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Richard Delacy

TUTTLE

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TUTTLE Publishing  
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The author would like to thank Mrs Sudha Joshi for proofreading the entire text. All inaccuracies remain the author’s.

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# Introduction

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• Welcome to the Tuttle Essential Language series, covering all of the most popular world languages. These books are basic guides in communicating in the language. They're concise, accessible and easy to understand, and you'll find them indispensable on your trip abroad to get you where you want to go, pay the right prices and do everything you've been planning to do.

This guide is divided into 16 themed sections and starts with a pronunciation table which explains the phonetic pronunciation to all the words and sentences you'll need to know, and a basic grammar guide which will help you construct basic sentences in your chosen language. At the end of the book is an extensive English–Hindi word list.

Throughout the book you'll come across boxes with a  beside them. These are designed to help you if you can't understand what your listener is saying to you. Hand the book over to them and encourage them to point to the appropriate answer to the question you are asking.

Other boxes in the book—this time without the symbol—give listings of themed words with their English translations.

For extra clarity, we have put all phonetic pronunciations of the foreign language terms in bold italic.

This book covers all subjects you are likely to come across during the course of a visit, from reserving a room for the night to ordering food and drink at a restaurant and what to do if your car breaks down or you lose your money. With over 2,000 commonly used words and essential sentences at your fingertips you can rest assured that you will be able to get by in all situations, so let **Essential Hindi** become your passport to learning to speak with confidence!

# Pronunciation guide

The Hindi syllabary is made up of forty-six characters in their basic form. There are eleven vowels and thirty-six consonants. Ten of the eleven vowels also have an abbreviated form, when they are pronounced together with a consonant. Unless a consonant is written with one of the abbreviated forms of these ten vowels, it is either pronounced with an inherent a अ vowel, or, depending on its place in the word, with no vowel sound.

## Guide to Pronunciation

Roman	Devanagari	Phonetic Description	Approximate Pronunciation
<i>a</i>	अ	mid-central unrounded vowel	<i>a</i> as in <u>sun</u>
<i>ā</i>	आ   ा *	low-central unrounded vowel	<i>ā</i> as in <u>father</u>
<i>i</i>	इ   ि *	high front unrounded vowel	<i>i</i> as in <u>sin</u>
<i>ī</i>	ई   ि *	long high front vowel	<i>ī</i> as in <u>feed</u>
<i>u</i>	उ   उ *	short high back rounded vowel	<i>u</i> as in <u>book</u>
<i>ū</i>	ऊ   ू *	long high back rounded vowel	<i>ū</i> as in <u>food</u>
<i>r</i>	ऋ   ृ *	voiced alveolar trill + high front unrounded vowel	<i>rī</i> as in <u>ring</u>
<i>e</i>	ए   े *	high mid-front rounded vowel	<i>e</i> as in <u>bet</u>
<i>ai</i>	ऐ   ै *	long low front vowel and diphthong	<i>ai</i> as in <u>height</u>
<i>o</i>	ओ   ो *	long rounded back mid vowel	<i>o</i> as in <u>so</u>
<i>au</i>	औ   ौ *	low-mid to mid-back rounded vowel	<i>au</i> as in <u>how</u>

\* When written with a consonant, these symbols indicate that these vowel sounds are pronounced with the consonant in place of the inherent 'a' vowel. See the Rules for pronunciation below.

