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TEACH YOURSELF

BENGALI

By

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PREFACE

THE AREA where Bengali is spoken covers a good portion of the “ Ruhr of India ”, one of its two great commercial cities, and the eastern wing of Pakistan. It therefore attracts a large number of foreigners and people from other parts of the sub-continent, many of whom wish to learn something of the language of the people. Apart from this, Bengali is the richest and most developed language of North India, with a tradition going back many centuries, and a literature which the Nineteenth Century Renaissance and the towering figure of Rabindranath Tagore have put in the forefront of the world’s literatures.

Bengali is not a difficult language, but it has suffered from two causes ; one is that the foreigners in Bengal have mostly been content to get a smattering of the lingua franca, Hindustani, since all educated Bengalis understand English, and many of the less-educated with whom they had to deal were non-Bengali. The other is the problem of the script, which appears very strange and complicated, but is actually very logical. There has been no good Introductory Course in Bengali script which might be put in the hands of an English-speaking non-Bengali and give him the basic knowledge of the language which would enable him to converse freely and go on to further study if he wished. It is hoped that this book will fill that gap, and introduce many more to the delights of a language which is beautiful and expressive, and in every sense of the word, living.

The book has been worked out during a seven-year association with the language School in Darjeeling, where for three months each year new missionaries go to learn

Bengali. It owes a very great deal to the methods first introduced into the School by the Rev. W. Sutton-Page, who was a pioneer of modern linguistics, but the matter is quite new. More directly it is indebted to the help and encouragement of my colleagues in the School, particularly Mrs. G. Soddy and Mr. S. N. Mondol ; to the students who have served as “ guinea-pigs ”, and to the Rev. H. M. Angus, who has gone through the draft very thoroughly and made many valuable comments. Several colleagues in Serampore College have assisted by checking the draft and correcting errors. Much encouragement was given by the publishers, and especially Mr. Leonard Cutts, whose breath-taking letter accepting the book before he had seen it, could not fail to stimulate one who is very conscious of his limitations. Most of all, the untiring labours of my wife behind the scenes, known only to those who have been in the Language School, was one of the biggest factors in providing the atmosphere in which the work could be done.

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NOTE ON METHOD

This series is called “Teach Yourself”, but in the case of this particular volume a word of warning is necessary. It is possible to teach yourself typewriting, or carpentry, or even a dead language like Latin or Greek, by getting a book and working through it, but a living language involves a personal relationship which is not possible with a book alone. It *is* possible to read this book and to get a basic knowledge of the language, it is even possible by very carefully following the instructions in the Introduction to make the proper sounds in pronouncing the words, but only a much more elaborate explanation about phonetics would make it possible to learn the shades of pronunciation and intonation of a Bengali.

It is therefore a “Teach Yourself” course in the sense that it can dispense with formal lessons and provide a basic knowledge of the language, but it is very desirable to get some help in the initial stages, particularly with pronunciation and reading. A few sessions with a Bengali who will read a Sentence-drill through two or three times, and then listen to the learner repeating each sentence, and correct the pronunciation, will be an invaluable help in avoiding mistakes which might very soon become bad habits. It is not desirable that the helper should give explanations of grammar and idiom apart from those in the book, because in most cases these would be misleading, but he should be a voice to be very carefully heard and imitated.

INTRODUCTION

SECTION I. ABOUT BENGALI

Many who begin to read this book will already have studied a language or languages other than their own, but two things are likely to be completely new. The first is that the languages learnt at school are very often studied for examination purposes primarily, and secondarily in order to read them, but only to a very limited extent for speaking, so that they remain “foreign”. Here, perhaps for the first time, is a language which is to be learned primarily for speaking.

The second strangeness is the script. One can learn half-a-dozen European languages without having to learn a new script, and so Indian languages appear very different, and difficult. Appearance, as so often, is deceptive; Bengali is second cousin to the Southern European languages and therefore to a good portion of the English language. Sanskrit and Greek are sister-languages of the Indo-Aryan family, and whilst Bengali is a daughter of Sanskrit, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese are daughters of Greek and her half-sister Latin. From this group of languages quite a large part of the English language is derived. The family likeness is found quite soon when one begins to hear some very common words, e.g. numbers: *dui* (2) calls up the word “dual-control”, *saptam* (7th) recalls “September”, the 7th month of the old Roman calendar; or relationships: *baba* is very like “baby”, *mata* and *bhrata* are recognizable in “mother” and “brother”; *nam* is

obviously the same word as “ name ” and there are many others.

