

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

Simple Greetings in Hindi, Part 1

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INTRODUCTION

Neha: Hello, I'm Neha.

Maya: And I'm Maya. Absolute Beginners Season 1 Lesson 1. Simple Greetings in Hindi, Part 1. Welcome to HindiPod101.com where we study modern Hindi in a fun and educational format.

Neha: We're very pleased to welcome you to the first lesson of the Hindi Absolute Beginners Series.

Maya: Yes, we're both very excited about teaching Hindi to all you Hindi lovers out there!

Neha: In this lesson, you'll learn how to say simple greetings and ask "What is your name?" in Hindi

Maya: The conversation takes place between Asha and Megha.

Neha: They are meeting for the first time at a party.

Maya: And since they don't know each other, they will be using formal Hindi. Let's listen to the conversation.

DIALOGUE

आशा (aasaa): नमस्ते, आपका नाम क्या है? (NamaSTe, aapakaa Naam kyaa hai?)

मेघा (meghaa): नमस्ते, मेरा नाम मेघा है। और आपका नाम क्या है? (NamaSTe, meraa Naam meghaa hai. aur aapakaa Naam kyaa hai?)

आशा (aasaa): मेरा नाम आशा है। (meraa Naam aasaa hai.)

मेघा (meghaa): आशाजी, आपका नाम अच्छा है। (aasaajii, aapakaa Naam acchaa hai.)

आशा (aasaa): शुक्रिया! (sukriyaa!)

Neha: Now let's listen to it one time slowly.

आशा (aasaa): नमस्ते, आपका नाम क्या है? (NamaSTe, aapakaa Naam kyaa hai?)

मेघा (meghaa): नमस्ते, मेरा नाम मेघा है। और आपका नाम क्या है? (NamaSTe, meraa Naam meghaa hai. aur aapakaa Naam kyaa hai?)

आशा (aasaa): मेरा नाम आशा है। (meraa Naam aasaa hai.)

मेघा (meghaa): आशाजी, आपका नाम अच्छा है। (aasaajii, aapakaa Naam acchaa hai.)

आशा (aasaa): शुक्रिया! (sukriyaa!)

Maya: Let's now listen to it with English translation.

आशा (aasaa): नमस्ते, आपका नाम क्या है? (NamaSTe, aapakaa Naam kyaa hai?)

Maya: "Hello, what is your name?"

मेघा (meghaa): नमस्ते, मेरा नाम मेघा है। और आपका नाम क्या है? (NamaSTe, meraa Naam meghaa hai. aur aapaka Naam kyaa hai?)

Neha: "Hello, my name is Megha. And what is your name?"

आशा (aasaa): मेरा नाम आशा है। (meraa Naam aasaa hai.)

Maya: "My name is Asha."

मेघा (meghaa): आशाजी, आपका नाम अच्छा है। (aasaajii, aapaka Naam acchaa hai.)

Neha: "Asha, your name is nice."

आशा (aasaa): शुक्रिया! (sukriyaa!)

Maya: "Thank you!"

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Maya: In this conversation, Asha and Megha are meeting for the first time.

Neha: Which means that they greet each other formally using the respectful and formal form of "you," which is आप (aap).

Maya: Yes, this is a pretty standard way of addressing a stranger in Indian society. You can also add जी (jii) after a person's name to be even more respectful.

Neha: Like in the conversation, Megha calls Asha, आशा जी (aasaa jii).

Maya: Can you also add जी (ji) to a guy's name? Say, call Rahul राहुल जी (rahuL jii)?

Neha: Of course. It's actually almost like saying Ms. or Mr. in English but it stays the same regardless of the gender.

Maya: That makes things very simple!

Neha: Yes, in a way. But at the same time, Indian society is hierarchical in nature. Everything including age, social standing, and positions at institutions are reflected in everyday speech by how we choose to address the other.

Maya: In fact, in Hindi, there are three different levels of respect one can show to the other person.

