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HINDI

LEVEL 1

READING BOOKLET

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Introduction

Hindi is one of 23 official languages of India, and is reported to be the second most commonly spoken language in the world. (Only Mandarin Chinese has a greater number of speakers.) Approximately 500 million people around the world speak a dialect of Hindi, and an even greater number have at least some familiarity with it. India's popular "Bollywood" films have served to expose viewers in many parts of the world to the sounds of Hindi.

However, included in those 500 million are speakers of the many regional dialects of the language, which are often quite different. Hindustani is the term used to describe this closely related series of languages or dialects, including Hindi and Urdu. In this course, we teach Standard Hindi as spoken in New Delhi. While elsewhere in India other dialects are more prevalent, the New Delhi dialect will be understood by most people you will meet. And while there are 23 official languages, only Hindi and English are official government languages of communication.

The Hindi language actually shares some roots with English, as both are considered descendants of the Indo-European parent language spoken in Central Asia approximately seven thousand years ago. However, while English has its linguistic roots in the West Germanic language family, Hindi is a descendant of the classical Sanskrit of Central Asia and belongs to the Indo-Iranian family. Today, most Indians are multi-lingual, speaking Hindi, English (one

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of the main dialects of English, called "Indian English"), and one or more regional dialects.

Hindi is a close relative of the Urdu language spoken in Pakistan, and speakers of the two languages can often understand one another, at least to some extent. Both languages are descendants of the colloquial Hindustani spoken in northern India in the ninth and tenth centuries. (The name "Hindi" is of Persian origin, and was first used by Persian-speaking Turks who established the "Delhi Sultanate" in the eleventh century A.D.) That said, the marked cultural differences between India and Pakistan have caused the Hindi and Urdu languages to develop along somewhat different lines, so that they are no longer entirely mutually comprehensible. Though extremely similar, the two are now considered separate languages. Urdu is written in a Persian-Arabic script, while Hindi is written in the Devanagari script.

The written system of Hindi, known as Devanagari, dates back to approximately the 11th century A.D. There are also other languages, such as Sanskrit, Marathi, and Nepali, which use the Devanagari script. A noticeable feature of Devanagari is the top horizontal line which is formed when letters are combined. Hindi is read from left to right and written with spaces between words. However, the letters which make up a word often combine and when the letters join together they sometimes change form. In Hindi there is a definite correspondence between spelling and pronunciation. There are a total of 11-14 vowels and 33-36 consonants,

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depending on the chart used. There are no capital letters, but Hindi vowels have a different appearance when they appear independently or following another vowel than they do when they appear in a word following a consonant. In a word following a consonant, they change to what is known as a *maatraa* form. As a *maatraa,* a vowel can be placed before, after, above, or below a consonant. Devanagari also includes several diacritical marks, the *chandrabindu* and *bindu*, which nasalize the vowels.

Since Hindi is written using the Devanagari alphabet, you will need to learn to associate the sounds with what is probably a new system of symbols. A listing of the Devanagari alphabet can be found beginning on page *5*. This is for your reference only; you will not need the list to learn to read Hindi, since all of the instruction is on the audio.

For more information, call
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Devanagari Alphabet—Vowels

Letter	Maatraa*	Sound	Transliteration
अ	None	*a* as in *about*	a
आ	ा	*a* as in *father*	aa
इ	ि	*i* as in *sit*	i
ई	ी	*ee* as in *seem*	ee
उ	ु	*u* as in *put*	u
ऊ	ू	*oo* as in *pool*	oo
ए	े	*a* as in *late*	ei
ऐ	ै	*a* as in *glad*	ae
ओ	ो	*o* as in *go*	ou
औ	ौ	*aw* as in *saw*	au
ऋ	None	*ri* as in *grip* This vowel occurs only in words that are borrowed from Sanskrit and is rarely used in Hindi.	ri

chandrabindu – nasalizes vowels – ँ

bindu – nasalizes vowels – ं

* The circle represents a consonant and shows the relative position of the *maatraa* to the consonant.