The script causes a little difficulty because usually we have been accustomed to the same, or closely similar, scripts for all the European languages except Russian, and even Greek has a majority of similar letters. This is not always an advantage, because we tend to pronounce the new language in the same way as we pronounce our own, because the symbols are the same, and the result is usually nothing like the way the language should be pronounced. The Indian languages have a completely different script, so that we can learn from the beginning how the letters are pronounced, and so make fewer mistakes.

The really great advantage in Indian languages is that the arrangement of the letters is phonetic. The alphabet which the Europeans got from the Phoenicians is really quite crazy in its arrangement, in fact there is no arrangement at all. The Indian alphabet (which is basically the same for nearly all the main languages, though the method of writing it varies) is logically, sensibly and phonetically arranged—first the vowels, then the consonants, then the semi-vowels and breath-sounds. There are some sounds which are not found in English, but they are produced with the same apparatus used slightly differently, and unless we have a speech-impediment, there is no reason why we should not produce them correctly. The apparatus needed is a mouth and throat, provided with lips, teeth, tongue and vocal-chords. It is also useful to have a sensitive ear, but if care is taken in the use of the vocal organs the correct sound can be produced by those who are almost tone-deaf. It is im-

portant to realize at the outset that the sounds are produced mechanically and if the mechanism is properly adjusted it will produce the right sound, which is the basic point of language. The sign written on the paper indicates the sound, not vice versa.

IT IS VITAL TO APPROACH THE SUBJECT BY THINKING

“ THIS SOUND HAS THIS SIGN ”, and not

“ This letter is pronounced like that ”.

SOUND COMES FIRST, NOT WRITING.

SECTION 2. BENGALI SOUNDS

All languages have three basic kinds of sounds. The first kind is produced by using the mouth as a resonance-box, and varying the sound produced by the vocal chords, by altering the shape of the box, and these are called “ vowels ”.

The second kind is produced by using the tongue in combination with the soft parts of the mouth, the teeth and the lips to vary the sound by obstructing it as it comes out, and these are called “ consonants ”.

The third kind is produced by obstructing the breath in a similar way, sometimes with a sound from the vocal chords and sometimes without it.

(i) THE VOWELS

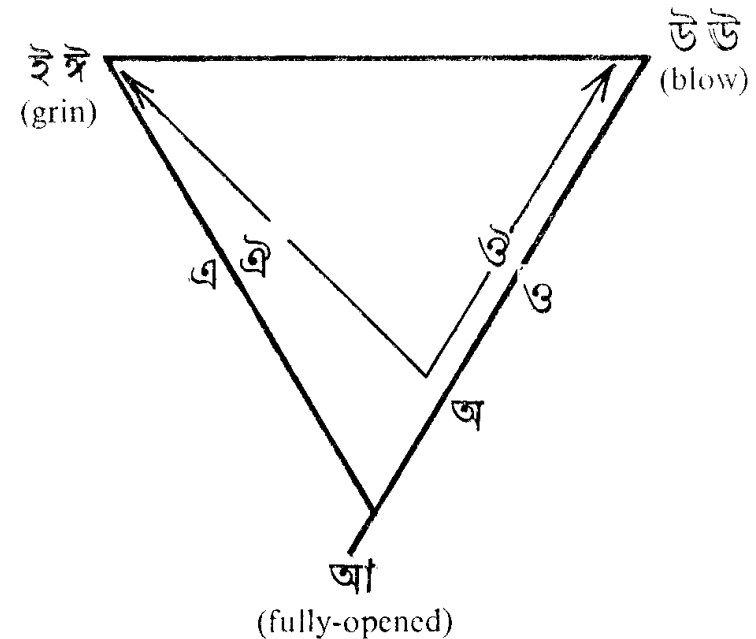
When the doctor wishes to examine your throat he tells you to say “ Ah ”. You then open your mouth wide, lay

the tongue flat on the bottom and let the vocal chords produce a full rounded sound. So long as you keep the mouth in the same position you produce a single clear vowel, and with the mouth in the fully open position you cannot produce any other sound.

If you then begin to close the mouth, either by drawing the lips together inward, so that the result produces something like a grin, or by drawing them together and pushing them outward as though you were going to blow out a candle, with the first movement the front of the tongue almost automatically rises until it touches the top of the mouth behind the teeth, whilst with the second the back of the tongue rises and almost touches the top of the mouth at the back. These two movements produce all the possible vowel-sounds.

If either movement stops at any point, it produces a clear vowel sound for as long as the position is held; if the movement continues it produces different sounds running into one another which are called "diphthongs". Standard English practically never uses vowels, but always diphthongs, and one of the first important points in learning to produce Bengali sounds is to learn to hold the mouth in the same position for enough time to produce a pure vowel.

