

HINDI SKELETON GRAMMAR

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The essential grammatical ‘rule’ and/or paradigm from each main section of *Teach Yourself Hindi* (units 1–14) is set out in very briefly here in note form.

1.1 PERSONAL PRONOUNS & THE VERB ‘TO BE’ [होना]

मैं हूँ	<i>mai h̃</i>	I am	हम हैं	<i>ham hai</i>	we are
तू है	<i>tū hai</i>	you are	तुम हो	<i>tum ho</i>	you are
यह है	<i>yah hai</i>	he/she/it/this is	आप हैं	<i>āp hai</i>	you are
वह है	<i>yah hai</i>	he/she/it/that is	ये हैं	<i>ye hai</i>	he/she/these/they are
			वे हैं	<i>ve hai</i>	he/she/those/they are

1.2 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Questions that expect a ‘yes/no’ answer are formed by prefixing क्या *kyā* to a statement:

वह राम है ।	<i>vah Rām hai.</i>	He is Rām.
क्या वह राम है ?	<i>kyā vah Rām hai?</i>	Is he Rām?

1.3 NOUNS

Masculine nouns ending in *-ā* change to *-e* in the plural: *kamrā* > *kamre*.

Other masculine nouns, and *rājā*, *pitā*, *cācā*, *netā*, do not change in the plural.

Feminine nouns ending in *-ī* or *-ī* change to *-iyā̃* in the plural: *beṭī* > *beṭiyā̃*.

Other feminine nouns add *-ē* in the plural: *mez* > *mezē*.

1.4 ADJECTIVES

Adjectives ending in *-ā* change to *-e* in the masculine plural: *barā* > *bare*;

and to *-ī* in the feminine (singular and plural): *barī*.

Adjectives not ending in *-ā* (e.g. *sāf*, *khālī*) do not change with number or gender.

1.5 THE SIMPLE SENTENCE

Standard word-order follows the patterns shown:

यह मकान छोटा (नहीं) है ।	<i>yah makān choṭā (nahī) hai.</i>	This house is (not) small.
यह छोटा मकान (नहीं) है ।	<i>yah choṭā makān (nahī) hai.</i>	This is (not) a small house.

2.1 INTERROGATIVE WORDS

क्या	<i>kyā</i>	what?
कौन	<i>kaun</i>	who?
कैसा/कैसे/कैसी	<i>kaisā/kaise/kaisī</i>	what kind of? what like?
कितना/कितने/कितनी	<i>kitnā/kitne/kitnī</i>	how much, how many?

The function of *kyā* here is different from that shown in 1.2 above.

2.2 AGREEMENT OF ADJECTIVES WITH MIXED GENDERS

When referring to a mixed group of males and females, adjectives show masculine gender:

ये लड़के और लड़कियाँ लम्बे हैं । *ye laṛke aur laṛkiyā̃ lambe hai.* These boys and girls are tall.

When referring to mixed inanimate objects, adjectives take the gender of the nearest noun:

ये जूते और चप्पलें सस्ती हैं । *ye jūte aur cappalē sasti hai.* These shoes and sandals are cheap.

2.3 SOME CONVERSATIONAL FEATURES

The Hindi politeness code uses the *āp/tum/tū* system to express degrees of familiarity (see 2.4). The honorific *jī* can be added to titles and names: paṇḍit jī, Śarmā jī, Kamlā jī.

The word *namaste* is an all-purpose greeting and leave-taking; *namaskār* is a synonym.

The word *bhī* 'also' comes **immediately after** the word it emphasises.

2.4 MORE ON ADJECTIVES AND NOUNS

The 'honorific' system of Hindi shows a progression of formality or politeness in the pronoun sequence *tū* (intimate) *tum* (familiar) *āp* (formal). Both *tum* and *āp* are grammatically plural. The use of an honorific plural is maintained in the third person also: thus *tum*, *āp*, *ve* and *ye* can all refer either to an individual or to a group. Adjectives, verbs and masculine nouns agree accordingly; but feminine nouns do not show an honorific plural.

HINDI SKELETON GRAMMAR

वे हिन्दुस्तानी हैं ।	<i>ve hindustānī hai.</i>	He/she is Indian / They are Indian.
आप कैसे हैं ?	<i>āp kaise hai?</i>	How are you?
तुम अच्छे बेटे हो ।	<i>tum acche bete ho.</i>	You are a good son / good sons.
वे लंबी महिला कौन हैं ?	<i>ve lambī mahilā kaun hai?</i>	Who is that tall lady?

