

LANGUAGE TOOLKIT

HINDI



FREE RESOURCES

Learn the basics of Hindi with these great online resources:

- An **interactive online textbook** introducing basic Hindi.
- This **online course** by Columbia University has video lessons introducing you to everyday vocabulary and sentence structure.
- **Duolingo** is a game-like app that introduces you to what Devanagari letters sound like and basic vocab.

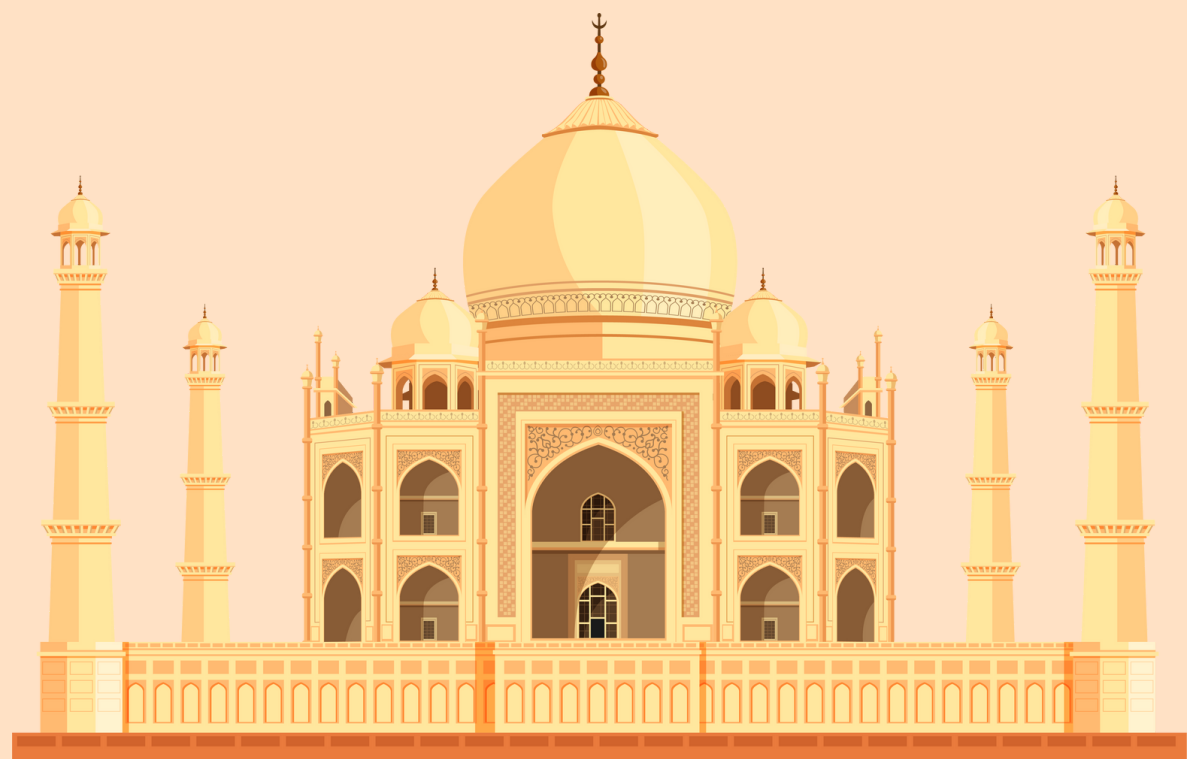


Hindi is one of the world's most spoken languages, with around half a billion native speakers. It is also one of the 22 official languages of India.

DEVANAGARI SCRIPT

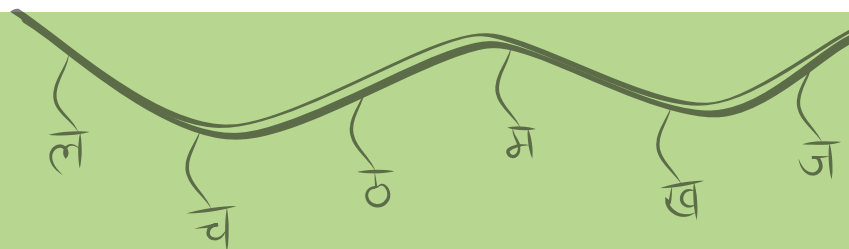
Hindi uses the Devanagari script, not the Latin alphabet like we use in English. It is written left to right like English. The first thing you should do is learn the Devanagari alphabet and its pronunciation.

Learn it with the help of **this video** and these online guides **here** and **here**. **This link** will take you to an online English-Devanagari keyboard.