The second point is to learn at what position to hold the mouth for the different sounds, and this can be illustrated by a diagram in the form of a triangle. The lower point represents the position when the mouth is fully opened for the doctor's inspection, the top left-hand corner represents the position when the mouth is drawn right in and the tongue-tip raised; and the top right-hand corner represents the position with the lips pushed out and the back of the tongue raised.



In each of the top corners there are two symbols, which formerly indicated a longer and shorter pronunciation, but now the sounds are indistinguishable.

Half-way up each side there are symbols representing the sounds produced when the movement is stopped half-way and the mouth held in that position. One-quarter up the right-hand side is the symbol for the sound produced when the movement is stopped less than half-way. In Sanskrit the fully-opened sound had a short and long form, so that this symbol belonged to the bottom point, but Bengali has modified it and produces it with the mouth a little less open.

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT WHILST PRODUCING EACH OF THESE SOUNDS NO PART OF THE MOUTH SHOULD MOVE.

There are two more sounds which are diphthongs, i.e. the mouth moves quickly from one position to the other, and these are indicated by arrows. The symbols for these two diphthongs are almost like the symbols for the two half-way sounds, since the diphthongs run quickly through these two pure vowels, from the lower point to each top corner.

There is one more sound which Bengali reckons as a vowel. It is produced with the mouth in the "grin" position by the tongue making a sharp flapping in the front of the mouth, so that it sounds something like the English "ri". The symbol for this is ঞ.

The order in which these sounds are placed in the Bengali alphabet is: bottom—top left—top right—flap—middle-left—left diphthong—middle-right—right diphthong, i.e.

অ আ ই ঈ উ ঊ ঞ এ ঐ ও ঔ

(ii) THE CONSONANTS

Bengali has twenty-five consonant sounds arranged in five classes according to the position of the mouth in which they are produced.

The first class is produced at the very back of the mouth, in the throat, and is therefore called "guttural".

The second is produced on the soft palate and is therefore called "palatal".

The third is produced on the hard palate at the top of the mouth and is called "cerebral".

The fourth is produced on the teeth and is therefore called "dental".

The fifth is produced with the lips and is therefore called "labial".

Say the following pairs of English words:—

kick—gig; tit—did; pip—bib.

The vowel sound in all the words is exactly the same. For each pair the mouth is in the same position and makes the same movements.

The difference between the first and second of each pair is that in the first of each pair the consonants have no sound of their own, whereas in the second of each pair the consonants have a slight sound of their own apart from the sound of the vowel.

It is therefore clear that k—g, t—d, p—b are pairs of consonants which only differ from one another by the amount of sound the voice gives them. The first one of each pair is called "unvoiced", and the second is called "voiced".

Now say quickly the following pairs:—

rubber—rub her; begat—big hat; tripper—trip her.

In the second of each pair the second syllable (which does not really sound like a separate word if it is said quickly) begins with an aspirate, and a careless speaker who dropped his aitches would appear to be saying the first word of the pair.

There are a few words in English where an aspirate following another consonant is found in a word, e.g. "shepherd", but we usually consider that the "h" in such cases is silent. As a matter of fact we usually pronounce all consonants in English with a slight aspirate but we do not realize it until we try to do without it.

In Bengali each of the five classes of consonants consists of five sounds, all produced from the same position in the mouth, but differing in the amount of breath and sound

which is allowed to pass. In each class note these differences,
 the first has no breath (unaspirated) no sound (unvoiced)
 the second breath (aspirated) no sound (unvoiced)
 the third no breath (unaspirated) sound (voiced)
 the fourth breath (aspirated) sound (voiced)
 the fifth is produced partly through the nose and so is called
 a “nasal”.

First class—Guttural

Position: back of throat, almost as far back as for a gargle, but not quite.

Tongue: flat in mouth.

Obstruction: back of tongue touching soft palate.

Production: first make the clear vowel sound one-quarter way up the right-hand side of the triangle (অ) then move the back of the tongue to touch the soft palate and away again.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANY BREATH COME THROUGH WITH THE SOUND.

This is the first sound in this class.

For the second sound, follow the same procedure, but let the breath also come through.

For the third, again hold the breath, but voice the consonant.

For the fourth, both let the breath come and voice.

For the fifth, send part of the sound through the nose.

The symbols for these sounds are

ক খ গ ঘ ঙ

Second class—Palatal

Position: back of the hard palate, in front of class 1.

