हिंदी Lessons

The Devanagari Script - Basics

To write the Indians use their own script, called DEVANAGARI. Hindi is a very easy to read language, since all is read as it's written. The script looks very beautiful and at first maybe strange and kinda unintelligible, since to a beginner all letters look alike. I'm here to prove the opposite - that Hindi is even more logical and easy to read than English, let's say. The only "disadvantage" about the Hindi script is that there exist some letters that a written before certain character, but read after it..., and that there exist many letter combination forming for example one letter from two others, that I unfortunately cannot list all here, for I myself don't know them all! :-) But..., enough of my involved words. Let's start learning!

We'll start with a few consonants - ' h, n, d, m, r, k':

ह That's the letter for the sound "H" as in "Hindi". It's easy to pronounce, it sounds just the same as English H in HAND... Here is the point to say that *every Hindi consonant "inherits" the vowel A with it*. So if you see "H" you have to read it "HA"... A better understanding you'll gain after learning some more letters and see some examples...

न The next letter we learn is "N". It's the same as the English "N". So, having two letter is quite a treasure :) Let us join them together (by the two only possible ways) and pronounce them!

हन At first sight, this looks probably to you like "HN", and it is, you're right. BUT, however, as I told you - with every consonant comes the vowel 'a', so we have to read that as "hana". Another BUT comes into play. In modern Hindi the last a in a word isn't pronounced, so we have to read this as "HAN". In past times, that is, very long time ago that last "a" *was* pronounced. For example the name of Buddha would be pronounce from a contemporary Hindi speaker as "Siddharth Gautam Buddh", but not as it's known round the world: Siddhart**a** Gautam**a** Buddh**a**.

नह That's would be of course "NAH"

द That's "D" as in "hinDi". There is another D in Hindi, which mostly is pronounced as R or as a sound between D/R. We'll deal with it later.

म That's the M as in "magnet", so same as English M. If we join two Ms we'll have a word, which will be pronounced in Hindi exactly the same way as the English "mom": **मम**

र R as in "roll". No need of further explanations.

क K as in "keen", so same as Englis K.

You could be wondering at this stage, why I've started with the consonants and not with the vowels (well, you could be also not wondering...). For those wondering (and for those - not) I'll gladly explain. In Hindi there exist two types of vowel letters - detached vowel letters and vowel marks. The latter ones you can (in my opinion) encounter more often than the detached vowels... There is one simple rule about where to use the two types of vowels: *If you have to start a word with a vowel OR you have to write a vowel after another vowel OR you have to write a vowel after the nasal mark (which is a dot over the letter) you have to use the **detached vowels**! In all other cases you have to use the vowel marks.* All that will be cleared

out after we've learned some vowels.

We'll start with the **vowel marks**:
(I hope you remember, that every consonant comes with an "A")

ा	**A**	That's the vowel "A" - a straight vertical line -, usually pronounced a bit longer - "AA". (the dashed little circle left of it isn't written at all, nor it is some kind of letter or character, it's there just to show that this letter cannot stand alone, and left to it should be another letter)	हा
ि	**I**	That's the short "i", pronounced as the **i** in English "hit". The most important thing about it, you should certainly know, is that it's written **before** a consonant, but read after it!	हि
ी	**I**	That's the long version of the "i" (_ee_), pronounced as the English "ee" in "see". It's written after the consonant.	ही
ो	**O**	O as in "domain". Not the same as the usual English O, which sounds like "ou".	हो
ौ	**AU**	AU (what is actually "O", but spelled like that to differ from the O, you see above) is pronounced almost liek O, but it's a bit closed sound and a bit longer...	हौ
ू	**U**	That's LONG U, as in "coooool"...	हू
ु	**U**	That's the SHORT U as in "look".	हु
े	**E**	This E is pronounced as in the English word "hElm".	हे
ै	**AI**	That's also an E. It's related to the E in the same way as AU is to O. So it's E, but a bit closed sound...	है

An important thing, before we continue. A dot over a letter **nasalizes** it. Let's have a look at that "dot":

◆ That letter (a dot) put over a letter nasalizes it (gives it an -n or -ng sound). For example if we have dot over NO, we'll pronounce that as "NO~" (non) - exactly the same as the French word for "no". नो -> नों (no -> no~). In the lessons I note the nasalized letter as ~

That were the Vowel Marks, but we won't hurry to learn the other vowels - the detached ones. First, we'll write some words, using the letters we've learned so far:

हिंदी - At last! We can write "HINDI". Now let's have a closer look. First we see that the word starts with "i", but since that the short I, it's read *after* the next letter, i.e. *after* the next consonant. So knowing that we have to look at the next letter. It's "H". So far we have "HI", next we see the dot, for which I told you that you should nasalize, so "hi~" (hin). Next too letters: D and the long "i". Now we can read the wohle word: "HINDI"... (actually "hi~di", i.e. a nasalized 'i', but in middle of words I don't use the ~ to show nasalization, but a plain N).
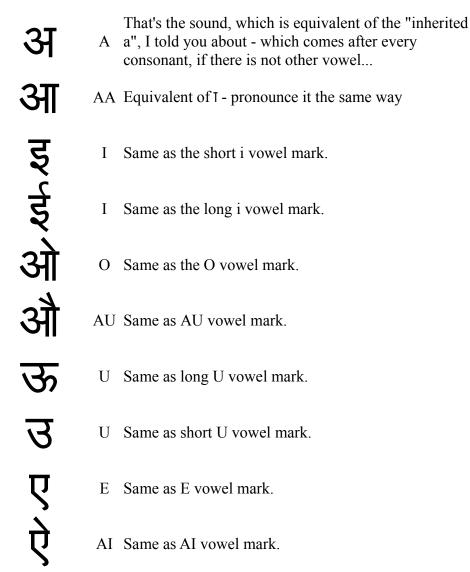
है - "hai". Means "is".

