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Books on Hindi by the same author

Teach Yourself Hindi (with Simon Weightman), revised edition, London, Hodder & Stoughton, 2000.

Hindi and Urdu since 1800: a Common Reader (with Christopher Shackle), London, School of Oriental and African Studies, 1990; also Delhi, Heritage, 1990.

The Hindi Classical Tradition: a Braj Bhāṣā Reader, London, School of Oriental and African Studies, 1991; also Delhi, Heritage, 1992.

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PREFACE

How to use this book

The Hindi script – called Devanagari – is a beautifully logical writing system. Its phonetic arrangement makes it quite easy to learn, and once you know the basic four dozen (or so) characters you will be well on your way to reading the signs, posters, notices, street names, signposts and advertisements that are part of the everyday scene in North India.

Beginner's Hindi Script introduces Devanagari in the traditional order. The characters are introduced one by one in phonetic groups, steadily building up your ability to read and write. The book also gives you some information on the cultural orientation of the language, explaining where Hindi belongs in the history of Indian languages, and showing where its words come from.

The book is intended for beginners who are starting to learn Hindi from scratch, and who need guidance in pronunciation as well as in reading and writing. But it can also be used by those who already know something of the spoken language – perhaps learned from family or from Hindi films – and who wish to add an ability to read and write.

To gain the most benefit from the book, treat it as a course and work through it from beginning to end. But if you are keen to begin learning the characters without delay, you can turn straight to Unit 3 and start copying out the hand-written examples. The basic syllabary of Devanagari is set out in a matrix on page 15, which will give you enough information to help you identify and read many simple words; if you are out and about in India, you might perhaps like to keep a photocopy of this table with you to help you interpret signboards, notices and place names. However you use the book, doing the exercises (and checking your answers against the key at the back of the book) is the best way of learning the script thoroughly. You will find instructions for the exercises on page 23.

The illustrations are mostly taken from 'public' uses of Hindi in advertisements, shop signs and so on. Most of the vocabulary appearing in these, and in the tabulated examples, is given in the Glossary; and translations of any text appearing in these illustrations are given in Appendix 5.

Signboards contain, among other things, a high proportion of English words (in Devanagari script), and this helps you to start learning the script before making inroads into the language itself. But if you would like to begin formulating simple Hindi sentences of your own, you will find some useful pointers in Unit 5.

Finally, a note on computers. Although you may feel tempted to practise your Hindi on a computer, you should not do so until you have developed a good clear handwriting of your own: copying out the characters and words by hand is the best way of becoming familiar with their forms. Only when you are confident of your handwriting skills should you experiment with typing on the computer. Many Devanagari fonts are now available for use on both PC and Macintosh, and some can be downloaded free of charge from the Internet; the situation is changing so rapidly that it is not possible for precise guidance to be given here. The Devanagari in this book is set in the Macintosh-based font 'Jaisalmer', as noted in the acknowledgements.



Linguistic map of India. The shaded area indicates states where Hindi predominates; official languages of the other states are shown in italics.

1 | UNIT 1

Introducing Devanagari

The Devanagari script: its history and significance

Hindi is written in the script called 'Devanāgarī', apparently meaning '[script] of the city of the gods' – although the original implication of this name is unknown. Devanagari is also used for the ancient languages Sanskrit and Prakrit, the modern languages Marathi and Nepali, and some regional dialects. Its shorter name 'Nagari' is sometimes preferred in the Hindi-speaking world; and whether or not the literal meaning of *nāgarī* as 'urbane, sophisticated' (associated with the *nagar*, 'city') is really implied here, its use reflects the admiration this script deserves as a wonderfully complete and logical writing system. Fortunately for the beginner, the phonetic basis of Devanagari makes learning it an easy and enjoyable task. For all its antiquity, the script is described as *bāl-bodh*, 'comprehensible by children' – a good omen for the would-be reader!

An example of the script will show you how easy its basics are to grasp. The box below lists three common Indian food items: have a look at the transcribed characters, and then see what's on the menu – reading left to right (see foot of page).

ट	ग	द	न	ल	स
ā	g	d	n	l	s

दाल
साग
नान

[Answer: *dāl* 'lentils', *sāg* 'spinach, greens', *nān* 'bread']

Transliteration

In this book, Devanagari is introduced through a transliteration system that is standard in academic writing on South Asia; see the matrix on page 15. This system differs from the less scientific transliteration used in English-language writing on India: perhaps the most obvious differences are in showing the most common vowel in the language as 'a' rather than 'u', and in the marking of long vowels with a superscript line, the macron – thus *panjābī* rather than 'Punjabi'.

Languages and scripts in India

Sanskrit is an Indo-Aryan language – that is to say, it belongs to the 'Aryan' (or 'Indian') part of the Indo-European language family, and shares a common ultimate origin with Greek and Latin. Thus Hindi, which derives from Sanskrit, is a direct, if distant, relative of European languages, as is apparent in many close similarities between words; the Hindi for 'name' is *nām*, a 'tooth' is *dānt* (think of 'dentist'), and 'mother' is the comfortably maternal *mātā*. When you learn Hindi through English, you are not as far from home as you may have thought.

Devanagari is one of several scripts that have developed from Brāhmī, the ancient script whose earliest record is in the Prakrit inscriptions of the emperor Aśoka (3rd century BC). The origins of Brāhmī are still debated; Indian scholarship often attributes them to the still-undeciphered script of the Indus Valley inscriptions, but a Semitic prototype has also been proposed. The relatively late date of the appearance of writing in the history of ancient India shows how important the *spoken* word has always been in Indian civilisation: texts were traditionally transmitted orally from generation to generation, and the prodigious feats of memory that this process entailed are still to be found in contemporary India, where the memorising of texts – whether a devotional Hindi epic or a poem by Keats – is still commonplace and deeply impressive. The transmission of culture in the subcontinent did not rely primarily on writing until modern times,

and it is only during the present century that literacy has become relatively widespread, with a national figure of some 52% being recorded in the 1991 census (the next census will be in 2001). In earlier centuries, the practice of writing was essentially for the keeping of accounts and records, and some scripts have been developed specifically for these purposes; an example is Kaithī, a Devanagari-like script whose name indicates its connection to the Kāyasth community of scribes. Although great strides in literacy have been made in all parts of India since Independence in 1947, the Hindi-speaking area still remains low in the literacy tables, and more than half the people who speak Hindi or one of its dialects cannot read or write it. By working through this book, you will increase the number of people literate in Hindi!



Fig 1: Indian shop signs are often illustrated with the products on sale, partly because of low literacy levels (see Appendix 5 for translations)

Indian scripts have a phonetic perfection and sophistication that sets them apart from most other writing systems in the world. Apart from the Roman and Urdu scripts, all the major Indian scripts derive from Brāhmī; but their separate evolution over the centuries has brought about great stylistic diversity, and someone who knows Devanagari cannot automatically read Bengali, Gujarati or Panjabi even although their scripts follow the same

principles. An example of regional specialisation is found in the South Indian scripts, where the early use of palm-leaf as a writing material led to the development of a rounded character-shape, since inscribing straight lines would have split the grain of the leaf.

Each Indian script is a potent and cherished symbol of its regional language and culture. Traditionally, scribes would use their regional script to write Sanskrit as well as their regional language: many Sanskrit manuscripts produced in medieval Bengal, for example, are in the Bengali character. In modern times, partly as a result of the standardising effect of the print medium, the pan-Indian script of Devanagari has come to be seen as the Sanskrit script *par excellence*. For the Hindi-speaker, therefore, Devanagari is not only the script of everyday modern life, but also the timeless record of an ancient and prestigious culture.

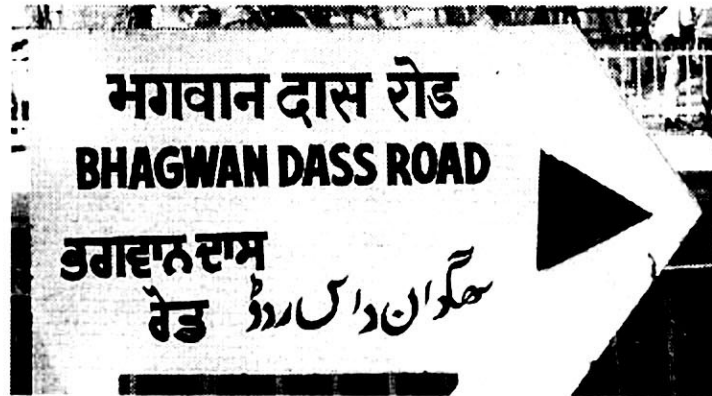


Fig 2: New Delhi roadsigns are written in the capital's four major languages: Hindi, English, Panjabi (Gurmukhi script) and Urdu

Devanagari distinguishes each sound occurring in the Sanskrit language; and it has no characters that are phonetically redundant. The language was elaborately analysed and codified by the grammarians of ancient India, probably in a deliberate attempt to protect this vehicle of sacred utterance from the changes which make their mark on every language over time. This codification, which culminated in the grammatical aphorisms of Pāṇini in about the 4th century BC, went beyond mere grammar into the very *sounds* of the language: it supplied a phonetically systematic

syllabary in which each sound was classified according to both the *manner* and *place* of its articulation in the mouth. This beautifully scientific legacy, which you can inspect in the matrix on page 15, is still the basis of the script as used for Hindi today. The main consonant series begins with the sounds *ka kha ga gha*, produced at the back of the throat, and moves gradually forward through such categories as the palatal ('roof of the mouth') sounds *ca cha ja jha* and the dental sounds *ta tha da dha*, to conclude with *ma*, produced by the lips. Thus the syllabary does not follow an arbitrary order like the Roman alphabet, but has a logical sequence determined by phonetics.

Although the grammar and orthography of Sanskrit were fixed for all time by the grammarians, the natural process of linguistic change continued over the centuries, gradually producing a range of derivative languages and dialects whose generic names portray their perceived relationship to the so-called 'polished' or 'refined' language of Sanskrit: Prakrit was the ancient 'common' or 'natural' speech, and its early medieval successor Apabhramsha the 'corrupt' speech. These languages themselves gave birth to the regional Indo-Aryan languages of today, such as Hindi, Bengali, Panjabi, Sinhala – in fact, most of the languages of the subcontinent except the Dravidian foursome of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam, which constitute a language family in their own right. The three historical periods of language development (or rather 'decline', to follow the Indian conception of a progressive falling away from the perfection of Sanskrit!) are now labelled Old, Middle and New Indo-Aryan – or OIA, MIA, and NIA. NIA languages such as Hindi mostly developed within the last 1000 years, and have substantial literary traditions starting in about the 14th century AD. As is the case with the relationship between modern European languages and their ancient forbears Greek and Latin, the NIA languages are grammatically much simpler than the OIA languages.

Modern Hindi is based on the Hindi dialect called Kharī Bolī, whose homeland is the Delhi area. Hindi could be described as the granddaughter

of Sanskrit (even if the family line has been cross-fertilised from other stock over the years); and that well-loved grandparent is still very much present in the family home, supplying a large number of loanwords and neologisms from her great jewel-box of vocabulary. But despite this close domestic harmony, there is something of a generation gap in matters of writing. Hindi has been influenced by languages and cultures which were unknown to India in the first millennium AD when Devanagari came into being, and so the Devanagari script, tailor-made for the phonology of Sanskrit, sits slightly less perfectly on the phonology of the younger language. As a result, Devanagari has had to be altered a little here and there in order to fit the new requirements. These modifications mostly deal with sounds which came to India as part of the legacy of Perso-Arabic culture that played such an important part in the life of North India from the 11th century AD onwards.

Hindi and Urdu

It is the use of the Devanagari script that most clearly distinguishes Hindi from its sister-language, Urdu. The two languages share the same grammar and a very large stock of vocabulary and idiom; and at the level of everyday colloquial conversation they are effectively one and the same. Let us look at an example. The sentence 'Your son does not work very hard' could be expressed as *āpkā laṛkā bahut mehnat nahī kartā* (literally, 'Your boy much labour not does'). This is perfectly natural everyday Hindi; it is also perfectly natural everyday Urdu. But when written, the two languages *look* entirely different:

Hindi आपका लड़का बहुत मेहनत नहीं करता ।

Urdu آپکا لڑکا بہت محنت نہیں کرتا ۔

The Hindi version is written in the Devanagari script; the Urdu version is written in the Perso-Arabic script, which runs from right to left. (As used for Urdu, the Perso-Arabic script has some small modifications to allow it

to show Indo-Aryan features like the retroflex *r*, which do not occur in Persian or Arabic.) Take writing out of the picture, and you have a language which could be called 'Hindi-Urdu', and which could claim to be the world's third largest language in terms of numbers of speakers. But of course writing is actually very much *in* the picture, and so we have not a single language (and literature), but two complementary ones; and not many people are familiar with both the Devanagari *and* the Urdu writing systems. The political and cultural history of South Asia has forced an increasing distance between Hindi and Urdu. Hindi finds the roots of its cultural heritage in Sanskrit, and augments the Hindi-Urdu vocabulary stock by borrowing words from Sanskrit or by constructing them on a Sanskrit base; Urdu has a similar relationship with Persian and Arabic. This has meant that Hindi has acquired a Hindu cultural resonance, while Urdu resonates with Islamic culture; and when India was partitioned in 1947, Hindi became the official language of India (alongside English), while Urdu, still widely used in India by Muslims and Hindus alike, became the national language of the newly created nation of Pakistan.



Fig 3: A clinic sign in Hindi, English and Urdu. Sadly, use of the Urdu script is declining in India.

The example of the 'lazy boy' given above does, of course, over-simplify a complex issue; and a few more things need to be said before we leave the bittersweet relationship between Hindi and Urdu. Firstly, the fact that Hindi and Urdu have different cultural orientations means that they have developed quite separately over the last century and a half. The moment one leaves the context of lazy boys and begins to discuss issues that call for a higher register of vocabulary (concepts for which English draws on

Latinate vocabulary, such as education, economics, religion and so on), the divide between Hindi and Urdu becomes very clear indeed, and whether written or spoken, the one language may well cease to be intelligible to a speaker of the other. Despite their common ancestry, it is no longer accurate to describe Hindi and Urdu as 'one language with two scripts', for neither language can function fully without the higher vocabularies that they draw from Sanskrit and Perso-Arabic respectively.

Secondly, even within our example sentence it is possible to force a divide between Hindi and Urdu styles. Let us see how the sentence is made up. The pronoun *āpkā* 'your', the noun *laṛkā* 'boy', the adjective *bahut* 'much' and the negated verb *nahī kartā* 'not does' are part of the shared Hindi-Urdu stock – they belong to the dialect of Kharī Bolī, which is the basis of Hindi-Urdu; and their ancestry can ultimately be traced back to Sanskrit. The noun *mehnat*, 'labour', very common in Hindi-Urdu, is a loanword from Persian (and has an Arabic ancestry). A 'purist' who wanted to lend the sentence a more Sanskritic tone might substitute the Sanskrit loanword *parīśram* for *mehnat* and might also substitute the Sanskrit loanwords *putrā* and *adhik* for the Sanskrit-derived (but not actually Sanskrit) *laṛkā* and *bahut* respectively. The sentence would then have the characteristics of *śuddh* or 'pure' Hindi, and its resulting formal flavour might be translated as 'Your son is not exceedingly industrious'. Some people like this kind of language; they feel that it shows education, sophistication and high culture, and they relish its specifically Sanskritic, and hence Hindu, stamp; others might well feel it to be artificial and contrived. Speakers of 'pure' Urdu have a harder task in attaining linguistic 'purity', because although they may succeed in giving the sentence a nicely Persian flavour by incorporating Perso-Arabic synonyms for some words, the pronouns and the verb system belong historically to the family of languages descended from Sanskrit; but a similar process of substitution, replacing Hindi-Urdu words with Perso-Arabic ones, can make an Urdu sentence hard for a Hindi-speaker to understand.

The common ground of Hindi and Urdu, as exemplified by our 'lazy boy' sentence, is often called 'Hindustani', meaning '[the speech] of Hindustan, northern India'.



Fig 4: In this banner for Girish Karnad's play तुगलक, 'Tuglak', the title is styled to suggest the Islamic character of its subject, a 14th-century Turkish ruler of India

How Devanagari works: a 'garland of syllables'

This book takes a practical approach to teaching the script, and does not discuss the detail of phonetic analysis; works listed in the bibliography address these matters. (Phonetic terminology used in this book is explained in an appendix.) But it is important to grasp a few basic principles about how the script works, so please don't skip the following paragraphs!

The script runs from left to right. There is no concept of a distinction between upper and lower case; neither is there a particular cursive style – handwriting follows the printed forms more or less closely in most respects, although of course it cuts some corners, and style varies quite a lot from writer to writer. Some examples of Hindi handwriting are given in Appendix 1.

The basic unit of Devanagari is the *syllable*, called *akṣar* or *varṇā*, rather than the individual letter as is the case in the Roman script; so Devanagari is strictly speaking not an 'alphabet' but a 'syllabary' (the Indian term

varṇā-mālā, 'garland of syllables', puts it more poetically). Each basic consonant contains within it a following 'a' vowel, pronounced like the 'a' in 'alert'; thus the character क represents not just the consonant *k* but the syllable *ka*, and the character स represents *sa* – in both cases a consonant with its free bonus, the so-called 'inherent' vowel *a*.

The other vowels are marked with signs (called *mātrā*) attached to the consonant. For example:

क + 1	gives	का	<i>kā</i>
क + 2	gives	कु	<i>ku</i>
क + 3	gives	के	<i>ke</i>

Similarly, सु is *su* and से is *se*.

A vowel that *doesn't* follow a consonant, however, is written differently: it has a full, independent character of its own. So while the word *ke* is written के, the word *ek* (which *begins* with the vowel) is written एक – in which *e* is ए. This difference between vowel *signs* and vowel *characters* will be explained fully later on. Individual characters are referred to by the suffix *-kār* (literally '-maker'), as in *kakār* for क ('the character *ka*'), *sakār* for स, *ākār* for अ.

Conjunct characters

When a consonant is followed by another consonant with no vowel coming between them, a 'conjunct' consonant is born, as in क्स *ksa*, in which क *ka* and स *sa* have coalesced into a single syllable, and the 'a' vowel normally inherent in क *ka* has been suppressed. This process takes a little getting used to, and we'll be spending quite some time on it later.

Purity of vowels

In articulating Hindi vowels, particularly *e* and *o*, it is essential to maintain a pure pronunciation – one in which the quality of the vowel *does not change* during the period of its articulation. Such vowels are

quite different from the diphthongs of English: the vowel in the word 'say' (as pronounced in southern England) is actually a sequence in which one sound shades off into another – as you will hear if you pronounce the word slowly and deliberately. A similar process applies with the English word 'go'. By contrast, the Hindi sounds *e* and *o* (like the French words 'est' and 'eau' respectively) have a steady, unchanging quality that can be held in pronunciation indefinitely, or at least until the breath runs out.

A similar 'purity' must be attempted in the production of other vowels in Hindi. In English, vowels are much affected by their adjacent sounds: the long vowel in the word 'keel' becomes a diphthong 'kee-yul' because of the following 'l' (compare 'keel' with 'keep', where the vowel is unchanged) and is therefore different from the pure *ī* in the Hindi word *kīl*, meaning 'nail'. Similarly, in American and some other varieties of English, a vowel is coloured by a following 'r' (say 'world' in an American accent, comparing 'BBC World News' with 'CNN World News'), and this too has to be avoided in Hindi.

Aspirated and unaspirated consonants

Two other contrasts in Hindi are very important. The first is a contrast between *aspirated* and *unaspirated* consonants. 'Aspiration' is the breath which is released from the mouth as a sound is produced; there is always *some* aspiration – 'unaspirated consonant' is an exaggeration if not a misnomer! – but the varying amount determines the sound produced. In English, the amount of aspiration depends largely on context. The consonant 'p' usually has a fairly strong aspiration: say the word 'pin' loudly with your hand in front of your mouth, and you will feel the puff of air. By contrast, 'bin' will produce much less puff; but so, interestingly, will 'spin' – showing that the breathiness of 'p' is reduced after the sound 's', even if that contrast isn't recognised in the spelling of the English word.

Hindi has distinctive pairs of unaspirated and aspirated consonants, the first of which is usually *less* aspirated than the English equivalent, the second *more* aspirated. Practise saying *pan* (the first syllable of the word

'Panjāb'; it rhymes with 'fun' and 'bun', not 'fan' and 'ran') until you have reduced the aspiration of the 'p' to the level encountered in the English word 'bun'; this will give you the unaspirated consonant. Then, to produce the aspirated sound *pha* (as in *phal*, 'fruit'), practise *increasing* the aspiration of *ph*. Indian scripts have fully independent characters for unaspirated and aspirated consonants respectively – they don't simply add an 'h' as we have to do in Roman transliteration; Hindi-speakers hear them as different sounds, even if English-speakers often don't. Here are some examples:

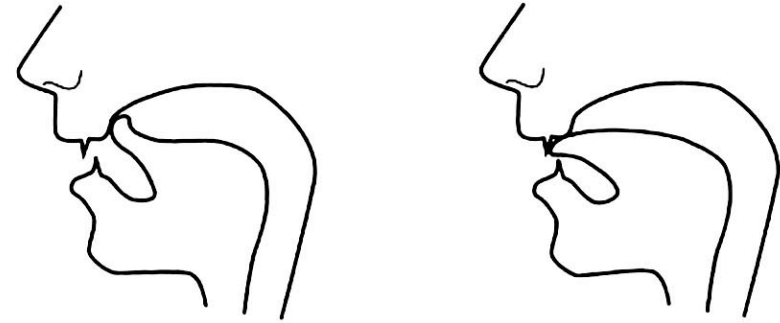
प	<i>pa</i>
फ	<i>pha</i>
ब	<i>ba</i>
भ	<i>bha</i>

Retroflex and dental consonants

The second contrast is that between 'retroflex' and 'dental' consonants. The English sounds 't', 'd', 'n' etc. are produced by the tongue touching the 'alveolar ridge' – that part of the palate between the upper teeth and the place where the roof of the mouth opens into a large cavern. Indo-Aryan languages, however, have two contrasted sets of such consonants: the retroflex and the dental. Retroflex consonants are produced by curling the tip of the tongue back to strike the roof of the mouth at the rear part of the alveolar ridge. This produces a consonant sound which is 'harder' than English consonants. (Retroflex sounds are transliterated with dots under the Roman letter: *ṭ*, *ḍ*, etc.) Most Indian speakers of English use these retroflex sounds for the English 't' and 'd', making the sounds characteristically harder than they are in standard English; this is part of the characteristic sound of Indian English. By contrast, the Hindi 'dental' consonants are produced with the relaxed tip of the tongue touching the back of the upper teeth, producing a much 'softer' sound than in English,

and more akin to consonants such as the 't' in French 'temps' or Italian 'tempo'. The dentals are transliterated without dots.

The following diagrams show the position of the tongue for retroflex consonants (on the left) and dental consonants (on the right):



What you see and what you get

Generally, the phonetic basis of Devanagari script gives a close connection between writing and speech – it's very much a user-friendly, 'what-you-see-is-what-you-get' writing system. But there are a few exceptions to this:

- The 'inherent vowel' *a* is usually unpronounced at the end of a word (except in words of one syllable like *na* 'not'): thus the name spelt *rāma* is pronounced 'Rāma' in Sanskrit but usually 'Rām' in Hindi. If a word ends in two consonants, however, the inherent vowel often has to be lightly pronounced in order to articulate both consonants clearly: an example is the last syllable in the word *mitrā* 'friend', pronounced with a light final 'a', which is transcribed as 'ā' in this book.
- Whereas Sanskrit distinguished between the palatal ś (pronounced like 'sh' in English 'ship') and the cerebral or retroflex ṣ (pronounced with the tongue curled back), Hindi has all but lost the phonetic distinction between the two; most speakers pronounce both as 'sh', allowing *āśā*, 'hope' to rhyme with *bhāṣā*, 'language' – unless the ṣ appears in the same

syllable as another retroflex consonant, as in *spaṣṭ*, 'clear, evident'. Thus the distinction between the two exists as a historical spelling only, rather as is the case with 'ph' and 'f' in English (compare 'sophisticated' with 'sofa').

c. Similarly, *ṛ*, which had the status of a vowel in ancient India, is now pronounced as identical to *ri* by most speakers (although sometimes as *ra* or *ru*, particularly in western India). Hence the short 'i' sound in *kṛpā*, 'kindness'.

On page 15 is a matrix showing the basic elements of Devanagari. The matrix is for reference – you don't have to learn it all at once, as its elements will be introduced gradually in the pages that follow. It follows the classical order established for Sanskrit in ancient times, in which the characters were arranged according to how and where they were produced in the mouth. This order – with vowels preceding consonants – is also used as the dictionary order.

2 | UNIT 2 The Devanagari syllabary

Independent vowel characters

अ a आ ā इ i ई i
उ u ऊ ū ऋ ṛ
ए e ऐ ai ओ o औ au

Consonants

क ka ख kha ग ga घ gha (ङ ṅ)*
च ca छ cha ज ja झ jha (ञ ñ)*
ट ṭa ठ ṭha ड ḍa ढ ḍha ण ṇa
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 śa ष ṣa स sa ह ha

Dependent vowel signs (combined with क k)

क ka का kā कि ki की kī
कु ku कू kū कृ kṛ
के ke कै kai को ko कौ kau

*These forms do not occur independently, and can be ignored for now.

Here is the main part of the matrix again, showing the phonetic organisation of the sounds. Notice how this main block of consonants (from क *ka* to म *ma*) is organised according to two criteria: vertically, showing the nature or quality of the sound; and horizontally, showing the place of articulation in the mouth.

