

## बदलना — to change

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बदलना means *to change* — which is perhaps nothing to get very excited about. But this everyday verb has two points of interest that make it stand out from the herd.

Firstly, बदलना, which derives from Arabic *badal*, is one of a surprisingly small group of Hindi verbs in which a non-Sanskritic loanword becomes a Hindi verb stem. Others include खरीदना (Persian *kharīd*) and Rajiv Gandhi's spontaneous coining लूजना (English 'to lose'). Hindi does not usually follow this pattern of using a loanword as a verb stem, preferring to embed the loan in a phrase verb using करना or होना, such as बंद करना or बंद होना — there is no \*बंदना. (बंद is from Persian.)

Secondly, बदलना carries both **intransitive** meaning (भाषा बदलती है *Language changes*) and **transitive** meaning (हम अपनी मातृभाषा नहीं बदल सकते *We cannot change our mother-tongue*). Such duality of verbal function is common enough in English, where the verb *to cook* can have either the food or the chef as subject, but is much less common in Hindi, which favours separate verbs of related stem such as पकना/पकाना *to cook*, सूखना/सुखाना *to dry*, टूटना/तोड़ना *to break*. The two-facedness of a verb such as बदलना cannot be tolerated for long, and Hindi is quick to distinguish the two different functions through the use of compounds: बदल जाना **intransitive**, बदल देना **transitive**!

As usual, we turn to OHED for an overview of meanings, starting at the root with the noun बदल and then following through with the verb and other derivatives.

बदल *badal* [A. *badal*], m. 1. change; exchange, substitution. 2. return, retaliation. 3. reg. = बदला, 5. — करना, to exchange (with, or for, के साथ, or से); to substitute (for, से). - ज़िला-बदल, m. change of district, or residence.

बदलना *badalnā* [cf. H. *badal*], v.i. & v.t. 1. v.i. to change, to be changed; to vary; to be transformed. 2. to be exchanged (for sthg. else). 3. to be removed; to be transferred; to be transplanted. 4. to change for the worse; to look older; to fade. 5. v.t. to change (sthg.), to alter; to transform; to disguise. 6. to exchange (for, से); to barter. 7. to remove; to transfer; to transplant. 8. to misrepresent (a meaning, an intention). 9. to shift (one's ground). बात, to prevaricate.

बदलवाई *badalvāi* [cf. H. *badalvānā*], f. = बदलाई.

बदलवाना *badalvānā* [cf. H. *badalnā*], v.t. to cause to be changed, &c. (by, से); to change.

बदला *badlā* [cf. A. *badal*], m. 1. exchange. 2. a substitute. 3. recompense; compensation; restitution. 4. return, retaliation; revenge; reprisal. 5. ppn. (w. के). in exchange or return (for). — करना (का), to exchange (for, से) चुकाना, to exact a return (= लेना). देना (को), to give in return; to make recompense, &c.; to give back what one gets, to retaliate. लेना, to take revenge (for, का, on, से); to get one's own back, to retaliate. बदले में, adv. in exchange, &c.

बदलाई *badlāi* [cf. H. *badlānā*], v.t. 1. exchange; barter. 2. sthg. given in exchange; a replacement. 3. price of exchange.

बदलाना *badlānā* [cf. H. *badalnā*], v.t. = बदलवाना.

बदलाव badlāv [cf. H. *badalna*], v.t. exchange; replacement.

बदलाहट badlāhaṭ [cf. H. *badalnā*], f. change; a change.

<sup>1</sup> बदली badlī [cf. H. *badlā*], f. 1. change; exchange; substitution. 2. sthg. or someone exchanged; substitute; relief (of a watch). 3. transfer. — करना (की), to change; to exchange; to relieve; to transfer. में, adv. in exchange.

This last headword, <sup>1</sup>बदली, is to be distinguished from a Sanskritic homonym:

<sup>2</sup>बदली badlī [*vārdalikā*-], f. 1. cloudiness. 2. a small cloud.

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All these words are common in everyday use and in journalism, whose brief is, after all, to document change. Here are some internet headlines; the first four use the verb बदलना on its own, the remainder (after the chameleon) use it compounded with जाना, देना, or लेना.

बदलता भारत  
Changing India

बदल रहा है थार का मिजाज  
The mood of the Thar desert [in Rajasthan] is changing

कठिन नहीं हैं भाग्य बदलना  
It is not hard to change [one's] destiny

चर्च को बदलना होगा रवैया: पोप फ्रांसिस  
The church will have to change its ways: Pope Francis



गिरगिट की तरह रंग बदलने वाला कभी सुख नहीं पाता  
A person who changes (colour) like a chameleon can never find happiness

अमेरिका ने बनाई दिशा बदल लेने वाली गोली  
America has made a direction-changing bullet

क्या पाकिस्तान हमेशा के लिए बदल जाएगा ?  
Will Pakistan change for ever?