हैं - "hai~" (hain), meaning 'are'.

में - "mai~" = I

I think it's pretty easy. The beauty of the Devanagari script is not only in its shapes, but also in the easy pronunciation...

Next come the *Detached forms of the Vowels*:

First, a word about them. They're used after a vowel or at the beginning of a word, which starts witha vowel. They have exactly the same pronounciation as their cousins - the vowel marks:

अ	A	That's the sound, which is equivalent of the "inherited a", I told you about - which comes after every consonant, if there is not other vowel...
आ	AA	Equivalent of ा - pronounce it the same way
इ	I	Same as the short i vowel mark.
ई	I	Same as the long i vowel mark.
ओ	O	Same as the O vowel mark.
औ	AU	Same as AU vowel mark.
ऊ	U	Same as long U vowel mark.
उ	U	Same as short U vowel mark.
ए	E	Same as E vowel mark.
ऐ	AI	Same as AI vowel mark.

As I told you those sounds are pronounced exactly the same way as the vowel marks, so no need to explain here. I'll just give you some examples:

एक - "ek" = one

उन्नीस - "unnis" = nineteen

आप - "aap" = you

उनका - "unka" = Their

अब - "ab" = now

आंख - "aankh" = eye

अच्छ - "accha" = good

और - "aur" = and

भाई - "bhai" = brother

Don't bother about the letters you don't know, we'll learn them in short. The more important thing is that you should recognize and see the detached vowels. Now I'll continue with comparatively a full list of Hindi consonants. Learning them you make you able to read in Hindi. Of course as I said in the beginning there exist many combinations of letters etc, but howevery they don't appear so often. For convenience I'll show the consonants in groups.

Gutturals (sound is made from the back of throat)

क ख ग घ

K KH G GH

Palatals (sound is made by the tongue touching the hard palate)

च छ ज झ

CH CCH J JH

Cerebrals (sound is made by rolling the tongue)

ट ठ ड ढ

T TH D DH

Dentals (sound is made by the tongue touching the teeth)

त थ द ध न

T' TH' D' DH' N

Labials (sound is made with lips almost closed /or closed - by M/)

प फ ब भ म

P F B BH M

Semi Vowels (pronounced with lips and throat open)

य र ल व ज़

Y R L V/W Z

Sibliants / Aspirants

श ष स ह

SH SSH S H

Compound and Others

हिंदी Lessons

Hindi Lessons Online

The Devanagari Script - Basics

To write the Indians use their own script, called DEVANAGARI. Hindi is a very easy to read language, since all is read as it's written. The script looks very beautiful and at first maybe strange and kinda unintelligible, since to a beginner all letters look alike. I'm here to prove the opposite - that Hindi is even more logical and easy to read than English, let's say. The only "disadvantage" about the Hindi script is that there exist some letters that a written before certain character, but read after it..., and that there exist many letter combination forming for example one letter from two others, that I unfortunately cannot list all here, for I myself don't know them all! :-) But..., enough of my involved words. Let's start learning!

We'll start with a few consonants - ' h, n, d, m, r, k':

ह That's the letter for the sound "H" as in "Hindi". It's easy to pronounce, it sounds just the same as English H in HAND... Here is the point to say that *every Hindi consonant "inherits" the vowel A with it*. So if you see "H" you have to read it "HA"... A better understanding you'll gain after learning some more letters and see some examples...

न The next letter we learn is "N". It's the same as the English "N". So, having two letter is quite a treasure :) Let us join them together (by the two only possible ways) and pronounce them!

हन At first sight, this looks probably to you like "HN", and it is, you're right. BUT, however, as I told you - with every consonant comes the vowel 'a', so we have to read that as "hana". Another BUT comes into play. In modern Hindi the last a in a word isn't pronounced, so we have to read this as "HAN". In past times, that is, very long time ago that last "a" *was* pronounced. For example the name of Buddha would be pronounce from a contemporary Hindi speaker as "Siddharth Gautam Buddh", but not as it's known round the world: Siddhart**a** Gautam**a** Buddh**a**.

नह That's would be of course "NAH"

द That's "D" as in "hinDi". There is another D in Hindi, which mostly is pronounced as R or as a sound between D/R. We'll deal with it later.

म That's the M as in "magnet", so same as English M. If we join two Ms we'll have a word, which will be pronounced in Hindi exactly the same way as the English "mom": **मम**

र R as in "roll". No need of further explanations.

क K as in "keen", so same as Englis K.

You could be wondering at this stage, why I've started with the consonants and not with the vowels (well, you could be also not wondering...). For those wondering (and for those - not) I'll gladly explain. In Hindi there exist two types of vowel letters - detached vowel letters and vowel marks. The latter ones you can (in my opinion) encounter more often than the detached vowels... There is one simple rule about where to use the two types of vowels: *If you have to start a word with a vowel OR you have to write a vowel after another vowel OR you have to write a vowel after the nasal mark (which is a dot over the letter) you have to use the **detached vowels**! In all other cases you have to use the vowel marks.* All that will be cleared

out after we've learned some vowels.

