How to Learn Punjabi

A Seven Lesson Course Designed for English Speakers
# HOW TO LEARN PUNJABI

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### LESSON ONE
- Basic Word Order 4
- Verb Endings 5
- The Auxiliary Verb 6
- **Chart – Present Tense (Verb Roots Ending with Consonants)** 10
- Daily Practice Sheet 12
- Practice Calendar 14

### LESSON TWO
- Position Words 15
- Direct and Indirect Objects 15
- Oblique Nouns 16
- **Chart – Oblique Pronouns** 20
- **Chart – Oblique Masculine Nouns** 21
- Daily Practice Sheet 22
- Practice Calendar 24

### LESSON THREE
- Connecting Words 25
- Descriptive Sentences 26
- Negative Sentences 26
- Ability 27
- **Chart – Present Tense (Verb Roots Ending in Kannya)** 30
- **Chart – Present Tense (Verb Roots Ending in Other Vowels)** 31
- **Chart – Irregular Verbs (Present Tense)** 32
- Daily Practice Sheet 33
- Practice Calendar 36

### LESSON FOUR
- Verbals as Subjects 37
- Verbals as Direct Objects 38
- Subjunctive Mood 39
- Verbals as Indirect Objects 40
- **Chart – Subjunctive Mood** 43
- Daily Practice Sheet 44
- Practice Calendar 46
# LESSON FIVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future Tense</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive Sentences</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong Obligation</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chart – Future Tense (Verb Roots Ending With Consonants)</strong></td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chart – Future Tense (Verb Roots Ending In Other Vowels)</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Practice Sheet</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Calendar</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# LESSON SIX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past Tense</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Special Postposition</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present, Remote and Habitual Past</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive Adjectives</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Apostrophe</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chart – Past Tense (Verb Roots Ending With Consonants)</strong></td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chart – Past Tense (Verb Roots Ending In Vowels)</strong></td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chart – Irregular Verbs (Past Tense)</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chart – Gender Review</strong></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Practice Sheet</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Calendar</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# LESSON SEVEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Tense</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunct Verbs</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asking Questions</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes Or No Questions</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Practice Sheet</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Calendar</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Word Order (Syntax)

In every language, including English, the words in a sentence are not arranged randomly, rather, they follow a specific order.

When an English speaking person is learning Punjabi, they need to give special attention to the word order in Punjabi because it is different than the word order in English. Arranging words in the proper order is vital to being understood.

In English the word order is (subject + verb + object)
In Punjabi the word order is (subject + object + verb)

For example: “Raj sends letters” would become “Raj letters sends”

The subject, object and verb are the main parts of a sentence. These three parts of a sentence are like boxes. You can put one or more words into each box. To determine which box to put a word into, ask the following questions:

1. What is being done? (VERB)
2. Who is doing it? (SUBJECT)
3. …what? (OBJECT)

TIP: Always identify the verb first. If you start by identifying the VERB then you will never get your subject and object confused.
Putting Theory into Practice

At this point, find page 9 entitled “Lesson One Worksheet.” We will now practice rearranging English words into the Punjabi word order. This worksheet has five sentences for you to translate. Go ahead and follow steps 1 – 4 closely. We will do steps 5 and 6 later.

TIP: Punjabi does not use the words “a” or “the”. So ignore these words when you translate into English.

Verb Endings (Inflection)

The next important matter to discuss is verb endings. In English, to a limited extent, the verb changes in order to match the subject. For example, let’s look at the sentence: “Raj sends letters.” If we want to say in English, “We send letters” then we would need to change “sends” to “send”.

In Punjabi, a similar thing happens. The verb changes in order to match the subject. In Punjabi, the verb changes depending on whether the subject is:

1. singular or plural
2. masculine or feminine

How do we change the verb?

First: Find the stem (or root) of the verb. In Punjabi, this means simply removing the ਨਾ or ਣਾ ending.

For example: “to send” ਭੇਜਣਾ (the stem is ਭੇਜ)

Second: Add the appropriate ending to the stem of the verb.

REMEMBER: The verb must match the subject. In our example sentence, “Raj” is a masculine singular subject, so we add the masculine singular ending ਦਾ to the stem.

