

Learn Hindi - Sentence Structure Made Easy
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ISBN-10:0-9984828-1-1
ISBN13:978-0-9984828-1-1

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INTRODUCTION

Our Goal

This course is a step by step guide for learning simple, clear and correct Hindi. It is comprised of seven lessons which are designed specifically for English speaking people. No prior knowledge of the Hindi language is necessary to benefit from this book.

A Unique Approach

This course approaches learning Hindi from the standpoint of an English speaking background. Comparisons are made between English and Hindi to explain concepts.

The main focus throughout the course is word order. It is vital for an English speaking person who wants to learn Hindi to focus not only on pronunciation and vocabulary but also on learning how to arrange those new words into a sentence. To understand why word order is so vital, notice how confusing it is to see English words in the Hindi word order:

“Every language in words random way in not arranged are.”

The first lesson explains how to form a basic sentence and the following six lessons gradually explain how to build larger sentences.

Putting Theory into Practice

The course is laid out in a simple and logical manner. Each lesson builds on the previous lesson. We recommend starting on the first lesson and working your way through the entire course systematically. After completion of the course, the book can also serve as a reference guide.

Daily practice exercises are included with each lesson so that you can immediately

apply what you are learning. The accompanying practice calendar is for tracking your progress for a month, so it is recommended to spend sufficient time practicing each lesson before moving on to the next lesson. Remember, the goal of this course is not simply to learn grammar but to start speaking Hindi by putting theory into practice.

The Think and Speak Method

The daily practice exercises use the ‘think and speak’ method. Rather than writing out the answers, you will be asked to think about the answer and then say it out loud. It can be said that to learn to read, you need to practice reading. To learn to write, you need to practice writing. But to learn to speak, you need to practice speaking.

There is no answer sheet provided for the daily practice exercises. This encourages you to go back to the lesson and its accompanying charts for confirmation. The daily exercises can be done either individually or with a partner.

We recommend a daily practice sessions of approximately 15 minutes. Research has shown that brief but frequent practice sessions are far more beneficial than long but infrequent sessions.

Rotating Practice Schedule

Starting with lesson four, the practice calendar uses a rotating practice schedule. This means that practice sessions will rotate between the completed lessons, with the most recently completed lesson being practiced the most frequently. As you progress in the course, this method will aid you with long term retention. It has been observed, that as the length of time between practice sessions gradually increases,

the strength of the memory increases. In effect, gradually reducing the frequency of practicing something will move it into your long term memory.

Learning the Hindi Script vs. Romanization

Due to popular demand, with this second edition, we have included Romanized text alongside the Hindi script. We employed the standard method as cataloged in the US Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/roman.html>).

Although this provides a means to get started quickly, we highly recommend taking the time to learn to read the Hindi script.

From Our Readers

“I enjoyed learning through the systematic and simple approach. The emphasis on word order was a feature that I had never seen elsewhere and it was helpful.”

— Raghbir, The United Kingdom

“I liked the way of teaching with fundamental and rich vocabulary and exercises.”

— Ranjeet, India

“I love the way the comparison is made to the way English is taught.”

— Jasminder, Indonesia

“It was concise and easy to follow and understand. Everything you needed was provided. The learner was kept in mind at all times.”

— Ravinder, England

LESSON ONE

THE BASIC SENTENCE

Word Order (Syntax)

In every language, including English, the words in a sentence are not arranged randomly, rather, they follow a specific order.

When an English speaking person is learning Hindi, they need to give special attention to the word order in Hindi because it is different than the word order in English. Arranging words in the proper order is vital to being understood.

In English the word order is (subject + verb + object)

In Hindi the word order is (subject + object + verb)

For example: "Nick sends letters" would become "Nick letters sends"

The subject, direct object and verb are the main parts of a sentence. These three parts of a sentence are like boxes. You can put one or more words into each box. To determine which box to put a word into, ask the following questions:

1. What is being done? (VERB)

2. Who is doing it? (SUBJECT)

3. ...what? (DIRECT OBJECT)

SUBJECT Nick निक <i>Nik</i>	DIRECT OBJECT letters चिट्ठियाँ <i>ciṭṭhiyān</i>	VERB sends is भेजता है <i>bhejtā hai</i>
---	--	--

TIP: Always identify the verb first. If you start by identifying the VERB then you will never get your subject and object confused.