3.1 SIMPLE POSTPOSITIONS

Postpositions are equivalent to English prepositions: *mē* 'in', *par* 'on', *tak* 'up to', *se* 'by/with/from', *ko* 'to/at'. But being *postpositions*, they **follow** the words they govern.

3.2 NOUNS WITH POSTPOSITIONS

A noun changes from **direct** to **oblique** case when governed by a postposition.

Masculine nouns ending in *-ā* change to *-e* in the oblique singular, and to *-ō* in the oblique plural: *kamrā* > *kamre mē*, *kamrō mē*.

Other masculine nouns, and all feminine nouns, are unchanged in the oblique singular, but have *-ō* in the oblique plural: *makān* > *makān mē*, *makānō mē*.

Nouns ending *ū* shorten this to *u* in the oblique plural: *hindū* > *hinduō*.

Nouns ending *ī* change this to *iy* in the oblique plural: *ādmī* > *ādmiyō*.

3.3 ADJECTIVES IN THE OBLIQUE CASE

The grammatical case (i.e. direct or oblique) of an adjective agrees with the noun it qualifies. But the only adjectives to **show** this change are masculine adjectives in *-ā*; these change to *-e* in the oblique, whether singular or plural: *barā* > *barē*.

3.4 PRONOUNS IN THE OBLIQUE CASE

Pronouns also have oblique forms: *yah* > *is*; *vah* > *us*; *ye* > *in*; *ve* > *un*.

यह बड़ा मकान *yah barā makān* this big house > इस बड़े मकान में *is barē makān mē* in this big house

वे बूढ़े लोग *ve būrhe log* those old people > उन बूढ़े लोगों को *un būrhe logō ko* to those old people

4.1 ‘WAS’ & ‘WERE’

The past tense of the verb होना *honā* ‘to be’:

masculine singular	था	<i>thā</i>	masculine plural	थे	<i>the</i>
feminine singular	थी	<i>thī</i>	feminine plural	थीं	<i>thī̃</i>

4.2 तो *to*; ‘SO’, ‘AS FOR’

Firstly, *to* is a conjunction meaning ‘so’: तो आप अँग्रेज़ हैं ? *to āp āgrez hai?* ‘So you’re English?’

In a second meaning, *to* highlights one thing as contrasted with an implied alternative:

कमरा तो ठीक है ।	<i>kamrā to thīk hai.</i>	The room’s OK [but the food’s terrible].
कमरा ठीक तो है ।	<i>kamrā thīk to hai.</i>	The room’s OK [but it’s not that great].

4.3 COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

Comparisons are made by using ordinary adjectives (there are no ‘-er, -est’ forms), together with the postposition से *se* ‘than’.

The object of comparison takes से *se* :

राम सीता से लंबा है ।	<i>Rām Sītā se lambā hai.</i>	Rām is taller than Sītā.
सीता राम से छोटी है ।	<i>Sītā Rām se choṭī hai.</i>	Sita is smaller (shorter) than Rām.

Superlatives are expressed with *sabse*:

राम सबसे लंबा है ।	<i>Rām sabse lambā hai.</i>	Rām is (the) tallest.
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Other expressions: *aur* (or *zyādā*) ‘more’, *kam* ‘less’:

यह किताब और/ज़्यादा महँगी है ।	<i>Yah kitāb aur/zyādā mahāgī hai.</i>	This book is more expensive.
यह किताब कम महँगी है ।	<i>Yah kitāb kam mahāgī hai.</i>	This book is less expensive.

4.4 SOME CONSTRUCTIONS WITH को *ko*

Whereas English has the ‘self’ as subject in sentences such as ‘I like Hindi’, ‘I have a cold’, in Hindi the ‘thing possessed or experienced’ often becomes the grammatical subject, and the ‘experiencer’ takes को *ko*:

उसको जुकाम है ।	<i>usko zukām hai</i>	‘To him/her a cold is’	=	He/she has a cold.
हमको मालूम है ।	<i>hamko mālūm hai</i>	‘To us it is known’	=	We know.
मुझको हिन्दी पसंद है ।	<i>mujhko hindī pasand hai</i>	‘To me Hindi is pleasing’	=	I like Hindi.

4.5 THE VOCATIVE CASE

The vocative (the case for addressing someone) is the same as the oblique, except that the plural ending is not nasalised (-o not -ō): *beṭe* ‘son!’, *dosto* ‘friends!’.

5.1 THE INFINITIVE VERB

The infinitive verb (e.g. ‘to speak’ in English) consists of stem + infinitive ending -ना : बोलना ‘to speak’ has stem बोल + ending -ना.