	UNVOICED		VOICED		
	unasp.	aspirated	unasp.	aspirated	nasal
velar	क <i>ka</i>	ख <i>kha</i>	ग <i>ga</i>	घ <i>gha</i>	ङ् <i>ṅ</i>
palatal	च <i>ca</i>	छ <i>cha</i>	ज <i>ja</i>	झ <i>jha</i>	ञ् <i>ña</i>
retroflex	ट <i>ṭa</i>	ठ <i>ṭha</i>	ड <i>ḍa</i>	ढ <i>ḍha</i>	ण <i>ṇa</i>
dental	त <i>ta</i>	थ <i>tha</i>	द <i>da</i>	ध <i>dha</i>	न <i>na</i>
labial	प <i>pa</i>	फ <i>pha</i>	ब <i>ba</i>	भ <i>bha</i>	म <i>ma</i>

Dotted characters

Seven of the Devanagari consonants also appear in 'dotted' forms (such as क् and ज्), not shown in the classical matrix; dotted characters are used for sounds that did not exist in Indian languages when Devanagari was first developed. Here are the seven dotted forms.

क् *qa* ख् *kha* ग् *ga* ज् *ja* ड् *ḍa* ढ् *ḍha* फ् *fa*.

Whenever Hindi acquired a new sound that didn't exist in Sanskrit, and which was therefore not catered for in the Devanagari script, it modified whichever character came closest to it; for example a Persian 'q' sounded closest to 'k' and was therefore written with a modified form of क्. Some such sounds developed earlier, during the Middle Indo-Aryan stage, and others were imported into India in languages such as Persian and English.

The 'flap' sound *ra* and its aspirated equivalent *rha* came into being during the MIA period. To write it, a subscript dot was added to the signs for *ḍa* and *ḍha* respectively:

ड् *ḍa* based on ड *ḍa*

ढ् *ḍha* based on ढ *ḍha*

Take care not to confuse two similar transliteration characters here: *ṛa* stands for ढ्, while *r* (with a small subscript circle rather than a dot) stands for ञ्. Most books that refer to Indian languages use *r* for both, and because of the relative rarity of ञ् *r* in Hindi, this causes no confusion in practice.

In the medieval period, Hindi began to absorb vocabulary from the languages of cultures that came to India from outside. Persian and Arabic, and subsequently Portuguese and English, were particularly rich sources of loanwords, and Hindi cannot now function without them (the name 'Hindi' is itself a Persian word!). These languages included sounds which again were unknown – and therefore had no script sign – in indigenous Indian languages. The remaining five 'dotted' characters were developed to indicate the pronunciation of these new sounds. Again, the character nearest in pronunciation to the new sound was adapted by adding a subscript dot:

क् *qa* based on क *ka*

ख् *kha* based on ख *kha*

ग् *ga* based on ग *ga*

ज् *ja* based on ज *ja*

फ् *fa* based on फ *pha*

These sounds are all included in the description of the sounds of Hindi that follows in Unit 3. It is important to recognise the difference between the dotted and undotted characters, because the dot may distinguish between two otherwise identical words: thus खाना *khānā* means 'food', while खाना *khānā* means 'compartment' or 'place of work' (as in डाक-खाना *dāk-khānā* 'post office').

Although it is important to be aware of such differences as you learn the script, many speakers do not regularly distinguish dotted characters from their undotted equivalents, both saying and writing क *ka* for क् *qa* (e.g. कलम *kalam* for कलम *qalam*, 'pen'), ज *ja* for ज् *ja* (e.g. राजा *rajā* for



Fig. 5: Dotted characters are often written without their dots, as in this poster for Sanjay Gupta's film खौफ *khauf* ('Fear')

It is now time for us to move on and look at the individual characters themselves. Remember that the phonetic basis of Devanagari makes it best to learn each character in conjunction with its pronounced sound; so while you practise writing the characters you should also note the instructions about their pronunciation.

रज़ाई *razāī*, 'quilt'), फ *pha* for फ़ *fa* (e.g. फेल *phel* for फ़ेल *fel*, 'fail'), and so on. While some speakers don't distinguish dotted characters either in writing or in speech, others will omit the dots when writing, but will pronounce the sound as though it were dotted; in short, the writing conventions are in a state of transition, and there is little consistency. For the learner, it's best to maintain the difference between dotted and undotted characters as a matter of course.

This short unit has shown you the basic character set for Devanagari.

3 | UNIT 3 Consonants

This unit shows you how to write and pronounce the consonant and semi-vowel characters. You should practise copying the handwritten forms, several times each, speaking them aloud as you do so. Here are some important watchpoints:

- Write on *lined* paper.
- Use a relatively fine pen; a fountain pen is ideal because it gives the best control.
- Copy the handwritten examples, not the printed forms.
- Make sure that the characters are well-proportioned, and don't write them larger than the handwritten examples.
- Each character should 'hang' from the upper line and occupy about two-thirds of the space between the lines – don't be tempted to sit the characters on the line below in the manner of the Roman script.
- Each character is drawn from left to right, starting at the lower left side and concluding with the horizontal top line; follow the sequence shown in the examples.
- Ensure that the characteristic shape of the character is clearly and boldly written; characters should not slant or become straggly.

Your practice format should look something like this:

क क क क
ख ख ख ख
ग ग ग ग

As you begin practising Devanagari you will find that it is rather more like writing in Roman block capitals than writing in the cursive style of English handwriting. Remember that there is no concept of distinctive 'upper and lower cases' in Indian scripts.

When writing a whole word, finish each character by adding its top line before moving on to the next; only when you feel completely at home in the script and need to write faster should you take the short-cut of writing all the top line across a whole word in a single stroke.

Some characters have a small break in the top line (घ *dha*, भ *bha*); this must be carefully maintained, to prevent the characters becoming confused with similar ones without such a break (घ *gha*, म *ma*).

Some English words or phrases are used here to help describe the Hindi sounds. Say them emphatically *out loud*, pronouncing every consonant of the English words, to get the right effect.

Velar consonants

Produced by the back of the tongue touching the 'velum' (soft palate).

क क ँ व क क

ka as 'k' in 'skin'; aspiration minimal

क क

qa a 'k' sound, but further back in the throat; many speakers substitute क *ka*

ख ख र ल ख ख

kha aspirated version of क *ka*; as 'k...h' in 'look here!', strongly aspirated. (The closed base of the *printed* character distinguishes ख *kha* from रव *rava*; it is not usually followed in handwriting.)

ख ख

kha as 'ch' in Scottish 'loch' or in German 'Bach'; some speakers substitute ख *kha*.

ग ग ँ ग ग

ga as 'g' in 'again'

ग ग

ga a guttural 'g' sound found in Perso-Arabic loanwords only; many speakers substitute ग *ga*

घ घ ँ ए घ घ

gha aspirated version of ग *ga*; as 'g-h' in 'dog-house' or in 'big hat', spoken fast

ङ ङ ँ ङ ङ ङ

ṅa the nasal like the 'n' in 'uncle'; it does not occur on its own, but only in certain conjuncts (see Unit 6). You won't need to write it – just note its existence and move on.

Palatal consonants

Produced by the middle of the tongue touching the hard palate.

च च - च च च

ca as 'ch' in 'eschew'.

छ छ ' ध ध छ

cha aspirated version of च *ca*; as 'ch...h' in 'touch him!', but with more aspiration

ज ज ' ज ज

ja as 'j' in 'jade', or the 'dj' in 'adjacent'

ज़ ज़

za as 'z' in 'zoo'; some speakers substitute ज *ja*

झ झ ' झ झ झ

jha aspirated version of ज *ja*; as 'dge...h' in 'dodge him!', but with much more aspiration [alternate form ञ]

ञ ञ ' ञ ञ

ña the nasal like the 'n' in 'unjust'; it does not occur on its own, but only in conjuncts (see Unit 6); it does not occur on its own, and you won't need to write it – just note its existence and move on

Retroflex consonants

Produced by the tip of the tongue curling back to touch the roof of the mouth; see the diagram on page 13. The sound is 'harder' than in English consonants and has no real equivalents.

ट ट ' ट ट

ṭa as 't' in 'train', but retroflex

ठ ठ ' ठ ठ

ṭha strongly aspirated version of ट; a bit like 't-h' in 'ant-hill'

ड ड ' ड ड

ḍa as 'd' in 'date', but retroflex

ड़ ङ

ṛa as ड *ḍa*, but pronounced as a fast 'flap' – the curled-back tongue briefly flaps past the palate at the ड *ḍa* position

ढ ढ ' ढ ढ

ḍha strongly aspirated version of ड *ḍa*

ढ़ ङ

ṛha strongly aspirated version of ड *ḍa*

ण ण ' ण ण

ṇa as 'n' in 'end', but retroflex; some speakers substitute न *na*.
[alternate form ण]

Doing the exercises

Now that we're more than halfway through the consonants, it's time to begin some more reading and writing practice. Although these exercises are primarily concerned with the form and sound of the words, each word

is followed by its English translation; and fuller translations are given in the glossary.

- When doing any of the exercises, *always read the words aloud*.
- When you are asked to 'transcribe', you should *read, copy and transcribe* all Devanagari words into the Roman script, and vice versa.
- You will find a key to the exercises in Appendix 4.



Exercise 1

Remembering that the inherent vowel is silent at the end of a word, transcribe the words below. (An asterisk in this first exercise marks the translation of Hindi words that are specialised or uncommon; and words with exclamation marks are commands – see unit 5.)

खग	चख	जग	खट	झट
bird*	eye*	world	knocking	instantly
कच	गज	टक	डच	डग
hair*	elephant*	stare*	Dutch	stride
<i>kaɳ</i>	<i>ʈan</i>	<i>jaʈ</i>	<i>ʈaʈ</i>	<i>kaʈ</i>
particle	clanging	Jat	crowd*	cut!
<i>gaɳ</i>	<i>jaʃ</i>	<i>ʈhak</i>	<i>ʈhaʈ</i>	<i>ʈhag</i>
group	judge	cover!	pitcher	bandit

Dental consonants

Produced by the tip of the tongue touching the edge of the teeth at the point where the teeth emerge from the gum; see the diagram on page 13. The sound is 'softer' than in English consonants – more like in French or Italian, or in Scots dialect.

त त ऌ त त
 ta touch the top of the tip of your tongue to the back of your upper front teeth (!) and try to say 'tell'

थ थ ॠ थ थ
 tha Position the tongue as for त above and, without letting the tongue protrude through the teeth, say 'think!' emphatically

द द ॡ द द
 da Position the tongue as above and say 'then!'

ध ध ॢ ध ध
 dha strongly aspirated version of द da; as above but breathe out

न न ऌ न न
 na as 'n' in 'anthem'

Labial consonants

Produced by the lips.

प प ॣ प प
 pa as 'p' in 'spin'; aspiration minimal

फ फ ॣ फ फ
 pha strongly spirated version of प pa; as 'p-h' in 'top-hat'

फ़ फ़
fa as 'f' in 'fin'

ब ब ँ व ब
ba as 'b' in 'bin'

भ भ ँ म भ
bha strongly aspirated version of ब ba; as 'b-h' in 'club-house', spoken quickly

म म ँ म म
ma as 'm' in 'man'



Exercise 2

Transcribe the following words:

तन	गज़	धन	फट	पद
body	yard	wealth	at once	position
मत	तब	मन	जब	गत
opinion	then	mind	when	last, past

And into Devanagari:

paṛh	maṭh	khāt	ḍaph	paḥ
read!	monastery	letter	a drum	pub
nag	bam	kap	path	paṭ
gem	bomb	cup	path	board

Semi-vowels etc.

The first and last are semi-vowels; the middle two are alveolars.

य य ँ य य
ya as 'y' in 'yes', but less tightly pronounced. In final position, in words like भय bhay and समय samay, it is pronounced to rhyme with 'may' (but without the diphthong).

र र ँ र र
ra as 'r' in 'serene'; unlike English 'r' in 'far', it is always pronounced. It does *not* colour the preceding vowel as in the American pronunciation of 'firm'.

ल ल ँ ल ल
la as the *first* 'l' in 'label', but more dental. It does *not* colour the preceding vowel as in the English pronunciation of 'keel'.

व व ँ व व
va between a 'v' and a 'w': has less tooth-lip contact than in 'vine', but the lips are less rounded than in 'wine'. A final -āv is pronounced as -āo: thus the name राव rāv is pronounced rāo (and spelt 'Rao' in English).

Sibilants

श श ँ श श श
śa as 'sh' in 'shell'

ष ष ऌ उ य ष ष

ṣa although technically retroflex, this is not regularly distinguished from śa except in combination with retroflexes such as ṭa or ṭha; occurs in Sanskrit loanwords only

स स ऌ र ऌ स स

sa as 's' in 'sell'

Aspirate

ह ह ऌ ऌ ह ह

ha as 'h' in 'ahead' – a fully voiced sound. In medial position it lightens an adjacent 'a' vowel; thus both vowels in महल *mahal* sound like the 'e' in 'mend'. In final position after a, it can be replaced by an ā sound: बारह *bārah* pronounced 'bārā', जगह *jagah* pronounced 'jagā'.

Congratulations: you have now met *all* the consonants. It's time to extend our range into three-consonant words:

कमल	<i>kamal</i>	lotus
गरम	<i>garam</i>	warm, hot
नगर	<i>nagar</i>	town
बरस	<i>baras</i>	year
नमक	<i>namak</i>	salt
तरह	<i>tarah</i>	way, manner
नहर	<i>nahar</i>	canal

Exercise 3

Celebrate your mastery of the consonants by doing this further transcription exercise! Transcribe the following words:

दल	दस	कम	हम	घर	हल	मन
party	ten	less	we	home	plough	mind
तरफ़	बचत	सड़क	नरम	ख़बर	महल	नगर
direction	saving	road	soft	news	palace	town

And into Devanagari:

<i>had</i>	<i>pal</i>	<i>vaṭ</i>	<i>sac</i>	<i>nal</i>	<i>har</i>	<i>sab</i>
limit	moment	banyan	true	tap	each	all
<i>jaṛ</i>	<i>ḍar</i>	<i>bhay</i>	<i>bas</i>	<i>śak</i>	<i>haq</i>	<i>tay</i>
root	fear	fear	control	doubt	right	decided
<i>jagah</i>	<i>bhajan</i>	<i>gazal</i>	<i>samay</i>	<i>magar</i>	<i>lagan</i>	<i>qalam</i>
place	hymn	ghazal	time	but	devotion	pen

4 | UNIT 4 Vowels

Vowel characters

These are independent forms used at the *beginning* of a syllable, as explained on page 10.

अ अ ँ उ उ अ अ
a as 'a' in 'alert' [alternate form अ]

आ आ
ā as 'a' in 'father'

इ इ ँ इ इ
i as 'i' in 'in'

ई ई ँ ई ई ई
ī as 'ee' in 'feet'

उ उ ँ उ उ
u as 'u' in 'put'

ऊ ऊ ँ उ उ ऊ
ū as 'oo' in 'spoon'

ऋ ऋ ँ ॠ ॠ ऋ
r as 'ri' in 'riddle' (though in some western areas it is pronounced as 'ru' in 'ruin' or as the 'ru' in 'rut'); the sound was classified as a vowel in Sanskrit, and it occurs in Sanskrit loanwords only

ए ए ँ ए ए ए
e similar to the 'e' in 'tent', but longer, closer to the French 'é'; *not* a diphthong – it does *not* rhyme with 'may'

ऐ ऐ ँ ऐ ऐ ऐ
ai similar to the 'a' in 'bank' but with the mouth less open; in eastern parts of the Hindi-speaking area it becomes more diphthongised, rhyming with 'my'

ओ ओ अ आ ओ ओ
o similar to the first part of 'o' in 'hotel', but closer to the French 'eau'; *not* a diphthong – does *not* rhyme with 'go'

औ औ अ आ औ औ
au as 'o' in 'office' (in eastern parts of the Hindi-speaking area it becomes more diphthongised, more like 'ow' in 'cow')

Let us now look at these vowels within whole words:

अ	अमर	<i>amar</i>	immortal
आ	आम	<i>ām</i>	mango
इ	इधर	<i>idhar</i>	here
ई	ईख	<i>īkh</i>	sugarcane
उ	उमर	<i>umar</i>	age
ऊ	ऊब	<i>ūb</i>	boredom
ऋ	ऋण	<i>ṛṇ</i>	debt
ए	एक	<i>ek</i>	one
ऐ	ऐश	<i>aiś</i>	luxury
ओ	ओर	<i>or</i>	direction
औ	और	<i>aur</i>	and

The word और *aur* 'and' also has the meaning 'more, other, different'. In these meanings it is pronounced with a heavy stress (एक और *ek aur* 'one more'), whereas it has very *little* stress when meaning 'and'.



Exercise 4

Transcribe the following words, each of which begins with a vowel character:

ऐ	असर	ओस	ऋण	आह
hey!	effect	dew	debt	sigh
आग	अगर	आदर	औरत	ऊन
fire	if	respect	woman	wool

And into Devanagari:

<i>ūpar</i>	<i>umas</i>	<i>ā</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>āj</i>
up	sultriness	come!	oh	today
<i>ekar</i>	<i>īd</i>	<i>aṭal</i>	<i>aur</i>	<i>alag</i>
acre	Eid	immovable	and	separate

Vowel signs

When a vowel immediately follows a consonant, it is not written with the independent characters just introduced, but with a sign, the *mātrā*, attached to the consonant. *This sign replaces the inherent vowel.* Compare the following:

ऊन	<i>ūn</i>	wool
खून	<i>khūn</i>	blood

While ऊन *ūn* is written with the independent *ū* character ऊ (because the vowel comes at the beginning of the syllable), खून *khūn* is written with the sign *ū* following the consonant ख, whose inherent 'a' vowel it replaces.

Unlike a vowel character, a vowel sign is 'dependent' on the consonant: it cannot be used alone.

The following section shows the forms and usage of the 10 vowel signs from आ *ā* to औ *au*. The pronunciation of these vowels has already been explained in the section on vowel characters. Reading the examples will also help you become more familiar with the consonants; you should copy each Hindi word out several times, saying it aloud as you do so.

1. आ *ā* Written with the sign ा after the consonant, as in का *kā*:

काम	<i>kām</i>	work
दाल	<i>dāl</i>	lentils

नाम	<i>nām</i>	name
सात	<i>sāt</i>	seven
साथ	<i>sāth</i>	with
हाथ	<i>hāth</i>	hand
कान	<i>kān</i>	ear
नाक	<i>nāk</i>	nose

Here are some words with two long *ā* vowels:

दादा	<i>dādā</i>	grandfather
बाज़ार	<i>bāzār</i>	market
ताला	<i>tālā</i>	lock
राजा	<i>rājā</i>	king
सारा	<i>sārā</i>	whole, entire
खाना	<i>khānā</i>	food
सामान	<i>sāmān</i>	luggage



Exercise 5

Transcribe the following menu items, which contain a mixture of long and short (*a/ā*) vowels:

गाजर	सलाद	चावल	चना	पालक
carrot	salad	rice	chickpea	spinach

And into Devanagari:

<i>masālā</i>	<i>śarāb</i>	<i>parāthā</i>	<i>kabāb</i>	<i>maṭar</i>
spice	alcohol	paratha	kebab	pea

2. इ *i* Written with the sign $\overset{f}{i}$ before the consonant that it follows in pronunciation, as in कि *ki*, this vowel sign is quite exceptional – all the others are written after, above or below the consonant.

फिर	<i>phir</i>	then
रवि	<i>ravi</i>	Ravi
पिता	<i>pitā</i>	father
लिपि	<i>lipi</i>	script
शिकायत	<i>śikāyat</i>	complaint
किताब	<i>kitāb</i>	book
सिख	<i>sikh</i>	Sikh
सितार	<i>sitār</i>	sitar

The word सितार *sitār* is of Persian origin and means 'three-string', and derives from a time when the instrument was much less developed than the multi-stringed sitar of classical Indian music. The word तार *tār* is the everyday word for 'wire' in Hindi – and by extension also means 'telegram' (just as 'wire' used to in English in the days when telegrams were in common use). A 'wireless' is usually called रेडियो *reḍiyo* in Hindi; the more colourful synonym, बेतार *betār* ('without wire') is, sadly, seldom heard.

3. ई *ī* Written with the sign $\overset{f}{i}$ after the consonant, as in की *kī*:

भी	<i>bhī</i>	also
मीनार	<i>mīnār</i>	tower
पानी	<i>pānī</i>	water

चीनी	<i>cīnī</i>	sugar
सीता	<i>sītā</i>	Sita
बीस	<i>bīs</i>	twenty
नीला	<i>nīlā</i>	blue
सीटी	<i>sīṭī</i>	whistle




Exercise 6

Transcribe the following words:

मीटर	बिना	पीतल	हिसाब	दिल	ठीक
metre	without	brass	account	heart	OK

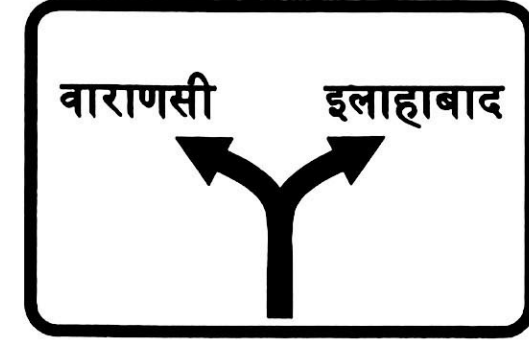
And into Devanagari:


<i>nāmī</i>	<i>qīmat</i>	<i>kahānī</i>	<i>sārī</i>	<i>sikh</i>	<i>śikāyat</i>
famous	price	story	sari	Sikh	complaint

4. उ *u* Written with the sign  beneath the consonant, as in कु *ku*:

कुछ	<i>kuch</i>	some
कुमार	<i>kumār</i>	Kumar
सुख	<i>sukh</i>	happiness
तुम	<i>tum</i>	you
बहुत	<i>bahut</i>	very; much
पुलिस	<i>pulis</i>	police
कुल	<i>kul</i>	total

Where do these roads lead? (See foot of page.)



5. ऊ *ū* Written with the sign  beneath the consonant, as in कू *kū*:

भूख	<i>bhūkh</i>	hunger
सूखा	<i>sūkhā</i>	dry
फूल	<i>phūl</i>	flower
धूप	<i>dhūp</i>	sunshine
दूध	<i>dūdh</i>	milk
दूर	<i>dūr</i>	far
झूठ	<i>jhūṭh</i>	lie
भूमि	<i>bhūmi</i>	earth

There's an exception here: the consonant र carries its *u* and *ū* vowels to the right of the character— र *ru*, रू *rū*— and *not* below. Notice how the long रू *rū* has a curl that is absent in short र *ru*.

रूप	<i>rūp</i>	form, beauty
रुपया	<i>rupayā</i>	rupee

[Answer: Varanasi; Allahabad – spelt *ilāhābād* in Hindi]

गुरु	<i>guru</i>	guru
शुरू	<i>śurū</i>	beginning



Exercise 7

Transcribe the following words:

पुल	धूल	रूखा	सूद	दूरी	कबूतर
bridge	dust	harsh	interest	distance	pigeon

And into Devanagari:

<i>sūkhā</i>	<i>ruko</i>	<i>tū</i>	<i>rūs</i>	<i>tum</i>	<i>mulāyam</i>
dry	stop!	you	Russia	you	soft

6. क ङ Written with the sign ॑ beneath the consonant, as in कृ *kṛ*.

कृपा	<i>kṛpā</i>	kindness
मृग	<i>mṛg</i>	deer
तृण	<i>tṛṇ</i>	blade of grass
हृदय	<i>hṛday</i>	heart

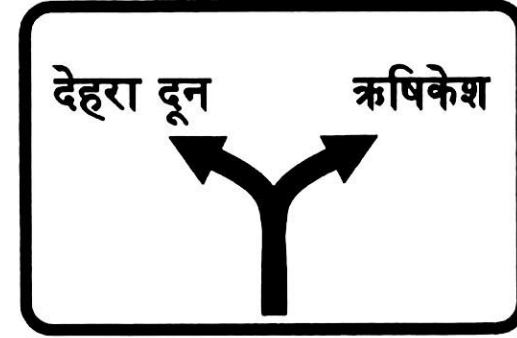
Note the special way in which कृ combines with ह as हृ, in this last word.

7. ए e Written with the sign ॑ above the consonant, as in कै *ke*.

मेला	<i>melā</i>	fair (festival)
देश	<i>deś</i>	country
केवल	<i>keval</i>	only
मेज़	<i>mez</i>	table

सेवा	<i>sevā</i>	service
रेखा	<i>rekhā</i>	line
सेब	<i>seb</i>	apple
केला	<i>kelā</i>	banana

Where do these roads lead? (See foot of page.)



8. ऐ ai Written with the sign ॑ above the consonant, as in कै *kai*:

मैला	<i>mailā</i>	dirty
है	<i>hai</i>	is
थैला	<i>thailā</i>	bag
बैठा	<i>baiṭhā</i>	seated, sitting
शैली	<i>śailī</i>	style
चुड़ैल	<i>cuṛail</i>	witch
भैया	<i>bhaiyā</i>	brother
पैदा	<i>paidā</i>	born, produced

[Answer: Dehra Dun; Rishikesh]



Exercise 8

Transcribe the following words:

केवल	खेती	पैसे	बेटा	मेज़	खैरियत
only	farming	money	son	table	well-being

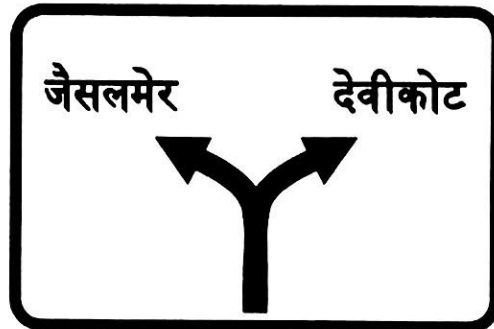
And into Devanagari:

<i>bekār</i>	<i>paheli</i>	<i>mailā</i>	<i>sinemā</i>	<i>terā</i>	<i>thekedār</i>
useless	riddle	dirty	cinema	your	contractor

9. ओ o Written with the sign े after the consonant, as in को *ko*.

मोर	<i>mor</i>	peacock
शोर	<i>śor</i>	noise, racket
पड़ोसी	<i>paṛosī</i>	neighbour
लोग	<i>log</i>	people
सो	<i>so</i>	so
रेडियो	<i>reḍiyo</i>	radio
कोका-कोला	<i>kokā-kolā</i>	Coca-Cola

Where do these roads lead? (See foot of page.)