थ्री जी से बदल जाएगी मोबाइल फोन की दुनिया  
The world of the mobile phone will change with 3G

दस साल में काफी बदल गया टीवी  
TV has changed a lot in ten years.

क्या आपने अपना नाम बदल दिया है ? [context: passport renewal]  
Have you changed your name?

गजब! 30 दिन में अखिलेश ने बदल दिए 130 अफसर!

Too much! In 30 days Akhilesh [Yadav, Chief Minister of UP] has substituted 130 officials!

अगर आप का भी यही पासवर्ड है [123456] तो बदल दीजिए अभी

If you have this same password [123456], change it immediately

A derivative of बदलना lacking from OHED's entries above is the derogatory term दलबदलू *turncoat*, all too useful in the context of rivalry between political parties (दल). It features the suffix *-ū*, which often carries a teasing denigration — as in nicknames such as मोट्टू *Fatso*, लंबू *Lanky*, छोट्टू *Titch*. Some turncoat headlines:

नेताओं का दलबदलू खेल, आज यहां – कल वहां !

The turncoat game of politicians: here today, there tomorrow!

दलबदलू नेता पर हम क्यों करें विश्वास

Why should [we] trust a turncoat politician

दलबदलू विधायकों की सदस्यता रद्द

Membership of turncoat legislators cancelled

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Although बदलना covers a wide range of contexts, it does not fully satisfy the human need to contemplate 'change' in all its manifestations. Using OHED as a reverse dictionary (by typing 'change' as the search item) leads us on an astonishing tour of the many different words and expressions offered by Hindi for the phenomenon of change. We will look at just a few examples:

In formal contexts, the tatsama word परिवर्तन takes over. Its परि- prefix means 'around' and is cognate with Latinate English *peri-* (as in *periphery*, *peripatetic* etc.) while वर्तन means 'turning'.

धर्म परिवर्तन : क्या किसी ने जानी महिलाओं की इच्छा ?

Religious conversion: did anyone ascertain what women want?

जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण हिमालय में ग्लेशियर पिघल रहे हैं, इस बात का कोई पुख्ता साक्ष्य नहीं है

There is no firm evidence that the Himalayan glaciers are melting because of climate change

कैदियों के हृदय परिवर्तन के लिए गो माता का सहारा

Mother Cow's assistance in prisoners' change of heart

The Sanskrit compound हृदय परिवर्तन is fairly obviously calqued on the English *change of heart* (a 'heart transplant' is not intended!); and another calque from English may be involved in the vernacular Hindi expression मन बदलना *to change one's mind*.

The Arabic loanword तबदील and its Persian derivative तबदीली often refer to some kind of transformation or change in form; and the related word तबादला is a *transfer*.

बाढ़ के कारण जहन्नुम में तबदील हुई जन्नत  
Because of flooding, heaven turned into hell [in Jammu & Kashmir]

खंडहर में तबदील हो रही हैवलक रोड कॉलोनी  
Havelock Road Colony [in Lucknow] is being turned into a ruin

मौसम की तबदीली से प्रदेश में फिर से सर्दी का मौसम  
A change in the weather [brings] a cold spell back to the state [of Himachal]

4 पुलिस निरीक्षक, 20 उपनिरीक्षक के तबादले  
Transfers of 4 police inspectors and 20 deputy inspectors

The Sanskrit loanword विकार (and its participial adjective विकृत) bears a specific sense of *change for the worse*, or deviance from an established norm. Here are the OHED entries:

विकार vi-kār [S.], m. 1. change. \*2. specif. change for the worse, deterioration (esp. of health).  
3. damage, harm (as to health). 4. disorder, sickness; an abnormality. 5. Av. agitation of mind.  
6. an altered form; gram. a declined or conjugated form. — विकारमय, adj. harmful, destructive.

विकृत vi-kṛt [S.], adj. 1. changed. \*2. specif. changed for the worse: damaged, impaired (as health).  
3. mutilated, maimed. 4. deformed. 5. disordered (health, or mind). 6. imperfect, incomplete.  
7. gram. oblique (case).

And finally some internet headlines:

ठीक हो सकते हैं मानसिक विकार  
Mental disorders can be remedied

विकृत मानसिकता का देन है आतंकवाद  
Terrorism is the consequence of a warped mentality.