ||10.12||

When svarita and anudātta are combined, the result is svarita.

(Kṣaipra sandhi)

इवर्णोकारौ यवकारौ ॥

ivarnaṇokārau yavakārau ||10.15||

An i-vowel and u become respectively y and v.

(Accent for the Kṣaipra sandhi)

उदात्तयोश्च परोऽनुदात्तः स्वरितम् ॥

udāttayoś ca paro 'nudāttaḥ svaritam ||10.16||

And, when they are udātta, a following anudātta becomes svarita.

(Accent for the Praśliṣṭa sandhi: u + u)

ऊभावे च ॥

ūbhāve ca ||10.17||

Also when ū is the product of the combination.

(Abhinihata sandhi)

लुप्यते त्वकार एकारौकारपूर्वः ॥

lupyate tv akāra ekāraukārapūrvah ||11.1||

But a is elided when preceded by e or o.

(Accent for the Abhinihata sandhi)

तस्मिन्ननुदात्ते पूर्व उदात्तः स्वरितम् ॥

tasminn anudātte pūrva udāttaḥ svaritam ||12.9||

When the elided a is anudātta, the preceding diphthong, if udātta, becomes svarita.

उदात्ते चानुदात्त उदात्तम् ॥

udātte cānudātta udāttam ||12.10||

When it is udātta, the preceding diphthong, if anudātta, becomes udātta.

स्वरितश्च सर्वत्र स्वरितश्च सर्वत्र ॥

svaritaś ca sarvatra svaritaś ca sarvatra ||12.11||

As also, in every case, if svarita.

Vājasaneyi Prātiśākhya (VPr)

(Accent for the Kṣaipra sandhi)

udāttasyāntaḥsthībhāvesvaritaṁ param anudāttam ||4.47||

(Accent for the Abhinihita sandhi)

tau ced udāttāv anudātte svaritau ||4.61||

(Accent for the Praśliṣṭa and Abhinihita sandhi)

svaritavān svaritaḥ ||4.131||

udāttavānudāttaḥ ||4.132||

ivaraṇam ubhayato hrasvam udāttapūrvam anudāttaparam svaritam ||4.133||

Caturadhyāyikā (CA) (A Prātiśākhya of Atharvaveda)

[udāttaḥ pūrvaḥ | paro 'anudāttaḥ | svaritaḥ sandhiḥ]

An udātta preceding; an anudātta following; their combination svarita.

ekāraukārau padāntau parato 'kāraṁ so 'bhinihitaḥ ||3.55||

When an a is absorbed by a preceding final e or o the resulting svarita is abhinihita.

ikārayoḥ praśliṣṭaḥ ||3.56||

The svarita arising from the fusion of two short i is praśliṣṭa.

antaḥsthāpattāv udāttasyānudātte kṣaipraḥ ||3.58||

The svarita arising upon the conversion into a semivowel of an udātta vowel before an anudātta is the kṣaipra.

ekādeśa udātenodāttaḥ ||3.66||

A vowel produced by combination with an udātta is itself udātta.

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