5.2 COMMANDS AND REQUESTS

Infinitive	तू	तुम	आप
बैठना	बैठ	बैठो	बैठिए
जाना	जा	जाओ	जाइए
करना	कर	करो	कीजिए
देना	दे	दो	दीजिए

Important irregular verbs include करना, देना, लेना, पीना — see p. 64.

Negative commands (i.e. ‘do not...’) use न or मत — वहाँ न बैठिए, अंग्रेज़ी मत बोलो.

An infinitive used as an imperative often relates to a future occasion — राम से नमस्ते कहना.

5.3 POSSESSION WITH का

The postposition का/की/के acts like the English “apostrophe s”, standing between the possessor and the possessed: राम का नाम ‘Ram’s name’, or ‘the name of Ram’.

का is a postposition, so requires preceding oblique case (लड़के); it also agrees as an adjective with the thing possessed:

लड़के की बहिन	the boy’s sister
मेरे भाई की चाबी	my brother’s key
मेरी बहिन का नाम	my sister’s name
प्रताप के दोस्त	Pratap’s friends

5.4 को WITH THE INDIRECT AND DIRECT OBJECT

- a) with indirect objects: राम को पैसा दीजिए ('राम' indirect object; 'पैसा' direct object).
 b) with direct objects perceived as 'specific', especially a person: राम को बुलाओ 'call Ram'; इस चाबी को रखिए 'keep this key'. In many contexts, को is optional: यह पत्र पढ़ो, or इस पत्र को पढ़ो.

5.5 ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF THE OBLIQUE PRONOUNS + को.

These are straightforward alternatives with no further grammatical implications: मुझे = मुझको etc. Learn the list, p. 68.

6.1 THE IMPERFECTIVE PRESENT TENSE

The tense for habitual or regular action, 'I speak' (as opposed to continuous 'I am speaking', which comes in Unit 8.) It consists of imperfective participle (stem + ता, e.g. बोल + ता = बोलता) plus auxiliary (हूँ, है etc.).

मैं हिन्दी बोलता हूँ I speak Hindi.

लड़कियाँ स्कूल जाती हैं The girls go to school.

हम भारत में रहते थे We lived (used to live) in India.

Masculine gender prevails in a mixed group of people — राम और सीता भी वहाँ रहते थे.

The auxiliary can be dropped in the negative:

मैं हिन्दी नहीं बोलता I don't speak Hindi.

If हैं is dropped from a feminine verb such as वे बोलती हैं when making it negative, the nasal from the dropped हैं jumps onto the participle: वे नहीं बोलतीं.

राम को हिन्दी आती है means 'Ram knows Hindi' (lit. 'Hindi comes to Ram'); this usage applies with knowledge of languages only. But a similar usage works with an infinitive verb: राम को गाड़ी चलाना आता है 'Ram knows how to drive a car' – 'Ram can drive'.

6.2 POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

These behave as adjectives, agreeing with nouns in number and gender — मेरा घर, मेरी बहिन, मेरे हाथों में. **Learn the list** on p. 77.

6.3 अपना 'ONE'S OWN'

अपना replaces possessive pronouns (उसका etc.) in a clause like 'he reads his (own) book', in which 'he' and 'his' refer to one and the same person — वह अपनी किताब पढ़ता है.

General rule: if the English 'his' (etc.) has the implicit sense 'his own', use अपना.

6.4 COMPOUND POSTPOSITIONS

These are simply postpositions consisting of two words — a noun or adverb preceded either by के / की or by a possessive pronoun:

राम की तरफ़	towards Ram	उनके साथ	with them
आपके लिए	for you	इसके बाद	after this

When referring to मैं, तू, हम, तुम and अपना, no का appears with a compound postposition:

मेरे / तेरे / हमारे / तुम्हारे / अपने	साथ, लिए, बाद etc.
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6.5 PRONOUNS REVISITED

A summary of the pronouns encountered so far, e.g. मैं 'I', मुझ 'me', मेरा 'my, mine', अपना 'one's own', कौन 'who?', किस 'whom?', किसका 'whose?', क्या 'what?'.

7.1 THE PAST IMPERFECTIVE

The tense for habitual or regular action in the past: 'I lived' or 'I used to live'. (This tense is **not** used for completed, one-off actions such as 'I went, I ate'; these come in Unit 11.)

It's the same as the present imperfective (6.1) but substitutes the past auxiliary (था etc.) for the present auxiliary (हूँ, है etc.).

