

Hindi in everyday situations

Module 1: Arrival

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

Arrival

Hindi

Read & listen
online



मैं हूँ · आप हैं

A pronoun stands in for a person or thing: **मैं** means I and **आप** means polite you. Singular means one person or thing; plural means more than one. Respectful speech can use plural-style **हैं** for just one person.

Hindi usually puts the verb last. Say **मैं कमला हूँ** (I am Kamala), **यह मेरा मकान है** (this is my house). **मैं** takes **हूँ**, **यह/वह** takes **है**, and polite **आप** takes **हैं** even for one person.

Use **आप** with a new adult acquaintance. Starting a statement with **क्या** makes a yes/no question: **क्या आप नए पड़ोसी हैं?** The answer can simply be **हाँ** or **नहीं**. Learn **आपसे मिलकर खुशी हुई** as a greeting for now.

पड़ोसी itself works for a man or woman, but a describing word changes: **नए पड़ोसी** for a man addressed politely, **नई पड़ोसी** for a

woman. Hindi noun gender belongs to each noun; it is not always the person's sex.

Person	Be
मैं (I)	हूँ
आप (polite you)	हैं
यह / वह (this/he/she)	है

Hindi nouns have gender: they belong to a masculine or feminine class. Masculine **मकान** (house) takes **मेरा** (my); feminine **चाबी** (key) takes **मेरी**. This noun class need not match a person's sex. An article is a word like English a or the; Hindi does not need one in these simple introductions.

मेरा • मेरी • भूखा • भूखी

A possessive shows who owns something. **मेरा** means my before a masculine singular noun: **मेरा नाम**. Use **मेरी** with a feminine noun: **मेरी चाबी**. The owner's sex does not choose the form: the thing owned does.

Changing adjectives ending in **-ा** often have feminine **-ी**: **भूखा / भूखी**, **बुरा / बुरी**. A male learner says **मैं भूखा हूँ**; a female learner says **मैं भूखी हूँ**. Many other adjectives, such as **खुश**, do not change.

In the story, **बिल्ली** is the ordinary cat word and feminine; **बिल्ला** specifies a male cat. Meera's correction is a joke, not a rule that all

animal nouns match biological sex. Learn **मुझे भूख लगी है** as another common way to say I am hungry.

काँफ़ी या चाय? • मुझे पसंद है

या offers a choice: **काँफ़ी या चाय?** Short orders are natural: **काँफ़ी, कृपया** or **एक चाय, कृपया**. **और** adds another item; **लेकिन** contrasts two ideas.

मुझे काँफ़ी पसंद है means I like coffee. The person is **मुझे** (to me), not **मैं**. This is a useful whole pattern: **आपको चाय पसंद है?** asks whether you like tea. The thing liked controls **है/हैं**: **मुझे किताबें पसंद हैं**.

Put **नहीं** before the final verb in a simple negative: **यह केक मेरा नहीं है**. Early **हुई** in the meeting greeting and **लगी** in the hunger phrase are memorised expressions; past forms are developed later.

रहता हूँ • रहती हूँ

Habitual actions use a verb stem plus **-ता/-ती/-ते** and a form of be: **मैं नीचे रहता हूँ / रहती हूँ**. The ending agrees with the subject. **अर्जुन बजाता है** means Arjun plays, as a routine.

The progressive describes an action happening now. Listen for **रहा/रही/रहे** plus a form of be: **बज रही है** means is playing. For now recognise this whole phrase; the pattern receives focused practice later. An infinitive names an action and normally ends in **-ना**: **सोना, बजाना**.

Learn **मुझे सोना है** (I want/need to sleep) and polite **कल बजाइए** (play tomorrow) as useful requests. **कल** can mean tomorrow or yesterday: future/past context tells you which.

कहाँ • यहाँ • के ऊपर

Question words normally stay near what they ask about: **राधा कहाँ रहती हैं?** You do not invert the verb and subject as in English. **कौन** asks who, **कहाँ** where, **क्या** what.

Place words follow their noun: **कैफ़े के ऊपर, सोफ़े के नीचे**. These are postpositions. Learn these first as complete phrases. A masculine **—ा** noun often changes before one: **सोफ़ा** → **सोफ़े**.

Use plural-style verbs to show respect to an older person: **कमला जी रहती हैं**. The feminine **रहती** still matches her gender; respectful **हैं** does not make her a man. **मेरी नातिन** specifically means my daughter's daughter.

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL FORM**

Underline the form explained in this unit.

1 मैं कमला हूँ।

Meaning: I am Kamala.

2 यह मेरी चाबी है।

Meaning: This is my key.

3 कॉफ़ी या चाय?

Meaning: Coffee or tea?

4 मैं नीचे रहता हूँ।

Meaning: I live downstairs. (male)

5 राधा कहाँ रहती हैं?

Meaning: Where does Radha live?

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the meaning and the Hindi pattern.

1 मैं कमला _____।

(A) हैं

(B) है

(C) हूँ

Meaning: I am Kamala.

2 यह _____ चाबी है।

(A) मेरा

(B) मेरे

(C) मेरी

Meaning: This is my key.

3 कॉफ़ी _____ चाय?

(A) या

(B) लेकिन

(C) क्योंकि

Meaning: Coffee or tea?

4 मैं नीचे _____ हूँ।

- ☐ A रहती
- ☐ B रहता
- ☐ C रहते

Meaning: I live downstairs. (male)

5 राधा _____ रहती हैं?

- ☐ A कहाँ
- ☐ B क्या
- ☐ C कौन

Meaning: Where does Radha live?

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

है मैं

मैं कमला _____।

Meaning: I am Kamala.

मेरा मेरी

यह _____ चाबी है।

Meaning: This is my key.

लेकिन या

काँफ़ी _____ चाय?

Meaning: Coffee or tea?

रहती रहता

मैं नीचे _____ हूँ।

Meaning: I live downstairs. (male)

कौन कहाँ

राधा _____ रहती हैं?

Meaning: Where does Radha live?

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

मैं

कमला

हूँ।

Meaning: I am Kamala.

2 मेरी है। चाबी यह

Meaning: This is my key.

3 या कॉफ़ी चाय?

Meaning: Coffee or tea?

4 नीचे हूँ। मैं रहता

Meaning: I live downstairs. (male)

5

रहती

राधा

हैं?

कहाँ

Meaning: Where does Radha live?

G5) CONNECT FORM AND MEANING

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| ① राधा कहाँ रहती हैं? | Ⓐ I live downstairs. (male) |
| ② यह मेरी चाबी है। | Ⓑ Where does Radha live? |
| ③ मैं कमला हूँ। | Ⓒ I am Kamala. |
| ④ मैं नीचे रहता हूँ। | Ⓓ Coffee or tea? |
| ⑤ कॉफ़ी या चाय? | Ⓔ This is my key. |

G6) NOTICE LEARNER AGREEMENT

Underline the words that change for a male or female learner.
Noun ownership still follows the thing owned.

1 मैं भी भूखा हूँ।

Meaning: I am hungry too.

2 मैं भी भूखी हूँ।

Meaning: I am hungry too.

3 अच्छा, मैं कैफ़े जा रहा हूँ।

Meaning: All right, I am going to the café.

4 अच्छा, मैं कैफ़े जा रही हूँ।

Meaning: All right, I am going to the café.