Devanagari Alphabet—Consonants

Letter	Sound	Transliteration
क	within a word or at the end of a word like the *k* in *skit;* sometimes in the beginning of words the *g* as in *gold*	k
ख	*breathy-k* as in *look-here*	kh
ग	*g* as in *gate*	g
घ	*breathy-g* as in *dog-house*	gh
ङ	*ng* as in *swing*	n
च	*ch* as in *check*	ch
छ	*breathy-ch* as in *catch-him*	Chch
ज	*j* as in *June*	j
झ	*breathy-j* as in *dodge-him*	jh
ञ	This sound does not exist in English; most like the *n* in *unjust*	ñ
ट	combination of *t* and *d* as in *train / drain*	T
ठ	*breathy-t* as in *ant-hill*	Th
ड	*d* as in *date*	D
ड़	This sound does not exist in English; most like an *r* followed by a quick *d*	Ra
ढ	*breathy-d* with a very noticable breath at the end	Dh
ढ़	*breathy-Ra*	Rha
ण	This sound does not exist in English; most like the *n* in *end*	N

Devanagari Alphabet—Consonants

Letter	Sound	Transliteration
त	soft *t* as in *at,* or *at-the*	ta
थ	*breathy-ta*	tha
द	*d* as in *breadth*	da
ध	*breathy-da*	dha
न	*n* as in *name* or *anthem*	na
प	*p* as in *pun*	pa
फ	*breathy-p* as in *top-hat*	pha
ब	*b* as in *bun*	ba
भ	*breathy-b* as in *clubhouse*	bha
म	*m* as in *mug*	ma
य	*y* as in *young*	ya
र	*r* as in *serene*	ra
ल	*l* as in *lunch*	la
व	between an English *v* and *w*	va
श	*sh* as in *shell*	sh
ष	*sh* as in German *Schneider*	Sh
स	*s* as in *sun*	Sa
ह	*h* as in *head*	Ha

Borrowed Sounds — Consonants

Letter	Sound	Transliteration
क्ष	*ct* as in *section* (Sanskrit)	ksha
त्र	*tr* as in *trishna* (Sanskrit)	tra
ज्ञ	*g-y* combination (Sanskrit)	gy
क़	*k* (Arabic)	qa
ख़	ch as in *loch* (Persian)	khḥa
ग़	*g* (Persian)	ghḥa
ज़	*z* as in *zone* (English)	z
फ़	*f* as in *fin* (English)	f

Lesson One

1. अ
2. क
3. अक
4. ख
5. अख
6. आ
7. आक
8. का
9. आख
10. खा
11. काख
12. खाक
13. काखा
14. खाका
15. आका
16. आखा
17. अका
18. अखा
19. खका
20. कखा

Lesson Two

1. ग
2. गा
3. अग
4. अँ
5. अ / अँ
6. आँख
7. काँख
8. घ
9. घा
10. कँघा
11. कागा
12. अँक
13. इख
14. गि
15. ईख
16. गी
17. घी
18. घि
19. कँघी

Lesson Three

1. खाकी
2. चा
3. छा
4. अच्छा
5. गच्चा
6. गछछा
7. कच्चा
8. कच्छा
9. काँच
10. खींच
11. चीक
12. उग
13. ऊग
14. उक
15. ऊँचा
16. कुछ
17. कूची
18. गुच्छा
19. गूँगा
20. कूचा

Lesson Four

1. जा
2. झा
3. आज
4. झुका
5. जाँचा
6. गूँजा
7. खींचा
8. छींका
9. चखा
10. झाँका
11. एग
12. एक
13. ऐग
14. ऐक
15. केक
16. कैज
17. जेझ
18. जेक

Lesson Five

1. इच्छा
2. टा
3. ठा
4. ठीक
5. चाट
6. ठाट
7. काट
8. गाँठ
9. खाट
10. छाँट
11. खट्टा
12. चिट्ठी
13. गट्टा
14. कट्टा
15. आठ
16. खट्टी
17. कच्चा
18. खट्टा

Lesson Six

1. ओग
2. ओक
3. खोज
4. औग
5. औज
6. कौच
7. कोख
8. खोट
9. खोटा
10. कोठा
11. छोटा
12. चोट
13. चौका
14. चौंका
15. छौंका
16. चौखट
17. जाओ
18. खाओ

Lesson Seven

1. डा
2. डाक
3. डींग
4. डँडा
5. ठँडा
6. ठँडी
7. झँडा
8. अड्डा
9. अँडा
10. गैंडा
11. गुँडा
12. ड़ा
13. घड़ा
14. कीड़ा
15. खड़ा
16. कड़ा
17. चौड़ा
18. छोड़ा

Lesson Eight

1. ढा
2. ढूँढा
3. ढीट
4. गट्टा
5. ढाँचा
6. ढँग
7. ढोंग
8. ढोंगी
9. जाट्टा
10. आओ
11. गाओ
12. गैज
13. छेक
14. जोड़ा
15. घोड़ा
16. ढाँक
17. णा
18. कण

Lesson Nine

1. ता
2. तागा
3. ताक
4. गाता
5. खींचता
6. तीखा
7. छाता
8. घात
9. ताँगा
10. कुत्ता
11. था
12. चौथा
13. गाथा
14. थका
15. ता / था
16. थीं
17. थोड़ी
18. आठ

