



668_AARAMBHIKAA_INTRO

Hindi : An Introduction

Welcome to this journey of learning Hindi. This is one of the most spoken and understood languages in the world. Hindi is spoken and understood in South Asian countries (India, Pakistan, Nepal) and other countries outside Asia (Mauritius, Trinidad, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, South Africa etc.). Hindi is the official language of India.

Hindi is a modern Indian language derived from Sanskrit, Paali, Prakrit and Apabhramsha. The literary history of Hindi dates back to the 12th century. Hindi is written in the Devanagari script, which evolved from the ancient Brahmi script. The Devanagari script is one of the most widely adopted scripts in the world.

Learning a new language is a very complicated process. It requires extra effort, focus, time and patience. But learning a new alphabet or writing system can also be fun and easy. This book has been specially developed keeping in mind learners like you.

Two friends will accompany you on this journey of learning Hindi – Sam and Maya. Sam has come from Australia and Maya from Brazil to visit her friend Geeta in India. During this stay they will travel to many places in India and converse in Hindi. With the help of this conversation, you too will be able to learn to converse in Hindi.

Hindi language and Devanagari script – features of pronunciation and writing

1. Devanagari script is considered to be the most scientific script in the world as it is based on the fundamental principles of phonetics. Devanagari script is thousands of years old, and it is still being used.
2. It is a simple and easy script. The best feature of Devanagari script is that what is written is read or spoken and what is read or spoken is written.

3. In Devanagari script each letter has only one pronunciation. That is, each letter has a different sound. So what a person is speaking can be written as such.
4. Devanagari script is written like Roman script from left to right. Unlike the Roman script, it does not have two forms (upper-case and lower-case) of the same letter.
5. The name of the letter is same as the sound of the letter like- अ, ब, स, ल etc.
6. In Devanagari script the sounds are divided into two parts – स्वर और व्यंजन (vowels and consonants).
7. स्वर (Swara/Vowel) – Those character of Hindi alphabet, which are pronounced with independent sound are called स्वर (Vowel), e.g. अ, आ, इ, ई etc.
8. व्यंजन (Vyanjana/ Consonants) – The characters which are pronounced with the help of any vowel are called व्यंजन (Consonants)
9. Devanagari script has 11 vowels and 35 (33 + 2) consonants i.e. total 46 basic alphabets.
10. The sequence of vowels and consonants is arranged in a very systematic way which makes the ‘Varnamaalaa’ of the Hindi language. This sequence is determined taking into account both the manner and place of pronunciation of vowels and consonants. Vowels come first, followed by consonants. In the end, the compound consonants क्ष, त्र, ज्ञ, श्र (Ksh, Tra, Gya, Shra) come.

स्वर (Swara/Vowel)

ह्रस्व स्वर (Hrsva vowels) अ, इ, उ, ऋ,

दीर्घ स्वर (Dirgha vowels) आ, ई, ऊ, ए, ऐ, ओ, औ

व्यंजन (Vyanjana/ Consonants)

क वर्ग : क, ख, ग, घ, ङ (Place of pronunciation – कण्ठ – Throat)

च वर्ग : च, छ, ज, झ, ञ (Place of pronunciation – तालु – Palate)

ट वर्ग : ट, ठ, ड, ढ, ण (ङ, ढ) (Place of pronunciation – मूर्धा – Moordhaa) (Cerebral)

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त वर्ग : त, थ, द, ध, न (Place of pronunciation – दन्त – Dant) (Dental)

प वर्ग : प, फ, ब, भ, म (Place of pronunciation – ओष्ठ – Lips)

अंतस्थ : य, र, ल, व

उष्म : श, ष, स, ह

संयुक्त व्यंजन (Compound Consonants) : क्ष, त्र, ज्ञ, श्र

11. Hindi alphabets can be pronounced as given below:

(अ a), (आ aa), (इ i), (ई ee), (उ u), (ऊ oo), (ए e), (ऐ ai), (ओ o), (औ au), (अं an),
(अः ah)