We'll start with the ***vowel marks***:
(I hope you remember, that every consonant comes with an "A")

ा	**A**	That's the vowel "A" - a straight vertical line -, usually pronounced a bit longer - "AA". (the dashed little circle left of it isn't written at all, nor it is some kind of letter or character, it's there just to show that this letter cannot stand alone, and left to it should be another letter)	हा
ि	**I**	That's the short "i", pronounced as the **i** in English "hit". The most important thing about it, you should certainly know, is that it's written **before** a consonant, but read after it!	हि
ी	**I**	That's the long version of the "i" (_ee_), pronounced as the English "ee" in "see". It's written after the consonant.	ही
ो	**O**	O as in "domain". Not the same as the usual English O, which sounds like "ou".	हो
ौ	**AU**	AU (what is actually "O", but spelled like that to differ from the O, you see above) is pronounced almost liek O, but it's a bit closed sound and a bit longer...	हौ
ू	**U**	That's LONG U, as in "coooool"...	हू
ु	**U**	That's the SHORT U as in "look".	हू
े	**E**	This E is pronounced as in the English word "hElm".	हे
ै	**AI**	That's also an E. It's related to the E in the same way as AU is to O. So it's E, but a bit closed sound...	है

An important thing, before we continue. A dot over a letter ***nasalizes*** it. Let's have a look at that "dot":

- ◆ That letter (a dot) put over a letter nasalizes it (gives it an -n or -ng sound). For example if we have dot over NO, we'll pronounce that as "NO~" (non) - exactly the same as the French word for "no". नो -> नों (no -> no~). In the lessons I note the nasalized letter as ~

That were the Vowel Marks, but we won't hurry to learn the other vowels - the detached ones. First, we'll write some words, using the letters we've learned so far:

हिंदी - At last! We can write "HINDI". Now let's have a closer look. First we see that the word starts with "i", but since that the short I, it's read *after* the next letter, i.e. *after* the next consonant. So knowing that we have to look at the next letter. It's "H". So far we have "HI", next we see the dot, for which I told you that you should nasalize, so "hi~" (hin). Next too letters: D and the long "i". Now we can read the wohle word: "HINDI"... (actually "hi~di", i.e. a nasalized 'i', but in middle of words I don't use the ~ to show nasalization, but a plain N).
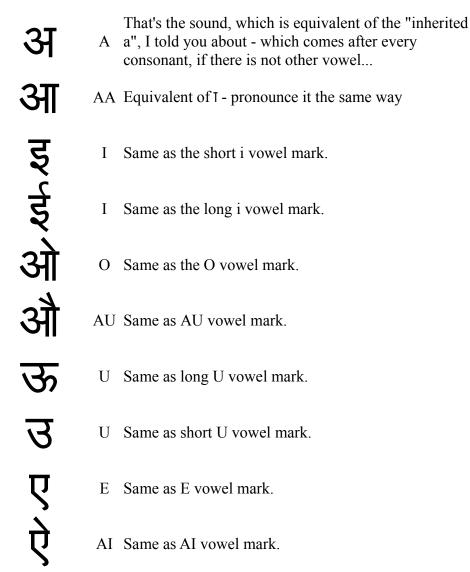
है - "hai". Means "is".

हैं - "hai~" (hain), meaning 'are'.

में - "mai~" = I

I think it's pretty easy. The beauty of the Devanagari script is not only in its shapes, but also in the easy pronunciation...

Next come the *Detached forms of the Vowels*:

First, a word about them. They're used after a vowel or at the beginning of a word, which starts witha vowel. They have exactly the same pronounciation as their cousins - the vowel marks:

अ	A	That's the sound, which is equivalent of the "inherited a", I told you about - which comes after every consonant, if there is not other vowel...
आ	AA	Equivalent of ा - pronounce it the same way
इ	I	Same as the short i vowel mark.
ई	I	Same as the long i vowel mark.
ओ	O	Same as the O vowel mark.
औ	AU	Same as AU vowel mark.
ऊ	U	Same as long U vowel mark.
उ	U	Same as short U vowel mark.
ए	E	Same as E vowel mark.
ऐ	AI	Same as AI vowel mark.

As I told you those sounds are pronounced exactly the same way as the vowel marks, so no need to explain here. I'll just give you some examples:

एक - "ek" = one

उन्नीस - "unnis" = nineteen

आप - "aap" = you

उनका - "unka" = Their

अब - "ab" = now

आंख - "aankh" = eye

अच्छ - "accha" = good

और - "aur" = and

भाई - "bhai" = brother

Don't bother about the letters you don't know, we'll learn them in short. The more important thing is that you should recognize and see the detached vowels. Now I'll continue with comparatively a full list of Hindi consonants. Learning them you make you able to read in Hindi. Of course as I said in the beginning there exist many combinations of letters etc, but howevery they don't appear so often. For convenience I'll show the consonants in groups.

Gutturals (sound is made from the back of throat)

क ख ग घ

K KH G GH

Palatals (sound is made by the tongue touching the hard palate)

च छ ज झ

CH CCH J JH

Cerebrals (sound is made by rolling the tongue)

ट ठ ड ढ

T TH D DH

Dentals (sound is made by the tongue touching the teeth)

त थ द ध न

T' TH' D' DH' N

Labials (sound is made with lips almost closed /or closed - by M/)

प फ ब भ म

P F B BH M

Semi Vowels (pronounced with lips and throat open)

य र ल व ज़

Y R L V/W Z

Sibliants / Aspirants

श ष स ह

SH SSH S H

Compound and Others

Hindi Lessons Online

Lesson 4: Genders in Hindi. Hindi Verbs - Part 1.