[Answer: Jaisalmer; Devikot]

10. औ au Written with the sign ै after the consonant, as in कौ *kau*.

नौ	<i>nau</i>	nine
सौ	<i>sau</i>	hundred
पौधा	<i>paudhā</i>	plant
के दौरान	<i>ke daurān</i>	during
नौकर	<i>naukar</i>	servant
दौलत	<i>daulat</i>	wealth
हौले	<i>haule</i>	softly
मौत	<i>maut</i>	death

Hindi has many words for 'death', including मौत *maut* (from Arabic) and मृत्यु *mṛtyu* (from Sanskrit) – and, in spoken Hindi, the English loan-word डेथ *deth* (which takes its feminine gender from the other two).



Fig 6: A शौकर śaukar is a 'shocker' – a shock-absorber!



Exercise 9

Transcribe the following words:

धोखा	कोमल	हौज़	दौड़ो	कोठी
trick	soft	tank	run!	mansion

And into Devanagari:

<i>bolo</i>	<i>jau</i>	<i>gorā</i>	<i>maulik</i>	<i>karor</i>
speak!	barley	fair (pale)	original	crore

It's very important to understand the difference between the dependent vowels (vowel *signs*) and independent vowels (vowel *characters*). Turn back to the explanation on page 33, and then read the paired examples given below:

				FIRST VOWEL IS:
a	मगर	<i>magar</i>	but	inherent
	अगर	<i>agar</i>	if	independent
ā	भाषा	<i>bhāṣā</i>	language	dependent
	आशा	<i>āśā</i>	hope	independent
i	सिर	<i>sir</i>	head	dependent
	इधर	<i>idhar</i>	over here	independent
ī	धीरे	<i>dhīre</i>	slowly	dependent
	ईमान	<i>īmān</i>	honesty	independent
u	पुल	<i>pul</i>	bridge	dependent
	उधर	<i>udhar</i>	over there	independent
ū	लूट	<i>lūṭ</i>	loot	dependent
	ऊन	<i>ūn</i>	wool	independent

r	कृषि	<i>kṛṣi</i>	agriculture	dependent
	ऋषि	<i>ṛṣi</i>	sage	independent
e	पेट	<i>peṭ</i>	stomach	dependent
	एकाध	<i>ekādh</i>	one or two	independent
ai	पैसा	<i>paisā</i>	money	dependent
	ऐनक	<i>ainak</i>	spectacles	independent
o	सो	<i>so</i>	so	dependent
	ओस	<i>os</i>	dew	independent
au	मौसी	<i>mausi</i>	aunt	dependent
	औरत	<i>aurat</i>	woman	independent

It's not only at the *beginning* of words that the independent forms are used. They are also used *within* a word, as the second of two vowels in sequence: for example, the *ī* vowel in बाईस *bāis*, 'twenty-two', must be written in its independent form (because it follows another vowel, not a consonant).

बाईस	<i>bāis</i>	twenty-two
तेईस	<i>teīs</i>	twenty-three
कई	<i>kai</i>	several
भाई	<i>bhāi</i>	brother
ताऊ	<i>tāū</i>	uncle
सूअर	<i>sūar</i>	pig
चाहिए	<i>cāhie</i>	needed
बुआ	<i>buā</i>	aunt

Relationship terms are much more specific in Hindi than they are in English: मौसी *mausi* 'mother's sister'; मौसा *mausa* 'husband of mother's sister'; नानी *nani* 'mother's mother'; दादी *dadi* 'father's mother'; चाचा *caca* 'father's younger brother'; ताऊ *tao* 'father's elder brother'; बुआ *buā* 'father's younger sister' and so on.

Finally, here are some words consisting of vowel characters only:

आई	<i>āi</i>	(she) came
आए	<i>āe</i>	(they, masc.) came
आओ	<i>āo</i>	come!
आइए	<i>āie</i>	please come!



Exercise 10

Transcribe the following words, remembering that vowels not following a consonant must be written with the vowel character, not the vowel sign:

gae	gai	gāi	gāo	jāega
went ^{m.pl}	went ^f	sang ^f	sing!	will go
dhoo	dhoie	dhoē	ruī	raīs
wash!	wash!	washed ^{m.pl}	cotton	aristocrat
rulāi	soī	banāe	banāo	baṛhai
crying	slept ^f	made ^{m.pl}	make!	carpenter

Nasalised vowels and *candrabindu*

Any Hindi vowel (except the Sanskrit ऋ *r*) can be nasalised – the vowel is pronounced with a nasal quality, as if you had a cold in the nose. In writing, nasality is shown by the sign [̃] which, logically enough, is called

candrabindu, 'moon [and] dot'; *anunāsik*, 'nasalisation', is an alternative name. It sits above the middle of the character, and in our transliteration system it is marked by a tilde (˜) above the vowel. Some other systems use a dotted 'm' (*ṁ* or *m̈*) following the vowel: thus आँ = *ā̃* = *āṁ* = *ām̈*.

हँसी	<i>hāsī</i>	laughter
हाँ	<i>hā̃</i>	yes
इँचीटेप	<i>icīṭep</i>	tape-measure
कुआँ	<i>kuā̃</i>	well
कुएँ	<i>kuē̃</i>	wells
बहुएँ	<i>bahuē̃</i>	daughters-in-law
हूँ	<i>hū̃</i>	am
ऊँचा	<i>ūcā̃</i>	high

When a syllable has a vowel sign above the top line, there's no room for the 'moon', so the dot alone is used. It sits just to the right of the vowel sign. With a long ई *ī*, it sits *within* the little loop above the line, as in the second of the following examples:

सिंघाड़ा	<i>siṅhārā̃</i>	water chestnut
गई	<i>gaĩ</i>	went (f.pl)
नहीं	<i>nahī̃</i>	no, not
में	<i>mē̃</i>	in
मैं	<i>maĩ</i>	I
हैं	<i>haĩ</i>	are

घरों में	<i>gharō mē</i>	in the houses
होंठ	<i>hōṭh</i>	lip
चौतीस	<i>caūtīs</i>	thirty-four

You'll have noticed that the transliteration remains the same whether the moon is visible or eclipsed by a vowel sign.

Many writers and typesetters dispense with the moon altogether, and use the dot alone all the time, giving हॉ etc. Inconsistency rules!

Whereas English has *prepositions* (which precede the noun, as in 'in the houses') Hindi has *postpositions* (which follow the noun, as in घरों में *gharō mē* 'in houses'). Before a postposition, a noun changes from the 'direct' case to the 'oblique' case; in this example, direct plural घर *ghar* has changed to oblique plural घर *gharō*. Other postpositions are पर *par* 'on', से *se* 'from, with', तक *tak* 'up to, until'.



Exercise 11

Transcribe the following words:

गाँव	महँगा	आँगन	पूँछ	धुआँ	अँधेरा
village	expensive	courtyard	tail	smoke	darkness

And into Devanagari:

<i>khāsi</i>	<i>saūph</i>	<i>donō</i>	<i>laūg</i>	<i>āī</i>	<i>mezē</i>
cough	fennel	both	clove	came ^{f.pl}	tables

5 | UNIT 5

Simple sentences and commands

This book cannot take you very far into the grammar of Hindi, but you will find it useful to know how some basic sentences are formed.

Requests and commands are formed very simply. But these 'imperative' verbs also demonstrate an important characteristic of Hindi – its elaborate 'honorific' system which allows you to address someone in either an intimate, familiar or formal style. Each level has its own pronoun for the word 'you':

INTIMATE (for small children etc.)	तू	<i>tū</i>
FAMILIAR (for friends etc.)	तुम	<i>tum</i>
FORMAL (for all others)	आप	<i>āp</i>

Each pronoun has its own imperative verb form; but before we come to that, we must look at the *infinitive* form of the verb. The infinitive consists of two parts – a 'stem' (the base for several verb forms), and the ending *-nā*. Here are some common verbs in the infinitive:

बोलना	<i>bolnā</i>	to speak
पूछना	<i>pūchnā</i>	to ask
बुलाना	<i>bulānā</i>	to call

The imperatives are formed as follows:

तू	<i>tū</i>	stem alone	बोल	<i>bol</i>
			पूछ	<i>pūch</i>
			बुला	<i>bulā</i>

तुम	<i>tum</i>	stem + o	बोलो	<i>bolo</i>
			पूछो	<i>pūcho</i>
			बुलाओ	<i>bulāo</i>
आप	<i>āp</i>	stem + -ie	बोलिए	<i>bolie</i>
			पूछिए	<i>pūchie</i>
			बुलाइए	<i>bulāie</i>

These आप *āp* imperative endings, and some other similar verb endings, can also be written with a य् *y* between the two vowels: बोलिये *boliye*, पूछिये *pūchiye*, बुलाइये *bulāiye*.

Legend has it that in the days of the Raj the British memsahibs, indifferent to real Hindi, would learn simple Hindi commands by assimilating them to English phrases: 'There was a banker' was to be interpreted by servants as representing दरवाज़ा बंद कर *darvāzā band kar*, 'Close the door', and 'There was a cold day' meant दरवाज़ा खोल दे *darvāzā khol de*, 'Open the door'. Thankfully, those days are long gone.

Let us now look at some pronouns and the verb 'to be'.

मैं	<i>maī</i>	I	हूँ	<i>hū</i>	am
यह	<i>yah</i>	this, he, she, it	है	<i>hai</i>	is
वह	<i>vah</i>	that, he, she, it	है	<i>hai</i>	is
तुम	<i>tum</i>	you (familiar)	हो	<i>ho</i>	are
आप	<i>āp</i>	you (formal)	हैं	<i>hai</i>	are
ये	<i>ye</i>	these, they	हैं	<i>hai</i>	are
वे	<i>ve</i>	those, they	हैं	<i>hai</i>	are

यह *yah* (often pronounced 'ye') is used to refer to a nearby person or thing, like 'this' in English; वह *vah* (usually pronounced 'vo') is used for a remote person or thing, like 'that' in English. The plural forms are ये *ye* and वे *ve* respectively (though in speech, *vo* is as common as *ve*).

The subject of the sentence comes at the beginning, and the verb at the end. You can form many sentences with nouns, pronouns and 'to be':

मैं राहुल हूँ ।	<i>maī rāhul hū.</i>	I am Rahul.
यह आदमी राम है ।	<i>yah ādmī rām hai.</i>	This man is Ram.
देवनागरी आसान है ।	<i>devanāgarī āsān hai.</i>	Devanagari is easy.
तुम कौन हो ?	<i>tum kaun ho?</i>	Who are you?
यह क्या है ?	<i>yah kyā hai?</i>	What is this?
वे क्या हैं ?	<i>ve kyā hai?</i>	What are they/those?

You will have figured out the meanings of these words:

आदमी	<i>ādmī</i>	man
आसान	<i>āsān</i>	easy
कौन	<i>kaun</i>	who
क्या	<i>kyā</i>	what

(This last word, क्या *kyā*, combines क and य in a single character: these 'conjuncts' are introduced in the next unit.)

Interrogative words ('question words') in Hindi mostly begin with क्, just as they mostly begin with 'wh' in English: कब *kab* 'when', कहाँ *kahā* 'where', कौन *kaun* 'who', क्या *kyā* 'what', क्यों *kyō* 'why' and so on.

The word क्या *kyā* can also be used to transform a statement into a question: the sentence यह आसान है *yah āsān hai* means 'this is easy', while क्या यह आसान है ? *kyā yah āsān hai?* means 'is this easy?'

क्या यह आदमी राम है ? *kyā yah ādmī rām hai?*
Is this man Ram?

क्या देवनागरी आसान है ? *kyā devanāgarī āsān hai?*
Is Devanagari easy?

These basic sentence patterns will make it easy for you to practise writing and speaking simple sentences, and to use the words that you are learning to read and write.

Some more information about nouns, adjectives and gender is given in Unit 8.

6 | UNIT 6 Conjunct consonants

This unit shows you how to read and write 'conjunct' characters. Just when you thought you'd learnt all the consonant characters, here are some new variations! But most conjuncts are quite straightforward.

What is a conjunct? When two consonants are pronounced with no vowel between them, the two consonants are usually physically joined together to form a single unit – two characters 'conjoined' as one.

Let's take a common English loanword to see how it works. The phonetic basis of the word 'school' in Hindi is *skūl* – its pronunciation being very close to the English (although the *l* is dental, softer-sounding than in English). The Devanagari components needed to form this word are as follows:

स क ू ल
sa ka ū l

We have already seen how the 'ū' vowel replaces the inherent 'a' vowel in क *ka*. This gives us:

स कू ल
sa kū l

But we also need to kill off the inherent vowel in स *sa*, otherwise the word will read *sakūl*. That inherent vowel can theoretically be removed by adding a little sign called *virām* or *halant* just below the character:

स *sa* becomes स् *s*

But *virām* isn't much used in real writing; it's mostly restricted to technical contexts such as this explanation of the script that you're reading now. Instead, the inherent 'a' vowel is removed by forming a 'conjunct' character, in which two characters are physically joined to each other. This is a much more elegant solution.

Thus स is reduced to ळ and then joined to क, forming स्क. To complete the *skū* syllable we just add ū – स्कू, giving स्कूल *skūl*.

Does this mean there's a whole new set of characters that has to be learned? Well, yes and no – but mostly no. Most conjuncts are formed quite simply by dropping the *right-hand component of the first member* and attaching it physically to the *entire second member*.

It's (almost) as simple as that, and all that's left to do is to familiarise yourself with the individual ways in which the two component characters join each other to form the conjunct. The simple principle of 'drop the right-hand component of the first member' holds good for most characters built on a vertical line (क, ख, ग, म, ल, श, स etc.), even if the individual shapes of the characters means that the dropped portion will vary a little from character to character. First of all, let's stay with स as the first member and put it through its paces with varying second members.

(In the matter of conjuncts, the semi-vowels य, र, ल and व are not distinguished from consonants. And among these, र is again a special case that will be dealt with separately later.)

स् + ट = स्ट	स्टेशन	<i>ṣṭeśan</i>	station
स् + त = स्त	नमस्ते	<i>namaste</i>	greeting
स् + थ = स्थ	स्थान	<i>sthān</i>	place
स् + म = स्म	स्मृति	<i>smṛti</i>	memory
स् + य = स्य	स्याही	<i>syāhī</i>	ink
स् + व = स्व	स्वर	<i>svar</i>	note, tone



Exercise 12

Transcribe the following words, which contain conjunct characters (Roman letters that make up a Devanagari conjunct are here shown in **bold type**):

स्थिति	स्वरूप	स्थायी	पिस्तौल	लस्टम-पस्टम
situation	shape	permanent	pistol	somehow or other

And into Devanagari:

<i>svāgat</i>	<i>bastī</i>	<i>sleṭ</i>	<i>rāstā</i>	<i>snān</i>	<i>smaraṇ</i>
welcome	slum	slate	road	bathing	recollection

Other characters based on a vertical line will achieve their conjunct form in a very similar way – by simply dropping that vertical line. The list below gives examples of such characters as first members of a conjunct, with a varying set of second members.

ख् + य = ख्य	ख्याति	<i>khyāti</i>	fame
ग् + य = ग्य	ग्यारह	<i>gyārah</i>	eleven
च् + छ = च्छ	अच्छा	<i>acchā</i>	good
ज् + व = ज्व	ज्वाला	<i>jvālā</i>	blaze
ण् + ड = ण्ड	अण्डा	<i>aṇḍā</i>	egg
त् + म = त्म	आत्मा	<i>ātmā</i>	soul
ध् + य = ध्य	ध्यान	<i>dhyān</i>	attention
न् + द = न्द	हिन्दी	<i>hindī</i>	Hindi
प् + त = प्त	सप्ताह	<i>saptāh</i>	week
ब् + ज़ = ब्ज़	सब्ज़ी	<i>sabzī</i>	vegetable
भ् + य = भ्य	सभ्य	<i>sabhyā</i>	civilised
म् + भ = म्भ	आरम्भ	<i>ārambh</i>	beginning

ल् + प = ल्य	कल्प	<i>kalp</i>	aeon
व् + य = व्य	व्यस्त	<i>vyast</i>	busy
श् + क = श्क	इश्क	<i>iśq</i>	passionate love
स् + ट = स्ट	स्टेशन	<i>ṣṭeśan</i>	station

सप्ताह *saptāh* is a Sanskrit loanword meaning 'week'. A more colloquial synonym is the Persian loanword हफ्ता *haftā*. Both words derive from words meaning 'seven' – सप्त *sapta* in Sanskrit (yielding सात *sāt* in Hindi) and هفت *haft* in Persian. These words for 'seven' are in turn related to Latin 'septem' etc.

Some conjuncts consist of the same member repeated – a *doubled* consonant. In pronunciation, a doubled consonant is 'held' slightly, giving each of the two members its full value. (A similar holding of a doubled consonant occurs with the two 't's in the English phrase 'fat tissue', as compared to the single 't' in 'fat issue'.)

च् + च = च्च	बच्चा	<i>baccā</i>	child
म् + म = म्म	अम्मा	<i>ammā</i>	mother
ल् + ल = ल्ल	दिल्ली	<i>dilli</i>	Delhi
स् + स = स्स	अस्सी	<i>assī</i>	eighty

Not all consonants share the basic shape of स, with its convenient right-hand vertical line. In क and फ, part of the character extends to the right *beyond* the vertical line; and as the first member of conjuncts, these characters lose nothing more than the extreme part of that right-hand extension: thus क becomes क् and फ becomes फ् :

क् + स = क्स	अक्सर	<i>aksar</i>	often
फ् + ल = फ्ल	फ्लू	<i>flū</i>	flu

Other characters don't have a vertical line at all. How such characters join the following member will vary according to their respective shapes, and in many cases, it's the *second* member which has to do most of the changing.

ट् + ट = ट्ट	छुट्टी	<i>chuṭṭī</i>	holiday
ट् + ठ = ट्ठ	चिट्ठी	<i>ciṭṭhī</i>	note, chit
ड् + य = ड्य	ड्योढ़ी	<i>dyoṛhī</i>	porch
द् + ग = द्ग	भगवद्गीता	<i>Bhagavadgītā</i>	
द् + ध = द्ध	बुद्ध	<i>buddha</i>	Buddha
द् + भ = द्भ	उद्भव	<i>udbhav</i>	origin
ह् + ल = ह्ल	आह्लाद	<i>āhlād</i>	rapture

These examples show how the second member may appear *below* or *within* the first member. In order to fit in such an awkward position, it sometimes has to be modified in form and reduced in size a little: notice the shape that भ has to assume when it hangs below the belly of द् in द्भ and how ल is miniaturised to fit within the middle of ह्ल. (This is a good place to remind you of the special shape of the syllable ह् – not actually a conjunct, but *h* followed by *r*.)

Many speakers ease the pronunciation of an initial conjunct by prefixing a short 'epenthetic' vowel, usually *i*. Thus the Hindi forms of 'school' and 'station' may be pronounced *iskūl*, *iṣṭeśan*. This prefixed vowel is not usually written, though इस्टेशन etc. is a possible spelling.

Exercise 13

Transcribe the following words (Roman letters that make up a Devanagari conjunct are here shown in **bold** type):

नक्शा	ब्राह्मण	पत्थर	कोष्ठक	क्यों	निश्चय
map	Brahmin	stone	bracket	why	decision

And into Devanagari:

<i>billi</i>	<i>hindū</i>	<i>nāstā</i>	<i>tumbhārā</i>	<i>adhyāpak</i>	<i>avaśyā</i>
cat	Hindu	breakfast	your(s)	teacher	certainly
<i>pakkā</i>	<i>zyādā</i>	<i>qismat</i>	<i>hatyā</i>	<i>naṣṭ</i>	<i>haldī</i>
firm	more	fate	murder	ruined	turmeric
<i>faiḱṭarī</i>	<i>aksar</i>	<i>landan</i>	<i>ātmā</i>	<i>giraftār</i>	<i>satyā</i>
factory	often	London	soul	arrest	truth

Special conjunct forms

There are just a few more points to be made on this rather time-consuming business of conjuncts.

In most of the examples we've seen so far it's been possible to recognise the individual components of a conjunct, even if they're considerably modified in their conjoined forms. But there are a few conjuncts which are not just the sum of their component parts but, rather, a new form that is quite stylised and/or may look quite unlike its two components. These have to be learnt specially. Conjuncts including र *ra* are a special case and will be dealt with later.

क् + त	=	क्त	क्त
	=	क्त	क्त
क् + ष	=	क्ष	क्ष
त् + त	=	त्त	त्त
द् + द	=	द्द	द्द

द् + म	=	द्म	द्म
द् + य	=	द्य	द्य
द् + व	=	द्व	द्व
श् + व	=	श्व	श्व
	=	श्च	श्च
ष् + ट	=	ष्ट, ष्ट	ष्ट ष्ट
ह् + न	=	ह्न	ह्न
ह् + म	=	ह्य	ह्य
ह् + य	=	ह्य	ह्य
ह् + ल	=	ह्ल	ह्ल

Here are some words illustrating these conjuncts:

शक्ति	शक्ति	<i>śakti</i>	power
शक्ति	शक्ति	<i>śakti</i>	power
अक्षर	अक्षर	<i>akṣar</i>	character, syllable
कुत्ता	कुत्ता	<i>kuttā</i>	dog
भद्दा	भद्दा	<i>bhaddā</i>	clumsy
पद्म	पद्म	<i>padmā</i>	lotus

विद्या	विया	vidyā	knowledge
द्विज	द्विज	dvij	Brahmin
श्वेत	श्वेत	śvet	white
श्वेत	श्वेत	śvet	white
नष्ट, नष्ट	नष्ट नष्ट	naṣṭ	destroyed
अहमद	अहमद	ahmad	Ahmad
आह्लाद	आह्लाद	āhlād	rapture
चिह्न	चिह्न	cihn	sign
सह्य	सह्य	sahyā	bearable

The word अक्षर *akṣar* means 'a character, syllable'. Its literal meaning 'imperishable, irreducible' reflects the fact that it is the *syllable* (and not the 'letter', as in the Roman script) that forms the basic building block of the Devanagari writing system.

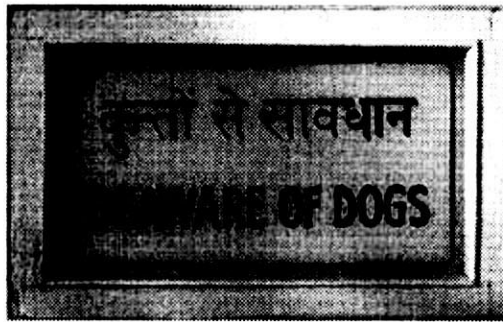


Fig 7: 'Be aware' of special conjuncts like त्तै ita also!

Conjuncts with र ra

As we have already seen when looking at the forms र *ru* and रू *rū*, the character र *ra* is the joker in Devanagari's pack. In conjuncts it has two different forms, depending on whether it is the first or the second member.

When र is the *first* member of a conjunct it is written as a little hook, as in र्म *rma*, above the second member. Be very clear about the sequence here – this र is pronounced *before* the other member of the conjunct:

र् + ज = र्ज	फ़र्ज	farz	duty
र् + त = र्त	कर्तव्य	kartavyā	duty
र् + म = र्म	धर्म	dharm	religion
र् + व = र्व	पार्वती	pārvati	Parvati

This flying form of र is called *reph*. When the second member of the conjunct bears one of the vowel signs ि, ि, ि, ि, ि, ि the *reph* is written at the extreme *right* of the resulting syllable:

र् + मा = र्मा	शर्मा	śarmā	Sharma (surname)
र् + थि = र्थि	आर्थिक	ārthik	financial
र् + थी = र्थी	विद्यार्थी	vidyārthī	student
र् + मों = र्मों	धर्मों में	dharmō mē	in religions
र् + मे = र्मे	धर्मतर	dharmetar	secular

When र is the *second* member of a conjunct it is written as a little angled line tucked into the lower part of the first member, as र्म *rma*, as far to the left as possible. Be clear about the sequence here too: this र is pronounced *after* the other member of the conjunct.

ग् + र = ग्र	ग्राम	grām	gram
द् + र = द्र	दरिद्र	daridrā	poor
प् + र = प्र	प्रेम	prem	love
ब् + र = ब्र	ब्राह्मण	brāhmaṇ	Brahmin
भ् + र = भ्र	भ्रष्ट	bhraṣṭ	corrupt
ह् + र = ह्र	ह्रस्व	hrasvā	short

In the meaning 'gram' (the unit of weight), the word ग्राम *grām* is of course a loanword from English. But ग्राम is also a Sanskrit word meaning 'village', and is the source of the usual Hindi word for 'village', गाँव *gāv*. By a natural process of phonetic erosion, the conjunct ग्र has been reduced over time to ग, and the consonant म has been reduced to the semi-vowel व, with a memory of the nasal quality of म seen in the nasalisation of the long vowel; see page 86 for more on these processes.

Several such conjuncts have special forms:

क् + र = क्र	क्रिकेट	<i>krikeṭ</i>	cricket
ट् + र = ट्र	ट्रक	<i>trak</i>	truck
ड् + र = ड्र	ड्राइवर	<i>drāivar</i>	driver
त् + र = त्र	मित्र	<i>mitrā</i>	friend
श् + र = श्र	श्री	<i>śrī</i>	Mr

Are you certain about the all-important difference of sequence explained above? Here are some contrasted pairs:

कर्म	<i>karm</i>	action
क्रम	<i>kram</i>	sequence
शर्म	<i>śarm</i>	shame
श्रम	<i>śram</i>	toil
गार्ड	<i>gārd</i>	guard
ग्राम	<i>grām</i>	village; gram

The word कार्यक्रम *kāryākram* 'programme' contains two र conjuncts – the first conjunct (र्य) has र as the first component, and the second (क्र) has र as the second component. कार्यक्रम is a Sanskrit compound of कार्य *kāryā* 'action, work', and क्रम *kram* 'sequence, order'.



Fig 8: Shri Cement Limited has a brilliant logo that can be read in at least two ways – as श्री śrī in Hindi, as 'SCL' in English, and perhaps as 'sri' in English too!