मैं हिन्दी बोलता था ।	I used to speak Hindi.
वह दिल्ली में रहती थी ।	She lived, used to live, in Delhi.
हम अस्पताल में काम करते थे ।	We used to work in a hospital.

7.2 कोई and कुछ

(a) कोई — 'anyone, someone'

कोई है ?	anyone there?
कोई नहीं	nobody

कोई — ‘some, a certain’ (usually singular)

कोई आदमी some fellow

कोई कार some car

कोई — ‘about, approximately’ (with a number)

कोई दस लोग some ten people

कोई पंद्रह कारें some fifteen cars

कोई changes to **किसी** in the OBLIQUE:

किसी घर में in some house

(b) **कुछ** — ‘something, some’

कुछ दूध some milk (‘uncountable’ noun, singular)

कुछ कमरे some rooms (‘countable’ noun, plural)

कुछ बोलो । Say something!

कुछ नहीं nothing

कुछ doesn’t change in the OBLIQUE:

कुछ घरों में in some houses

7.3 चाहिए ‘IS WANTED / NEEDED’

The person who ‘wants’ takes **को**, and the ‘thing wanted’ is the subject of the verb.

उनको पैसा चाहिए They want/need money [no auxiliary in present tense]

राम को पैसा चाहिए था Ram wanted/needed money [था agrees with पैसा^m]

राम को चाय चाहिए थी Ram wanted/needed tea [थी agrees with चाय^f]

7.4 ORDINAL NUMBERS

Ordinal numbers (‘first, second’ etc.) are formed from cardinal numbers (‘one, two...’) + **-वाँ**, e.g. पाँच ‘five’ > पाँचवाँ ‘fifth’, दस ‘ten’ > दसवाँ ‘tenth’.

Exceptions: पहला ‘first’; दूसरा ‘second’; तीसरा ‘third’; चौथा ‘fourth’; छठा ‘sixth’.

They agree as adjectives: पहली सड़क, तीसरा आदमी, दसवें घर में.

7.5 AGGREGATIVES

These are expressions indicating 'groups of' a number. They are made up of the cardinal number + -ओं (except दो > दोनों).

तीनों लड़के	all three boys	हज़ारों लोग	thousands of people
सातों दिन	all seven days	दोनों आदमी	both men, the two men

7.6 CONJUNCT VERBS

These are verbs made up of two words: an adjective/noun + करना (transitive) or होना (intrans.).

साफ़ 'clean'	साफ़ करना 'to clean'.	वह कमरा साफ़ करता है । He cleans the room.
शुरू 'beginning'	शुरू करना 'to begin'.	मैं काम शुरू करता हूँ । I begin work.
बंद 'closed'	बंद होना 'to be closed'	दुकान शाम को बंद होती है । The shop closes in the evening.

8.1 CONTINUOUS TENSES

These tenses give the sense of an *ongoing* action — English '...ing' verbs.

Formed from stem + रहा/रही/रहे + auxiliary: मैं बोल रहा हूँ 'I am speaking'.

वह सो रही है ।	She is sleeping.
मैं खाना नहीं बना रहा (हूँ) ।	I am not preparing food.
हम रेडियो सुन रहे थे ।	We were listening to the radio.
वे कल आ रहे हैं ।	They are coming tomorrow. [<i>Future time, as in English.</i>]

8.2 EXPRESSIONS FOR 'TO HAVE'

In the absence of a verb 'to have', Hindi has 3 main ways of showing 'ownership':

Afflictions, feelings:	को	मुझको जुकाम है	I have a cold.
		हम को आशा है कि ...	We hope that...
Possessions:	के पास	राम के पास कई तस्वीरें हैं ।	Ram has many pictures.
		मेरे पास पैसा नहीं है ।	I don't have any money.
Houses, relatives:	का	उसके दो मकान हैं ।	He has two houses.
		मेरे दो बच्चे हैं ।	I have two children.

8.3 SOME ADVERBIAL PHRASES

Adverbs are often made up of oblique noun **without postposition** (or if you like to think of it this way, with an invisible ‘ghostposition’):

उस दिन that day इन दिनों these days पिछले साल last year

Some adverbs consist of noun+ से :

मुश्किल से with difficulty आसानी से with ease, easily ध्यान से attentively

Some adverbs are like postpositions with the के removed:

बाहर outside ऊपर up नीचे down

8.4 WHAT’S TODAY’S DATE? आज की तारीख क्या है ?

Dates use cardinal numbers: दस जून ‘tenth of June’; पंद्रह जनवरी ‘fifteenth of January’.

