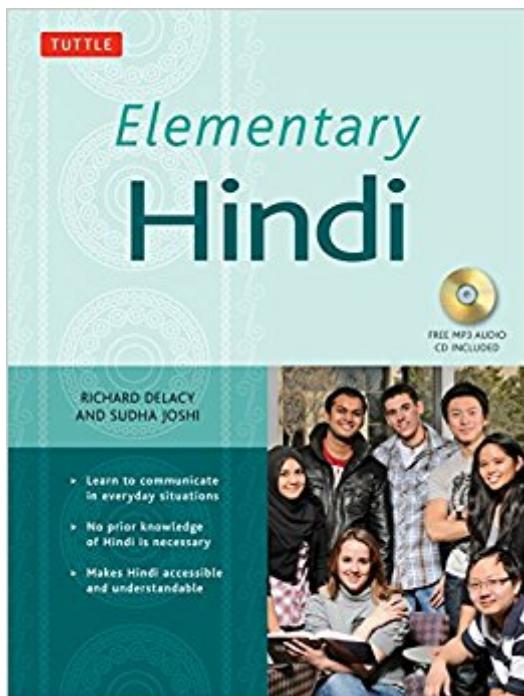


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# Elementary Hindi: (MP3 Audio CD Included)



## Synopsis

This is a comprehensive and user-friendly elementary level Hindi textbook and language learning package. This comprehensive guide to learning the Hindi language teaches you basic proficiency in everyday, conversational beginner Hindi. From learning to write the Hindi alphabet and pronounce its sounds, to using vocabulary and grammar, to communicating in dialogues, your rapidly-developing skills in Hindi will surprise you. No prior experience is necessary to learn Hindi with this book. The chapters cover many situations you'll need to travel to India, read Hindi, write Hindi, and speak Hindi. Key features of Elementary Hindi: The MP3 audio CD helps builds reading comprehension and ensures correct pronunciation. Reveals real life in India through the book's characters, Deepak and Kavitha. Covers elementary-level Hindi grammar including the rules of pronunciation, nasalizations, and the past tense. Teaches the written Hindi alphabet, allowing students to immediately start reading and writing Hindi. Makes the Hindi language accessible, understandable and enjoyable. Enriched by fascinating information about the Hindi-speaking cultures of the world, Elementary Hindi brings the language to life, whether you're studying on your own, or in a classroom. The expert guidance in Elementary Hindi is carefully sequenced to be the most effective and most supportive approach for beginners. Delacy and Joshi are two seasoned teachers of Hindi, and their experience shines out from every page. Their knowledge will help you succeed in your goal of learning Hindi. Available separately is the companion Elementary Hindi Workbook, which will help you polish the lessons learned here. The ten activities per lesson offers a range of exercises and practice opportunities that will help you achieve proficiency in everyday, conversational Hindi.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The other day I had a chance to go through several chapters of [Elementary Hindi] textbook and workbook, using the CD. I was most impressed! It is a very fine, professional job. I like the clarity of presentation, and the way you introduce the alphabet in installments, with lots of vocabulary. I also like the illustrations using architectural motifs." •Phil Lutgendorf, University of Iowa

"Everything is taught together: vocabulary, grammar, conversational skills, cultural insights, reading, writing, and listening; no aspect is neglected. For this reason, it is especially useful for self-study." •Hindi Language.info blog

"While these particular Tuttle textbooks are suitable for, and typically used in, classroom settings, including in some of the best universities in North America, they can also serve as an excellent out-of-class reference tool and can very well complement formal language classes or other study materials for the self-learner. From my experience, this series should appeal to a broad range of people, including individuals working on their own, professional people working with a tutor, or students in a classroom setting. I have personally used the Tuttle Elementary and Continuing textbooks both as part of university classes and on my own, and I have been very satisfied with them." •Lingholic blog

Richard Delacy, PhD., teaches Hindi and Urdu at Harvard University. He is the author of Teach Yourself Beginner's Urdu Script (McGraw-Hill) and Hindi in a Flash (Tuttle). He travels to India frequently. Sudha Joshi received her MA in English literature in India and then taught Hindi in Melbourne, Australia at various universities for over fifteen years. She has produced numerous teaching materials and translated Hindi poetry into English for publication.