(क ka), (का kaa), (कि ki), (की kee), (कु ku), (के ke), (कै kai), (कू koo), (को ko),
(कौ kau), (कं kan), (कः kah)

क ka	ख kha	ग ga	घ gha	ङ nya
च cha	छ chha	ज ja	झ jha	ञ na
ट ta	ठ tha	ड da	ढ dha	ण na
त ta	थ tha	द da	ध dha	न na
प pa	फ pha	ब ba	भ bha	म ma
य ya	र ra	ल la	व va	
श sha	ष sha	स sa	ह ha	
क्ष ksha	त्र tra	ज्ञ gya	श्र shra	
ड़ ra	ढ़ rha			

12. Every consonant letter of Hindi has "अ" (a) vowel embedded in it. Like- क् + अ = क.
This saves time and space in writing. That's why the word yoga is pronounced in Hindi as 'योग' i.e. yo+g (not yo+ga).

Therefore, the following are the nature of the consonants -

क् च छ ज्ञ त् थ ध etc

When अ is applied, the 'Hal' sign below the consonants is removed. Then they are written as - क च छ ज्ञ त थ ध etc.

13. Hal mark - If a consonant is to be shown स्वर रहित (voiceless), then an oblique line (\) is placed below it. This line is called the Hal mark. Consonants with Hal mark are called Halanta. Like - प = प् + अ, स = स् + अ etc.

14. There are two forms of Hindi vowels - independent and dependent forms. The independent forms are often called 'full' vowels.

Freely pronounced vowel letters - अ आ ई ऊ इ ऋ ए औ औ,

When a vowel is spoken independently, its independent form is used. Like - आ, आओ, आइए (come)

15. Dependent forms of vowels are called 'Maatraa'. Maatraa is associated with a Consonant. When a vowel is added to the sound of a consonant, then its dependent form i.e. 'matra' is used. like -

जा (ज + आ) (go)

16. Maatraas of all vowels except 'अ' are available in Devanagari script.

अ – The vowel 'अ' is inherent in every consonant, so there is no separate Matra/ sign for it.

आ – ा	इ – ि	ई – ी	उ – ु	ऊ – ू
ऋ – ृ	ए – े	ऐ – ै	ओ – ो	औ – ौ

17. There are two types of vowels in the alphabet of Hindi – Hrsva and Dirgha. In the pronunciation of the Matra of short vowels (अ, ई तथा उ), the amount of air coming out of the mouth is less and in the Matra of long vowels, it is more, like-

कल—काल दिन—दीन कुल—कूल

18. The 'ऋ' vowel is basically a Sanskrit language vowel. By the time it came to Hindi, its pronunciation has ended as a vowel. The standard pronunciation of 'ऋ' vowel in Hindi is 'Ri'.
19. Writing of Maatraa signs - Maatraa- signs are written in combination with consonants in four ways - before the consonant, after the consonant, below the consonant and above the consonant letter.
- There is only one Maatraa sign added before the consonant -
(इ – ि) जैसे – किताब, पिता, दिन, मिल etc.
 - There are four signs of Maatraa added after a consonant:
आ (ा), ई (ी), ओ (ो), औ (ौ) जैसे – राजा, चीनी, मोर, कौन
 - There are three 'Maatraa' signs added below the consonant – उ (ु) ऊ (ू)
जैसे– ऋ (ृ) जैसे – पुल, मूली, कृपा etc.
 - The 'Maatraa' signs of उ and ऊ are combined with र in a slightly different way. र् + उ/ऊ is written in this way - रु तथा रू (Ru and Ruu), such as-
रूपया, रुकना, रूस, रूपा etc.
 - There are two Maatraa signs added above the consonant letters – ए (े) and ऐ (ै) like – केला, मैना etc.
20. Every consonant in Hindi has full and half forms. Combined with other consonant, they take on a new form.
21. In Devanagari a straight horizontal line is drawn over all the letters and words. This is called the शिरोरेखा (headline). This is an integral and essential feature of Devanagari. It is made at the very end by writing letters and words.
22. Visarga (ः) - Visarga is a consonant sound which is pronounced like 'H' in Hindi. Its symbol is [:]. Those Sanskrit words which used to end with visarga and have

come to Hindi, are written with visarga only. For example, स्वतः, अतः, प्रायः etc. They are pronounced as 'Svatah', 'Atah', 'Prayah' etc.

