

THE HINDI-URDU VERB

A guided tour — Hindi and Urdu edition

This guide steers you through the main verb tenses and constructions of Hindi-Urdu. The aim is to focus on the verbs *separately* from the other language elements that are covered in course-books and grammars. This edition adds an Urdu transcription in the fine calligraphy of Azeem Haider of Lucknow. The grammatical explanations use roman script, so as to be readable by all. Technical terminology is fully explained, or avoided whenever possible.

A broader treatment of Hindi grammar and style will be found in the Introduction to my forthcoming *Reader in Hindi Autobiographical Writing*; I can supply a draft if you're interested.

English translations of the example sentences in this guide are not always literal, as there are major differences between English and Hindi-Urdu idiom, and the rhetoric of one language does not always translate straightforwardly into another.

Course-books (such as mine!) often forget to mention that Hindi-Urdu is a 'pro-drop' language — one that often drops pronouns when meaning is clear without them; bear this in mind when reading the examples. Person-specific verb forms such as *piyogī* (2nd-person feminine) and *khāūgī* (1st-person feminine) need no pronoun to establish who's who:

लीना, क्या पियोगी ?

Leena, what will you drink?

पियूँगी नहीं, सिर्फ़ खाऊँगी !

I won't drink, I'll just eat!

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Feedback welcome: rupertsnell@austin.utexas.edu

Rupert Snell
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