Roman	Devanagari	Phonetic Description	Approximate Pronunciation
<i>ka</i>	क	voiceless unaspirated velar plosive	<i>ka</i> as in speaker
<i>kha</i>	ख	voiceless aspirated velar plosive	<i>kha</i> as in block <u>h</u> ead
<i>ga</i>	ग	voiced unaspirated velar plosive	<i>ga</i> as in <u>g</u> un
<i>gha</i>	घ	voiced aspirated velar plosive	<i>gha</i> as in log <u>h</u> ouse
<i>ṅ</i>	ङ	velar nasal plosive	<i>ṅa</i> as in ki <u>ṅ</u>
<i>ca</i>	च	voiceless unaspirated palatoalveolar affricative	<i>ca</i> as in <u>ch</u> utney
<i>cha</i>	छ	voiceless aspirated palatoalveolar affricative	<i>cha</i> as in church <u>ch</u> -hill
<i>ja</i>	ज	voiced unaspirated palatoalveolar affricative	<i>ja</i> as in ju <u>dg</u> e
<i>jha</i>	झ	voiced aspirated palatoalveolar affricative	<i>jha</i> as in <u>h</u> edge <u>h</u> og
<i>ṅa</i>	ञ	palatal nasal plosive	<i>ṅa</i> as in <u>cr</u> unch
<i>ṭa</i>	ट	voiceless unaspirated retroflex plosive	tongue touches the top of the mouth
<i>ṭha</i>	ठ	voiceless unaspirated retroflex plosive	tongue touches the top of the mouth, breath of air accompanies the sound
<i>ḍa</i>	ड	voiced unaspirated retroflex plosive	tongue touches the top of the mouth
<i>ṛa</i>	ड़	voiced unaspirated retroflex flap	tongue touches the top of the mouth and, without resting there, flaps down
<i>ḍha</i>	ढ	voiced aspirated retroflex plosive	tongue touches the top of the mouth; a breath of air accompanies the sound
<i>ṛha</i>	ढ़	voiced aspirated retroflex flap	tongue touches the top of the mouth and, without resting there, flaps down; a breath of air accompanies the sound

Roman	Devanagari	Phonetic Description	Approximate Pronunciation
<i>ṅa</i>	ण/ण	retroflex nasal plosive	tongue touches the top of the mouth
<i>ta</i>	त	voiceless unaspirated dental plosive	tongue touches the back of the top teeth
<i>tha</i>	थ	voiceless aspirated dental plosive	tongue touches the back of the top teeth; a breath of air accompanies the sound
<i>da</i>	द	voiced unaspirated dental plosive	tongue touches the back of the top teeth
<i>dha</i>	ध	voiced aspirated dental plosive	tongue touches the back of the top teeth; a breath of air accompanies the sound
<i>na</i>	न	voiced unaspirated dental nasal plosive	tongue touches the back of the top teeth
<i>pa</i>	प	voiceless unaspirated bilabial plosive	<i>pa</i> as in <u>spun</u>
<i>pha</i>	फ	voiced unaspirated bilabial plosive	<i>pha</i> as in <u>putt</u>
<i>ba</i>	ब	voiced unaspirated bilabial plosive	<i>ba</i> as in <u>but</u>
<i>bha</i>	भ	aspirated bilabial plosive	<i>bha</i> as in <u>clubhouse</u>
<i>ma</i>	म	bilabial nasal	<i>ma</i> as in <u>money</u>
<i>ya</i>	य	voiced palatal semi-vowel	<i>ya</i> as in <u>young</u>
<i>ra</i>	र	voiced alveolar trill	<i>ra</i> as in <u>run</u>
<i>la</i>	ल	voiced alveolar lateral	<i>la</i> as in <u>lung</u>
<i>va/wa</i>	व	voiced labio-dental semi-vowel or fricative	sometimes closer to a 'v' and sometimes to a 'w'
<i>śa</i>	श	voiceless prepalatal fricative	<i>śa</i> as in <u>shun</u>
<i>ṣa</i>	ष	voiceless retroflex sibilant fricative	<i>ṣa</i> as in <u>flush</u>
<i>sa</i>	स	voiceless alveolar sibilant fricative	<i>sa</i> as in <u>sun</u>
<i>ha</i>	ह	voiced or unvoiced fricative	<i>ha</i> as in <u>hunt</u>

There are some sounds in Hindi that were originally not represented in the script. They occur in words that came into Hindi from Arabic, Persian and English, among other languages. They are represented by dots under particular characters.