23. Anusvara (An) - Anusvara is a dependent nasal consonant. It is used in place of the fifth character of Vargas of Devanagari Varnamaalaa. The sign of Anusvara is (ँ) which is placed above the Preceding Vowel in the word.

Its pronunciation in the middle of a word depends on the consonant that follows it. The class of consonants that comes after Anusvara; Anusvara, of the same class of consonants, tends to be pronounced as Nasikya. For example

The first Anusvara of K-class consonants is pronounced as 'ङ्'.

The pronunciation of the first Anusvara of the consonants of the Cha-varga is in the form of 'ञ्'.

Like- सम्भव = संभव, सञ्जय = संजय, गङ्गा = गंगा

24. In the middle of a word other than five class consonants, when anusvara comes before the consonants य, र, ल, व, श, स और ह (ya, ra, la, va, sha, sa and ha), it is pronounced as follows –

'य' से पहले	—	'ञ्' के रूप में	संयम (सञ्जयम्)
'र' से पहले	—	'न्' के रूप में	संरचना (सन् – रचना)
'ल' से पहले	—	'न्' के रूप में	संलाप (सन्लाप)
'व' से पहले	—	'म्' के रूप में	संवाद (सम्वाद)
'श' से पहले	—	'ञ्' के रूप में	संशय (सञ्शय)
'स' से पहले	—	'न्' के रूप में	संसार (सन्सार)
'ह' से पहले	—	'ङ्' के रूप में	संहार (संहार)

In addition to this, Anusvara is always pronounced as 'म्' at the end of the word, such as - अहं (अहम् Aham), स्वयं (स्वयम् Swayam), एवं (एवम् Evam) etc.

25. Nasal (अनुनासिक Chandrabindu) - Chandrabindu is a dependent nasal-vowel. When a vowel is pronounced from both the nose and the mouth, then (ँ) is placed on it. This is called Anunaasik. Like- हँसना, आँख

26. Nasal sounds can change the meaning of a word, so they should be pronounced and written carefully.

Like- भाग—भाँग, सास—साँस, गोद—गोंद, सवार—सँवार, है—हैं etc.

27. All Hindi sounds can be nasalised except ऋ.

28. ङ and ढ are the third and fourth letters in the Ta group of the alphabet. The place from where ङ and ढ are pronounced in the mouth is called Murdha. Because of being pronounced from this place, they are called Murdhanya.

ङ — डगर, डाल डलिया

ढ — ढाल, ढीला, ढोलक

29. ङ and ढ -

ङ and ढ are called Ukshipta (excited) characters. Ukshipta means thrown. In their pronunciation, the tongue is used with some jerks along with the air coming out of the mouth.

ङ — लड़का, सड़क, खड़ा,

ढ — बाढ़, चढ़ाई, पढ़ाई,

30. Apart from full stop, all the punctuation marks of English are also used in Hindi. The (।) mark is used for a full stop.

31. Rules for writing consonants together –

Rule 1 Consonants in the middle of which there is standing line or Khari pai. For example क तथा फ

When these alphabets are joined with any other alphabet, then the part like 'Hook' which is coming after Khari pai is written by halving it and joining it

with the latter consonant. Like - क्या, वाक्य, क्लेश, पक्का, मक्का, दफ़्तर, लिफ़्ट (kya, vaakya, klesh, pakka, makka, daftar, lift etc.)

Rule 2 Consonants that end with a Khari pai (such as त, ग, न, ल, ब, म etc.) –

When these alphabets are joined with any other alphabet, then the Kharipai of these consonants is removed and the remaining part of the alphabet is added to the next consonant, such as जैसे गन्ना, पत्ता, रस्सी, बच्चा, ज्यादा, प्यारा, त्याग, ध्यान, न्याय etc.

