

ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION MASTERY



COMPLETE TRAINING GUIDE

Pronunciation Mastery

Speak Clear, Confident English

FOR HINDI SPEAKERS

हिंदी के रास्ते English की महारत



14

CHAPTERS



300+

DRILLS



अ → a

DEVANAGARI SOUND
MAPS

BHARAT BHUSHAN

Speak Clear, Confident English

— for Hindi speakers

Fourteen chapters and an appendix, built on one idea: **Hindi is already a phonetic language, so Devanagari can photograph English sounds better than English spelling can.** 300+ drills, 108 pages of training and a 30-day plan that turns the book into a daily habit.

🔗 Every chapter, the same seven steps

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 ⚡ Quick Look
The idea in three cards, plus the golden rule</p> | <p>2 🎯 When to Use It
Every sound or rule, with Devanagari respellings</p> |
| <p>3 🗣️ Hindi Concept Note
The bridge from Hindi into the English sound</p> | <p>4 ⚠️ Common Mistakes
What Hindi speakers say — and what to say instead</p> |
| <p>5 📄 Signal Words
The operating rules to carry away</p> | <p>6 ✍️ Practice
Three sets of drills per chapter</p> |
| <p>7 ✅ Answer Key
Answers for every drill</p> | |

💡 How to use this book

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Study one chapter at a time, in order later chapters build on earlier ones.</p> | <p>2 Read the Hindi Concept Note even if your English is strong it shows you WHY the mistake happens.</p> |
| <p>3 Do all three exercise sets before looking at the Answer Key. Writing beats reading.</p> | <p>4 Finish with Chapter 14's 30-day plan and self-tests and record yourself on Day 1 so Day 30 has something to beat.</p> |

🔊 How sounds are written here

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>वेज़्डे Devanagari respelling
your map for every tricky word</p> | <p>CHOC-lit CAPITALS = the stress
the one hero syllable per word</p> | <p>थ* star = tongue-out TH
tongue tip between the teeth</p> |
| <p>ə · च्अ the lazy schwa
relaxed mouth, zero effort</p> | <p>↘ ↗ ↘ ↗ the tune
fall · rise · fall-rise</p> | <p> chunk break
a thought group; breathe or pause</p> |

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Disclaimer: This material is intended for educational purposes. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the publisher accepts no liability for errors or omissions.

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PART

1

The Sound System

6 CHAPTERS

3 PRACTICE SETS PER CHAPTER

vowels · the schwa · danger consonants · the ridge · silent letters

IN THIS PART

- | | | |
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| 01 | How English Sounds Work — Your Hindi Advantage | 5 |
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PART 1 — THE SOUND SYSTEM

01

How English Sounds Work — Your Hindi Advantage

ॐ A

🔊 Level: All levels

🕒 Estimated study time: 45 minutes

1 Quick Look



Here is the truth no English teacher told you: English spelling is BROKEN. Hindi is phonetic — जो लिखा, वही बोला. English is not: OUGH is pronounced six different ways (though, through, tough, cough, thought, drought). This chapter resets your operating system: stop reading letters, start hearing sounds — and learn this book's secret weapon, writing English sounds in Devanagari, the world's most precise sound-script.

ab THE BROKEN CODE

26 letters, but ~44 sounds.
 though = दो (सा), through = थू,
 tough = टफ़ — same OUGH, three
 sounds.

अ THE METHOD

Every tricky word in this book
 gets a Devanagari respelling:
 Wednesday → वेन्ड्रे, receipt
 → रिसीट.

🔊 THE VERIFICATION

Never trust a respelling blindly —
 type 'pronounce Wednesday' on
 Google, press the speaker icon,
 copy the mouth.



The golden rule: SPELLING IS NOT SOUND. From today, treat every English word as having two forms — the written costume and the spoken body. Your advantage: Devanagari can photograph the spoken body precisely (कम्फर्टबल for comfortable), something English letters themselves cannot do. Use the respelling to learn, use Google's speaker button to verify, use your own mouth to own it.

ab THE BROKEN CODE: 26 LETTERS, ~44 SOUNDS

26 LETTERS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

↓ but we hear...

~44 SOUNDS



SAME OUGH, DIFFERENT SOUND

though → दो

through → थू

tough → टफ़

+ cough, thought, drought = six ways in all

Spelling is not sound: the same letters OUGH give three different sounds here, and six in all.

2 When to Use It



USE 1

Foundation 1 — The syllable count is smaller than you think

English swallows written syllables. Count the SPOKEN beats, not the letters.

- chocolate = 2 beats: **CHOC**-lit (चॉक्लट) — not cho-co-late
- vegetable = 3 beats: **VEJ**-tuh-bul (वेज्टबल) — not ve-ge-ta-ble
- comfortable = 3 beats: **KUMF**-tuh-bul (कम्फर्टबल)
- interesting = 3 beats: **IN**-tres-ting (इन्ट्रस्टिंग)
- business = 2 beats: **BIZ**-nis (बिज़िनिस)

WRITTEN

3 syllables

c	h	o	c	l	a	t
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

↓ squeeze

SPOKEN

2 beats

CHOC

lit

चॉक्लट

USE 2

Foundation 2 — Voiced vs. voiceless: the throat test

Put your hand on your throat. Vibration = voiced (आवाज़ वाली); no vibration = voiceless. English pairs sounds this way: s/z, f/v, p/b, t/d, k/g — and mixing the partners causes half of all Indian pronunciation errors.

- S (no vibration) vs. Z (vibration): price = प्राइस, but prize = प्राइज़
- F vs. V: fan = फैन (no vibration), van = वैन (vibration)
- Try it now: say ssss... then zzzz... with your hand on your throat — feel the switch.
- This test returns in Chapter 4 (V/W), Chapter 7 (-ed and -s endings) — it is the book's master tool.



HAND ON YOUR THROAT

S

price प्राइस

no buzz

Z

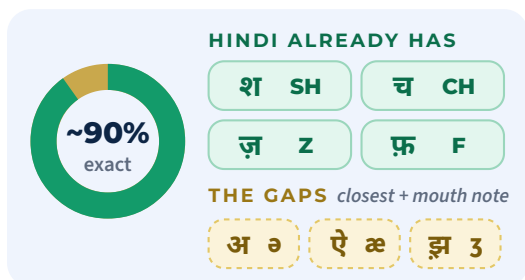
prize प्राइज़

BUZZ

USE 3

Foundation 3 — The Devanagari method, honestly explained

Devanagari can capture ~90% of English sounds exactly. For the remaining few, this book uses closest-match plus a mouth instruction.



- Perfect matches: श for SH, च for CH, ज़ for Z, फ़ for F — Hindi already has them.
- The gaps we'll bridge with mouth notes: the lazy अ of 'about' (Chapter 3), the wide-open ऐ of 'bad' (Chapter 2), the इ of 'measure' (Chapter 6).
- Rule of the book: respelling = your map; the audio on Google/YouGlish = the territory. Always check the territory once.

USE 4

Foundation 4 — The ear-training routine (10 minutes daily)

Pronunciation is a muscle skill built by imitation, not reading. The routine this book assumes:



- Step 1: Google 'pronounce [word]' → play → repeat aloud 3 times, copying rhythm not just sound.
- Step 2: youglish.com → type the word → hear it inside 10 real sentences by real speakers.
- Step 3: Shadowing — play any English clip, speak along HALF A SECOND behind the speaker, like an echo. 5 minutes daily beats 2 hours weekly.
- Step 4: Record yourself on your phone once a week. Your own ear is your cheapest coach.

3 Hindi Concept Note

हंA

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

हिंदी दुनिया की सबसे ईमानदार लिपियों में है — जो लिखा वही बोला। English बेईमान है: लिखा कुछ, बोला कुछ।

इसीलिए यह किताब हर मुश्किल शब्द का देवनागरी उच्चारण देगी: Wednesday → वेन्ड्रेडे (d गायब!), receipt → रिसीट (p गायब!), plumber → प्लमर (b गायब!)।

🔊 COUNT THE BEATS YOU SAY, NOT THE LETTERS YOU SEE

WRITTEN · what you SEE		SPOKEN · what you SAY	BEATS
c h o c / l a t /	3 →	CHOC lit चॉकलट	2
v e g / t a b l /	4 →	VEJ tuh bul वेज्टबल	3
c o m f / t a b l /	4 →	KUMF tuh bul कम्फ्टबल	3
i n t / r e s t i n g	4 →	IN tres ting इन्ट्रस्टिंग	3
b u s / n e s s	3 →	BIZ nis बिज़िनस	2

 = a written letter that never reaches your mouth

Written syllables shrink into spoken beats; the dashed, crossed-out letters never reach your mouth.

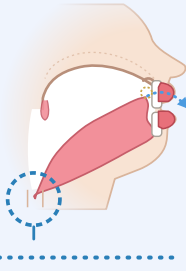
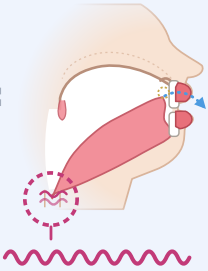
अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

आपका hidden advantage: अंग्रेज़ बच्चे को spelling से आवाज़ का अंदाज़ा लगाना पड़ता है — आपके पास देवनागरी है, जो आवाज़ की photo खींच लेती है।

गले का test आज ही सीख लो: हाथ गले पर रखो — कंपन है तो voiced (ब, द, ग, ज़, व), नहीं है तो voiceless (प, त, क, स, फ़)। यह test पूरी किताब में बार-बार काम आएगा।

और एक वादा खुद से: कोई भी नया शब्द बिना सुने याद नहीं करोगे — Google पर ‘pronounce ...’ लिखो, speaker दबाओ, तीन बार दोहराओ। पढ़ना map है; सुनना ज़मीन।

🔊 THE THROAT TEST: SAME MOUTH, DIFFERENT THROAT

S ssss	Z zzzz		NO BUZZ		BUZZ
		=	S स price	↔	Z ज़ prize
			f फ़ fan	↔	v व van
			p प pig	↔	b ब big
			t त time	↔	d द dime
			k क coat	↔	g ग goat

throat: no buzz throat: BUZZ

Same tongue, same air — only the throat switches on.

Hand on throat: vibration = voiced, no vibration = voiceless. Five partner pairs share one mouth position.

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ Wednesday = वेड-नेस-डे (3 beats, every letter)	✓ वेन्ड्रेडे (2 beats — the first d is silent)	Spelling betrayal #1. English dropped the sound centuries ago; the letter stayed.
✗ vegetable = वेजी-टेबल (4 beats)	✓ वेज्टबल (3 beats: VEJ-tuh-bul)	The middle 'e' collapsed. Count spoken beats, not written vowels.
✗ receipt = रिसीप्ट	✓ रिसीट (the p is silent)	Same family: debt = डेट, doubt = डाउट — the b is decoration.
✗ comfortable = कम-फ़र-टेबल (4 beats)	✓ कम्फ़्टबल (3 beats: KUMF-tuh-bul)	The 'or' vanishes in speech. This is the schwa at work — Chapter 3 explains the machinery.
✗ prize = प्राइस (same as price)	✓ prize = प्राइज़ / price = प्राइस	The throat test: z vibrates, s doesn't. Two different words, and your buyer hears the difference.
✗ business = बिज़ी-नेस (3 beats)	✓ बिज़्निस् (2 beats: BIZ-nis)	The 'u' spelling lies twice here — it sounds like ड़, and the middle syllable is gone.

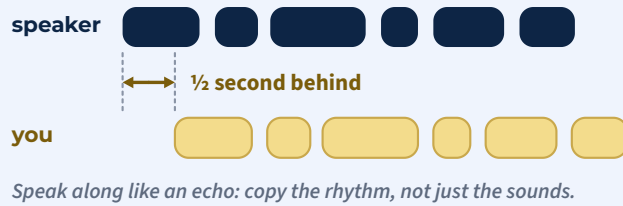
5 Signal Words



Your new operating rules:

- ✓ Never pronounce a new word from its spelling — hear it first (Google speaker / YouGlish)
- ✓ Count spoken beats, not written syllables
- ✓ Hand on throat: vibration = voiced, silence = voiceless
- ✓ Devanagari respelling = map; native audio = territory; your mouth = the vehicle
- ✓ 10 minutes of shadowing daily beats any amount of silent reading

SHADOWING: BE THE ECHO



DAILY BEATS WEEKLY



5 min · every day

2 hours · once a week

Ten minutes of ear training a day beats any amount of silent reading.

6 Practice



SET A How many spoken beats (syllables)?

10 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1 chocolate | 2 interesting |
| 3 comfortable | 4 business |
| 5 camera | 6 family (careful — natives say it both ways; give the fast form) |
| 7 restaurant | 8 different |
| 9 every | 10 temperature |

SET B Silent letter hunt — which letter is NOT pronounced?

8 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 11 Wednesday | 12 receipt |
| 13 plumber | 14 island |
| 15 know | 16 half |
| 17 listen | 18 honest |

SET C Respell in Devanagari (then verify on Google)

7 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 19 doubt | 20 answer |
| 21 often (the common modern form) | 22 castle |
| 23 wrong | 24 climb |
| 25 school | |

7 Answer Key



ANSWERS · SET A

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 (CHOC-lit) | 2 | 3 (IN-tres-ting) |
| 3 | 3 (KUMF-tuh-bul) | 4 | 2 (BIZ-nis) |
| 5 | 2 (KAM-ruh; careful CAM-e-ra with 3 is also heard, but the fast form is 2) | 6 | 2 (FAM-lee) |
| 7 | 2-3 (RES-tront / RES-tuh-ront) | 8 | 2 (DIF-rent) |
| 9 | 2 (EV-ree) | 10 | 3 (TEM-pruh-chur) |

ANSWERS · SET B

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 11 | Wednesday — the first d (वेन्ज़डे) | 12 | receipt — the p (रिसीट) | 13 | plumber — the b (प्लमर) |
| 14 | island — the s (आइलंड) | 15 | know — the k (नो) | 16 | half — the l (हाफ़) |
| 17 | listen — the t (लिसन) | 18 | honest — the h (ऑनिसट) | | |

ANSWERS · SET C

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---------------------------|
| 19 | doubt → डाउट (b silent) | 20 | answer → आन्सर (w silent) |
| 21 | often → ऑफ़न (t commonly silent; ऑफ़्टन also exists) | 22 | castle → कासल (t silent) |
| 23 | wrong → रॉन्ग (w silent) | 24 | climb → क्लाइम (b silent) |
| 25 | school → स्कूल (ch = क) | | |

📌 RULES TO CARRY AWAY

- ✓ Never pronounce a new word from its spelling — hear it first (Google speaker / YouGlish)
- ✓ Count spoken beats, not written syllables
- ✓ Hand on throat: vibration = voiced, silence = voiceless
- ✓ Devanagari respelling = map; native audio = territory; your mouth = the vehicle

NEXT UP

the Vowels — ship vs. sheep, full vs. fool — where Hindi's इ/ई and उ/ऊ become your unfair advantage.



PART 1 — THE SOUND SYSTEM

02

The Vowels — Long vs. Short

Level: All levels

Estimated study time: 50 minutes



1 Quick Look



English has around 12 pure vowel sounds squeezed into 5 letters — chaos. But here Hindi hands you a gift no European learner gets: Hindi ALREADY separates short and long vowels with different letters. इ vs. ई is exactly ship vs. sheep. उ vs. ऊ is exactly full vs. fool. You've been making these distinctions since childhood — this chapter just connects the wires. Plus the one vowel Hindi doesn't have: the wide-open ऐ of BAD.

THE HINDI GIFT

- इ = ship, bit, sit | ई = sheep, beat, seat
- उ = full, put | ऊ = fool, pool

THE ONE GAP

æ (bad, man, cash): mouth opens WIDER than ऐ — jaw drops, like a doctor's 'aaa' but with a smile

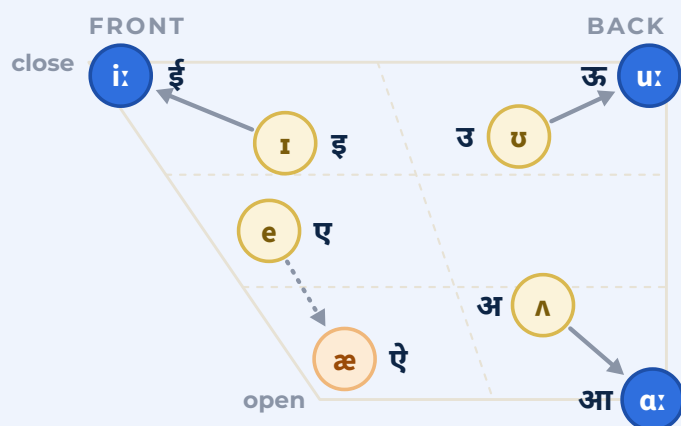
WHY IT MATTERS

live/leave, sit/seat, full/fool, bed/bad — these are different WORDS. Vowel length changes meaning, not just accent.



The golden rule: match the Hindi letter, not the English letter. English 'i' sometimes means इ (bit) and sometimes आइ (bite); English 'ea' is usually ई (seat) but sometimes ऐ (bread). Ignore the alphabet — ask 'which Hindi vowel is this?' and say that. Where the English vowel is LONG, hold it visibly longer: सीट, not सिट.

ONE CHART, FOUR HINDI GIFTS



SHORT · crisp

इ /ɪ/

sit · ship

उ /ʊ/

full · put

ए /e/

bed · pen

अ /ʌ/

cut · come

LONG · hold it

ई /i:/

seat · sheep

ऊ /u:/

fool · pool

ऐ /æ/ WIDE

bad · pan

आ /ɑ:/

cart · calm

Short vowels (gold) and their long partners (blue): Hindi already writes both. The wide æ is the one gap.

2 When to Use It

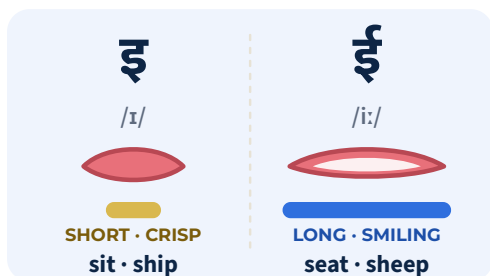


USE 1

Pair 1 — इ vs. ई (/ɪ/ vs. /i:/): the ship/sheep pair

Short and crisp vs. long and smiling. Indians usually say everything as ई — pull the short ones back to इ.

- इ (short): sit, bit, fill, slip, live, ship, chip, hit — सिट, बिट, फ़िल
- ई (long): seat, beat, feel, sleep, leave, sheep, cheap, heat — सीट, बीट, फ़ील
- Money pairs: live here (लिव) vs. leave here (लीव) — 'I'm living' vs. 'I'm leaving' can reverse a conversation.
- fill the form (फ़िल) vs. feel the form (फ़ील)

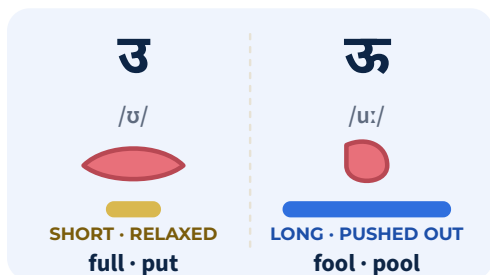


USE 2

Pair 2 — उ vs. ऊ (/ʊ/ vs. /u:/): the full/fool pair

Short उ with relaxed lips vs. long ऊ with pushed-out lips.

- उ (short): full, pull, put, look, book, good, foot — फुल, पुल, पुट
- ऊ (long): fool, pool, food, mood, soon, school, root — फूल, पूल, फूड
- full paid (फुल) vs. fool paid (फूल) — say it wrong in a meeting and enjoy the silence.
- Spelling betrayal: OO is usually ऊ (food) but उ in good, book, look, foot, took.

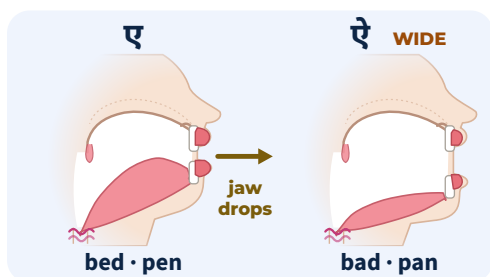


USE 3

Pair 3 — ए vs. ऐ-wide (/e/ vs. /æ/): the bed/bad pair

The gap in Hindi. E (bed) = normal ए. A (bad) = jaw DROPS, mouth opens wide — wider than Hindi ऐ.

- ए (bed-type): bed, pen, men, said, letter, sell — बेड, पेन, मेन
- æ (bad-type): bad, pan, man, sad, latter, cat, cash, flat — mouth wide open
- Money pairs: sell the flat / sad man bought it; men (मेन) vs. man (मैन-wide); letter vs. latter
- Drill: say ए... now drop your jaw a finger-width and say it again — that's æ. बेड → b-AA-d.

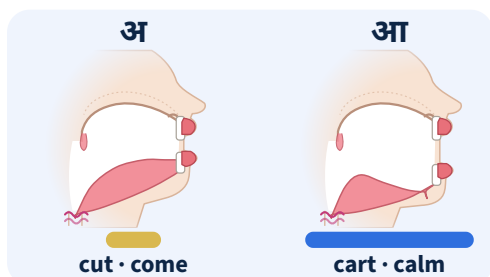


USE 4

Pair 4 — अ vs. आ (/ʌ/ vs. /ɑ:/): the cut/cart pair

Hindi has both — just map them correctly.

- अ (short): cut, but, luck, come, done, son, money — कट, बट, लक
- आ (long): cart, card, calm, far, large, park — कार्ट, कार्ड
- Spelling betrayal: U often = अ (bus = बस), and O often = अ too: come = कम, son = सन, month = मन्थ, Monday = मन्डे.
- come (कम) ≠ calm (काम) — one vowel, one angry client avoided.



3 The Minimal-Pair Money Table



SHORT	↔	LONG	SHORT	↔	LONG
sit सिट		seat सीट	full फुल		fool फूल
bit बिट		beat बीट	pull पुल		pool पूल
fill फ़िल		feel फ़ील	look लुक		Luke लूक
slip स्लिप		sleep स्लीप	cut कट		cart कार्ट
live लिव		leave लीव	come कम		calm काम
chip चिप		cheap चीप	hut हट		heart हार्ट
hit हिट		heat हीट	bed बेड		bad बैड (wide)
ship शिप		sheep शीप	men मेन		man मैन (wide)
rich रिच		reach रीच	letter लेटर		latter लैटर (wide)
it इट		eat ईट	sell सेल		shall शैल (wide)

Daily drill: read one column pair aloud — short-long, short-long — exaggerating the length difference. Two minutes, twenty pairs, every morning for a week.

SHORT IS SHORT, LONG IS LONG



The same three Hindi pairs drawn as time: hold the long vowel visibly longer.

4 Hindi Concept Note



अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

यहाँ आपके पास वह हथियार है जो किसी अंग्रेज़ या फ्रेंच learner के पास नहीं: हिंदी में short और long vowels के अलग अक्षर पहले से हैं।

इ = ship, sit, bit। ई = sheep, seat, beat। उ = full, put। ऊ = fool, pool। — यह फ़र्क आप बचपन से करते आए हैं (दिन/दीन, सुत/सूत)!

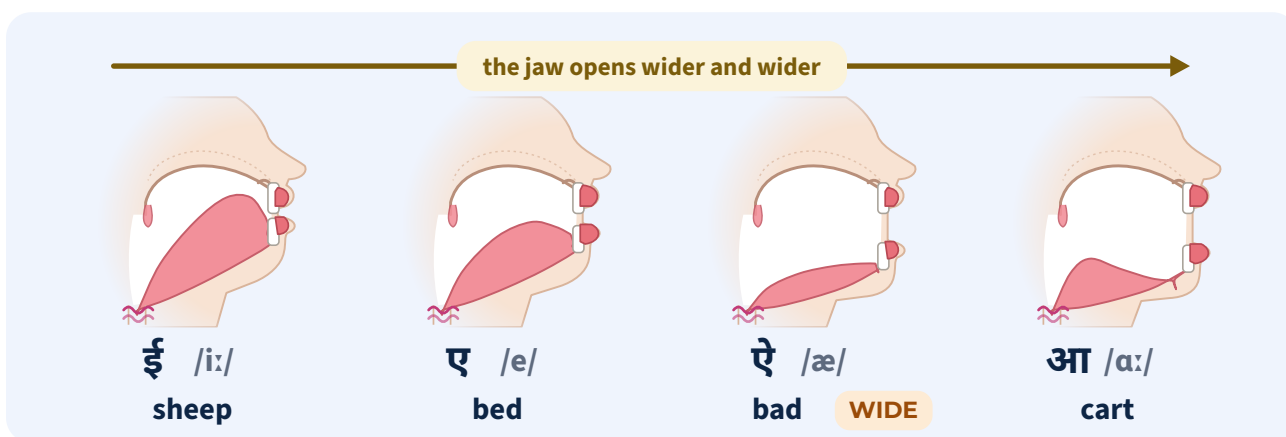
अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

समस्या सिर्फ mapping की है: English spelling धोखा देती है — 'i' कभी इ है (bit), कभी आइ (bite); 'oo' कभी ऊ (food), कभी उ (good)।

एक ही असली gap है: BAD वाला 'ऐ'। यह हिंदी के ऐ से ज़्यादा खुला है — जबड़ा गिराओ, मुँह चौड़ा करो: bed (बेड) बनाम bad (जबड़ा गिराकर बैड)। Practice: ए बोलो... अब जबड़ा एक उँगली नीचे... वही आवाज़ æ है।

याद रखो: यह accent की बात नहीं, MEANING की है — live/leave, full/fool, sit/seat अलग-अलग शब्द हैं। ग़लत लंबाई = ग़लत शब्द।

THE JAW LADDER: THE MOUTH OPENS WIDER



Say e (bed), then drop your jaw a finger-width: that is æ, as in b-AA-d.

5 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ 'I am living the office now.' (जाते समय)	✓ 'I am leaving the office now.' — लीविंग, long ई	Live लिव = रहना; leave लीव = निकलना. The most expensive vowel error in office English.
✗ 'Please fill the tank' said as फ़ील	✓ fill = फ़िल (short); feel = फ़ील (long)	Feel the tank is an emotional relationship with a tank.
✗ good, book, look said as गूड, बूक, लूक	✓ गुड, बुक, लुक — short उ	OO is not always ऊ. The good-book-look-foot-took family is short.
✗ 'Sheep number 402 is ready sir.' (ship बोलना था)	✓ ship = शिप (short); sheep = शीप (long)	One is a flat's ship... shipment; the other is भेड़.
✗ man, bad, cash said exactly like मेन, बेड, केश	✓ Jaw drops for æ: man/bad/cash open wide — different from men/bed	Men (कई आदमी) vs. man (एक आदमी) — grammar AND sound both separate them.
✗ Monday, month, come said as मोन्डे, मोन्थ, कोम (spelling के O से)	✓ मन्डे, मन्थ, कम — the O here is अ	O's biggest lie: in come/some/son/month/Monday/ money it sounds like अ.

