



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program Language Group Specific Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

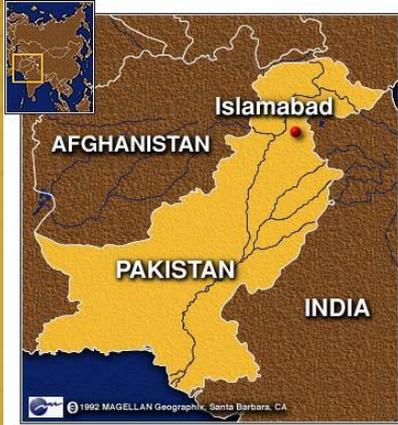
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Urdu

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What is Urdu?



<http://www.anunews.net/blog/?cat=39>

<http://www.hindujagruti.org/activities/campaigns/national/india-map-controversy/>

- ✦ Urdu is an Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly in India and Pakistan.
[Listen to Urdu phrases](#)
- ✦ It is the national language of Pakistan and one of 23 official languages of India. It is also spoken in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, India, Malawi, Mauritius, Nepal, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, the UAE, the UK and Zambia.
- ✦ Urdu has four recognized dialects, Dakhini, Pinjari, Rekhta, and Modern Vernacular Urdu.
- ✦ Urdu is often contrasted with Hindi. The main differences between the two are their writing and vocabulary. Standard Urdu draws vocabulary more heavily from Persian and Arabic while Standard Hindi draws vocabulary from Sanskrit.



History of Urdu

- ✦ The word “Urdu” is a Turkish word and it means “army or legion.”
- ✦ The old Urdu was the language of the most powerful warrior tribes of Central Asia who would invade, conquer, and occupy areas within easy reach from 1000 CE to 1700 CE. Wherever these tribes went, they took their language which then absorbed local words and proverbs.
- ✦ Modern Urdu has taken almost 900 years to develop to its present form.

Urdu Writing

Urdu is written from right to left just like Arabic and Persian.

Urdu has 35 basic letters and a number of supplementary signs. Most of these letters are from Arabic and a small quantity from Persian.

Vowels in Urdu are represented by letters that are also considered consonants.

ذ	ڈ	د	خ	ح	چ	ج	ث	ٹ	ت	پ	ب	ا			
ذال	ڈال	دال	خے	حے	چے	جیم	ٹے	ٹے	تے	پے	بے	الف			
zāl	ḍāl	dāl	khe	ḥe	che	jīm	se	ṭe	te	pe	be	alif			
z	ḍ	d	kh	h	c	j	s	ṭ	t	p	b	-			
[z]	[ḍ]	[d]	[χ]	[h]	[tʃ]	[dʒ]	[s]	[t]	[t]	[p]	[b]	[a/e]			
ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش	س	ث	ز	ر				
فے	غین	عین	ظاے	طاے	ضاد	صاد	شین	سین	ثے	زے	رے				
fe	ğain	ʿain	zoe	toe	zvād	svād	šīn	sīn	že	ze	re	re			
f	ğ	ʿ	z	t	z	s	š	s	ž	z	r	r			
[f]	[χ]	C_[a]; [Ø/ʔ/a]	[z]	[t]	[z]	[s]	[ʃ]	[s]	[ʒ]	[z]	[r]	[r]			
ی	ء	ھ	ہ	و	ں	ن	م	ل	گ	ک	ق				
چھوٹی یے	حمزہ	دو چشمی ہے	چھوٹی ہے	واڈ	نون نون	نون	میم	لام	گاف	کاف	قاف				
choṭī ye	hamzah	lo chashmī he	choṭī he	vāḍ	nūn-e ğunnah	nūn	mīm	lām	gāf	kāf	qāf				
y	vowel separator	indicates aspiration	/_#	v	n	n	m	l	g	k	q				
[j/ɪ/e/ɛ]			[h, Ø]	[v/u/ʊ o/ow]	[N]	[n]	[m]	[l]	[g]	[k]	[q]				
												Aspirated letters			
نھ	مھ	لھ	گھ	کھ	رھ	ڑھ	دھ	ڈھ	چھ	جھ	ٹھ	تھ	پھ	بھ	ے
نھے	مھے	لھے	گھے	کھے	رھے	ڑھے	دھے	ڈھے	چھے	جھے	ٹھے	تھے	پھے	بھے	باری یے
nhe	mhe	lhe	ghe	khe	rhe	rhe	dhāl	dhāl	chhe	jhe	ṭhe	the	phe	bhe	bari ye
nh	mh	lh	gh	kh	rhe	rh	dhāl	dh	chh	jh	th	th	ph	bh	