BUILDING VOCABULARY

- This **website** has 125 great lessons focusing on for building up vocabulary and developing pronunciation skills.
- **LanguageGuide.org** has a handy vocabulary guide.
- Read simple Hindi stories accompanied with English translation such as those on the free, online **Pratham Books Storyweavers**.
- Make flashcards on Anki or Quizlet to test your vocabulary and Devanagari recognition.
- Use online dictionaries like **Collins Hindi-English** and **HinkHoj** to look up words you don't know as you come across them.





YOUTUBE RESOURCES

These channels are all geared towards beginner learners, so they are a great place to start.

- **Watch and Learn Hindi** - check out the 12-part series on the 1000 Hindi words necessary for daily life
- **Hindi University** - good for grammar lessons
- **Hindi TV** - check out the Learn Hindi Through English series and their videos on commonly used verbs and nouns
- **Anil Mahato**
- **ZEdX Hindi**
- **HindiPod101**



TOP TIP

Start small with learning how to recognise and sound out the Devanagari alphabet first, and then learn words and sentence formation. Only after this should you move on to higher-level resources like watching films or listening to podcasts.

By learning these smaller technical skills first, you will be able to use the grammar topics and vocabulary that you have already learned to help you put meaning into the more complex topics and sentences you will encounter.



SPEAKING SKILLS

The best way to learn a language is to practice speaking it with native speakers. Once you've developed vocabulary and an understanding of sentence structure, it is time to work on your speaking and active comprehension skills with these resources:

- **Aloha Sydney Language Exchange** - a tri-weekly language exchange that takes place at various bars in Sydney. It's a great opportunity to practice your speaking skills with native speakers and other learners (IG: @alohasydney).
- Apps - Get a language partner on **Tandem** (free) or a tutor on **iTalki** (paid).

FILMS

These movies have a neutral Hindi accent (meaning they are not affected much by dialects). These movies also have easy to understand stories which is helpful in connecting the dots between the sentences and dialogue.

- **Taare Zameen Par** (like stars on earth) - emotional drama
- **Zindagi Na milegi Dobara** - adventure, comedy
- **Queen** - comedy
- **Andhadhun** - thriller, mystery

PODCASTS

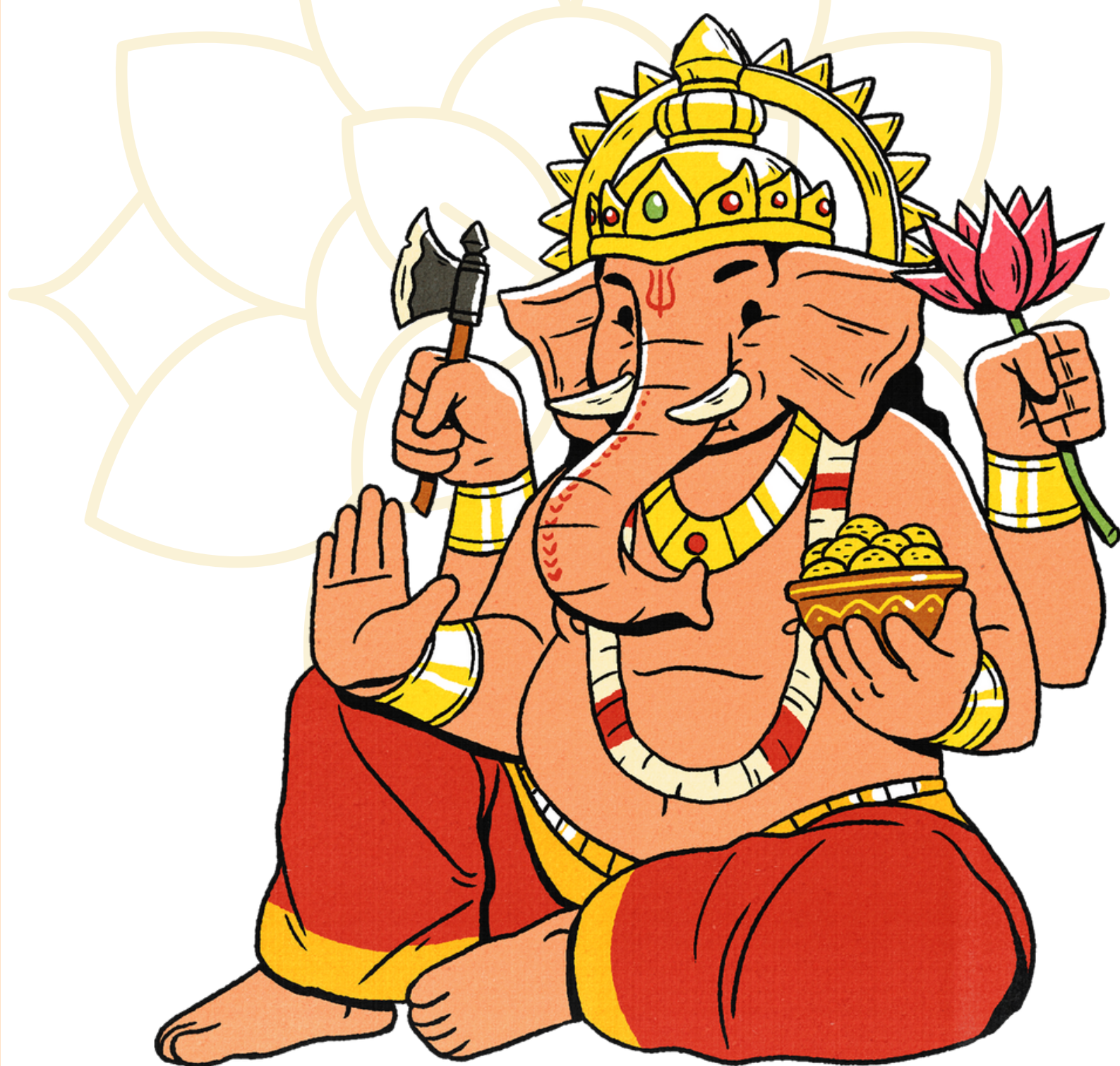
- **Learn Hindi (English-Hindi Beginners Course)** - Global Publishers Canada Inc (Spotify) - focuses on vocabulary of everyday subjects such as weather, transport, colour, etc
- **Learn Hindi - Languagereef** (Apple Podcasts) - focuses on teaching the alphabet

