

## **Hindi Language**

### **Beginner Level**

#### **KEI Exchange Students at Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts**

This class is for those who have little to no knowledge of spoken or written Hindi and have never taken a formal class in Hindi. There are no prerequisites for this course.

#### **Course Overview & Objectives:**

Students will develop beginning fluency and basic competency in Hindi, including listening comprehension and speaking skills (i.e., primary literacy), as well as reading and writing abilities (secondary literacy). Students will also be familiarized with culturally significant aspects and the historical value of Hindi in Bharat (India's original name). Every effort will be made to teach Hindi using a functional communicative approach--introducing Hindi grammar in "whole language contexts" (i.e., embedded in authentic culture and consistently interactive in multiple environments, including out-of-class, and integrating speech, grammar, and writing).

Students will learn how to correctly pronounce and produce Hindi sounds (i.e., phonemes), with special attention paid to sounds not used in English. They will also be introduced to the Hindi writing system, Devanagari (which consists of a list of consonants and dependent and independent vowels that are literally individual letter sounds, unlike English letters which often represent more than one sound).

The phonetic character of written Hindi (i.e., the close resemblance between spoken and written words) will be emphasized, hence the research-based contrastive, step-by-step language-building-blocks

approach that will be employed, which will introduce students to incrementally larger language units each subsequent week.

This course will build students' sound and content vocabulary knowledge first (i.e., starting with sounds/phonemes, pronouns/referents, then roots and affixes of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and so on) before introducing form words (e.g., prepositions, conjunctions, and particles) and longer and more complex language units (like phrases, clauses and sentences).

Students will learn survival Hindi vocabulary (at least 200 new words per week) in domains ranging from food and shelter to workplace communication. Culture-specific terminology (e.g., terms for extended family members, festivals, foods, and unique activities and flora-and-fauna concepts like chopi, malai, najar/nazar; keechar and so on for which exact translation equivalents are unavailable in English will also be introduced. Finally, students will learn how to construct simple sentences that are both grammatically and culturally acceptable. Overall, a student's listening, speaking, reading and writing in Hindi will be carefully developed both inside and outside the classroom.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate basic knowledge of the distinctive sounds, vocabulary, and sentence structure of Hindi
- Understand the cultural rules of engagement at work in India, in particular (i.e., dos and don'ts and different interpretation of eye contact, proxemics, and other body language)
- Participate in elementary-level exchanges with other Hindi speakers (i.e., greeting individuals appropriately, asking for information, including asking for and giving directions, and leave-taking)
- Correctly identify (in spoken and written language) and write all individual and blended (consonant and vowel) sounds

- Follow basic directions worded in Hindi (orally and in writing), including landmark- based directions which are more common in India, given the relative absence of chronological zip-code-based numerical addresses)
- Understand and construct simple sentences in speech and writing.
- Comprehend and explain (orally and in writing) simple dialogs and songs in popular Hindi (Bollywood) movies and soap operas.
- Develop an awareness of key language differences and similarities and identify distinctive (e.g., culture-specific) Hindi language features (i.e., as contrasted with English)
- Translate basic Hindi represented through anglicized (Romanized) script into Devanagari
- Share simple narratives and descriptions in Hindi (i.e., competently engage in interpersonal exchanges that go beyond simple small talk).

Instructional strategies include but are not limited to whole-class, peer and facilitated cultural interactions, role-playing, group work and homework.

Means of assessment include attendance, quizzes, exams, homework, and interviews (oral quizzes) with the instructor.