But ‘first’ and ‘second’ of the month use ordinal numbers: पहली अगस्त, दूसरी नवम्बर. Feminine agreement of पहली, दूसरी is with तारीख ‘date’ (understood, not stated).

Here are the months (not listed in the book):

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

8.5 WORD ORDER

Here is an example of a sentence with a ‘standard’ word order:

मैं	हर हफ्ते	बच्चों को	कुछ पैसा	देता हूँ ।
subject	adverb	indirect object	direct object	verb
I	every week	to the children	some money	give.

Changing this order will emphasize the element brought closer to the end of the sentence:

मैं बच्चों को कुछ पैसा हर हफ्ते देता हूँ । I give the children some money **every week**.
मैं हर हफ्ते कुछ पैसा बच्चों को देता हूँ । I give **the children** some money every week.

Question words normally come just before the verb:

तुम लोग कहाँ रहते हो ? Where do you live?
आप बच्चों को पैसा क्यों देते हैं ? Why do you give the children money?

9.1 THE FUTURE TENSE

The future is made up of stem + the following endings (-ā changing to -ī and -e as usual)

मैं		मैं बोलूँगा
तू, यह, वह	-egā	तू, यह, वह बोलेगा
आप, ये वे	-ēge	आप, ये, वे बोलेंगे
तुम	-oge	तुम बोलोगे

9.2 FUTURE TENSE IN THE AUXILIARY VERB

The auxiliary verb होना is often used in the future:

वे कल आ रहे होंगे ।	They will be coming tomorrow.
वे गुजराती बोल रहे होंगे ।	They will be speaking Gujarati.

9.3 'PRESUMPTIVE' USES OF THE FUTURE

As in English, a future tense can indicate an assumption or presumption about the present.

वे बहुत नाराज़ होंगे ।	They will be (= are sure to be) very angry.
वह पंजाबी होगा ।	He'll be (= is bound to be) a Punjabi.

This is also used with imperfective and continuous tenses:

आप मुझको ज़रूर जानते होंगे ।	You must surely know me.
वह अभी आ रहा होगा ।	He's sure to be coming in a moment.

9.4 THE EMPHATIC ही

ही gives a 'restrictive' emphasis (meaning 'only'), or **stresses** a particular word or phrase. It comes *directly after* the word it emphasises:

राम हिन्दी ही बोलता है ।	Ram speaks Hindi only.
राम ही हिन्दी बोलता है ।	Only Ram speaks Hindi.

Some pronouns and adverbs combine with ही to give special forms: see p. 116.

9.5 SOME EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY

बहुत-सा —	बहुत-से लोग	many people
	बहुत-सी लड़कियाँ	many girls

Compare: बहुत अमीर लोग very rich people (rather than 'many rich people')

The words बहुत, ज़्यादा, अधिक etc., meaning 'much, many' etc., may give the sense of 'too much', especially when used together, or with ही; यह बहुत ज़्यादा है 'This is too much'.

9.6 THE INFINITIVE AS VERBAL NOUN: जाना 'TO GO, GOING'

An infinitive verb (e.g. बोलना 'to speak) can function like a noun: हिन्दी बोलना आसान है 'To speak Hindi is easy', or 'Speaking Hindi is easy', in which बोलना is the subject of the verb है. When followed by a postposition, an infinitive ending (बोलना) changes to oblique -e (बोलने में) — just as कमरा changes to कमरे में.

मुझे हिन्दी बोलना पसंद है । I like speaking Hindi. (बोलना is the subject of है)

हिन्दी बोलने में क्या फ़ायदा है ? What is the point in speaking Hindi?

Expressions of 'purpose' are formed with an oblique infinitive with or without postposition (के लिए, sometimes को): मैं अँग्रेज़ी सीखने (के लिए) लंदन जा रहा हूँ 'I am going to London (in order) to learn English'.

10.1 THE SUBJUNCTIVE

Formed as the future tense minus -गा ending, the subjunctive expresses possibility, requests etc.; it uses न (rather than नहीं) in the negative.

मैं भी बैठूँ ? May I sit too?

आप वहाँ न बैठें, यहाँ बैठें । Would you please sit here, not there.

10.2 THE SUBJUNCTIVE IN THE AUXILIARY VERB

The subjunctive of होना is often used as an auxiliary, again to give a 'maybe' sense:

वे मेरे भाई को जानते हों । They may know my brother.

वह सुन रही हो । She may be listening.

10.3 THE VERB चाहना

The verb चाहना means 'to want to' and is used with a direct-case infinitive, like जाना —

मैं घर जाना चाहता हूँ । I want to go home.