The conjunct ज्ञ *jña*

The conjunct ज्ञ *jña* appears in some Sanskrit loanwords, mostly related to the Sanskrit verb root *jñ-*, 'to know'; the Sanskrit root is cognate with English 'know' and with Greek 'gnosis' etc. In Hindi, this conjunct is usually pronounced *gy*: thus *jñān* is pronounced *gyān*.

ज् + ज्ञ = ज्ञ

ज्ञान	<i>jñān</i> (pr. 'gyān')	knowledge
अज्ञेय	<i>ajñey</i> (pr. 'agyey')	unknowable
विशेषज्ञ	<i>viśeṣajñā</i> (pr. 'viśeṣagyā')	specialist
कृतज्ञ	<i>kṛtajñā</i> (pr. 'kṛtagyā')	grateful
अविज्ञ	<i>avijñā</i> (pr. 'avigyā')	ignorant
आज्ञा	<i>ājñā</i> (pr. 'āgyā')	command

Conjuncts of three or more consonants

Occasionally you may come across conjuncts having more than two components; many of these are in Sanskrit words, although English loanwords too often call for quite complex conjunct-clusters. They follow exactly the same principles as already explained, with 'medial' members behaving like 'first' members:

क् + ट् + र =	क्ट्र	ऐक्ट्रेस	<i>aikṭres</i>	actress
म् + प् + य =	म्प्य	कम्प्यूटर	<i>kampyūṭar</i>	computer
क् + स् + प् + र =	क्स्प	एक्सप्रेस	<i>ekspres</i>	express
त् + स् + य =	त्	ज्योत्स्ना	<i> jyotsnā</i>	moonlight
न् + द्र + र =	न्द्र	इन्द्र	<i>indrā</i>	Indra
ष् + ट् + र =	ष्ट्र	राष्ट्र	<i>rāṣṭrā</i>	nation
स् + त् + र =	स्त्र	स्त्री	<i>strī</i>	woman

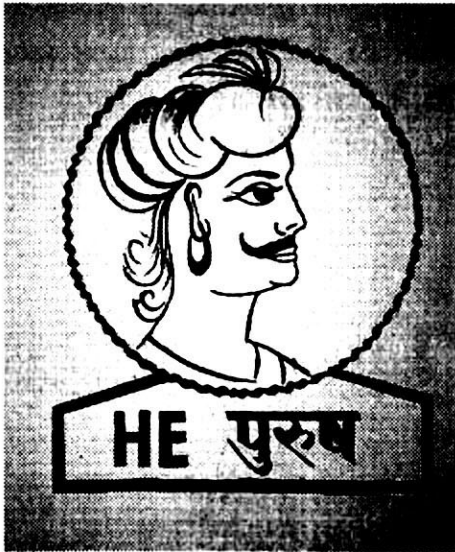


Fig 9: पुरुष *puruṣ* means 'man' and स्त्री *strī* means 'woman': learn these words at your convenience!

Using *virām* instead of a conjunct

When conjuncts get too complex, the sign *virām* (see p. 51) can come to the rescue. For example, because hanging a *u* vowel under the already complex conjunct *dbha* is a tall order, (giving *द्भु* as in *अद्भुत* *adbhut*, 'wondrous'), the simpler *virām*-based form *द्भु* (giving *अद्भुत*) is often preferred. Similarly, the font used for printing this book cannot 'stack' a repeated *ड* one above the other to form a double-decker conjunct as one might in handwriting (ड्ड), and must be content with a *ड्ड*, as in *अड्डा* *addā* 'stand (for buses etc.)'.



Fig 10: This tailor's signboard uses *virām* in the three-member conjunct 'nts' in जेंट्स *jēṅṭṣ*, 'Gents'

Exercise 14

The following words have been written using *virām*, as if using a typewriter. Rewrite them using proper conjuncts:

छुट्टी	बुद्ध	मुहल्ला	बच्चा	अट्ठाईस	गद्दा
holiday	Buddha	district	child	eighteen	mattress

चित्त	विद्यार्थी	द्वीप	सह्य	पद्म	चिह्न
mind	student	island	bearable	lotus	sign

Conjuncts using *anusvār*

This section is about a short cut that simplifies the writing of conjuncts involving a nasal consonant, of which there are five. If you look back to the matrix on page 15, you will see that each of the five horizontally arranged consonant categories includes its own nasal consonant. Theoretically, a consonant cannot form a conjunct with any nasal other than the one in its own category: thus dental ढ can only conjoin dental न (as in हिन्दी, 'Hindi'), and retroflex ढ can only conjoin retroflex ण (as in भण्डार, 'store'). The principle behind this restriction is that when the tongue is positioned for one sound, such as a dental, it cannot by definition pronounce any other, such as a retroflex. Here's the full set of five nasal consonants, with examples; remember that the first two nasal consonants, इ ण and उ ण, occur in conjuncts *only* – they never stand alone.

इ + ग = ङ	अङ्ग	<i>aṅg</i>	limb
उ + ज = ञ	अञ्जन	<i>añjan</i>	lampblack
ण + ड = ण्ड	अण्डा	<i>aṇḍā</i>	egg
न् + द = न्द	अन्दर	<i>andar</i>	inside
म् + ब = म्ब	कम्बल	<i>kambal</i>	blanket

The short cut to achieve the same result is to use a superscript dot called *anusvār* as an alternative to the nasal consonant in the conjunct. *Anusvār* automatically assumes the same phonetic value as the consonant that follows it: for example, before a dental consonant it stands for the dental ण (half न), and before a retroflex it stands for the retroflex ण (half ण), and so on. Two different ways of transliterating *anusvār* are shown below: the first is to maintain the specific nasal consonants used in the examples above, the second is to substitute 'm'. The former system gives a better guide to pronunciation and has been used throughout this book.

अंग	<i>aṅg/aṅg</i>	limb
अञ्जन	<i>añjan/añjan</i>	lampblack
अंडा	<i>aṇḍā/aṇḍā</i>	egg
अंदर	<i>andar/aṇdar</i>	inside
कंबल	<i>kambal/kambal</i>	blanket

These forms with *anusvār* are simpler to write than the full conjuncts, and so are usually preferred; in fact, you'll hardly ever see words written with ङ and ञ these days.

The name 'Hindi' can be written हिन्दी or हिंदी. The word itself means 'the language of Hind', 'Hind' being the Persian name for North India. 'Hind' derives from the name of the river सिंधु 'Sindhu'. Thus the Persian-derived words 'Hindi' and 'Hindu' describe the cultures 'beyond' the Sindhu; and this river name is known in English as 'Indus', from which the word 'India' derives.

Anusvār is not normally used in doubled consonants ('geminate'): thus *ann*, *ammā* are written with full conjunct forms, as अन्न (अन्न), अम्मा.

One or two Sanskrit words used in Hindi end in *anusvār*. The only common example is एवं *evam* (a formal word for 'and'), which is sometimes written as एवम् and is pronounced *evam*.

Before र *ra*, ल *la* and स *sa*, *anusvār* approximates to a dental *n* (संस्कृत usually pronounced *sanskṛt*). Before व *va*, it is pronounced as *m* (संवत् *samvat*). Before ह *ha*, it is pronounced as a velar *ṅ* (सिंह pronounced *siṅh*, approximating to *siṅg*).

Here's a note to shock the purists: although 'mixed' conjuncts such as ङ (combining a dental with a retroflex) are theoretically impossible, they are much beloved by signwriters and the like, and are seen very commonly in the real world.

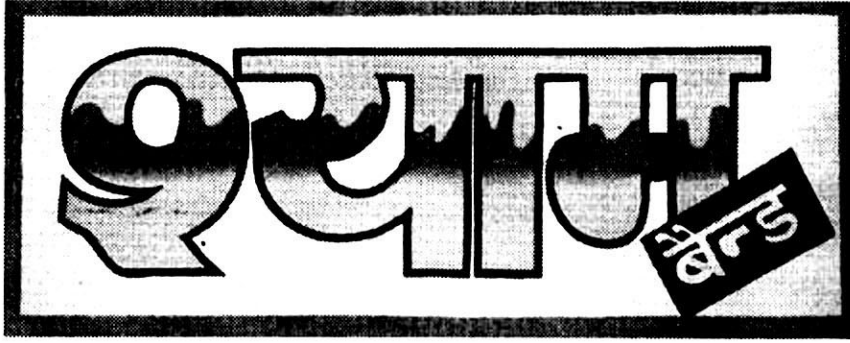


Fig 11: श्याम बैन्ड *śyām bainḍ* 'Shyam Band': the spelling for this wedding band marries a dental न to a retroflex ड – a banned combination!

How does anusvār differ from candrabindu/anunāsik? Anusvār stands for a real nasal *consonant*, so that in pronouncing words like हिंदी, कंबल one is actually uttering the full value of 'n' and 'm' respectively. Anunāsik, on the other hand, represents a nasalised *vowel*, so that a word such as हौं ends without any 'n' or 'm' consonant but has a nasal tone in the vowel itself. Actually, the difference between the two often becomes quite minor in practice – especially when candrabindu drops its moon and becomes identical in form to anusvār!



Exercise 15

Rewrite, replacing anusvār with nasal consonants:

हिंदी	मुंबई	ठंडा	अंग	मनोरंजन
Hindi	Mumbai	cold	limb	entertainment

Rewrite, replacing nasal consonants with anusvār:

मण्डल	भङ्गन	लम्बा	हिन्दू	सङ्घ
circle	breaking	tall	hindu	association
बन्दर	लङ्का	रङ्ग	चिन्ता	घण्टा
monkey	Lanka	colour	anxiety	bell



Fig 12: जैन खादी भण्डार and अग्रवाल खादी भण्डार – two adjacent shops (bhaṇḍār) selling homespun cotton goods (khādi). The first spelling incorrectly conjoins न to ड; the second uses anusvār, an alternative to the full conjunct form ण्ड (भण्डार).

When the inherent vowel remains silent

We've already seen that the inherent vowel *a* is not usually pronounced at the end of a word. But sometimes the inherent vowel also remains silent *within* a word. It is difficult to make a watertight rule here, but the following three formulae will account for most instances.

The inherent vowel usually remains silent in the following circumstances:

1. At the end of a word (except monosyllables such as न *na* 'not'). As we saw earlier, the main exception is that the inherent vowel is pronounced (lightly, as 'ă') after any conjuncts that are difficult to pronounce without a following vowel: मित्र *mitră*, कृष्ण *kṛṣṇă*.
2. In the second character of a word whose third character includes a vowel sign. Thus in the word दूसरा *dūsṛă*, 'second, other', in which रा *ră* is written with the vowel sign ऌ *ā*, the inherent vowel of स *sa* is silent.

लड़की	<i>lar̥kī</i>	(not ' <i>laṛakī</i> ')	girl
चमड़ी	<i>camṛī</i>	(not ' <i>camaṛī</i> ')	skin
तरकीब	<i>tarkīb</i>	(not ' <i>tarakīb</i> ')	means, plan
सरकार	<i>sarkār</i>	(not ' <i>sarakār</i> ')	government
राजधानी	<i>rājdhānī</i>	(not ' <i>rājadhānī</i> ')	capital

Exception – When the second or third character is a conjunct:

अस्पताल	<i>aspatāl</i>	(not ' <i>asptāl</i> ')	hospital
नमस्ते	<i>namaste</i>	(not ' <i>namste</i> ')	greeting
समस्या	<i>samasyā</i>	(not ' <i>samsyā</i> ')	problem

3. In the second character of a word of four or more characters.

मसलन	<i>maslan</i>	(not ' <i>masalan</i> ')	for example
अफसर	<i>afsar</i>	(not ' <i>afasar</i> ')	officer
जानवर	<i>jānvar</i>	(not ' <i>jānavar</i> ')	animal
लखनऊ	<i>lakhnaū</i>	(not ' <i>lakhanaū</i> ')	Lucknow
कलकत्ता	<i>kalkattā</i>	(not ' <i>kalakattā</i> ')	Calcutta

In some people's pronunciation, a few words *do* retain a medial inherent vowel when one would expect them to drop it; most such exceptions must be learned individually. The inherent vowel is very short (or 'light').

विकसित	<i>vikāsīt</i>	developed
के बावजूद	<i>ke bāvājūd</i>	in spite of
जनता	<i>janātā</i>	people, the public

Words including a prefix may be 'weighed' as two separate words. Thus लाजवाब *lājavāb*, 'peerless', is pronounced according to its construction as

ला-जवाब, 'without-answer', not as 'लाज-वाब'; and नापसंद *nāpasand*, 'unliked', is pronounced as ना-पसंद, 'not-liked', not as 'नाप-संद'.

A small number of words borrowed from beyond the Indo-Aryan family of languages (and hence not having an established Devanagari spelling) may be written with or without a conjunct:

कुरसी / कुर्सी	<i>kursī</i>	chair
परदा/ पर्दा	<i>pardā</i>	curtain, purdah
उमदा / उम्दा	<i>umdā</i>	good
गरदन / गर्दन	<i>gardan</i>	neck

The word जन्म *janmā*, 'birth', is often pronounced *janam*, despite the conjunct; similarly उम्र *umrā* is often pronounced *umar* (and is sometimes written उमर *umar*).

Why not use a conjunct wherever the inherent vowel is silent? Because, although normally silent, the vowel is still theoretically present; and in contexts such as songs and traditional verse, it may be pronounced.

Finally, here's a list of the hundred most commonly occurring conjuncts.

1	क्	+	क	=	क्क	11	क्	+	स	=	क्स		
2	क्	+	ख	=	क्ख	12	ख्	+	य	=	ख्य		
3	क्	+	त	=	क्त, क्त	13	ग्	+	द	=	ग्द		
4	क्	+	य	=	क्य	14	ग्	+	न	=	ग्न		
5	क्	+	र	=	क्र	15	ग्	+	र	=	ग्र		
6	क्	+	ल	=	क्ल	16	ग्	+	ल	=	ग्ल		
7	क्	+	व	=	क्व	17	ग्	+	व	=	ग्व		
8	क्	+	श	=	क्श	18	घ्	+	र	=	घ्र		
9	क्	+	ष	=	क्ष	19	च्	+	च	=	च्च		
10	क्	+	ष्	+	म	=	क्ष्म	20	च्	+	छ	=	च्च

21	ज्	+	ज	=	ज्ञ	49	ध्	+	व	=	ध्व
22	ज्	+	र	=	ज्र	50	न्	+	त	=	न्त
23	ट्	+	ट	=	ट्ट	51	न्	+	द	=	न्द
24	ट्	+	ठ	=	टुठ	52	न्	+	द् + र	=	न्द्र
25	ट्	+	र	=	ट्र	53	न्	+	न	=	न्न, न्न
26	ड्	+	ड	=	डुड	54	न्	+	य	=	न्य
27	ड्	+	र	=	ड्र	55	न्	+	ह	=	न्ह
28	ण्	+	ट	=	ण्ट	56	प्	+	त	=	न्त
29	ण्	+	ठ	=	ण्ठ	57	प्	+	न	=	न्न
30	त्	+	क	=	त्क	58	प्	+	प	=	प्प
31	त्	+	त	=	त्त	59	प्	+	य	=	प्य
32	त्	+	त् + व	=	त्त्व	60	प्	+	र	=	प्र
33	त्	+	थ	=	त्थ	61	प्	+	ल	=	प्ल
34	त्	+	न	=	त्न	62	ब्	+	ज	=	ब्ज
35	त्	+	म	=	त्म	63	ब्	+	द	=	ब्द
36	त्	+	य	=	त्य	64	ब्	+	ध	=	ब्ध
37	त्	+	र	=	त्र	65	ब्	+	र	=	ब्र
38	त्	+	व	=	त्व	66	भ्	+	य	=	भ्य
39	त्	+	स	=	त्स	67	भ्	+	र	=	भ्र
40	द्	+	ग	=	द्ग	68	म्	+	न	=	म्म
41	द्	+	द	=	द्द	69	म्	+	र	=	म्र
42	द्	+	ध	=	द्ध	70	र्	+	त	=	र्त
43	द्	+	भ	=	द्भ	71	र्	+	थ	=	र्थ
44	द्	+	म	=	द्म	72	र्	+	म	=	र्म
45	द्	+	य	=	द्य	73	र्	+	फ	=	र्फ
46	द्	+	र	=	द्र	74	र्	+	व	=	र्व
47	द्	+	व	=	द्व	75	र्	+	स	=	र्स
48	ध्	+	य	=	ध्य	76	ल्	+	म	=	ल्म

77	व्	+	र	=	व्र	89	स्	+	त् + र	=	स्त्र
78	श्	+	क	=	श्क	90	स्	+	थ	=	स्थ
79	श्	+	च	=	श्च, श्र	91	स्	+	न	=	स्न
80	श्	+	य	=	श्य	92	स्	+	प	=	स्प
81	श्	+	र	=	श्र	93	स्	+	य	=	स्य
82	श्	+	व	=	श्व, श्व	94	स्	+	र	=	स्र
83	ष्	+	ट	=	ष्ट, ष्ट	95	ह्	+	न	=	ह्न
84	ष्	+	ट् + र	=	ष्ट्र	96	ह्	+	म	=	ह्य
85	ष्	+	ण	=	ष्ण	97	ह्	+	य	=	ह्य
86	स्	+	क	=	स्क	98	ह्	+	र	=	ह्र
87	स्	+	ट	=	स्ट	99	ह्	+	ल	=	ह्ल
88	स्	+	त	=	स्त	100	ह्	+	व	=	ह्व

Exercise 16

Identify these geographical names:

चंडीगढ़	औरंगाबाद	इंदौर	गंगा
मध्य प्रदेश	बंगाल	राजस्थान	पाकिस्तान
ग्वालियर	श्रीनगर	पंजाब	गंगोत्री

Transcribe the following into Devanagari (Roman letters that make up a Devanagari conjunct are here shown in **bold** type). The last four are *not* place names, as you will discover in the key.

<i>dilli</i>	<i>yamunotri</i>	<i>kalkattā</i>	<i>nāthdvārā</i>
<i>ujjain</i>	<i>haridvār</i>	<i>vṛndāban</i>	<i>durgāpur</i>
<i>mumbai</i>	<i>mahārāṣṭrā</i>	<i>bhubaneśvar</i>	<i>ambālā</i>
<i>uttar</i>	<i>dakṣiṇ</i>	<i>pūrvā</i>	<i>paścim</i>

7 UNIT 7

Some more writing conventions

Numerals

The Devanagari numerals are fighting a losing battle against their 'Arabic' cousins borrowed from English, which have official sanction in Hindi usage; this is ironic considering that the Arabic numerals themselves derive from India. But it is still essential to be able to recognise the Devanagari numerals. The numerals 1, 5, 8 and 9 have alternative forms, shown here in handwriting only:

0	०	०	शून्य	<i>sūnyā</i>
1	१	१	एक	<i>ek</i>
2	२	२	दो	<i>do</i>
3	३	३	तीन	<i>tīn</i>
4	४	४	चार	<i>cār</i>
5	५	५	पाँच	<i>pāc</i>
6	६	६	छह	<i>chah</i>
7	७	७	सात	<i>sāt</i>
8	८	८	आठ	<i>āṭh</i>
9	९	९	नौ	<i>nau</i>
10	१०	१०	दस	<i>das</i>

The numeral २ can show that a word is to be repeated, e.g. for emphasis:

बड़ी २ आँखें = बड़ी बड़ी आँखें *barī barī ākhē* great big eyes

Many urban addresses in India feature *section* number followed by *house* number in the formula '1/5'. This formula is more likely to be written in Arabic numerals than in Devanagari numerals nowadays, but you still won't find your destination without knowing the spoken Hindi for this usage, which uses the participle बटे *baṭe* from बटना *batnā* 'to be divided':

१/५ (or 1/5) = एक बटे पाँच *ek baṭe pāc* one over five

The usual Devanagari equivalent to the use of 'a, b, c' in labelling a sequence of items (such as paragraphs) is क, ख, ग, *ka, kha, ga*. To know the 'ABC' or basic principles of a subject is to know its 'क, ख, ग'. This indicates that the Devanagari syllabary is often conceived of as beginning with the main consonant sequence (see p. 16) rather than the vowels.

Punctuation

Most punctuation in modern Hindi has been adopted from Western languages. The only punctuation sign native to Devanagari is the vertical line (|), used as the full stop or period. It is called दंड *daṇḍā*, 'staff', or खड़ी पाई *kharī pāī*, 'upright line'. In traditional poetry, it is doubled (||) at a verse ending. These days, the Roman full stop is often used in print in place of the खड़ी पाई.

The colon is used rather sparingly: this may be because of potential confusion with the Devanagari sign called *visarg* (see p. 76).

Inverted commas (either single or double) are used to indicate speech, but as with most aspects of Hindi punctuation, the conventions for their use are much less standardised than they are in English.

The convention of writing individual words separately comes from Western languages; in traditional Indian manuscripts, words were written continuously without a break.

Use of the little sequence of dots to indicate a statement or question left 'in suspension' shows an interesting dilemma between the differential conventions of Hindi and English writing: it is sometimes written at the level of the top line (following Devanagari logic), but may be followed by a full stop at the base of the characters (following Roman logic):

सीता गायब है ... *sītā gāyab hai...* Sita is missing....

The hyphen may be used to help elucidate the noun compounds that are so common in Hindi (e.g. बस-सेवा *bas-sevā*, 'bus service'), but practice varies. A hyphen is more likely to be used if it helps to remove any ambiguity: in the compound भू-खंड *bhū-khaṇḍ*, 'region of the earth', the hyphen removes the danger of any visual or mental association with भूख *bhūkh*, 'hunger', whereas in the compound भूकंप *bhūkamp*, 'earthquake', no hyphen is needed (भूक *bhūk* not being a common word).

Signwriters are fond of playing with script conventions, often mixing Devanagari and English within phrases and even within words. Examples noticed recently in Uttar Pradesh include:

- A truck's diesel cap labelled 'D जल', playing on the sense of जल as 'water'. (Remember that ज often replaces ज़ in both pronunciation and writing.)
- A sign reading दर्पण टेलर्स (for दर्पण टेलर्स 'Darpaṇ Tailors') with the ल reversed as ळ – literally reflecting the meaning of the word 'darpaṇ', 'mirror'.
- A ढाबा or roadside cafe named after its proprietor as 'पंडित G' (i.e. पंडित जी) – जी being an expression of respect suffixed to names.
- An autorickshaw slogan reading मेरा १३ ७ (मेरा तेरह सात – to be read, rather unphonetically, as मेरा तेरा साथ, 'Your [and] my company' i.e. 'You and me together'.
- A boutique with the mixed name संस्कृति, perhaps indicating the composite 'culture' (संस्कृति) of the goods on sale.

Abbreviations

In English, the individual *letter* is the basic script unit, and is therefore the basis of abbreviations. In Hindi, however, the *syllable* is the basic unit, so the abbreviation of a word constitutes *the whole of the first syllable*, complete with any vowel and/or nasal sign. The abbreviation is followed by 'o', a small circle (or sometimes by a full stop):

डा०	=	डाक्टर	<i>dāktar</i>	Doctor (Dr)
पं०	=	पंडित	<i>paṇḍit</i>	Pandit (Pt)
रु०	=	रुपया/रुपये	<i>rupayā/ye</i>	rupee/s (Re, Rs)
स्व०	=	स्वर्गीय	<i>svargiyā</i>	the late, deceased

There are two conventions to choose between when writing personal initials: the system just described, and a phonetic transliteration of the pronounced values of the initials in English. So someone called त्रिलोचन नाथ शर्मा *trilocan nāth śarmā*, 'Trilochan Nath Sharma', might write his initials plus surname in either of the two following ways:

त्रि० ना० शर्मा	<i>tri. nā. śarmā</i>
टी० एन० शर्मा	<i>tī. en. śarmā</i>



Fig 13: This newspaper article, which is headed वीआईपी सुरक्षा, *viāipī surakṣā*, is concerned with security (सुरक्षा) for 'VIPs'; वीआईपी could alternatively have been written वी० आई० पी०.

With its increasing use of abbreviations for the names of organisations, protocols and the like, India is awash with acronyms these days; and Hindi has taken them up enthusiastically, especially in newspapers. Acronyms are usually written without punctuation, and are pronounced as written:

नभाटा	=	नवभारत टाइम्स	Nav Bharat Times
बसपा	=	बहुजन समाज पार्टी	Bahujan Samaj Party
भाजपा	=	भारतीय जनता पार्टी	Bharatiya Janta Party

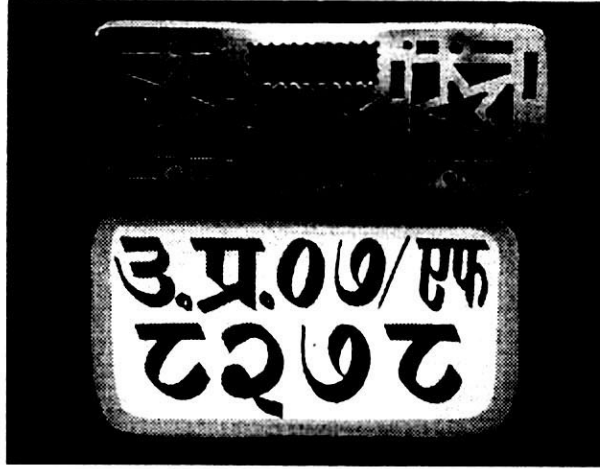


Fig 14: What is the registration number of this bus, manufactured by the industrial giant Tata? The first two characters indicate the state in which the bus is registered. (See foot of page.)

Visarg

The sign *visarg* resembles a widely spaced colon and is written without a headstroke, as in दुःख *duḥkh*, 'sorrow'; as the transliteration with a dotted *ḥ* shows, it is an aspiration equivalent to that of ह *h* (but unvoiced, and not representing a distinct syllable). In Sanskrit it is pronounced as a lightly breathed echo of the preceding vowel: शान्तिः *śāntiḥ*, 'peace', pronounced as *śāntiḥi*. It mostly occurs in Sanskrit loanwords and is not very common in Hindi.

