

team **indic**

LEARN PUNJABI

SENTENCE STRUCTURE MADE EASY



Learn Punjabi - Sentence Structure Made Easy
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INTRODUCTION

Our Goal

This course is a step by step guide for learning simple, clear and correct Punjabi. It is comprised of seven lessons which are designed specifically for English speaking people. No prior knowledge of the Punjabi language is necessary to benefit from this book.

A Unique Approach

This course approaches learning Punjabi from the standpoint of an English speaking background. Comparisons are made between English and Punjabi to explain concepts.

The main focus throughout the course is word order. It is vital for an English speaking person who wants to learn Punjabi to focus not only on pronunciation and vocabulary but also on learning how to arrange those new words into a sentence. To understand why word order is so vital, notice how confusing it is to see English words in the Punjabi word order:

“Every language in words random way in not arranged are.”

The first lesson explains how to form a basic sentence and the following six lessons gradually explain how to build larger sentences.

Putting Theory into Practice

The course is laid out in a simple and logical manner. Each lesson builds on the previous lesson. We recommend starting on the first lesson and working your way through the entire course systematically. After completion of the course, the book can also serve as a reference guide.

Daily practice exercises are included with each lesson so that you can immediately apply what you are learning. The accompanying practice calendar is for tracking your progress for a month, so it is recommended to spend sufficient time practicing each lesson before moving on to the next lesson. Remember, the goal of this course is not simply to learn grammar but to start speaking Punjabi by putting theory into practice.

The Think and Speak Method

The daily practice exercises use the 'think and speak' method. Rather than writing out the answers, you will be asked to think about the answer and then say it 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. The daily exercises can be done either individually or with a partner.

We recommend a daily practice sessions of approximately 15 minutes. Research has shown that brief but frequent practice sessions are far more beneficial than long but infrequent sessions.

Rotating Practice Schedule

Starting with lesson four, the practice calendar uses a rotating practice schedule. This means that practice sessions will rotate between the completed lessons, with the most recently completed lesson being practiced the most frequently. As you progress in the course, this method will aid you with long term retention. It has been

observed, that as the length of time between practice sessions gradually increases, the strength of the memory increases. In effect, gradually reducing the frequency of practicing something will move it into your long term memory.

Learning the Punjabi (Gurmukhi) Script vs. Romanization

Due to popular demand, with this second edition, we have included Romanized text alongside the Punjabi script. We employed the standard method as cataloged in the US Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsol/roman.html>).

Although this provides a means to get started quickly, we highly recommend taking the time to learn to read the Punjabi script. To assist you with this, follow this link to our website (<http://howtolearnpunjabi.com/learn-punjabi-alphabet.php>) to download a copy of Punjabi alphabet flashcards.

You will notice that each card includes image mnemonics. This means that each letter is associated with a picture that an English speaking person would be familiar with which approximates the sound of the letter. Each time you see the letter you recall the picture and thus can easily remember what the letter is. Using this method, it is not uncommon to learn the entire Punjabi alphabet in a few weeks. Doing so will aid greatly both with proper pronunciation and speaking the language fluently.

From Our Readers

“This course is amazing because I’m teaching Punjabi to primary students and I always face the problem of how I can teach sentence formation. When I teach my kids the way you explain in your lessons, they learn so easily. I’m so happy.”

— Navjot, Canada

“The course fantastically analyzed the difference between the sentence structure in English and Punjabi which I have often struggled with.”

— Hasdeep, United Kingdom

“The course organized everything I needed to know with regards to sentence structure in a manageable and easily understandable way. I wish I started here a year ago, who knows how much more Punjabi I could have learned.”

— Vito, United States

“This course is very unique from the other courses I’ve seen and thanks to its simplicity, I can now write simple Punjabi sentences and even speak them. I’m very grateful! Thank you for making this gem for us who want to learn Punjabi.”

— Yvonne, Philippines

“I try to teach my children the Punjabi language but it is difficult teaching children who’s first language is English. I like the way it is explained simply and broken down step by step, I feel more confident in teaching the language.”

— Manjinder, United Kingdom

“I enjoyed learning through the systematic and simple approach. The emphasis on word order was a feature that I had never seen elsewhere and it was helpful.”

— Raghbir, The United Kingdom

“I liked the way of teaching with fundamental and rich vocabulary and exercises.”