Roman	Devanagari	Phonetic Description	Approximate Pronunciation
<i>qa</i>	क़	voiceless, unaspirated velar plosive	produced further back in the throat than ' <i>ka</i> '
<i>kha</i>	ख़	velar fricative	there is a partial closure of the air passage
<i>gha</i>	ग़	post-velar fricative	produced like ' <i>ga</i> ' but further back in the throat
<i>za</i>	ज़	voiced alveolar fricative	<i>za</i> as in <u>zebra</u>
<i>fa</i>	फ़	labio-dental fricative	<i>fa</i> as in <u>fun</u>

## Rules for pronunciation

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1) Each consonant is pronounced with an inherent 'a' अ vowel, except in the following circumstances:

a) an abbreviated vowel symbol is written with it

For example:

क = **ka** but

का = **kā**; कि = **ki**; की = **kī**; कु = **ku**; कू = **kū**; कृ = **kr**; के = **ke**; कै = **kai**; को = **ko**; कौ = **kao**

b) at the end of a word

For example:

काम = **kām**

c) it is not being omitted twice in a row

For example:

कमला = **kamlā**; नमक = **namak**

d) its form is modified and it is connected to the following consonant

For example:

क् **k** + य **ya** = क्य **kya**

Most of these modified forms will be easily recognizable. Some, however, are a bit more idiosyncratic.

2) Occasionally when an **a** अ vowel is followed by an **ha** ह with which no full vowel is pronounced, this **a** अ is pronounced as a short **e** ए.

For example:

महल = **mehal** (palace) (in this word the **a** vowel is very short)

## Conjunct Consonants

Most modified forms of consonants joined together to indicate the omission of an intervening vowel will be readily identifiable (such as क् **k** + य **ya** = क्य **kya** above). However, the constituent consonants in some clusters are not so recognizable. For a list of these, refer to standard text like *Elementary Hindi*, pp. 42–46.

# Basic grammar

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The most important features of Hindi grammar are the conjugations of verbs, and the use of postpositions (the same as prepositions in English, except that they follow the word to which they relate).

One of the most important rules of Hindi grammar is that *any word that is followed by a postposition cannot influence the conjugation of the verb*. Sometimes postpositions in Hindi are implied (that is, not visible). Depending on the word that is being governed by a postposition, its form may have to change when it is followed by a postposition.

For example:

that  
**voh**

वह

those  
**vo**

वे

good  
**acchā**

अच्छा

boy (m)  
**laṛkā**

लड़का

that good boy  
**voh acchā laṛkā**

वह अच्छा लड़का

to that good boy  
**us acche laṛke KO**

उस अच्छे लड़के को

those good boys  
**vo acche laṛke**

वे अच्छे लड़के

to those good boys  
**un acche laṛkō KO**

## उन अच्छे लड़कों को

In the second and fourth examples above the postposition 'to' **ko** को appears. Look closely at the changes that have taken place to the words for 'that/those', 'good' and 'boy.' These changes tell us whether these words are singular or plural and followed by a postposition or not.

### Word Order

Hindi is a subject-object-verb language (SOV).

For example:

I read a book. **maĩ kitāb parhtā hū.** मैं किताब पढ़ता हूँ।  
S V O S O V

### Nouns

All nouns in Hindi are either masculine or feminine. The form of many changes when they are pluralized and when followed by a postposition (*on, at, in, with, etc*). How they change depends on the ending of the word and its gender.

Nouns are declined according to the following rules.

#### Masculine Nouns

1. Masculine nouns that end in **ā** आ decline in the following manner.

Singular, - postposition	Singular, + postposition	Plural, - postposition	Plural, + postposition
<i>kamrā</i> कमरा room	<i>kamre mē</i> कमरे में in a/the room	<i>kamre</i> कमरे rooms	<i>kamrō mē</i> कमरों में in (the) rooms

2. All other masculine nouns decline in the following manner.

Singular, - postposition	Singular, + postposition	Plural, - postposition	Plural, + postposition
<i>ghar</i> घर home	<i>ghar mē</i> घर में in a/the home	<i>ghar</i> घर homes	<i>gharō mē</i> घरों में in (the) homes

Masculine nouns that end in the long vowels **ī** ई and **ū** ऊ shorten these vowels in the plural form with a postposition, and in the case of **ī** ई, add the semi-vowel **y** य् before the ending **ō** ओं.