First of all, this book cannot be used alone. You also need the workbook, because the CD that comes with the book is for the workbook only. I do not find the CD very useful as the words are spoken quickly with not enough time to repeat them after the speaker. As Hindi asks us to learn a host of new sounds we are not familiar with, hearing the words once and in quick succession does not help me. Second, the book is perfectly suited for people who like to study grammar before learning the language. It systematically covers grammar with practically no practice sentences. You get some practice sentences in the workbook but mostly you have to deduce them from the grammar you studied in the book. As this is not my way of studying a new language, the book is not

very useful to me. I would rather have lots of conversations, sentences, and examples and then deduce the grammar myself, maybe with a bit of help from a book. By concentrating on grammar, the book does not give me a feeling for the language. The whole learning process becomes very mechanical.Third, in order to slowly introduce us to the Devanagari script, the authors teach only a few new letters in each chapter, which would be perfect if the words associated were more useful. Instead of using simple everyday words that we can then use in a sentence, we get a host of words that fit the available letters but are not useful for conversation. For example, the first three lessons introduce us to words like faith, lotus, betel leaf, prayer, vomit, together with more useful words. No practice sentences are given. We are then asked to work through the exercises in the workbook. They provide sentences in Devanagari script that we have to translate. That's okay, but of course I have not memorized the long list of words, so I now have to search for those that are actually being used in the sentences.  
About Devanagari: The authors use Devanagari script only. No transliterations. And the script is introduced a dozen letters a time, which I think is an excellent approach. Those letters are then pronounced, letter by letter, on the CD that comes with the workbook (not with the book).  
Summary: Although I do not like the book, I gave the book three stars because I believe it can be very useful for people who like a systematic, very orderly and structured approach to language learning. This book and the workbook with CD are the opposite of the Pimsleur approach.I may return to this book at a later point when I have a better command of the language and need additional help with grammar, but for the beginning this book is too frustrating to me.

Exactly as the book says - Elementary Hindi. It's fantastic!When I started, I honestly thought I would never learn the Devanagari script or the pronunciation. It was so bewildering. But this book really makes it simple. It breaks things down and makes everything big and clear. The workbook (separate purchase) is a really great addition for extra practice.  
Summary:Pros: easy to use, friendly, makes a very intimidating script and pronunciation simple, holds your hand through the journey, fantastic hard cover book  
Cons: this isn't really a con, but this book won't get you speaking fluent Hindi. It is what it says - Elementary Hindi. I firmly believe that this is the best book to begin with. If you want to get further, I recommend Complete Hindi - but that can be used after this.  
Final point: get the hard cover book! It's so much easier flicking through pages (which you will do a lot when learning the alphabet)

Probably a great product, but once you get it and open it up, you find out you need a second

workbook to go along with this product to get the full potential. Would have been nice to know from the beginning, or sold together.

I just bought this book 'Elementary Hindi' and would like to commend the authors for their valuable work. This is the kind of text book for Hindi that was long awaited. I have been teaching Hindi for some years and have always felt the need of a really good text book. Even though there are some books out there, but none of these seemed to be complete in itself. It looks like a lot of hard work has gone in to the planning and designing of the contents of this book. The chapters are not too long and the subject of each is centered around real life daily communications and situations. Each chapter has an exercise for practice along with the related glossary and is accompanied by drawings (as the visuals do have lasting impact). The first few chapters focus on a limited of number of sounds making it a smooth sail for students. There are five additional sections with thematic glossary besides separate Hindi-English and English-Hindi glossaries. The writers have made this book more attractive to students by adding answer keys to the practice exercises. Keys are very helpful to students and they love these. Added to all this is the accompanying 'Workbook' which has exercises for additional practice and activities. This combo of text book and the workbook is the kind of work that was very much needed for Hindi. For Hindi instructors, this is a valuable gift from the authors and, for students, this is going to make the learning experience of Hindi an attractive and easier one. Thanks to the authors Richard Delacy and Sudha Joshi for this great contribution to the world of Hindi learning. Kudos to the authors. I am eagerly waiting for the next level book from these authors.

This is unhelpful. I wanted something to help me learn to speak some Hindi. This is really aimed at reading and writing Hindi script. The workbook activities that accompany this book don't even have the Hindi pronunciations.

I have been learning Hindi on my own and sort of shot-gunning it going from place to place. This book has focused my learning and is a wonderful resource. It's necessary to buy the workbook, too, to get the best use of this book. I just wish I could find a Hindi teacher/speaker with whom I could interact to augment what I'm learning. The book is well laid out and instructions are clear and concise. I would recommend it to anyone starting to learn Hindi. I wonder if there is a next-level book for learning more Hindi.

It's been a slow process for me but this is a great and cheap way to get started with Hindi. Protip: try some bollywood movies too to get the sounds right. "Aachaa" doesn't quite feel right without hearing it a lot.

I'm only on the few first pages, but I learned how to read a few letters of the Hindi script only after 5 minutes through the book.

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