For example: ਭੇਜ (stem) + ਦਾ (ending) = ਭੇਜਦਾ
In the present tense, there are four different verb endings:

- masculine singular ਦਾ
- masculine plural ਦੇ
- feminine singular ਦੀ
- feminine plural ਦੀਆਂ

If you are using a pronoun (I, we, you, he, she, they) then use the corresponding ending from the “Present Tense Chart” on page 10. In this chart the verb root is shaded in grey and the verb endings are highlighted in red.

**NOTE:** The plural form of ‘you’ is used for respect and ALWAYS uses the masculine ending. The pronouns ‘we’ and ‘they’ most often use the masculine ending because even if only one in the group is masculine then the masculine ending should be used. Wherever possible, the chart shows the ending that is most commonly used.

Now, let’s discuss the last column (highlighted in blue) on the “Present Tense Chart” which is called “Aux. Verb”.

**The Auxiliary Verb “to be”**

In English, we put a minimum of one verb into the verb box. However, in Punjabi, it is common to put TWO verbs into the verb box:

1. The main verb
2. The auxiliary verb

Most commonly, the verb “to be” is used as the auxiliary verb. In English, the verb “to be” can be expressed using the words: am, is & are. These words must match the subject. For example, singular subjects use ‘is’ and plural subjects use ‘are.’ If the subject is a pronoun, it has a matching pair.

For example: I am  You are  We are  He/She is  They are

In Punjabi, the verb ਹੋਣਾ (to be) can be expressed using the words: ਹੈ, ਹਾਂ, ਹੋ & ਹਨ

1. Singular subjects use ਹੈ
2. Plural subjects use ਹਨ
If the subject is a pronoun, it has a matching pair as shown below.

ਮੈਂ ਹਾਂ 
ਤੁਸੀਂ ਹੋ 
�ਸੀਂ ਹਾਂ 
ਉਹ ਹੈ 
ਉਹ ਹਨ

I am  You are  We are  He/She is  They are

The auxiliary verb is put into the verb box after the main verb. Notice our example sentence one last time: “Raj sends letters”

SUBJECT
Raj  ਰਾਜ

OBJECT
letters  ਚੇਠੀਆਂ

VERB
sends  ਭੇਜਦਾ  ਹੈ

Using the “Present Tense Chart” on page 10 you can now complete steps 5 – 6 on the worksheet. All the necessary vocabulary is at the bottom of the page.

The Think and Speak Method

Key to the success of the How to Learn Punjabi course is the “Daily Practice Sheet” on page 12. These exercises use the ‘think and speak’ method. In other words, it is important to figure out these sentences in your head, without writing anything down, and then to say them out loud.

It can be said that to learn to read, you need to practice reading. To learn to write, you need to practice writing. But to learn to speak, you need to practice speaking.

There is no answer sheet provided for the daily practice exercises. This encourages you to go back to the lesson and its accompanying charts for confirmation.

Try practicing each of the three exercises for five minutes, for a total of fifteen minutes. This daily routine is the key to success in learning to speak Punjabi. Check off the exercises as you complete them using the “Daily Practice Calendar” on page 14. When you feel comfortable with performing the exercises then you are ready to move on to lesson two and build larger sentences!
1. Cut out the flashcards and memorize the words. 
2. Practice pronouncing AND writing each word. A free set of alphabet flashcards can be downloaded at howtolearnpunjabi.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Punjabi</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>am/are</td>
<td>ਉਹਨਾਂ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>are</td>
<td>ਹਨ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are</td>
<td>ਦਵਾਹਾ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to ask</td>
<td>ਪੁਿੱਛਣਾ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he/she/they</td>
<td>ਡੁਕਾ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to learn</td>
<td>ਚਸਿੱਖਣਾ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>picture</td>
<td>ਤਸਵੀਰ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>questions</td>
<td>ਸਵਾਲਾ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we</td>
<td>ਅਸੀਂ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to write</td>
<td>ਚਲਖਣਾ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to see</td>
<td>ਦੇਖਣਾ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to speak</td>
<td>ਬੋਲਣਾ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td>ਤੁਸੀਂ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LES SON ONE WORKSHEET

Step one: Ask: What is being done? (Write “v” for verb above the word)
Step two: Ask: Who is doing it? (Write “s” for subject above the word)
Step three: Ask: ...what? (Write “o” for object above the word)
Step four: Write the English words in the Punjabi word order on the first line. (S+O+V)
Step five: Write the Punjabi words underneath on the second line.
Step six: Add the appropriate verb ending and auxiliary verb.