[Answer: UP 07/F 8278 (उ.प्र. = उत्तर प्रदेश Uttar Pradesh.)

प्रायः	<i>prāyah</i>	generally
छः	<i>chah</i>	six
अतः	<i>ataḥ</i>	therefore

Avagrah

The sign *avagrah* has the shape ऽ. It's essentially a Sanskrit sign, having to do with vowel elisions that don't happen in Hindi. In Hindi its main function is to show that a vowel is sustained in a cry or a shout:

आई ऽ ऽ ऽ ऽ! *āīīī!*

In transcribing the words of a song, *avagrah* shows that the preceding vowel is sustained over successive beats:

जाने क्या ऽ तू ने ऽ कही
jāne kyā-ā tū ne-e kahī

Who knows wha-a-a-t you-ou-ou said

“माँ ऽ ऽ ऽ ऽ”

Fig 15: माँ ऽ ऽ ऽ ऽ – a child's call to its mother.

Rather more technically, *avagrah* can mark a long syllable in prosody. Here it is contrasted with the vertical line (*daṇḍā*), which is used to mark short beats. Thus the word चाँदिनी *cāḍinī*, 'moonlight', would be scanned as ऽ | ऽ, equivalent to ~ ~ in Western prosody.

The praṇav ॐ, om

The sacred syllable 'om' (or 'aum'), called the '*praṇav*' ('auspicious sound'), has the special symbol ॐ. It is often written as an invocation or a sign of auspicious well-being, for example at the beginning of a letter or other document, or on doorways, shrines etc.

Writing English words in Devanagari

Hindi uses an ever-growing number of loans from non-Indian languages, mostly English. Many a Hindi-learner, setting off to India with a proudly acquired knowledge of the Hindi script, will find his or her efforts rewarded by encounters with signboards such as the following:

एअर इंडिया ear iṅḍiyā Air India

व्हीलर एण्ड कम्पनी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड

vhīlar eṅḍ kampanī prāivet limited

Wheeler & Company Private Limited

FREE
रजिस्ट्रेशन
रोड टैक्स
कम्प्रेहेंसिव इश्योरेंस
एक्ससेरीज

₹ 4000/-
की
गहाबत

BULLET
Bully Performance

पन्दी कीरि योजना सीमित समय तक उपलब्ध
अधिकृत विक्रेता
अमर ऑटोस
603, फर्सी नगर, स्वर्ण सिनेमा रोड, लखनऊ, दिल्ली
फोन: 2452322, 2438120

Fig 16: What 'free' facilities are on offer here, and what is the name of the company?

When transliterating English words into Hindi (for example, when writing your name in Devanagari), you should ignore the English spelling and transcribe the phonetic value of the word as pronounced by a Hindi-speaker. A Hindi-speaker will hear English 'd' and 't' as closer to the retroflex than to the dental – hence the spelling लिमिटेड, *limited*, above. And Devanagari vowels will also match the pronounced values of the English – hence the spelling एअर, *ear*, in 'Air India'.

The superscript sign ̣, a dotless moon, is sometimes used above a long आ ā (आँ) for the English vowel in a Hindi-speaker's pronunciation of words such as 'ball', 'law', and the first syllable of 'chocolate'. (Do not confuse it with candrabindu: आँ is not the same as आँ.) This is a script

[Answer: Registration, road tax, comprehensive insurance, accessories; Amar Autos]

convention only: in most Hindi-speakers' pronunciation बॉल 'ball' does not have the 'aw' sound that it has in English, but sounds like the vowel in the word 'calm'. The sign has no standard Roman transliteration, but is here transliterated as â:

बॉल	bâl	ball
मॉडर्न	mâḍarn	modern
सॉरी	sâri	sorry



Fig 17: What kind of shop is this?

Many English words are quite awkward to write in Devanagari, particularly because of their frequent consonant clusters and diphthongs:

इंस्ट्रक्शन	instrakṣan	instruction
अकाउंटेंट	akāuṅṅent	accountant

Exercise 17

Transcribe the following into the original English:

टेल मी नाट इन मोर्नफुल नंबर्ज़,
लाइफ़ इज़ बट ऐन एम्प्टी ड्रीम;
फार द सोल इज़ डेड दैट स्लंबर्ज़,
एंड थिंगज़ आर नाट वाट दे सीम ।

[Answer: Modern Jewellers.]

The verse in the exercise above shows some typical features of English in Devanagari: the use of retroflex consonants for the English 't', 'd'; the different 'o' sounds of 'not' and 'for' both being assimilated to *ā* (the optional *औँ* *ā* form has not been used here); the use of consecutive vowels to represent diphthongs such as that in 'life' (लाइफ़ *lāif*); the use of *द्* *d* and *थ्* *th* for voiced and unvoiced 'th' (in 'the' and 'things' respectively).



Fig 18: आँख जांच, on the right, means 'eye testing'; व (on the left) and एवम् (on the right) both mean 'and'. The rest of the text here is mostly in English. What are the names of the two businesses advertised, and what services do they offer?

Among other problems in writing English in Devanagari, there is no adequate way of showing the soft *j* sound in the word 'vision', which has to be written either as विज्ञान *vijhan* or as विज़न *vizan*. (Many speakers weaken the consonant almost to a 'y' sound, saying 'viyan, leyar' for 'vision, leisure'.)

[Answer: (left) Imperial Barber Shop – Ladies and Gents Beauty Parlour, Bridal Make-up and Beautician Course; (right) Mahāvar Opticals –computerised eye testing and contact lens clinic .]

While words borrowed from English will have retroflex consonants, loanwords from (or influenced by) Portuguese, with its softer consonants, have dentals: बोटल *botal*, 'bottle', represents Portuguese 'botelha'. If the Portuguese traders had been less successful in the ventures on the western seaboard of India in the early colonial period, India would probably have an 'English' bottle, spelled with a retroflex ट *ṭa*! Portuguese influence is also seen in the month names. A complete list of the twelve months gives good reading practice – but the sequence has been muddled up for you here, just in case things get too easy.

दिसंबर	मई	फ़रवरी
मार्च	जुलाई	अगस्त
जनवरी	अप्रैल	नवंबर
अक्तूबर	जून	सितंबर

As with many other English loanwords in Hindi, the gender of the month names depends on their endings: those that end in *-ī* (like जनवरी *janvarī*) are feminine, the rest are masculine. There's more information on gender coming up on page 86.

8 | UNIT 8

More about Hindi words and spellings

Some dog-fights over conjunct forms

The way in which conjunct consonants are printed, typed and written varies a great deal depending on habit and the available technologies, and we have already seen how some conjuncts (such as *śva*, written श्व or श्व, or *na*, written न्न or न्न) have more than one form.

The limited keyboard of a conventional typewriter cannot produce the full range of conjunct forms; for example, typewriters that cannot produce त्त (*tta*) have to make do with त्त – hardly satisfactory for general use, as it can all too easily be confused with त्त. Unfortunately, some attempted ‘standardisation’ of forms occurred in the decades before computers removed all such limitations of keyboard layout; so there is official backing for such awkward forms as our example त्त, allowing such spellings as कुत्ता and कलकत्ता rather than insisting on the much more elegant कुत्ता and कलकत्ता.

The standardising authorities have also condemned such clear and elegant conjunct forms as च् for *dya* (preferring द्य) and द्ध for *ddha* (preferring द्ध); and they even recommend that an *i*-sign in a syllable such as *ddhi* should fall *between* the two components of the conjunct, giving द्धि instead of the well-established द्धि ! The resulting बुद्धिमानी *buddhimānī* (‘wisdom’) is a strange and inelegant form of बुद्धिमानी; but fortunately, Hindi’s wiser public ignores such official recommendations and sticks to the old forms that have served so well for centuries.

Exercise 18

Identify these geographical names:

भारत	गुजरात	बिहार	ढाका	इलाहाबाद
तमिल नाडु	लखनऊ	कराची	लाहौर	देहरा दून
नेपाल	मसूरी	मथुरा	कोटा	वाराणसी
बनारस	यमुना	हिमालय	केरल	उड़ीसा



Fig 20: Where is bus 402 coming from (on the left) and going to (on the right)?

Where does Hindi vocabulary come from?

The basic stock of Hindi vocabulary comes from various sources. The most important categories are:

1. *Tatsama* words: loanwords from Sanskrit, complete with the original Sanskrit spellings. (The term ‘tatsama’ means ‘same as that’, where ‘that’ refers to Sanskrit.) Examples are विकसित *vikāsīt*, ‘developed’ (whose *-it* participle ending, equivalent to the ‘-ed’ of the English participle, is found in many such words), राजधानी *rājdhānī*, ‘capital city’, and कृपा *kṛpā*, ‘kindness, grace’. Many Sanskrit words have changed their meanings and contexts of use in the modern Hindi

[Answer: Aukhlā Gāv (Okhla village); Jāmā Masjid (Friday Mosque). Many place names are rather unstable in their spellings: ओखला is more common than औखला.]

setting. For example, the original sense of आकाशवाणी *ākāśvāṇī* is 'voice from heaven, oracle', but it now names the Indian radio service; as a term for 'radio' generally it cannot, however, compete with the loanword रेडियो *reḍiyo*, which is well-established in Hindi.

2. *Tadbhava* words: words that have evolved organically from Sanskrit and Prakrit, i.e. medieval and modern derivatives of ancient words. (The term 'tadbhava' means 'of the nature of that'.) Having been subject to erosion over centuries of use, tadbhava are usually reduced versions of their originals: thus Hindi सात *sāt*, 'seven', derives from Sanskrit सप्त *sapta*, typically compensating for the reduced conjunct with a lengthened vowel. A less obvious example is Hindi ढाई *dhāi*, 'two and a half', whose Sanskrit original अर्धतृतीय *ardhatṛtiya*, 'half [less than] three', has been heavily eroded over time. Words that have a simple shape in their tatsama forms hardly change, if at all: नाम *nām*, 'name', is both tatsama and tadbhava – i.e. both Sanskrit and Hindi – because even the heavy use of centuries cannot simplify an already simple word.

Tatsama and tadbhava versions of the same word may co-exist in Hindi, sometimes with a difference in meaning: tatsama कर्म *karmā* means 'karma, action whose fruits are enjoyed in later lives', whereas its tadbhava derivative काम *kām* is the everyday word for 'work'; and tatsama क्षेत्र *kṣetrā* means 'field' in an abstract sense ('field of knowledge' etc.), whereas its tadbhava derivative खेत *khet* is a field you can plough. In these two examples we see again the reduction of the final conjunct.

3. Neologisms: new words formed from Sanskrit roots. Just as European languages developed and modernised by forming new vocabulary from Latin and Greek roots, Hindi has formed many words from the inexhaustible stocks of Sanskrit. But whereas the European languages

gradually developed new vocabularies to cope with new technologies and concepts as they came into being over several centuries, Indian languages were thrown in at the deep end when these technologies and concepts were brought to India ready-made by the colonial powers. So Indian languages have first had to translate, and then compete with, English loanwords such as 'radio' and 'train'. Unsurprisingly, the new Indian coinings have had a tough time in taking the place of their well-established English synonyms: we have already seen how रेडियो *reḍiyo* has become a Hindi word. Similarly the word ट्रेन *tren*, 'train', runs everywhere, whereas the infamous coining लोह-पथ-गामिनी *loh-path-gāminī*, 'iron-path-traveller', never made it out of the station. Many neologisms are calques – literal word-by-word translations, usually from the English; thus दूरदर्शन *dūrdarśan*, 'television', the name of the government TV channel in India, is composed of the two Sanskrit elements दूर *dūr*, 'distant' (for Greek-derived 'tele') and दर्शन *darśan* 'vision' (for Latin-derived 'vision') – but most people are happy just to say टी-वी *tī-vī* 'TV' !

4. Loanwords from Persian, and through Persian from Arabic and Turkish. These have formed a vital part of the Hindi language for centuries (although in recent times there has been a move to replace them with Sanskritic words as part of a general 'Hinduisation' of Indian culture, forcing a more literal division between the complementary sister-languages of Hindi and Urdu); the natural state of Hindi is that of a mixed language, accommodating words from many different sources, and this mixture gives it strength and subtlety. Common Hindi words from Perso-Arabic sources are बाद *bād*, 'afterwards', कुरसी *kursī*, 'chair', मकान *makān*, 'house' and तबला *tablā*, 'tabla' (all Arabic in origin); and कि *ki*, 'that' (as a conjunction), जानवर *jānvar*, 'animal', सब्ज़ी *sabzī*, 'vegetable', बाज़ार *bāzār*, 'market', सितार *sitār*, 'sitar', and सरकार *sarkār*, 'government' (all Persian).

5. Loanwords from English and Portuguese. We have seen many of these earlier in the book. English words are flooding, not to say drowning, the Hindi language, with कार *kār*, किचन *kican* and बाथरूम *bāthrūm* in danger of ousting their equivalents गाड़ी *gāri*, रसोईघर *rasoighar*, गुसलखाना *gusalkhānā*. These days one frequently hears such sentences as क्या साइड-स्ट्रीट में यू-टर्न एलाउड है ? *kyā sāid-strīṭ mē yū-tarn elāud hai?* 'Is a U-turn allowed in a side-street?'. By contrast, Portuguese influence is a historical one only – i.e. it is no longer contributing new words to Hindi; but it accounts for many everyday items such as कमरा *kamrā* 'room', अलमारी *almārī* 'cupboard', इस्तरी *istrī* 'an iron', and मिस्तरी *mistrī* 'mechanic, skilled worker'.



Fig 21: Can you find eight different English loanwords in this shop sign?

Gender in Hindi

Every Hindi noun has a gender – either masculine or feminine. Some adjectives (and verbs) reflect these genders. The characteristic masculine ending is *-ā*, contrasted with feminine *-ī*; thus लंबा लड़का *lambā larḱā*,

[Answer: You can **book** a **coffee machine** at Shiv Traders, **pho[ne]** 211134; **birthday cakes** and all birthday provisions available at reasonable **rates**.]

'tall boy', लंबी लड़की *lambī larḱī*, 'tall girl'. Adjectives that do not end in *-ā* / *-ī* have no way of showing agreement: होशियार लड़का *hośiyār larḱā*, 'clever boy', होशियार लड़की, *hośiyār larḱī*, 'clever girl'.

In the example of लड़का *larḱā* / लड़की *larḱī*, grammatical gender obviously follows sexual gender; but there is no such clearcut principle for inanimate nouns such as घर *ghar*, 'house', which happens to be masculine, or मेज़ *mez*, 'table', which happens to be feminine; so when you learn a new noun it's a good idea to learn its gender also.

Sometimes, the gender of a noun can be inferred from its form: the *-ā* / *-ī* masculine/feminine pattern of लड़का / लड़की is very common, with examples like कमरा *kamrā*, 'room', डिब्बा *dibbā*, 'box', and कपड़ा *kapṛā*, 'cloth' all being masculine, and बिजली *bijlī*, 'electricity', रोशनी *rośnī*, 'light' and बत्ती *battī*, 'lamp, light' all feminine. Place-names follow suit: those ending *-ā* are masculine (आगरा *āgrā*, कलकत्ता *kalkattā*), those ending *-ī* are feminine (दिल्ली *dillī*, वाराणसी *vārāṇasī*). And all rivers are feminine, like the word नदी *nadī*, 'river', itself.

Stress in Varanasi: while most Westerners pronounce the place name वाराणसी with a stress on the third syllable ('Varanási'), this is actually the one and only *short* syllable in the entire word, and therefore bears *less* stress than its neighbours. Stress is generally much more even in Hindi than it is in English; and getting it right is essential to good pronunciation. (The name बनारस *banāras*, incidentally, is an old-established derivative of वाराणसी; and a third name for this ancient city is काशी *kāśī*, 'the luminous', or, more romantically, 'City of Light'.)

There are many exceptions to this *-ā* / *-ī* rule or tendency: पानी *pānī*, 'water' and आदमी *ādmī*, 'man' both end in *-ī* but are masculine, while आशा *āśā*, 'hope' and भाषा *bhāṣā*, 'language' both end in *-ā* but are feminine. These last two belong to a large group of loanwords from Sanskrit, where *-ā* is a feminine ending: many girls' names, such as उषा 'Usha' and रेणुका 'Renuka' end in *-ā*, and these are all Sanskritic. And all languages are feminine, like the word भाषा *bhāṣā*, 'language', itself.

Hindi borrows several Sanskrit abstract nouns ending in *-tā*, which means ‘-ness’, etc: गंभीरता *gambhīrtā*, ‘seriousness’, मधुरता *madhurtā*, ‘sweetness’, साक्षरता *sākṣartā*, ‘literacy’, and सुंदरता *sundartā*, ‘beauty’. Being Sanskrit nouns ending in *-ā*, these are all feminine.

Hindi verb stems used as abstract nouns are feminine: समझ *samajh*, ‘understanding’, पहुँच *pahūc*, ‘reach’, दौड़ *daur* ‘running, race’ and खीझ *khijh*, ‘irritation’ are from the verbs समझना *samajhnā*, ‘to understand, पहुँचना *pahūcnā*, ‘to reach’, दौड़ना *daurnā* ‘to run’ and खीझना *khijhnā*, ‘to be irritated’ respectively.

English ‘-ing’ words are often borrowed in Hindi, and these too are feminine: शूटिंग *śūting*, ‘(film-)shooting’, मीटिंग *mīting*, ‘meeting’ and ड्राइंग *drāing*, ‘drawing’ are common examples.

Other loanwords from English may take the gender of a Hindi synonym or other associated word: thus कार *kār* is feminine, like गाड़ी *gārī*; and बियर *biyar* ‘beer’) too is feminine, like शराब *śarāb* ‘alcoholic drink, booze’.

One of the reasons why it’s so important to know a noun’s gender is that gender determines the way in which the noun is made plural. Here are the basic principles:

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Most masculine nouns that end in <i>-ā</i> change to <i>-e</i>	कमरा room	कमरे rooms
	लड़का boy	लड़के boys
Other masculine nouns don’t change	आदमी man	आदमी men
	घर house	घर houses
Feminine nouns that end in <i>-ī</i> change to <i>-iyā</i>	बत्ती light	बत्तियाँ lights
	लड़की girl	लड़कियाँ girls
Other feminine nouns add <i>-ē</i>	मेज़ table	मेज़ें tables
	तस्वीर picture	तस्वीरें pictures

Notice that आदमी *ādmī* can mean both ‘man’ and ‘men’. The number may become apparent in an *-ā* adjective, which changes to *-e* in the plural: मोटा आदमी *moṭā ādmī*, ‘fat man’, मोटे आदमी *moṭe ādmī*, ‘fat men’. Only masculine *-ā* adjectives change like this, all others stay the same. Look at the following examples and notice which nouns and which adjectives change in the plural:

MASCULINE	बड़ा कमरा big room	बड़े कमरे big rooms
	बड़ा मकान big house	बड़े मकान big houses
	लाल पत्थर red stone	लाल पत्थर red stones
FEMININE	छोटी बेटी little daughter	छोटी बेटियाँ little daughters
	बड़ी आँख big eye	बड़ी आँखें big eyes
	साफ़ मेज़ clean table	साफ़ मेज़ें clean tables



Fig 22: Where and when was this newspaper published? And which two countries feature in the headline of this ‘Global Diary’ section?

[Answer: New Delhi, 25 January 2000 (मंगलवार *mangalvār* is ‘Tuesday’); the countries referred to are Chechnya and Afghanistan, the latter name being written without the two dots that a full spelling would require – अफ़ग़ानिस्तान.]

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX 1

Examples of Hindi handwriting

एक दिन मेरी छोटी बेटी ने पूछा, 'मम्मी, पुलिस आदमी होता है या औरत?'। क्योंकि इस छोटी-सी उम्र में उसने अधिकतर पुरुष पुलिस को ही देखा था, सो मैंने कह दिया कि आदमी होता है। उसी वक्त दूसरा सवाल उठा, 'तो फिर हम क्यों कहते हैं कि "पुलिस आ गई", "पुलिस आ गया" क्यों नहीं कहते?'

Translation: One day my little daughter asked, 'Mummy, are the police men or women?'. Because at this young age she had mostly seen *male* police, I said 'men'. Immediately another question came up, 'So then why do we say "The police have come [feminine]", why don't we say "the police have come [masculine]"?'

[The Hindi word पुलिस *pulis* has feminine gender, which it has probably acquired from related Hindi words such as फौज *fauj* and सेना *senā* 'army'. It is used in the singular.]

Example 1

एक दिन मेरी छोटी बेटी ने पूछा, 'मम्मी, पुलिस आदमी होता है या औरत?'। क्योंकि इस छोटी-सी उम्र में उसने अधिकतर पुरुष पुलिस को ही देखा था, सो मैंने कह दिया कि आदमी होता है। उसी वक्त दूसरा सवाल उठा, 'तो फिर हम क्यों कहते हैं कि "पुलिस आ गई"?' "पुलिस आ गया" क्यों नहीं कहते?'

Example 2

एक दिन मेरी छोटी बेटी ने पूछा, 'मम्मी, पुलिस आदमी होता है या औरत?' क्योंकि इस छोटी-सी उम्र में उसने अधिकतर पुरुष पुलिस को ही देखा था, सो मैंने कह दिया कि आदमी होता है। उसी वक्त दूसरा सवाल उठा, 'तो फिर हम क्यों कहते हैं कि "पुलिस आ गई"?' "पुलिस आ गया" क्यों नहीं कहते?'

Example 3

एक दिन मेरी छोटी बेटी ने पूछा, 'मम्मी, पुलिस आदमी होता है या औरत?' क्योंकि इस छोटी-सी उम्र में उसने अधिकतर पुरुष पुलिस को ही देखा था, सो मैंने कह दिया कि आदमी होता है। उसी वक्त दूसरा सवाल उठा, 'तो फिर हम क्यों कहते हैं कि "पुलिस आ गई"?' "पुलिस आ गया" क्यों नहीं कहते?'

Example 4

एक दिन मेरी छोटी बेटी ने पूछा,
 "मम्मी, पुलिस आदमी होता है या
 औरत?" क्योंकि इस छोटी-सी
 उम्र में उसने अधिकतर पुरुष
 पुलिस को ही देखा था, सो मैंने
 कह दिया कि आदमी होता है। उसी
 वक्त दूसरा सवाल उठा, "तो फिर
 दल क्यों कहते हैं कि 'पुलिस आ
 गई'?" "पुलिस आ गया" क्यों नहीं
 कहते?

Example 5

एक दिन मेरी छोटी बेटी ने पूछा, 'मम्मी, पुलिस
 आदमी होता है या औरत?'। क्योंकि इस
 छोटी-सी उम्र में उसने अधिकतर पुरुष पुलिस
 को ही देखा था, सो मैंने कह दिया कि आदमी
 होता है। उसी वक्त दूसरा सवाल उठा, 'तो
 फिर हम क्यों कहते हैं कि "पुलिस आ गई"?'
 "पुलिस आ गया" क्यों नहीं कहते?'

Example 6

एक दिन मेरी छोटी बेटी ने पूछा 'मम्मी,
 पुलिस आदमी होता है या औरत?'।
 क्योंकि इस छोटी-सी उम्र में उसने
 अधिकतर पुरुष पुलिस को ही देखा था,
 सो मैंने कह दिया कि आदमी होता है।
 उसी वक्त दूसरा सवाल उठा, 'तो फिर
 हम क्यों कहते हैं कि "पुलिस आ
 गई"?' "पुलिस आ गया"।
 क्यों नहीं कहते?'

APPENDIX 2

Minimal pairs

This section gives you further practice in the spelling and pronunciation of pairs of words that are identical in all but one feature. If at all possible, try to get a Hindi-speaker to read out (or even better, record) the list for you; it will be a great help in getting your ear accustomed to the sounds of Hindi.

Words that are translated '(to)...', such as 'बदल (to) change' are verb stems (see p. 47); add -ना for the infinitive (e.g. बदलना).

Vowels

अ/आ a/ā

दम ^m	breath, life	दाम ^m	price
मन ^m	mind, heart	मान ^m	pride
बल ^m	force	बाल ^m	hair
भरत ^m	Bharat	भारत ^m	India
पर	on; but	पार	across
दस	ten	दास ^m	slave
गई	went ^f	गाई	sang ^f
कल	yesterday; tomorrow	काल ^m	time, Time
कम	little, less	काम ^m	work
बदल	(to) change	बादल ^m	cloud
कमल ^m	lotus	कमाल ^m	miracle
नई	new ^f	नाई ^m	barber

इ/ई i/ī

सिख ^m	Sikh	सीख ^f	instruction
मिल ^m	mill	मील ^m	mile
दिन ^m	day	दीन ^m	poor; religion
भिड़ ^f	hornet	भीड़ ^f	crowd
दिया	gave	दीया ^m	oil lamp
सिल ^f	grinding stone	सील ^f	dampness
पिटना	to be beaten	पीटना	to beat
जाति ^f	caste	जाती	going ^f

उ/ऊ u/ū

उन	them	ऊन ^f	wool
धुल	(to) be washed	धूल ^f	dust
पुरा ^m	quarter of town	पूरा	complete, full
फुट ^m	foot	फूट	(to) burst
घुस	(to) enter, sneak in	घूस ^f	bribe
कुल ^m	family; total	कूल ^m	bank of river, pond
सुख ^m	happiness	सूख	(to) dry
सुना	heard	सूना	deserted, empty

ए/ऐ e/ai

मेला ^m	fair	मैला	dirty
में	in	मैं	I
देव ^m	god	दैव	divine
चेत ^m	consciousness	चैत ^m	name of a month
फेल	fail, failed	फैल	(to) spread
हे	Oh!	है	is
सेर ^m	a weight of about 1kg	सैर ^f	excursion
बेल ^m	wood-apple	बैल ^m	bullock

ओ/औ o/au

ओर ^f	direction	और	and
सो	so	सौ	hundred
जो	the one who	जौ ^m	barley
डोल ^m	rocking	डौल ^m	shape, form
बोर	bore, bored	बौर ^m	mango blossom
खोल	(to) open	खौल	(to) boil
कोर ^f	edge, tip	कौर ^m	mouthful of food
लोटना	to roll, sprawl	लौटना	to return

Non-nasal / nasal

बास ^m	fragrance	बाँस ^m	bamboo
गई	went ^f	गई	went ^{f.pl}
पाई	obtained ^f	पाई	obtained ^{f.pl}
करे	may do	करें	may do ^{pl}
लड़को	(O) boys!	लड़कों	(to, from) boys
पूछ	(to) ask	पूँछ ^f	tail
हा	ah!	हाँ	yes
है	is	हैं	are

Consonants

Single / double

बचा	saved, survived	बच्चा ^m	child
सन ^m	hemp	सन्न	numbed
समान	equal	सम्मान	respect
बटा	divided	बट्टा ^m	rebate
चुनी	chose ^f	चुन्नी ^f	scarf
पता ^m	address	पत्ता ^m	leaf
बला ^f	calamity	बल्ला ^m	beam, pole
सटा	stuck, joined	सट्टा ^m	transaction

सता	(to) torment	सत्ता ^f	power
पका	cooked	पक्का	ripe, firm

The word पक्का has a wide range of meanings, mostly to do with thoroughness or permanence: पक्की सड़क 'a *metalled* road'; पक्का मकान 'a *brick-built* house'; पक्का इरादा 'a *firm* intention'; पक्का बदमाश 'an *utter* villain'.