   <u>**Genders in Hindi:**</u>

Unlike many European language, that have 3 genders or unlike other (e.g. English), which don't have any genders, Hindi has just two - masculine and feminine. There isn't really any reliable rule of what types of words are masculine and what feminine. However you can easily get the gender of a word by looking at it's ending. *Most hindi words end in a vowel!* If a word ends in **a** it is masculine. If a word ends in **i** (actually long i - <u>ee</u>) it is feminine. There are of course words ending in consonants or other vowels. They're not much, and their gender cannot unfortunately be predicted from their endings. So, you have to learn their gender. When we learn the adjectives, how to conjugate verbs etc, you'll see that those -a and -i ending are very important! So, please remember that well:

   -a (ा) - general mark of masculine words (singular!) - nouns, adjectives, verbs

   -i (ी) - general mark of feminine words (even both - singular and plural) - nouns, adjectives, verbs

There come even better news. Many Hindi masculine words (ending in -a of course:) can be easily turned into feminine ones by simply replacing the -a ending with -i! Let's show you some example to clear all what I said up:

   लडका (larka) = boy,   लडकी (larki) = girl   (Many hindi speakers would pronounce the 'd' in lardka/ladki as "R", so don't wonder if you see somebody write in irc-chats "larka" or "larki"...)

बिल्ला (billa) = tomcat,   बिल्ली (billi) = cat, pussycat

Masculine Words, ending in -a:

कमरा (kamra) = room

केला (kela) = banana

तारा (tara) = star

हवा (hava) = wind

Feminine Words ending in -i (-ee):

चीनी (chini) = sugar

नकडी (makdi /makri/) = spider

पक्षी (pakshi) = bird

Words ending in consonant:

डोस्त (dost) = friend (Masculine)

किताब (kitab) = book (Feminine)

औरत (aurat) = woman (Feminine :-)

Words ending in a vowel different from -a or -i:

गुरु (guru) = teacher

To the general rule of the -a and -i ending there exist some exceptions, that is, there exist some masculine words, which end in -i. Such word is for example the word for "man" (and what more masculine than that, lol) - admi:

आदमि (aadmi) = man

पानी (pani) = water (ठंडा पानी - thand**a** pani = cold water)

.   **Verbs in Hindi. General Information.**

Every hindi verb ends in **-na**! Remember this! That's the main form of the verb, i.e. the *infinitive*.

-ना (-na) is the verb ending in the infinitive form of all verbs in Hindi

Some verbs:

खाना (khana) = to eat
पीना (pina) = to drink
जाना (jana) = to go
आना (aana) = to come
करना (karna) = to do (remember that verb, it's used in many other "compound" verb forms...)
देना (dena) = to give
लेना (lena) = to take
लिखना (likhna) = to write
पढना (parhna) = to read
समझना (samajhna) = to understand
समझाना (samjhaana) = to explain (i.e. to make someone understand)
सीखना (sikhna) = to learn

To get the root of the verb you have to remove the **-na** ending. Once you've done that, you can conjugate the verbs.
You remember the rule about words ending in -a/-i, right? So here is the moment to talk about plural. In plurar the masculine **-a** ending becomes **-e** and the feminine **-i** ending remains **-i** (or becomes **-i~**). So here it is once more, specially for you:

-a (ा) - general mark of masculine words (singular!) - MASC. SG.

-e () - general mark of masculine words (plural!) - MASC. PL.

-i (ी) - general mark of feminine words (even both - singular and plural) - FEM. SG. **and** FEM. PL. (sometimes for pl - **-in** /-i~/ though!)

Now back to verbs:

 Add "ता" (ta) to verb-root for masculine singular and "ते" (te) for masculine plurar. Add "ती" (ti) for feminine singular and plurar.

Examples:

खाता (khata) = eat

पीता (pita) = drink

etc... etc... *Note* that those are conjugated verbs, but not ready to use, i.e. you **cannot** say "Mai~ khata", you need to use the copula "to be", so please be a bit patient, and wait until i've explained the most important verb in Hindi, *the verb "to be"*:

.   **The verb "TO BE" (Hona -   )**

मैं हूँ (mai~ hu~) = I am

तू है (tu hai) = You (intimate) are

तुम हो (tum ho) = You are

वह है (voh hai) = He/She/It/That is

हम हैं (ham hai~) = We are

आप हैं (aap hai~) = You are

वे हैं (ve hai~) = They are

Let's give you a pattern:

Verb root + TA / TE / TI   +   Conjugated corresponding form of "Hona" (to be)
=   Present Imperfect Tense

Some examples:

मैं खाता हूँ. (mai~ kha**ta** hu~) = I eat.

लडका खाता है. (larka kha**ta** hai) = The (A) boy eats. (Oh, I forgot to mention it anywhere :/ - *Hindi does not have articles!*)

लडकी खाती है. (larki kha**ti** hai) = The (A) girl eats.

आप पीते हैं. (aap pi**te** hai~) = You (polite sg) eat OR You (plural) eat.

मैं पानी पीता हूँ. (mai~ pani pi**ta** hu~) = I drink water.

तुम पानी पीते हो. (tum pani pi**te** ho) = You drink water. NB! "TUM", what's the most used word for "you" is actually in **Plural**! So whenever you use it conjugate the verb for plural!

Here another, a bit "funny" example:

मैं सिगरेट पीता हूँ. (mai~ sigaret pita hu~). I smoke a cigarette... The literal meaning of the sentence is "I drink a cigarette.", but every language has its oddities and peculiarities

I think I better stop now. It's enough material for one lesson. More about other Verb tenses you'll learn in the next lesson(s). Please do revise the whole lesson again and make sure you know the grammar well before continue to next lesson.

Hindi Lessons Online

Lesson 5: Hindi Verbs - Part 2.

