

Hindi

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The variety described here is Standard Hindi used in everyday casual speech by educated speakers in cities such as Varanasi, Lucknow, Delhi, etc. Although there are a few differences in pronunciation among speakers of these cities, the differences are minimal. The transcription is based on a recording of a female third-generation speaker of Standard Hindi who grew up mostly in Uttar Pradesh before moving to Delhi. For a detailed analysis of Hindi segments, see Dixit (1963) and Ohala (1983).

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b p ^h b ^h		t̪ d̪ t̪ ^h d̪ ^h			ʈ ɖ ʈ ^h ɖ ^h		k g k ^h g ^h	
Affricate					tʃ dʒ tʃ ^h dʒ ^h				
Nasal	m			n				ŋ	
Tap or Flap				ɾ		ɽ ɽ ^h			
Fricative		f		s z	ʃ				h
Approximant		ʋ					j		
Lateral Approximant				l					

p	pal	'nurture'	ʈ	ʈal	'beat' (n)	k	kal	'span of time'
b	bal	'hair'	ɖ	ɖal	'lentil'	g	gal	'cheek'
p ^h	p ^h al	'knife blade'	t̪ ^h	t̪ ^h al	'platter'	k ^h	k ^h al	'skin' (n)
b ^h	b ^h al	'brow'	d̪ ^h	d̪ ^h ar	'knife edge'	g ^h	g ^h an	'bundle'
m	mal	'goods'	n	nala	'drain' (n)	ŋ	vaŋməj	'literature'
f	farsi	'Persian'	s	sal	'year'	h	hal	'condition'
ʋ	vala	'pertaining to'	z	zəmin	'ground'	j	jar	'buddy'
			ɾ	ɾal	(tree species)			
			l	lal	'red'			

tʃ	tʃal	'gait'	t	ʈal	'postpone'
dʒ	dʒal	'net'	ɖ	ɖal	'branch'
tʃ ^h	tʃ ^h al	'tree bark'	t̪ ^h	t̪ ^h al	'lumber shop'
dʒ ^h	dʒ ^h al	'glimmer'	d̪ ^h	d̪ ^h al	'shield'
ʃ	ʃal	(tree species)	ɽ	bəɽa	'big'
			ɽ ^h	bəɽ ^h a	'increase' (imp)

[ɽ, z, ʃ] only occur in loans (from Perso-Arabic, English, or Sanskrit). They are, however, well established in Modern Standard Hindi. Some authors also include [ɽ̪] which occurs only in a few Sanskrit loans; in casual speech it is usually replaced by [n]. Sounds such as [ɽ, ɽ̪, q], etc., do not occur in the variety of Hindi described here although they would be found in some varieties of Urdu, the form of the language used as the official language of Pakistan and by many Indian Muslims. [l^h, r^h, m^h, n^h] are considered clusters of a liquid or nasal and /h/ in the analysis adopted here.

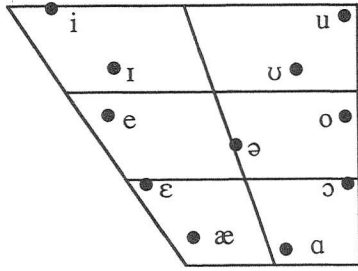
Geminates

All consonants can also occur with distinctive length (i.e. as 'geminates') except the following: [b^h, t̪^h, t̪^h, h]. Geminates occur only medially and are always preceded by the non-peripheral vowels [ɪ, ə, u]. Although the orthography preserves a few geminates in final position, in all but the most formal speech they are pronounced as singletons. All the geminates occur monomorphemically except [t̪:] which occurs only in a few Sanskrit loans where a morpheme boundary could be posited in between: [nɪt̪:il] 'without shame' < /nɪt̪ + il/. Geminates are longer than singletons by a ratio of about 2:1. Some illustrative examples of the geminate contrasts are given below.

t̪	pəʈa	'address' (n)	tʃ	bətʃa	'save'
t̪:	pəʈ:a	'leaf'	tʃ:	bətʃ:a	'child'
t̪ ^h	kəʈ ^h a	'narrative'	t̪	pəʈa	'to make someone agree'
t̪ ^h :	kəʈ ^h :a	'red powdered bark'	t̪:	pəʈ:a	'a fold' (in cloth)
ɖ	gəɖa	'mace' (weapon)	k	pəka	'cook' (v)
ɖ:	gəɖ:a	'mattress'	k:	pək:a	'firm'

Vowels

There are eleven oral vowels in Hindi, as shown on the vowel chart. The vowel [æ] only occurs in English loans. All of these vowels except [æ] also have distinctively nasal counterparts. The sequences [əi] and [əu] also occur but are not listed separately because they are analyzed as vowel clusters and not as diphthongs.