I learn Punjabi. ___________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
We ask a question. _________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
I speak English. __________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
He writes the answer. ______________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
You see the picture. ________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Vocabulary | am/are ਹੈ | answer ਜਵਾਬ | are ਦੇ ਹਨ | to ask ਪੁਿੱਛਣਾ | English ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ
he ਹੁੰਦਾ | I ਮੈਂ | is ਹੈ | to learn ਪੰਜਾਬੀ | picture ਤਸਵੀਰ | Punjabi ਪੰਜਾਬੀ | question ਪੁਿੱਛਣਾ
to see ਦੋਹਾਤਾ | to speak ਬੋਲਣਾ | we ਅਸੀਂ | to write ਚਲਖਣਾ | you ਤੁਸੀਂ
**PRESENT TENSE CHART**
**VERB ROOTS ENDING WITH CONSONANTS**

SUBJECT + VERB ROOT + ENDING + AUX.VERB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun English</th>
<th>Pronoun Punjabi</th>
<th>Masculine endings</th>
<th>Feminine endings</th>
<th>Aux. Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>ਮੈਂ</td>
<td>ਬੋਲਦਾ</td>
<td>ਬੋਲਦੀ</td>
<td>ਹਾਂ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He/She (Singular)</td>
<td>ਉਹ</td>
<td>ਬੋਲਦਾ</td>
<td>ਬੋਲਦੀ</td>
<td>ਹਣ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Plural) They</td>
<td>ਉਹ</td>
<td>ਬੋਲਦੇ</td>
<td>ਬੋਲਦੀਆਂ</td>
<td>ਹਨ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td>ਅਸੀਂ</td>
<td>ਬੋਲਦੇ</td>
<td>ਹਾਂ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>ਤੁਸੀਂ</td>
<td>ਬੋਲਦੇ</td>
<td>ਹੋ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** If the subject is NOT a pronoun then determine its gender and number. The same endings for (He/She) are used for singular subjects. The same endings for (They) are used for plural subjects.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Punjabi</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Punjabi</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Punjabi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to ask</td>
<td>ਪੁਕਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to become</td>
<td>ਵਧਤਾ</td>
<td>to change</td>
<td>ਵਧਲਾਤਾ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to come out</td>
<td>ਤਿਆਰਲਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to find</td>
<td>ਲਿਬਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to know</td>
<td>ਨਾਹਾਤਾ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to learn</td>
<td>ਮਿਲਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to listen/hear</td>
<td>ਮੁਲਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to meet</td>
<td>ਮਿਲਾਤਾ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to open</td>
<td>ਖੋਲਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to put/keep</td>
<td>ਰਿਖਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to read</td>
<td>ਪੰਜਾਤਾ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to see</td>
<td>ਦੰਧਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to sit</td>
<td>ਬੈਠਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to speak/talk</td>
<td>ਬੈਠਾਤਾ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to tell</td>
<td>ਦਿਖਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to think</td>
<td>ਮੇਇਧਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to understand</td>
<td>ਮੰਨਾਤਾ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to use</td>
<td>ਵਰਤਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to walk</td>
<td>ਚਲਾਤਾ</td>
<td>to write</td>
<td>ਲਿਖਾਤਾ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LESSON ONE – DAILY PRACTICE SHEET

Instructions for the “Think and Speak” method:

- Do not write down the answers – this is the ‘think’ method
- Say each sentence OUT LOUD – this is the ‘speak’ method
- If you get stuck – look at the reference charts

SUBJECT + VERB ROOT + ENDING + AUX.VERB

Exercise One
Say each sentence OUT LOUD.