Singular, - postposition	Singular, + postposition	Plural, - postposition	Plural, + postposition
<i>ādmī</i> आदमी a/the man	<i>ādmī mē</i> आदमी में in a/the man	<i>ādmī</i> आदमी men	<i>ādmīyō mē</i> आदमियों में in (the) men
<i>ālū</i> आलू potato	<i>ālū mē</i> आलू में in a/the potato	<i>ālū</i> आलू potatoes	<i>ālūō mē</i> आलूओं में in (the) potatoes

3. There are some **ā** आ ending masculine nouns that follow the pattern of (2). These are main

nouns that signify a relationship and have a reduplicative form as well as some words from Sanskrit. For example:

maternal uncle

**māmā**

मामा

paternal uncle

**cācā**

चाचा

maternal grandfather

**nānā**

नाना

paternal grandfather

**dādā**

दादा

king

**rājā**

राजा

father

**pitā**

पिता

Singular, - postposition	Singular, + postposition	Plural, - postposition	Plural, + postposition
<b>rājā</b> राजा a/the king	<b>rājā mē</b> राजा में in a/the king	<b>rājā</b> राजा kings	<b>rājāō mē</b> राजाओं में in (the) kings
<b>māmā</b> मामा maternal uncle	<b>māmā mē</b> मामा में in an/the uncle	<b>māmā</b> मामा uncles	<b>māmāō mē</b> मामाओं में in (the) uncles

## Feminine Nouns

1. Feminine nouns that end in **i** इ, **ī** ई or **iyā** इया

**i** इ — add **yā** याँ in plural with no postposition, **yō** यों in plural with a postposition.

**ī** ई — shorten to **i** इ and add **yā** याँ in plural with no postposition, **yō** यों in plural with postposition.

**iyā** इया — add ~ँ in plural with no postposition, changing **yā** या to **yō** यों in plural with



postposition.

Singular, - postposition	Singular, + postposition	Plural, - postposition	Plural, + postposition
<i>rātri</i> रात्रि night	<i>rātri mē</i> रात्रि में in a/the night	<i>rātriyā</i> रात्रियाँ nights	<i>rātriyō mē</i> रात्रियों में in (the) nights
<i>sārī</i> साड़ी sari	<i>sārī mē</i> साड़ी में in a/the sari	<i>sāriyā</i> साड़ियाँ saris	<i>sāriyō mē</i> साड़ियों में in (the) saris
<i>cīriyā</i> चिड़िया bird	<i>cīriyā mē</i> चिड़िया में in a/the bird	<i>cīriyā</i> चिड़ियाँ birds	<i>cīriyō mē</i> चिड़ियों में in (the) birds

2. Feminine nouns ending in any other character are declined simply by adding *ē* ऐँ in the plural form without a postposition, and *ō* औँ in the plural with a postposition.

Singular, - postposition	Singular, + postposition	Plural, - postposition	Plural, + postposition
<i>ciz</i> चीज़ thing	<i>ciz mē</i> चीज़ में in a/the thing	<i>cizē</i> चीज़ें things	<i>cizō mē</i> चीज़ों में in (the) things
<i>bhāṣā</i> भाषा language	<i>bhāṣā mē</i> भाषा में in a/the language	<i>bhāṣāē</i> भाषाएँ languages	<i>bhāṣāō mē</i> भाषाओं में in (the) languages
<i>jurū</i> जोरू wife	<i>jurū mē</i> जोरू में in a/the wife	<i>jurūē</i> जोरूएँ* wives	<i>jurūō mē</i> जोरूओं* में in (the) wives

\* Feminine words ending in a *ū* ऊ vowel shorten this vowel before the addition of *ē* ऐँ and *ō* औँ in the plural with and without a postposition.

## Adjectives

Adjectives in Hindi must also be declined according to their endings.

1. *ā* आ ending adjectives must change for the number, gender and case (occurrence of postposition) of the noun that follows.

good (adj) *acchā* अच्छा

good boy <i>acchā laṛkā</i> अच्छा लड़का	good girl <i>acchī laṛkī</i> अच्छी लड़की
good boys <i>acche laṛke</i> अच्छे लड़के	good girls <i>acchī laṛkiyā</i> अच्छी लड़कियाँ
to the good boy <i>acche laṛke ko</i> अच्छे लड़के को	to the good girl <i>acchī laṛkī ko</i> अच्छी लड़की को
to the good boys <i>acche laṛkō ko</i> अच्छे लड़कों को	to the good girls <i>acchī laṛkiyō ko</i> अच्छी लड़कियों को

2. Adjectives that end in any other character do not change.

red (adj)

***lāl***

---

लाल

red book (f)

***lāl kitāb***

लाल किताब

red books (f, pl)