Non-retroflex / retroflex

आता	comes	आटा ^m	flour
ताल ^m	musical time	टाल	(to) postpone
तीन	three	टीन ^m	tin
छोर ^m	edge	छोड़	(to) leave
सरक	(to) slip, creep	सड़क ^f	road, street
घात ^f	stratagem	घाट ^m	riverbank
सारी	whole, entire ^f	साड़ी ^m	sari

Non-aspirated / aspirated

बाड़ ^f	fence	बाढ़ ^f	flood
गाता	singing	गाथा ^f	ballad
गंद ^m	stench	गंध ^f	fragrance
बंद	closed	बंध ^m	embankment, bund

चलना	to move	छलना	to deceive
चना ^m	chickpea	छना	sifted, strained
चोर ^m	thief	छोर ^m	edge, border
जूठा	despoiled by touch	झूठा	false
कुल ^m	family, dynasty	खुल	(to) open
मोड़ा	turned	मोढ़ा ^m	bamboo stool
पाट ^m	board	पाठ ^m	recitation
पल ^m	moment	फल ^m	fruit
टीका ^m	forehead-mark	ठीका, ठेका ^m	contract
संग ^m	association	संघ ^m	union; sect
ताली ^f	clapping	थाली ^f	platter
ताना ^m	taunt	थाना ^m	police station
तक	until, up to	थक	(to) tire
डाल ^f	branch	ढाल ^m	incline

Other contrasts

हँस	(to) laugh	हंस ^m	goose, swan
खाना ^m	food; to eat	ख़ाना ^m	room, place
सीख ^f	instruction	सीख ^f	skewer

APPENDIX 3

Reading practice

PART ONE These reading sentences consist of simple questions and statements of the kind that were introduced in Unit 5. All the vocabulary is given in the Glossary, and most of it has already occurred in the units themselves. The transliteration of each sentence is printed on the opposite page, and an English translation follows at the end, so you can test both your reading and your comprehension.

- १ क्या यह किताब सस्ती है ?
- २ जी हाँ, काफ़ी सस्ती है ।
- ३ क्या लाहौर हिन्दुस्तान में है ?
- ४ जी नहीं, लाहौर पाकिस्तान में है ।
- ५ क्या अमृतसर पंजाब में है ?
- ६ जी हाँ, अमृतसर पंजाब में है ।
- ७ अमृतसर हिन्दुस्तान में है । मगर वह लाहौर से दूर नहीं है ।
- ८ क्या तुम हिन्दुस्तानी हो ?
- ९ नहीं, मैं हिन्दुस्तानी नहीं हूँ, मैं श्री लंका से हूँ ।
- १० क्या "टीच योरसेल्फ़ बिगिनर्स हिन्दी स्क्रिप्ट" में तस्वीरें हैं ?
- ११ जी हाँ, कई तस्वीरें हैं ।
- १२ ये नई तस्वीरें काफ़ी अच्छी हैं ।
- १३ ताज कहाँ है ?
- १४ ताज महल आगरे में है पर ताज होटल मुंबई में है ।

- 1 kyā yah kitāb sastī hai?
- 2 jī hā, kāfi sastī hai.
- 3 kyā lāhaur hindustān mẽ hai?
- 4 jī nahī, lāhaur pākistān mẽ hai.
- 5 kyā amṛtsar panjāb mẽ hai?
- 6 jī hā, amṛtsar panjāb mẽ hai.
- 7 amṛtsar hindustān mẽ hai. magar vah lāhaur se dūr nahī hai.
- 8 kyā tum hindustānī ho ?
- 9 nahī, maī hindustānī nahī hū, maī śrī lankā se hū.
- 10 kyā ṭīc yorself biginars hindī skript mẽ tasvīrē hai?
- 11 jī hā, kai tasvīrē hai.
- 12 ye nai tasvīrē kāfi acchī hai.
- 13 taj kahā hai?
- 14 tāj mahal āgre mẽ hai magar tāj hoṭal mumbaī mẽ hai.

- १५ क्या आगरा वाराणसी से बहुत दूर है ?
 १६ जी हाँ, वाराणसी काफ़ी दूर है ।
 १७ तुम कौन हो ? और यह लड़का कौन है ?
 १८ मैं उषा हूँ । और यह लड़का दिनेश है ।
 १९ क्या देवनागरी लिपि पुरानी है ?
 २० जी हाँ, देवनागरी बहुत पुरानी है ।
 २१ रसोईघर में क्या है ?
 २२ रसोईघर में तीन कुरसियाँ और एक मेज़ है ।
 २३ मेज़ पर क्या है ?
 २४ मेज़ पर चीनी, गाजर और दूध है ।
 २५ संगीता और सुहास कहाँ हैं ?
 २६ उषा जी और रेणुका देहरा दून में हैं ।
 २७ क्या देहरा दून हिमाचल प्रदेश में है ?
 २८ जी नहीं, देहरा दून उत्तर प्रदेश में है ।
 २९ क्या वह बड़ी नदी यमुना है ?
 ३० जी नहीं, वह गंगा है । यमुना यहाँ से दूर है ।
 ३१ क्या भगवद्गीता संस्कृत में है ?
 ३२ जी हाँ, पर यह पुरानी किताब हिन्दी में है ।
 ३३ क्या यह दाम ठीक है ?

- 15 kyā āgrā vārāṇasī se bahut dūr hai?
 16 jī hā, vārāṇasī kāfi dūr hai.
 17 tum kaun ho? aur yah laṛkā kaun hai?
 18 maī uṣā hū. aur yah laṛkā dīnēś hai.
 19 kyā devanāgrī lipi purānī hai ?
 20 jī hā, devanāgrī bahut purānī hai.
 21 rasoīghar mē kyā hai?
 22 rasoīghar mē tīn kursiyā aur ek mez hai.
 23 mez par kyā hai?
 24 mez par cīnī, gājar aur dūdh hai.
 25 sangītā aur suhās kahā hai?
 26 sangītā aur suhās dehrā dūn mē hai.
 27 kyā dehrā dūn himācal pradeś mē hai?
 28 jī nahī, dehrā dūn uttar pradeś mē hai.
 29 kyā vah baṛī nadī yamunā hai?
 30 jī nahī, vah gangā hai. yamunā yahā se dūr hai.
 31 kyā bhagvadgītā sanskṛt mē hai?
 32 jī hā, par yah purānī kitāb hindī mē hai.
 33 kyā yah dām ṭhīk hai?

- ३४ जी नहीं, यह बहुत महँगा है ।
 ३५ क्या युनिवर्सिटी आज बंद है ?
 ३६ जी हाँ, आज छुट्टी है, और विश्वविद्यालय बंद है ।
 ३७ आप लोग कैसे हैं ?
 ३८ धन्यवाद, हम ठीक हैं ।
 ३९ यह नई किताब पढ़िए, यह बहुत अच्छी है ।
 ४० यह फल खाइए, यह बहुत ताज़ा है ।
 ४१ यह गाना सुनिए, यह बहुत मीठा है ।
 ४२ वह नई फ़िल्म देखिए, बुरी नहीं है ।
 ४३ आज पिताजी और चाचाजी कहाँ हैं ?
 ४४ वे आज यहाँ नहीं हैं । दोनों बाहर हैं ।
 ४५ ऋषि और राज कहाँ हैं ?
 ४६ वे दोनों रसोईघर में हैं ।
 ४७ प्रताप कौन है ? क्या वह नौकर है ?
 ४८ जी नहीं, वह नौकर नहीं है, वह विद्यार्थी है ।
 ४९ दीवाली कब है ?
 ५० दीवाली कल है ।
 ५१ कल छुट्टी है । तुम यहाँ आओ न ?
 ५२ वह दूसरी किताब क्या है ?
 ५३ यह किताब "टीच योरसेल्फ़ हिन्दी" है ।

- 34 jī nahī, yah bahut mahāgā hai.
 35 kyā yunivarsiṭī āj band hai?
 36 jī hā, āj chuttī hai, aur viśvāvidyālay band hai.
 37 āp log kaise hai?
 38 dhanyavād, ham ṭhik hai.
 39 yah nāi kitāb paṛhie, yah bahut acchī hai.
 40 yah phal khāie, yah bahut tāzā hai.
 41 yah gānā sunie, yah bahut mīṭhā hai.
 42 vah nāi film dekhie, burī nahī hai.
 43 āj pitāji aur cācāji kahā hai?
 44 ve āj yahā nahī hai. donō bāhar hai.
 45 ṛṣi aur rāj kahā hai?
 46 ve donō rasoīghar mẽ hai.
 47 pratāp kaun hai? kyā vah naukar hai?
 48 jī nahī, vah naukar nahī hai, vah vidyārthī hai.
 49 dīvālī kab hai?
 50 dīvālī kal hai.
 51 kal chuttī hai. tum yahā āo na?
 52 vah dūsri kitāb kyā hai?
 53 yah kitāb 'ṭic yorself hindī' hai.

Translation of the PART ONE sentences.

- 1 Is this book cheap?
- 2 Yes, [it] is quite cheap.
- 3 Is Lahore in India?
- 4 No, Lahore is in Pakistan.
- 5 Is Amritsar in Panjab?
- 6 Yes, Amritsar is in Panjab.
- 7 Amritsar is in India. But it's not far from Lahore.
- 8 Are you Indian?
- 9 No, I'm not Indian, I'm from Sri Lanka.
- 10 Are there pictures in *Teach Yourself Beginner's Hindi Script*?
- 11 Yes, there are several pictures.
- 12 These new pictures are quite good.
- 13 Where is the Taj?
- 14 The Taj Mahal is in Agra but the Taj hotel is in Mumbai.
- 15 Is Agra very far from Varanasi?
- 16 Yes, Varanasi is quite far away.
- 17 Who are you? And who's this boy?
- 18 I am Usha. And this boy is Dinesh.
- 19 Is the Devanagari script old?
- 20 Yes, Devanagari is very old.
- 21 What is there in the kitchen?
- 22 There's a table and three chairs in the kitchen.
- 23 What is there on the table?
- 24 There's sugar, carrots and milk on the table.
- 25 Where are Sangeeta and Suhas?
- 26 Sangeeta and Suhas are in Dehra Dun.

- 27 Is Dehra Dun in Himachal Pradesh?
- 28 No, Dehra Dun is in Uttar Pradesh.
- 29 Is that big river the Yamuna?
- 30 No, that's the Ganga (Ganges). The Yamuna is far from here.
- 31 Is the *Bhagavadgītā* in Sanskrit?
- 32 Yes, but this old book is in Hindi.
- 33 Is this price correct?
- 34 No, this is very expensive.
- 35 Is the university closed today?
- 36 Yes, today's a holiday, and the university's closed.
- 37 How are you people?
- 38 Thank you, we're fine.
- 39 Read this new book, it's very good.
- 40 Eat this fruit, it's very fresh.
- 41 Listen to this song, it's very sweet.
- 42 See that new film, [it's] not bad.
- 43 Where are Father and Uncle today?
- 44 They're not here today. [They're] both out.
- 45 Where are Rishi and Raj?
- 46 They're both in the kitchen.
- 47 Who is Pratap? Is he a servant?
- 48 No, he's not a servant, he's a student.
- 49 When is Diwali?
- 50 Diwali is tomorrow.
- 51 Tomorrow is a holiday. Come here, won't you?
- 52 What's that other book?
- 53 This other book is *Teach Yourself Hindi*.

PART TWO This story is meant as reading practice for those who are already familiar with spoken Hindi and are using this book to add a knowledge of the script. Vocabulary for this story is *not* given in the glossary, but a translation follows at the end.

सुन्दरलाल उर्फ ...

हमारे शहर में एक लड़का रहता था जिसका नाम था सुन्दरलाल । वह शायद पंद्रह सोलह साल का था । सुन्दरलाल असल में सुन्दर बिलकुल नहीं था, काफ़ी बदनसूरत था । इस वजह से स्कूल में सारे बच्चे उसे चिढ़ाते थे और गालियाँ दिया करते थे । सुन्दरलाल अपने माँ-बाप से शिकायत करता रहता था कि “मुझे इतना बेकार नाम क्यों दिया गया । दुनिया में अच्छे नामों की कोई कमी है क्या ? मुझे रामलाल या कृष्ण कुमार जैसा कोई साधारण नाम क्यों नहीं दिया गया ?” पर उसकी बात कौन सुनता । उसके पिता को उससे बात करने का समय भी नहीं था; वे तो अपनी दुकान को चलाने में हमेशा व्यस्त रहते थे । और जब कभी सुन्दरलाल अपनी माता से अपने नाम के बारे में कुछ कहने लगता तो वे बोलतीं, “अरे बेटे चुप भी कर, मुझे अपना काम करने दे, तुझे क्या मालूम इन बातों के बारे में ?”

एक दिन अख़बार पढ़ते वक़्त सुन्दरलाल के मन में एक नई बात आई । कभी कभी ऐसा हो जाता है न, वह मन में कहने लगा, कि लोगों के नाम बदल दिए जाते हैं; मैं भी अपना नाम बदल लूँ तो अच्छा रहेगा । किसी दोस्त से पैसे लेकर उसने दिल्ली जानेवाली राजधानी एक्सप्रेस के लिए टिकट लिया । उसने अपने घरवालों से कहा कि मैं अपने दोस्त ऋषि की बर्थडे पार्टी में जा रहा हूँ, दो दिन में लौटूँगा ।

जिस दिन उसे दिल्ली जाना था उसने चोरी से रसोईघर में जाकर कुछ खाने की चीज़ें एक थैले में रख लीं । रात के साढ़े दस की ट्रेन थी; मगर सुन्दरलाल ने सोचा कि ट्रेन में इतनी भीड़ होगी कि देर से पहुँचनेवाले लोगों को सीट

sundarlāl urf...

hamāre śahar mẽ ek laṛkā rahtā thā jiskā nām thā sundarlāl. vah śāyad pandrah solah sāl kā thā. sundarlāl asal mẽ sundar bilkul nahī thā, kāfi badsūrat thā. is vajah se skūl mẽ sāre bacce use ciṛhāte the aur gāliyā diyā karte the. sundarlāl apne mā-bāp se śikāyat kartā rahtā thā ki ‘mujhe itnā bekār nām kyō diyā gayā. duniyā mẽ acche nāmō kī koī kamī hai kyā? mujhe rāmlāl yā kṛṣṇā kumār jaisā koī sādharan nām kyō nahī diyā gayā?’ par uskī bāt kaun suntā. uske pitā ko usse bāt karne kā samay bhī nahī thā; ve to āpnī dukān ko calāne mẽ hameśā vyast rahte the. aur jab kabhī sundarlāl āpnī mātā se apne nām ke bāre mẽ kuch kahne lagtā to ve boltī, ‘are beṭe cup bhī kar, mujhe apnā kām karne de, tujhe kyā mālūm in bātō ke bāre mẽ’.

ek din akhbār parhte vaqt sundarlāl ke man mẽ ek nāi bāt āī. kabhī kabhī aisā ho jātā hai na, vah man mẽ kahne lagā, ki logō ke nām badal die jāte hai; māī bhī apnā nām badal lū to acchā rahegā. kisī dost se paise lekar usne dilli jānevāli rājdhāni ekspres ke lie ṭikaṭ liyā. usne apne gharvālō se kahā ki māī apne dost ṛṣi kī barthḍe pāṛṭī mẽ jā rahā hū, do din mẽ lauṭūgā.

jis din use dillī jānā thā usne corī se rasoighar mẽ jākar kuch khāne kī cizē ek thaile mẽ rakh lī. rāt ke sārhe das kī tren thī; magar sundarlāl ne socā ki tren mẽ itnī bhīṛ hogī ki der se pahūcnevāle logō ko sīt

पाने की कोई उम्मीद नहीं होगी, इसलिए वह ठीक नौ बजे घर से निकला। घर में उस वक्त कोई भी न था, और सड़कें भी एकदम खाली लग रही थीं। सुन्दरलाल के पास ज्यादा पैसा नहीं था, इसलिए उसने निश्चय किया कि बस से स्टेशन नहीं जाना चाहिए, पैदल चलूँ तो किराये के पैसे बच जाएँगे। जब वह स्टेशन पहुँचा तो उसे बहुत आश्चर्य हुआ यह देखकर कि गाड़ी में बहुत-सी सीटें खाली पड़ी थीं। उसे खिड़की के पास एक अच्छी-सी सीट मिल गई; और जैसे ही वह बर्थ पर बैठ गया उसकी आँख लग गई।

दो दिन बाद घर वापस आकर वह सोचने लगा कि माँ-बाप को कैसे बताऊँगा कि मैंने अपना नाम बदल लिया है। पिताजी कहेंगे कि तूने हमारे परिवार का नाम मिट्टी में मिला दिया है, और माँ न जाने क्या क्या कहेंगी।

सुबह का समय था। अपने कमरे का दरवाजा खोलकर वह ध्यान से सुनने लगा कि नीचे रसोईघर में क्या हो रहा है। उसके माँ-बाप नाश्ता करते हुए किसी पड़ोसी के लड़के की शादी के बारे में बातें कर रहे थे। जब सुन्दरलाल की माँ ने ज़ोर से चिल्लाकर कहा कि “सुन्दर, ओ सुन्दर, आ जा, तुझे देर हो जाएगी”, तो सुन्दरलाल ने साहस बटोरकर जवाब दिया कि “माँ, मेरा नाम सुन्दर या सुन्दरलाल नहीं है। मैंने अपना नाम बदल लिया है। आज से मुझे ‘एल्विस’ कहा कीजिए।”

pāne kī koī ummīd nahī hogī, islie vah ṭhīk nau baje ghar se niklā. ghar mē us vaqt koī bhī na thā, aur sarkē bhī ekdam khālī lag rahī thī. sundarlāl ke pās zyādā paisā nahī thā, islie usne niścay kiyā ki bas se sṭeśan nahī jānā cāhie, paidal calū to kirāye ke paise bac jāēge. jab vah sṭeśan pahūcā to use bahut āścaryā huā yah dekhkar ki gārī mē bahut-sī sītē khālī parī thī. use khīrkī ke pās ek acchī-sī sīt mil gai; aur jaise hī vah barth par baiṭh gayā uskī ākh lag gai.

do din bād ghar vāpas ākar vah socne lagā ki mā-bāp ko kaise batāūga ki maīne apnā nām badal liyā hai. pitāji kahēge ki tūne hamāre parivār kā nām miṭṭī mē milā diyā hai, aur mā na jāne kyā kyā kahēgi.

subah kā samay thā. apne kamre kā darvāzā kholkar vah dhyān se sunne lagā ki nice rasoighar mē kyā ho rahā hai. uske mā-bāp nāštā karte hue kisī paṛosī ke larke kī śādī ke bāre mē batē kar rahe the. jab sundarlāl kī mā ne zor se cillākar kahā ki ‘sundar, o sundar, ā jā, tujhe der ho jāegi’, to sundarlāl ne sāhas baṭorkar javāb diya ki ‘mā, merā nām sundar yā sundarlāl nahī hai. maīne āpna nām badal liyā hai. āj se mujhe “elvis” kahā kījie’.

Translation of the PART TWO story.**Sundarlal alias...**

In our town there lived a boy whose name was Sundarlal. He was maybe fifteen or sixteen years old. Sundarlal was in fact not handsome [*sundar*, beautiful] at all, he was quite ugly. For this reason all the children at school used to tease him and call him names. Sundarlal used to complain continually to his parents, 'Why was I given such a useless name. Is there some shortage of good names in the world? Why wasn't I given some ordinary name like Ramlal or Krishna Kumar?' But who would listen to what he had to say. His father didn't even have the time to talk to him; he was busy running his shop all the time. And whenever Sundarlal began to say anything to his mother about his name she would say, 'Oh son do shut up, let me do my work, what do you know about these things'.

One day while reading the newspaper Sundarlal thought of something. It sometimes so happens, doesn't it, he began to say to himself, that people's names are changed; it would be good if I too were to change my name. Taking the money from some friend he got a ticket for the Rajdhani Express that goes to Delhi. He told his folks at home that he was going to his friend Rishi's birthday party and that he would be back in two days.

On the day when he was to go to Delhi he went secretly into the kitchen and put himself some things to eat into a bag. The train was at half past ten at night; but Sundarlal thought there would be such a crowd in the train that latecomers wouldn't have a hope of getting a seat, so he left the house at exactly nine. There was nobody in the house at that time, and even the streets seemed completely empty. Sundarlal didn't have much money with him, so he decided that he shouldn't go to the station by bus, if he went on foot he'd save the (money of the) bus fare. When he arrived at the station he was very surprised to see that many seats in the train were (lying) empty. He got quite a good seat by the window; and as soon as he sat down on the berth he fell asleep.

Two days later when he returned home he began wondering how he should tell his parents that he had changed his name. Father would say 'You've dragged our family name through the mud', and Mother would say who knows what.

It was morning time. Opening the door of his room he began listening carefully what was going on downstairs in the kitchen. His parents were talking about the wedding of some neighbour's son as they had their breakfast. When Sundarlal's mother shouted loudly 'Sundar, oh Sundar, come, you'll get late', Sundarlal summoned up his courage and said, 'Ma, my name isn't Sundar or Sundarlal. I've changed my name. Please call me "Elvis" from now on.'

APPENDIX 4

Key to the exercises

1	<i>khag</i>	<i>cakh</i>	<i>jag</i>	<i>khaṭ</i>	<i>jhaṭ</i>
	<i>kac</i>	<i>gaj</i>	<i>ṭak</i>	<i>ḍac</i>	<i>ḍag</i>
	कण	ठन	जट	ठठ	कट
	गण	जज	ढक	घट	ठग

2	<i>tan</i>	<i>gaz</i>	<i>dhan</i>	<i>phaṭ</i>	<i>pad</i>
	<i>mat</i>	<i>tab</i>	<i>man</i>	<i>jab</i>	<i>gat</i>
	पढ़	मठ	खत	डफ	पब
	नग	बम	कप	पथ	पट

3	<i>dal</i>	<i>das</i>	<i>kam</i>	<i>ham</i>	<i>ghar</i>	<i>hal</i>	<i>man</i>
	<i>taraf</i>	<i>bacat</i>	<i>sarak</i>	<i>naram</i>	<i>khobar</i>	<i>mahal</i>	<i>nagar</i>
	हद	पल	वट	सच	नल	हर	सब
	जड़	डर	भय	बस	शक	हक	तय
	जगह	भजन	गजल	समय	मगर	लगन	कलम

4	<i>ai</i>	<i>asar</i>	<i>os</i>	<i>ṛṇ</i>	<i>āh</i>
	<i>āg</i>	<i>agar</i>	<i>ādar</i>	<i>aurat</i>	<i>ūn</i>
	ऊपर	उमस	आ	ओ	आज
	एकड़	ईद	अटल	और	अलग

5	<i>gājar</i>	<i>salād</i>	<i>cāval</i>	<i>canā</i>	<i>pālak</i>
	मसाला	शराब	पराठा	कबाब	मटर

6	<i>mītar</i>	<i>binā</i>	<i>pītal</i>	<i>hisāb</i>	<i>dil</i>	<i>thīk</i>
	नामी	कीमत	कहानी	साड़ी	सिख	शिकायत

7	<i>pul</i>	<i>dhūl</i>	<i>rūkhā</i>	<i>sūd</i>	<i>dūri</i>	<i>kabūtar</i>
	सूखा	रुको	तू	रूस	तुम	मुलायम

8	<i>keval</i>	<i>khetī</i>	<i>paise</i>	<i>betā</i>	<i>mez</i>	<i>khairiyat</i>
	बेकार	पहेली	मैला	सिनेमा	तेरा	ठेकेदार

9	<i>dhokhā</i>	<i>komal</i>	<i>hauz</i>	<i>dauro</i>	<i>koṭhī</i>
	बोलो	जौ	गोरा	मौलिक	करोड़

10	गए	गई	गाई	गाओ	जाएगा
	धोओ	धोइए	धोए	रुई	रईस
	रुलाई	सोई	बनाए	बनाओ	बढ़ई

11	<i>gāv</i>	<i>mahāgā</i>	<i>āgan</i>	<i>pūch</i>	<i>dhuā</i>	<i>ādherā</i>
	खाँसी	सौंफ	दोनों	लौंग	आई	मेज़ें

12	<i>sthati</i>	<i>svarūp</i>	<i>sthāyi</i>	<i>pistaul</i>	<i>laṣtam-paṣtam</i>
	स्वागत	बस्ती	स्लेट	रास्ता	स्नान स्मरण

13	<i>naqṣā</i>	<i>brāhman</i>	<i>patthar</i>	<i>koṣṭak</i>	<i>kyō</i>	<i>niścay</i>
	बिल्ली	हिन्दू	नाशता	तुम्हारा	अध्यापक	अवश्य
	पक्का	ज़्यादा	किस्मत	हत्या	नष्ट	हल्दी
	फ़ैक्टरी	अक्सर	लन्दन	आत्मा	गिरफ़्तार	सत्य

14	छुट्टी	बुद्ध	मुहल्ला	बच्चा	अट्टाईस	गद्दा
	चित्त	विद्यार्थी	द्वीप	सह्य	पद्म	चिह्न

15	हिन्दी	मुम्बई	ठण्डा	अङ्ग	मनोरञ्जन
	मंडल	भंजन	लंबा	हिंदू	संघ
	बंदर	लंका	रंग	चिंता	घंटा

16	Chandigarh	Aurangabad	Indore	Ganga (Ganges)
	Madhya Pradesh	Bengal	Rajasthan	Pakistan
	Gwalior	Srinagar	Punjab	Gangotri

दिल्ली	यमुनोत्री	कलकत्ता	नाथद्वारा
उज्जैन	हरिद्वार	वृन्दावन	दुर्गापुर
मुम्बई	महाराष्ट्र	भुवनेश्वर	अम्बाला
उत्तर (north)	दक्षिण south	पूर्व east	पश्चिम west)

- 17 Tell me not in mournful numbers
life is but an empty dream;
For the soul is dead that slumbers
and things are not what they seem.