Challenges Urdu Speakers Face When Learning English

SVO vs. SOV Language

✦ English is classified as a Subject-Verb-Object language because subject, verb and object phrases in a sentence are present in this order.

✦ An example of English sentence is:

Subject	Verb	Object
I	write	an essay

✦ In contrast, Urdu is a Subject-Object-Verb language.

✦ An example of Urdu sentence is:

Subject	Object	Verb
Main (I)	aik mazmoon(essay)	likhta hon(write)

Challenges Urdu Speakers Face When Learning English

English uses Definite and Indefinite Articles and is
Prepositional

- ✦ In Urdu there are no definite or indefinite articles.
- ✦ English is prepositional, meaning that we use prepositions for just about everything. Urdu is post-positional, meaning that they put what we call prepositions after the noun, and the verb is put after that.

Example: "My book is on the table" becomes "My book table on is."



Challenges Urdu Speakers Face When Learning English

Nouns and Verbs do not have Gender in English

- ✦ English common nouns and verbs do not have genders associated with them. But in Urdu, every noun has a gender associated with it. For example, book is used as feminine and pen is used as masculine and thus changes the form of the adjective.

Hari(Green) Kitab(Book)

Hara(Green) Qalam(Pen)

- ✦ Similarly verbs depend on gender. In some sentences, the form of the verb changes based on the gender of the person performing the action.

woh(he) partha hay(reads)

woh(she) parhti hay(reads)

Challenges Urdu Speakers Face When Learning English

Tenses

- ✦ English and Urdu do not have one to one correspondence in tense types.
- ✦ For example, Urdu has more than one version of past indefinite tense like *absolute past*, *near past*, and *distant past*.

Example: “He bought a book,” could be translated:

us ne kitab kharidi hay

us ne kitab kharidi thi

us ne kitab kharidi

Challenges Urdu Speakers Face When Learning English

Plurals and Punctuation

✦ Unlike English, there are many ways in which plurals can be made in Urdu. The formation of the plural depends on whether the noun is masculine or feminine as well as the letters it ends in.

✦ There is no upper case or lower case in Urdu.

✦ Full stops are not used in Urdu. A dash like the character (¯) is used to end sentences.

Problem English Sounds for Native Urdu Speakers

ā	d	ē	f	n	s	t
a		e	w	ng	sh	th

Communication Style

- ✦ The Communication styles of Urdu speakers differ based on what country the speaker is from.
- ✦ Greetings are often between members of the same sex; however, when dealing with people in the middle class, greetings may be across sex lines. Greetings often involve hand shaking, hugs, and kisses.
- ✦ Urdu speakers often take their time during greetings and ask about the person's health, family, and business success. It is very important in the culture of many Urdu speakers to get to know the person they are speaking to.
- ✦ Urdu speakers often do not require as much personal space as most western cultures.
- ✦ Many Urdu speakers maintain indirect eye contact while speaking and may touch each other on the shoulder only if they have an extremely close relationship.

Reasons for Learning about Urdu

- ✦ Urdu/Hindi is the fifth most spoken language in the world.
- ✦ There are over 350,000 native Urdu speakers in the United States. There are over 4,000 native Urdu/speakers in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.
- ✦ Learning about Urdu will also help you learn about Arabic, Hindi, and Persian since many words and rules are common in all four languages.



http://www.bluechipmag.com/bc/content_detail.php?content=102

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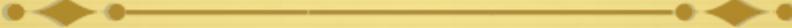
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