***lāl kitābē***

लाल किताबें

in the red book (f)

***lāl kitāb mẽ***

लाल किताब में

in the red books (f, pl)

***lāl kitābō mẽ***

लाल किताबों में

There are some **ā** आ ending adjectives that do not change, and a few where it is up to the speaker's discretion. Here is a list of a few of the more common ones.

one-and-a-quarter

***savā***

सवा

excellent

***barhiyā***

बढ़िया

inferior

***ghaṭiyā***

घटिया

unfortunate, unhappy, sad

***dukhiyā***

दुखिया

born

***paidā***

पैदा

a little

***zarā***

ज़रा

alive

**zindā**

ज़िंदा

fresh

**tāzā**

ताज़ा

(This may change according to the speaker's discretion.)

## Pronouns

The forms of pronouns also change when they are followed by postpositions. Here is a list of a of possible forms of the pronouns with different postpositions. Postpositions can be made up of single word (in **mē** में) or two or more words (for the sake of **ke liye** के लिये). In some cases there are variant forms of some of the pronouns with particular postpositions.

Pronoun, - Post- position	Pronoun, + Postposition				
	+ <i>kā</i> + का 's	+ <i>ke liye</i> + के लिये for, in order to	+ <i>mē</i> + में in	+ <i>ko</i> + को (object marker)	+ <i>ne</i> + ने (ergative part)
I <i>mē</i> मैं	<i>merā</i> मेरा	<i>mere liye</i> मेरे लिये	<i>mujh mē</i> मुझमें	<i>mujh ko/ mujhe</i> मुझको/मुझे	<i>mai ne</i> मैंने
we <i>ham</i> हम	<i>hamārā</i> हमारा	<i>hamāre liye</i> हमारे लिये	<i>ham mē</i> हममें	<i>ham ko/ hamē</i> हमको/हमें	<i>ham ne</i> हमने
you <i>tū</i> तू	<i>terā</i> तेरा	<i>tere liye</i> तेरे लिये	<i>tujh mē</i> तुझमें	<i>tujh ko/ tujhe</i> तुझको/तुझे	<i>tū ne</i> तूने
you <i>tum</i> तुम	<i>tumhārā</i> तुम्हारा	<i>tumhāre liye</i> तुम्हारे लिये	<i>tum mē</i> तुममें	<i>tum ko/ tumhē</i> तुमको/तुम्हें	<i>tum ne</i> तुमने
you <i>āp</i> आप	<i>āp kā</i> आपका	<i>āpke liye</i> आपके लिये	<i>āp mē</i> आपमें	<i>āp ko</i> आपको	<i>āp ne</i> आपने