(The verse (by Longfellow) is quoted in Devanagari in the short story वारिस 'The heir' by the Hindi author Mohan Rakesh.)

18	Bharat (India)	Gujarat	Bihar	Dhaka	Allahabad
	Tamil Nadu	Lucknow	Karachi	Lahore	Dehra Dun
	Nepal	Mussoorie	Mathura	Kota	Varanasi
	Banaras	Yamuna	Himalaya	Kerala	Orissa

APPENDIX 5

The figures explained

The main text of all the illustrative figures that are not self-explanatory is transcribed and translated below.

Fig. 1. (a) यहाँ पर मच्छी व मुर्गे का ताजा मीट मिलता है

yahā par macchī va murge kā tājā mīṭ miltā hai.

'Fresh fish and chicken meat is available here'.

(b) काजल आप्टिकल्स; यहाँ नजर के चश्मे जापानी मशीन द्वारा जाँच करके बनाये जाते ह

kājal āṭīkals – yahā najar ke caśme jāpānī maśīn dvārā jāc karke banāye jāte hai.

'Kajal Opticals – 'Here eye-glasses are made after [optical] testing with Japanese equipment'.

Fig. 4. इन्दू [इन्दु] आर्ट थियेटर एंड फिल्म सोसायटी (रजि.) की प्रस्तुति श्री गिरिश [गिरीश] कर्नाड लिखित नाटक तुगलक...निर्देशक – यासीन खान. दिनांक – 26 फरवरी, समय 5.30 सांय [सायं], स्थान – एल. टी. जी. ऑडिटोरियम कॉपरनिक्स [कॉपरनिकस] मार्ग, मंडी हाउस, दिल्ली. टिकट – 100.50.25. टिकट उपलब्ध हैं – एल. टी. जी. आडिटोरियम काउन्टर, सम्पर्क सूत्र 2411107।

indū [indu] āṛṭ thiyetar eṇḍ philm sosāyaṭī (raji.) kī prastuti śrī giriś [giriś] karnāḍ likhit nātak tuglak...nirdeśak – yāsīn khān. dināḅ 26 pharvarī, samay 5.30 sāy [sāyaṃ], sthān – el. ṭī. jī. āḍīṭoriyam kāpārnīks [kāpārnīks] mārg, maṇḍī hāus, dillī. ṭikaṭ – 100.50.25 ṭikaṭ uplabdh hai – el. ṭī. jī. āḍīṭoriyam kāuṅṭar, sampark sūṭrā 2411107.

'Presented by the Indu Art Theatre and Film Society (reg.), the play *Tuglak* written by Mr Girish Karnad. Director Yasin Khan. Date: 26 February, time 5.30 p.m., venue L.T.G. Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House, Delhi. Tickets - [Rs.] 100, 50, 25. Tickets are available at L.T.G. Auditorium counter, contact 2411107.'

Fig. 6. Techno ENGINEERING Works स्पेशलिस्ट शौकर रिफिलिंग All kind of SHOCKERS शौकर की गारन्टेड रिपेयर / सुपर ० चेतक ० एल एम एल ० मोपेड

Techno Engineering Works *speślist śaukar rifiling* All kind of shockers *śaukar kī gāraṅṅeḍ ripeyar / supar - cetak - el em el - moped.* 'Techno Engineering Works specialist shocker refilling. All kinds of shockers / Super, Chetak, LML, moped.'

Fig 7. कुत्तों से सावधान

kuttō se sāvdhān.
'Beware of dogs'.

Fig.8. श्री सीमेंट सॉलिड शक्ति

śrī simeṅṅ śālid śakti.
'Shri Cement: solid strength.'

Fig. 10. सीगड़ टेलर्स / लेडीज एण्ड जेन्ट्स / शे.ग्रा.बैंक के पास नवलगढ़ सर्वश्रेष्ठ सिलाई के लिए

sīgar ṭelars / ledij eṅḍ jents / śe[khāvāṭi] grā[mīṅ] baink ke pās navalgarh sarvāśreṣṅṅ silāi ke lie.
'Sigar Tailors – Ladies and Gents – Near the Shekhavati Rural Bank, Navalgarh. For superior tailoring.'

Fig. 13. वीआईपी सुरक्षा / अतिविशिष्ट व्यक्तियों की व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा के बारे में घोषित नई नीति स्वागत योग्य है। अनेक केंद्रीय गृहमंत्रियों ने सार्वजनिक रूप से यह स्वीकार किया है कि हमारी वीआईपी सुरक्षा व्यवस्था अनेक किस्म की परेशानियों का सबब बनती जा रही है। यह महसूस किया जा रहा था कि कुछ स्वार्थी लोग इस व्यवस्था को एक बड़े राजनैतिक रैकेट में तब्दील कर रहे थे। इसका एक नुकसान यह था कि सुरक्षा एजेंसियों का ध्यान अपने मूल कार्यों से हट जाता था और वे नेताओं तथा...

vīāipī surakṣā ativiśiṣṅṅ vyaktiyō kī vyaktigat surakṣā ke bāre mē ghoṣit nai nīti svāgat yogyā hai. anek kendriy grhmantriyo ne sārvaajanik rūp se yah svīkār kiyā hai ki hamārī vīāipī surakṣā vyavasthā anek kism kī pareśāniyō kā sabab bantā jā rahī hai. yah mahsūs kiyā jā rahā thā ki kuch svārthī log is vyavasthā ko ek baṛe rājnaitik raiket mē tabdīl kar rahe the. iskā ek nuksān yah thā ki surakṣā ejensiyō kā dhyān apne mūl kāryō se haṅ jāṭā thā aur ve netāō tathā...
'VIP Security. The new policy concerning the personal security of VVIPs announced [recently] is to be welcomed. [NB: a *viśiṣṅṅ* person is a VIP or 'very important person'; but as this designation has been eroded by over-use, the new category of *ativiśiṣṅṅ* or VVIP 'very very important person' has come into use.] Many central Home Ministers have accepted publicly that our VVIP security system has been becoming a matter for many kinds of concern. It was felt that some selfish people were changing this system into a major political 'racket'. One harmful outcome of this was that the attention of security agencies was diverted from their main functions and...

Fig. 16 (Lower part of text.). ₹. 4000/- की महाबचत / जल्दी कीजिए योजना सीमित समय तक उपलब्ध. अधिकृत विक्रेता / अमर ऑटोस / ६०३, कांती [कांति] नगर, स्वर्ण सिनेमा रोड, शाहदरा, दिल्ली. फोन...;
ru. 4000/- kī mahābacat / jaldī kijie yojnā sīmit samay tak uplabdh / adhikṛt vikretā / amar āṅos / 603, kāntī [kānti] nagar, svarṅṅ sinemā roḍ, śāhdarā, dillī. phon:...
'Mega-saving of Rs. 4000...Hurry, scheme available for a limited period. Authorised dealer: Amar Motors, 603 Kanti Nagar, Svarna Cinema Road, Shahdara, Delhi. Phone...'

Fig 18. ईम्पीरियल बारबर शॉप / लेडिज व जेन्ट्स ब्यूटी पार्लर हमारे यहाँ ब्राइडल मेक-अप व ब्यूटिशियन कोर्स भी उपलब्ध है। *impīriyal bārbar śāp ledij va jaints byūṭī pārlar hamāre yahā brāiḍal mek-ap va byūṭīśiyan kors bhī uplabdh hai.*
'Imperial Barber Shop. Ladies' and Gents' Beauty Parlour. Bridal make-up and beautician course also available here.'

Fig. 21. शिव ट्रेडर्स...फो. 211134...कॉफी की मशीन बुक की जाती है. बर्थडे केक व बर्थडे का सभी सामान उचित रेट पर मिलता है.

śiv tredars...pho. 211134...kāphī kī maśīn buk kī jātī hai. barthḍe kek va barthḍe kā sabhī sāmān ucit reṭ par miltā hai.

‘Shiv Traders...phone 211134...Coffee machine is [available to be] booked. Birthday cakes and all birthday materials are available at reasonable rates.’

APPENDIX 6

Index of terms

akṣar – a character or syllable, especially of the Devanagari script.

alveolar – a sound produced by the front of the tongue in contact with the alveolar ridge, that part of the mouth just behind the upper teeth.

aspirate – a sound pronounced with audible breath.

conjunct – a Devanagari character comprising two consonants with no intervening vowel.

dental – a sound made by the tip and rim of the tongue against the teeth.

diphthong – a syllable containing two distinct and successive vowels, as in English ‘mice’, ‘go’, ‘house’, and in Hindi *gai*, *gae*.

flap – an ‘r’ sound produced by rapid light contact between the tongue and the roof of the mouth.

fricative – a consonant sound produced by friction when the breath is forced through a restricted opening.

geminate – a doubled consonant.

halant – a consonant whose inherent vowel has been suppressed (as by the addition of *virām*).

inherent vowel – the vowel *a* as inherent part of an unmodified consonant, e.g. the *a* in म *ma*.

-kār – a suffix for naming letters, e.g. *ma-kār*, ‘the character म’, *i-kār*, ‘the character इ’.

labial – a sound produced by the lips.

mātrā – a vowel sign written after a consonant.

neologism – a newly-coined word (in the Hindi context, usually one based on a Sanskrit root).

palatal – a sound pronounced by contact between the middle of the tongue and the hard palate.

retroflex – a sound produced when the tongue is curled back against the hard palate.

semi-vowel – a consonant which has some of the phonetic quality of a vowel: 'y', 'v'.

sibilant – a fricative hissing sound, such as 's', 'sh'.

sonant: see 'voicing'.

virām – the subscript sign, which suppresses the inherent vowel.

velar – a sound produced by the back of the tongue in contact with the soft palate.

voicing – the production of a sound with the vibration of the vocal chords; 'b' is voiced, 'p' is voiceless. Voiced sounds are also called 'sonants', and unvoiced sounds 'surds'.

GLOSSARY

This glossary lists all the Hindi words that have been used in the main sections of the book, together with selected words from the illustrations. Personal names and English words are not generally included.

The dictionary order of Devanagari follows the syllabary matrix, which is repeated below for easy reference.

	अ a	आ ā	इ i	ई ī	
	उ u	ऊ ū	ऋ ṛ		
	ए e	ऐ ai	ओ o	औ au	
क ka	ख kha	ग ga	घ gha	(ङ ṅ)	
च ca	छ cha	ज ja	झ jha	(ञ ñ)	
ट ṭa	ठ ṭha	ड ḍa	ढ ḍha	ण ṇa	
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 śa	ष ṣa	स sa	ह ha	

The main points to bear in mind are:

- short vowels precede long vowels (e.g. मु *mu* precedes मू *mū*)
- unaspirated consonants precede aspirated consonants (e.g. क *ka* precedes ख *kha*)
- syllables with *candrabindu* or *anusvār* precede those without (e.g. हौं *hā̃* precedes हा *hā*, and पंडित *paṇḍit* precedes पकना *paknā*)
- non-conjunct forms precede conjunct forms (e.g. टीन *ṭin* precedes ट्रक *trak*)
- dotted forms of consonants are not distinguished from their non-dotted equivalents in terms of sequence

अ *a*

अंग^m *aṅg* limb

अंजन^m *añjan* kohl, lampblack

अंडा^m *aṇḍā* egg

अंदर *andar* inside

अँधेरा^m *āḍherā* darkness

अंबाला^m *ambālā* Ambala

अक्तूबर^m *aktūbar* October

अक्षर^m *akṣar* syllable, alphabet character

अक्सर *aksar* often, usually

अगर *agar* if

अगस्त^m *agast* August

अग्रवाल^m *agravāl* Agrawal (a merchant caste and surname)

अच्छा *acchā* good

अज्ञेय *ajñey* (pronounced 'agyey') unknowable

अटल *aṭal* immoveable, firm

अट्ठाईस *aṭṭhāis* eighteen

अतः *ataḥ* therefore

अधिक *adhik* much, many, very, more

अध्यापक^m *adhyāpak* teacher

अन्न^m *ann* grain, food

अप्रैल^m *aprail* April

अफ़ग़ानिस्तान^m *afgānistān* Afghanistan

अफ़सर^m *afsar* officer

अमर *amar* immortal, eternal

अम्मा^r *ammā* mother

अलग *alag* separate, different, apart, aloof

अलमारी^r *almārī* cupboard, almirah

अवश्य *avasyā* certainly

अविज्ञ *avijñā* ignorant, unaware

अष्ट *aṣṭ* eight, octo-

असर^m *asar* effect, influence, impression

अस्पताल^m *aspatāl* hospital

अस्सी *assī* eighty

आ *ā*

आँख^r *ākh* eye

आँगन^m *āgan* courtyard

आकाशवाणी^r *ākāśvāṇī* 'heaven-voice', oracle; India's government radio network

- आग^१ *āg* fire
 आगरा^म *āgrā* Agra
 आज *āj* today
 आज्ञा^१ *ājñā* command; order/permission to leave
 आटा^म *ātā* flour
 आठ *āth* eight
 आत्मा^१ *ātmā* soul
 आदमी^म *ādmi* man; person
 आदर^म *ādar* respect, honour, esteem
 आना *ānā* to come
 आप *āp* you (formal); आपका *āpkā* your
 आम^१ *ām* mango
 आम^२ *ām* ordinary, common
 आरंभ^म *ārambh* commencement
 आर्थिक *ārthik* financial
 आर्द्र *ārdrā* moist
 आशा^१ *āsā* hope
 आसान *āsān* easy
 आह^१ *āh* sigh
 आह्लाद^म *āhlād* rapture

इ *i*

- इँचाव^म *īcāv* pulling, drawing
 इँचीटेप^म *īcīṭep* measuring tape

- इंदौर *indaur* Indore
 इंद्र *indrā* Indra
 इधर *idhar* here, over here; recently
 इलाहाबाद^म *ilāhābād* Allahabad
 इश्क^म *iśq* romantic love
 इस्तरी^१ *istrī* clothes iron
- ई *ī***
- ईख^१ *ikh* sugarcane
 ईद^१ *id* Eid name of two Muslim festivals
 ईमान^म *īmān* honesty

उ *u*

- उज्जैन^म *ujjain* Ujjain
 उड़ीसा^म *urīsā* Orissa
 उत्तर^{म, २} *uttar* north, northern
 उत्तर प्रदेश^म *uttar pradeś* Uttar Pradesh
 उद्भव^म *udbhav* origin, coming into being
 उधर *udhar* there, over there
 उन *un* them
 उपलब्ध *uplabdh* available
 उमदा, उम्दा *umdā* good
 उमर, उम्र^१ *umar, umrā* age
 उमस^१ *umas* sultriness

ऊ ūऊँचा *ūcā* high, tall, greatऊन^१ *ūn* woolऊपर *ūpar* up, above, upstairsऊब^३ *ūb* boredom, tedium**ऋ ṛ**ऋण^३ *ṛṇ* debtऋषि^३ *ṛṣi* sageऋषिकेश^३ *ṛṣikeś* Rishikesh**ए e**एअर इंडिया^३ *ear iṇḍiyā* Air Indiaएक *ek* one; aएकड़^१ *ekaṛ* acreएकाध *ekādh* one or two, a couple (of)एक्सप्रेस^१ *ekspreś* expressएवं *evam* and**ऐ ai**ऐ *ai* hey, ohऐक्ट्रेस^१ *aiktres* actressऐनक^१ *ainak* spectaclesऐश^३ *aiś* luxury, voluptuous enjoyment**ओ o**ओ *o* Ohओर^१ *or* directionओस^१ *os* dew**औ au**औरंगाबाद^३ *aurangābād* Aurangabadऔर *aur* and; moreऔरत^१ *aurat* woman**क ka, क़ qa**कंबल^३ *kambal* blanketकई *kaī* several, manyकच^३ *kac* (archaic) hairकटना *kaṭnā* to be cutकण^३ *kaṇ* particleकप^३ *kap* cupकपड़ा^३ *kaprā* cloth; garmentकब *kab* when?कबाब^३ *kabāb* kebabकम *kam* little, lessकमल^३ *kamal* lotusकमाल^३ *kamāl* miracleकरना *karnā* to do

- कराची^१ *karācī* Karachi
 करोड़^३ *karor* crore, 100 lakhs, ten million
 कर्तव्य^३ *kartavyā* duty
 कर्म^३ *karmā* karma, action (especially as determining future births)
 कल *kal* yesterday; tomorrow
 कलकत्ता^३ *kalkattā* Calcutta
 कलम^३ *qalam* pen
 कल्प^३ *kalpā* aeon
 कहाँ *kahā* where?
 कहानी^१ *kahānī* story
 का, की, के *kā, kī, ke* possessive postposition (works like the English apostrophe 's' – राम की बेटी *rām kī beṭī* Ram's daughter)
 काजल^३ *kājal* kohl, lampblack कान^३ *kān* ear
 कॉपी^१ *kāpī* copy book, exercise book
 काफ़ी *kāfī* quite, very; enough, sufficient
 काम^३ *kām* work, task, matter in hand
 कार^१ *kār* car
 -कार *-kār* suffix making a character name, e.g. ककार *kakār*, 'the character क *ka*'
 कार्यक्रम^३ *kāryakram* programme
 काल^३ *kāl* time, Time
 काशी^१ *kāśī* Varanasi, Banaras
 कि *ki* that (conjunction)

- किताब^१ *kitāb* book
 किस्मत^१ *qismat* fate
 कीमत^१ *qimat* price, value
 कील^३ *kīl* nail
 कुआँ^३ *kuā* well
 कुछ *kuch* some, somewhat
 कुत्ता^३ *kuttā* dog
 कुमार^३ *kumār* bachelor, prince
 कुरसी^१ *kursī* chair
 कुल^३ *kul* total, whole amount
 कूल^३ *kūl* bank of river, pond
 कृतज्ञ *kṛtajñā* (pronounced 'kṛtagyā') grateful
 कृपा^१ *kṛpā* kindness, grace
 कृषि^१ *kṛṣi* agriculture
 कृष्ण^३ *kṛṣṇā* Krishna
 के दौरान *ke daurān* during
 के बावजूद *ke bāvājūd* in spite of
 के लिए *ke lie* for
 केरल^३ *keral* Kerala
 केला^३ *kelā* banana
 केवल *keval* only
 कोका-कोला^३ *kokā-kolā* Coca-Cola
 कोटा^३ *koṭā* Kota
 कोठी^१ *koṭhī* large house, bungalow, mansion

- कोमल *komal* soft, delicate
 कोर^१ *kor* (archaic) edge, tip
 कोष्ठक^३ *koṣṭak* bracket
 कौन *kaun* who? कौर^३ *kaur* mouthful of food
 क्या *kyā* what; (also converts a following statement into a question – यह राम है *yah rām hai* This is Ram > क्या यह राम है? *kyā yah rām hai?* Is this Ram?)
 क्यों *kyō* why
 क्रम^३ *kram* sequence, order
 क्रिकेट^३ *krikeṭ* cricket
 क्षेत्र^३ *kṣetrā* region, area, field

ख *kha*, ख *kha*

- खग^३ *khag* (archaic) bird
 खट, खट-खट^१ *khaṭ, khaṭ-khaṭ* knocking sound
 खड़ा *khārā* standing, upright; खड़ी पाई^१ *khārī pāī* the sign 'I' (= full stop); खड़ी बोली^१ *khārī bolī* the dialect on which Hindi and Urdu are based; the modern standard dialect of Hindi
 खत^३ *khat* letter
 खबर^१ *khavar* news, information
 खाँसी^१ *khāsi* cough
 खादी^१ *khādī* hand-spun cloth
 खाना^१ *khānā* food
 खाना^२ *khānā* to eat

- खाना^३ *khānā* place of work (e.g. डाक-खाना *dak-khānā* post office); square (on chessboard etc.)
 खीझना *khijhnā* to be irritated; खीझ^१ *khijh* irritation
 खुलना *khulnā* to open, be opened
 खेत^३ *khet* field (agricultural)
 खेती^१ *khetī* farming
 खैरियत^३ *khairiyat* well-being
 खोलना *kholnā* to open
 खौफ^३ *khauṭ* fear, terror
 खौलना *khaulnā* to boil
 ख्याति^१ *khyāti* fame

ग *ga*, ग *ga*

- गंगा^१ *gangā* the river Ganga, Ganges
 गंगोत्री^१ *gangotri* Gangotri
 गंद^३ *gand* stench, filth
 गंध^१ *gandh* smell, fragrance, stench
 गंभीर *gambhīr* serious; गंभीरता^१ *gambhīrtā* seriousness
 गज^३ *gaj* (archaic) elephant
 गज़^३ *gaz* yard (measurement); bow of a musical instrument
 गज़ल^१ *gazal* ghazal, a genre of poetry in Urdu and Hindi
 गण^३ *gaṇ* group
 गत *gat* last, past, previous
 गद्दा^३ *gaddā* mattress

- गरदन^f *gardan* neck
 गरम, गर्म *garam, garm* warm, hot
 गाँव^m *gāv* village
 गाजर^f *gājar* carrot
 गाड़ी^f *gārī* car; train
 गाथा^f *gāthā* ballad
 गाना^{1m} *gānā* song
 गाना² *gānā* to sing
 गायब *gāyab* missing, absent
 गार्ड^m *gārd* guard
 गिरफ्तार *giraftār* arrested
 गुजरात^m *gujarāt* Gujarat
 गुरु^m *guru* guru, spiritual guide, teacher
 गुसलखाना^m *gusalkhānā* bathroom
 गोरा^{m,adj} *gorā* fair-complexioned; a white person
 ग्यारह *gyārah* eleven
 ग्राम^{1m} *grām* village ग्राम^{2m} *grām* gram, gramme
 ग्वालियर^m *gvāliyar* Gwalior

घ *gha*

- घट^m *ghaṭ* pitcher, water-pot
 घटना *ghaṭnā* to lessen, decrease
 घर^m *ghar* home, house

- घाट^m *ghāṭ* riverbank, bathing steps
 घात^f *ghāt* stratagem
 घुसना *ghusnā* to enter, sneak in
 घूस^f *ghūs* bribe

च *ca*

- चंडीगढ़^m *caṇḍigarh* Chandigarh
 चख^m *cakh* (archaic) eye
 चट^{f,adv} *caṭ* snapping; snappily
 चना^m *canā* channa, chickpea
 चमड़ी^f *camṛī* skin; hide
 चलना *calnā* to move
 चश्मा^m *caśmā* spectacles
 चाँदिनी^f *chāḍinī* moonlight
 चॉकलेट^m *chākleṭ* chocolate
 चाचा^m *cācā* uncle, father's younger brother
 चाट^f *caṭ* tasty snack
 चार *cār* four
 चावल^m *cāval* rice
 चाहिए *cāhie* needed, wanted
 चिट्ठी^f *ciṭṭhī* note, chit
 चित्त^m *citt* mind
 चिह्न^f *cihn* sign
 चीनी^f *cinī* sugar

- चुड़ैल^१ *cuḍail* witch, ghost, hag
 चुनना *cunnā* to choose
 चुन्नी^१ *cunni* woman's light scarf, wrap
 चेचन्या^३ *cecnyā* Chechnya
 चेत^३ *cet* consciousness, wits
 चैत^३ *cait* name of a month (equivalent to March-April)
 चोर^३ *cor* thief
 चौतीस *caūtis* thirty-four

छ *cha*

- छः *chah* six
 छनना *channā* to be sifted, strained
 छलना^१ *chalnā* decept, illusion
 छह *chah* six
 छुट्टी^१ *chutti* holiday
 छोड़ना *chomā* to leave, abandon
 छोर^३ *chor* edge, border

ज *ja*, ज़ *za*

- जग^३ *jag* world
 जगह^१ *jagah* place
 जज^३ *jaj* judge
 जट^३ *jaṭ* Jat (a caste)

- जड़^१ *jar* root, basis, origin
 जनता^१ *janātā, jantā* people, the public
 जनवरी^१ *janvarī* January
 जन्म^३ *janmā, janam* birth
 जब *jab* when
 जल^३ *jal* water
 जल्दी *jaldī* quickly
 जाँच^१ *jāc* test, examination, inspection
 जाति^१ *jāti* caste
 जानना *jānā* to know
 जानवर^३ *jānvar* animal
 जाना *jānā* to go; (also forms passive with participle of main verb; active
 लिखना *likhnā* to write > passive लिखा जाना *likhā jānā* to be
 written)जाने *jāne* who knows, heaven knows
 जापानी *jāpānī* Japanese
 जी नहीं *jī nahī* no
 जी हाँ *jī hā* yes
 जीवन^३ *jīvan* life
 जुलाई^१ *julāī* July
 जूठा *jūthā* despoiled by touch (e.g. food touched by someone else)
 जून^३ *jūn* June
 जैन^३ *jain* Jain
 जैसलमेर^३ *jaisalmer* Jaisalmer
 जो *jo* the one who