i	mil	'mile'			u	kul	'shore'	
ɪ	mɪl	'meet'			ʊ	kʊl	'lineage'	
e	mɛl	'harmony'	ə	məl	'rub' (imper)	o	bol	'speak'
ɛ	mɛl	'dirt'			ɔ	kɔl	(a name)	
æ	bæʃ	'cricket bat'	ɑ	mɑl	'goods'			
i	sɪkʰ	'lesson'	ɑ	sɑs	'mother-in-law'	u	bʱʊkʰ	'hunger'
ɪ	sɪk	'twig'	ɑ̄	sɑ̄s	'breath'	ʊ	bʱʊk	'dog's bark'
ɪ	sɪʃ	'be irrigated'			ʊ̄	kʊ̄vər	'prince'	
ē	mē	'in'	ə̄	hə̄s	'laugh' (imp)	ō	jō	'in this manner'
ē̄	mē̄	(1 sg pn)			ə̄̄	bʱə̄̄	'eyebrow'	

Stress

Stress is not distinctive in Hindi. It is also controversial as to whether there is even phonetic word stress, other than for emphatic contrast. For details, see Ohala (1991).

Conventions

The velar nasal by and large only occurs before homorganic consonants except in a few Sanskrit loans such as the word for 'literature', cited above. Although palatal and retroflex nasals followed by homorganic consonants also occur phonetically and have been included in the list of phonemes by some authors, they have not been treated as phonemes in the analysis presented here (and thus are not listed in the consonant chart). [ʋ] is in free variation with [v] (and can also be pronounced as [w]). [r] can vary with [ɾ]. The geminate [r] is always an alveolar trill [r]. Stops in final position are not released.

Vowels are nasalized before nasal consonants. The schwa is often pronounced with the same value as the vowel in the English word 'cut', i.e. the vowel that has traditionally been transcribed with [ʌ]. However, this vowel is central and not back, and thus perhaps a more appropriate IPA symbolization would be [ɐ]. As in many other languages, vowel length varies as a function of the voicing of the following consonant with vowels being longer before voiced ones, at least before stops (Ohala and Ohala 1992).

Transcription of recorded passage

This translation of 'The North Wind and the Sun' is a modified version of that presented in the 1949 version of the *Principles of the International Phonetic Association*.

uʃ:əri həvɑ ɔr surədʒ ɪs bɑʃ pər dʒʰəgət rəhe tʰe ki həm ɖonō mē zjɑɖɑ
bəlvan kən he. ɪʃne mē gəɾəm tʃogɑ pəhne ek musafɪr uʃʰər a nɪkɫɑ. həvɑ
ɔr surədʒ ɖonō ɪs bɑʃ pər rɑzɪ ho gəje ki ɖonō mē se dʒo pəhle musafɪr kɑ
tʃogɑ uʃʰərɑ degɑ vəhi zjɑɖɑ bəlvan səmɖʒʰɑ dʒɑjega. ɪs pər uʃ:əri həvɑ
əpnɑ pʊrɑ zor ləgəkər tʃəlne ləgi lekɪn vɔ dʒese dʒese əpnɑ zor bərʰɑʃi gəji
vɛse vɛse musafɪr əpne bəɖən pər tʃoge kɔ ɔr bʰi zjɑɖɑ kəs kər ləpɛʈtɑ gəjɑ.
bɑʃ mē həvɑ ne əpnɪ kɔʃɪʃ bəndʒ kər ɖi. pʰɪr surədʒ tʃezi ke sɑʃʰ nɪkɫɑ ɔr
musafɪr ne tʊrəntʃ əpnɑ tʃogɑ uʃʰər ɖɪjɑ. ɪs lɪje həvɑ kɔ mɑnnɑ pəɾɑ ki ʊn
ɖonō mē surədʒ hi zjɑɖɑ bəlvan he.

Orthographic version

उत्तरी हवा और सूरज इस बात पर झगड़ रहे थे कि हम दोनों में ज़्यादा बलवान
कौन है। इतने में गरम चोगा पहने एक मुसाफ़िर उधर आ निकला। हवा और सूरज
दोनों इस बात पर राज़ी हो गये कि दोनों में से जो पहले मुसाफ़िर का चोगा उतरवा
देगा वही ज़्यादा बलवान समझा जायेगा। इस पर उत्तरी हवा अपना पूरा ज़ोर लगाकर
बलने लगी लेकिन वह जैसे जैसे अपना ज़ोर बढ़ाती गई वैसे वैसे मुसाफ़िर अपने बदन पर
नागों को और भी कस कर लपेटता गया। अन्त में हवा ने अपनी कोशिश बन्द कर दी। फिर
सूरज तेज़ी के साथ निकला और मुसाफ़िर ने तुरन्त अपना चोगा उतार दिया। इस लिये
हवा को मानना पड़ा कि उन दोनों में सूरज ही ज़्यादा बलवान है

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