

Some commonly used Vowel Sandhi rules

Rules which apply within a word and across word boundaries:

1. सवर्ण-दीर्घ-सन्धि - When अक् is followed by a सवर्ण अक् the single replacement for both the preceding and succeeding, is the सवर्ण दीर्घ (2 matras in length) अक् letter.

अकः सवर्णे दीर्घः ॥ ६.१.१०१

हिम आलय = हिमालय, गौरि इच्छति = गौरीच्छति

बाला आलय = बालालय = बालाऽऽलय = बालाऽलय

2 गुण सन्धि - When अ/आ is followed by इक् (इ,ई,उ,ऊ,ऋ,ॠ,ऌ), then the single replacement for both the preceding and the succeeding is the corresponding (गुण) Guna letter, which is determined based on the place of enunciation of the preceding and following letters.

(The letters अ, ए, ओ are called by the name *guṇa*, ऋ,ॠ become अर् & ऌ becomes अल्)

आद् गुणः ॥ ६.१.८७

हर इ = हरे , सूर्य उदय = सूर्योदय, क ऋ = कर्

3. वृद्धि सन्धि - When अ / आ is followed by एच् (ए,ओ,ऐ,औ) , then the single replacement for both the preceding and the following letter is the corresponding vrddhi (वृद्धि) letter determined on the place of enunciation of the preceding and following letters.

वृद्धिरेचि ॥ ६.१.८८

अ ए -> ऐ, अ ओ = औ, अ ऐ = ऐ, अ औ = औ

4 . यण् सन्धि - When an इक् (इ,ई,उ,ऊ,ऋ,ॠ,लृ) is followed by अच् (any dissimilar vowel) the letters are replaced by the corresponding यण् letter (य्,व्,र्,ल्) i.e. In the subject matter of *sandhi*, यण् is the replacement for इक् when अच् follows.

इको यणचि ॥ ६.१.७७

5. अय्-अव्-आय्-आव् or (अयाव्) सन्धि - When एच् (ए,ओ,ऐ,औ) letters are followed by अच् (any vowel) then the letter is replaced respectively by अय्-अव्-आय्-आव्. In other words: In the subject matter of sandhis, ए,ओ,ऐ and औ are replaced by अय्, अव्, आय् and आव् respectively when followed by any vowel.

एचोऽयवायावः ॥ ६.१.७८

Sandhis that happen only when a word is still under formation:

1. When an अपदान्त अकार (i.e. an अकार which is not at the end of a पद) is followed by a गुण letter, both the preceding and the succeeding letters are replaced with the गुण letter.

अतो गुणे ॥ ६.१.९७

Examples: भवन्ति, पठन्ति, लभन्ते, लभे

पठ् अन्ति -> पठ् शप् अन्ति = पठ अन्ति पठन्ति

लभ् शप् ।/। ए = लभ ए = लभ् ए = लभे

2. When an अदन्त अङ्ग (adanta anga) is followed by a प्रत्यय (pratyaya) begins with any letter in the pratyahara यञ्, then the अ at the end of the अङ्ग takes दीर्घ to become आ.

अतो दीर्घो यञि ॥ ७.३.१०१

Examples: भवामि, भवावः, भवामः, लभावहे, लभामहे

Some important vowel sandhis that apply only at word boundaries

1. When एङ् at the end of a पद is followed by an अत् (ह्रस्व अकार), then the following (अत्) is elided (अत् लुप्यते)

एङः पदन्तात् अति ॥ 6.1.109

शिवः अहम् -> शिवो अहम् ->

शिवोऽहं or शिवोऽहं

The symbol s above is called an अवग्रह (avagraha) . It is a colophon, a publishers indication that something has been elided – here the अत् is elided.

2. The letters य and व at the end of a पद (pada) are optionally dropped (elided) when followed by an अश् letter. This optional rule typically has an opportunity to apply when the अयाव सन्धि has happened. The important thing to note is that following this elision, other vowel sandhi rules like गुण सन्धि, सवर्णदीर्घ सन्धि etc. cannot apply to re-combine the two vowels at the word boundaries. (This is explained by a special rule of Panini called पूर्वत्र असिद्धं ॥8.2.1).

लोपः शाकल्यस्य ॥ 8.3.19

असौ आदित्यः = असाव् आदित्यः or असा आदित्यः

ए आ - अय् आ or अ आ

Lots of examples in चमकप्रश्न

मे इन्द्रश्च -> मय् इन्द्रश्च or म इन्द्रश्च

मे आयुः -> मय् आयुः or म आयुः