Rule 3 Consonant letters that do not have a Khari pai (like दा द, ड, ह, ट, ठ, ढ etc.)

When these letters are joined with any other letter, then the rule for these consonants is to write the whole letter, put halanta, below it and write the sounds that come after it, such as गड़ड़ी, खट्टा, द्वितीय, चिह्न, ब्रह्म, विद्या, विद्वान etc.

32. Form of रेफ 'र'

After extracting 'अ' from 'र' it remains 'र्' if 'र' is spoken by joining with any other consonant, this form is called रेफ र (half र) according to grammar. It is always put above the Leadline of the consonant, with which र is being joined. It is pronounced before that consonant on which it has been put, such as –

व + र् + ष = वर्ष

व + र् + ष = वर्षा

क + र् + म = कर्म

33. Form of पदेन 'र'

Consonant + 'र' – If any consonant is spoken by joining 'र्', the sound of this is denoted with a different sign. This character is called 'पदेन'(Paden). The pronunciation sound of 'र' is mingled with letter, with which it has been joined. In the consonants with khari pai, it is joined as a curved line on the lower portion of the consonant, such as क्रम, प्रसाद, भ्रम, उम्र etc. In the consonant which are without khari pai, it is joined on bottom with 'Halant'.

34. When पदेन 'र' is used in 'त' it becomes त् + र् = त्र

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When पदेन 'र' is used in 'श' it becomes श् + र् = श्र

When पदेन 'र' is used in 'द' it becomes द् + र् = द्र

When पदेन 'र' is used in 'ह' it becomes ह् + र् = ह्र

35. Consonant 'र' is without Khari Pai. When it is written by joining with another 'र', it is written with the रेफ, such as – र् + र = र्र, e. g – गुर्रना, टर्र बर्र etc.

36. क्ष (ksh) – For its pronunciation, the light sound of K has to be spoken by connecting it with Sh. It is formed with mixing क् with श – (क् + श = क्ष) ।

क्षमा – kshama अक्षय – akshay

37. ज्ञ (gya) - In Hindi 'ज् + त्र (ज्ञ) is pronounced as 'ग + य' = 'ग्य' . This is now the standard pronunciation in Hindi e.g.

विज्ञान – विग्यान

संज्ञा – संग्या

जिज्ञासा – जिग्यासा

38. In this point, please go through the chart given on the next page. It is called Barahkhadee (बारहखड़ी). With the help of बारहखड़ी, you will learn to pronounce hindi vowels and consonants. During reading this lesson, refer this बारहखड़ी frequently to be able to read Hindi.