जौ^m *jau* barley

ज्ञान^m *jñān* (pronounced 'gyān') knowledge

ज्यादा *zyādā* more

ज्योत्स्ना^f *jyotsnā* (archaic) moonlight

ज्वाला^f *jvālā* blaze, flame, burning

झ *jha*

झट *jhaṭ* instantly

झूठ^{m, adj} *jhūṭh* lie, falsehood; false

झूठा *jhūṭhā* false, lying, insincere

ट *ṭa*

टक^f *ṭak* (archaic) stare, gaze

टाल^f *ṭāl* postponing, putting off

टीका^m *ṭikā* forehead-mark

टीन^m *ṭin* tin, can

टी-वी^f *ṭī-vī* TV, television

टेलर^m *ṭelar* tailor

ट्रक^f *ṭrak* truck

ट्रेन^f *ṭren* train

ठ *ṭha*

ठंडा *ṭhaṇḍā* cold

ठग^m *ṭhag* bandit, ritual murderer

ठठ, ठठ^m *ṭhaṭh, ṭhaṭṭh* (archaic) crowd, throng

ठन^f *ṭhan* clanging sound

ठीक *ṭhik* all right, OK, good

ठीका, ठेका^m *ṭhikā, ṭhekā* contract

ठेकेदार^m *ṭhekedār* contractor

ड *ḍa*

डग^f *ḍag* step, pace, stride

डच *ḍac* Dutch

डफ^m *ḍaph* a tambourine-like drum

डर^m *ḍar* fear, dread

डाक्टर^m *dāḱṭar* doctor

डाल^f *dāl* branch (of tree)

डिब्बा^m *dibbā* box, compartment

डीज़ल^m *dīzal* diesel oil

डेथ^f *ḍeth* death

डोल^m *ḍol* rocking, swinging; swing

डौल^m *ḍaul* shape, form, appearance, style

ड्योढ़ी^f *dyorhī* porch, threshold

ड्राइंग^f *drāiṅ* drawing

ड्राइवर^m *drāivar* driver

ढ *ḍha*

ढकना *ḍhaknā* to cover, to be covered

ढाई *dhāi* two and a half

ढाका^m *dhākā* Dhaka

ढाबा^m *dhābā* eating place, cafe

ढाल^f *dhāl* incline, slope

त *ta*

तक *tak* until, up to

तत्सम^{m,adj} *tatsam* 'same as that' – describing a Sanskrit loanword that has retained its original form

तद्भव^{m,adj} *tadbhav* 'of the nature of that' – describing a word deriving from Sanskrit but organically changed over time

तन^m *tan* body

तब *tab* then

तबला^m *tablā* tabla drum

तमिल नाडु^m *tamil nāḍu* Tamil Nadu

तय *tay* decided, settled

तरकीब^f *tarkīb* means, plan, contrivance

तरफ़^f *taraf* direction, side

तरह^f *tarah* way, manner

तस्वीर^f *tasvīr* picture

ताऊ^m *tāū* uncle (father's elder brother)

ताज^m *tāj* crown, diadem

ताज महल^m *tāj mahal* Taj Mahal

ताज़ा *tāzā* fresh

ताना^m *tānā* taunt, jibe

ताल^m *tāl* musical time, rhythmic cycle of a fixed number of beats

ताला^m *tālā* lock

ताली^f *tālī* hand-clapping, beat

तीन *tīn* three

तुम *tum* you (familiar)

तुम्हारा *tumhārā* (relates to तुम *tum*)

तू *tū* you (intimate)

तृण^m *ṭṛṇ* blade of grass or straw

तेईस *teīs* twenty-three

तेरा *terā* your (relates to तू *tū*)

थ *tha*

थकना *thaknā* to become tired

थाना^m *thānā* police station

थाली^f *thālī* platter, tray

थैला^m *thailā* soft bag

द *da*

दंड^m *daṇḍ* staff, stick; punishment; the sign 'I' (full stop)

दक्षिण^{m,adj} *dakṣiṇ* south, southern

दम^m *dam* breath, life

दर्पण^m *darpaṇ* mirror (especially in metaphorical senses)

दस *das* ten

दरिद्र *daridrā* poor, indigent

- दर्शन^m *darśan* vision, sight; audience or meeting with esteemed person
दल^m *dal* party, group, faction
दस *das* ten
दाँत^m *dāṭ* tooth
दादा^m *dādā* grandfather (father's father); gangster, 'godfather'
दादी^f *dādī* grandmother (father's mother)
दाम^m *dām* price
दाल^f *dāl* lentil, split-pea
दास^m *dās* slave
दिन^m *din* day
दिल^m *dil* heart
दिल्ली^f *dillī* Delhi
दिसंबर^m *disambar* December
दीन¹^m *dīn* religion
दीन² *dīn* wretched, poor
दीवाली^f *divālī* Diwali, festival of light
दीया, दिया^m *diyā, diyā* oil lamp
दुःख^m *duḥkh* sorrow, suffering, unhappiness
दुर्गापुर^m *durgāpur* Durgapur
दूतावास^m *dūtāvās* embassy
दूध^m *dūdh* milk
दूर *dūr* far, distant
दूरदर्शन^m *dūrdarśan* television; India's government TV network
दूसरा *dūsarā* second, other

- देव^m *dev* god
देवनागरी^f *devnāgarī* the Devanagari script
देवीकोट^m *devikoṭ* Devikot
देश^m *deś* country, region
देहरा दून^m *dehrā dūn* Dehra Dun
दो *do* two
दैव *daiv* divine
दौड़ना *daurṇā* to run
दौलत^f *daulat* wealth, riches
द्वारा *dvārā* by means (of), with
द्विज^m *dvij* twice-born, Brahmin
द्वीप^m *dvīp* island
- ध *dha***
- धन^m *dhan* wealth
धन्यवाद *dhanyavād* thank you
धर्म^m *dharm* religion, religious or moral duty
धर्मतर *dharmetar* secular
धीरे *dhire* slowly
धुआँ^m *dhuā* smoke
धुलना *dhulnā* to be washed
धूप^f *dhūp* sunshine
धूल^f *dhūl* dust
धोखा^m *dhokhā* trick, deceit

धोना *dhonā* to wash

ध्यान^म *dhyān* attention, concentration

न *na*

नक्शा^म *naqṣā* map, plan, chart

नग^म *nag* gem

नगर^म *nagar* city, town

नज़र^र *nazar* eye; glance

नदी^र *nadī* river

नमक^म *namak* salt

नमस्ते^र *namaste* 'I salute you' – said for 'hello' and 'goodbye' (often with hands folded)

नया (नई/नयी, नए/नये) *ayā (nai/nayī, nae/naye)* new

नरम *naram* soft, mild

नल^म *nal* tap, pipe

नव *nav* new

नवंबर^म *navambar* November

नष्ट *naṣṭ* destroyed, ruined

नहर^र *nahar* canal

नहीं *nahī* no; not

नाई^म *naī* barber

नाक^र *nāk* nose

नाथद्वारा^म *nāthdvārā* Nathdwara

नान^र *nān* naan, a flat bread cooked in *tandūr* (clay oven)

नानी^र *nānī* grandmother (mother's father)

नापसंद *nāpasand* disliked

नाम^म *nām* name; नामी *nāmī* famous, renowned

नाश्ता^म *nāṣṭā* breakfast, light meal

निश्चय^म *niścay* certainty, resolve, decision

नीला *nīlā* blue

नेपाल^म *nepāl* Nepal

नौ *nau* nine

नौकर^म *naukar* servant

प *pa*

पंजाबी *pañjābī* Punjabi

पंडित^म *paṇḍit* pandit, Brahmin, scholar

पकना *paknā* to ripen, be cooked

पक्का *pakkā* firm, definite, solid-built, thoroughgoing

पट^म *paṭ* board, flat surface, name-plate

पड़ोसी^म *paṛosī* neighbour

पढ़ना *paṛhnā* to read, study

पता^म *patā* address, whereabouts; information, knowledge

पत्ता^म *pattā* leaf

पत्थर^म *patthar* stone

पथ^म *path* path, way

पद^म *pad* position, job

पद्म^म *padmā* lotus

पन्ना^म *pannā* page

पब *pab* pub
 पर¹ *par* on; at
 पर² *par* but
 परदा, पर्दा^m *pardā* curtain, purdah
 पराठा^m *parāṭhā* paratha, flaky layered flat-bread cooked in ghee on griddle
 परिश्रम^m *pariśram* hard work, effort
 पल^m *pal* moment
 पश्चिम^{m, adj} *paścim* west, western
 पहुँचना *pahūcnā* to reach, arrive; पहुँच^r *pahūc* reach
 पहेली^r *pahelī* riddle
 पाँच *pāc* five
 पाकिस्तान^m *pākistān* Pakistan
 पाट^m *pāṭ* board, flat surface, flat stone
 पाठ^m *pāṭh* chapter of book; recitation of text
 पानी^m *pānī* water
 पार *pār* across
 पालक^m *pālak* spinach
 पिटना *piṭnā* to be beaten
 पिता^m *pitā* father
 पीटना *piṭnā* to beat
 पीतल^m *pītal* brass
 पुत्र^m *putrā* son
 पुरा^m *purā* quarter of town

पुराना *purānā* old
 पुरुष^m *puruṣ* man, male, human being
 पुल^m *pul* bridge
 पुलिस^r *pulis* police
 पूँछ^r *pūch* tail
 पूछना *pūchnā* to ask
 पूरा *pūrā* complete, full
 पूर्व^{m, adj} *pūrvā* east, eastern
 पेट^m *peṭ* stomach
 पैदा *paidā* born, produced
 पैसा, पैसे^m *paisā, paise* money
 पौधा^m *paudhā* plant
 प्रायः *prāyaḥ* generally
 प्रेम^m *prem* love

फ *pha*, फ़ *fa*

फट *phaṭ* at once
 फरवरी^r *farvarī* February
 फर्ज^m *farz* duty, obligation
 फल^m *phal* fruit
 फिर *phir* then; again
 फिल्म^r *film* film, movie
 फुट^m *fuṭ* foot

फूट^१ *phūṭ* bursting, break

फूल^३ *phūl* flower

फेल *phel* fail, failed

फैक्टरी^१ *faiktārī* factory

फैलना *phailnā* to spread

फ्लू^३ *flū* flu

ब *ba*

बंगाल^३ *bangāl* Bengal

बंद *band* closed

बंध^३ *bandh* embankment, bund

बचत^१ *bacat* saving, savings, economy

बचना *bacnā* to be saved, to escape, survive

बच्चा^३ *baccā* child

बटना, बँटना *batnā, bāṭnā* to be divided; बटे *baṭe* divided by, over

बट्टा^३ *baṭṭā* rebate

बड़ा *baṛā* big

बढ़ई^३ *baṛhai* carpenter

बढ़ाना *baṛhānā* to increase, advance

बत्ती^१ *battī* light, lamp

बदलना *badalnā* to change; to be changed

बनाना *banānā* to make

बनारस^३ *banāras* Banaras (Benares), Varanasi

बम^३ *bam* bomb

बरस^३ *baras* year

बल^३ *bal* force, strength

बला^३ *balā* calamity

बल्ला^३ *ballā* beam, pole

बस^३ *bas* control, power

बस्ती^१ *bastī* inhabitation, especially of huts in slum area

बहु^१ *bahu* daughter-in-law

बहुत *bahut* much, many, very

बाँस^३ *bās* bamboo, bamboo pole

बाईस *bāis* twenty-two

बाज़ार^३ *bāzār* market

बाड़^१ *bār* fence, enclosure

बाढ़^१ *bāṛh* flood

बाद *bād* later, afterwards

बादल^३ *bādal* cloud

बाल^३ *bāl* hair

बॉल^३ *bāl* ball

बास^३ *bās* fragrance

बाहर *bāhar* out, outside, away

बिजली^१ *bijlī* electricity; lightning

बिना *binā* without

बिल्ली^१ *billī* cat

बिहार^३ *bihār* Bihar

बीस *bīs* twenty

- बुद्ध^म *buddhā* Buddha
 बुरा *burā* bad
 बुलाना *bulānā* to call
 बेकार *bekār* useless; unemployed
 बेटा^म *beṭā* son, child
 बेटी^र *beṭī* daughter
 बेल^म *bel* wood-apple
 बैठा *baiṭhā* seated, sitting
 बैल^म *bail* bullock
 बोटल^र *botal* bottle
 बोर *bor* bore, bored
 बोलना *bolnā* to speak
 बोली^र *bolī* speech, dialect
 बौर^म *baur* mango blossom
 ब्राह्मण^म *brāhmaṇ* Brahmin

भ *bha*

- भंजन^म *bhañjan* breaking
 भंडार^म *bhaṇḍār* store, shop
 भगवद्गीता^र *Bhagavadgītā* ('song of the Lord' – Sanskrit religious text)
 भजन^म *bhajan* hymn
 भद्दा *bhaddā* clumsy, awkward
 भय^म *bhay* fear, misgivings
 भरत^म *bharat* Bharat, Rama's brother (in the Ramayana epic)

- भाई^म *bhāī* brother
 भारत^म *bhārat* India
 भाषा^र *bhāṣā* language
 भिड़^र *bhiṛ* hornet
 भी *bhī* also; even
 भीड़^र *bhīṛ* crowd
 भुवनेश्वर^म *bhubaneśvar* Bhubaneshwar
 भूकंप^म *bhūkamp* earthquake
 भू-खंड^म *bhū-khaṇḍ* region of the earth
 भूख^र *bhūkh* hunger
 भूमि^र *bhūmi* earth, ground
 भैया^म *bhaiyā* brother, friend
 भ्रष्ट *bhraṣṭ* corrupt

म *ma*

- मंडल^म *maṇḍal* circle
 मई^र *maī* May
 मकान^म *makān* house
 मगर *magar* but
 मच्छी^र *macchī* fish
 मटर^म *maṭar* pea
 मठ^म *maṭh* monastery
 मत^म *mat* opinion, thought, creed
 मथुरा^म *mathurā* Mathura

मधुरता ^१	<i>madhurtā</i> sweetness
मध्य प्रदेश ^म	<i>madhyā pradeś</i> Madhya Pradesh
मन ^म	<i>man</i> mind, heart
मनोरंजन ^म	<i>manorañjan</i> entertainment
मशीन ^१	<i>maśin</i> machine, equipment
मसलन	<i>maslan</i> for example
मसाला ^म	<i>masālā</i> spice, ingredients, materials
मसूरी ^१	<i>masūrī</i> Mussoorie
महंगा	<i>mahāgā</i> expensive
महल ^म	<i>mahal</i> palace
महाराष्ट्र ^म	<i>mahārāṣṭrā</i> Maharashtra
महावर ^म	<i>mahāvar</i> lac (a red dye used by married women to decorate the soles of their feet)
महिला ^१	<i>mahilā</i> lady, woman
माँ ^१	<i>mā</i> mother, mum
मात्रा ^१	<i>mātrā</i> vowel sign
मान ^म	<i>mān</i> pride, honour, reputation
मार्च ^म	<i>mārc</i> March
मित्र ^{म, १}	<i>mitrā</i> friend
मिल ^१	<i>mil</i> mill
मिलना	<i>milnā</i> to meet, be available
मिस्तरी ^म	<i>mistrī</i> skilled artisan, mechanic, mason
मीट ^म	<i>mīṭ</i> meat
मीटर ^म	<i>mīṭar</i> metre
मीटिंग ^१	<i>mīṭiṅg</i> meeting

मीठा	<i>mīṭhā</i> sweet
मीनार ^१	<i>mīnar</i> tower, minaret
मील ^म	<i>mīl</i> mile
मुंबई ^१	<i>mumbai</i> Mumbai, Bombay
मुगल ^{म, २}	<i>mugal</i> Mughal
मुर्गा, मुर्गी ^म	<i>murg, murgā</i> fowl, chicken (fem मुर्गी ^१ <i>murgī</i>)
मुहल्ला ^म	<i>muhallā</i> district of town, quarter
मृग ^म	<i>mṛg</i> deer
मृत्यु ^१	<i>mṛtyu</i> death
में	<i>mē</i> in
मेज़ ^१	<i>mez</i> table
मेला ^म	<i>melā</i> fair (festival)
मेहनत ^१	<i>mehnat</i> hard work, labour
मैं	<i>mai</i> I
मैला	<i>mailā</i> dirty
मोटा	<i>moṭā</i> fat, stout, course
मोड़ना	<i>moṛnā</i> to turn
मोढ़ा ^म	<i>moṛhā</i> bamboo stool
मोर ^म	<i>mor</i> peacock
मौत ^१	<i>maut</i> death
मौलिक	<i>maulik</i> original
मौसा ^म	<i>mausā</i> uncle (husband of mother's sister)
मौसी ^१	<i>mausi</i> aunt (mother's sister)

य ya

यमुना^१ *yamunā* the river Yamuna, Jumna

यमुनोत्री^१ *yamunotri* Yamunotri

यह *yah* this, he, she, it

यहाँ *yahā* here; यहाँ पर *yahā par* here, at this place

ये *ye* these, they

योजना^१ *yojnā* plan, scheme

र ra

रंग^म *raṅg* colour

रईस^म *rais* aristocrat

रज़ाई^१ *razāi* cotton-filled quilt

रसोईघर^म *rasoiḡhar* kitchen

राजधानी^१ *rājdhāni* capital city

राजस्थान^म *rājasthān* Rajasthan

राजा^म *rājā* king

राम^म *rām* Ram, Rama

राष्ट्र^म *rāṣṭrā* nation

रास्ता, रस्ता^म *rāstā, rastā* road

रुई, रूई^१ *rui, rūi* cotton

रुपया^म *rupayā* rupee

रूलाई^१ *rulāi* crying, weeping

रूप^म *rūp* form, beauty

रेखा^१ *rekhā* line

रेडियो^म *rediyō* radio

रोशनी^१ *rośni* light, brightness

ल la

लंबा *lambā* tall, high

लखनऊ^म *lakhnaū* Lucknow

लगन^१ *lagaṅ* love, attachment

लड़का^म *laṛkā* boy

लड़की^१ *laṛki* girl

लस्टम-पस्टम *laṣṭam-paṣṭam* somehow or other, any old how

लाजवाब *lajavāb* without equal

लाल *lāl* red

लाहौर^म *lāhaur* Lahore

लिपि^१ *lipi* script, alphabet

लूट^१ *lūt* loot, looting, plunder

लोग^{मपि} *log* people

लोटना *loṭnā* to roll, sprawl

लौंग^१ *lauṅ* clove

लौटना *lauṭnā* to return

व va

व *va* and

वट^म *vaṭ* banyan tree

वर्ण^म *varṇā* syllable; वर्ण-माला^१ *varṇā-mālā* syllabary, alphabet

वह *vah* (often pronounced *vo*) that, he, she, it

वाराणसी^१ *vārāṇasī* Varanasi, Banaras

विकसित *vikāsit* developed

विक्रेता^३ *vikretā* seller, distributor

विद्या^१ *vidyā* knowledge, learning

विद्यार्थी^३ *vidyārthī* student

विशेषज्ञ^३ *viśeṣajñā* (pronounced 'viśeṣagyā') specialist

वीआईपी^३ (वी० आई० पी०) *vīāipī* (vī. āi. pī.) V.I.P.

वृंदावन^३ *vṛndāban* Vrindaban

वे *ve* those, they

व्यस्त *vyast* busy

श *śa*

शक^३ *śak* doubt, suspicion

शक्ति^१ *śakti* power, strength

शराब^१ *śarāb* alcoholic drink

शर्म^१ *śarm* shame, shyness, bashfulness

शर्मा^३ *śarmā* Sharma (a Brahmin surname)

शिकायत^१ *śikāyat* complaint

शुद्ध *śuddh* pure

शुरू^३ *śurū* beginning

शूटिंग^१ *śūting* shooting (of film)

शून्य^{३, adj} *śūnyā* zero, void

शैली^१ *śailī* style

शोर^३ *śor* noise, racket

शौकर^३ *śaukar* 'shocker', vehicle's shock-absorber

श्रम^३ *śram* toil, exertion

श्री *śrī* Mr; Lord (e.g. श्री राम *śrī rām* Lord Rama)

श्रीनगर^३ *śrīnagar* Shrinagar

श्री लंका^३ *śrī lankā* Sri Lanka

स *sa*

संगीत^३ *sangit* music

संघ^३ *sangh* association

संवत^३ *samvat* era; the 'Vikram samvat' calendrical era, starting 56/57 years BC (so that e.g. 2000 AD = 2056/57 V.S.)

संस्कृत^१ *sanskṛt* Sanskrit

संस्कृति^१ *sanskṛti* culture

सच^{३, adj} *sac* true; truth

सटना *saṭnā* to be stuck, joined

सट्टा^३ *sattā* transaction

सड़क^१ *saṛak* road, street

सताना *saṭānā* to torment

सत्ता^१ *sattā* power, authority

सत्य^३ *satyā* truth

सन^३ *san* hemp, cannabis

सन्न *sann* numbed

सप्ताह^३ *saptāh* week

सब *sab* all

सब्जी^३ *sabzī* vegetable

सभ्य *sabhya* civilised

समझना *samajhnā* to understand; समझ^१ *samajh* understanding
 समय^२ *samay* time
 समस्या^१ *samasyā* problem
 समान *samān* equal
 सम्मान^२ *sammān* respect
 सरकना *saraknā* to slip, creep
 सरकार^१ *sarkār* government
 सर्वश्रेष्ठ *sarvāśreṣṭh* best of all, superlative
 सलाद *salād* salad
 सस्ता *sastā* cheap, inexpensive
 सह्य *sahyā* bearable
 साक्षर *sākṣar* literate; साक्षरता^१ *sākṣartā* literacy
 साग^२ *sāg* greens, green vegetables, e.g. spinach
 साड़ी^१ *sārī* sari
 सात *sāt* seven
 साथ^{२,adj} *sāth* company, with, along with
 साफ़ *sāf* clean
 सामान^२ *sāmān* goods, luggage, furniture
 सारा *sārā* whole, entire
 सावधान *sāvdhān* cautious, aware
 सिंघाड़ा^२ *siṅhārā* water chestnut
 सिंधु^१ *sindhu* the river Sindhu, Indus
 सिंह^२ *sīh* (often pronounced 'sing') lion
 सिख^{२,adj} *sikh* Sikh

सितंबर^२ *sitambar* September
 सितार^२ *sitār* sitar
 सिनेमा^२ *sinemā* cinema
 सिर^२ *sir* head
 सिल^२ *sil* stone, grinding stone, flagstone
 सिलाई^१ *silāi* sewing, stitching
 सीख^२ *sīkh* instruction, teaching, moral advice
 सीख^१ *sīkh* skewer
 सीटी^१ *sītī* whistle
 सीमित *sīmit* limited, restricted
 सील^१ *sil* dampness
 सुंदर *sundar* beautiful, handsome, fine; सुंदरता^१ *sundartā* beauty
 सुख^२ *sukh* happiness, pleasure
 सुनना *sunnā* to hear, listen
 सुरक्षा^१ *surakṣā* security, safety
 सूअर^२ *sūar* pig
 सूखना *sūkhnā* to dry
 सूखा *sūkhā* dry
 सूना *sūnā* deserted, empty
 से *se* with, from, by
 सेब^२ *seb* apple
 सेर^२ *ser* a weight of about 1 kilogram
 सेवा^१ *sevā* service
 सैर^१ *sair* excursion

सो	<i>so</i>	<i>so</i>
सोना ¹	<i>sonā</i>	gold
सोना ²	<i>sonā</i>	to sleep
सौंफ ¹	<i>saūph</i>	fennel
सौ	<i>sau</i>	hundred
स्कूल ^m	<i>skūl</i>	school
स्टेशन ^m	<i>ṣṭeśan</i>	station
स्त्री ¹	<i>strī</i>	woman
स्थान ^m	<i>sthān</i>	place
स्थायी	<i>sthāyī</i>	permanent, enduring, stable
स्थिति ¹	<i>sthiti</i>	situation
स्नान ^m	<i>snān</i>	bathing
स्पष्ट	<i>spaṣṭ</i>	clear, evident, distinct
स्मरण ^m	<i>smaraṇ</i>	recollection
स्मृति ¹	<i>smṛti</i>	memory
स्याही ¹	<i>syāhī</i>	ink
स्लेट ^m	<i>sleṭ</i>	slate, writing slate
स्वर ^m	<i>svar</i>	note, tone
स्वरूप ^m	<i>svarūp</i>	shape, form, character
स्वर्गीय	<i>svargīyā</i>	the late, deceased (lit. 'heavenly')
स्वागत ^m	<i>svāgat</i>	welcome

ह ha

हंस^m *hans* goose, swan

हँसना	<i>hāsnā</i>	to laugh
हँसी ¹	<i>hāsi</i>	laughter
हक ^m	<i>haq</i>	right, privilege
हत्या ¹	<i>hatyā</i>	murder
हद ¹	<i>had</i>	limit, boundary, extent
हम	<i>ham</i>	we, us
हमारा	<i>hamārā</i>	our, ours; हमारे यहाँ <i>hamāre yahā</i> at our place
हर	<i>har</i>	each, every
हरिद्वार ^m	<i>haridvār</i>	Haridwar
हल ¹	<i>hal</i>	plough
हल ²	<i>hal</i>	solution, resolution
हल्दी ¹	<i>haldī</i>	turmeric
हाँ	<i>hā</i>	yes
हा	<i>hā</i>	ah!
हाथ ^m	<i>hāth</i>	hand
हिंदी ¹	<i>hindī</i>	Hindi
हिंदुस्तान ^m	<i>hindustān</i>	India; northern India
हिंदू ^m	<i>hindū</i>	Hindu
हिमाचल प्रदेश ^m	<i>himācal pradeś</i>	Himachal Pradesh
हिमालय ^m	<i>himālay</i>	Himalaya(s)
हिसाब ^m	<i>hisāb</i>	account, calculation
हूँ	<i>hū</i>	am
हे	<i>he</i>	Oh! hey!
हैं	<i>hai</i>	are

है *hai* is

होंठ^m *hōṭh* lip

होटल^m *hoṭal* hotel, cafe, restaurant

होशियार *hośiyār* clever, intelligent

हौज़^m *hauz* tank, reservoir

हौले *haule* softly, gently

ह्रस्व *hrasvā* short (of vowel etc.)