We continue with some other tenses in Hindi:

Present Continuous Tense:

Verb Stem + रहा / रहे / रही (raha/rahe/rahi) + Present Tense of "Hona" (to be)

For those who don't like grammatical terms and don't know for sure what's "continuous tense", I'll tell that it's the same as the English verbs, ending in "**-ing**". So if you want to say that you "read" a book in the moment of speaking, you have to say "I am read**ing** a book", not simply "I read a book", because the last could mean that you read a book in general, i.e. you're not reading it in the moment of speaking. So let's clear all that out with some examples.

मैं किताब पढ रहा हूँ. (mai~ kitab parh raha hu~) = I'm read**ing** a book.
मैं पानी पी रहा हूँ. (mai~ pani pi raha hu~) = I'm drink**ing** water.

मैं रोटी खा रही हूँ. (mai~ roti kha rahi hu~) = I'm eating bread. (a girl speaking!)

The verbs stem and raha/rahe/rahi are pronounced almost as one (at once), although they're written separately. Sometimes in colloquial speech all is even shortened more. The "raha hu~" for example is pronounced "rahu~", "raha hai" as "rahai", "raha hai~" -> "rahai~"...

Past Tense:

Building past is easy. Just take the root of a verb and add -a, -e, or -i, respectively for Masculine Singular, Masculine Plurar and Feminine both - Singular and Plurar:

Verb Stem + ा/े/ी (-A/-E/-I) = Past Tense

NB! For verbs, whose stem end in a vowel you have to add या/ये/यी (ya/ye/yi)

E.g. खाना -> खा -> खाया(Khana -> Kha (stem) -> Khaya)

The thing with Hindi past tense is that there is something in Hindi called ergativity and it makes things a little confusing for those used to say English grammar. Let me give you an example: **Main ne pani piya**. As you can see there is some particle 'ne' in there. Well it sort of marks what is known in English as the subject, i.e. the doer of the action. However the verb does not conjugate or change according to the doer of the action, but it's changed according to the word towards which the action is done. So "main ne pani piya" rather means "the water was drank by me". There is another example worth showing: "**usne kaha**", this means "he said". Right. Like I said, it means "he said" and I realise you don't really see any "he" in the sentence, for 'he' in Hindi would be 'voh'. That is so because transitive verbs (the verbs whose action is directed to something - like "i read a book" - the action is directed toward the book, "i drink water", the action is directed to "water" and so on, while there are other verbs called intransitive where the action is not really directed to any object, so anyway) transitive verbs require that 'ne' thing and this part of Hindi needs better explanation which is not the basic concept of those webpages. I just want to show how Hindi generally feels. So this kind of advanced grammar you have to learn elsewhere, sorry.

Some Verbs are irregular. I'll show you some of them (A little below you'll see the past of 'to be', which is needed to build the imperfect past tense, necessary to be able to say such phrases as "I've used to go ..."):

Past of   (Janaa = to go)

गाया / गाये / गायी / गायीं (gaya / gaye / gayi / gayi~)

(1: Masc. Sg, 2: Masc. Pl. 3: Fem. Sg, 4: Fem. Pl.)

To build the past imperfect tense, we have first to learn the past tense of the "main" hindi verb: "to be" (Hona). Past of "hona" is even simplier than the present form:

Past of होना (Honaa = To be)

था (tha) = was (for **M**asculine SINGULAR)
थे (the) = were (for **M**asculine PLURAL)

थी (thi) = was (for **F**eminine SINGULAR)
थीं (thi~) = was (for **F**eminine PLURAL)

Examples:

मैं वहां था. (mai~ vaha~ tha.) = I **was** there.
आप यहां थे. (aap yaha~ the) = You (polite) was here. OR You were here.
(वहां /vaha~/ = there, यहां /yaha~/ = here, जहां /jaha~/ = where)
Now as you know here/there/where (btw, there exist also another word for where = kaha~) I'll give you a hindi proverb:

जहां धुआं है, वहां आग भी है. (jahan dhua~ hai, vaha~ aag bhi hai) = Where there is a smoke, there is a fire too.

Past Imperfect Tense:

...
Verb Stem + था / थे / थी (THA/THE/THI) + Past Tense of "Hona" (to be) = Past Imperfect Tense
Stem + ता/ते/ती + था/थे/थी/थीं = Past Imperfect Tense

The past imperfect tense is used to tell about habitual actions in the past. In English it's best translated with the pattern "used to + verb":

मैं खाता था. (mai~ khata tha) = I used to eat.
लडका खाता था. (larka khata tha) = The boy used to eat.
लडकी खाती थी. (larki khati thi) = The girl used to eat.
आप पीते थे. (aap pite the) = You used to drink. (Sg. polite or Plural)

मैं पानी पीता था. (mai~ pani pita tha) = I used to drink water.

तुम पानी पीते थे. (tum pani pite the) = You used to drink water.

Next comes of course the past continous tense:

Past Continuous Tense:

Well, no need to help you much here. It's the same as the present continous except that it's used the past tense of Hona:

Verb Stem + रहा / रहे / रही (raha/rahe/rahi) + *Past Tense of "Hona"* (to be) = Past Continuous Tense

मैं किताब पढ रहा था. (mai~ kitab parh raha tha) = I'm was reading a book.

मैं पानी पी रहा था. (mai~ pani pi raha tha) = I'm was drinking water.

मैं रोटी खा रही थी. (mai~ roti kha rahi thi) = I'm was eating bread. (a girl speaking!)

I think you got it, now for the FUTURE:

Future Tense:

The Future tense it a bit more complicated than the past for it has more verb-endings for person than those by the past tense.