— Ranjeet, India

“I love the way the comparison is made to the way English is taught.”

— Jasminder, Indonesia

“It was concise and easy to follow and understand. Everything you needed was provided. The learner was kept in mind at all times.”

— Ravinder, England

LESSON ONE

THE BASIC SENTENCE

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: "Nick sends letters" would become "Nick letters sends"

The subject, direct 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? (DIRECT OBJECT)

SUBJECT Nick ਨਿਕ <i>Nik</i>	DIRECT OBJECT letters ਚਿੱਠੀਆਂ <i>ciṭhīāṅ</i>	VERB sends is ਭੇਜਦਾ ਹੈ <i>bhejdā hai</i>
---	--	--

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 19 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: “Nick 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 *nā* or ਣਾ *ṇā* ending.

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

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

For example: ਭੇਜ *bhej* (stem) + ਦਾ *dā* (ending) = ਭੇਜਦਾ *bhejdā*

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

In the present tense, there are four different verb endings:

masculine singular	ਦਾ <i>dā</i>	feminine singular	ਦੀ <i>dī</i>
masculine plural	ਦੇ <i>de</i>	feminine plural	ਦੀਆਂ <i>dīān</i>

If you are using a pronoun (I, we, you, he, she, they) then use the corresponding ending from the “Present Tense Chart” on page 20. In this chart the verb root is shaded in gray 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 yellow) 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 *hoṇā* (to be) can be expressed using the words: ਹੈ *hai*, ਹਾਂ *hān*, ਹੋ *ho* & ਹਨ *han*

1. Singular subjects use ਹੈ *hai*

2. Plural subjects use ਹਨ *han*

If the subject is a pronoun, it has a matching pair as shown below.

ਮੈਂ ਹਾਂ *main hān* ਤੁਸੀਂ ਹੋ *tusīn ho* ਅਸੀਂ ਹਾਂ *āsīn hān* ਉਹ ਹੈ *uh hai* ਉਹ ਹਨ *uh han*
 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: "Nick sends letters" Nick is masculine singular so we use the auxiliary verb ਹੈ *hai*

SUBJECT	DIRECT OBJECT	VERB + AUX.VERB
Nick	letters	sends is
ਨਿਕ	ਚਿੱਠੀਆਂ	ਭੇਜਦਾ ਹੈ
<i>Nik</i>	<i>ciṭṭhīān</i>	<i>bhejdā hai</i>

Using the "Present Tense Chart" on page 20 you can now complete steps 5 – 6 on the worksheet. All the necessary vocabulary is at the bottom of the page. After completing the worksheet, you can use the answer sheet to check your sentences. Each lesson has an answer sheet for the worksheet on the last page of the lesson.

The Think and Speak Method

Daily practice exercises are included with each lesson so that you can immediately apply what you are learning. The accompanying practice calendar is for tracking your progress for a month, so it is recommended to spend sufficient time practicing each lesson before moving on to the next lesson. Remember, the goal of this course is not simply to learn grammar but to start speaking Punjabi by putting theory into practice.

The daily practice exercises use the 'think and speak' method. Rather than writing out the answers, you will be asked to think about the answer and then say it 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. The daily exercises can be done either individually or with a partner.

We recommend a daily practice sessions of approximately 15 minutes. Research has shown that brief but frequent practice sessions are far more beneficial than long but infrequent sessions. When you feel comfortable with performing the exercises then you are ready to move on to the next lesson and build larger sentences!

LESSON ONE VOCABULARY

1. Words with **masculine** gender are highlighted in **blue**.
2. Words with **feminine** gender are highlighted in **pink**.
3. Words that are used for both the singular and plural form are marked with (s).

am/are ਹਾਂ <i>hāṅ</i>	answer(s) ਜਵਾਬ <i>jawāb</i>	are ਹੈ <i>ho</i>
are ਹਨ <i>han</i>	to ask ਪੁੱਛਣਾ <i>puchchṇā</i>	English ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ <i>aṅgrezī</i>
he/she/they/that ਉਹ <i>uh</i>	I ਮੈਂ <i>maiṅ</i>	is ਹੈ <i>hai</i>
to learn ਸਿੱਖਣਾ <i>sikhkhṇā</i>	picture ਤਸਵੀਰ <i>taswīr</i>	Punjabi ਪੰਜਾਬੀ <i>pañjābī</i>
question(s) ਸਵਾਲ <i>sawāl</i>	to see ਦੇਖਣਾ <i>dekhṇā</i>	to speak ਬੋਲਣਾ <i>bolṇā</i>
we ਅਸੀਂ <i>āsīṅ</i>	to write ਲਿਖਣਾ <i>likhṇā</i>	you ਤੁਸੀਂ <i>tusiṅ</i>

LESSON 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 “D.O” for direct object above the word)

Step four: Write the English words in the Punjabi word order on the first line

Step five: Write the Punjabi words underneath on the second line.