6 Signal Words



Spelling-to-sound flags:

- ✓ ee, ea, ie usually = ई (long): see, seat, believe — but bread/head/dead = ए
- ✓ oo = ऊ mostly (food, pool), but उ in good, book, look, foot, took, cook
- ✓ a before consonant = often wide æ: man, bad, cash, flat, hand
- ✓ Single i in short words = इ: sit, bit, fill (not ई)
- ✓ u and o often = अ: bus, cut, come, son, month, Monday, money

SPELLING TO HINDI VOWEL: THE LOOKUP

Ignore the English letter. Ask: which Hindi vowel is this?

ee · ea · ie usually	→ ई /i:/	see · seat · believe	BUT bread · head · dead → ए
i in short words	→ इ /ɪ/	sit · bit · fill	BUT bite → आइ
oo mostly	→ ऊ /u:/	food · pool	BUT good · book · look foot · took · cook → उ
u · o often	→ अ /ʌ/	bus · cut · come · son · month · Monday · money	
a + consonant: often	→ ऐ /æ/	man · bad · cash · flat · hand	

Match the Hindi letter, not the English letter: the usual rule on the left, the famous exceptions on the right.

7 Practice



SET A Short or long? Write the Devanagari vowel (इ/ई, उ/ऊ, अ/आ)

10 QUESTIONS

1 seat

2 slip

3 book

4 food

5 cut

6 cart

7 leave

8 pull

9 heat

10 come

SET B Fix the vowel — the speaker said the wrong word

8 QUESTIONS

11 'The pool is full' — but he said 'the फूल is फुल'.
(swap them back)

12 'Please sit here' said as सीट.

13 'I will leave at 5' said as लिव.

14 'The chip is cheap' — both said as चीप.

SET B Fix the vowel — the speaker said the wrong word

8 QUESTIONS

15 'Good food' said as गूड फूड.

16 'Cut the card' — both said as कार्ट.

17 'Ten men came' said as मैन (wide).

18 'Monday morning' said as मॉन्डे.

SET C Read-aloud pairs: respell BOTH words in Devanagari

7 QUESTIONS

19 ship / sheep

20 fill / feel

21 full / fool

22 bed / bad

23 letter / latter

24 come / calm

25 rich / reach

8 Answer Key**ANSWERS · SET A**

1 ई (सीट)

2 इ (स्लिप)

3 उ (बुक)

4 ऊ (फूड)

5 अ (कट)

6 आ (कार्ट)

7 ई (लीव)

8 उ (पुल)

9 ई (हीट)

10 अ (कम)

ANSWERS · SET B

11 The pool (पूल, long) is full (फूल, short).

12 sit = सिट — short इ.

13 leave = लीव — long ई.

14 chip = चिप (short); cheap = चीप (long).

15 good = गुड (short); food = फूड (long).

16 cut = कट (short अ); card... cart = कार्ट (long आ).

17 men = मेन (normal ए) — man is the wide one.

18 Monday = मन्डे — the O is अ.

ANSWERS · SET C

19 शिप / शीप

20 फ़िल / फ़ील

21 फुल / फूल

22 बेड / बैड (jaw drops wider on bad)

23 लेटर / लैटर (wide)

24 कम / काम

25 रिच / रीच

NEXT UP

the SCHWA — the invisible sound that appears in almost every English sentence, and the single biggest reason Indian English sounds 'heavy' to foreign ears.



PART 1 — THE SOUND SYSTEM

03

The Schwa — English's Most Important Sound

z z

Level: Intermediate–Advanced

Estimated study time: 55 minutes

1 Quick Look

Meet the schwa (ə) — a tiny, lazy, colourless अ. It is the MOST COMMON sound in English, and it doesn't officially exist in Indian classrooms. Here is the secret of native rhythm: English only pronounces vowels fully in STRESSED syllables; every unstressed vowel collapses into this lazy ə. Hindi speakers pronounce every written vowel at full strength — which is precisely why our English sounds 'heavy' and effortful. Learn to be lazy, and you'll sound fluent.



WHAT IT IS

ə = the laziest अ possible — mouth relaxed, zero effort. The 'a' in about (अ'बाउट), the 'er' in teacher (टीच्अ).



THE LAW

Unstressed syllable → vowel collapses to ə, whatever the spelling: a, e, i, o, u can ALL become ə.



THE PROOF

banana = bə-**NAA**-nə (बना-ना-न्अ): three a's, only ONE pronounced fully — the stressed middle one.



The golden rule: one word, ONE hero. Every English word has exactly one stressed syllable that gets a full, proud vowel — the rest are servants, and servants mumble ə. Photography is not फोटोग्राफी (four equal queens); it is phə-TOG**-rə-pee (फ़ोटॉग्रफ़ि) — one hero (TOG), three mumbles. Find the hero, relax everything else.**

2 When to Use It

USE 1

Where the schwa lives 1 — word endings

-er, -or, -ar, -ure, -ous all end in ə. Indians give them full vowels; natives don't.

- teacher = टीच्अ(र), doctor = डॉक्टअ(र), sugar = शुग्अ(र) — all three endings are the SAME sound
- colour = कल्अ(र), picture = पिक्चअ(र), measure = मेझअ(र)
- famous = फ़ेम्अस (not फ़ेमस... say the 'ou' lazily), dangerous = डेन्ज़अस

teacher

टीच्अ(र)

doctor

डॉक्टअ(र)

sugar

शुग्अ(र)

same sound

ONE WORD, ONE HERO

FOUR EQUAL QUEENS

pho to gra phy →

फोटोग्राफी

ONE HERO, THREE MUMBLES

phə **TOG** rə fee

प्रटॉग्रफ़ि

THE SAME LAW IN FOUR MORE WORDS

banana bə **NAA** nə

ब्ना-ना-न्अ 1 hero · 2 mumbles

computer kəm **PYOO** tə

क्अम्-PYOO-टअ 1 hero · 2 mumbles

police pə **LEES**

प्अ-LEES 1 hero · 1 mumble

today tə **DAY**

टअ-DAY 1 hero · 1 mumble

Every stressed syllable keeps its full vowel; the rest relax into the lazy ə.

USE 2

Where the schwa lives 2 — the unstressed openings

a-, o-, com-, con-, sup- at the start of words are usually lazy.

- about = अ'बाउट, again = अ'गेन, ago = अ'गो (tiny first अ, punch on the second syllable)
- computer = क्अम्-PYOO-टअ, police = प्अ-LEES (प्लीस — almost one beat!), today = टअ-DAY
- suppose = स्अ-POZE, correct = क्अ-RECT, machine = म्अ-SHEEN

TINY START → PUNCH

about ə **BOUT**
 police pə **LEES**
 today tə **DAY**
 computer kəm **PYOO** tə

USE 3

Where the schwa lives 3 — the weak forms (sentence-level gold)

The tiny grammar words — a, an, the, of, to, for, and, can, was — are almost NEVER pronounced fully inside a sentence. This is the single biggest upgrade available to Indian speakers.

- a cup of tea = अ कप्अ व्टी ('of' = अक्, not ऑफ़)
- bread and butter = ब्रेड न्ब टअ ('and' shrinks to ɪ)
- I was going to call you = आइ व्अज़ ग्अन्अ... (was = व्अज़; going to = gonna is just this law at work)
- He can drive = ही क्अन ड्राइव (can = क्अन्... full कैन् only for emphasis: 'Yes, he CAN')
- for you = फ़अ यू, to the office = टअ दि ऑफ़िस

INSIDE A SENTENCE

ə **CUP** əv **TEA**

अ कप्अ व्टी

✓ of → अक् ✗ not ऑफ़

USE 4

Hearing it and making it — the two drills

The schwa is more heard than taught. Two drills build it:

- The RUBBER-BAND drill: say the word slowly with all full vowels (फोटोग्राफी), then 'snap' it — punch the hero and let the rest collapse (फ़टॉग्रफ़ि). Slow → snap, five times per word.
- The MUMBLE drill: read any English paragraph pronouncing ONLY stressed syllables clearly and deliberately mumbling everything else. It feels disrespectful. It sounds native.
- Verify: youglish.com → 'photography' → listen to 5 clips → count how many syllables you can actually HEAR clearly. (One.)

RUBBER-BAND: SLOW → SNAP

pho to gra phy

↓ SNAP

phə **TOG** rə fee

MUMBLE THE REST
1 clear syllable out of 4

✂ WEAK FORMS: SMALL WORDS GET SQUEEZED

WHAT YOU SAY

THE SENTENCE

IN DEVANAGARI

ə **CUP** əv **TEA**

a cup of tea

अ कप् अ टी

BREAD ɪ **BUTT** ə

bread and butter

ब्रेड न्द बट्

hi kən **DRIVE**

He can drive

ही क्अन ड्राइव

fə **YOU**

for you

फ़अ यू

tə ði **OFF-is**

to the office

ट्अ दि ऑफ़िस

Inside a sentence the tiny grammar words shrink to ə; the full forms are for emphasis.

3 Hindi Concept Note

अ

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

Schwa (ə) = दुनिया का सबसे आलसी अ — मुँह बिल्कुल relaxed, ज़ोर शून्य। यही English की सबसे COMMON आवाज़ है।

English का नियम: हर शब्द में सिर्फ़ एक syllable हीरो है — उसे पूरा vowel मिलता है। बाकी सब नौकर हैं, और नौकर बुदबुदाते हैं (ə)।

हम हिंदी वाले हर लिखे vowel को पूरी इज़ज़त देते हैं — photography = फो-टो-ग्रा-फ़ी, चार बराबर रानियाँ। Native कहता है: फ़-TOG-अ-फ़ि — एक रानी (TOG), तीन बुदबुदाहटें। इसीलिए हमारी English 'भारी' लगती है और उनकी 'बहती हुई'।

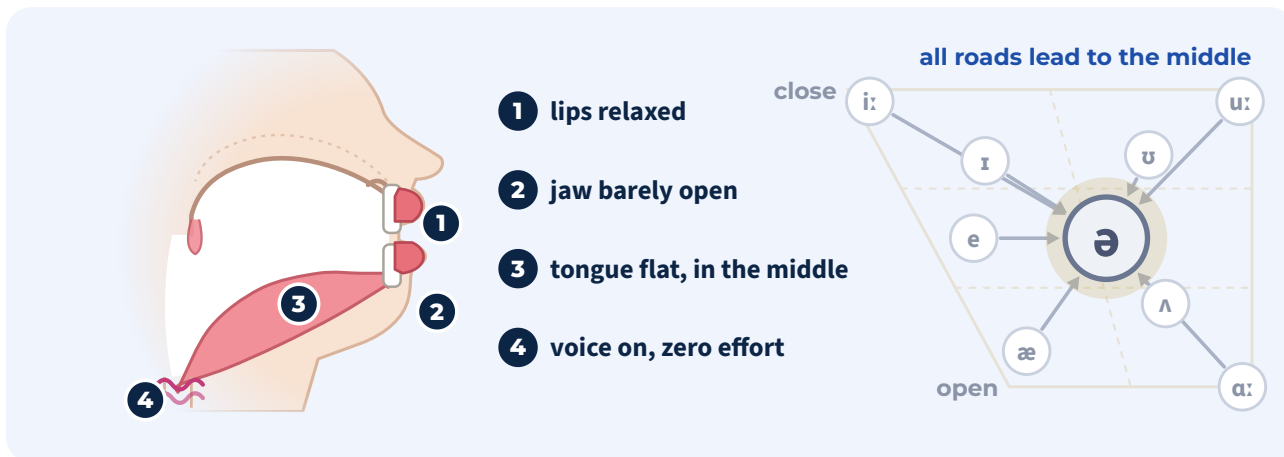
छोटे grammar शब्द (a, of, to, and, can, was) sentence के अंदर कभी पूरे नहीं बोले जाते: cup OF tea में of = अच्; bread AND butter में and = सिर्फ़ न्।

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

यही 'gonna/wanna' का राज़ है — going to का to इतना आलसी हुआ कि गूअन्अ बन गया। यह slang नहीं, schwa का क़ानून है।

Drill याद रखो: धीरे बोलो (सब पूरा) → फिर 'snap' — हीरो पर मुक्का, बाक़ी ढीला। रोज़ पाँच शब्द।

THE SCHWA MOUTH: ZERO EFFORT, DEAD CENTRE



The schwa is the laziest vowel: relaxed mouth, tongue in the middle, and every unstressed vowel slides here.

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ photography = फोटोग्राफी (4 equal beats)	✓ phə- TOG -rə- phēe (फ़ोटॉग्रफ़ि) — one hero	Every syllable equal = the #1 marker of Indian accent. One hero, three mumbles.
✗ teacher/doctor/sugar with three different full endings (-एर, -ओर, -अर)	✓ All three end in the same lazy ə(र): टीच्अ, डॉक्टअ, शुगअ	The spelling differs; the sound doesn't. English recycles ə everywhere.
✗ 'a cup of tea' with of = ऑफ़	✓ of = अच् inside sentences (क्अप् अच्टी)	Full ऑफ़ exists only in emphasis or at sentence-end. Weak forms are the native rhythm.
✗ police = पो-लीस (2 proud beats)	✓ प्अ-लीस, almost प्लीस — the first o is a mumble	Same family: correct (क्अरेक्ट), suppose (स्अपोज़), today (ट्अडे).

✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ 'I CAN speak English' with कैन every time	✓ Normal statement: कून (weak). कैन only for emphasis or contrast.	Ironically, always saying full CAN makes you sound less confident, not more.
✗ about = ए-बाउट (first letter ए की तरह)	✓ अ'बाउट — lazy अ, then punch	Word-initial a- is nearly always ə: again, ago, away, alone, agree.

5 Signal Words



Schwa-spotting flags:

- ✓ Endings -er, -or, -ar, -ure, -ous → ə
- ✓ Unstressed openings a-, com-, con-, po-, su-, to- → ə
- ✓ Grammar words inside sentences (a, an, the, of, to, for, and, can, was, than) → weak ə forms
- ✓ One word = one hero syllable; everything else relaxes
- ✓ If a vowel is hard to hear in native audio — it's a schwa, not your bad ears

SCHWA SPOTTER: WHERE TO LISTEN FOR IT

ENDINGS	UNSTRESSED OPENINGS	GRAMMAR WORDS
-er -or -ar -ure -ous	a- com- con- po- su- to-	a an the of to for and can was than
teacher · doctor · sugar	about · police · today	a cup of tea

Endings, unstressed openings and small grammar words: the three places the schwa hides.

6 Practice



SET A

Underline the HERO syllable (write it in capitals)

10 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1 banana | 2 computer |
| 3 photography | 4 police |
| 5 doctor | 6 about |
| 7 machine | 8 famous |
| 9 suppose | 10 temperature |

SET B

Fix the pronunciation — collapse the lazy syllables (give Devanagari)

8 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11 camera said as का-मे-रा | 12 chocolate said as चो-को-लेट |
| 13 police said as पो-लीस | 14 teacher said as टी-चर (with a full -एर) |
| 15 today said as टू-डे | 16 correct said as को-रेक्ट |
| 17 banana said as बा-ना-ना (three equal beats) | 18 computer said as कम-प्पू-टर (all full) |

SET C

Weak forms: rewrite the sentence's sound in Devanagari

7 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 19 a cup of tea | 20 bread and butter |
| 21 I was there. | 22 He can swim. |
| 23 This is for you. | 24 Two of them are going to come. |
| 25 Salt and pepper, sir? | |

7 Answer Key



ANSWERS · SET A

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 ba- NA -na | 2 com- PU -ter | 3 pho- TO -graphy (the TOG beat) |
| 4 po- LICE | 5 DOC -tor | 6 a- BOUT |
| 7 ma- CHINE | 8 FA -mous | 9 sup- POSE |
| 10 TEM -perature | | |

ANSWERS · SET B

- | | |
|---|--|
| 11 camera → कैम्रा (KAM -ruh — 2 beats, hero first) | 12 chocolate → चॉक्लट (CHOC -lit) |
| 13 police → प्अलीस / प्लीस (hero on LICE) | 14 teacher → टीच्अ(र) (lazy ending) |
| 15 today → ट्अडे (hero on DAY) | 16 correct → क्अरेक्ट (hero on RECT) |
| 17 banana → ब्अ-ना-न्अ (only the middle NA is full) | 18 computer → क्अम्-प्पू-ट्अ (hero on PYU) |

ANSWERS · SET C

- | | |
|---|---|
| 19 अ कप्अ व्टी | 20 ब्रेड न्ब ट्अ |
| 21 आइ व्अज़ देअ (was = व्अज़) | 22 ही क्अन स्विम (can weak) |
| 23 दिस इज़ फ़अ यू (for = फ़अ) | 24 टू अव्द्अ म आ(र) ग्अन्अ कम (of them = अव्द्अ म; going to = ग्अन्अ) |
| 25 सॉल्ट न्पे प्अ, स्अ? (and = न्; sir ends lazy) | |

NEXT UP

the Danger Consonants — TH is not थ, V is not व, and 'jero' is not zero. The four consonant fixes that change how you're heard.



PART 1 — THE SOUND SYSTEM

04

The Danger Consonants — TH, V/W, Z/J, F



Level: All levels

Estimated study time: 55 minutes

1 Quick Look



Four consonant zones carry almost the entire ‘Indian accent’ signature: TH said as थ/द, V and W merged into Hindi व, Z replaced by ज (जीरो for zero), and फ/फ़ confusion. None of these needs talent to fix — each has a simple MOUTH POSITION you can learn in a mirror in five minutes. This chapter gives you the four positions, the money pairs, and the drills.



TH — TONGUE OUT

- Tongue tip peeks between the teeth, air flows over it. think/three (no voice)
- this/that (with voice). Not थ, not द — those keep the tongue inside.



V VS. W — TEETH VS. LIPS

V: upper teeth touch lower lip + voice (vine). W: lips round like ऊ, teeth touch nothing (wine). Hindi व sits in between — that’s the whole problem.



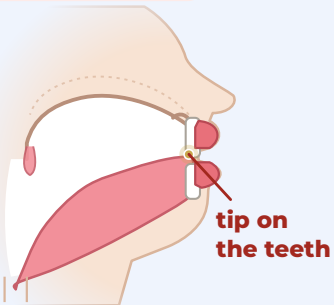
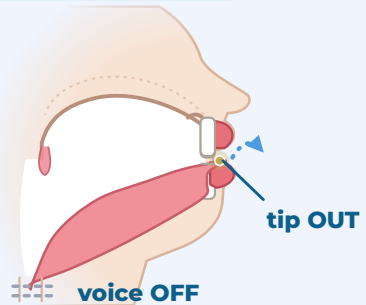
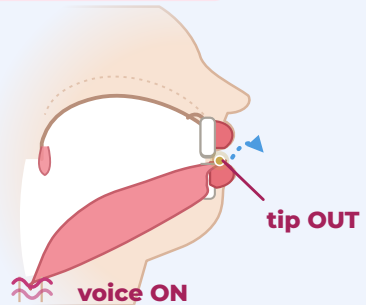
Z — THE BUZZING स

Z = ज़ (say स with throat vibration), never ज. zero = ज़ीरो, not जीरो.



The golden rule: these are POSITION errors, not ability errors. Your mouth already makes every required movement — Hindi has स (for z’s position), ऊ (for w’s lips), and dental sounds (near th’s zone). The fix is assigning the right position to the right letter, then drilling the money pairs until the assignment is automatic. Mirror + 5 minutes daily + this chapter’s pairs = done in three weeks.

TH: THE TONGUE GOES OUT

थ · द Hindi	TH /θ/ no voice	TH /ð/ + voice
 tip on the teeth	 tip OUT voice OFF	 tip OUT voice ON
tongue INSIDE tip on the back of the teeth a HIT: it cannot be held	tongue OUT think · three · thanks a FLOW: you can hold it	same spot + throat buzz this · that · brother a FLOW: you can hold it

Hindi थ/द hit the back of the teeth (a stop). English th lets air flow over a tongue tip that peeks out.

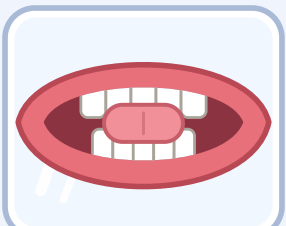
2 When to Use It



USE 1

TH voiceless (think, three, thanks) — the tongue-out स

Mouth position: tongue tip gently between the teeth; blow air over it; NO voice. It is friction, not a tap. Hindi थ is a t-hit with breath — wrong machinery.



what the mirror shows

SEE the tip
no tip = थ

air over it
a flow, no hit

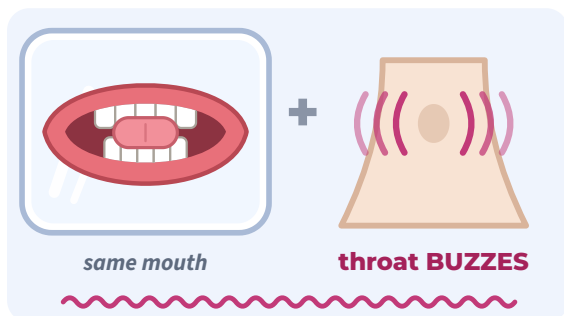
NO voice
throat still

- think, three, thirty, thank you, month, both, birthday, faith, north
- Mirror check: you must SEE your tongue tip. If you can't see it, you're saying थ.
- Money pairs: three (tongue out) vs. tree (tongue inside) • thank vs. tank • thought vs. taught • faith vs. fate
- Drill sentence: 'Thirty-three thousand, three hundred and thirty-three' — tongue out on every th.

USE 2

TH voiced (this, that, brother) — the same position, plus voice

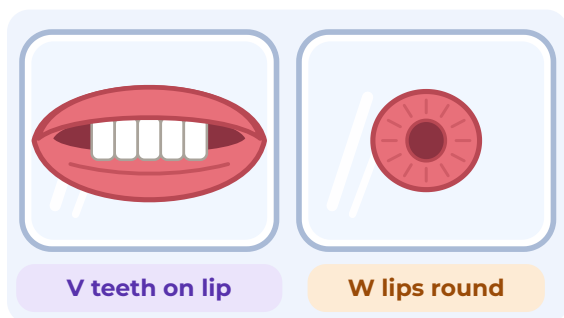
Identical tongue-out position, but the throat vibrates (hand-on-throat test from Chapter 1). Hindi **ढ** keeps the tongue behind the teeth — close, but natives hear the difference.



- *this, that, these, those, the, they, them, then, there, brother, mother, father, weather, together*
- *Money pairs: they (tongue out) vs. day • then vs. den • though vs. dough... careful, dough is दो — though is tongue-out*
- *Reality check: this is the highest-frequency sound zone in English — ‘the’ alone appears in nearly every sentence. Fixing TH upgrades every sentence you speak.*
- *Drill: ‘This, that, these and those brothers’ — five voiced th in a row.*

USE 3 **V vs. W — the vest/west split**

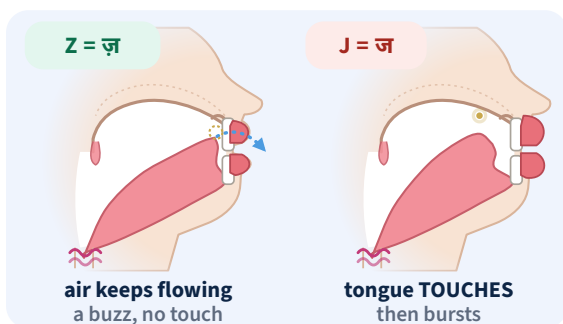
V: bite your lower lip lightly with upper teeth, add voice — a buzzing **फ़**. W: round your lips into a tight **ऊ**, then glide — teeth touch NOTHING. Hindi **व** does neither fully, so Indians swap them randomly (famously: ‘wery vell’).



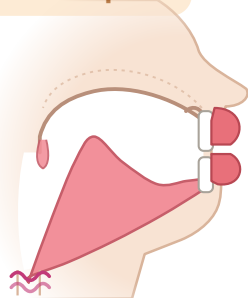
- *V words: very, van, visit, video, value, seven, over, invest, verify, advance*
- *W words: we, will, want, water, one (वन!), work, window, sweet, twenty, quick*
- *Money pairs: vine/wine • vest/west • vow/wow • veil/whale • V-8/wait*
- *The killer phrase, drilled: ‘We visited a very well-known website.’ — W (lips), V (teeth), V (teeth), W (lips), W (lips).*
- *Mirror check for W: your lips must form a visible circle. For V: your teeth must be visible on your lip.*

USE 4 **Z vs. J — and the F check**

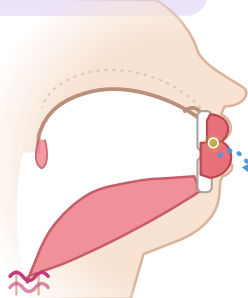
Z = स + voice (ज़, the nukta sound). J = ज, a completely different stop sound. Urdu-exposed speakers have ज़ already; others substitute ज — and ‘jero’, ‘jip’, ‘joo’ are instantly heard. F = फ़ (lip-teeth friction), not फ (a p-hit with breath).



- Z words: zero (ज़ीरो), zone (ज़ोन), zoom, size (साइज़), prize, busy (बिज़ी), music (म्यूज़िक), easy, thousand (थाउज़ंड), rupees... rupees ends in ज़: रुपीज़
- Watch the hidden z: the letter S is often pronounced ज़ — is (इज़), was (व्‌अज़), his, these, because, please, always
- Money pairs: zoo/जू (imaginary) is heard as ‘ju’ • prize (प्राइज़) vs. price (प्राइस) — Chapter 1’s throat test decides
- F check: photo = फ़ोटो, phone = फ़ोन — the PH spelling is always फ़, never प+ह.

V OR W: TEETH OR LIPS?
W · lips

- lips ROUND**
like a tight ऊ
- teeth touch**
NOTHING
- then glide**
we · wine

V · teeth

- upper teeth**
on the lower lip
- voice ON**
a buzzing फ़
- air squeezes**
through: vine

THE KILLER PHRASE● **W = lips**● **V = teeth**

We
वी

visited
विज़िटिड

a
अ

very
वेरी

well-known
वेल-नोन

website
वेबसाइट

Hindi व does neither fully, so give each letter its position: W = lips, V = teeth. Drill the killer phrase daily.

3 Hindi Concept Note

A

अ

HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

चार ज़ोन, चार मुँह की position — बस यही सीखना है:

TH: जीभ की नोक दाँतों के बीच से बाहर झाँके, हवा उसके ऊपर से बहे। think में आवाज़ नहीं (गला शांत), this में आवाज़ है (गला कंपे)। थ और द ग़लत मशीन हैं — उनमें जीभ अंदर रहती है। Mirror test: जीभ दिखनी चाहिए!

V: ऊपर के दाँत निचले होंठ पर + आवाज़ — भिनभिनाता फ़। W: होंठ ऊ की तरह गोल, दाँत कुछ नहीं छूते। हिंदी का व दोनों के बीच में है — इसीलिए हम vine/wine मिला देते हैं।

Z: स बोलो और गला चालू कर दो = ज़। ZERO = ज़ीरो — जीरो बोलते ही call-center वाले पकड़ लेते हैं। और छुपा हुआ z याद रखो: is = इज़, was = व्अज़, because = बिकॉज़ — S अक्सर ज़ बोला जाता है।

F = फ़ (होंठ-दाँत की रगड़), फ नहीं (जो प+हवा है)। PHOTO = फ़ोटो।

रोज़ का drill: आईने के सामने 5 मिनट — ‘thirty-three’, ‘very well’, ‘zero size’ — position देखो, आवाज़ मिलाओ।

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make

!

✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ thank you = थैंक यू (tongue inside, त- family hit)	✓ Tongue OUT between teeth, air friction: TH ank you	थ is a stop with breath; th is friction. The mirror never lies — see the tongue.
✗ ‘I am thirty’ heard as ‘I am dirty’ (द/ट zone)	✓ thirty = tongue-out th + irty	One tongue position separates your age from an insult.
✗ zero, zone said as जीरो, जोन	✓ ज़ीरो, ज़ोन — the buzzing स	ज़ is a different consonant entirely. Say स, switch on the throat: that’s ज़.
✗ ‘wery vell’ — V and W swapped	✓ very (teeth on lip) well (lips rounded)	Assign positions: V = teeth, W = lips. Drill the killer phrase daily.

✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ one, want said as ओने... वन with lazy lips	✓ one = वन with lips ROUNDING into the w-glide (u-one)	One starts with a w-sound despite the spelling: वन, not ओन.
✗ is, was, because with स endings: इस, वास, बिकाँस	✓ इज़, व्अज़, बिकाँज़ — the hidden z	The letter s between/after vowels usually voices into ज़. Throat test: it should vibrate.

📈 FLOW OR HIT? AND THE HIDDEN Z

FLOW or HIT?

English: FLOW (hold it)

TH  vs **Hindi: HIT** थ · द 

think · this

Z  vs **ज** 

zero · zone (buzz)

F  vs **फ** 

photo · phone

HIDDEN Z

the letter S that buzzes

is इज़ was व्अज़

his these

because बिकाँज़ please

always

throat test: it should vibrate

English th, z and f are friction you can hold; the Hindi stand-ins are a single hit. Many an S is really a Z.

5 Signal Words

📋 Position assignments:

- ✓ th (think/this) → tongue tip visible between teeth; voiceless vs. voiced by throat
- ✓ v → upper teeth on lower lip + voice; w → rounded lips, no teeth
- ✓ z and 'voiced s' (is, was, because, please) → ज़, the buzzing स
- ✓ ph → always फ़
- ✓ Mirror for positions; throat for voicing; YouGlish for verification

6 Practice



SET A

Tongue out or tongue in? Mark TH (tongue-out) or T/D (inside)

10 QUESTIONS

1 three

2 tree

3 thank

4 tank

5 this

6 day

7 they

8 month

9 brother

10 letter

SET B

Fix the consonant — respell correctly in Devanagari

8 QUESTIONS

11 zero said as जीरो

12 'was' said as वास

13 photo said as फोटो (aspirated प+ह feel)

14 very said with rounded lips (w-style)

15 west said with teeth on lip (v-style)

16 because said as बिकॉस

17 thirty said as डर्टी

18 one said as ओन

SET C

Read-aloud drills: write the mouth positions you'll use

7 QUESTIONS

19 'We visited a very well-known website.'

20 'Thirty-three thousand, three hundred and thirty-three.'

21 'This is the third visit this week.'

22 'The prize is one thousand rupees.'

23 'Vikram went west with twelve workers.'

24 'Is that the van or the west wing?'

25 'Zero maintenance for the first three years.'

7 Answer Key



ANSWERS · SET A

1 TH (tongue out, no voice)

2 T (inside)

3 TH (out, no voice)

4 T (inside)

5 TH (out, WITH voice)

6 D (inside)

ANSWERS · SET A

- 7 TH (out, with voice) 8 TH at the end (out, no voice) 9 TH middle (out, with voice)
- 10 T (inside)

ANSWERS · SET B

- 11 ज़ीरो — buzzing स, not ज.
- 12 व्अज़ — hidden z at the end (and the schwa from Chapter 3).
- 13 फ़ोटो — lip-teeth friction फ़.
- 14 very = teeth on lower lip + voice (V position).
- 15 west = lips rounded, no teeth (W position).
- 16 बिकॉज़ — the s voices to ज़.
- 17 thirty = tongue-out th; **TH**irty, not dirty.
- 18 वन — one begins with a w-glide.

ANSWERS · SET C

- 19 W (lips) – V (teeth) – V (teeth) – W (lips) – W (lips): वी विज़िटिड अ वेरी वेल-नोन वेबसाइट.
- 20 Tongue out on every th: **TH**irty-**TH**ree **TH**ousand, **TH**ree hundred and **TH**irty-**TH**ree.
- 21 Voiced th ×3 (This, the, this) + voiceless th (third): दिस* इज़ द* थ*र्ड विज़िट दिस* वीक (* = tongue out).
- 22 prize = प्राइज़ (throat on), thousand = था*उज़ंड, rupees = रुपीज़.
- 23 V-teeth on Vikram; W-lips on went, west, workers; twelve has both (t-w-e-l-v): ट्वेल्व.
- 24 Is = इज़, that = दै*ट (voiced th), van = V-teeth, west = W-lips.
- 25 ज़ीरो मेंटनन्स, श्री* years — z buzz + tongue-out th.

NEXT UP

T, D & R — softening the retroflex hammer, and what to actually do with the English R (keep it — but stop rolling it).



PART 1 — THE SOUND SYSTEM

05

T, D & R — Softening the Retroflex



📖 Level: Intermediate–Advanced

🕒 Estimated study time: 45 minutes

1 Quick Look



The deepest layer of the Indian accent isn't TH or V — it's our T and D. Hindi's ट and ड are RETROFLEX: the tongue curls back and hammers the roof of the mouth. English t and d are ALVEOLAR: the tongue tip taps the gum ridge just behind the upper teeth — lighter, flatter, softer. Same for R: Hindi र taps or rolls; English r never touches anything. This chapter softens the hammer.



THE T/D FIX

Tongue tip on the GUM RIDGE (the bump behind your upper teeth) — not curled back to the roof. A tap, not a hammer.



THE R FIX

English r = tongue curls UP but touches NOTHING — no tap, no roll, no trill. It's a shape, not a strike.



THE GOOD NEWS

A rhotic accent (pronouncing every written r, American-style) is globally accepted — you don't need to drop r's like a Londoner. Just un-roll them.



The golden rule: FEEL THE RIDGE. Run your tongue back from your upper teeth — the first bump is the alveolar ridge. English t, d, n, l all live there. Hindi ट/ड live further back (curled), and Hindi त/द live further forward (on the teeth). Park your tongue on the ridge and English t/d appear automatically — a five-minute physical adjustment that erases the single heaviest accent marker.

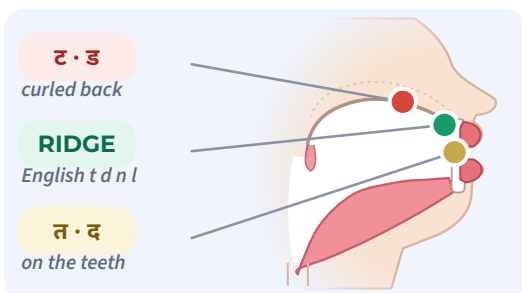
2 When to Use It



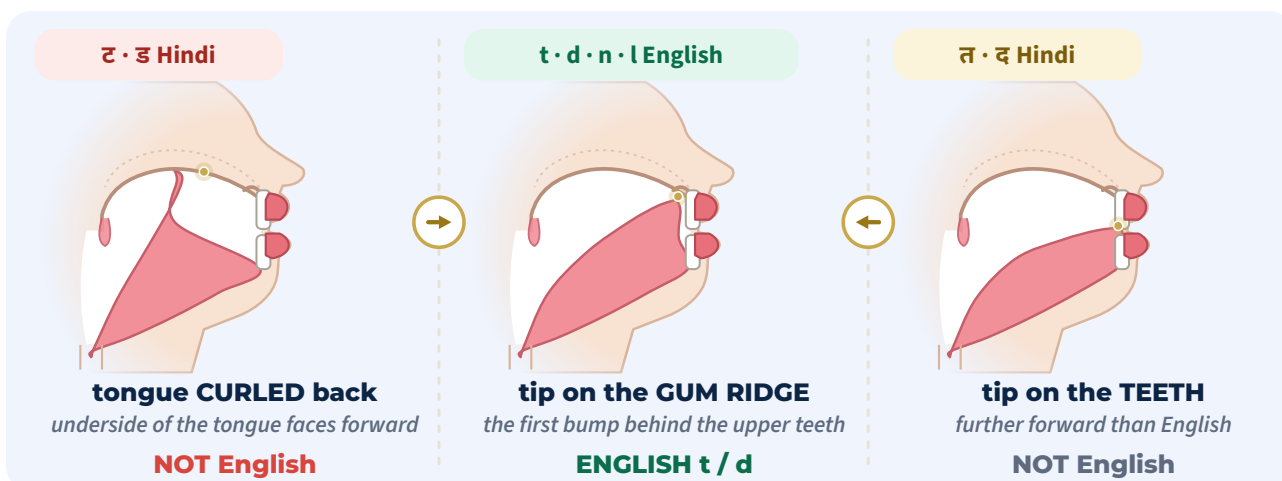
USE 1 T and D — the ridge tap

Practice pairs of positions: say ट (curl back)... now त (on teeth)... now park between them, on the ridge. That middle position is English t.

- time, take, today, water, letter, better, city, party, data
- day, deal, door, ready, order, idea, indeed
- Feel-check words: 'to-do' — say it three ways (ट, त, ridge) and hear the softening.
- Why it matters: retroflex ट/ड is the sound feature foreigners most strongly identify as 'Indian accent' — softening it does more than fixing ten other sounds.



THREE PLACES FOR T AND D



Park the tongue tip on the ridge, between Hindi ट (curled back) and Hindi त (on the teeth).

USE 2

The American flap — hear it, don't chase it

Americans turn t between vowels into a soft d-flap: water = वॉडर, better = बेडर, city = सिडी. Know it so you UNDERSTAND fast speech; don't imitate it — a clear ridge-t is always correct and clearer on calls.

HEAR in US media

water
वॉडर

better
बेडर

city
सिडी



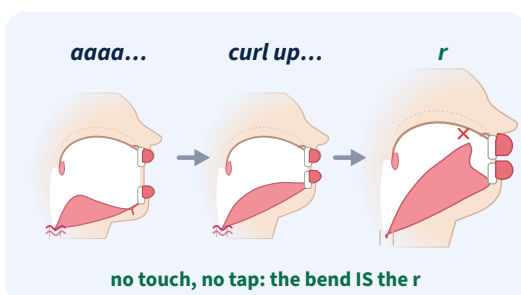
SAY it yourself

water वॉटर

- water → you'll hear वॉडर in US media; say वॉटर (ridge-t) yourself
- letter/ladder sound identical in American — context decides
- British keeps the clear t; international business English accepts both. Clarity beats imitation.

USE 3 R — the no-contact sound

English r: pull the tongue tip up and back, close to the ridge but NEVER touching; lips slightly rounded; let the voice flow around it. Hindi र taps once; rolled र्र्र trills — both mark the accent instantly.



- red, road, rent, rate, market, service, property, registry
- Drill: say 'aaaa' continuously, then slowly curl the tongue up without touching — the sound bends into 'r'. That bend IS the English r.
- Mirror check: your tongue should never flick. If you feel a tap, it's the Hindi र.

UK style

car → का

THIS BOOK

car → कार

keep every r, soft, never rolled

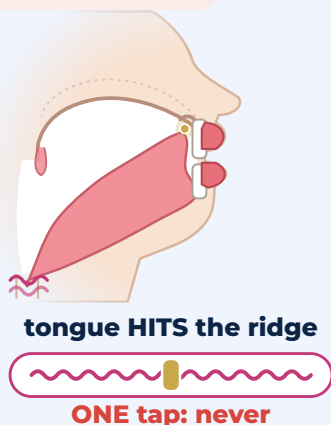
USE 4 R after vowels — the policy decision

British drops r after vowels (car = का, park = पाक); American keeps it (car = कार). DECISION for this book: keep your r's (rhotic) — it matches Indian habit, sounds American, and is never wrong. Just make each one a no-contact r.

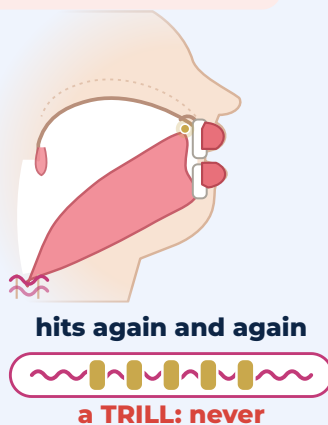
- car = कार (soft, no tap), park = पार्क, four = फ़ोर, over = ओव्‌अर
- -er endings combine Chapter 3's schwa + this soft r: teacher = टीच्‌अर, better = बेट्‌अर
- The one habit to kill: rolling the r for emphasis — 'verrry good' — charming in Hindi, jarring in English.

THREE WAYS TO TREAT R

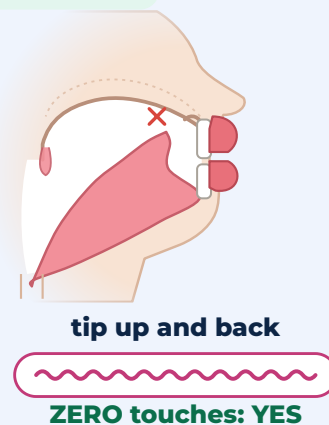
र Hindi tap



र्र Hindi roll



r English



Hindi र taps or rolls; English r is a shape: the tongue curls up and touches nothing.

3 Hindi Concept Note

र्रA

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

सबसे गहरी परत: हमारे ट और ड। हिंदी में जीभ पीछे मुड़कर तालू पर हथौड़ा मारती है (retroflex)। English का t/d हल्का है — जीभ की नोक ऊपर के दाँतों के ठीक पीछे वाले उभार (gum ridge) को छूती है, बस।

अभी करो: जीभ को ऊपर के दाँतों से पीछे सरकाओ — पहला उभार मिला? वही ridge है। वहीं t, d, n, l रहते हैं।

तीन position बोलकर देखो: ट (मुड़ी हुई)... त (दाँतों पर)... और बीच वाली ridge — वही English t है। 'Today' तीनों तरह बोलो — फ़र्क़ साफ़ सुनाई देगा।

R का नियम: जीभ ऊपर मुड़े पर कहीं छुए नहीं — न tap, न roll। हिंदी र एक बार मारता है; English r सिर्फ़ आकार है, प्रहार नहीं।

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

Policy साफ़ है: हर लिखा r बोलो (American style) — यह हमारी आदत से मिलता है और दुनिया भर में सही है। बस उसे नरम करो, rroll मत करो।

American 'वॉटर' (water) सुनकर घबराओ मत — यह उनका flap है। समझो ज़रूर, नक़ल मत करो — साफ़ ridge-t हमेशा सही और phone पर ज़्यादा clear है।

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ time, today with hard retroflex ट (टाइम hammered)	✓ Ridge tap: tongue on the gum ridge, light contact	The retroflex hammer is accent-marker #1. Soften the strike point.
✗ Rolling the r: 'verrry good', 'sorrery'	✓ One soft, no-contact r: very, sorry	Trilled r reads as emphasis in Hindi and as accent in English. Never roll.
✗ water said as वॉडर (imitating American media)	✓ वॉटर with a clean ridge-t	Understand the flap; don't perform it. Imitated flaps sound inconsistent and reduce clarity on calls.
✗ party, thirty with र tap + retroflex ट: पार्टी hammered twice	✓ पार्टी with curled-but-untouching r and ridge t	Two fixes stack in one word — r shape + t tap.
✗ Dropping r's British-style inconsistently: 'ca' but 'carr'	✓ Pick rhotic and stay rhotic: कार every time, softly	Mixing systems is worse than either system. This book's policy: always pronounce r, never roll it.
✗ d in 'idea', 'order' curled back: आइडिया heavy	✓ Ridge d: आइडीअ, ऑईअर — light contact	Same ridge, voiced version. The throat test tells t from d; the ridge softens both.

🔗 WATER: CLEAR T OR AMERICAN FLAP?

SAY this

clear ridge t

wa t er

voice stops

वॉटर

always correct

HEAR this

US flap: quick voiced tap

wa t er

voice flows on

वॉडर

recognise it

better = बेडर • city = सिडी • letter and ladder sound identical in American

Between vowels Americans keep the voice running through a quick tap; you say the clear ridge-t.

5 Signal Words



The physical checklist:

- ✓ t, d, n, l → tongue tip on the gum ridge (first bump behind upper teeth)
- ✓ r → tongue curls up, touches NOTHING; lips slightly rounded
- ✓ Every written r pronounced (rhotic policy), every one soft
- ✓ American flap (water=वॉडर): recognise it, don't imitate it
- ✓ -er = schwa + soft r (Chapter 3 + Chapter 5 combined)

PICK RHOTIC AND STAY RHOTIC

UK style

car → का
park → पाक

r dropped after a vowel

THIS BOOK: rhotic

car कार park पार्क
four फ़ोर over ओव्‌अर

keep every r: soft, never rolled

Mixing

Mon → का
Tue → कार

worse than either system

Mixing systems is worse than either: always pronounce r, never roll it.

6 Practice



SET A

Ridge or curl? Say each word both ways, then write R (ridge, correct) — feel the difference

10 QUESTIONS

1 today

2 water

3 better

4 data

5 deal

6 party

7 order

8 city

9 ready

10 letter

SET B

Fix the pronunciation — name the error (retroflex / rolled r / flap imitation)

8 QUESTIONS

11 'Sorry sir' with a trilled r

12 'वॉडर पिलाओ' — water flapped in an Indian sentence

13 time with the tongue curled to the roof

14 'car' said as का on Monday and कार on Tuesday

15 'thirty' with both a rolled r and hammered t

16 'idea' with a heavy retroflex ड

17 'verry good offer' in a client meeting

18 'property' with tapped r's: प्रॉपर्टी hammered

SET C

Read-aloud: respell in Devanagari with soft-r and ridge-t in mind

7 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 19 rate of interest | 20 registry order |
| 21 water tank on the terrace | 22 thirty-third party |
| 23 ready to deal today | 24 better rental returns |
| 25 market rate per square metre | |

7 Answer Key



ANSWERS · SET A

- i** All ten take the RIDGE position for t/d. The feel-check: if the underside of your tongue faces forward (curl), you're retroflex; if the tip touches the bump lightly, you're on the ridge. 1–10: today, water, better, data, deal, party, order, city, ready, letter — every t/d on the ridge, every r no-contact.

ANSWERS · SET B

- 11 Rolled r → one soft no-contact r: sorry (सॉरि, r as shape).
- 12 Flap imitation → clear ridge-t: वॉटर.
- 13 Retroflex → ridge tap: time, light contact.
- 14 System mixing → stay rhotic: कार (soft) every day.
- 15 Both errors → thirty = soft r + ridge t + tongue-out th from Ch 4: थ*टि.
- 16 Retroflex d → ridge d: आइडीअ (and note the schwa ending).
- 17 Rolled for emphasis → 'VERY good offer' with stress, not trill (emphasis in English = stress + pitch, Ch 9–10).
- 18 Tapped r + retroflex → प्रॉप्अटि with shaped r, ridge t, schwa middle.

ANSWERS · SET C

- | | |
|--|---|
| 19 रेट अव्इ न्द्रिस्ट (soft r ×2, weak 'of') | 20 रेजिस्ट्रि ऑईअर |
| 21 वॉटअर टैंक ऑन द टेरिस | 22 थ*टि-थ*ई पार्टि (tongue-out th + soft r + ridge t) |
| 23 रेडि टु डील ट्अडे | 24 बेटअर रेन्टल रिटर्न्ज (hidden z on returns!) |
| 25 मार्किट रेट प्अर स्क्वेअर मीटअर | |

NEXT UP

Silent Letters & Tricky Spellings — the full silent-letter families, the -tion/-sure/-ture machine, and the infamous OUGH table.



PART 1 — THE SOUND SYSTEM

06

Silent Letters & Tricky Spellings



Level: All levels

Estimated study time: 50 minutes

1 Quick Look



Chapter 1 exposed the crime — English spelling lies. This chapter catalogues the criminals: the silent-letter families (kn-, wr-, -mb, -alk), the suffix machines that always sound the same (-tion = शन, -ture = चर, -sure = the buzzing झर), the three faces of CH, and the legendary OUGH table. Learn these as FAMILIES, not single words — one pattern unlocks fifty words at once.



FAMILY LOGIC

kn- always drops the k (know, knee, knife). wr- always drops the w (write, wrong). -mb always drops the b (climb, thumb, comb).



THE SUFFIX MACHINES

- tion = शन (always)
- ture = चर (picture = पिकचर)
- sure = झर, the buzzing झ (measure = मेझर)



THE OUGH SCANDAL

One spelling, six sounds: though (दो*), through (थ्रू*), tough (टफ़), cough (कॉफ़), thought (थॉट*), drought (ड्राउट). [* = tongue-out th]



The golden rule: silent letters travel in FAMILIES with fixed rules — never memorise single words. K before N: silent, always. W before R: silent, always. B after M at word-end: silent, always. L in -alk/-alf/-ould: silent, always. Master eight families and you've disarmed 200+ words in one sitting.



EIGHT SILENT-LETTER FAMILIES

K before N	W before R	B after M / before T	L in -alk -alf -alm
know नो	write राइट	climb क्लाइम	walk वॉक
knock नॉक	wrist रिस्ट	debt डेट	half हाफ़
knowledge नॉलिज	answer आन्सर	doubt डाउट	calm काम
T in the middle	H openers	GH gang	Odd singles
listen लिसन	hour आवर	light लाइट	island आइलंड
castle कासल	honest ऑनिसट	daughter डॉटर	autumn ऑटम
often ऑफ़न	heir एअर	weigh वे	sign साइन

Grey struck-through letters are silent. Learn the family, not the single word.

2 When to Use It



USE 1 The silent-letter families

Each family has one rule and many members.

- **K before N:** know (नो), knee, knife, knock, knowledge (नॉलिज)
- **W before R:** write (राइट), wrong, wrist, wrap; plus answer (आन्सर), two (टू), sword (सॉर्ड)
- **B after M:** climb (क्लाइम), comb, thumb, bomb, plumber (प्लमर); **B before T:** debt (डेट), doubt (डाउट), subtle (सटल)
- **L families:** walk (वॉक), talk, half (हाफ़), calf, calm (काम), palm; and could/would/should = कुड/वुड/शुड
- **T in the middle:** listen (लिसन), castle (कासल), often (ऑफ़न), Christmas (क्रिस्मस), mortgage (मॉर्गिज — t AND the spelling both lie!)
- **H openers:** hour (आवर), honest (ऑनिसट), honour (ऑनर), heir (एअर); hidden h-drop: vehicle = वीडकल (not व्हीकल!)
- **GH gang:** light, night, thought, daughter (डॉटर), high, weigh (वे), neighbour (नेबर)
- **Odd singles:** Wednesday (वेन्डडे), sandwich (सैन्विच — d drops), receipt (रिसीट), island (आइलंड), psychology (साइकॉलजि), pneumonia (न्यूमोनिया), autumn (ऑटम), column (कॉलम), sign (साइन), design (डिज़ाइन), foreign (फ़ॉरिन)

knife

kn- → न

write

wr- → र

climb

-mb → म

walk

-alk → L silent

USE 2

The suffix machines — set once, run forever

These endings NEVER change their sound, whatever the word.

- **-tion = शन:** station (स्टेशन), nation, action, registration (रेजिस्ट्रेशन), possession (पॉजेशन — the ss here is श... actually -ssion = शन too)
- **-ture = चर:** picture (पिक्चर), future (फ्यूचर), nature (नेचर), furniture (फ़र्निचर), signature (सिग्नचर) — NEVER पिक्टूर/नेचूर
- **-sure = झर** (the buzzing झ — say श and switch the throat ON): measure (मेझर), pleasure (प्लेझर), treasure; same buzz in television (टेलिविज़न), decision (डिसिज़न), usually (यूझुअलि)
- **-tial/-cial = शल:** special (स्पेशल), commercial (क्वामर्शल), initial (इनिशल)

-tion



शन

-ture



चर

-sure



झर

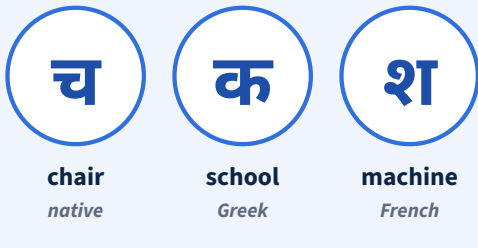
-cial / -tial



शल

USE 3 CH — the three faces

One spelling, three sounds; the word's origin decides, but the common words just need sorting.

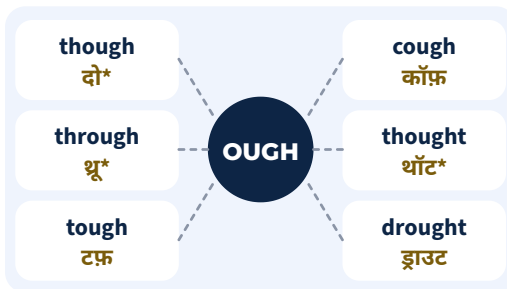


- च (native English): chair, cheap, church, choose, chapter, purchase
- क (Greek family): school (स्कूल), chemist (केमिस्ट), stomach (स्टमक), scheme (स्कीम), character (कैरक्टर), technical (टेक्निकल), ache (एक), architect (आर्किटेक्ट)
- श (French family): machine (मशीन), chef (शेफ़), brochure (ब्रोशर), Chandigarh is safe — but champagne (शैम्पेन), parachute (पैरशूट)

USE 4

The OUGH table — six sounds, one spelling

The most infamous spelling in English. Memorise the six anchors; the family follows.



- OH: though (दो*), although, dough — [* tongue-out voiced th]
- OO: through (थू*)
- UFF: tough (टफ़), rough (रफ़), enough (इनफ़)
- OFF: cough (कॉफ़)
- AW: thought (थॉट*), bought (बॉट), brought, ought
- OW: drought (ड्राउट), plough (प्लाउ)

SUFFIX MACHINES: SET ONCE, RUN FOREVER

 -tion • -ssion always the same	शन	station स्टेशन	registration रेजिस्ट्रेशन	possession पॉजेशन	
 -ture never पिक्चर	चर	picture पिक्चर	future फ्यूचर	furniture फ़र्निचर	
 -sure • -sion श + throat ON	झ	measure मेझर	pleasure प्लेझर	television टेलिविज़न	decision डिसिज़न
 -cial • -tial always the same	शल	special स्पेशल	commercial कॉमर्शल	initial इनिशल	

These endings never change their sound, whatever the word.

