

How to say, “It is possible/ impossible”

Sakkā is an indeclinable (*nipāta*), which has the same meaning as the verb *sakkoti* according to Maṇi-mañjū.¹

To change *sakkā* into *sakkoti*

1. *Buddhānaṃ jīvitassa na sakkā kena-ci antarāyo kātuṃ. (Vi-ṭh-1, 147)*
It is not possible for anyone to do harm to the life of the Buddha.

Buddhānaṃ jīvitassa na sakkoti ko-ci antarāyaṃ kātuṃ.
Anyone can't manage to do harm to the Buddhas' life.

2. *Sattha-gamanīyo maggo na sakkā vinā satthena gantuṃ. (Vi-2, 33)*
It is impossible to take a guide-required journey without a guide.

Sattha-gamanīyaṃ maggaṃ na sakkoti vinā satthena gantuṃ.
(Anyone) can't manage to take a guide-required journey without a guide.

3. *Nā'vuso, sakkā, puthujjanena adhivāsetuṃ. (Vi-1, 142)*
No, friends, it is not possible for an ordinary man to endure.

Nā'vuso, sakkoti, puthujjano adhivāsetuṃ.
No, friends, an ordinary one can't manage to endure.

4. *Na me sakkā vinā sappinā arogaṃ kātuṃ. (Vi-4, 388)*
It is not possible for me to make a cure without ghee.

Na ahaṃ sakkomi vinā sappinā arogaṃ kātuṃ.
I can't manage to make a cure without ghee.

5. *Na taṃ dvaṅgula-paññāya, sakkā pappotuṃ 'itthiyā. (Therī-386)*
It is impossible for a woman with two-finger wisdom to attain it.

Na taṃ dvaṅgula-paññāya, sakkoti pappotuṃ itthī.
A woman with two-finger wisdom can't manage to attain it.

¹ Ref. *Sakkā'ti ca sakkoti'ti ākhyāta-padena samānattho paṭhamanta-nipāto. (Maṇi-mañjū)*

To change *sakkoti* into *sakkā*

1. *Āṅgulimālo bhagavantam na sakkoti sampāpunitum.* (Maj-2, 302)
Āṅgulimālo can't manage to reach the Blessed One.

Na sakkā Āṅgulimālena bhagavantam sampāpunitum.
It is not possible for Āṅgulimāla to reach the Buddha.

2. *Hatthako devaputto na sakkoti saṅṭhātum.* (Añ-1, Tika, 129)
Hatthako Angel can't manage to stand.

Na sakkā Hatthaken devaputten saṅṭhātum.
It is impossible for Hatthago angel to stand.

3. *Kiṃ pana Māro vāñijjake āvaṭṭetum na sakkoti?* (Vi-ṭha-1, 147)
How come Māro can't manage to trick the traders?

Kiṃ pana na sakkā Māren vāñijjake āvaṭṭetum? (Vi-ṭha-1, 147)
How come is it not possible for Māro to trick the traders?

4. *Nā'ham, Samma, sakkomi pabbajitum.* (Vi-4, 337)
No, friend, I can't manage to ordain.

Na sakkā, Samma, mayā pabbajitum.
My friend, it is impossible for me to ordain.

5. *Aham, bhante, gilāno; na sakkomi āhiṇḍitum vinā daṇḍena.* (Vi-4, 271)

Sir, I'm sick; I can't manage to go around without a stick.

Aham, bhante, gilāno; na sakkā mayā āhiṇḍitum vinā daṇḍena.
Sir, I'm sick; it is impossible for me to go around without a stick.