Pronoun, - Post- position	Pronoun, + Postposition				
he/she/it/ this <b>yeh</b> यह	<i>is kā</i> इसका	<i>is ke liye</i> इसके लिये	<i>is mẽ</i> इसमें	<i>is ko/ise</i> इसको/इसे	<i>is ne</i> इसने
he/she/it/ that <b>voh</b> वह	<i>us kā</i> उसका	<i>us ke liye</i> उसके लिये	<i>us mẽ</i> उसमें	<i>us ko/use</i> उसको/उसे	<i>us ne</i> उसने
he/she/ they/ these <b>ye</b> ये	<i>in kā</i> इनका	<i>in ke liye</i> इनके लिये	<i>in mẽ</i> इनमें	<i>in ko/inhẽ</i> इनको/इन्हें	<i>inhõ ne</i> इन्होंने
he/she/ they/those <b>vo</b> वे	<i>un kā</i> उनका	<i>un ke liye</i> उनके लिये	<i>un mẽ</i> उनमें	<i>un ko/unhẽ</i> उनको/उन्हें	<i>unhõ ne</i> उन्होंने
who <b>kaun</b> कौन	<i>kis kā</i> किसका	<i>kis ke liye</i> किसके लिये	<i>kis mẽ</i> किसमें	<i>kis ko/kise</i> किसको/ किसे	<i>kis ne</i> किसने
who (pl) <b>kaun</b> कौन	<i>kin kā</i> किनका	<i>kin ke liye</i> किनके लिये	<i>kin mẽ</i> किनमें	<i>kin ko/ kinhẽ</i> किनको/ किन्हें	<i>kinhõ ne</i> किन्होंने
what <b>kyā</b> क्या	<i>kis kā</i> किसका	<i>kis ke liye</i> किसके लिये	<i>kis mẽ</i> किसमें	<i>kis ko/kise</i> किसको/ किसे	<i>kis ne</i> किसने
someone/ anyone some/any <b>koĩ</b> कोई	<i>kisĩ kā</i> किसी का	<i>kisĩ ke liye</i> किसी के लिये	<i>kisĩ mẽ</i> किसी में	<i>kisĩ ko</i> किसी को	<i>kisĩ ne</i> किसी ने
some (pl) <b>koĩ</b> कोई	<i>kinhĩ kā</i> किन्हीं का	<i>kinhĩ ke liye</i> किन्हीं के लिये	<i>kinhĩ mẽ</i> किन्हीं में	<i>kinhĩ ko</i> किन्हीं को	<i>kinhĩ ne</i> किन्हीं ने
who/that/ which <b>jo</b> जो	<i>jis kā</i> जिसका	<i>jis ke liye</i> जिसके लिये	<i>jis mẽ</i> जिसमें	<i>jis ko/jise</i> जिसको/ जिसे	<i>jis ne</i> जिसने
who/that/ which (pl) <b>jo</b> जो	<i>jin kā</i> जिनका	<i>jin ke liye</i> जिनके लिये	<i>jin mẽ</i> जिनमें	<i>jin ko/jinhẽ</i> जिनको/ जिन्हें	<i>jinhõ ne</i> जिन्होंने

Many of these postpositions are written together with pronouns in the Devanagari script. They have been written separately in the Roman script to show clearly the form that the pronoun takes.

Plural forms of pronouns are used for single people to be polite.

There are three second person pronouns. They function in the following manner:

you **tū** (sing) तू (intimate): used with animals, small children, god, intimate relations

you **tum** (pl) तुम (familiar): used with friends, family, people of same social standing

you **āp** आप (pl) (polite): used for respect with elders and people of higher social standing

There are only a few single word postpositions. They are:

's **kā** का

to (object marker) **ko** को

until, by **tak** तक

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on, at, in **par** पर

in **mē** में

from, by, since, with **se** से

ergative particle **ne** ने

The majority of postpositions contain more than one word. Most are made up of two words, the first of which is either **ke** के or **kī** की.

with **ke sāth** के साथ

for (the sake of) **ke liye** के लिये

about, concerning **ke bāre mē** के बारे में; because of **kī vajah se** की वजह से

## Verbs

Verbs are conjugated in the various tenses for the number, gender, and person of the subject. The verbal system is based on two participles:

the imperfect participle (action 'imperfect', or incomplete)

the perfect participle (action 'perfect', or complete)

These participles are effectively **ā** आ ending adjectives. (See above how adjectives function.) They are formed in the following manner:

- Imperfect participle: stem of a verb + **tā/te/tī** + ता/ते/ती

For example:

to speak

**bolnā** (infinitive)

बोलना

**bol** (stem) + **tā/te/tī**

बोल + ता/ते/ती

speak **boltā/bolte/bolti**

# बोलता/बोलते/बोलती

- Perfect participle: stem of a verb + **ā/e/ī/ī** + आ/ए/ई/ई

For example:

to speak

**bolnā** (infinitive)

बोलना

**bol** (stem) + **ā/e/ī/ī**

बोल + आ/ए/ई/ई

spoke **bolā/bole/bolī/bolī**

बोला/बोले/बोली/बोलीं

These participles are then combined with the forms of the verb *to be* in the simple present and past.