3 Hindi Concept Note

अ

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

चुप अक्षर परिवारों में चलते हैं — अकेले शब्द मत रटो, परिवार का नियम पकड़ो:

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

N से पहले K हमेशा चुप: know = नो। R से पहले W हमेशा चुप: write = राइट। शब्द के अंत में M के बाद B चुप: climb = क्लाइम। could/would/should का L चुप: कुड/वुड/शुड।

Suffix मशीनें एक बार set करो, हमेशा चलेंगी: -tion = शन (हर बार!), -ture = चर (picture = पिक्चर, पिक्टूर कभी नहीं), -sure = झर — यह वो buzzing झ है जो हिंदी में नहीं: श बोलो और गला चालू करो — measure = मेझर, television = टेलिविज़न।

CH के तीन चेहरे: chair में च, school में क, machine में श। Greek वाले शब्द (school, chemist, stomach, scheme) क लेते हैं — यही सबसे ज़्यादा धोखा देते हैं।

OUGH की छह आवाज़ें रट लो — दो* (though), थ्रू* (through), टफ़ (tough), कॉफ़ (cough), थॉट* (thought), ड्राउट (drought) — English spelling का सबसे बदनाम मोहल्ला।

और दो बड़े व्यावसायिक शब्द ठीक करो: mortgage = मॉर्गिज (t चुप!), vehicle = वीइकल (h चुप!) — दोनों property line के रोज़ के शब्द हैं।

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ knowledge = क-नॉलेज (k बोलना)	✓ नॉलिज — kn family drops the k, always	One family rule kills the error in know, knee, knife, knock too.
✗ picture = पिक्टूर, future = फ़्यूटूर	✓ पिक्चर, फ़्यूचर — -ture is ALWAYS चर	The -ture machine never changes. Nature, furniture, signature — all चर.
✗ pleasure, measure said with plain श or ज	✓ प्लेझर, मेझर — the buzzing झ (श + throat ON)	The 3 sound: closest Hindi frame is झ without the stop — pure buzz. Same sound in television, decision, usually.
✗ stomach = स्टमच, chemist = चेमिस्ट	✓ स्टमक, केमिस्ट — Greek ch = क	The Greek family: school, scheme, character, technical, ache, architect — all क.
✗ vehicle = व्हीकल (h बोलना)	✓ वीइकल — the h is silent	One of the most universal Indian mispronunciations — and it's in your industry's daily vocabulary.
✗ mortgage = मॉर्ट-गेज	✓ मॉर्गिज — silent t, and -gage = गिज	Every property professional says this word weekly. Silent t + reduced ending.

ञ CH HAS THREE FACES

च native English	क Greek family	श French family
chair	school	machine
cheap	chemist	chef
church	stomach	brochure
choose	scheme	champagne
chapter	character	parachute
purchase	technical	
	ache	architect

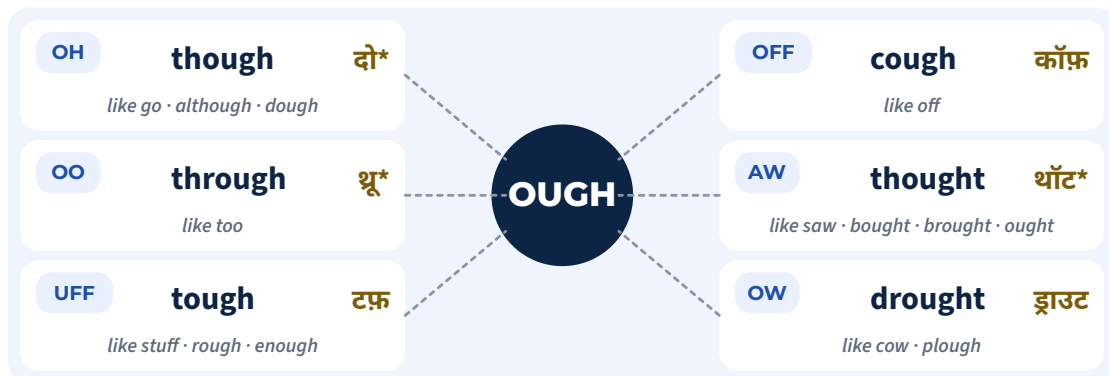
The word's family decides: native च, Greek क, French श. ch is highlighted.

5 Signal Words

Family rules at a glance:

- ✓ kn → न; wr → र; -mb → म; b before t → silent (debt, doubt)
- ✓ -alk/-alf/-alm → L silent; could/would/should → कुड/वुड/शुड
- ✓ -tion/-ssion = शन; -ture = चर; -sure/-sion(after vowel) = झ buzz; -cial/-tial = शल
- ✓ ch → च (chair), क (school-Greek), श (machine-French)
- ✓ OUGH: though दो*, through थू*, tough टफ़, cough कॉफ़, thought थॉट*, drought ड्राउट

⚠ OUGH: SIX SOUNDS, ONE SPELLING



Memorise the six anchors; the family follows. * = tongue-out th.

6 Practice

SET A Silent-letter hunt: which letter(s) go unpronounced?

10 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1 doubt | 2 salmon |
| 3 wrist | 4 knock |
| 5 thumb | 6 castle |
| 7 would | 8 foreign |
| 9 receipt | 10 Wednesday |

SET B Fix the pronunciation — respell in Devanagari

8 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 11 furniture said as फ़र्नीचर | 12 measure said as मेशर (plain श) |
| 13 school said as स्कूल | 14 honest said as होनेस्ट |
| 15 vehicle said as व्हीकल | 16 registration said as रेजिस्ट्रेशन |
| 17 mortgage said as मॉर्टगेज | 18 island said as इस्लैंड |

SET C Sort the CH and OUGH: give the sound (च/क/श or the OUGH vowel) and the Devanagari

7 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 19 chemist | 20 machine |
| 21 purchase | 22 though |
| 23 enough | 24 thought |
| 25 brochure | |

7 Answer Key**ANSWERS • SET A**

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 b (डाउट) | 2 l (सैमन) | 3 w (रिस्ट) |
| 4 k (नॉक) | 5 b (थम*) | 6 t (कासल) |
| 7 l (वुड) | 8 g (फ़ॉरिन) | 9 p (रिसीट) |
| 10 the first d (वेन्डडे) | | |

ANSWERS • SET B

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 11 फ़र्निचर — the -ture machine. | 12 मेझर — buzzing झ (श + voice). |
| 13 स्कूल — Greek ch = क. | 14 ऑनिस्ट — silent h. |
| 15 वीइकल — silent h. | 16 रेजिस्ट्रेशन — -tion = शन, always. |
| 17 मॉर्गिज — silent t, reduced ending. | 18 आइलैंड — silent s. |

ANSWERS • SET C

- | | |
|---|---|
| 19 क → केमिस्ट (Greek family) | 20 श → म्अशीन (French family; note the schwa opening) |
| 21 च → पर्चिस (native family; and the ending reduces) | 22 OH → दो* (tongue-out voiced th) |
| 23 UFF → इनफ़ | 24 AW → थॉट* (tongue-out voiceless th) |
| 25 श → ब्रोश्अर | |

NEXT UP

Part 2 begins — the -ed and -s Endings — why 'worked' is वर्कर्ट (one beat!), and the three-rule machine that governs every past tense and plural you speak.



PART

2



Beyond Single Sounds

5 CHAPTERS

3 PRACTICE SETS PER CHAPTER

-ed / -s endings · word stress · rhythm · intonation · connected speech

IN THIS PART

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 07 | The -ed and -s Endings — Three Rules Each | 45 |
| 08 | Word Stress — Where the Punch Lands | 52 |
| 09 | Sentence Stress & Rhythm — The Heartbeat of English | 60 |
| 10 | Intonation — The Tune on Top | 69 |
| 11 | Connected Speech — Why Natives Sound Too Fast | 78 |

PART 2 — BEYOND SINGLE SOUNDS

07

The -ed and -s Endings — Three Rules Each



Level: All levels

Estimated study time: 50 minutes

1 Quick Look



Two endings appear in almost every English sentence you speak — the past -ED and the plural/verb - S. Indians pronounce both by spelling: worked becomes वर्क-एड, books becomes बुक्स but dogs also becomes डॉग्स. Wrong on two counts. Both endings run on the SAME machine you built in Chapter 1: the throat test. Voiceless sound before? The ending is voiceless. Voiced before? The ending is voiced. This chapter installs both machines permanently.

**-ED RULE**

- After voiceless (p,k,s,श,च,फ़) → T: worked = वर्कट
- After voiced (b,g,v,z,m,n,l,r + vowels) → D: played = प्लेड
- After t/d only → extra beat
इड: wanted = वॉन्टिड

**-S RULE**

- After voiceless → S: books = बुक्स
- After voiced → Z: dogs = डॉगज़
- After hissing sounds (s,z,श,च,ज) → extra beat
इज़: boxes = बॉक्सिज़

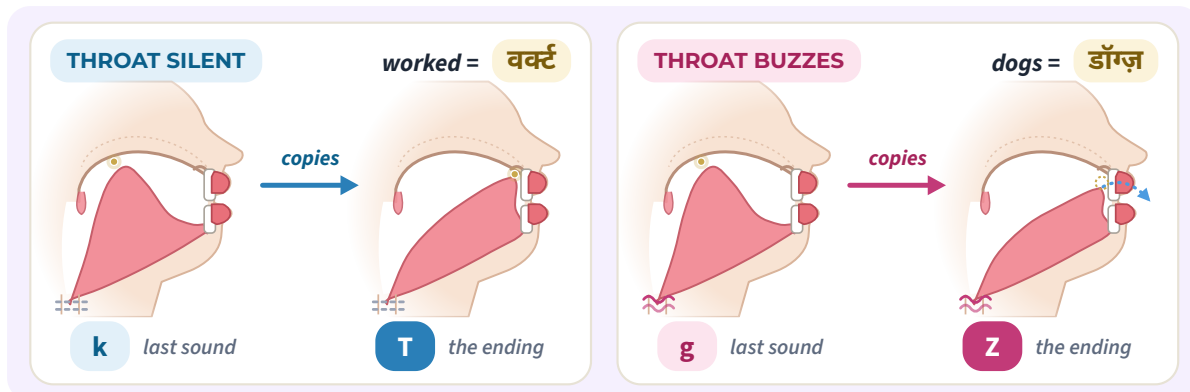
**THE INDIAN ERROR**

Adding a syllable everywhere: वर्क-एड, स्टॉप-एड, फ़िक्स-एड — the extra beat exists ONLY after t/d (for -ed) and hissers (for -s).



The golden rule: the ending COPIES the voicing of the sound before it. Hand on throat, say the word's last sound before the ending — vibrating? The ending vibrates too (d/z). Silent? The ending is silent too (t/s). And the extra syllable (इड / इज़) exists only where the mouth physically NEEDS it: you cannot say 'wantd' or 'boxs' — the tongue demands a vowel bridge. Everywhere else, NO extra beat: worked is ONE beat — वर्कट.

THE ENDING COPIES THE VOICING



Hand on throat. Say the last sound of the word: silent? the ending is silent too (T, S). Buzzing? it buzzes too (D, Z).

2 When to Use It

USE 1

-ED Group 1 — the T endings (voiceless before)

After p, k, s, sh, ch, f sounds — the -ed is a crisp T glued to the word. No new syllable.

- *worked* = वर्कट, *booked* = बुकट, *parked* = पार्कट
- *stopped* = स्टॉप्ट, *helped* = हेल्प्ट
- *finished* = फ़िनिश्ट, *watched* = वॉच्च्ट, *reached* = रीच्च्ट
- *fixed* = फ़िक्स्ट, *laughed* = लाफ़्ट (gh = f!)
- *Business drill*: 'We booked, checked and finished' = बुकट, चेक्कट, फ़िनिश्ट — three one-beat endings.

VOICELESS BEFORE

p k s श च फ़

work **T** = वर्कट

● 1 beat: the T is glued on

USE 2

-ED Group 2 — the D endings (voiced before)

After b, g, v, z, m, n, l, r and all vowels — the -ed is a soft D glued on. Still no new syllable.

- *played* = प्लेड, *called* = कॉल्ड, *moved* = मूव्ड
- *opened* = ओपण्ड, *planned* = प्लैण्ड, *cleaned* = क्लीण्ड
- *agreed* = अग्रीड, *showed* = शोड, *followed* = फ़ॉलोड
- *registered* = रेजिस्टर्ड, *transferred* = ट्रान्सफ़र्ड
- *used* = यूज़्ड (hidden z + d), *raised* = रेज़्ड

VOICED BEFORE

b g v z m n l r vowels

play **D** = प्लेड

● 1 beat: the D is glued on

ONLY AFTER t / d

ends in

t

d

WAN

tid

=

वाँन्टिड



+1

2 beats: WAN + tid

wanted · needed · decided · started

USE 3

-ED Group 3 — the इड endings (only after t/d)

The ONLY place -ed earns its own beat: when the word already ends in t or d, the mouth needs a bridge vowel.

- wanted = वाँन्टिड, waited = वेटिड, visited = विज़िटिड
- needed = नीडिड, decided = डिसाइडिड, attended = अटेन्डिड
- started = स्टार्टिड, invested = इन्वेस्टिड, submitted = सब्मिटिड
- The test: does the base word end in a t or d sound?
Yes → इड. No → glue t or d, zero extra beats.

USE 4

-S: the same machine, plural edition

Voiceless before → S; voiced before → Z (the hidden z of Chapter 4, now systematic); hisssers before → इज़ with its own beat.

voiceless

p t k f

S

books

बुक्स



voiced

+ vowels

Z

dogs

डॉग्ज़



hissers

s z श च ज

इज़

boxes

बॉक्सिज़



- S group: books = बुक्स, flats = फ़्लैट्स, banks = बैंक्स, deposits = डिपॉज़िट्स
- Z group: dogs = डॉग्ज़, days = डेज़, deals = डील्ज़, buyers = बाय्अर्ज़, plans = प्लैन्ज़, rupees = रुपीज़, keys = कीज़ — every vowel-ending plural buzzes!
- इज़ group: prices = प्राइसिज़, houses = हाउज़िज़, offices = ऑफ़िसिज़, boxes = बॉक्सिज़, branches = ब्रान्चिज़, leases = लीसिज़
- Verbs obey too: he works = वर्क्स, she calls = कॉल्ज़, it closes = क्लोज़िज़

3 Hindi Concept Note

A

अ

HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

दो endings जो हर sentence में हैं — दोनों का एक ही इंजन: गले का test (Chapter 1)।

THE -ED SORTING MACHINE



Test the **LAST SOUND** of the base word, not the letter. Hand on throat if in doubt: the ending copies it.

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

-ED के तीन नियम: पहले की आवाज़ बेजान (p, k, s, श, च, फ़) → ending भी बेजान = T: worked = वर्कट (एक beat!)। पहले की आवाज़ सजीव (b, g, v, m, n, l, r, स्वर) → ending भी सजीव = D: played = प्लेड। सिर्फ़ t/d के बाद अलग beat मिलती है: wanted = वॉन्टिड।

India की ग़लती: हर जगह 'एड' जोड़ना — वर्केड, स्टॉपेड, फ़िक्सेड। याद रखो: extra beat सिर्फ़ वहाँ जहाँ मुँह को ज़रूरत है — 'wantd' बोलकर देखो, अटक जाओगे; इसीलिए वॉन्टिड।

-S के भी तीन नियम, वही logic: बुक्स (बेजान), डॉग्ज़ (सजीव — छुपा हुआ z!), प्राइसिज़ (फुफकार वाली आवाज़ों के बाद अपनी beat)।

सबसे बड़ा सुधार Z group है: days = डेज़, keys = कीज़, rupees = रुपीज़, buyers = बायूअर्ज़ — स्वर के बाद plural हमेशा भिनभिनाता है। डेस, कीस, रुपीस बोलना बंद।

Drill: कोई भी past-tense sentence लो, हर -ed को T/D/इड में बाँटो, फिर ज़ोर से पढ़ो। हफ़्ते भर में मशीन अपने आप चलेगी।

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ worked = वर्केड (2 beats)	✓ वर्कट (1 beat — k is voiceless → t)	The universal Indian -ed. The extra beat exists only after t/d.
✗ stopped, fixed, watched = स्टॉपेड, फ़िक्सेड, वॉचेड	✓ स्टॉप्ट, फ़िक्स्ट, वॉच्च	All voiceless finals → crisp T, glued on, no beat.
✗ played, called = प्लेयेड, कॉलेड	✓ प्लेड, कॉल्ड	Voiced finals → soft D, glued on.

✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ days, keys, rupees = डेस, कीस, रुपीस	✓ डेज़, कीज़, रुपीज़	Vowel-final plurals buzz — the hidden z rules them all.
✗ prices, houses = प्राइसेस, हाउसेस	✓ प्राइसिज़, हाउज़िज़	Hissing finals → इज़ with its own beat (and house voices its s: हाउज़-).
✗ 'He wants' and 'he wanted' said identically fast (वॉन्ट / वॉन्टेड random)	✓ wants = वॉन्ट्स (no beat), wanted = वॉन्टिड (beat)	Your listener hears tense from this ending. Getting it wrong scrambles your grammar even when your grammar is right.

🕒 ONE BEAT OR TWO?

	INDIA ADDS A BEAT			ENGLISH GLUES IT ON		WHY
worked	वर्क	एड	✗ →	वर्कट	✓	k is silent: T
stopped	स्टॉप	एड	✗ →	स्टॉप्ट	✓	p is silent: T
played	प्ले	येड	✗ →	प्लेड	✓	the vowel buzzes: D
wanted	(no wrong version here)		→	वॉन्	टिड ✓	ends in t: the beat is real
boxes	(no wrong version here)		→	बॉक्	सिज़ ✓	ends in a hisser: real

Every block is one beat. The extra beat exists ONLY after t/d (for -ed) and after hissers (for -s).

5 Signal Words

📄 The sorting machine:

- ✓ -ed after p/k/s/श/च/फ़ → T, no beat (वर्कट)
- ✓ -ed after t/d → इड, one extra beat (वॉन्टिड)
- ✓ Doubt? Hand on throat at the word's last sound — the ending copies it.
- ✓ -ed after voiced sounds & vowels → D, no beat (प्लेड)
- ✓ -s after voiceless → स; after voiced/vowels → ज़; after hissers → इज़

S THE -S SORTING MACHINE



Same machine, plural edition: hissers get their own beat, everything else copies the throat.

6 Practice

SET A Sort the -ed: write T, D, or इड

10 QUESTIONS

1 booked

2 cleaned

3 wanted

4 finished

5 moved

6 decided

7 helped

8 registered

9 visited

10 laughed

SET B Fix the ending — respell in Devanagari

8 QUESTIONS

11 parked said as पार्केड

12 planned said as प्लैनेड

13 started said as स्टार्टेड (beat missing)

14 flats said as फ़्लैटज़

15 deals said as डील्स

16 offices said as ऑफ़िसेस

17 closed said as क्लोसेड (two errors)

18 watches said as वॉच्स

SET C Read-aloud: respell the full phrase with correct endings

7 QUESTIONS

19 We finalised and signed the papers.

20 Three buyers visited two houses.

21 He booked, paid and moved in.

22 The prices dropped last month.

23 She called and asked for the keys.

24 All the branches opened at nine.

25 The tenant wanted reduced charges.

7 Answer Key



ANSWERS · SET A

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 T (बुक्क) | 2 D (क्लीन्ड) | 3 इड (वॉन्टिड) |
| 4 T (फ़िनिश्ट) | 5 D (मूव्ड) | 6 इड (डिसाइडिड) |
| 7 T (हेल्प्ट) | 8 D (रेजिस्टर्ड) | 9 इड (विज़िटिड) |
| 10 T (लाफ़्ट) | | |

ANSWERS · SET B

- | | |
|---|---|
| 11 पार्क — voiceless k → T, one beat. | 12 प्लैन्ड — voiced n → D, one beat. |
| 13 स्टार्टिड — ends in t → the इड beat is compulsory. | 14 प्रलैट्स — voiceless t → S (this one was over-corrected!). |
| 15 डीलज़ — voiced l → Z. | 16 ऑफ़िसिज़ — hisser → इज़ beat. |
| 17 क्लोड्ड — hidden z (s → ज़) + voiced → D. | 18 वॉचिज़ — hisser च → इज़ beat. |

ANSWERS · SET C

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 19 वी फ़ाइनलाइज़्ड ऐन्ड साइन्ड द पेपज़ (z+D, D, plural ज़) | 20 थ* बाय्‌अज़ विज़िटिड टू हाउज़िज़ |
| 21 ही बुक्क, पेड ऐन्ड मूव्ड इन | 22 द प्राइसिज़ ड्रॉप्ट लास्ट मन्थ* |
| 23 शी कॉल्ड ऐन्ड आस्वट फ़ॉर द कीज़ | 24 ऑल द ब्रान्चिज़ ओपन्ड ऐट नाइन |
| 25 द टेनन्ट वॉन्टिड रिड्यूस्ट चार्जिज़ (इड beat + T + इज़) | |

NEXT UP

Word Stress — **RE**cord vs. re**CO**RD are different words, and the suffixes that tell you exactly where the punch lands.



PART 2 — BEYOND SINGLE SOUNDS

08

Word Stress — Where the Punch Lands

 Level: Intermediate–Advanced

 Estimated study time: 55 minutes


1 Quick Look



Chapter 3 taught you that every word has one hero syllable. This chapter teaches you to FIND it — because in English, stress position is part of the word’s identity. **RE**cord (noun) and re**CORD** (verb) are two different words. Put the punch on the wrong syllable and natives genuinely fail to recognise the word — a mis-stressed word confuses more than a mispronounced sound. The good news: stress follows learnable rules, especially from suffixes.



THE TWO-SYLLABLE LAW

Nouns punch FRONT:
OFice, **TA**ble, **MAR**ket,
PROject. Verbs punch BACK:
de**CIDE**, re**LAX**, in**VEST**,
main**TAIN**.



THE SWITCH PAIRS

- **RE**cord (n) / re**CORD** (v)
- **PRE**sent (n) / pre**SENT** (v)
- **OB**ject (n) / ob**JECT** (v)
- **IN**crease (n) / in**CREASE** (v)



THE SUFFIX MAGNETS

-tion, -sion, -ic pull stress to
JUST BEFORE them:
regis**TRA**tion, de**CI**sion,
eco**NO**mic. -ity too:
oppor**TU**nity, a**BI**lity.



The golden rule: stress is part of spelling — learn every new word WITH its punch position, the way you learn gender in Hindi (किताब स्त्रीलिंग है, the way deVEL**opment punches on VEL). A dictionary marks it with a mark before the hero: de’velopment. From today, no new word enters your vocabulary without its stress mark.**

↔ NOUNS PUNCH FRONT, VERBS PUNCH BACK

NOUN punch FRONT

OF fice

MAR ket

PRO ject

TA ble

VERB punch BACK

de **CIDE**

re **LAX**

in **VEST**

main **TAIN**

SAME SPELLING, TWO DIFFERENT WORDS: grammar decides the punch

RE cord
re **CORD**

PRE sent
pre **SENT**

OB ject
ob **JECT**

IN crease
in **CREASE**

Capitals mark the hero syllable. Same spelling, different punch: REcord (noun) and reCORD (verb) are two words.

2 When to Use It



USE 1

Rule 1 — Two-syllable nouns front, verbs back

About 90% reliable — the best free rule in English.

- Nouns (front punch): **OF** fice, **MAR** ket, **PRO** duct, **PRO** fit, **CON** tract, **PRO** ject, **PER** mit, **DIS** count
- Verbs (back punch): de **CIDE**, a **GREE**, in **VEST**, ob **TAIN**, per **MIT**, dis **CUSS**, re **CEIVE**, com **plete**
- Same spelling, two words: ‘Here is the **CON** tract’ (noun) / ‘Prices con **TRACT** in winter’ (verb)
- India’s habit: प्रोजेक्ट with even stress — English: **PRO** ject (noun, the building you sell) vs. pro **JECT** (verb, to forecast).

NOUN

RE cord



FRONT



same spelling, two words

VERB

re **CORD**



BACK

about 90% reliable

regis **TRA** tioneco **NO** mica **BI** lity

the punch sits JUST BEFORE the magnet

USE 2 Rule 2 — The suffix magnets

Certain endings FIX the stress position mechanically. Learn the magnet, solve a thousand words.

- **-tion/-sion** → stress right before: regis**TRA**tion, construc**TION**... say construc**TION** as con**STRUC**tion, posi**TION** → po**SI**tion, de**CI**sion, tele**VI**sion
- **-ic** → right before: eco**NO**mic, spe**CI**fic, stra**TE**gic, his**TO**ric (but **PO**litics — the -ics twist)
- **-ity** → right before: a**BI**lity, oppor**TU**nity, se**CU**rity, fa**CI**lity, elec**TRI**city
- **-ee / -eer / -ese** → stress ON the suffix itself: employ**EE**, engi**NEER**, Japa**NESE**, refe**REE**
- **-ate (verbs)** → punch two back: **CAL**culate, **NE**gotiate → ne**GO**tiate, **COM**municate → com**MU**nicate

PHOtographpho **TO**graphyphoto **GRA**phic

one root, three punches

USE 3**Rule 3 — The shifting families**

The same root moves its punch as suffixes grow — the schwa (Ch 3) swallows whatever loses the stress.

- **PHO**tograph → pho**TO**graphy → photo**GRA**phic — three words, three punches
- e**CO**nomy → eco**NO**mic → e**CO**nomist
- **DE**mocrat → de**MO**cracy → demo**CRA**tic
- The lesson: never assume the family keeps the parent's stress. Each form is learned with its own punch.

USE 4

Rule 4 — The Indian misplacement list

High-frequency words where Indian English habitually punches the wrong syllable. Fixing these twenty upgrades every meeting.

DEvelopment → de **VEL**opment ✓

HOtel → ho **TEL** ✓

e **CO**nomic → eco **NO**mic ✓

India's habit (red) → English (navy)

- de**VEL**opment (not **DE**velopment), ho**TEL** (not **HO**tel), e**VENT** (not **EE**vent)
- suc**CESS**, per**CENT**, ca**REER** (क्अ-रिअर), de**GREE**, ma**CHINE**, po**LICE** (Ch 3's schwa openers — punch lands late)
- com**MIT**tee, ad**VER**tisement = ad**VER**tisment (British) — India says एडवर-टाइज़-मेंट; safer: ad**VER**tisement
- **MAIN**tenance (front! — not main**TAIN**ance), **NE**cessary, **IN**teresting (**IN**-tres-ting), **COM**fortable
- Numbers: thir**TEEN** vs. **THIR**ty — the -teen/-ty pairs live or die on stress: 13/30, 14/40, 15/50 confusions on calls are stress errors, not hearing errors.

THE SUFFIX MAGNETS

-tion -sion
just before

regis**TRA**tion de**CI**sion con**STRUC**tion po**SI**tion

-ic
just before

eco**NO**m**ic** spe**CI**f**ic** stra**TE**g**ic** his**TO**r**ic**

-ity
just before

a**BI**l**ity** oppor**TU**n**ity** se**CU**r**ity** elec**TRI**c**ity**

-ee -eer -ese
ON the suffix

employ**EE** engi**NEER** Japa**NESE** refe**REE**

-ate (verbs)
two back

CALcul**ate** ne**GO**ti**ate** com**MU**nic**ate**

Learn the magnet, solve a thousand words: the punch lands just before -tion, -sion, -ic, -ity, and ON -ee, -eer, -ese.

