Urdu Study Guide 1

Five College Center for World Languages

Available online at [**http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu**](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu) Version Date: May 2023

# Materials for this Study Guide

* *Beginning Urdu: A Complete Course* (and [[accompanying audio recordings under "Additional Resources"](https://press.georgetown.edu/Book/Beginning-Urdu)](https://press.georgetown.edu/Book/Beginning-Urdu))
  + Part I: The Sound System of Urdu (the entire Part I)
  + Part II: The Urdu Script: Introduction to the Urdu Script: The be Series, The *jīm* Series, *sukūn* and *taśdīd*
  + Unit I: Chapter 1 - Introductions: Meeting Somebody New
* [*Language Learning Strategies and Tools* on LangMedia](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/strategies)

# Assignments for Independent Study

**[*Note: Do about half of the material in this guide for your first tutorial and conversation session. All of the homework is only due at your second session. After this you will complete one full guide per session.*]**

## Learning the Sounds of Urdu

* Step 1: Read: The sounds of Urdu: Lesson 1: Sounds Similar to English, pg. 1.
* Step 2: Practice the different consonant sounds: *b, f, g, h, j, m, n*, *s, ś, y, z*
* Step 3: Practice the different vowel sounds: *a, ā, i, ī, u, ū*
* Step 4: Practice the following words: *bas, sab, sāf, sun, jūn, nīm, jīnā, sāg, binā, bahānā, mahīna, zamāna, zamīn, banana, śabāna āzmī*.
* Step 5: Listen to Exercise 1. After you have listened to the audio file, practice pronouncing the words one more time. Are you pronouncing the words like the speaker in the recording?
* Step 6: Practice the following words: *bahan, bahas, zahan, sahmā, bahnā, śahanśāh*. How does the sound change when *a* is next to *h*? Listen to the recording in Exercise 2.
* Step 7: Practice saying the words again. Are you pronouncing the words like the speaker in the recording?
* Step 8: Listen to the speaker in the recording in Exercise 3. Listen carefully to the words and practice saying them out loud. Listen one more time and write down the words you hear.
* Repeat the same steps in reading and practicing lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
* For additional exercises for learning the sounds, see the article: [Introducing Yourself to Sounds](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/node/187628)

## Learning to Write in Urdu

* Step 1: Read Writing in Urdu: Part II: Lesson 8 Introduction to the Urdu Script: the be series on pg. 11 and lesson 9 The *jīm* Series, *sukūn* and *taśdīd* on pg. 17.
* Step 2: Can you tell the difference between the style *Nastaliq* and *Nasx?* What are some of the peculiarities of the Urdu script regarding the short vowels *a, i,* and *u*?
* Step 3: Practice the Urdu alphabet in Lesson 8 and 9. Pronounce the letters and see how they are written. Make flash cards for each letter and practice saying the letter without looking at its equivalent in the Roman alphabet. Remember to read from right to left! Listen to the audio file on The Urdu Alphabet in Lesson 8.
* Step 4: Practice Urdu numerals from the chart in Lesson 8. Pronounce the numbers and see how they are written. Make flash cards for each letter and practice saying the letter without looking at its name transcribed in the Roman alphabet. Listen again to the audio file of the Urdu alphabet.
* Step 5: The Letters *alif, be, pe, te, ṭe, se, and nūn* . Practice writing the letters *alif, be, pe, te, ṭe, se, and nūn* on a separate sheet of paper. Follow the example Exercise 1. Try pronouncing each letter as you write it.
  + **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 1 in Introduction to the Urdu Script: The *be* series.
  + **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 2 in Introduction to the Urdu Script: The *be* series.
  + **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 5 in Introduction to the Urdu Script: The *be* series.
* Step 6: On a separate sheet of paper practice writing the letters *jīm, ce, baṛī, he,* and *xe*. Follow the instructions included in Exercise 1 from The *jīm* Series, *sukūn* and *taśdīd*.
  + **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 1 in The *jīm* Series, *sukūn* and *taśdīd.*
  + **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 4 in The *jīm* Series, *sukūn* and *taśdīd.*
  + **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 5 in The *jīm* Series, *sukūn* and *taśdīd.*
* Step 7: Read The Signs *zabar, zer, pés* and Representing the Long Vowel *ā* on pp. 14-15. Read the passage in Exercise 3. Remember to read from right to left! Read it once to yourself and then out loud. Afterwards, listen to the audio recording for the exercise. Try using a voice recorder and record yourself pronouncing the passage. Listen to yourself and then listen to the recording. Do you sound similar to the recording in Exercise 3?
* Step 8: Following the instructions, complete all exercises in lessons 8 and 9.
* For additional exercises for learning the script, see the appropriate articles under: [Writing Systems and Sounds](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/node/187611)

## Learning to Speak in Urdu

* Step 1: Read Unit 1: Introductions: Meeting Somebody New. Read the dialogue and practice pronouncing the different words in Exercise 1. Practice introducing yourself. If helpful, look in the mirror and practice introducing yourself saying, “Hello, my name is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Practice all the expressions in the section Meeting Somebody New.
* Step 2: Listen to the audio recording in Exercise 2. Listen to each expression and practice saying it out loud. Close the book and look in the mirror. Pretend you are talking to someone else. Say hello, introduce yourself, ask the other person’s name, and say goodbye.
* Step 3: Read the different greetings and partings in Exercise 2, Meeting Somebody New. Take notice of the different ways once can be greeted. Try practicing the different salutations.
  + **HAND IN:** A short dialogue with at least 8 lines, in which two strangers greet each other, say pleased to meet you, and share their names, modeled on the dialogue in Unit 1. Until you complete the script portion of the book, you may write these sorts of assignments in Roman script. You will be graded on how your spelling matches the transcribed spellings used in The Sound System of Urdu and the transcribed versions of the dialogues.
* For tips on making the most of what you know in conversation, see the articles under: [Strategies for Conversations](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/node/187614)

# Conversation Session Preparation

* Go over this guide to get an idea of what your conversation sessions will be like and what you should be prepared to do: [Making the Most of Your Conversation Sessions](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/node/187642)
* Be prepared to greet your conversation partner.
* Be prepared to ask his/her name.
* Be prepared to roleplay various scenarios in which you greet different people.
* Be prepared to pronounce different letters and words for your conversation partner to write down.
* Be prepared to write down different letters and words that you hear your conversation partner say.
* Can you recognize numbers in the Urdu script? Can you say their names?
* Can you recognize letters in the Urdu alphabet? Can you say their names?
* Say goodbye to your partner using the appropriate greetings.

# Homework for Tutorial

* **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 1 in Introduction to the Urdu Script: The *be* series.
* **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 2 in Introduction to the Urdu Script: The *be* series.
* **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 5 in Introduction to the Urdu Script: The *be* series.
* **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 1 in The *jīm* Series, *sukūn* and *taśdīd.*
* **HAND IN:** Written task for Exercise 4 in The *jīm* Series, *sukūn* and *taśdīd.*
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