सुनीता भी आना चाहती है । Sunita wants to come too.

When a person wants *another* to do something, the construction is चाहना कि + subjunctive:

मैं चाहता हूँ कि राम यहीं रहे । I want Ram to stay right here.
वे चाहते हैं कि हम भी बोलें । They want us to speak too.

10.4 CONDITIONAL SENTENCES (1)

Conditional sentences have two clauses: an अगर ('if') clause and a तो ('then') clause.

अगर उसके पास पैसा है तो ठीक है । If he has money then it's OK.

अगर तुम चाहो तो यहाँ रहो । If you wish, stay here. [English omits 'then'.]

Choice of verb types (including subjunctive, future etc.) depends on context.

10.5 THE SUFFIX -वाला.

The suffix -वाला (-वाली, -वाले, -वालों) is used in the following ways:

noun + -वाला = noun: दूध milk > दूधवाला milkman
adverb + -वाला = adjective: पास nearby > पासवाला (घर) nearby (house)

With an oblique infinitive, -वाला has the following uses:

हिन्दी बोलनेवाले Hindi speakers

हिन्दी बोलनेवाले लोग Hindi-speaking people

मैं अभी जानेवाला था । I was just going (I was on the point of going).

11.1 TRANSITIVITY

Because transitive and intransitive verbs behave differently in the past tense, it's important to understand the difference between them.

Transitive verbs are those which can take a direct object: 'I saw the dog', 'I saw'.

Intransitive verbs are those which can't take a direct object: 'I walked home', 'I walked'.

As a rough-and-ready test, try turning the sentence round as a passive (which will only work with transitive verbs): we can say 'the dog was seen', but we can't say 'home was walked'.

Because this test doesn't always work, it's best to check verbs in the glossary: transitive verbs are marked with a little ^N, like this: कहना^N.

Please correct the first paragraph of section 11.1: it should end '...because these verbs are *intransitive*' !

11.2 PERFECTIVE TENSES — INTRANSITIVE VERBS

The perfective tense describes one-off actions in the past: ‘I got up, I ran, I arrived’.

The participle is made up of stem + $-\bar{a}$, $-e$, $-\bar{i}$, \bar{i} (उठा, उठे, उठी, उठीं). Verbs whose stems end in $-\bar{a}$, like आना ‘to come’, add a य before the masculine singular $-\bar{a}$ ending: आया ‘came’.

मैं आया (masc.), आई (fem.)	I came
वह आया	he came
हम/तुम/आप/वे आए (masc), आई (fem.)	we/you/you/they came

‘came’ is changed to ‘has come’ by using the auxiliary है —

मैं आया हूँ	I have come
वह आई है	She has come
हम आए हैं	We have come

‘came’ is changed to ‘had come’ by using the auxiliary था —

मैं आया था	I had come
वह आई थी	She had come
हम आए थे	We had come

The verb जाना has the irregular participle गया, गई, गए, गई

11.3 PERFECTIVE TENSES — TRANSITIVE VERBS

Remember that the perfective tense describes one-off actions in the past: ‘I saw, I ate’.

The participle here is the same as for intransitive verbs (11.1): देखा, खाया.

Transitive verbs such as खाना take the ने construction (उसने चीनी खाई ‘he ate sugar’, in which the verb is feminine to agree with चीनी). Verbs which take the ने construction take it *even when an object is not expressed*: उसने खाया ‘he/she ate’.

If the object is followed by को, the verb shows no agreement at all but is in the masculine singular: उसने चीनी को खाया ‘he ate the sugar’.

The word ने is a postposition and therefore takes the oblique case; some pronouns have special oblique forms for use with ने — मैंने (not मुझ), इन्होंने (not इन), उन्होंने (not उन).

The verb करना has the irregular participle किया, की, किए, कीं; देना and लेना are also irregular.

12.1 जाकर 'HAVING GONE, AFTER GOING'

The 'absolutive' is formed from the verb stem + -कर: जाकर, देखकर, पहुँचकर. It means 'having done', and its main use is for the first of two verbs in sequence:

दरवाज़ा खोलकर वह कमरे में आया । He opened the door and came into the room. ('having opened...')
 खाना खाकर जाइए । Eat before you go. ('having eaten...')

In speech, less commonly in writing, -कर becomes -के (जाके, देखके, पहुँचके); करना has करके only.

12.2 WHAT'S THE TIME?

“बजकर” for minutes past the hour; “बजने में” for minutes to the hour.

“पौने” for quarter-to the hour; “सवा” for quarter-past; “साढ़े” for half-past.

