

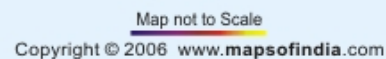
Why Study Hindi?

A Broad Overview

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हिन्द महासागर

Languages and Minority Religions

LANGUAGE

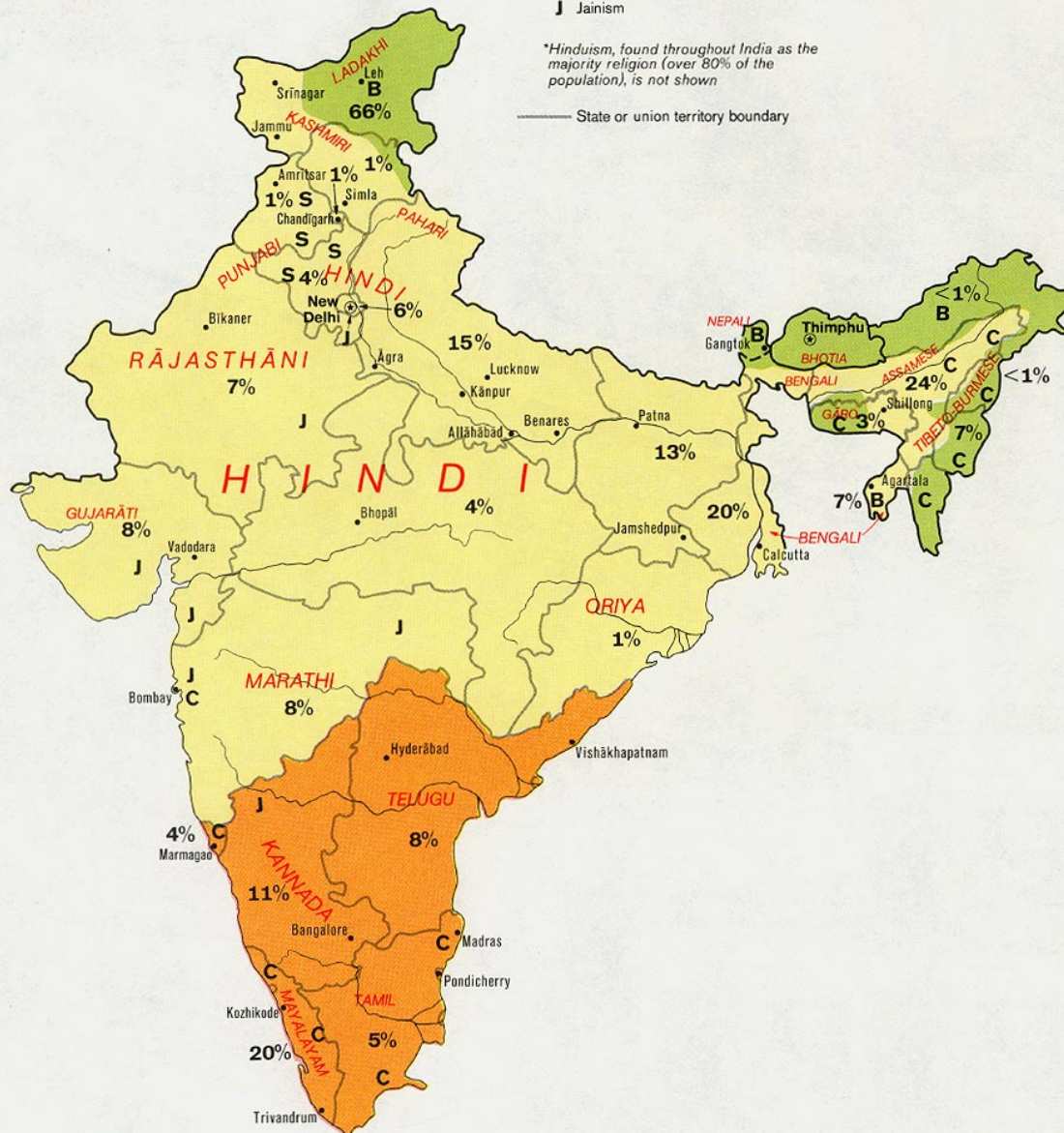
- Indo-Aryan
- Dravidian
- Tibeto-Burman
- GĀRO Language or dialect