## Simple Present of the Verb to be

	Singular	Plural
1st person	I am <b>maī hū</b> मैं हूँ	we are <b>ham hai</b> हम हैं
2nd person	you are <b>tū hai</b> तू है	you are <b>tum ho</b> तुम हो
		you are <b>āp hai</b> आप हैं
3rd person	he/she/it/this is <b>yeh hai</b> यह है	these/they are <b>ye hai</b> ये हैं
	he/she/it/that is <b>voh hai</b> वह है	those/they are <b>vo hai</b> वे हैं

## Simple Past of the Verb to be

	Singular (m/f)	Plural (m/f)
1st person	I am <b>maī thā/thī</b> मैं था/थी	we were <b>ham the/thī</b> हम थे/थीं
2nd person	you were <b>tū thā/thī</b> तू था/थी	you were <b>tum the/thī</b> तुम थे/थीं
		you were <b>āp the/thī</b> आप थे/थीं
3rd person	he/she/it/this was <b>yeh thā/thī</b> यह था/थी	these/they were (he/she was) <b>ye the/thī</b> ये थे/थीं
	he/she/it/that was <b>voh thā/thī</b> वह था/थी	those/they were (he/she was) <b>vo the/thī</b> वे थे/थीं

The two participles with these forms of the verb *to be* combine to form five of the six tenses.

I (m) speak **maī boltā hū** मैं बोलता हूँ (imperfect present)

I (m) used to speak **maĩ boltā thā** मैं बोलता था (habitual past)

---

I (m) spoke **maĩ bolā** मैं बोला (past)

I (m) have spoken **maĩ bolā hū** मैं बोला हूँ (present perfect)

I (m) had spoken **maĩ bolā thā** मैं बोला था (past perfect)

I (f) speak **maĩ boltī hū** मैं बोलती हूँ (imperfect present)

I (f) used to speak **maĩ boltī thī** मैं बोलती थी (habitual past)

I (f) spoke **maĩ bolī** मैं बोली (past)

I (f) have spoken **maĩ bolī hū** मैं बोली हूँ (present perfect)

I (f) had spoken **maĩ bolī thī** मैं बोली थी (past perfect)

## Optative and Future Tense

The optative form of the verb expresses wishes, desires, possibilities, etc., and the future tense expresses actions that take place in the future.

Singular	Plural
I may/should speak <b>maĩ bolū</b> मैं बोलूँ	we may/should speak <b>ham bolē</b> हम बोलें
you may/should speak <b>tū bole</b> तू बोले	you may/should speak <b>tum bolo</b> तुम बोलो
	you may/should speak <b>āp bolē</b> आप बोलें
he/she/it/this may/should speak <b>yeh bole</b> यह बोले	they/these/he/she may/should speak <b>ye bolē</b> ये बोलें
he/she/it/that may/should speak <b>voh bole</b> वह बोले	they/those/he/she may/should speak <b>vo bolē</b> वे बोलें

The future tense is formed by adding the ending **gā/ge/gī** गा/गे/गी to these forms.

For example:

I (m) will speak **maĩ bolūgā** मैं बोलूँगा

You (m, pl) will speak **āp bolēge** आप बोलेंगे

He (m) will speak **yeh bolegā** यह बोलेगा

I (f) will speak **maĩ bolũgĩ** मैं बोलूँगी

---

You (f, pl) will speak **āp bolẽgĩ** आप बोलेंगी

She (f) will speak **yeh boleगी** यह बोलेगी

## The Progressive Aspect

Actions can also be expressed as taking place at a particular moment, either in the present (near future), or in the past.

This is formed in the following manner.

stem + **rahā/rahe/rahī** + tense marker

बोल (speaking) + रहा/रहे/रही + verb *to be* (present or past)

he is speaking **voh bol rahā hai** वह बोल रहा है

she is speaking **voh bol rahī hai** वह बोल रही है

he was speaking **voh bol rahā thā** वह बोल रहा था

she was speaking **voh bol rahī thī** वह बोल रही थी

they (m) are speaking **vo bol rahe hai** वे बोल रहे हैं

they (f) were speaking **vo bol rahī thī** वे बोल रही थीं

## Imperatives

Commands are given to the second person (you). There are five forms of the imperative. They correspond to the three forms of the second person pronoun, and indicate the degree of respect (intimate, informal, polite, neutral/future, polite future).

You speak! **tū bol!** तू बोल! (stem of the verb 'to speak' **bolnā** बोलना, **bol** बोल) (intimate/impolite form)

You speak. **tum bolo.** तुम बोलो। (stem + **o** ओ) (familiar form)

You please speak. **āp boliye.** आप बोलिये। (stem + **iyē** इये) (polite form)

You speak. (further in the future than now) **tū/tum bolnā.** तू/तुम बोलना। (infinitive of the verb) (neutral)



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