दस बजकर पाँच मिनट हैं ।	It's five minutes past ten.
दस बजने में पाँच मिनट हैं ।	It's five minutes to ten.
पौने दस बजे	a quarter to ten
सवा दस बजे	a quarter past ten
साढ़े दस बजे	half past ten
कितने बजे?	at what time?
कितने बजे हैं? क्या बजा है?	What is the time?

12.3 सकना, पाना, चुकना

These three verbs are used with the stem of a preceding verb to mean 'can', 'manage to' and 'have already done' respectively:

Verb stem + सकना : 'to be able to do'. मैं खत लिख सकता हूँ । I can write a letter.

Verb stem + पाना : 'to manage to do'. मैं खत नहीं लिख पाया । I didn't manage to write the letter.

Verb stem + चुकना : 'to have finished doing'. मैं खत लिख चुका हूँ । I've already written the letter.

The ने construction is **never** used with these verbs.

12.4 COMPOUND VERBS (1)

Compound verbs are Hindi's spin-doctors: the meaning of a verb is given a particular slant by having a second verb attached to it. The main meaning is given by the first verb in stem form: the second verb loses its literal meaning but supplies a particular emphasis. This section introduces 3 'spin' verbs:

जाना giving a sense of finality or completeness

लेना giving a sense of benefit *coming towards* the doer

देना giving a sense of benefit *going away from* the doer

खा जाना 'to eat up' — वह तीनों समोसे खा गया ।

सुन लेना 'to have a listen' — यह गाना सुन लो ।

दे देना 'to pass, give, hand' — मुझे वह बोटल दे दो ।

The ने construction is used only when **both** compounded verbs require it.

12.5 VERBS IN COMBINATION

These are like compound verbs (12.4), except that both of the verbs involved retain their literal meaning.

लौट जाना 'to go back' — वह घर लौट जाएगा । He'll go back home.

ले जाना 'to take (away)' — यह कुरसी ले जाओ । Take this chair (away).

ले आना 'to bring' — अपना रेडियो ले आइए । Bring your radio.

13.1 जब...तब 'WHEN...THEN' (RELATIVE CLAUSES 1).

'Relative' constructions have two paired clauses. This first type is 'when...then' clauses:

जब गाड़ी रुकेगी तब (or तो) हम उतरेंगे । When the train stops we'll get out.

जब से गाड़ी रुकी तब से हम यहाँ खड़े हैं । Since the train stopped we have been standing here.

जब तक गाड़ी न रुकेगी तब तक यहाँ रहो । Stay here until the train stops.

जब भी गाड़ी रुकती है तब वे खिड़की खोलते हैं । Whenever the train stops they open the window.

जैसे ही गाड़ी रुकी वैसे ही उसने खिड़की खोली । As soon as the train stopped he opened the window.

13.2 INFINITIVE + चाहिए, 'SHOULD, OUGHT'

Expressions for 'should, ought' use infinite verb + चाहिए; the person under compulsion takes को. So 'I should go' is मुझको जाना चाहिए ।

If the verb takes an object (as in 'I should speak Hindi', where 'Hindi' is the object of 'speak'), the verb agrees with the object.

मुझे हिन्दी बोलनी चाहिए । I should speak Hindi. (बोलनी fem.)
 मुझे हिन्दी बोलनी चाहिए थी । I should have spoken Hindi. (बोलनी and थी both fem.)

But when the object takes को, the verb is masculine singular:

मुझे ये कपड़े धोने पड़े । but मुझे इन कपड़ों को धोना पड़ा । I had to wash these clothes.

Remember that चाहिए and चाहना differ in both construction and meaning:

मुझे जाना चाहिए लेकिन मैं जाना नहीं चाहता । I should go but I don't want to go.

13.3 INFINITIVE + होना / पड़ना 'I AM TO, MUST'

The construction here is similar to that of चाहिए (13.2), but the meaning is 'I have to' rather than 'I should'. होना gives a fairly neutral sense of compulsion; पड़ना suggests a stronger compulsion, exerted by forces beyond one's control.

मुझे हिन्दी बोलनी है । I am to speak Hindi.
 मुझे हिन्दी बोलनी पड़ती है । I have to speak Hindi. ['regularly' — imperfective पड़ती]
 मुझे हिन्दी बोलनी पड़ी । I had to speak Hindi. [an isolated occasion — perfective पड़ा]
 मुझे हिन्दी बोलनी पड़ेगी । I shall have to speak Hindi. [future पड़ेगा]

13.4 जो...वह – 'THE ONE WHO...' (RELATIVE CLAUSES 2)

Expressions like 'the man who', 'the shop which' use the relative pronoun जो; this commonly pairs up with a second clause whose subject is वह or वे. In the oblique, जो becomes जिस (singular), जिन (plural).