Tongue: tip touching the teeth-ridge behind the upper teeth and rest of tongue touching the roof of the mouth.

Obstruction: whole of tongue along top of mouth.

Production: make the vowel sound as before, raise tongue and then allow the sound to push its way through, as it were. Do this in each of the five ways mentioned above.

The symbols for these five sounds are:

চ ছ জ ঝ ঞ

Third class—Cerebral

Position: centre of hard palate.

Tongue: tip turned up to touch the roof of the mouth.

Obstruction: tip of tongue and roof of mouth.

Production: make the vowel sound, then raise tongue to the roof of the mouth and sharply withdraw.

Make the sound in the same five ways as before.

The symbols for these five sounds are:

ট ঠ ড ঢ ণ

There are two slightly different sounds which can be produced in this position. Both are voiced, the first unaspirated and the second aspirated. In order to produce them, put the tongue in the same position, but instead of withdrawing straight down, flap it forward against the teeth-ridge as it drops. Since these are only slight variations on the previous ones they are indicated by adding a dot to the symbols: ড̣, the second having breath added.

Fourth class—Dental

Position: front of mouth, just behind the teeth.

Tongue: raised, with tip touching upper teeth.

Obstruction: tip of tongue and upper teeth.

Production: make the vowel sound, press the tip of tongue against the upper teeth and release quickly. Do this in all the five ways mentioned.

The symbols for these sounds are:

ত থ দ ধ ন

IMPORTANT NOTE.—It is important to note that neither the third class nor the fourth class produces a sound like the English “t”. The English sound is produced by the tip of the tongue being pressed against the gums, and so is half-way between the Bengali classes three and four. It is useful to produce all three sounds one after another, in order to be quite clear about the difference between them.

Fifth class—Labial

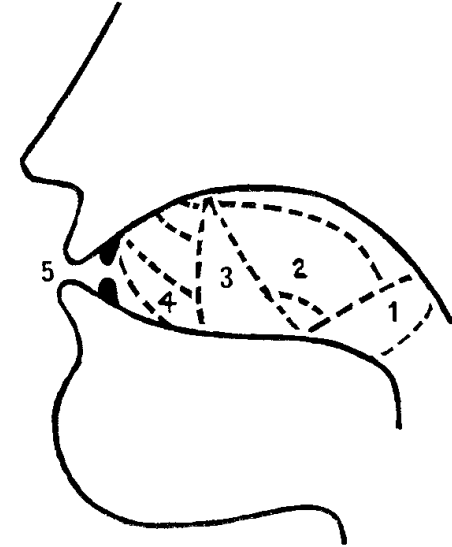
Obstruction: by lips alone.

Production: this should be the easiest, because it is produced merely by compressing and releasing the lips. However, most English people find it very difficult not to let the breath come through, and it is useful to practise the two unaspirated sounds with a small mirror very close to the lips. If the mirror shows signs of steaming the sound is not correct.

The symbols for these five sounds are:

প ফ ব ভ ম

The following diagram will give a rough idea of the position of the tongue for each class of sounds.



(iii) THE SEMI-VOWELS

Next in order come the four semi-vowels, which are used in very much the same way as the English semi-vowels, y, j, v and w, each of which is related to a vowel, but may be used as a consonant.

The first semi-vowel is related to ই or ঐ and is used in two ways like the two English semi-vowels related to “i”. When it is pronounced like the English “j” it has the symbol য় and when it is pronounced like the English “y” the symbol has a dot added to it য়̣. When combined with another consonant it takes the form ঙ (see also Lesson 2, note (a)).

It can also be used in a diphthong with another vowel like the “y” in the English “joy”, e.g. জয়

The second semi-vowel is related to ঞ and is pronounced very similarly, but instead of one flap against the gums it has a series of flaps in the form of a trill. It has the symbol ঞ.

The third semi-vowel is related to a vowel which no longer exists in Bengali, but existed in Sanskrit. The sound is exactly like that of the English “l”, and the symbol is ল.

The fourth semi-vowel is related to উ or উ and in Sanskrit and some modern Indian languages is pronounced like “w” or “v”, but in Bengali it is written and pronounced just like the third letter of the fifth class ব. Most Bengalis would be hard put to say whether ব in a particular word was a consonant or a semi-vowel, and even dictionaries differ about whether they put a word which begins with it in the fifth class or the semi-vowel group, so when looking up a word which has this letter it is always best to look at both places.