Lesson Ten

1. दा
2. देखो
3. दुख
4. गद्दी
5. चाँद
6. गँदा
7. खादी
8. दँड
9. डाँट
10. देग
11. धा
12. धोखा
13. धागा
14. दूध
15. धुँध
16. कँधा
17. गधी
18. गँध
19. गाँधी

Lesson Eleven

1. ना
2. खाना
3. काना
4. अन्धा
5. धनी
6. डाँटना
7. देना
8. देखना
9. नगीना
10. घना
11. दुखना
12. नाचना
13. टोकना
14. नाती
15. नतनी
16. जाना
17. चाटना
18. छाँटना
19. नाँक
20. जानता

Lesson Twelve

1. पा
2. पूजा
3. पत्ता
4. पक्का
5. पाँच
6. ठप्पा
7. पूछना
8. पनघट
9. पाठक
10. फा
11. फँदा
12. फूँकना
13. फटा
14. फागुन
15. फाटक
16. पाठक
17. फाँकना
18. फीका

Lesson Thirteen

1. बा
2. बच्चा
3. बच्चे
4. बच्ची
5. बोझ
6. बड़ा बच्चा
7. बड़ी बच्ची
8. बछड़ा
9. बेचना
10. भा
11. भोजन
12. किताब
13. भगदड़
14. भात
15. कभी कभी
16. भाभी
17. भजन
18. भीड़
19. भड़काना

Lesson Fourteen

1. मा
2. मकान
3. मुमकिन
4. अम्मा
5. भूमिका
6. मँथन
7. मँच
8. मूँछ
9. मीठा
10. घमँडी
11. खम्बा
12. धीमे धीमे
13. मुझको
14. धमाका
15. मुझे
16. चमची
17. चमचा
18. चमक
19. मधु
20. मूँग

Lesson Fifteen

1. या
2. बच्चियाँ
3. घटिया
4. त्याग
5. क्या
6. गायक
7. ध्यान
8. डाकिया
9. नायक
10. रा
11. किराया
12. किरायदार
13. रू
14. रूप
15. धर्म
16. उर्दु
17. पार्टी
18. ग्राम
19. प्रेम

Lesson Sixteen

1. उम्र
2. क्रिया
3. मगर
4. मूर्ति
5. पर्दा
6. ला
7. निर्मल
8. ट्रौली
9. लड़का
10. लड़की
11. लड़के
12. लड़कियाँ
13. जल्दी
14. बिल्ली
15. रात का खाना
16. बोलती
17. बोलता
18. जल्दी बोलता
19. जल्दी बोलती
20. राज पथ

Lesson Seventeen

1. हा
2. हूँ
3. है
4. हैं
5. बहुत
6. जी हाँ
7. होटल
8. जी नहीं
9. मैं हूँ
10. मैं बोलती हूँ
11. मैं जल्दी बोलती हूँ.
12. मैं जल्दी नहीं बोलती हूँ.
13. आप जल्दी बोलती हैं.
14. अमरीकी
15. हम अमरीकी हैं.
16. चाहती हूँ
17. कुछ चाय
18. मैं कुछ चाय चाहती हूँ.
19. मैं कुछ चाय चाहता हूँ.
20. हम कलकत्ता जा रहे हैं.

Eighteen

1. वा
2. वो
3. वहाँ
4. चौदह
5. धन्यवाद
6. दीवार
7. मुझे दीजिये
8. रुपये
9. मुझे रुपये दीजिये.
10. वो उधर है.
11. शा
12. खुशी
13. शर्मीला
14. शर्मीली
15. शाम
16. श्याम
17. बारिश
18. पियूँगी
19. मैं पियूँगी
20. मैं चाय पियूँगी.

Lesson Nineteen

1. षा
2. भाषा
3. भाषण
4. धनुष
5. खुशी हुई
6. पुरुष
7. राष्ट्र
8. राष्ट्रीय
9. तीन भाषायें
10. सा
11. सन्तोष
12. पास
13. मेरे पास है
14. मेरे पास एक गाड़ी है.
15. सुनिये
16. आपके साथ
17. सुनिये और दोहराइये.
18. सचमुच
19. कैसे बोलते हैं?
20. आपसे मिलके खुशी हुई.

Lesson Twenty

1. क्षा
2. कक्षा
3. भिक्षा
4. मोक्ष
5. शिक्षक
6. त्रा
7. छात्र
8. पत्रिका
9. ज्ञा
10. ज्ञान
11. ज्ञानी
12. विज्ञान
13. ख़राब
14. मुझे कुछ ख़रीदना है.
15. ग़लत
16. ज़रा
17. ये काफ़ी हैं.