3 Hindi Concept Note



अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

हिंदी में stress से शब्द नहीं बदलता — English में बदल जाता है: REcord (noun, रिकॉर्ड-फ़ाइल) और reCORD (verb, दर्ज करना) दो अलग शब्द हैं।

ग़लत syllable पर मुक्का = native के लिए शब्द ग़ायब। ग़लत आवाज़ से ज़्यादा ग़लत stress confuse करता है।

दो-syllable क़ानून: noun का मुक्का आगे (OFFice, MARket, PROject), verb का पीछे (deCIDE, inVEST)। 90% काम यही नियम कर देता है।

Suffix चुंबक: -tion/-sion/-ic/-ity से ठीक पहले वाले syllable पर मुक्का — regiSTRation, ecoNOMIC, opporTunity। -ee/-eer खुद मुक्का खाते हैं: employEE, engiNEER।

India की बीस ग़लत आदतें ठीक करो: deVELOPMENT (DEvelopment नहीं), hoTEL, eVENT, sucCESS, MAINTenance (आगे!)।

और phone का सबसे महँगा जोड़ा: thirTEEN (मुक्का पीछे) बनाम THIRty (मुक्का आगे) — 13 और 30 का फ़र्क़ आवाज़ नहीं, stress है। payment की बात में यह जोड़ा लाखों का है।

ONE ROOT, THREE PUNCHES

PHO tograph ● ● ●
↓
pho TO graphy ● ● ● ●
↓
photo GRA phic ● ● ● ●

e CO nomy ● ● ● ●
↓
eco NO mic ● ● ● ●
↓
e CO nomist ● ● ● ●

DE mocrat ● ● ● ●
↓
de MO cracy ● ● ● ●
↓
demo CRA tic ● ● ● ●

Families shift their punch as the suffix grows: learn every form with its own mark.

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ 'I will REcord the meeting' (noun stress on the verb)	✓ reCORD (verb — punch back)	The switch pairs: REcord/reCORD, PREsent/preSENT, OBject/obJECT. Grammar decides the punch.
✗ development = DEvelopment (front punch)	✓ deVELOPMENT	One of India's most universal stress errors — the punch is on VEL.

✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ hotel = HO tel	✓ hoTEL	Same family: e VENT , suc CESS , per CENT , de GREE , ca REER — late punches.
✗ maintenance = main- TAI N-ance (following the verb maintain)	✓ MAI tenance — the noun jumped its punch forward	Families shift: main TAI N (v) but MAI tenance (n). Learn each form separately.
✗ 'The total is thirteen thousand' heard as thirty	✓ thirTEEN — punch the TEEN , and stretch it	On numbers, over-punch: thir TEEN vs. THIR ty. Confirm big numbers by punching the difference.
✗ economic = e CO nomic (copying 'economy')	✓ ecoNO mic — the -ic magnet pulls the punch	e CO nomy → eco NO mic → e CO nomist: three punches, one family.

🌀 INDIA'S HABIT VS ENGLISH

INDIA'S HABIT	ENGLISH	
DE velopment	de VEL opment	✓
HO tel	ho TEL	✓
main TAI Nance	MAI tenance	✓
e CO nomic	eco NO mic	✓
late punches: suc CESS per CENT ca REER de GREE		

13 OR 30?	
13 thir TEEN	30 THIR ty
14 four TEEN	40 FOR ty
15 fif TEEN	50 FIF ty

-teen = late punch, stretched
-ty = front punch, clipped

Fix the punch, not the sounds. Late punches: suc**CESS**, per**CENT**, ca**REER**, de**GREE**. On the phone, thir**TEEN** is stretched and **THIR**ty is clipped.

🗣️ SAY IT ALOUD

- Nouns (front punch): **OF**fice, **MAR**ket, **PRO**duct, **PRO**fit, **CON**tract, **PRO**ject, **PER**mit, **DIS**count
- ic → right before: eco**NO**mic, spe**CIF**ic, stra**TE**gic, his**TO**ric (but **PO**litics — the -ics twist)

5 Signal Words



Punch-finding rules:

- ✓ 2-syllable noun → front; 2-syllable verb → back
- ✓ -ee/-eer/-ese → punch on the suffix
- ✓ -teen = late punch and stretched; -ty = front punch and clipped
- ✓ -tion/-sion/-ic/-ity → punch just before the suffix
- ✓ Families shift their punch — learn each form with its mark

6 Practice



SET A Mark the hero syllable in CAPITALS

10 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1 invest | 2 market |
| 3 registration | 4 economic |
| 5 opportunity | 6 engineer |
| 7 photograph | 8 photography |
| 9 discount (as a noun) | 10 negotiate |

SET B Noun or verb? Give the stress for THIS sentence's use

8 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11 'Please record the reading.' — record | 12 'Your record is clean.' — record |
| 13 'They will present the plan.' — present | 14 'It's a present from the society.' — present |
| 15 'Imports will increase.' — increase | 16 'A 10% increase in rates.' — increase |
| 17 'I object to this clause.' — object | 18 'The object of the meeting is simple.' — object |

SET C Fix the Indian misplacement — write the correct punch

7 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 19 development | 20 hotel |
| 21 maintenance | 22 success |

SET C Fix the Indian misplacement — write the correct punch 7 QUESTIONS

23 thirteen vs. thirty (both — show the difference)

24 committee

25 interesting

7 Answer Key**ANSWERS · SET A**

1 in**VEST**

2 **MAR**ket

3 regis**TRA**tion

4 eco**NO**mic

5 oppor**TU**nity

6 engi**NEER**

7 **PHO**tograph

8 pho**TO**graphy

9 **DIS**count

10 ne**GO**tiate

ANSWERS · SET B

11 re**CORD** — verb, punch back.

12 **RE**cord — noun, punch front.

13 pre**SENT** — verb.

14 **PRE**sent — noun.

15 in**CREASE** — verb.

16 **IN**crease — noun.

17 ob**JECT** — verb.

18 **OB**ject — noun.

ANSWERS · SET C

19 de**VEL**opment

20 ho**TEL**

21 **MAIN**tenance (front — unlike the verb main**TAIN**)

22 suc**CESS**

23 thir**TEEN** (late punch, stretched TEEN) vs. **THIR**ty (front punch, clipped ty)

24 com**MIT**tee

25 **IN**teresting (3 beats: **IN**-tres-ting)

NEXT UP

Sentence Stress & Rhythm — why native English sounds like a heartbeat and Indian English like a machine gun, and how to switch.



PART 2 — BEYOND SINGLE SOUNDS

09

Sentence Stress & Rhythm —
The Heartbeat of English
 Level: Advanced

 Estimated study time: 55 minutes

1 Quick Look



Here is the deepest difference between the two languages: Hindi is SYLLABLE-TIMED — every syllable gets roughly equal time, ta-ta-ta-ta, a steady machine gun. English is STRESS-TIMED — only the important words get beats, and everything between them is compressed to fit, **DUM**-da-da-**DUM**, a heartbeat. This one rhythm switch does more for how ‘native’ you sound than every consonant fix combined — and it’s also why natives seem to ‘swallow’ words when they speak.



THE TWO ENGINES

Hindi: every syllable equal (machine gun). English: equal time between STRESSED beats; everything else compresses (heartbeat).



WHO GETS THE BEAT

CONTENT words: nouns, main verbs, adjectives, adverbs, question words, negatives (not/never).
Function words (a, the, of, to, and, is, can, him) shrink to Chapter 3’s weak forms.



THE PROOF

‘CATS chase MICE’ and ‘The CATS will have been chasing the MICE’ take almost the SAME time aloud — 2 beats both. The extra words got crushed between the beats.



The golden rule: give the beats to MEANING, steal the time from grammar. Before speaking a sentence, know its 2–4 content words — punch those, and deliberately rush and mumble everything between them. It will feel rude and lazy. It is exactly what natives do, and it’s why they understand each other at speed.

MACHINE GUN VS HEARTBEAT

HINDI

syllable-timed

machine gun:

ta-ta-ta-ta

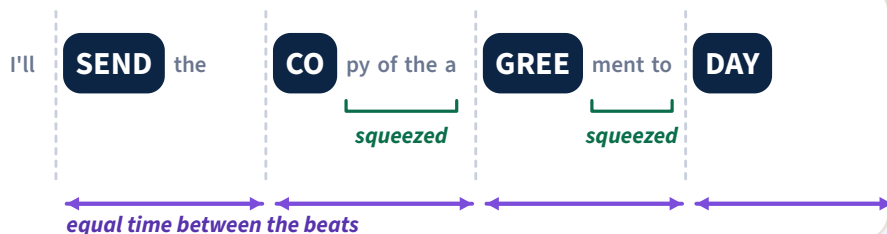


ENGLISH

stress-timed

heartbeat:

DUM-da-da-DUM



Hindi gives every syllable one tick; English gives every BEAT one tick and squeezes the weak syllables in between.

2 When to Use It



USE 1

Sorting content from function

Beat-getters vs. shrinkers — the sentence's skeleton vs. its cartilage.

- **BEATS:** nouns (buyer, registry), main verbs (signed, called), adjectives (ready, final), adverbs (today, quickly), question words (when, why), negatives (not, never, can't)
- **SHRINK:** articles (a, the), prepositions (of, to, at), pronouns (he, them), auxiliaries (is, have, will, can), conjunctions (and, but, that)
- 'The **BUY**er has **SIGNED** the a **GREE**ment' — 3 beats; the/has/the ride between them.
- Negatives always beat: 'He **CAN'T** COME' — can't earns a full punch (unlike weak can, Ch 3).

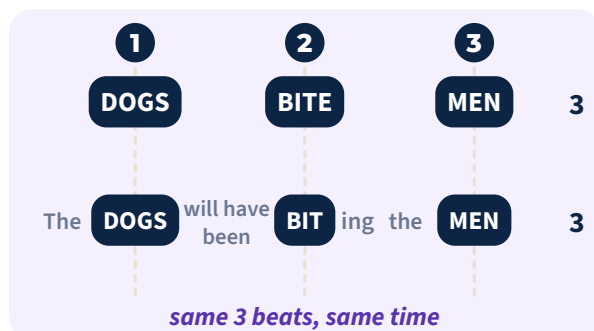
BEATS buyer signed today not

SHRINK a the of to he is and

the **BUY**er has **SIGNED**

the a **GREE**ment

3 beats: the other words ride between



USE 2

The compression drill — same beats, growing sentence

The classic exercise: keep the beat count and duration fixed while grammar words multiply.

- DOGS BITE MEN. (3 beats)
- The DOGS BITE the MEN. (still 3 beats — ‘the...the’ squeezed in)
- The DOGS have BIT ten the MEN. (3 beats)
- The DOGS will have been BIT ing the MEN. (STILL 3 beats — say it in the same time!)
- Clap the three beats steadily; force the extra words into the gaps. This is the whole engine of English rhythm in one drill.

USE 3

Contrastive stress — moving the beat moves the meaning

In English, you can punch ANY word to change what the sentence implies. One sentence, seven messages.

I didn't say **HE**
stole the file.



someone **ELSE** stole it

7 words = 7 possible messages

- I didn't say he stole the file. (neutral)
- I didn't say he stole the file. (someone else said it)
- I DIDN'T say he stole the file. (denial)
- I didn't SAY he stole the file. (I only implied it)
- I didn't say HE stole the file. (someone else stole it)
- I didn't say he STOLE the file. (maybe he just borrowed it)
- I didn't say he stole the FILE. (he stole something else)
- Business use: 'THIS unit is available' vs. 'This unit IS available' — corrections and confirmations live on the moved beat.

USE 4

Thought groups — where to breathe

Native speech comes in chunks of 3–7 words with mini-pauses between; the last beat of each chunk gets the strongest punch. Pausing at random (or never) breaks the listener's parsing.

After the **RE**gistry

we'll release the first **TRANCHE**

as per the a **GREE**ment.

3 to 7 words, a mini-pause, last beat strongest

- 'After the registry | we'll release the first tranche | as per the agreement.'
- Pause at grammar joints: after intro phrases, before 'which/that' clauses, between list items.
- Phone rule: shorter chunks + clearer pauses = fewer 'sorry, come again?' moments.
- Reading drill: mark ' | ' on any paragraph, then read punching only the last content word of each chunk.

 THE COMPRESSION DRILL

	clap	1	2	3
3 beats		DOGS	BITE	MEN
3 beats	The	DOGS	BITE the	MEN
3 beats	The	DOGS have	BIT ten the	MEN
STILL 3	The	DOGS will have been	BIT ing the	MEN

Keep the three beats steady and force the extra words into the gaps: that is the whole engine of English rhythm.

3 Hindi Concept Note



अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

सबसे गहरा फ़र्क़: हिंदी syllable-timed है — हर syllable को बराबर समय (मशीन-गन: त-त-त-त)। English stress-timed है — सिर्फ़ ज़रूरी शब्दों पर beat, बाक़ी सब उनके बीच में कुचल दिया जाता है (दिल की धड़कन: DUM-द-द-DUM)।

Beat किसे मिलती है? मतलब वाले शब्दों को: noun, main verb, adjective, adverb, सवाल के शब्द, और negative (not/never हमेशा!)। Grammar के शब्द (a, the, of, to, is, can) सिकुड़कर Chapter 3 के weak forms बन जाते हैं।

सबूत खुद आजमाओ: 'CATS chase MICE' और 'The CATS will have been chasing the MICE' — दोनों को बोलने में लगभग बराबर समय लगता है! Extra शब्द beats के बीच ठूँस गए।

ताली drill: तीन ताली बराबर रफ़्तार से बजाओ, हर version उसी में fit करो — यही English rhythm का पूरा राज़ है।

और contrastive stress समझो — beat सरकाओ, मतलब बदलो: 'I didn't say HE stole it' (उसने नहीं, किसी और ने) बनाम 'I didn't say he STOLE it' (चुराया नहीं, शायद लिया)। हिंदी यह काम शब्द बदलकर करती है ('उसने थोड़े ही...'), English सिर्फ़ मुक्का सरकाकर।

यह chapter पढ़ने का नहीं, करने का है: रोज़ एक paragraph — content words पर निशान, बाक़ी को जान-बूझकर बुदबुदाओ। 'बदतमीज़ी' जैसा लगेगा; वही native बहाव है।

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ Every word equally clear and equally timed: 'I - will - send - the - copy - of - the - agreement - today'	✓ 'I'll SEND the COpy of the aGREEment toDAY' — 4 beats, the rest compressed	Machine-gun delivery. Clear but exhausting to listen to — and the #1 reason natives 'switch off' mid-sentence.
✗ can't and can pronounced identically weak	✓ can = कून (weak); CAN'T = full loud beat	Negatives ALWAYS beat. If your can't doesn't punch, the listener may hear the opposite of your meaning — a genuinely dangerous error.

✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ Punching pronouns and prepositions for 'clarity': 'I gave it TO him AT the office'	✓ 'I GAVE it to him at the Office ' — beats on meaning words	Punching grammar words doesn't add clarity; it deletes the signal that tells listeners what matters.
✗ No pauses — one 40-word exhale	✓ Thought groups of 3–7 words with mini-pauses at grammar joints	Without chunk boundaries, the listener must parse in real time — that's when 'come again?' happens.
✗ Correcting a client by repeating the whole sentence flat	✓ Move ONE beat: 'The token is THREE lakhs, not two.'	Contrastive stress is the professional correction tool — the moved beat does the arguing politely.
✗ Reading numbers/lists with flat rhythm	✓ List melody: beat each item, small pause after, strongest punch on the last	Lists without rhythm blur together — Chapter 10 adds the rise-fall tune on top of these beats.

👉 ONE SENTENCE, SEVEN MESSAGES

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | I didn't say he stole the file. | → neutral: just a statement |
| 2 | I didn't say he stole the file. | → someone else said it |
| 3 | I DIDN'T say he stole the file. | → denial: I did NOT say it |
| 4 | I didn't SAY he stole the file. | → I only implied it |
| 5 | I didn't say HE stole the file. | → someone else stole it |
| 6 | I didn't say he STOLE the file. | → maybe he just borrowed it |
| 7 | I didn't say he stole the FILE . | → he stole something else |

Move the beat, move the meaning. Hindi changes words to do this; English only moves the punch.

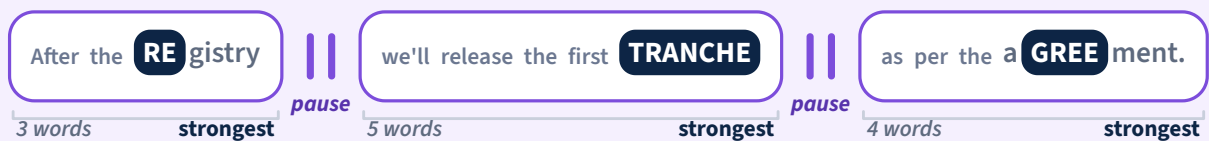
5 Signal Words



The rhythm rules:

- ✓ Beats → nouns, main verbs, adjectives, adverbs, question words, negatives
- ✓ Shrink → articles, prepositions, pronouns, auxiliaries, conjunctions (weak forms, Ch 3)
- ✓ Equal time BETWEEN beats — extra words compress, never stretch the sentence
- ✓ Move a beat → move the meaning (contrastive stress)
- ✓ Speak in thought groups of 3–7 words; punch each group's last content word

THOUGHT GROUPS: WHERE TO BREATHE



Chunks of 3-7 words, a mini-pause at the grammar joint, and the strongest punch on each chunk's last content word.

6 Practice



SET A Underline the beat-words (write them in CAPITALS)

10 QUESTIONS

1 The buyer has signed the agreement.

2 We will send the copy today.

3 He can't come to the registry on Monday.

4 I was waiting for the manager at the gate.

5 The rates have increased since the announcement.

6 Do you want the corner unit or the middle one?

SET A

Underline the beat-words (write them in CAPITALS)

10 QUESTIONS

- 7 She has never missed a payment.
- 8 The keys are with the guard at the site office.
- 9 We should verify the documents before the token.
- 10 They are planning to launch the second tower in March.

SET B

Contrastive stress: what does each version imply?

8 QUESTIONS

- 11 "I didn't promise HIM a discount."
- 12 "I didn't PROMISE him a discount."
- 13 "I didn't promise him a DISCOUNT."
- 14 "I didn't promise him a discount." (beat on I)
- 15 "THIS unit is sold."
- 16 "This unit IS sold."
- 17 "The token is THREE lakhs." (context: client heard 'two')
- 18 "We need the ORIGINAL documents." (context: copies were brought)

SET C

Chunk it: mark thought groups with | and punch the last content word of each

7 QUESTIONS

- 19 After the site visit we will share the payment plan and the draft agreement.
- 20 If the loan is approved before Friday we can complete the registry next week.
- 21 The maintenance charges which were revised in March apply from the possession date.
- 22 Please bring two photographs the original ID and the booking receipt.
- 23 As I mentioned on the call the corner units are already blocked.
- 24 The first tranche will be released after the token and the second after the registry.
- 25 Before you sign anything read clause seven carefully.

7

Answer Key



ANSWERS · SET A

- 1 BUYer, SIGNED, a GREEment
- 2 SEND, COpy, to DAY
- 3 CAN'T, COME, REgistry, MONday
(negative beats!)
- 4 WAITing, MANager, GATE

ANSWERS · SET A

5 RATES, in **CREASED**, an **NOUNCE**ment7 **NE**ver, MISSED, **PAY**ment (never beats)9 **VER**ify, **DOC**uments, **TO**ken6 WANT, **COR**ner **UN**it, **MID**dle8 KEYS, GUARD, SITE **OF**fice10 **PLAN**ning, LAUNCH, **SEC**ond **TOW**er,
MARCH

ANSWERS · SET B

11 Someone else may have been promised
one — not him.13 I promised him something — but not a
discount.15 This particular unit — others may be
free.17 Correcting the number — the beat
replaces an argument.

12 I hinted, but never promised.

14 Someone promised — but it wasn't me.

16 Confirming against doubt: it really is
sold.18 Correcting the type — originals, not the
copies you brought.

ANSWERS · SET C

19 After the site VISIT | we'll share the payment PLAN | and the draft a **GREE**ment.20 If the loan is ap**PROVED** before **FRI**day | we can complete the **RE**gistry | next WEEK.21 The maintenance CHARGES | which were revised in MARCH | apply from the pos**SESSION**
date.22 Please bring two **PHO**tographs | the original ID | and the booking re**CEIPT**.

23 As I mentioned on the CALL | the corner units | are already BLOCKED.

24 The first tranche will be released after the **TO**ken | and the second | after the **RE**gistry.25 Before you sign **AN**ything | read clause **SE**ven | **CARE**fully.

NEXT UP

Intonation — the tune on top of the rhythm: rising questions, falling statements, the list melody, and the polite curve that softens requests.



PART 2 — BEYOND SINGLE SOUNDS

10

Intonation — The Tune on Top



Level: Advanced

Estimated study time: 50 minutes

1 Quick Look



Chapter 9 gave you the drumbeat; this chapter adds the melody. Intonation is the rise and fall of your pitch — and in English it carries GRAMMAR and ATTITUDE: a falling tune means ‘finished, certain’; a rising tune means ‘open, asking, unfinished’. Use the wrong tune and your statement sounds like a question, your politeness sounds like sarcasm, and your confidence sounds like doubt — even with every sound perfect.


FALL ↘ = CLOSED & CERTAIN

Statements, wh-questions, commands: ‘The registry is on **FRI**day. ↘’ ‘WHERE is the file? ↘’


RISE ↗ = OPEN & ASKING

Yes/no questions: ‘Is the unit available? ↗’ ‘Have you paid the token? ↗’


FALL-RISE ↘↗ = POLITE & PARTIAL

Softening, hesitation, ‘but...’: ‘I can come on Monday ↘↗’ (...but not before noon).’



The golden rule: the tune lands on the LAST beat-word of the chunk (Chapter 9’s thought groups) — everything after it rides the tail of that movement. Decide the destination before you speak: certain → fall; asking yes/no → rise; polite reservation → fall-rise. English listeners trust the tune over the words: a rising ‘fine’ means NOT fine.

🎵 WHERE EVERY TUNE LANDS



The tune lands on the last beat-word of the chunk; the syllables after it ride the tail of the movement.

2 When to Use It

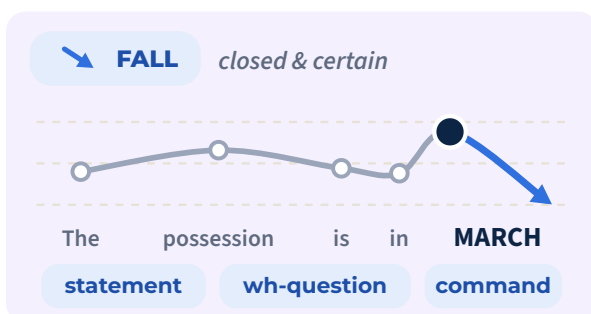


USE 1

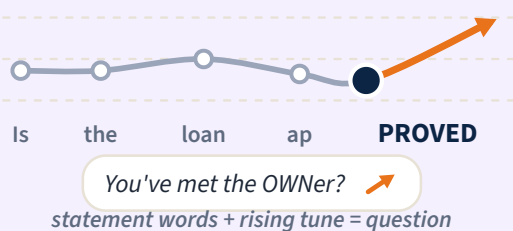
The falling tune ↘ — certainty's signature

Statements, wh-questions (what/where/when/why/how), and commands all FALL on the final beat. A statement that rises sounds unsure — the classic 'uptalk' that undermines authority.

- 'The possession is in **MARCH**. ↘' — falls = fact.
- 'WHERE is the original **DEED**? ↘' — wh-questions fall (Indians often rise here; the fall is standard).
- 'Sign at the **BOT**tom. ↘' — commands fall.
- Authority check: read your own rate list aloud — if the prices rise ↗, you sound like you're asking permission to charge them.



RISE yes / no question



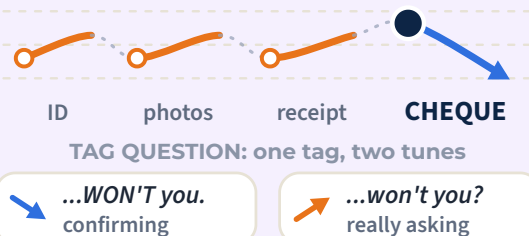
USE 2

The rising tune — the yes/no signal

Questions answerable with yes/no rise on the final beat. The rise IS the question mark — which means you can turn any statement into a question with tune alone.

- 'Is the loan ap**PROVED**?
- 'You've met the **OWNER**? — statement words, rising tune = instant question.
- '**TO**ken received? — even a fragment becomes a question by rising.
- Phone gold: since the listener can't see your face, the rise is the **ONLY** question mark they get.

LIST the final fall says 'finished'



USE 3

The list melody and the tag tunes

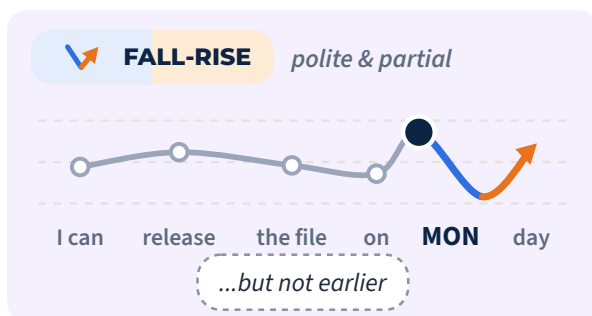
Lists rise on every item and FALL on the last — the fall announces 'list finished'. Question tags (Grammar Module 6, Ch 10) carry two meanings by tune alone.

- 'We need the ID , two photographs , the booking receipt , and the **CHEQUE**. — the fall closes the list.
- Rise every item including the last = 'and more is coming...' — the listener keeps waiting.
- Tag falling: 'You'll come on Friday, **WON'T** you. ' = I'm confirming (I expect yes).
- Tag rising: 'You'll come on Friday, won't you? ' = I genuinely don't know — please tell me.
- One tag, two tunes, two meanings.

USE 4

The fall-rise ↘ ↗ — the professional softener

English's politeness curve: dip then lift. It signals 'yes, but...', gentle correction, or reservation without confrontation — the spoken partner of Module 3's politeness ladder.



- 'I can release the file on Monday ↘ ↗...' (= but not earlier — the reservation is in the tune).
- 'The location is GOOD ↘ ↗...' (= there's a 'but' coming about the price).
- 'We COULD do that ↘ ↗...' — polite doubt without saying no.
- Flat delivery of the same words sounds blunt; the curve keeps the relationship while holding your position.

TUNE MAP BY SENTENCE TYPE

STATEMENT <i>The registry is on FRIday.</i>	YES/NO QUESTION <i>Is the loan apPROVED?</i>
WH-QUESTION <i>WHERE is the file?</i>	INSTANT QUESTION <i>You've met the OWNEr?</i>
COMMAND <i>Sign at the BOTtom.</i>	TAG: REALLY ASKING <i>...on Friday, won't you?</i>
TAG: CONFIRMING <i>...on Friday, WON'T you.</i>	LIST <i>ID, photos, receipt, CHEQUE.</i>
YES, BUT... <i>The location is GOOD...</i>	GOLDEN RULE The tune lands on the LAST beat-word.

Fall = closed and certain; rise = open and asking; fall-rise = polite reservation.

3 Hindi Concept Note



अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

Chapter 9 ने ताल दी थी; यह chapter धुन देता है। English में pitch का उतार-चढ़ाव grammar का काम करता है:

गिरती धुन = बात पूरी, पक्की: statements, wh-सवाल (where/what/when), आदेश। 'Registry FRIday को है ' — गिरना = fact।

चढ़ती धुन = खुला सवाल: जिनका जवाब हाँ/ना है। 'Loan approve हो गया? ' — चढ़ाव ही question mark है। Phone पर तो यही एकमात्र question mark है!