Neha: But in this lesson we'll cover only the formal and respectful form of address.

Maya: Which can never go wrong in any situation. Okay, let's move on to the Vocab.

VOCAB LIST

Maya: The first word we shall see is...

Neha: नमस्ते (NamaSTe).

Maya: "hello."

Neha: न-मस्-ते (Na-maS-Te). नमस्ते (NamaSTe).

Maya: Next is...

Neha: आपका (aapakaa).

Maya: "your." Formal.

Neha: आ-प-का (aa-pa-kaa), आपका (aapakaa).

Maya: Next is...

Neha: नाम (Naam).

Maya: "name."

Neha: ना-म (Naa-ma), नाम (Naam).

Maya: Next is...

Neha: क्या (kyaa).

Maya: "what."

Neha: क्या (kyaa). क्या (kyaa).

Maya: Next is...

Neha: है (hai).

Maya: "is."

Neha: है (hai). है (hai).

Maya: Next is...

Neha: मेरा (meraa).

Maya: "my."

Neha: मे-रा (me-raa), मेरा (meraa).

Maya: Next is...

Neha: शुक्रिया (sukriyaa).

Maya: "thank you."

Neha: शु-क्रि-या (su-kri-yaa), शुक्रिया (sukriyaa).

Maya: Last is...

Neha: अच्छा (acchaa).

Maya: "nice."

Neha: अच्छा (ac-chaa). अच्छा (acchaa).

Maya: Let's have a closer look at the usage for some of the words and phrases from this lesson.

VOCAB AND PHRASE USAGE

Maya: The first word we'll look at is...

Neha: नमस्ते (NamaSTe), which means "hello," is a common way of greeting in Hindi.

Maya: Some of you who are into yoga might have already encountered this word.

Neha: It can be used at any time of the day as well. And not only can you use नमस्ते (NamaSTe) to say "hello" but you can also use it to say "goodbye"! Quite a useful word.

Maya: Absolutely. In addition to नमस्ते (NamaSTe), Hindi also has नमस्कार (NamaSkaar) and प्रणाम (pranaam) which mean the same thing.

Neha: And like नमस्ते (NamaSTe), they can be used at any time of the day and also to say "goodbye."

Maya: How about other ways of greeting, like when you want to say good morning, or good evening, or good night?

Neha: Well, Indians do have those time-specific greetings, but they're not as commonly used as नमस्ते (NamaSTe) or नमस्कार (NamaSkaar). In fact, even प्रणाम (pranaam) is not as common as the other two. You use it mostly towards elders and superiors and not really to your friends or juniors.

Maya: Shall we now talk a little more about these different ways of addressing others in Hindi?

Neha: Sure, so, there are three different levels of respect that one can show towards the other person.

Maya: And the most formal and respectful form is...

Neha: आप (aap).

Maya: The informal "you" is...

Neha: तू (Tum).

Maya: And the rude or intimate "you" is...

Neha: तू (Tuu).

Maya: Well, तू (Tuu) is rude but sometimes, it's also an intimate form of address.

Neha: You will often hear it being used between close friends and siblings. However, to a stranger, it is without a doubt, rude. So the general rule is to avoid using it.

Maya: That's right. Let's use the formal "you," i.e. आप (aap) in a sentence.

Neha: Okay. So, in the dialogue, Asha and Megha both ask each others' names by saying - आपका नाम क्या है? (aapakaa Naam kyaa hai?)

Maya: Do you all recognize the new words we introduced earlier? Here नाम (Naam) means "name", क्या (kyaa) means "what", and है (hai) means "is."

Neha: And आप (aap) is the honorific form of "you," while का (kaa) means "of." And together they turn into a possessive form, "your." Therefore, आपका (aapakaa) means, "your."

Maya: So, "What is your name?" in Hindi is...

Neha: आपका नाम क्या है? (aapakaa Naam kyaa hai?)

Maya: Great! Now, on to the grammar.