MINORITY RELIGION*

- 4%** Estimated percent of state or union territory population professing Islam
- C** Christianity
- B** Buddhism
- S** Sikhism
- J** Jainism

*Hinduism, found throughout India as the majority religion (over 80% of the population), is not shown

— State or union territory boundary



Hindi in Other Countries

- Besides Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh on the previous map, other countries have large populations speaking Hindi, such as:
- Fiji
- Surinam
- Venezuela
- Mauritius
- England

Ancient Roots

- Hindi belongs to the Indo-European group of languages
- It draws its alphabet from ancient Sanskrit language – Devanagari lipi
- As the language of an ancient civilization, it is intrinsic for understanding Hinduism, yoga, and the broader culture of South Asia
- Knowing Hindi can help understand Bengali, Panjabi, Gujarai, Marathi Urdu and of course, Sanskrit

Cultural and Political Reasons

- India is one of the largest democracies in the world
- With the 2nd largest number of newspaper and magazine subscribers
- It has contributed widely to world cuisine, language as well as politics
- Indian films are now watched the world over
- Businesses are tripping over each other to invest in India

Language – Hindi or Urdu

- Often, one isn't sure whether what one is speaking is Hindi or Urdu. At the most colloquial level, it is an artificial question. General masses of Hindi speakers do not make this distinction.
- The script for Hindi and Urdu, however, are totally different. Hindi uses Devanagari script which it has inherited from Sanskrit. Urdu uses Nastaliq.

Language – Hindi or Urdu

- As language becomes more specialized and formal, the register changes, and then the difference between Hindi and Urdu become stark.
- Hindi uses a lot of Sanskrit words at higher registers, and Urdu uses Perso-Arabic words.

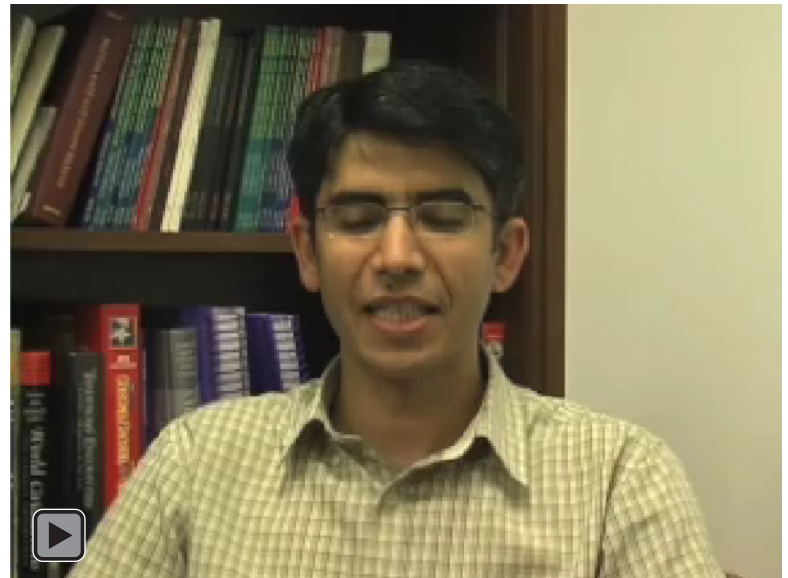
Devnagari Alphabet

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Introduction: Namaste!