हिंदी बारहखड़ी *Hindi Baarhakhadi*

क ka	का kaa	कि ki	की kee	कु ku	कू koo	के ke	कै kai	को ko	कौ kau	कं kam	कः kan
ख kha	खा khaa	खि khi	खी kee	खु khu	खू khoo	खे khe	खै khai	खो kho	खौ khau	खं kham	खः khan
ग ga	गा gaa	गि gi	गी gee	गु gu	गू goo	गे ge	गै gai	गो go	गौ gau	गं gam	गः gah
घ gha	घा ghaa	घि ghi	घी ghee	घु ghu	घू ghoo	घे ghe	घै ghai	घो gho	घौ ghau	घं gham	घः ghan
च cha	चा chaa	चि chi	ची chee	चु chu	चू choo	चे che	चै chai	चो cho	चौ chau	चं cham	चः chah
छ chha	छा chhaa	छि chhi	छी chhee	छु chhu	छू chhoo	छे chhe	छै chhai	छो chho	छौ chhau	छं chham	छः chhah
ज ja	जा jaa	जि ji	जी jee	जु ju	जू joo	जे je	जै jai	जो jo	जौ jau	जं jam	जः jah
झ jha	झा jhaa	झि jhi	झी jhee	झु jhu	झू jhoo	झे jhe	झै jhai	झो jho	झौ jhau	झं jham	झः jhah
ट ta	टा taa	टि ti	टी tee	टु tu	टू too	टे te	टै tai	टो to	टौ tau	टं tam	टः tah
ठ tha	ठा thaa	ठी thi	ठी thee	ठु thu	ठू thoo	ठे the	ठै thai	ठो tho	ठौ thau	ठं tham	ठः thah
ड daa	डा daa	डि di	डी dee	डु du	डू doo	डे de	डै dai	डो do	डौ dau	डं dam	डः dah
ढ dha	ढा dhaa	ढि dhi	ढी dhee	ढु dhu	ढू dhoo	ढे dhe	ढै dhai	ढो dho	ढौ dhau	ढं dham	ढः dhah
ण na	णा naa	णि ni	णी nee	णु nu	णू noo	णे ne	णै nai	णो no	णौ nau	णं nam	णः nah
त ta	ता taa	ति ti	ती tee	तु tu	तू too	ते te	तै tai	तो to	तौ tau	तं tam	तः tah
थ tha	था thaa	थि thi	थी thee	थु thu	थू thoo	थे the	थै thai	थो tho	थौ thau	थं tham	थः thah
द da	दा daa	दि di	दी dee	दु du	दू doo	दे de	दै dai	दो do	दौ dau	दं dam	दः dah
धा dha	धा dhaa	धि dhi	धी dhee	धु dhu	धू dhoo	धे dhe	धै dhai	धो dho	धौ dhau	धं dham	धः dhah
न na	ना naa	नि ni	नी nee	नु nu	नू noo	ने ne	नै nai	नो no	नौ nau	नं nam	नः nah
प pa	पा paa	पि pi	पी pee	पु pu	पू poo	पे pe	पै pai	पो po	पौ pau	पं pam	पः pah
फ pha	फा phaa	फि phi	फी phee	फु phu	फू phoo	फे phe	फै phai	फो pho	फौ phau	फं pham	फः phah
ब ba	बा baa	बि bi	बी bee	बु bu	बू boo	बे be	बै bai	बो bo	बौ bau	बं bam	बः bah
भ bha	भा bhaa	भि bhi	भी bhee	भु bhu	भू bhoo	भे bhe	भै bhai	भो bho	भौ bhau	भं bham	भः bhah
म ma	मा maa	मि mi	मी mee	मु mu	मू moo	मे me	मै mau	मो mo	मौ mau	मं mam	मः mah
य ya	या yaa	यि yi	यी yee	यु yu	यू yoo	ये ye	यै yai	यो yo	यौ yau	यं yam	यः yah
र ra	रा raa	रि ri	री ree	रु ru	रू roo	रे re	रै rai	रो ro	रौ rau	रं ram	रः rah
ल la	ला laa	लि li	ली lee	लु lu	लू loo	ले le	लै lai	लो lo	लौ lau	लं lam	लः lah
व wa	वा waa	वि wi	वी wee	वु wu	वू woo	वे we	वै wai	वो wo	वौ wau	वं wam	वः wah
श sha	शा sha	शि shi	शी shee	शु shu	शू shoo	शे she	शै shai	शो sho	शौ shau	शं sham	शः shah
ष sha	षा shaa	षि shi	षी shee	षु shu	षू shoo	षे she	षै shai	षो sho	षौ shau	षं sham	षः shah
स sa	सा saa	सि si	सी see	सु su	सू soo	से se	सै sai	सो so	सौ sau	सं sam	सः sah
ह ha	हा haa	हि hi	ही hee	हु hu	हू hoo	हे he	है hai	हो ho	हौ hau	हं ham	हः hah
क्ष ksha	क्षा ksha	क्षि kshi	क्षी kshee	क्षु kshu	क्षू kshoo	क्षे kshe	क्षै kshai	क्षो ksho	क्षौ kshau	क्षं ksham	क्षः kshah
ज gya	जा gyaa	जि gyi	जी gyee	जु gyu	जू gyoo	जे gye	जै gyai	जो gyo	जौ gyau	जं gyam	जः gyah