For more advanced learners:

- **Akbar Birbal Stories** - Hindi Moral Tales (Apple Podcasts)
- **SBS Hindi** radio broadcasts

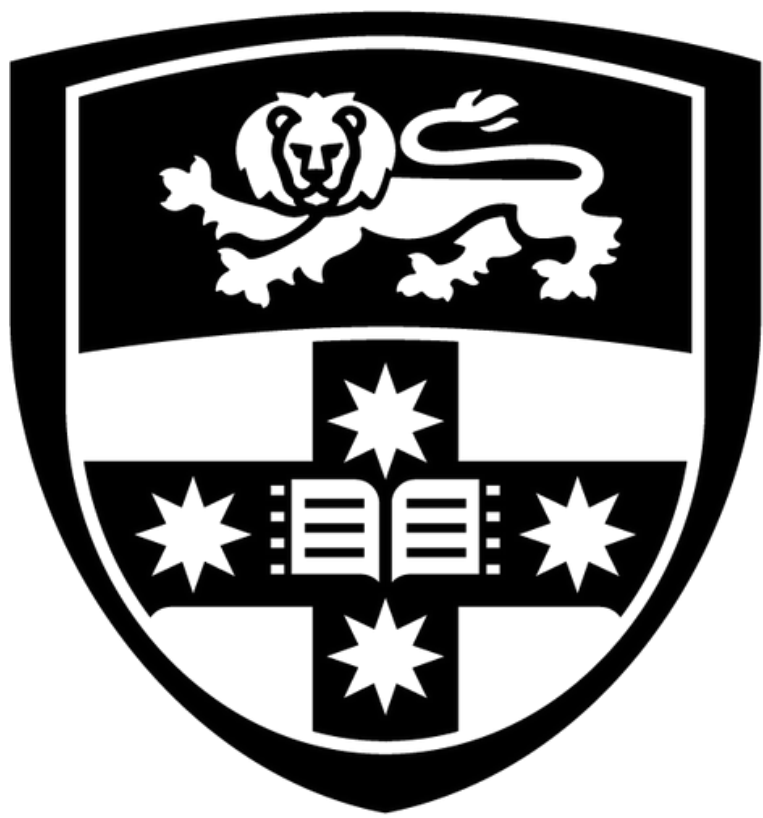
Some film tips

- Watching Hindi films and tv shows is a great way to gain familiarity with how the language sounds. Understanding what is being said is more of an intermediate level skill, but watching as a beginner with subtitles is also helpful.
- Use the free Chrome extension **Dual Subtitles for Netflix** to watch Hindi-language films and TV shows on Netflix with both English and Hindi subtitles.



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