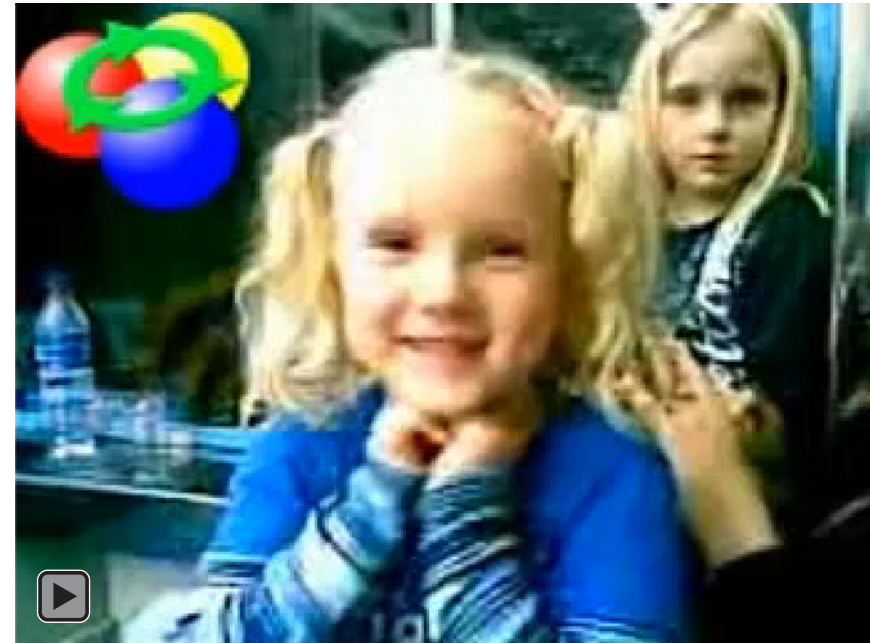


Introduction: meraa naam xyz hai.



Introduction: aap kaise hain?

- There are three “You”s in Hindi, depending upon the degree of respect or honor exercised in addressing someone:
- Aap – most respectful
- Tum – familiar
- Tuu – intimate, or sometimes, rude



Excuse me, forgive me: maaf kiijiye

- When you have to get someone's attention, or push through the line, an expression such as:
- “maaf kiiyega ...” works well.
- For expressions such as “please listen”:
- “zaraa suniye” works fine.

Terms of respect

- Khanna ji – Mr. Khanna
- Ali Saahab – Mr. Ali
- Shrimatii Mathur – Mrs. Mathur
- Fatima Saahibaa – Mz. Or Mrs. Fatima
- Bhai Saahab – an attention getting term, which literally mean “respected brother”
- Bahan/bahin ji – lit. “respected sister”

Rituals of interaction

- Namaste – hello
- Aaiye – come in
- baiThiye – have a seat
- Aap kaise hain? – how are you?
- Thiik huun – I'm fine
- Aur aap – And you?
- Thiik huun – I'm fine
- Shukriyaa – Thank you
- Kal milenge – We'll meet/get together tomorrow
- Namaste -- goodbye

Question words

- Kab – when
- Kahaan – where
- Kyaa – what eg. “aapkaa naam kyaa hai” – what is your name? In the beginning of the sentence, “kyaa” is more of a yes or no question, viz. “kyaa yah acchaa hai?” – is it good?
- Kaun – who
- Kaise – how
- Kyon – why

Question words

- Kidhar – where, as a direction marker.
Example: “bathroom kidhar hai?” – where is the bathroom/restroom?
- Kaisaa – what kind of, how is it
- If before a noun, it means what kind of.
Example: “yah kaisaa phal hai?” what kind of fruit is this?
- If before a verb, it implies: how is this?
Example – “yah phal kaisaa hai?”

Question words

- Kitnaa, kitne, kitnii – how much, how many
- “iskaa kitnaa/kyaa daam hai” – (how much) what is it's price?
- “kitnaa huuaa?” – how much is it?

Don't do it

- “mat karo”, “mat kiijiye” – don't do it, either neutral (familiar) or with respect.
- “na kiijiye” – same as above, but less forceful.
- “nahiin” – no, or don't, depending upon context.