India की दो आदतें सुधारो: 1) statements को चढ़ाकर बोलना — rate बताते हुए धुन चढ़ी तो लगेगा दाम की इजाज़त माँग रहे हो। 2) wh-सवालों को चढ़ाना — 'WHERE is the file?' गिरकर बोला जाता है।

List की धुन: हर item पर हल्का चढ़ाव , आखिरी पर गिराव — गिराव बताता है 'list खत्म'। आखिरी पर भी चढ़े तो सुनने वाला और items का इंतज़ार करता रहेगा।

और politeness का curve (गिरकर उठना): 'Monday को दे सकता हूँ ...' = 'पर उससे पहले नहीं' — इनकार बिना कहे। यही Module 3 की politeness ladder का बोला हुआ रूप है।

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ Rate list read with rising tunes: 'Two- BHK is forty-two ... three- BHK is fifty-eight ...'	✓ Prices FALL: 'forty- TWO . ' — certain, closed	Uptalk on numbers = asking permission. Falling numbers = quoted with authority.
✗ 'Where is the agreement? ' (wh-question rising)	✓ 'Where is the a GREE ment? ' — wh-questions fall	Only yes/no questions rise. Rising wh-questions sound like disbelief ('WHERE did you say?!').

✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ List with every item rising, including the last	✓ Rise ↗, rise ↗, rise ↗... FALL ↘ on the final item	Without the final fall, the listener waits for more — and interrupts you at the wrong moment.
✗ Tag always rising: 'The unit is booked, isn't it? ↗' when you're actually confirming	✓ Confirming → falling tag: 'isn't it. ↘'	Rising = genuine doubt; falling = expecting agreement. Choose the tune for the meeting you're in.
✗ Polite words, flat tune: 'We could look at a small discount.' (robotic)	✓ 'We COULD look at a small discount ↘ ↗...' — the curve carries the diplomacy	Politeness lives in the tune more than the words. Flat 'could' sounds like reluctant surrender.
✗ Rising 'OK? ↗' after every sentence (the habit-filler)	✓ Drop the filler; end statements with a clean fall	Constant rising OK? makes every sentence sound insecure — and trains clients to doubt you.

↔ SAME WORDS, WRONG TUNE, RIGHT TUNE

✗ WRONG TUNE



✓ RIGHT TUNE



Prices fall, wh-questions fall, and polite reservations need the dip-and-lift curve.

5 Signal Words



Tune assignments:

- ✓ Statement, wh-question, command
→ fall ↘ on the last beat
- ✓ List → rise each item, fall the last
- ✓ Fall-rise ↘ ↗ = polite reservation, the professional softener
- ✓ Yes/no question → rise ↗ (the audible question mark)
- ✓ Tag: falling = confirming; rising = really asking

ONE WORD, THREE TUNES: FINE

FALL	RISE	FALL-RISE
FINE. <i>accepted, closed</i>	Fine? <i>doubt: NOT fine</i>	Fine... <i>NOT fine: objection loading</i>

English listeners trust the tune over the words: a rising or fall-rise 'fine' means NOT fine.

6 Practice



SET A Mark the tune: ↘ (fall), ↗ (rise), or ↘ ↗ (fall-rise)

10 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Where is the site office? | 2 Is the site office open? |
| 3 Bring the originals tomorrow. | 4 You need the ID, the photos, the receipt, and the cheque. (mark all four) |
| 5 Have you spoken to the lawyer? | 6 The possession is in December. |
| 7 We could consider your offer... (a 'but' is coming) | 8 Why did the cheque bounce? |
| 9 Token received? | 10 I can come on Saturday... (but not Sunday) |

SET B What does the tune MEAN here? Explain the difference 8 QUESTIONS

- 11 'The file is complete. ↗' — what does the rise do to this statement?
- 12 'You'll attend the AGM, won't you. ↘' vs. 'won't you? ↗'
- 13 'FINE. ↘' vs. 'Fine... ↘ ↗' from a client after your quote
- 14 'The location is good ↘ ↗.' — what is the speaker not saying?
- 15 'Fifty lakhs. ↘' vs. 'Fifty lakhs? ↗' — same words on a call
- 16 A list where the speaker fell on 'photographs' but kept talking — what went wrong?
- 17 'We COULD do the registry this month ↘ ↗.' — translate the tune into words
- 18 'OK? ↗ ... OK? ↗' after every sentence — what impression forms?

SET C Read-aloud: mark chunks (|), beats (CAPS), and the final tune arrow 7 QUESTIONS

- 19 Is the corner unit still available?
- 20 The maintenance is five rupees per square foot.
- 21 What time does the registrar's office close?
- 22 We need the chain documents, the NOC, and the tax receipts.
- 23 You've verified the khasra number, haven't you? (you're confirming)
- 24 I could hold the price till Monday... (reservation)
- 25 Sign here, initial there, and keep the yellow copy.

7 Answer Key**ANSWERS · SET A**

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1 ↘ (wh) | 2 ↗ (yes/no) | 3 ↘ (command) |
| 4 ID ↗, photos ↗, receipt ↗, CHEQUE ↘ | 5 ↗ | 6 ↘ |
| 7 ↘ ↗ | 8 ↘ | 9 ↗ (fragment question) |
| 10 ↘ ↗ | | |

ANSWERS · SET B

- 11 It turns the statement into a doubtful question — ‘complete? really?’ — or signals you yourself aren’t sure.
- 12 Falling = I expect yes, just confirming. Rising = I genuinely don’t know your answer.
- 13 Falling FINE = accepted, closed. Fall-rise Fine... = NOT fine — objection loading.
- 14 The ‘but’ — usually the price. The curve announces an unspoken reservation.
- 15 Fall = quoting the price. Rise = questioning/disbelieving the price. Same words, opposite sides of the negotiation.
- 16 The early fall said ‘list finished’ — the listener mentally closed the list and missed the remaining items.
- 17 ‘It’s possible, but there are conditions / I have doubts’ — a soft maybe, not a yes.
- 18 Chronic insecurity — every sentence begs approval. Kill the rising OK? habit.

ANSWERS · SET C

- 19 Is the **COR**ner unit still a **VAIL**able? ↗
- 20 The **MAIN**tenance | is FIVE rupees | per SQUARE FOOT. ↘
- 21 WHAT time | does the **RE**gistrar’s office | CLOSE? ↘
- 22 We need the CHAIN documents ↗ | the N-O-C ↗ | and the TAX re**CEIPTS**. ↘
- 23 You’ve **VER**ified the **KHAS**ra number, | HAVEN’T you. ↘
- 24 I could HOLD the price till **MON**day ↘ ↗...
- 25 SIGN here ↗ | **IN**itial there ↗ | and KEEP the YELLOW copy. ↘

NEXT UP

Connected Speech — the real reason natives sound ‘too fast’ (they aren’t), and the linking machinery of gonna, wanna, and wouldju decoded.



PART 2 — BEYOND SINGLE SOUNDS

11

Connected Speech — Why Natives Sound Too Fast

🔊 Level: Advanced

🕒 Estimated study time: 50 minutes



1 Quick Look



Here is the secret: natives do NOT speak faster than you. Measured in syllables per second, Indian English is often FASTER. What natives do is LINK — words melt into each other at the joints: ‘turn off’ becomes tur-**NOFF**, ‘an apple’ becomes a-**NAP**ple, ‘did you’ becomes **DIJ**-ju. Your ear expects word-by-word English; their mouth delivers welded chains. This chapter teaches the four welding rules — first so you UNDERSTAND fast speech, then so you can use the safe ones yourself.



RULE 1 — CONSONANT → VOWEL WELDING

- Final consonant jumps to the next vowel: turn off = tur-**नॉफ़**
- hold on = **होल-डॉन**
- pick it up = **पि-कि-टप**



RULE 2 — THE D/T + Y FUSION

- did you = **डिज्जु**
- would you = **वुज्जु**
- want you = **वॉन्चु**
- meet you = **मी-चु**



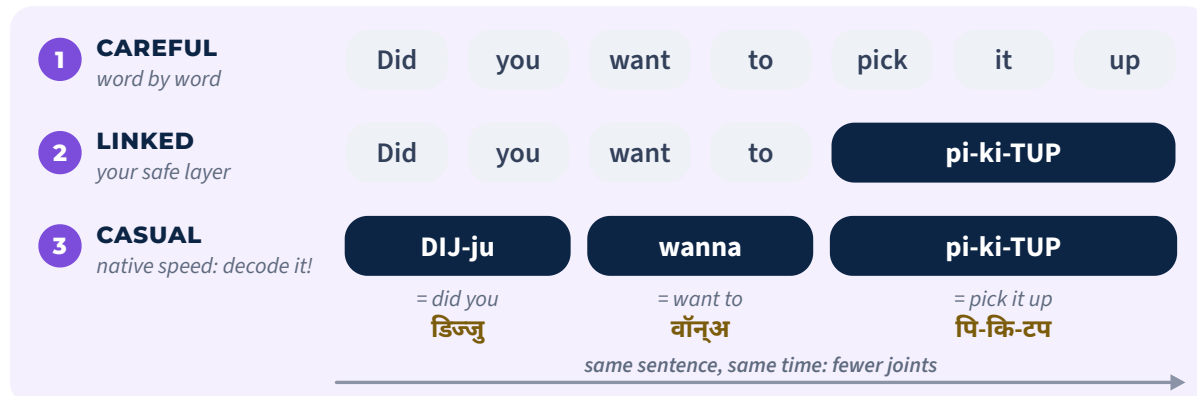
RULE 3 — THE FAMOUS REDUCTIONS

- going to = **गूअन्अ** (gonna)
- want to = **वॉन्अ** (wanna)
- got to = **गॉट्अ** (gotta) — Chapter 3’s schwa law at full power



The golden rule: LISTENING first, speaking second. You MUST decode all of this — clients, movies, and phone calls run on it. But in your own mouth, use only the safe layer: consonant-vowel linking (always correct, instantly smoother) and light weak forms. Keep gonna/wanna for casual speech only, and NEVER in writing or formal meetings — decoding everything, deploying selectively is the professional setting.

🔗 SAME SENTENCE, THREE SPEEDS



Natives are not faster: they weld the joints. Decode every level; speak the safe layer.

2 When to Use It

USE 1

Welding rule 1 — consonant meets vowel (catenation)

When a word ends in a consonant and the next begins with a vowel, the consonant JUMPS across. This is the single biggest ‘smoothness’ upgrade available, and it’s 100% safe to use.

- turn off = **तर्-नॉफ़** (not turn | off)
- an apple = **अ-नैपल** • an hour = **अ-नावर**
- hold on = **होल्-डॉन** • come in = **क-मिन** • check it = **चे-किट**
- pick it up = **पि-कि-टप** (three words, one chain)
- Your line of work: ‘first of all’ = **फ़र्स्-ट्-अ-वॉल**, ‘terms and conditions’ = **टर्म्-ज़न्-क्-अन्डिशनज़**, ‘as of April’ = **ऐ-ज़्-अ-वेप्रिल**

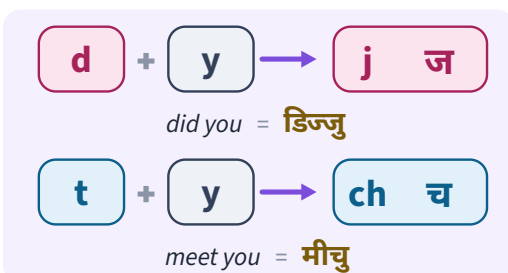


USE 2

Welding rule 2 — d/t + y = j/ch (assimilation)

When d meets y, they fuse into ज; when t meets y, they fuse into च. This is why ‘did you’ never sounds like two words.

- did you = **डिज्जु** (‘Dijju call him?’)
- would you = **वुज्जु** • could you = **कुज्जु** — the polite requests of Module 3, as they actually sound
- want you = **वॉन्चु** • meet you = **मीचु** (‘Nice to मीचु!’)
- last year = **लास्-चिअर** • this year = **दि-शिअर** (s+y = श)
- Decode drill: ‘Wouldju sendit tomorrow?’ = Would you send it tomorrow?



USE 3

Welding rule 3 — the reductions dictionary

The schwa law (Ch 3) applied to word pairs — these are **LAWFUL** compressions, not slang spellings.

going to → gonna गूअन्अ

want to → wanna वॉन्अ

got to → gotta गॉटअ

going to + VERB only

I'm gonna call ✓

I'm gonna Delhi ✗

- going to (future) = gonna गूअन्अ — but **ONLY** the future marker: 'I'm gonna call' ✓ ; 'I'm going to Delhi' keeps its full 'going to' (destination!)
- want to = wanna वॉन्अ • got to = gotta गॉटअ • have to = हैप्पटअ (the v devoices!)
- kind of = kinda काइन्डअ • a lot of = अ-लॉटअ • out of = आउटअ
- let me = lemme लेमि • give me = gimme गिमि • don't know = dunno इअनो
- The professional setting: understand ALL of these; SAY gonna/wanna only in relaxed conversation; WRITE none of them, ever.

USE 4

Welding rule 4 — vanishing sounds (elision)

In consonant pile-ups, t and d quietly drop between other consonants. Natives aren't 'eating words' — they're following the rule.

next day → नेक्स्-डे

old man → ओल्-मैन

kept quiet → केप्-क्वाइट

t / d between consonants: quietly dropped

- next day = नेक्स्-डे (the t drops) • most common = मोस्-कॉमन
- exactly = इग्-ज़ैक्-लि (t gone) • friendship = फ्रेंन्-शिप
- old man = ओल्-मैन • kept quiet = केप्-क्वाइट
- and = न् almost always: 'salt and pepper' = सॉल्ट-न्-पेप्अर (Ch 3's weak form, now welded)
- Listening upgrade: when you 'miss' a word on a call, it's usually a dropped t/d or a weak form — rewind for the pattern, not the word.

3 Hindi Concept Note

अ

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

राज़ खुल गया: native तेज़ नहीं बोलते — वे शब्दों को जोड़कर (weld करके) बोलते हैं। हमारा कान शब्द-शब्द English ढूँढता है; उनका मुँह जंज़ीरें भेजता है।

➤ D / T + Y: TWO SOUNDS FUSE INTO ONE

voice stays on

t + y = ch च meet you = मीचु **s + y = sh** श this year = दि-शिअर

did you → डिज्जु
would you → वुज्जु
could you → कुज्जु

did you becomes DIJ-ju (d + y = j), meet you becomes mee-chu (t + y = ch): the voiced / voiceless pair is kept.

✂ THE REDUCTIONS DICTIONARY

going to → गूअन्अ gonna	a lot of → अ-लॉटअ
want to → वॉन्अ wanna	out of → आउटअ
got to → गॉटअ gotta	let me → लेमि lemme
have to → हैप्पटअ the v devices	give me → गिमि gimme
kind of → काइन्डअ kinda	don't know → इअनो dunno
going to + VERB I'm gonna sell it ✓	going to + PLACE I'm going to Delhi ✓ full form

Reductions are sounds, not spellings: understand all of them, say gonna/wanna only when relaxed, write none.

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

चार welding नियम: 1) आखिरी consonant अगले शब्द के vowel पर कूद जाता है: turn off = तर्-नॉफ़, hold on = होल्-डॉन। यह नियम 100% safe है — आज से खुद इस्तेमाल करो, बोली तुरंत smooth होगी।

2) d+y = ज, t+y = च: did you = डिज्जु, would you = वुज्जु, meet you = मीचु। इसीलिए 'Dijju call?' सुनकर घबराना नहीं — यह did you ही है।

3) मशहूर reductions Chapter 3 के schwa का ही क़ानून हैं: going to = gonna (सिर्फ़ future वाला! 'Delhi going to' नहीं), want to = wanna, have to = हैप्पटअ।

4) Consonant की भीड़ में t/d चुपचाप गिर जाते हैं: next day = नेक्स्-डे, exactly = इग्ज़ैक्लि।

Professional setting साफ़ है: समझो सब कुछ (movies, calls, clients सब इसी पर चलते हैं); खुद बोलो सिर्फ़ safe layer (linking + weak forms); gonna/wanna casual बातचीत तक; लिखो कभी नहीं।

4 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ Hearing ‘Dijju geddit?’ and freezing	✓ Decode: Did you get it? (d+y=ज fusion + t-flap)	The freeze isn’t vocabulary failure — it’s expecting word-by-word delivery. Learn the welds and the chains dissolve.
✗ Speaking with hard stops between every word: ‘turn. off. the. light.’	✓ Weld the joints: tur-नॉफ़-द्अ-लाइट	Word-by-word delivery is the audible signature of ‘careful learner’. Linking consonant → vowel is safe and instant.
✗ Writing ‘I am gonna revert’ in a client email	✓ I am going to revert / I will revert	Reductions are SOUNDS, not spellings. In writing they read as careless, not fluent.
✗ Saying ‘I’m gonna Delhi tomorrow’	✓ I’m going to Delhi (destination keeps full form); gonna only replaces the future marker: I’m gonna sell it	The gonna law: going to + VERB can reduce; going to + PLACE cannot.
✗ Over-performing reductions in formal meetings: ‘We gotta finalise, wanna proceed?’	✓ Formal register: ‘We have to finalise — would you like to proceed?’	Reductions signal informality. Deployed at the wrong table, they cost more authority than they buy fluency.
✗ Pronouncing every t crisply in clusters: ‘nexT Tuesday, mosT common’	✓ नेक्स्-ट्यूज़डे, मोस्-कॉमन — let the buried t go	Fighting elision sounds laboured. Dropping the buried t is the native setting, not laziness.



UNDERSTAND ALL, SPEAK THE SAFE LAYER, WRITE NONE

	LINKING	WEAK FORMS	GONNA / WANNA
LISTENING <i>calls, clients, films</i>	✓ decode	✓ decode	✓ decode
RELAXED TALK <i>friends, casual call</i>	✓ always	✓ light	✓ casual only
FORMAL MEETING <i>boardroom, client</i>	✓ always	✓ light	✗ full forms
WRITING <i>emails, documents</i>	✗ never	✗ never	✗ never

Decoding everything and deploying selectively is the professional setting.

5 Signal Words



The welding rules:

- ✓ Final consonant + initial vowel → link them (safe, use always)
- ✓ gonna/wanna/gotta = schwa law on word pairs; future 'going to' only
- ✓ Setting: understand everything, speak the safe layer, write none of it
- ✓ d+y → ज (wouldju) • t+y → च (meechu) — decode instantly
- ✓ t/d buried between consonants → drops (nex' day)

6 Practice



SET A Weld it: rewrite the phrase as it actually sounds (Devanagari)

10 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 check it out | 2 an offer |
| 3 hold on a minute | 4 first of all |
| 5 would you | 6 did you eat? |
| 7 want to come? | 8 next Monday |
| 9 terms and conditions | 10 a lot of interest |

SET B Decode the native: write the full standard sentence

8 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 11 "Wouldju sen-dit by EOD?" | 12 "I'm gonna needa copy o' the deed." |
| 13 "Dijju meet 'im at the site?" | 14 "We gotta ge-dit registered nex' week." |
| 15 "Lemme che-kit an' geddback to you." | 16 "There's a lotta in'res' in the corner units." |
| 17 "Wan-chu to see the sample flat first." | 18 "I dunno if the owner's gonna agree." |

SET C Register check: fix what's wrong for the situation

7 QUESTIONS

- 19 Client email draft: 'We are gonna share the payment plan by Friday.'
- 20 Formal meeting, you say: 'You guys gotta submit the KYC.'
- 21 Casual call with an old friend-broker: 'I am going to make an offer today itself.' (too stiff — relax it)
- 22 You said 'I'm gonna Lucknow next week' — fix the gonna law.
- 23 Voicemail heard: 'Cuj-ju call me back after lunch?' — what was said, and how would YOU say it to a senior advocate?

SET C

Register check: fix what's wrong for the situation

7 QUESTIONS

- 24 Team WhatsApp (written): 'Gotta close 3 site visits b4 Sunday.' — acceptable? Where's the line?
- 25 You keep saying 'turn. it. off.' with three stops — weld it.

7 Answer Key



ANSWERS · SET A

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 चे-कि-टाउट | 2 अ-नॉफ़र | 3 होल्-डॉ-न्-मिनिट |
| 4 फ़र्स-ट्-अ-वॉल | 5 वुज्जु | 6 डिज्जु-ईट |
| 7 वॉन्-अ-कम | 8 नेक्स्-मन्डे (t drops) | 9 टर्म्-ज़न्-क्अन्डिशन्ज़ |
| 10 अ-लॉ-ट्-अ-विन्ट्रिस्ट | | |

ANSWERS · SET B

- | | |
|---|--|
| 11 Would you send it by end of day? | 12 I am going to need a copy of the deed. |
| 13 Did you meet him at the site? | 14 We have got to get it registered next week. |
| 15 Let me check it and get back to you. | 16 There is a lot of interest in the corner units. |
| 17 I want you to see the sample flat first. | 18 I don't know if the owner is going to agree. |

ANSWERS · SET C

- 19 Writing: 'We will share the payment plan by Friday.' — reductions never reach paper.
- 20 Formal: 'You will need to submit the KYC.' — gotta is for the chai stall, not the boardroom.
- 21 Relaxed: 'I'm gonna make an offer today itself.' — casual register, casual welds.
- 22 'I'm going to Lucknow next week.' — destination keeps the full form; gonna needs a verb after it.
- 23 Said: 'Could you call me back after lunch?' To the advocate: the same words, fully formed — 'Could you call me back after lunch?' with the polite fall-rise (Ch 10).
- 24 WhatsApp is informal writing — 'Gotta close 3 site visits before Sunday' passes with teammates; with clients or seniors, write it out. The line is: internal-casual yes, external-professional no.
- 25 तर्-नि-टॉफ़ — one chain, no stops.

NEXT UP

Part 3 begins — the 200 Most Mispronounced Words in India — the master reference table this book will be known for.



PART

3



Application

3 CHAPTERS

30-DAY PLAN + SELF-TESTS

the 200 words · phone English · the 30-day plan

IN THIS PART

12 The 200 Most Mispronounced Words in India **86**

13 Professional & Phone English — The Call-Floor Toolkit **93**

14 The 30-Day Training Plan & Self-Tests **103**

PART 3 — APPLICATION

12

The 200 Most Mispronounced Words in India



Level: All

Use: permanent reference + weekly revision

HOW TO READ A ROW

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
Wednesday	वेङ्नेस्डे	वेन्ज़डे
 THE WORD Check it on Google / YouGlish	 YOUR HABIT Say it ONCE and listen to yourself	 THE TARGET Say it THREE times, out loud
READING THE MARKS		
 tongue-out TH Ch 4	 lazy schwa 'uh' Ch 3	 both accepted internationally
 no wrong habit nothing to unlearn	 two accents e.g. vitamin	 author's hint read it, it matters

Red = the common habit, green = the target. Say the wrong form once, the right form three times.

How to Use This Chapter

This is the book's reference engine: two hundred high-frequency words, each with the common Indian pronunciation and the correct one in Devanagari. Every entry applies a rule you have already learned — silent letters (Ch 6), the schwa (Ch 3), hidden z (Ch 4, 7), stress position (Ch 8). The wrong forms are printed deliberately: recognising your own habit is half the correction.

Notation: * after a Devanagari letter = tongue-out TH (Chapter 4). क्अ = the lazy schwa (Chapter 3). Where two forms are given with 'दोनों', both are accepted internationally.

The drill: one table per week, five words a day. Say the wrong form once (hear your habit), the correct form three times, then verify one word daily on Google/YouGlish. Eight weeks, permanent upgrade.

 FIVE WORDS A DAY, ONE TABLE A WEEK


Eight tables of 25 words: 5 words a day, eight weeks, 200 words.

TABLE 1 Everyday Words I ————— 25 WORDS

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
Wednesday	वेड्नेस्डे	वेन्ड्रेडे	vegetable	वेजीटेबल	वेज्टबल
comfortable	कम्फर्टेबल	कम्फ्टबल	chocolate	चोकोलेट	चॉक्लट
restaurant	रेस्टोरेंट	रेस्ट्रॉन्ट	interesting	इंटरेस्टिंग	इन्ट्रस्टिंग
business	बिज़नेस	बिज़िनस	women	वुमेन	विमिन
woman	वूमन	वुमन	monk	मोंक	मंक
onion	ओनियन	अन्यन	oven	ओवन	अवन
orange	ओरेंज	ऑरिन्ज	iron	आयरन	आय्अर्न
island	इस्लैंड	आइलंड	queue	क्यूए	क्यू
colonel	कोलोनेल	कर्नल	sword	स्वोर्ड	सॉर्ड
tomb	टॉम्ब	टूम	womb	वॉम्ब	वूम
bomb	बॉम्ब	बॉम	debt	डेब्ट	डेट
doubt	डाउब्ट	डाउट	receipt	रिसीप्ट	रिसीट
bury	बरी	बेरि			

TABLE 2 Everyday Words II ————— 25 WORDS

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
busy	बसी	बिज़ी	minute (समय)	मिनट	मिनिट
biscuit	बिस्कुट	बिस्किट	jewellery	ज्वेलरी	जूव्लि



SILENT LETTERS IN TABLE 1

doubt

डाउट

debt

डेट

bomb

बॉम

tomb

टूम

womb

वूम

island

आइलंड

receipt

रिसीट

sword

सॉर्ड

Wednesday

वेन्ड्रेडे

X

written,
never said

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
pizza	पिज़्ज़ा	पीट्सअ	suite	सूट	स्वीट
dessert	डेज़र्ट (आगे)	डिज़र्ट (मुक्का पीछे)	buffet	बफ़ेट	बुफ़े
genre	जॉनर	ज़ॉन्रअ	cliché	क्लिच	क्लीशे
niche	निचे	नीश	aisle	आइज़ल	आइल
sour	सोर	सावर	bowl	बाउल	बोल
dengue	डेंगू	डेंगी	quinoa	किनोआ	कीन्वा
epitome	एपिटोम	इपिट्अमि	hyperbole	हाइपरबोल	हाइपर्बअलि
cocoa	कोकोआ	कोको	recipe	रेसीपे	रेसिपि
gauge	गॉज	गेज	heir	हेयर	एअर
hour	होर	आवर	honest	होनेस्ट	ऑनिस्ट
plumber	प्लम्बर	प्लमर			

TABLE 3 Food & Kitchen

25 WORDS

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
almond	ऑलमंड	आमन्ड	salmon	सैल्मन	सैमन
yolk	योल्क	योक	spinach	स्पिनच	स्पिनिच
lettuce	लेट्यूस	लेटिस	tomato	टोमैटो	टअमाटो
potato	पोटैटो	प्अटेटो	banana	बनाना	ब्अनान्अ
cuisine	कुज़ीन	क्विज़ीन	chef	चेफ़	शेफ़
sandwich	सैंडविच	सैन्विच	breakfast	ब्रेकफ़ास्ट	ब्रेक्फ़स्ट
menu	मेनू	मेन्यु	salad	सलाद	सैल्अड
vanilla	वनीला	व्अनिल्अ	pistachio	पिस्ताचियो	पिस्ताशिओ

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
cashew	कैशू	कैशू	raisin	रेसिन	रेज़न
wheat	व्हीट	वीट	yogurt	योगर्ट	योग़र्ट
oregano	ओरेगानो	अरेग्‌अनो	mayonnaise	मेयोनीज़	मेय़अनेज़
dough	डफ़	डो	cabbage	कैबेज	कैबिज
flour	फ़्लोर	फ़्लावर (= flower)			

TABLE 4 Office & Business

25 WORDS

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
schedule	—	शेड्यूल / स्केड्यूल (दोनों)	executive	एक्सक्यूटिव	इग्ज़ेक्युटिव
hierarchy	हायरार्की	हाय़अरार्कि	entrepreneur	एंटरप्रेन्योर	आन्ट्रप्रन्अर
pronunciation	प्रोनाउन्सिएशन	प्रनन्सिएशन	colleague	कॉलीग	कलीग
corporate	कॉर्पोरेट	कॉर्प्रिट	purchase	परचेज़	पर्चिस
percentage	परसेंटेज	पर्सेन्टिज	guarantee	गारंटी	गैरन्टी
warranty	वारंटी	वॉरन्टि	agenda	एजेंडा	अजेन्ड़अ
data	डाटा	डेटा	status	—	स्टेटस / स्टैटस (दोनों)
resume (CV)	रिज़्यूम	रेज़्युमे	bureau	बुरो	ब्यूरो
bureaucracy	ब्यूरोक्रेसी	ब्युरॉक्रसि	genuine	जेनुइन	जेन्युइन
develop	डेवलप	डिवेलप	development	डेवलपमेंट	डिवेलप्मन्ट
opportunity	ऑपरचुनिटी	ऑप्‌अटर्चून्‌अटि	career	करियर	क्‌अरिअर
liaison	लाइज़न	लिएज़ॉन	subtle	सब्टल	सटल
debut	डेब्यूट	डेब्यू			

TABLE 5 Property & Legal (Your Trade)

25 WORDS

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
mortgage	मॉर्टगेज	मॉर्गिज	lease	लीज़	लीस (सा!)
vehicle	व्हीकल	वीइकल	attorney	अटॉर्नी	अटर्नि
affidavit	अफिडेविट	ऐफ़िडेविट	gazette	गजट	ग़अज़ेट
judiciary	ज्यूडिशरी	जुडिश्‌अरि	tribunal	ट्रिब्यूनल	ट्राइब्यूनल
clause	क्लॉस	क्लॉज़	foyer	फ़ॉयर	फ़ॉय़अ / फ़ॉइए
facade	फेसेड	फ़असाड	chandelier	शैंडेलियर	शैन्ड़अलिअर
veranda	वरांडा	व्‌अरैन्ड़अ	amenities	अमेनिटीज़	अमेन्‌अटिज़

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
gymnasium	जिमनैज़ियम	जिम्नेज़िअम	jacuzzi	जकूजी	ज्अकूज़ि
quartz	क्वार्टज़	क्वार्ट्स	granite	ग्रेनाइट	ग्रेनित
cement	सीमेंट	स्अमेन्ट	ceramic	सेरामिक	स्अरैमिक
registrar	रजिस्ट्रार	रेजिस्ट्रार	conveyance	कन्वेस	कन्वेयन्स
bungalow	बंगलो	बंग्अलो	asphalt	एस्फाल्ट	ऐस्फ़ैल्ट
tenant	टेनेंट	टेन्अन्ट			

BUZZ OR HISS?