1. He asks. 13. He sees. 25. He comes out. 28. We learn.
3. They change. 15. They talk. 27. They know. 30. You meet.
4. We come out. 16. We tell. 28. We learn. 31. He opens.
5. She finds. 17. She thinks. 29. She listens. 32. I put/keep.
7. He learns. 19. He uses. 31. He opens. 34. We see.
8. I listen. 20. I walk. 32. I put/keep. 35. She sits.
9. They meet. 21. They write. 33. They read. 36. You talk.
10. We open. 22. We ask. 34. We see. 37. He tells.
11. She puts/keeps. 23. She becomes. 35. She sits. 38. I think.

Exercise Two: Sentence Progressions
Say a sentence from exercise one OUT LOUD. Then add an object of your choice (e.g. book) and repeat that sentence again.

Exercise Three
Say each sentence using the SAME subject. (e.g. we, I, he, Raj)

1. __ ask. 8. __ listen. 15. __ talk.
2. __ become. 9. __ meet. 16. __ tell.
3. __ change. 10. __ open. 17. __ think.
4. __ come out. 11. __ put/keep. 18. __ understand.
5. __ find. 12. __ read. 19. __ use.
6. __ know. 13. __ see. 20. __ walk.
LESSON ONE WORKSHEET - ANSWERS

Step one: Ask: **What is being done?** (Write “v” for verb above the word)
Step two: Ask: **Who is doing it?** (Write “s” for subject above the word)
Step three: Ask: ...**what?** (Write “o” for object above the word)
Step four: Write the English words in the Punjabi word order on the first line. (S+O+V)
Step five: Write the Punjabi words underneath on the second line.
Step six: Add the appropriate auxiliary verb to the end of the sentence.

\[ \text{S} \, \text{V} \, \text{O} \]
I learn Punjabi.

I Punjabi learn

मੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਚਲਖਦਾ ਹਾਂ (masculine subject)

मੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਚਲਖਦੀ ਹਾਂ (feminine subject)

\[ \text{S} \, \text{V} \, \text{O} \]
We ask a question.

We questions ask

ਅਸੀਂ ਸਵਾਲ ਪੁਿੱਛਦੇ ਹਾਂ

\[ \text{S} \, \text{V} \, \text{O} \]
I speak English.

I English speak

ਮੈਂ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਬੋਲਦਾ ਹਾਂ (masculine subject)

ਮੈਂ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਬੋਲਦੀ ਹਾਂ (feminine subject)

\[ \text{S} \, \text{V} \, \text{O} \]
He writes the answer.

He answer writes

ਉਹ ਜਵਾਬ ਚਲਖਦਾ ਹੈ

\[ \text{S} \, \text{V} \, \text{O} \]
You see the picture.

You picture see

ਤੁਸੀਂ ਤਸਵੀਰ ਦੇਖਦੇ ਹੋ

Vocabulary | am/are ਡਾ | answer ਜਾਗਰ | are ਦੇ or ਹੋਠ | to ask ਪੁਿੱਛਣਾ | English ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ
he ਹੋਠ | I ਮੈ | is ਦੇ | to learn ਚਲਖਣਾ | picture ਤਸਵੀਰ | Punjabi ਪੰਜਾਬੀ | question ਜਾਗਰ

to see ਦੇਖਣਾ | to speak ਬੋਲਣਾ | we ਮੈਂ | to write ਲਿਖਣਾ | you ਮੈਂ
### Lesson One – Practice Calendar

- **Box 1**: Five minutes or more of exercise one
- **Box 2**: Five minutes or more of exercise two
- **Box 3**: Five minutes or more of exercise three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month of:</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What’s Next?

Continue learning how to build larger sentences in lesson two of the How to Learn Punjabi Course. Visit HowToLearnPunjabi.com to download the entire course or individual lessons.

You can also download a free set of alphabet flashcards. We are happy to answer any questions through our contact form.

FREE LESSON TWO!

Provide us with your feedback of lesson one and you will receive a promo code for a free download of lesson two!

To participate, fill out our online form by visiting www.howtolearnpunjabi.com/contact.html or scan above

Offer expires February 15th, 2016