LESSON FOCUS

Maya: In this lesson, we'll learn the use of the verb, है (hai), which means "to be."

Neha: Well, basically, है (hai) means "is." Compared to English that uses the subject-verb-object order, Hindi uses subject-object-verb order.

Maya: This is quite an important point to remember -- Hindi is a verb-final language.

Neha: So, the verb है (hai) comes at the end of a sentence.

Maya: And whether you're addressing a male or a female, the question "What is your name?" which is...

Neha: आपका नाम क्या है? (aapakaa Naam kyaa hai?)

Maya: Remains the same.

Neha: Of course, being able to ask the question isn't enough. You'll want to be able to respond as well.

Maya: And it's very simple. All you have to say is मेरा नाम _____ है (meraa Naam _____ hai)," and just add your name after नाम (Naam).

Neha: So, if your name is Maya, you say, मेरा नाम माया है (meraa Naam mayaa hai.)

Maya: What would you say if your name is Rahul?

Neha: मेरा नाम राहुल है (meraa Naam raahuL hai). Very easy, right?

Maya: Yes, very easy because it doesn't change according to the subject's gender like many other sentences in Hindi do.

Neha: Yes, that's another important thing we'll cover in the later lessons. But just remember that in Hindi all nouns have genders. They are either Masculine or Feminine and verbs change accordingly.

Maya: And the possessive forms आपका (aapakaa) i.e. "your," and मेरा (meraa) i.e. "my," change depending on what's being owned and not on who is doing the owning. In this case the thing being owned, i.e. "name" or नाम (Naam), is of masculine gender.

Neha: If all that we said right now sounds complicated, don't worry about it for now. All you need to know is that the sentence structure for "What is your name?" and "My name is ..." never change.

Maya: No matter what your gender is. Just like in English!

Neha: Even है (hai) remains the same for both masculine and feminine subjects.

Neha: For example, नेहा एक लड़की है (Nehaa ek Ladakii hai).

Maya: "Neha is a girl," and...

Neha: राहुल एक लड़का है (rahuL ek Ladakaa hai).

Maya: "Rahul is a boy."

Neha: You can also use है (hai) without changing it for first person, second person, and third person singular subjects. For example, मेरा नाम महिमा है (meraa Naam mahimaa hai).

Maya: "My name is Mahima," and for second person singular,

Neha: आपका नाम किशन है (aapakaa Naam kisaN hai).

Maya: "Your name is Kishan."

Neha: And for third person singular, वह कैसा है (vah kaiSaa hai) is...

Maya: "How is he?"

Neha: है (hai) means "is," so obviously it works only for singular subjects.

Maya: Yes, but it changes into a nasal sounding हैं (hain) when used for plural subjects. हैं (hain) therefore becomes the to-be verb "are."

Maya: Not to complicate things further, but sometimes, you can also use the nasal हैं (hain) to show respect towards the subject even if is singular. For example, in Hindi, "This is my mother" is...

Neha: यह मेरी माताजी हैं (yah merii maaTaajii hain).

Maya: "This is my father" is...

Neha: यह मेरे पिताजी हैं (yah mere piTaajii hain).

Maya: Did you also notice how we used जी (jii) with माता (maaTaa) and पिता (piTaa)? Do you remember what जी (jii) does? Well, माता (maaTaa) means "mother," and पिता (piTaa) means "father," and by adding जी (jii), we showed them more respect. So the form is, [subject that you want to show respect] plus जी (jii).

Neha: So listeners, how would you call Mina respectfully?

Maya: मीना जी (miiNaa jii).

OUTRO

Neha: Right. Okay, that's all for this lesson. In the PDF lesson notes, you can find more examples and explanations of today's topic so be sure to read them!

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Maya: by clicking the Like button next to the lesson or series. Thank you all for listening. Until next time!

Neha: शुक्रिया और फिर मिलेंगे (sukriyaa aur phir miLenge)!