Step six: Add the appropriate verb ending and auxiliary verb.

1. I learn Punjabi.

2. We ask a question.

3. I speak English.

4. He writes the answer.

5. You see the picture.

Vocabulary: am/are ਹਾਂ | answer ਜਵਾਬ | are ਹੋ or ਹਨ | to ask ਪੁੱਛਣਾ | English ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ
he ਉਹ | I ਮੈਂ | is ਹੈ | to learn ਸਿੱਖਣਾ | picture ਤਸਵੀਰ | Punjabi ਪੰਜਾਬੀ | question ਸਵਾਲ
to see ਦੇਖਣਾ | to speak ਬੋਲਣਾ | we ਅਸੀਂ | to write ਲਿਖਣਾ | you ਤੁਸੀਂ

PRESENT TENSE CHART

VERB ROOTS ENDING WITH CONSONANTS

SUBJECT + VERB ROOT + **ENDING** + **AUX.VERB**

Pronoun English	Pronoun Punjabi	Masculine Endings	Feminine Endings	Auxiliary Verb
I	ਮੈਂ	ਬੋਲਦਾ	ਬੋਲਦੀ	ਹਾਂ
He/She (Singular)	ਉਹ			ਹੈ
They (Plural)	ਉਹ	ਬੋਲਦੇ	ਬੋਲਦੀਆਂ	ਹਨ
We	ਅਸੀਂ	ਬੋਲਦੇ		ਹਾਂ
You	ਤੁਸੀਂ			ਹੈ

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.

DAILY PRACTICE SHEET VOCABULARY

<p>to ask ਪੁੱਛਣਾ <i>puchchaṇā</i></p>	<p>to become ਬਣਨਾ <i>baṇnā</i></p>	<p>to change ਬਦਲਣਾ <i>badalṇā</i></p>
<p>to come out ਨਿਕਲਣਾ <i>nikalṇā</i></p>	<p>to find ਲੱਭਣਾ <i>labhbhaṇā</i></p>	<p>to know ਜਾਣਨਾ <i>jāṇnā</i></p>
<p>to learn ਸਿੱਖਣਾ <i>sikhkhaṇā</i></p>	<p>to listen/hear ਸੁਣਨਾ <i>suṇnā</i></p>	<p>to meet ਮਿਲਣਾ <i>milṇā</i></p>
<p>to open ਖੋਲ੍ਹਣਾ <i>kholhṇā</i></p>	<p>to put/keep ਰੱਖਣਾ <i>rakhkhaṇā</i></p>	<p>to read ਪੜ੍ਹਨਾ <i>paṛhṇā</i></p>
<p>to see ਦੇਖਣਾ <i>dekhṇā</i></p>	<p>to sit ਬੈਠਣਾ <i>baiṭhṇā</i></p>	<p>to speak/talk ਬੋਲਣਾ <i>bolṇā</i></p>
<p>to tell ਦੱਸਣਾ <i>dassaṇā</i></p>	<p>to think ਸੋਚਣਾ <i>socṇā</i></p>	<p>to understand ਸਮਝਣਾ <i>samajhṇā</i></p>
<p>to use ਵਰਤਣਾ <i>waratṇā</i></p>	<p>to walk ਤੁਰਨਾ <i>turnā</i></p>	<p>to write ਲਿਖਣਾ <i>likhṇā</i></p>

DAILY PRACTICE SHEET

Instructions for the 'Think and Speak' method:

Do NOT write down the answers – this is the 'think' part

Say each sentence OUT LOUD – this is the 'speak' part

What if I get stuck? Look at the reference charts for help. The goal is NOT to 'memorize' the sentences but to LEARN A METHOD to construct your own sentences.

SUBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT + VERB ROOT + ENDING + AUX.VERB

Exercise One

Say each sentence OUT LOUD.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. He asks. | 14. She asks. | 29. I learn. |
| ਉਹ + ਪੁੱਛ + ending + aux.verb
= ਉਹ ਪੁੱਛਦਾ ਹੈ | 15. We sit. | 30. She listens/hears. |
| 2. We become. | 16. They talk/speak. | 31. You meet. |
| 3. They change. | 17. I tell. | 32. He opens. |
| 4. I emerge/come out. | 18. She thinks. | 33. We put/keep. |
| 5. She finds. | 19. You understand. | 34. They read. |
| 6. You know. | 20. He uses. | 35. I see. |
| 7. He learns. | 21. We walk. | 36. She sits. |
| 8. We listen/hear. | 22. She writes. | 37. You talk/speak. |
| 9. They meet. | 23. I ask. | 38. He tells. |
| 10. I open. | 24. They become. | 39. We think. |
| 11. She puts/keeps. | 25. You change. | 40. They understand. |
| 12. You read. | 26. He emerges/comes out. | 41. I use. |
| 13. He sees. | 27. We find. | 42. She walks. |
| | 28. They know. | 43. You write. |

Exercise Two: Sentence Progressions

Add a DIRECT OBJECT of your choice to the sentences from exercise one and say each sentence OUT LOUD. Skip the sentences shaded in gray because they do not take a direct object easily. To get started, here is a list of direct objects in English.

TIP: For this exercise, we will use English words for our objects. Starting in lesson two, we will use Punjabi words for our objects.

answer	book(s)	cars
cat	chairs	door(s)
English	friend(s)	gifts
house(s)	letters	magazines
movie	pathway	picture(s)
price	Punjabi	question
reason(s)	shop	song(s)
stories	story	work

Exercise Three: Quick Start

Say each sentence using the SAME subject. (e.g. we, I, he, Nick, they, she, you)

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. ___ ask(s) | 8. ___ listen(s) | 15. ___ talk(s) |
| 2. ___ become(s) | 9. ___ meet(s) | 16. ___ tell(s) |
| 3. ___ change(s) | 10. ___ open(s) | 17. ___ think(s) |
| 4. ___ come(s) out | 11. ___ put/keep(s) | 18. ___ understand(s) |
| 5. ___ find(s) | 12. ___ read(s) | 19. ___ use(s) |
| 6. ___ know(s) | 13. ___ see(s) | 20. ___ walk(s) |
| 7. ___ learn(s) | 14. ___ sit(s) | 21. ___ write(s) |

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 "D.O." for direct object above the word)

Step four: Write the English words in the Punjabi word order on the first line

Step five: Write the Punjabi words underneath on the second line.

Step six: Add the appropriate verb ending and auxiliary verb.

S V D.O.

1. I learn Punjabi.

I Punjabi learn

ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਿੱਖਦਾ ਹਾਂ (masculine subject)

ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਿੱਖਦੀ ਹਾਂ (feminine subject)

S V D.O.

2. We ask a question.

We questions ask

ਅਸੀਂ ਸਵਾਲ ਪੁੱਛਦੇ ਹਾਂ

S V D.O.

3. I speak English.

I English speak

ਮੈਂ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਬੋਲਦਾ ਹਾਂ (masculine subject)

ਮੈਂ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਬੋਲਦੀ ਹਾਂ (feminine subject)

S V D.O.

4. He writes the answer.

He answer writes

ਉਹ ਜਵਾਬ ਲਿਖਦਾ ਹੈ

S V D.O.

5. You see the picture.

You picture see

ਤੁਸੀਂ ਤਸਵੀਰ ਦੇਖਦੇ ਹੋ

Vocabulary: am/are ਹਾਂ | answer ਜਵਾਬ | are ਹੋ or ਹਨ | to ask ਪੁੱਛਣਾ | English ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ
he ਉਹ | I ਮੈਂ | is ਹੈ | to learn ਸਿੱਖਣਾ | picture ਤਸਵੀਰ | Punjabi ਪੰਜਾਬੀ | question ਸਵਾਲ
to see ਦੇਖਣਾ | to speak ਬੋਲਣਾ | we ਅਸੀਂ | to write ਲਿਖਣਾ | you ਤੁਸੀਂ