Future Imperfect Tense:

Let us conjugate a verb in the future tense, then I'll give the endings:

Future Imperfect of "Pina" (पीना = to drink)

मैं पीउंगा (mai~ pi_unga_) = I will drink

तु पीएगा (tu pi_ega_) = You will drink

तुम पीओगे (tum pi_oge_) = You will drink

वह पीएगा (voh pi_ega_) = He/She/It will drink.

हम पीएंगे (ham pi_enge_) = We will drink

आप पीएंगे (aap pi<u>enge</u>) = You will drink.
वे पीएंगे (ve pi<u>enge</u>) = They will drink.

For "I" use -unga, for "Tu" use "ega", for "Tum" use "oge", for "voh" use "ega" and for "ham/aap/ve" the plural form "enge".

Future Continuous Tense:

To build that tense use these endings: रहुंगा रहेगा रहेंगे रहोगे (rahunga/rahega/rahenge/rahoge) similarly as the forms for Future Imperfect together with the "conjugated" verb.

Verb Stem + TA / TE / TI + rahunga/rahega/rahenge/rahoge = Future Continuous Tense

Let's make the future continuous of the verb "pina" to make things clear:

Future Continuous of "Pina" (पीना = to drink)

मैं पीता रहुंगा. (mai~ pita rahunga) = I will be drinking.
तु पीता रहेगा. (tu pita rahega) = You will be drinking.
तुम पीते रहोगे. (tum pite rahoge) = You will be drinking.
वह पीता रहेगा. (voh pita rahega) = He/She/It will be drinking.

हम पीते रहेंगे. (ham pite rahenge) = We will be drinking.
आप पीते रहेंगे. (aap pite rahenge) = You will be drinking.
वे पीते रहेंगे. (ve pite rahenge) = They will be drinking.

So, now you have everything you have to know about verbs except if I've missed something. That was a long and a hard lesson so have a rest before you go to the next lesson :)

Lesson 6: Adjectives. Colors

After the long and fatiguing lesson about hindi tenses, let me explain you how adjectives act in hindi in a short and neat lesson :-)

What you've learned so far will help you much to understand the adjectives in Hindi. Actually they act just like nouns or verbs, having the ending **-a** for masculine and **-i** for feminine (generally speaking). The other thing you have to know about them is that they're declined according to the noun they modify. Nothing new as I said! Here are some adjectives, which I'll use a little below in a few examples.

Some Adjectives:

बडा (bara - some pronounce that 'bara') = Big

छोटा (chhota) = Small

लम्बा (lamba) = Long

महंगा (mahnga) = Expensive

सस्ता (sasta) = Cheap

साफ (saf) = Clean

गान्दा (gandha) = Dirty

ठण्डा (thanda) = Cold

गर्म (garam) = Hot

* Note that all adjectives given above are in masculine. To make them feminine simply change the -a to an -i and of course those not ending in a vowel do ont decline at all...

Now we'll use those to build some senteses you already are familiar with:

यह बडा घर है. (Yeh bara ghar hai.) = This is a big house.

यह घर बडा है. (Yeh ghar bara hai.) = This house is big.

लडकी अच्छी रोटी खाती है. (larki acchi roti khati hai) = The girl eats a tasty bread.

मैं ठण्डा पानी पी रहा हूँ. (mai~ thand**a** pani pi raha hu~) = I'm drinking cold water.

Note how meaning can change depending on the position of the adjective in the first two sentences. Actually nothing so different in meaning, but rather the way of saying that "the house is big" is changed...
Now you get the idea, I hope. Therefore let me show you some colors:

रंग (rang) = Color

सफेद (safed) = White

काला (kala) = Black

नील (nila) = Blue

हरा (hara) = Green

पीला (pila) = Yellow

लाल (lal) = Red

I've mentioned it above, but I'll say it once again. You have to "decline" the adjective according to the word it modifies. If it's masculine, use the adjective with the ending **-a** else i.e. if the word being modified is feminine change the ending to **-i**. If a word ends in a consonant however you don't have to decline it at all!

You have it all now. You can build crazy sentences as for example "This is a blue house" (Yeh nila ghar hai) or "The girl eats red bread" (Larki lal roti khati hai) etc. :-) Just be imaginative. I won't give more examples in this lesson. I've promised it'll be short, so it is. Next lesson is about the cases. It isnt' really hard, but it's very important. There you'll learn some postpositions as well.

Lesson 7: Cases in Hindi. The Direct and Oblique cases. Plural of Nouns.

Like the many prepostitions in English (e.g. in, at, on, under, below, of etc.) in Hindi there exist the so called **postpositions**, playing the same role as the English prepostitions, having the same meaning, but with the only difference that they stay **after** the noun not **before** it. For example in English we say "In London", but in Hindi that would be "London in" (London men).

In Hindi there are two cases: The Direct case and The Oblique case. When a word is used with a postposition it is in the *Oblique* case, in all other cases it is in the Direct case. The Direct case is kinda the same case as Nominative in many European languages. Here are some postpositions:

में (me~) = In

से (se) = From

का (ka) = Of

को (ko) = Not really translatable, used to build Dative and Accusative. I'll explain a little below.