BUZZ ज़

busy	बिज़ी	season	सीज़न
series	सीरिज़	bruise	ब्रूज़
clause	क्लॉज़	browser	ब्राउज़र
raisin	रेज़न	nausea	नॉज़िअ

spelled s — said z

HISS स

lease	लीस
purchase	पर्चिस
quartz	क्वार्ट्स

(स!) the author's own hint
spelled -se or z — said s

MIRROR ERRORS IN THE TABLE

clause क्लॉस → क्लॉज़

lease लीज़ → लीस

clause and lease swap their endings: the common errors are mirror images.

TABLE 6 Education & Formal

25 WORDS

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
February	फेब्रुरी	फ़ेब्रुअरि / फ़ेब्रुअरि	library	लाइब्रेरी	लाइब्रि
literature	लिटरेचर	लिट्रच्अर	temperature	टेम्परेचर	टेम्प्रच्अर
government	गवर्नमेंट	गवन्मन्ट	environment	एनवायरनमेंट	इन्वाय्रन्मन्ट
parliament	पार्लियामेंट	पार्ल्अमन्ट	cupboard	कपबोर्ड	कबर्ड
handkerchief	हैंडकरचीफ़	हैङ्कर्चिफ़	forehead	—	फ़ॉरिड / फ़ोरहेड (दोनों)
alumni	एलुम्नी	अलम्नाई	alumnus	एलुम्नस	अलम्नस
plagiarism	प्लेगियरिज़्म	प्लेज्अरिज़्म	discipline	डिसिप्लीन	डिस्अप्लिन
tuition	ट्यूशन	ट्यूइशन	certificate	सर्टिफिकेट	स्अर्टिफ़िकिट
determine	डिटरमाइन	डिटर्मिन	examine	एग्जामाइन	इग्ज़ैमिन
lieutenant	लेफ्टिनेंट	लेफ़्टेन्अन्ट (UK)	often	ऑफ़टेन	ऑफ़न

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
southern	साउदर्न	सद*र्न	height	हेट	हाइट
psychology	साइकोलॉजी	साइकॉल*जि	pneumonia	निमोनिया	न्यूमोन्यूअ
choir	चोइर	क्वाय्अर			

TABLE 7 Health & Body

25 WORDS

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
medicine	मेडिसिन	मेड्सिन	diabetes	डायबिटीज़	डाय्अबीटिज़
asthma	अस्थमा	ऐज़्म (th चुप!)	migraine	मिग्रेन	माइग्रेन
nausea	नौसिया	नॉज़िअ	fatigue	फ़टीग्यू	फ़अटीग
wound (घाव)	वाउंड	वूंड	allergy	एलर्जी	ऐल्अर्जि
vitamin	—	विट्अमिन (UK) / वाइट्अमिन (US)	capsule	कैप्सूल	कैप्स्यूल
stomach	स्टमच	स्टमक	ache	ऐच	एक
heart	हर्ट (= hurt!)	हार्ट	muscle	मस्कल	मसल
tongue	टंग्यू	टंग	diarrhoea	डायरिया	डाय्अरीअ
therapy	थेरेपी	थ*अर्पि	pharmacy	फार्मेसी	फ़ार्म्असि
anaesthesia	एनेस्थीसिया	ऐन्अस्थी*झ्अ	cholesterol	कोलेस्ट्रॉल	क्अलेस्ट्रॉल
obesity	ओबेसिटी	ओबीस्अटि	gynaecologist	गाइनोकॉलोजिस्ट	गाइन्अकॉल्अजिस्ट
ambulance	एम्बुलेंस	ऐम्बुलन्स	bruise	ब्रूस	ब्रूज़
saline	सलाइन	सेलाइन			

TABLE 8 Tech & Modern Life

25 WORDS

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
meme	मेमे	मीम	cache	कैचे	कैश
archive	आर्चिव	आर्काइव	algorithm	अल्गोरिथम	ऐल्ग्अरिद*म
GIF	—	गिफ़ / जिफ़ (दोनों)	browser	ब्राउसर	ब्राउज़र
Bluetooth	ब्लूटूट	ब्लूटूथ*	WhatsApp	वाट्सएप्प	वॉट्सैप
premiere	प्रीमियर	प्रिमिएअर	camera	कैमरा	कैम्रअ
security	सिक्योरिटी	स्अक्युअर्टि	computer	कम्प्यूटर	क्अम्प्यूटअर
router	राऊटर	राउट्अर / रूट्अर	delete	डिलीट	इअलीट
icon	आईकॉन	आइक्अन	series	सीरीस	सीरिज़
season	सीसन	सीज़न	gadget	गैजेट	गैजिट

WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT	WORD	COMMON (WRONG)	CORRECT
tablet	टैब्लेट	टैब्लिट	remote	रिमोट	अर्मोट
antenna	एंटीना	ऐन्टेन्अ	message	मैसेज	मेसिज
Excel	एक्सेल	इक्सेल	virus	वायरस	वाइर्अस
digital	डिजिटल	डिज्अटल			

✦ The Patterns Behind the 200 ✦

Look back and you'll see the same seven machines doing all the work: (1) silent letters — debt, salmon, receipt (Ch 6); (2) the schwa collapsing unstressed vowels — camera, corporate, banana (Ch 3); (3) hidden z — busy, season, series, bruise (Ch 4); (4) the buzzing झ — genre, anaesthesia (Ch 6); (5) stress position — dessert, development, hotel (Ch 8); (6) OO/O traps — monk, oven, onion, wound (Ch 2); (7) borrowed-word spellings — buffet, cliché, quinoa, jacuzzi. Master the machines and the next thousand words correct themselves.

⚙️ THE SEVEN MACHINES BEHIND THE 200

1 Silent letters

Ch 6

debt
डेट

salmon
सैमन

receipt
रिसीट

2 The schwa collapses the rest

Ch 3

banana
ब्अ ना न्अ

camera
कैम् अ

corporate
कॉर्प् रिट

3 Hidden z

Ch 4

busy
बिज़ी

season
सीज़न

series
सीरिज़

bruise
ब्रूज़

4 The buzzing झ

/ʒ/ Ch 6

genre
ज़ॉन्ज़अ

anaesthesia
ऐन्अस्थी*झअ

5 Stress position

Ch 8

dessert development hotel
des **SERT** de **VEL** op ment ho **TEL**
X DEssert X DEvelopment X HOtel

6 OO / O traps

Ch 2

monk
मंक

oven
अवन

onion
अन्यन

wound
वूंड

7 Borrowed-word spellings

buffet
बुफ़े

cliché
क्लीशे

quinoa
कीन्वा

jacuzzi
ज्अकूज़ि



Master the machines

and the next thousand words
correct themselves.

NEXT UP

Professional & Phone English — names, numbers, and the call-floor toolkit from ten years of US process experience.



PART 3 — APPLICATION

13

Professional & Phone English
— The Call-Floor Toolkit

Level: All levels

Estimated study time: 60 minutes

1 Quick Look



Everything in this book converges on the telephone — the place where your voice is 100% of you: no face, no gestures, no visiting card. This chapter is built from ten years of running US calling processes: how to say your name so it lands the first time, how to deliver numbers that never get mis-heard, how to spell aloud like a professional, and the small phrases that separate a call-floor veteran from everyone else.



THE NAME RULE

Say your name at HALF your normal speed, chunked, then anchor it: ‘This is Bharat — B-H-A-R-A-T, B as in Bravo.’

123

THE NUMBER RULE

Chunks of 2–3 digits with real pauses: 98-102-45-67. Amounts get the stress punch: thir**TEEN** vs. **THIR**ty (Ch 8).



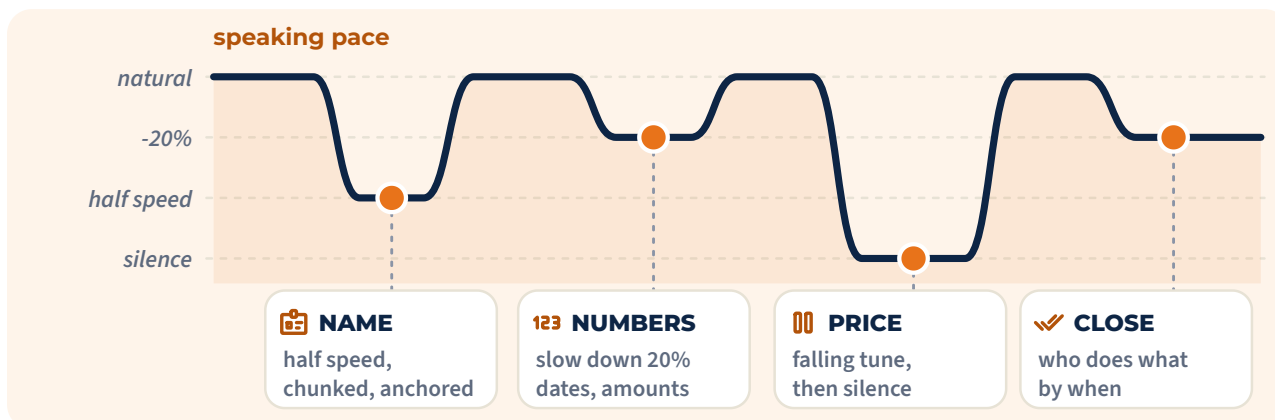
THE CONFIRMATION RULE

Anything critical gets repeated back: ‘Let me confirm — R for Romeo, A, M...’ Repeat-back is not weakness; it is the professional standard worldwide.



The golden rule of phone English: SLOW IS SMOOTH, SMOOTH IS FAST. Every mis-heard name, digit, or date costs a second call, an apology, or a wrong registry entry. The veteran habit is deliberate pace on the critical items (names, numbers, dates, amounts) and relaxed natural speed everywhere else — exactly the beat-and-compress rhythm of Chapter 9, applied to money.

SLOW IS SMOOTH: THE PACE OF A GOOD CALL



Natural speed everywhere, deliberate pace on names, numbers, dates and amounts, then hold the silence.

2 When to Use It



USE 1

Introducing yourself — the first five seconds

Kill the two most famous Indianisms in the first line, and chunk your identity.

~~Myself Bharat~~ → This is Bharat

- 1 This is Bharat Bhushan ||
- 2 from Bhushan Realty ||
- 3 regarding the Narayan Villas booking ||

3 chunks, 3 mini-pauses

- NOT 'Myself Bharat' → 'This is Bharat Bhushan' / 'My name is Bharat Bhushan.'
- NOT 'I am calling from behalf of..' → 'I'm calling on behalf of Bhushan Realty.' / simply: 'I'm calling from Bhushan Realty.'
- The chunked ID: 'This is Bharat Bhushan | from Bhushan Realty | regarding the Narayan Villas booking.' — three chunks, three mini-pauses (Ch 9).
- Answering: NOT 'Haan, tell me' → 'Good morning, Bhushan Realty — how can I help you?'

USE 2

Spelling aloud — the anchor system

Letters that sound alike on a line (B/D/P/T, M/N, S/F) MUST be anchored: ‘B as in Bravo.’ The international NATO set is in the table below; a desi anchor set works equally well with Indian clients — consistency matters more than the system.

B Bravo	D Delta	P Papa	T Tango
M Mike	N November	S Sierra	F Foxtrot

B as in Bravo: anchor every look-alike

- ‘That’s KHASRA — K as in Kilo, H as in Hotel, A as in Alpha, S as in Sierra, R as in Romeo, A as in Alpha.’
- Email addresses: ‘bharat DOT bhushan AT gmail DOT com — all small letters, no spaces.’ (@ = ‘at’, . = ‘dot’, _ = ‘underscore’, - = ‘hyphen’)
- Capitals when they matter: ‘Capital B, small h...’ for passwords and **ID**s.
- The two-way habit: when *THEY* spell, you write and repeat back; when *YOU* spell, you anchor every confusable letter.

USE 3

Numbers that carry money

Numbers are where pronunciation errors become financial errors. Four rules from the call floor:

- Rule 1 — the teen/ty punch (Ch 8): thir**TEEN** (stretch the TEEN) vs. **THIR**ty (clip it). On amounts, add the check: ‘thirteen — one-three.’
- Rule 2 — phone numbers in chunks: ‘nine-eight-one | zero-two-four | five-six-seven’ — never one 10-digit exhale. Say ‘zero’, not ‘o’, for anything financial.
- Rule 3 — repeated digits: ‘double nine’, ‘triple five’ — standard and efficient: 98555 = ‘nine-eight-triple-five.’
- Rule 4 — lakhs and crores travel only in India: with foreign clients convert — ‘one crore, that is ten million rupees’; ‘45 lakhs — four point five million.’ Write both on your notepad before the call.

1 TEEN vs TY thir TEEN 13 THIR ty 30	2 CHUNKS 981 024 5678 <i>pause between chunks</i>
3 REPEATS 9 8 5 5 5 9-8-triple-5	4 LAKH / CRORE 1 crore = 10 million <i>convert for foreigners</i>

USE 4

The clarity toolkit — when the line fights you

The phrases professionals use instead of ‘What?’, ‘Haan?’, and silence:

~~What? Haan?~~

Sorry, could you repeat the last part? ✓

~~Voice is not coming~~

The line is breaking up ✓

~~I'll cut the call~~

I'll hang up now ✓

- *Didn't catch it:* ‘Sorry, could you repeat the last part?’ / ‘I got the first name — could you spell the surname?’
- *Bad line:* ‘The line is breaking up — may I call you right back on this number?’ (NOT ‘voice is not coming’)
- *Ending:* ‘I'll hang up now’ or ‘Let me not hold you further’ — NEVER ‘I'll cut the call.’
- *Slowing a fast talker:* ‘I want to note this correctly — could you go a little slower with the account number?’
- *The unheard-name recovery:* ‘I want to make sure I say your name right — could you say it once more?’ (flatters, never offends)

USE 5

The veteran's five — habits no book usually tells you

Floor-tested behaviours that change how you sound:



SMILE

it is audible on the line



STAND

for important calls



HOLD

the silence after a price



MATCH

their pace; slow 20% at numbers



CLOSE

who does what by when

- 1. *SMILE while talking* — a smile physically changes your vowel shape and is audible on the other end. US floors put mirrors on desks for exactly this.
- 2. *STAND for important calls* — posture opens the diaphragm; your voice gains weight.
- 3. *Don't fear SILENCE after quoting a price.* The one who breaks the silence first usually concedes. Quote, then hold (falling tune, Ch 10).
- 4. *Match the caller's PACE for rapport, then slow down 20% when you reach numbers and terms.*
- 5. *Close with the confirmation ritual:* ‘So — token by Friday RTGS, registry slot on the 14th, I send the draft tonight. Anything I've missed?’ *Who-does-what-by-when, every call.*

123 SAY NUMBERS IN CHUNKS

ONE BREATH

9 8 1 0 2 4 5 6 7 8 ✗

no gaps: the listener asks you to repeat it

CHUNKS

9 8 1 || 0 2 4 || 5 6 7 8 ✓

nine-eight-one

zero-two-four

five-six-seven-eight

DOUBLE / TRIPLE

9 8 5 5 5

triple five

nine-eight-triple-five

99 = double nine

0 say zero, not 'o'

Two to three digits at a time, real pauses, repeated digits as double / triple.

13 OR 30? AND THE LAKH BRIDGE

13 OR 30?

13

thir

TEEN

*stretch the TEEN**check: thirteen, one-three*

30

THIR

ty

clip the ty

LAKH / CRORE BRIDGE

in India

10 lakh

45 lakhs

1 crore

foreign client

1 million

4.5 million

10 million

Punch thirTEEN, clip THIRty; convert lakh and crore before a foreign client hears them.

3 The Spelling-Aloud Anchor Table (NATO + Desi)



— NATO WORD — DESI ANCHOR

A Alpha Agra	B Bravo Bombay	C Charlie Calcutta	D Delta Delhi	E Echo Elephant	F Foxtrot Faridabad
G Golf Gujarat	H Hotel Haryana	I India India	J Juliett Jaipur	K Kilo Kanpur	L Lima Lucknow
M Mike Mumbai	N November Nagpur	O Oscar Odisha	P Papa Patna	Q Quebec Queen	R Romeo Raipur
S Sierra Surat	T Tango Tata	U Uniform Udaipur	V Victor Vadodara	W Whiskey Wardha	X X-ray X-ray
Y Yankee Yamuna	Z Zulu Zebra				

💡 **Use NATO with international callers and BPO-experienced clients; use the desi set with everyone else. Never mix systems inside one spelling.**

🔊 SPELL IT LIKE A PRO

K	H	A	S	R	A
as in	as in	as in	as in	as in	as in
Kilo	Hotel	Alpha	Sierra	Romeo	Alpha

E-MAIL **bharat** **DOT** **bhushan** **AT** **gmail** **DOT** **com**

all small letters, no spaces @ at . dot _ underscore - hyphen

Letter, anchor, pause: every look-alike letter gets its anchor word.

4 Hindi Concept Note

प्र. A

अ HINDI CONCEPT NOTE हिंदी में समझिए

Phone पर आवाज़ ही आपका चेहरा है — न expression, न card, न कपड़े। इसीलिए यह chapter किताब का सबसे व्यावहारिक हिस्सा है।

पहली पाँच सेकंड की दो मशहूर गलतियाँ आज खत्म: 'Myself Bharat' नहीं — 'This is Bharat Bhushan I' और 'Tell me' से फ़ोन मत उठाओ — 'Good morning, Bhushan Realty — how can I help you?'

नाम आधी रफ़्तार पर, टुकड़ों में, anchor के साथ: 'B as in Bombay, H as in Haryana...' — B/D/P/T line पर एक जैसे सुनाई देते हैं; anchor के बिना spelling जुआ है।

Numbers = पैसा। चार नियम: teen/ty का मुक्का (thirTEEN खींचो, THIRty काटो — 13 और 30 का फ़र्क़ stress है); 10 अंक एक साँस में कभी नहीं — 2-3 के टुकड़े; financial बात में 'zero' बोलो, 'o' नहीं; विदेशी client के साथ lakh/crore convert करके बोलो: '45 lakhs — four point five million I'

Line खराब हो तो: 'voice is not coming' नहीं — 'The line is breaking up — may I call you right back?' और call खत्म करते हुए 'I'll cut the call' कभी नहीं — 'I'll hang up now' या बस 'Thank you, I'll let you go I'

Call-floor के पाँच राज़: मुस्कुराकर बोलो (मुस्कान सुनाई देती है — US floors पर इसीलिए मेज़ पर आईने रखते हैं); ज़रूरी call पर खड़े हो जाओ; rate बताकर चुप रहो — जो पहले बोलेगा, वही झुकेगा; और हर call का अंत confirmation ritual से: कौन, क्या, कब तक।

5 Common Mistakes Hindi Speakers Make



✗ WRONG	✓ RIGHT	💡 WHY
✗ 'Myself Prakash from ABC Properties.'	✓ 'This is Prakash from ABC Properties.'	'Myself' as an introduction exists only in Indian English — it marks the speaker instantly.
✗ 'What is your good name, sir?'	✓ 'May I know your name, please?'	'Good name' is a direct translation of शुभ नाम — warm in Hindi, strange in English.
✗ 'Hello? Hello?? Voice is not coming!'	✓ 'I'm sorry, the line is breaking up — may I call you right back?'	Diagnose the line, don't shout at it. The recovery phrase keeps authority.
✗ 'My number is nine-eight-one-zero-two-four-five-six-seven-eight' (one breath)	✓ 'nine-eight-one zero-two-four five-six seven-eight' — chunked, paused	One-breath numbers guarantee a repeat request. Chunks land the first time.
✗ 'I will cut the call now.'	✓ 'I'll hang up now.' / 'Let me not hold you further.'	'Cut the call' is Indian English; hang up / end the call is universal.
✗ Mumbling your own name fast because YOU know it well	✓ Half-speed, chunked, anchored: 'Bharat — B as in Bravo...'	Your name is the word you say most and think about least. The listener is hearing it for the first time — pace it for THEM.

🇮🇳 HINDI BRIDGE

Phone पर आवाज़ ही आपका चेहरा है — न expression, न card, न कपड़े। इसीलिए यह chapter किताब का सबसे व्यावहारिक हिस्सा है।

पहली पाँच सेकंड की दो मशहूर ग़लतियाँ आज ख़त्म: 'Myself Bharat' नहीं — 'This is Bharat Bhushan!' और 'Tell me' से फ़ोन मत उठाओ — 'Good morning, Bhushan Realty — how can I help you?'

6 Signal Words



The call-floor checklist:

- ✓ This is [name] — never ‘Myself’; on behalf of — never ‘from behalf’
- ✓ Names & numbers at half speed, in chunks, with anchors
- ✓ thir**TEEN** stretched / **THIR**ty clipped — punch the difference on every amount
- ✓ Repeat-back everything critical: spellings, amounts, dates, account numbers
- ✓ Smile audibly, stand for big calls, hold the silence after the price, close with who-does-what-by-when

7 Practice



SET A Fix the phone phrase

10 QUESTIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 ‘Myself Rekha, I am calling from behalf of Star Homes.’ | 2 ‘What is your good name?’ |
| 3 ‘Tell me.’ (answering the office line) | 4 ‘Voice is not coming, hello hello?’ |
| 5 ‘I will cut the call and call you back-side... I mean later.’ | 6 ‘He is not picking the phone since morning.’ |
| 7 ‘Repeat na, I didn’t listen your number.’ | 8 ‘Sir your cheque has bounced, what to do now?’ (soften it — Ch 10’s curve in words) |
| 9 ‘One minute haan, I am writing.’ | 10 ‘OK done done, bye-bye-bye.’ (close it professionally) |

SET B Say it right: write the chunked/anchored version

8 QUESTIONS

- 11 Spell KHASRA aloud with NATO anchors.
- 12 Spell your email aloud: bharat.bhushan@gmail.com
- 13 Say this mobile number in chunks: 9810245678
- 14 Say ₹13,30,000 so that 13 and 30 cannot be confused.
- 15 Say 98555 using the double/triple convention.
- 16 Tell a US client the price ‘2.5 crores’ in their units.

SET B

Say it right: write the chunked/anchored version

8 QUESTIONS

- 17 Spell BHUSHAN with the desi anchor set.
- 18 Dictate this slot: 'Registry on the 14th at 11:30' — mark where you'd pause and what you'd repeat back.

SET C

Script it: write your exact line for the situation

7 QUESTIONS

- 19 Your opening line calling a new client about a site visit.
- 20 Your line when the client's name sounded like 'Mr. Sethi or Sett-y' and you must get it right.
- 21 Your line to slow down a fast talker dictating an account number.
- 22 Your line after quoting '92 lakhs, all-inclusive' — what do you say next? (trick question)
- 23 Your closing confirmation for: token Friday, draft tonight, registry on the 14th.
- 24 Your line when you must call back in 10 minutes with the file.
- 25 Your voicemail message if the client doesn't answer.

8

Answer Key



ANSWERS · SET A

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 'This is Rekha — I'm calling on behalf of Star Homes.' | 2 'May I know your name, please?' |
| 3 'Good morning, [company] — how can I help you?' | 4 'I'm sorry, the line is breaking up — may I call you right back?' |
| 5 'I'll hang up now and call you back shortly.' | 6 'He isn't answering his phone — I've been trying since morning.' |
| 7 'Sorry, could you repeat the number, please?' | 8 'Sir, the cheque has been returned by the bank — shall we arrange an RTGS instead?' |
| 9 'One moment, please — I'm noting it down.' | 10 'Perfect — that's confirmed then. Thank you, and have a good day.' |

ANSWERS · SET B

- 11 K as in Kilo, H as in Hotel, A as in Alpha, S as in Sierra, R as in Romeo, A as in Alpha.
- 12 'bharat DOT bhushan — all one word, all small — AT gmail DOT com.'