Putting Theory Into Practice

At this point, find page 18 entitled “Lesson One Worksheet.” We will now practice rearranging English words into the Hindi word order. This worksheet has five sentences for you to translate. Go ahead and follow steps 1 – 4 closely. We will do steps 5 and 6 later.

TIP: Hindi does not use the words “a” or “the”. So ignore these words when you translate into English.

Verb Endings (Inflection)

The next important matter to discuss is verb endings. In English, to a limited extent, the verb changes in order to match the subject. For example, let’s look at the sentence: “Nick sends letters.” If we want to say in English, “We send letters” then we would need to change “sends” to “send”.

In Hindi, a similar thing happens. The verb changes in order to match the subject. In Hindi, the verb changes depending on whether the subject is:

1. singular or plural
2. masculine or feminine

How do we change the verb?

First: Find the stem (or root) of the verb. In Hindi, this means simply removing the ना *nā* ending.

For example: “to send” भेजना *bhejnā* (the stem is भेज *bhej*)

Second: Add the appropriate ending to the stem of the verb.

For example: भेज *bhej* (stem) + ता *tā* (ending) = भेजता *bhejtā*

REMEMBER: The verb must match the subject. In our example sentence, “Nick” is a masculine singular subject, so we add the masculine singular ending ता *tā* to the stem.

In the present tense, there are three different verb endings:

masculine singular	ता <i>tā</i>	feminine singular	ती <i>tī</i>
masculine plural	ते <i>te</i>	feminine plural	ती <i>tī</i>

If you are using a pronoun (I, we, you, he, she, they) then use the corresponding ending from the “Present Tense Chart – Verb Roots Ending with Consonants” on page 19. In this chart the verb root is shaded in gray and the verb endings are highlighted in red.

NOTE: A plural form of ‘you’ is used for respect and ALWAYS uses the masculine ending. The pronouns ‘we’ and ‘they’ most often use the masculine ending because even if only one in the group is masculine then the masculine ending should be used. Wherever possible, the chart shows the ending that is most commonly used.

Now, let’s discuss the last column (highlighted in yellow) on the “Present Tense Chart” which is called “Aux. Verb”.

The Auxiliary Verb “to be”

In English, we put a minimum of one verb into the verb box. However, in Hindi, it is common to put TWO verbs into the verb box:

1. The main verb
2. The auxiliary verb

Most commonly, the verb “to be” is used as the auxiliary verb. In English, the verb “to

be” can be expressed using the words: am, is & are. These words must match the subject. For example, singular subjects use ‘is’ and plural subjects use ‘are.’ If the subject is a pronoun, it has a matching pair.

For example: I am You are We are He/She is They are

In Hindi, the verb होना *honā* (to be) can be expressed using the words: है *hai*, हैं *haiṅ* and हूँ *hūṅ*

1. Singular subjects use है *hai*

2. Plural subjects use हैं *haiṅ*

If the subject is a pronoun, it has a matching pair as shown below.

मैं हूँ *maiṅ hūṅ* आप हैं *āp haiṅ* हम हैं *ham haiṅ* वह है *vah hai* वे हैं *ve haiṅ*
I am You are We are He/She is They are

The auxiliary verb is put into the verb box after the main verb. Notice our example sentence one last time: “Nick sends letters” Nick is masculine singular so we use the auxiliary verb है *hai*

SUBJECT	DIRECT OBJECT	VERB + AUX.VERB
Nick निक <i>Nik</i>	letters चिट्ठियाँ <i>ciṭṭhiyāṅ</i>	sends is भेजता है <i>bhejtā hai</i>

Using the “Present Tense Chart” on page 19 you can now complete steps 5 – 6 on the worksheet. All the necessary vocabulary is at the bottom of the page. After completing the worksheet, you can use the answer sheet to check your sentences. Each lesson has an answer sheet for the worksheet on the last page of the lesson.

The Think and Speak Method

Daily practice exercises are included with each lesson so that you can immediately apply what you are learning. The accompanying practice calendar is for tracking your progress for a month, so it is recommended to spend sufficient time practicing each lesson before moving on to the next lesson. Remember, the goal of this course is not simply to learn grammar but to start speaking Hindi by putting theory into practice.