In the previous lessons, I gave many nouns. Their forms are the main forms, i.e. they're in the Direct case. I explained also that masculine nouns ending in **-a** become in the plural the ending **-i**. That's the general rule. However there are words, which do not end in -a and I havn't explained the plural of feminine, so here it goes:

Singular and Plural of Nouns in the Direct Case:

Masculine: Ending in **-a**

Singular: लडका (larka) = boy
Plural: लडके (larke) = boys

Masculine: Ending in other vowel (very few):

Singular: गुरु (guru) = teacher
Plural: गुरु (guru) = teacher

Masculine: Ending in a consonant

Singular: दोस्त (dost) = friend
Plural: दोस्त (dost) = friends

Feminine: Ending in **-i**

Singluar: लडकी (larki) = girl
Plural: लडकिया (larkiya) = girls

Feminine: Ending in a consonant

Singular: किताब (kitab) = book
Plural: किताबें (kitabe~) = books

Feminine: Ending in **-a** or **-u**

Singular: आध्यापीका (adhyapika) = female teacher
Plural: आध्यापीकाएं (adhyapikae~) = female teachers

All the senteces I gave in past lessons you can easily turn into plural now or in some cases the sentences are even in plural since some words don't change in plural. Let me show you some examples:

लडकिया अच्छी रोटी खातीं हैं. (larkiya acchi roti khati~ hai~). = The girls eat tasty bread.
लडके अच्छी रोटी खाते हैं. (larke acchi roti khate hai~) = The boys eat tasty bread.
ये बडे घर हैं. (Ye bare ghar hai~) = These are big houses.
वे सुन्दर लडकिया हैं. (Ve sundar larkiya hai~) = Those (they) are pretty girls.
वे लडकिया सुन्दर हैं. (Ve larkiya sundar hai~) = Those girls are pretty.

Now for the oblique case. Nouns change in singular and plural in the oblique case as well, here is the explanation (to make it easier for you i'll use the same words as in the examples of direct case above):

Singular and Plural of Nouns in the Oblique Case:

Masculine: Ending in **-a**

Singular: लडके (larke)
Plural: लडकों (larko~)

Masculine: Ending in **other vowel** (very few):

Singular: गुरु (guru)
Plural: गुरुओं (guruo~)
(for "admi" /man/ it'll be "admiyo~" - आदमियों)

Masculine: Ending in a **consonant**

Singular: दोस्त (dost)
Plural: दोस्तों (dosto~)

Feminine: Ending in **-i**

Singluar: लडकी (ladki)
Plural: लडकियों (ladkiyo~)

Feminine: Ending in a **consonant**

Singular: किताब (kitab)
Plural: किताबें (kitabe~)

Feminine: Ending in **-a** or **-u**

Singular: आध्यापीका (adhyapika)
Plural: आध्यापीकाएं (adhyapikae~)

At last you know the cases in Hindi. Now (believe me) you know almost all grammar in Hindi! Congats! Now we can extend our well-know sentences and make

them look really long. Let's try:

सफेद घर में लडकिया अच्छी रोटी खातीं हैं. (safed ghar men larkiya acchi roti khati~ hai~). = The girls eat tasty bread in the white house.

मैं कमरे नें ठण्डा पानी पी रहा हूँ और लडकी अच्छी राटी खा रही है. (mai~ kamre me~ thand**a** pani pi raha hu~ aur larki acchi rati kha rahi hai). = I'm drinking cold water in the room and the girl is eating tasty bread.
etc... The point is, whenever you wanna say "in", "at", "on", "of" etc of something, you have to use the oblique case, since you use the word with a postposition. Note for example how it is: "kamre me~", **not** "kamra me~", because we use the postposition "in" (me~).

Now I want to explain you the use of the postposition particle "ka", meaning "of".

Use of the postposition "का" (ka) = OF

1. Since it's a postposition you always have to use the word preceding it in the **Oblique** case.
2. Second thing you have to know about it is, that it could (and should :) change to ke/ki according to the word following it (the subject).
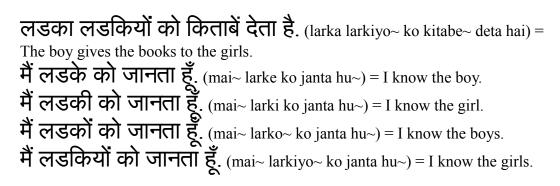
In English we say "the house of the girl". In hindi that should be said as "*the girl of the house*". In this case "the girl" should be in oblique case and house of course (since obviously is the subject) is in the direct case. Our example will be in Hindi "Ladki **ka** ghar" (लडकी का घर). But if we use a feminine word for a subject "ka" changes to "ki" as in "Ladki **ki** sari" (लडकी की साड़ी), meaning "the sari of the girl" (sari is a traditional indian female clothing). Then if we wanna say "the hous**es** of the girl" we have to say "larki **ke** ghar" (लडकी के घर). I think you got the idea. Now we can build even bigger sentences...

The last thing I should tell you about in this lesson is the use of the particle (postposition) "ko". It's could be translated as "to", but in some cases it shouldn't be translated at all. That's so because actually it's the **accusative** or **dative** marker. If somebody is the receiver of an action (or the verb) you have to use that particle.

Use of the postposition "को" (ko)

I'll give firstly some examples and then explain you:

लडका लडकियों को पानी देता है. (larka larkiyo~ ko pani deta hai) = The boy gives water **to** the girls.

लडका लडकियों को किताबें देता है. (larka larkiyo~ ko kitabe~ deta hai) =
The boy gives the books to the girls.

मैं लडके को जानता हूँ. (mai~ larke ko janta hu~) = I know the boy.

मैं लडकी को जानता हूँ. (mai~ larki ko janta hu~) = I know the girl.

मैं लडकों को जानता हूँ. (mai~ larko~ ko janta hu~) = I know the boys.

मैं लडकियों को जानता हूँ. (mai~ larkiyo~ ko janta hu~) = I know the girls.

Some verbs require the use of dative/accusative and thus the use of 'ko'. Such verb is "to know - janna" (as spanish "conocer", italian "conoscere" or german "kennen"), there are of course other verbs of that sort as for example "to give". "I give the book to the girl" -> To whom do I give to book? -> to the girl (or even just 'the girl') -> dative, so "larki ko"... I'm sure I'll find a better way to explain that, but for now use that poor explanation. However I think examples do much...