जो लोग बाहर खड़े हैं, वे अंदर आ सकते हैं । The people who are standing outside can come in.
 जिन लोगों को काम है, वे जा सकते हैं । The people who have work can go.
 जो लोग कल आए थे, उन्हें पैसा चाहिए । The people who came yesterday need money.

13.5 मिलना 'TO BE AVAILABLE' ('TO GET')

The sense 'to be available' is conveyed by the verb मिलना. It also gives the sense 'to get' — with 'the thing received' as subject of the verb.

राम को तुम्हारी चिट्ठी मिली । Ram received your letter. [चिट्ठी subject]
 यहाँ अख़बार मिलते हैं । Newspapers are available here. [अख़बार subject]
 हमें एक सस्ता कमरा मिला । We got a cheap room. [कमरा subject]
 यहाँ तुमको कुछ नहीं मिलेगा । You won't get anything here. [कुछ नहीं subject]

13.6 लगना 'HOW DOES IT STRIKE YOU?' ('DO YOU LIKE?')

The verb लगना 'to strike, to adhere' often conveys sensations, experiences etc.; the experiencer takes को.

'to strike, effect'	हमको भूख (प्यास, ठंड) लगी ।	We felt hungry (thirsty, cold).
'to appeal'	दिल्ली आपको कैसी लगती है ?	How do you like Delhi?
'to take time'	यहाँ आने में राम को दो घंटे लगे ।	It took Ram two hours to get here.
'to appear, seem'	वह थोड़ा नाराज़ लगता है ।	He appears a bit angry.
'to appear, seem'	(मुझे) लगता है कि ...	It seems (to me) that...

14.1 THE PASSIVE — बोला जाना 'TO BE SPOKEN'

The passive ('to be spoken, to be done' as opposed to the active 'to speak, to do') consists of the perfective participle + जाना, e.g. बोला जाना 'to be spoken', किया जाना 'to be done'.

खत लिखा गया ।	The letter was written.
यह घर पिछले साल बनाया गया था ।	This house was built last year.
दोनों कमीज़ें धोई जाएँगी ।	Both shirts will be washed.

Adding को after the subject makes the verb revert to masc. singular.

दोनों कमीज़ों को धोया जाएगा ।	Both shirts will be washed.
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14.2 TRANSITIVITY AND THE PASSIVE

If you take a transitive verb (e.g. बनाना 'to make') and make it passive (बनाया जाना 'to be made'), you have the equivalent of an intransitive active verb (बनना). There may however be a slight difference in the inference of the two.

14.3 पानी पड़ने लगा 'IT BEGAN RAINING' — TO BEGIN TO

A sense of something 'beginning' spontaneously is expressed with the oblique infinitive (e.g. पड़ने rather than the direct पड़ना) + लगना.

पानी पड़ने लगा ।	It began to rain.	वह हँसने लगी ।	She started laughing.
हम सोचने लगे ।	We began to think.	वह गाना गाने लगा ।	He began singing a song.

14.4 मुझे जाने दो ! 'LET ME GO!' — 'TO ALLOW'

The sense 'to allow to, to let' is expressed with the oblique infinitive (e.g. जाने rather than the direct जाना) + देना. The 'person allowed' takes को.

उसको जाने दो । Let him go. हमने उसे जाने दिया । We let him go.
बच्चे को खेलने दो । Let the child play. वे मुझको बोलने नहीं देंगे । They won't let me speak.

14.5 जितना...उतना 'AS MUCH AS' (RELATIVE CLAUSES 3)

जितना खाना तुम चाहते हो, उतना खाओ । Eat as much food as you want.
खिड़की जितनी बड़ी होनी चाहिए, उतनी बड़ी नहीं है । The window is not as big as it should be.

14.6 जैसा...वैसा 'AS...SO' (RELATIVE CLAUSES 4)

जैसा खाना यहाँ मिलता है वैसा कहाँ मिलेगा ? Where can you get food like you can get here?
जैसी चिट्ठी तुमने लिखी है वैसी ही मैं भी लिखूँगा । I'll write a letter just like the one you wrote..

14.7 जहाँ...वहाँ 'WHERE...THERE' (RELATIVE CLAUSES 4)

Following the two-clause construction जो...वह etc., relative expressions of place use the adverbs जहाँ...वहाँ.