The daily practice exercises use the 'think and speak' method. Rather than writing out the answers, you will be asked to think about the answer and then say it out loud. It can be said that to learn to read, you need to practice reading. To learn to write, you need to practice writing. But to learn to speak, you need to practice speaking.

There is no answer sheet provided for the daily practice exercises. This encourages you to go back to the lesson and its accompanying charts for confirmation. The daily exercises can be done either individually or with a partner.

We recommend a daily practice sessions of approximately 15 minutes. Research has shown that brief but frequent practice sessions are far more beneficial than long but infrequent sessions. When you feel comfortable with performing the exercises then you are ready to move on to the next lesson and build larger sentences!

LESSON ONE VOCABULARY

1. Words with **masculine** gender are highlighted in **blue**.
2. Words with **feminine** gender are highlighted in **pink**.
3. Words that are used for both the singular and plural form are marked with (s).

am हूँ <i>hūṅ</i>	answer(s) जवाब <i>javāb</i>	are हैं <i>haiṅ</i>
to ask पूछना <i>pūchnā</i>	English अंग्रेज़ी <i>aṅrezī</i>	he/she वह <i>vah</i>
Hindi हिन्दी <i>hindī</i>	I मैं <i>maiṅ</i>	is है <i>hai</i>
to learn सीखना <i>sīkhnā</i>	picture तस्वीर <i>tasvīr</i>	question(s) सवाल <i>savāl</i>
they वे <i>ve</i>	to see देखना <i>dekhnā</i>	to speak बोलना <i>bolnā</i>
we हम <i>ham</i>	to write लिखना <i>likhnā</i>	you आप <i>āp</i>

LESSON ONE WORKSHEET

Step one: Ask **what is being done?** (Write "V" for verb above the word)

Step two: Ask **who is doing it?** (Write "S" for subject above the word)

Step three: Ask **...what?** (Write "D.O" for direct object above the word)

Step four: Write the English words in the Hindi word order on the first line

Step five: Write the Hindi words underneath on the second line.

Step six: Add the appropriate verb ending and auxiliary verb.

1. I learn Hindi.

2. We ask a question.

3. I speak English.

4. He writes the answer.

5. You see the picture.

Vocabulary: am हूँ | answer जवाब | are हैं | to ask पूछना | English अंग्रेज़ी

he/she वह | Hindi हिन्दी | I मैं | is है | to learn सीखना | picture तस्वीर

question सवाल | to see देखना | to speak बोलना | we हम | to write लिखना | you आप

PRESENT TENSE CHART

VERB ROOTS ENDING WITH CONSONANTS

SUBJECT + VERB ROOT + **ENDING** + **AUX.VERB**

Pronoun English	Pronoun Hindi	Masculine Endings	Feminine Endings	Auxiliary Verb
I	मैं	बोलता	बोलती	बोला
He/She (Singular)	वह			बोली
They (Plural)	वे	बोलते	बोलती	बोले
We	हम	बोलते		बोले
You	आप			

NOTE: If the subject is NOT a pronoun then determine its gender and number. The same endings for (He/She) are used for singular subjects. The same endings for (They) are used for plural subjects.

DAILY PRACTICE SHEET VOCABULARY

to ask पूछना <i>pūchnā</i>	to become बनना <i>bannā</i>	to believe/accept मानना <i>mānnā</i>
to change बदलना <i>badalnā</i>	to come out/emerge निकलना <i>nikalnā</i>	to find ढूँढना <i>dhūṅṛhnā</i>
to know जानना <i>jānnā</i>	to learn सीखना <i>sīkhnā</i>	to listen/hear सुनना <i>sunnā</i>
to meet मिलना <i>milnā</i>	to open खोलना <i>kholnā</i>	to put/keep रखना <i>rakhnā</i>
to read पढ़ना <i>parhnā</i>	to see देखना <i>dekhnā</i>	to sit बैठना <i>baiṭhnā</i>
to speak/talk बोलना <i>bolnā</i>	to tell बताना <i>batānā</i>	to think सोचना <i>socnā</i>
to understand समझना <i>samajhnā</i>	to walk/move चलना <i>calnā</i>	to write लिखना <i>likhnā</i>

DAILY PRACTICE SHEET

Instructions for the 'Think and Speak' method:

Do NOT write down the answers – this is the 'think' part

Say each sentence OUT LOUD – this is the 'speak' part

What if I get stuck? Look at the reference charts for help. The goal is NOT to 'memorize' the sentences but to LEARN A METHOD to construct your own sentences.

SUBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT + VERB ROOT + ENDING + AUX.VERB

Exercise One: The Basic Sentence

Say each sentence OUT LOUD.

1. He asks.

वह + पूछ + ending + aux.verb

= वह पूछता है

2. We become.

3. They believe/accept.

4. I change.

5. She emerges/comes out.

6. You find.

7. He knows.

8. We learn.

9. They listen/hear.

10. I meet.

11. She opens.

12. You put/keep.

13. He reads.

14. We see.

15. They ask.

16. I sit.

17. She talks/speaks.

18. You tell.

19. He thinks.

20. We understand.

21. They walk.

22. I write.

23. She asks.

24. You become.

25. He believes/accepts.

26. We change.

27. They emerge/come out.

28. I find.

29. She knows.

30. You learn.

31. He listens/hears.

32. We meet.

33. They open.

34. I put/keep.

35. She reads.

36. You see.

37. He sits.

38. We talk/speak.

39. They tell.

40. I think.

41. She understands.

42. You walk.

43. He writes.

Exercise Two: Sentence Progressions

Add a DIRECT OBJECT of your choice to the sentences from exercise one and say each sentence OUT LOUD. Skip the sentences shaded in gray because they do not take a direct object easily. To get started, here is a list of direct objects in English.

TIP: For this exercise, we will use English words for our objects. Starting in lesson two, we will use Hindi words for our objects.

answer	book(s)	cars
cat	chairs	door(s)
English	friend(s)	gifts
house(s)	letters	magazines
movie	pathway	picture(s)
price	Hindi	question
reason(s)	shop	song(s)
stories	story	work

Exercise Three: Quick Start

Say each sentence using the SAME subject. (e.g. we, I, he, Nick, they, she, you)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. __ ask(s) | 8. __ learn(s) | 15. __ sit(s) |
| 2. __ become(s) | 9. __ listen/hear(s) | 16. __ speak/talk(s) |
| 3. __ believe/accept(s) | 10. __ meet(s) | 17. __ tell(s) |
| 4. __ change(s) | 11. __ open(s) | 18. __ think(s) |
| 5. __ emerge(s)/come(s) out | 12. __ put/keep(s) | 19. __ understand(s) |
| 6. __ find(s) | 13. __ read(s) | 20. __ walk(s) |
| 7. __ know(s) | 14. __ see(s) | 21. __ write(s) |

WORKSHEET ANSWERS

Step one: Ask **what is being done?** (Write "V" for verb above the word)

Step two: Ask **who is doing it?** (Write "S" for subject above the word)

Step three: Ask **...what?** (Write "D.O" for direct object above the word)

Step four: Write the English words in the Hindi word order on the first line

Step five: Write the Hindi words underneath on the second line.

Step six: Add the appropriate verb ending and auxiliary verb.

S V D.O.

1. I learn Hindi.

I Hindi learn

मैं हिन्दी सीखता हूँ (masculine subject)

मैं हिन्दी सीखती हूँ (feminine subject)

S V D.O.

2. We ask a question.

We questions ask

हम सवाल पूछते हैं

S V D.O.

3. I speak English.

I English speak

मैं अंग्रेज़ी बोलता हूँ (masculine subject)

मैं अंग्रेज़ी बोलती हूँ (feminine subject)

S V D.O.

4. He writes the answer.

He answer writes

वह जवाब लिखता है

S V D.O.

5. You see the picture.

You picture see

आप तस्वीर देखते हैं

Vocabulary: am हूँ | answer जवाब | are हैं | to ask पूछना | English अंग्रेज़ी

he/she वह | Hindi हिन्दी | I मैं | is है | to learn सीखना | picture तस्वीर

question सवाल | to see देखना | to speak बोलना | we हम | to write लिखना | you आप