हिंदी Lessons

Hindi Lessons Online

Lesson 8: Modal Verbs.

Well, modal verbs are verbs such as "to want", "to can" (to be able to), "to have to" etc... Actually in this lessons I'm going to explain you how to use such verbs in Hindi and to be more precise I'll give you in the lesson the use of exactly those four verbs: to can (be able to), to must (to have to), to need and to want. So here we go:

(1). Can /be able to/ = sakna (सकना)
You only have to know that it's added to the root of the main verb. "I can read hindi"

- in that sentence "*the main verb*" is "read". So:

Verb stem + *SAKNA* / सकना (sakta/sakte/sakti/sakti~) + To be (hona, conjugeted)
= Can + Verb

Oh, *of course* you **must** "conjugate" the verb **sakna** as I taught you (i.e. add ta/te/ti/ti~ to it's stem "sak"). Here are some examples:

मैं हिंदी में लिख सकता हूँ. (mai~ hindi me~ likh sakta hu~) = I can write in Hindi.

मैं हिंदी कुछ कुछ बोल सकता हूँ. (mai~ hindi kuch kuch bol sakta hu~) = I can speak a very little Hindi.

मैं वह नहीं समझा सकता हूँ. (mai~ voh nahi~ samajha sakta hu~) = I cannot explain that.

लडकी अच्छी रोटी कर सकती हैं. (larki acchi roti kar sakti hai~) = The girl can make tasty bread.

(2). Must (to have to)

It's build extremely easy! :-) It's used the Dative case. The pronounce change when used in dative of course, but I didn't explained it to you yet. I will later. For know I'll say that "mai~" becomes "mujhe" (to me) and "tu" becomes"tujhe" (to you), as for the plural we use the particle "ko". I hope you remember it from the previous lesson. So "ham ko" = "to us". Now about the verb "to have to", the hindus use this "pattern" to express it: "to me ... it is", so if you want to say "I have to go" in Hindi, you have to say "to me it is *to go*". Examples:

मुझे जाना हैं. (mujhe jana hai.) = (to me / to go / is) = I have to go.

तूझे खाना हैं. (tujhe khana hai.) = (to you / to eat / is) = You have to eat.

भरात में हमको हिंदी बोलना हैं. (bharat me~ hamko hindi bolna hai) = (India in / to us / hindi / to speak / is) = In India we have to speak Hindi.

(3). Need (Chahie - चाहीए)

It's used in similar manner as the verb "to have to". Again you have to say "to me" or "to you" or "to tus", "to the person", i.e. use the Dative case. Instead of placing the conjugated verb "to be" at the end of the sentence place "chahie":

मुझे जाना चाहीए. (mujhe jana chahie) = I need to go. (Similar to meaning and construction with "mujhe jana hai"...)

मुझे पानी चाहीए. (mujhe pani chahie) = I need water.

(4). Want (chahna = चाहना)
Use the same way as "to can":

Verb stem + *CHAHNA* / चाहना (chahta/chahte/chahti/chahti~) + To be (hona, conjugeted) = Want to + Verb

मैं जाना चाहता हूँ. (mai~ jana chahta hu~) = I want to go.
वह खाना चाहता है. (voh khana chahta hai) = He wants to eat.
हम हिंदी सीखना चाहते हैं. (ham hindi sikhna chahte hai~) = We want to learn Hindi.
मैं चाबल चाहता हूँ. (mai~ chaval chahta hu~) = I want rice.

That'll set the end for that lessons. Yes, I know I should extend it, give more example and explanations, but that's all I know about Hindi modal verbs. If I learn something new, I'll put in here for sure. Enjoy the next lesson, where you'll learn how to count to 20 and where you'll learn some wh-questions as well...

Hindi Lessons Online

Lesson 9: Numbers up to 20. Wh-questions and other question-words.

Here is a table of the numbers up to 20:

Number	Hindi	Transliteration	Number	Hindi	Transliteration
1	एक	ek	11	ग्यारह	gyarah
2	दो	do	12	बारह	barah
3	तीन	thin	13	तेरह	terah
4	चार	char	14	चौदह	chaudah
5	पांच	panch	15	पन्द्रह	pandrah
6	छः	chha (chhe)	16	सोलह	solah
7	सात	sath	17	सत्रह	satrah
8	आठ	aath	18	अठारह	athharah
9	नौ	nau	19	उन्नीस	unnis
10	दस	das	20	बीस	bis

Next come the question words:

क्या (kya) = What?

कौन (kaun) = Who?

कहां (kaha~) = Where?

क्यों (kyo~) = Why?

कैसा / कैसे / कैसी (kaisa/kaise/kaisi) = How?

कितना / कितने / कितनी (kitna/kitne/kitni) = How much?, How many?

So, basicly, that was the lesson, but I forgot something to tell you about. It's concerning the numbers. The Devanagari script even possess its own letters for writing the numbers, but those are not used much in our time. However I'll give them here too:

१ = 1

२ = 2

३ = 3

४ = 4

५ = 5

६ = 6

७ = 7

$\mathcal{L}$ = 8

$\mathfrak{S}$ = 9

$\mathfrak{9o}$ = 10

As you can see they resembles the ""arabic"" ciphers we use, and it **should** be so, since actually the arabic ciphers are INDIAN ciphers. The writing system, on base 10, developen in India, where people used to write numbers with the letters you see above... Later arabs adopted that system and brought it all over the word, thus it became known as "arabic numbers"... Btw, written in Devanagari, the year, in which I'm writing these lesson will look as २००३...

BACK   MAIN PAGE