ANSWERS · SET B

- 13 'nine-eight-one | zero-two-four | five-six-seven-eight' (or 98 | 10 | 24 | 56 | 78 — any consistent chunking).
- 14 'Thirteen lakh thirty thousand — that's one-three lakhs, three-zero thousand.' Punch thir**TEEN**, clip **THIR**ty, then digit-check both.
- 15 'nine-eight-triple-five.'
- 16 'Two point five crores — that is twenty-five million rupees.'
- 17 B as in Bombay, H as in Haryana, U as in Udaipur, S as in Surat, H as in Haryana, A as in Agra, N as in Nagpur.
- 18 'Registry on the **FOUR**teenth | at eleven-**THIR**ty.' Pause at the bar; repeat back: 'That's one-four, the fourteenth, at eleven-three-zero.'

ANSWERS · SET C

- 19 'Good morning, Mr. Sharma — this is Bharat Bhushan from Bhushan Realty. I'm calling about your site-visit request for Narayan Villas — is this a good time?'
- 20 'I want to make sure I say your name correctly — could you say it once more for me?'
- 21 'I want to note this down correctly — could you go a little slower with the account number? I'll read it back to you.'
- 22 NOTHING. Quote with a falling tune — 'ninety-two lakhs, all-inclusive. ↘' — and hold the silence. The next voice concedes.
- 23 'So, to confirm: token by Friday through RTGS, I send you the draft agreement tonight, and the registry slot is the fourteenth. Have I missed anything?'
- 24 'Let me pull the file and call you back in ten minutes — is this number best?'
- 25 'Mr. Sharma, this is Bharat Bhushan from Bhushan Realty, at 98-10-24-56-78 (chunked, half speed). I'm calling about the Narayan Villas booking — I'll try again at four, or please call me back at your convenience. Thank you.'

NEXT UP

your 30-Day Training Plan — the daily routine, two self-tests, and the read-aloud scorecard that turns this book into a habit.



PART 3 — APPLICATION

14

The 30-Day Training Plan & Self-Tests



Level: All

This chapter is a routine, not a reading

THE WHOLE BOOK ON A MAP

PART 1

The Sound System

- 1 Spelling ≠ sound
- 2 Vowel length
- 3 The schwa
- 4 TH · V/W · Z
- 5 T, D & R
- 6 Silent letters

PART 2

Beyond Single Sounds

- 7 -ed and -s
- 8 Word stress
- 9 Rhythm
- 10 Intonation
- 11 Connected speech

PART 3

Application

- 12 The 200 words
- 13 Phone English
- 14 30-day plan & tests

BONUS · APPENDIX A

Advanced stress rules
& teacher's guide

Fourteen chapters, three parts: sounds first, then stress and tune, then your own routine.

1 The Whole Book on One Page



CH 1

Spelling ≠ sound

Hear first (Google/YouGlish), then speak; Devanagari is your map

CH 2

Vowel length

इ/ई and उ/ऊ change the WORD: sit/seat, full/fool; jaw drops for bad

CH 3

The schwa

One hero syllable per word; everything else mumbles क्अ

CH 4

TH / V-W / Z

Tongue out for th; teeth for V, lips for W; ज़ never ज

CH 5

T, D & R

Tongue on the gum ridge, not curled; r is a shape, never a tap or roll

CH 6

Silent letters

Families, not words: kn → न, wr → र, -mb → म; -tion=शन, -ture=चर, -sure=झ

CH 7

-ed and -s

Copy the voicing: वकर्ट, प्लेड; extra beat only after t/d and hissers

CH 8

Word stress

Nouns punch front, verbs back; suffix magnets; thir**TEEN** vs **THIR**ty

CH 9

Rhythm

Beats on content words; compress the grammar between them

CH 10

Intonation

Fall = certain; rise = yes/no question; fall-rise = polite reservation

CH 11

Connected speech

Link consonant → vowel; decode gonna/wouldju; speak the safe layer

CH 12

The 200 words

Seven machines behind them all — revise one table a week

CH 13

Phone English

Half speed on names & numbers; anchor spellings; repeat back; hold the silence

**THE 20-MINUTE DAILY RING****5 MIN MIRROR**

mouth positions

10 MIN SHADOWING

speak along half a second behind any native audio — news clips, YouGlish sentences

5 MIN RECORD & COMPARE

read the day's drill into your phone, play it against the native audio

The structure never changes — only the focus rotates.

2 The 30-Day Plan — 20 Minutes a Day



The daily structure never changes; only the focus rotates. 20 minutes: 5 minutes MIRROR (mouth positions), 10 minutes SHADOWING (speak along half a second behind any native audio — news clips, YouGlish sentences), 5 minutes RECORD & COMPARE (read the day's drill into your phone, play it against the native audio).

DAYS

1-3**Foundations + vowels (Ch 1-2)**

Throat test drills; the 20 minimal pairs, morning and night

DAYS

4-7**The schwa (Ch 3)**

Rubber-band drill on 5 words/day; weak-form sentences from Ch 3 Set C

DAYS

8-10**TH, V/W, Z (Ch 4)**

Mirror work; the killer phrases; hidden-z sentence reading

DAYS
11–12**T, D & R (Ch 5)**

Ridge drills; Set C read-alouds; un-roll every r for one full day of calls

DAYS
13–14**Silent letters & suffixes (Ch 6)**

One silent family per session; -tion/-ture/-sure word runs

DAYS
15–17**-ed and -s endings (Ch 7)**

Sort 20 past-tense verbs aloud daily; plural buzz drill (डेज़, कीज़)

DAYS
18–20**Word stress (Ch 8)**

Mark stress in 10 new words/day; the misplacement list; teen/ty punches

DAYS
21–23**Rhythm (Ch 9)**

Clap-compression drill; underline beats in one paragraph and read it

DAYS
24–25**Intonation (Ch 10)**

Arrow-mark a dialogue; read your rate list with falling tunes

DAYS
26–27**Connected speech (Ch 11)**

Weld drills; decode one minute of fast native audio word-for-word

DAYS
28–29**The 200 words (Ch 12)**

Two tables/day aloud; flag your personal top 20 for the fridge list

DAY
30**Phone day (Ch 13) + Self-Tests**

Anchor-spell 5 names; number drills; then both tests below

After Day 30: keep the 5-minute shadowing habit daily, revise one Ch 12 table weekly, and re-record the scorecard passage monthly – improvement you can literally hear.

**30 DAYS, COLOURED BY CHAPTER**

Day 30 is phone day plus both self-tests.

3 Self-Test — 25 Questions



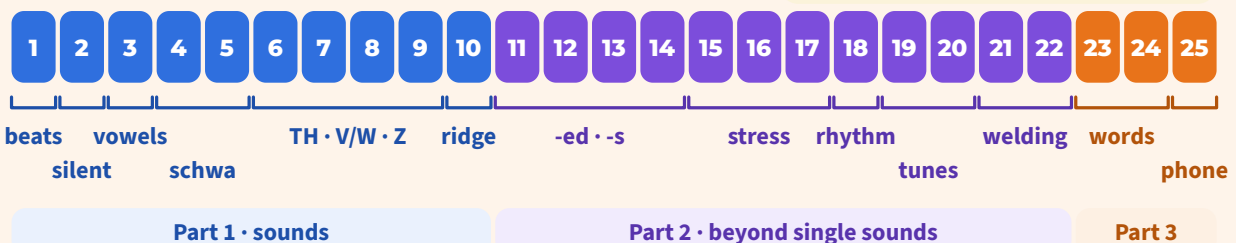
Answers on the final page. 20+ correct = the system is installed.

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | How many spoken beats in 'comfortable'? | 2 | Which letter is silent in 'salmon'? |
| 3 | ship vs. sheep — which Hindi vowels separate them? | 4 | Respell 'photography' with its hero syllable in capitals. |
| 5 | 'of' inside 'a cup of tea' sounds like _____ (Devanagari). | 6 | The tongue position for TH: where exactly is the tip? |
| 7 | V vs. W: which one uses the teeth? | 8 | zero = जीरो or ज़ीरो? And why? |
| 9 | 'was' ends in the sound स or ज़? | 10 | English t/d touch which spot in the mouth? |
| 11 | worked = how many beats, and which ending sound? | 12 | wanted = how many beats, and why the difference? |
| 13 | days, keys, rupees — the plural sound is _____. | 14 | prices = प्राइसेस or प्राइसिज़? |
| 15 | Mark the stress: development. | 16 | REcord vs. reCORD — which is the noun? |
| 17 | thirTEEN vs. THIRty — which syllable do you stretch for 13? | 18 | Which words in a sentence get the beats — content or function? |
| 19 | A yes/no question ends with which tune — rise or fall? | 20 | A falling question tag means confirming or genuinely asking? |
| 21 | 'did you' welds into _____ (Devanagari). | 22 | When can 'going to' become gonna — before a verb or before a place? |
| 23 | mortgage = _____ (Devanagari). Which letter died? | 24 | lease ends in स or ज़? |
| 25 | On the phone: 'Myself Ramesh' → the correct opening is _____. | | |

THE SELF-TEST IS A TOUR OF THE BOOK

25 QUESTIONS, IN THE ORDER OF THE BOOK

20+ correct = the system is installed



4 The Read-Aloud Scorecard



Record yourself reading this passage on Day 1 and Day 30. Score both recordings against the checklist — the gap is your progress, in your own voice.

- 99 “Good morning — this is Bharat from Bhushan Realty. Thank you for waiting. I checked the documents on Wednesday, and the vegetable market plot is finally clear. The mortgage papers were signed, the lease was registered, and the buyers wanted possession by the thirteenth. Would you prefer the corner unit or the third floor? Either way, we should complete the measurements, verify the boundary, and release the first payment — it’s such a comfortable decision now.”

◆ **Score one point for each (15 total):**

- ☐ 1 Wednesday said as वेन्ड्रेडे (2 beats)
- ☐ 2 vegetable = 3 beats; comfortable = 3 beats
- ☐ 3 Every ‘the/of/and/was’ weak (schwa forms)
- ☐ 4 th tongue-out in: this, thank, the, third, thirteenth, either
- ☐ 5 V with teeth in: vegetable, verify; W with lips in: waiting, Wednesday, would, way
- ☐ 6 Hidden z voiced in: is, was, buyers, papers, measurements
- ☐ 7 signed = साइन्ड (1 beat), registered = रेजिस्टर्ड, wanted = वॉन्टेड (beat!)
- ☐ 8 checked = चेकट (1 beat)
- ☐ 9 buyers, documents, measurements — plural sounds correct (ज़ / स sorted)
- ☐ 10 mortgage = मॉर्गिज; lease = लीस
- ☐ 11 thir**TEEN**th punched late and stretched
- ☐ 12 Soft, unrolled r’s throughout (morning, Realty, corner, third, floor)
- ☐ 13 Beats only on content words; grammar compressed
- ☐ 14 ‘Would you prefer...?’ — welded (वुज्जु) and RISING; the list (measurements ↗, boundary ↗, payment ↘) falls at the end
- ☐ 15 Statements end with falling tunes — no rising ‘OK?’ habit

🔄 **DAY 1 VS DAY 30: THE 15-POINT SCORECARD**



DAY 1

___ / 15

30 days · 20 minutes a day

the gap is your progress



DAY 30

___ / 15



WORDS

1

Wednesday

2

3 beats

10

mortgage · lease



CONSONANTS

4

TH out

5

V teeth · W lips

6

hidden z

12

soft r



ENDINGS

7

signed · wanted

8

checked

9

plurals



STRESS & RHYTHM

3

weak the/of/and

11

thir**TEEN**th

13

beats on content words



TUNES & LINKING

14

welded + rising

15

falling ends

5 Self-Test Answers



ANSWERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 3 (कम्प्टबल) | 2 l (सैमन) |
| 3 इ vs. ई | 4 फ़ोटोग्राफ़ि — pho- TO -graphy |
| 5 अच् | 6 Between the teeth, tip visible |
| 7 V | 8 ज़ीरो — z is the buzzing स, never ज |
| 9 ज़ (व्अज़) | 10 The gum ridge behind the upper teeth |
| 11 One beat, ending T (वर्कट) | 12 Two beats (वॉन्टिड) — the base ends in t, so the इड bridge is compulsory |
| 13 ज़ | 14 प्राइसिज़ |
| 15 de VEL opment | 16 RE cord |
| 17 TEEN — thir TEEN | 18 Content words |
| 19 Rise | 20 Confirming |
| 21 डिज्जु | 22 Before a verb only ('I'm gonna sell' ✓, 'gonna Delhi' ✗) |
| 23 मॉर्गिज — the t | 24 स (लीस) |
| 25 'This is Ramesh' / 'My name is Ramesh' | |



FOURTEEN CHAPTERS · THREE PARTS

The training is complete

Fourteen chapters. Three parts. One method: the sound in Devanagari, the position in the mirror, the proof in your own recordings.

WHAT YOU NOW HOLD

PART 1

The Sound System

the broken code, the vowel pairs, the schwa, the danger consonants, the ridge, and the silent families.

PART 2

Beyond Single Sounds

the -ed/-s machines, word stress, the heartbeat rhythm, the tunes, and the welding rules of connected speech.

PART 3

Application

the 200-word reference, the call-floor toolkit, and the 30-day routine.

Pronunciation is a muscle skill. This book gave you the maps; your mouth builds the roads — five focused minutes in the mirror will always beat an hour of silent reading. Record yourself monthly. The voice on that recording is your certificate.

बोलो साफ़, बोलो *confident* — आपकी आवाज़ ही आपकी पहचान है। © 2026 Bharat Bhushan. All rights reserved.

BONUS



The Final Part

5 STRESS RULES

TEACHER'S GUIDE

advanced stress rules · the teacher's guide

IN THIS PART · PAGE 110

A Five Stress Rules Chapter 8 Didn't Tell You

Rule 1 — Compound nouns punch the FIRST word
Rule 2 — Phrasal verbs switch their punch when they become nouns
Rule 3 — Stress-neutral vs. stress-stealing suffixes
Rule 4 — Prefixes stay weak (until you contrast them)
Rule 5 — Abbreviations: punch the LAST letter; acronyms behave like words
Part A — Quick Practice (10 items)

B The Teacher's Guide

The 45-minute lesson template
Correction etiquette — the five rules
For parents and self-study pairs
Licensing note for institutes

BONUS — THE FINAL PART

A

The Advanced Stress Rulebook & Teacher's Guide



💡 Five stress rules beyond Chapter 8

💡 How to teach this book to others

Part A — Five Stress Rules Chapter 8 Didn't Tell You

Chapter 8 gave you the everyday machinery. These five rules are the professional layer — the patterns that govern compound words, business vocabulary, abbreviations, and long formal words.

RULE 1 Compound nouns punch the FIRST word

When two words fuse into ONE THING, the first word takes the punch. When they stay an adjective + noun description, the second word does. The stress position literally tells the listener whether you mean a thing or a description.

COMPOUND (ONE THING) — PUNCH FIRST	PHRASE (DESCRIPTION) — PUNCH SECOND
a GREEN house (पौधों वाला शीशे का घर)	a green HOUSE (हरे रंग का घर)
a BLACK board (classroom का)	a black BOARD (कोई भी काला बोर्ड)
a HOT dog (खाने वाला)	a hot DOG (गर्मी से परेशान कुत्ता)
the WHITE House (Washington)	a white HOUSE (सफ़ेद घर)

Your trade runs on compounds — all first-word punches: **PAY**ment plan, **SITE** visit, **TOK**en amount, **CAR**pet area, **PARK**ing slot, **BOOK**ing amount, **MAIN**tenance charge, **REG**istry office, **LOAN** approval, **POSS**ession letter.

🏠 RULE 1 · ONE THING OR A DESCRIPTION?

COMPOUND — one THING punch the FIRST word

🌿	a GREEN house	पौधों वाला शीशे का घर
📺	a BLACK board	classroom का
🍗	a HOT dog	खाने वाला
🏠	the WHITE House	Washington

PHRASE — a DESCRIPTION punch the SECOND word

🏠	a green HOUSE	हरे रंग का घर
📺	a black BOARD	कोई भी काला बोर्ड
🍗	a hot DOG	गर्मी से परेशान कुत्ता
🏠	a white HOUSE	सफ़ेद घर

RULE 2 Phrasal verbs switch their punch when they become nouns

As a VERB, the particle gets the punch: take OFF, check IN, break DOWN, hand OVER. The moment it becomes a NOUN, the punch jumps to the front: **TAKE**-off, **CHECK**-in, **BREAK**down, **HAND**over. Same letters, different word class, different punch — the spoken cousin of Grammar Module 5's phrasal verbs.

- 1 The flight takes OFF at nine. → The **TAKE**-off was delayed.
- 2 Please check IN by noon. → The **CHECK**-in counter is closed.
- 3 The generator broke DOWN. → We reported the **BREAK**down.
- 4 We hand OVER the keys on Friday. → The **HAND**over of possession is on Friday.
- 5 They set UP a new office. → The whole **SET**up took a month.

⇒ **RULE 2 · THE PUNCH JUMPS WHEN A PHRASAL VERB BECOMES A NOUN**

AS A VERB the particle gets the punch		AS A NOUN the punch jumps to the front
take OFF	→	TAKE off
check IN	→	CHECK in
break DOWN	→	BREAK down
hand OVER	→	HAND over
set UP	→	SET up

RULE 3 Stress-neutral vs. stress-stealing suffixes

Chapter 8's magnets (-tion, -ic, -ity, -ee) STEAL the punch. But a second family is polite — these suffixes never move it: -ment, -ness, -ful, -less, -er/-or, -ly, -ship, -hood, -able. That's why de**VEL**op stays de**VEL**opment and a**GREE** stays a**GREE**ment — and why **MAIN**tenance (Ch 8's flagged exception) surprises everyone: it's an old French import, not a rule-follower.

POLITE (PUNCH STAYS)	THIEF (PUNCH MOVES)
de VEL op → de VEL opment	REG ister → regis TRA tion
HAP py → HAP piness	ECO nomy → eco NO mic
a GREE → a GREE ment	Able → a BI lity
PART ner → PART nership	em PLOY → employ EE
re LY → re LI able	ad VISE → advi SOR y... careful: ad VIS ory (stays!) — verify long words

RULE 3 · POLITE OR THIEF?

POLITE the punch stays put

-ment **-ness** **-ful** **-less** **-er/-or** **-ly**

-ship **-hood** **-able**

de **VEL** op → de **VEL** op **ment**

HAP py → **HAP** pi **ness**

a **GREE** → a **GREE** **ment**

PART ner → **PART** ner **ship**

re **LY** → re **LI** a **ble**

THIEF the punch moves

-tion **-ic** **-ity** **-ee**

Chapter 8's magnets steal it.

REG is ter → reg is **TRA** **tion**

A ble → a **BI** li **ty**

em **PLOY** → em ploy **EE**

EXCEPTION an old French import

main **TAIN** → **MAIN** te nance

RULE 4 Prefixes stay weak (until you contrast them)

re-, un-, dis-, pre-, mis-, in- normally take NO punch: re**PAIR**, un**DO**, dis**CUSS**, pre**FER**, mis**TAKE**. The one exception is contrast — when the prefix itself is the point, it earns a full beat: 'I said **RE**sale, not NEW sale.' 'Please **RE**write it, don't just **RE**format it.' Contrastive stress (Chapter 9) overrides every other rule in this book — meaning always outranks mechanics.

RULE 4 · PREFIXES STAY WEAK, UNTIL YOU CONTRAST THEM

NORMALLY re-un-dis-pre-mis-in- take no punch

re **PAIR** un **DO** dis **CUSS** pre **FER** mis **TAKE**

...UNLESS THE PREFIX IS THE POINT contrast earns a full beat

I said **RE** sale, not **NEW** sale.

Please **RE** write it, don't just **RE** format it.

I said **UN** furnished, not **SEMI**-furnished.

meaning always outranks mechanics

RULE 5 Abbreviations: punch the LAST letter; acronyms behave like words

Letter-by-letter abbreviations (initialisms) punch the final letter — always: TV = tee-**VEE**, GST = jee-es-**TEE**, EMI = ee-em-**EYE**, NOC = en-o-**SEE**, KYC = kay-why-**SEE**, CBI = see-bee-**EYE**. But abbreviations pronounced as WORDS (acronyms) follow normal word rules: RERA = **RE**-ra, NASA = **NA**-sa, PIN = pin. The test: do you spell it or say it? Spell → last letter; say → word rules.

*Bonus tendency for long words: when no suffix rule applies, try the THIRD syllable from the end — pho**TO**graphy, oppor**TU**nity, **HOS**pital, **CI**nema, **FA**mily all obey. It's a tendency, not a law: verify on Google when the word matters.*

Abc RULE 5 · SPELL IT OR SAY IT?

Do you **SPELL** it or **SAY** it?

SPELL it → punch the LAST letter	SAY it → normal word rules
TV tee VEE GST jee es TEE EMI ee em EYE NOC en o SEE KYC kay why SEE CBI see bee EYE	RERA RE ra NASA NA sa PIN pin
The test Spell → last letter. Say → word rules.	

BONUS no suffix rule? try the **THIRD** syllable from the end

pho **TO** gra phy op por **TU** ni ty **HOS** pi tal **CI** ne ma **FA** mi ly

3 2 1

3 2 1

3 2 1

3 2 1

PRACTICE Part A — Quick Practice (10 items)

Mark the punch. Answers at the end of the appendix.

- 1 We scheduled a site visit for Sunday. (site visit)
- 2 The handover happens after the registry. (handover)
- 3 Please hand over the duplicate keys. (hand over)
- 4 Their agreement was signed yesterday. (agreement)
- 5 The registration office opens at ten. (registration)
- 6 He saw a black bird on the water tank. (an actual bird that is black)
- 7 Pay the EMI before the 5th. (EMI)
- 8 RERA approval is pending. (RERA)
- 9 The setup of the sample flat took two weeks. (setup)
- 10 I said **UN**furnished, not **SEMI**-furnished. (which rule wins here?)

ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION MASTERY

113

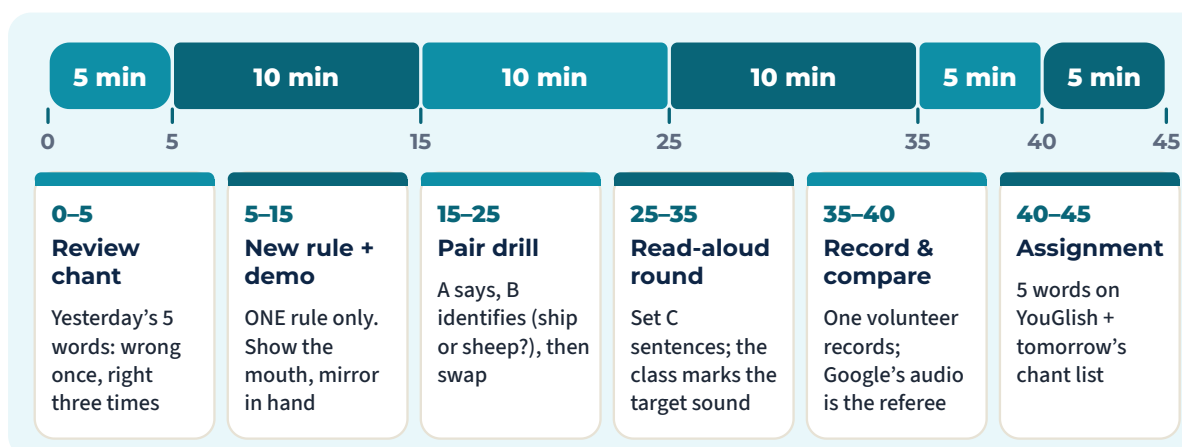
Part B — The Teacher's Guide: Running This Book as a Course

This book teaches one reader; this guide multiplies it. For tutors, coaching institutes, office trainers, parents, and self-study groups — how to convert the 14 chapters into a 4-week spoken-English batch.

◆ The 45-minute lesson template

0–5 MIN	Review chant Yesterday's 5 drill words, chorus repetition — wrong form once, right form three times
5–15 MIN	New rule + demo Teach ONE rule only; demonstrate the mouth position yourself, mirror in hand; students copy in pairs
15–25 MIN	Pair drill Minimal pairs or the chapter's tables: A says, B identifies (ship or sheep?); swap roles
25–35 MIN	Read-aloud round Chapter's Set C sentences; one student reads, class marks the target sound on paper
35–40 MIN	Record & compare One volunteer records on a phone; class compares against Google's audio — the machine is the referee, not the teacher
40–45 MIN	Assignment 5 words to verify on YouGlish at home + tomorrow's chant list

THE 45-MINUTE LESSON



The 30-day plan in Chapter 14 maps directly onto a 4-week batch at 5 classes per week; the day-by-day table is your syllabus. Use the Ch 14 scorecard passage as the ENTRY test on day one and the EXIT test on day thirty — recorded both times. The two recordings are your testimonial engine: with the student's permission, before/after clips sell the next batch better than any brochure.

◆ Correction etiquette — the five rules

- 1 Correct SOUNDS, never people. ‘The z needs voice’ — not ‘you said it wrong.’
- 2 Echo-correct: repeat the sentence correctly and move on; don’t stop the speaker mid-flow. Fluency first, precision second.
- 3 One target sound per session. A student corrected on five fronts at once fixes none and stops speaking.
- 4 Praise rhythm before accuracy — a learner with native rhythm and two wrong consonants sounds better than the reverse (Chapter 9 is why).
- 5 Never mock the wrong form — it’s in this book’s tables precisely because millions say it. The wrong form is the bridge, not the shame.

◆ For parents and self-study pairs

Ten-minute dinner-table games: the SYLLABLE CLAP (clap the beats of any word — chocolate gets two, not four); the THROAT TEST race (hand on throat: price or prize?); SPOT-THE-SCHWA (say a long word, the other finds the lazy syllables); and the SPELLING BEE, ULTA (say the word, spell the SOUND in Devanagari). Games beat lectures for children — and for adults too, though adults need the book open to admit it.

◆ Licensing note for institutes

This book is licensed for individual use. Coaching institutes and trainers who wish to distribute copies to a batch should contact the author for a batch licence — bulk pricing is available and costs less than photocopying’s reputation.

◆ Part A Practice — Answers

1. SITE visit (compound) 2. **HAND**over (noun → front) 3. hand **OVER** (verb → particle) 4. a **GREE**ment (-ment is polite) 5. regis**TRA**tion (-tion steals) 6. black **BIRD** (description → second) 7. ee-em-**EYE** (last letter) 8. **RE**-ra (acronym → word rules) 9. **SET**up (noun → front) 10. Contrastive stress wins — UN and SEMI take full beats because the prefixes ARE the message (Rule 4’s exception, Chapter 9’s law).



End of the book. Now close it and open your mouth — the mirror is waiting. © 2026 Bharat Bhushan.



THE MIRROR IS WAITING

Now open your mouth

Pronunciation is a muscle skill. This book gave you the maps — the sound in Devanagari, the position in the mirror, the proof in your own recordings. Your mouth builds the roads: five focused minutes every day will always beat an hour of silent reading.

What you now hold



The Sound System

vowels · the schwa · danger consonants · the ridge · silent letters

1



Beyond Single Sounds

-ed / -s endings · word stress · rhythm · intonation · connected speech

2



Application

the 200 words · phone English · the 30-day plan

3



The Final Part

advanced stress rules · the teacher's guide

A

बोलो साफ़, बोलो confident — आपकी आवाज़ ही आपकी पहचान है।

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