Here is the full list of semi-vowels:

য ঞ ল ব

(iv) THE BREATH-SOUNDS

The rest of the letters are sometimes put in two groups but they are all concerned with the breath and can be put together. The first three sounds are “hissing” or

“sibilant” sounds which were originally pronounced differently but now are all pronounced like the “sh” we use when asking someone to be quiet. In some cases this is modified to “s” when combined with another consonant. Officially the three symbols are connected with classes 2, 3 and 4, but this does not affect the pronunciation, though it does affect spelling.

The symbols are:

Palatal—শ

Cerebral—ষ

Dental—স

The fourth sound is the voiced aspirate, produced by allowing the voiced breath to come through the narrowed throat. The fact that this is really connected with the previous three is seen by the fact that in Assamese, which is a kindred language to Bengali, all four may be the symbols for a voiced aspirate.

The symbol for this is হ.

The fifth sound is exactly like the nasal of class 1, i.e. the breath is sent through the nose because the mouth is closed with the back of the tongue and the soft palate. This is not really a full consonant, because it can never have a vowel following it. The symbol is ঞ.

The sixth sound is a stopping of the breath and so is not really a sound in itself. It has the effect of cutting off short the vowel which precedes it and this too can never be followed by a vowel. It is virtually a glottal stop.

The symbol is ৞.

The last sound is also not really a sound in its own right, but is the nasalization of the syllable to which it is attached. It is written over the consonant of the syllable or an initial vowel to show that it must be pronounced through the nose.

The symbol is $\overset{\circ}{\text{}}$.

The last three symbols have names; they are called অনুস্বর— $\underset{\circ}{\text{}}$; বিসর্গ— : and চন্দ্রবিন্দু— $\overset{\circ}{\text{}}$ respectively.

Here are all the sounds in their proper order:

Vowels: অ আ ই ঈ উ ঊ ঋ এ ঐ ও ঔ

Consonants—First Class: ক খ গ ঘ ঙ

Second Class: চ ছ জ ঝ ঞ

Third Class: ট ঠ ড ঢ ণ

Fourth Class: ত থ দ ধ ন

Fifth Class: প ফ ব ভ ম

Semi-vowels: য় (য) র ল ব

Breath-sounds, etc.: শ ষ স হ ং : $\overset{\circ}{\text{}}$

All the letters apart from the vowels are pronounced with the first vowel (অ), which is called “the inherent vowel”. If no other indication is given it is assumed to be present.

In all there are 47, which appears much more elaborate than English, but is not, because although English has only 26 symbols, these are combined to produce many more sounds, e.g. t and h produces two further sounds as in “thin” and “that” and the number of sounds represented by “ough” is notorious. In Bengali there are a few other

sounds produced by the combination of letters, but these are very few, and basically you have now learned the sounds of the Bengali language.

To learn to write them properly it is best to get a Bengali to demonstrate them, and since most big towns in Britain now have some Bengalis either as students or in other capacities this should not be difficult. It is unlikely that anyone who reads this book will be completely out of touch with at least one person who can read Bengali, and if that is so, it is good to make some contact immediately. Any Bengali will be very glad indeed to help a foreigner to learn his language.

SECTION 3. MAKING WORDS

Bengali words are not considered as made up of a number of letters, but of a number of sounds, and whilst it is possible for a vowel to be a sound on its own, it is not possible for a consonant, since there must always be some vowel with it to make the sound. The words are made up of syllables, each of which contains only one vowel or diphthong. The simplest syllable consists of one of the vowels in the form already learnt, which are called “Initial vowels”, because they can stand alone as separate syllables.

The most common form of syllable consists of one or more consonants followed by a vowel, which in Bengali spelling are reckoned together as one compound character.

A syllable may end with a consonant only if the final consonant is specially marked to show that it has no vowel attached to it. This mark is called *hasanta* and is a stroke underneath the letter, e.g. সট্. The only exception to this is in the case of ত which has a special form ত্ when it

comes at the end of a syllable and has no vowel following, e.g. সৎ. In every other case the consonant is assumed to have the inherent vowel (অ) even though sometimes this is not pronounced. To know when the vowel is actually pronounced comes by usage, and no definite rules can be given, but a rough guide is given in the Vocabularies at the end of the book.

The other vowel sounds are never given their usual symbol after a consonant, but they have less elaborate signs which are added to the consonant. The signs which are attached to consonants are called “medial vowels” and are as follows:

আ is indicated by the sign ʌ placed *after* the consonant,

e.g. কা, খা etc.

ই is indicated by the sign ʲ placed *before* the consonant,

e.g. কি, খি etc.

ঐ is indicated by the sign ʲ placed *after* the consonant,

e.g. কী, খী etc.

উ is indicated by the sign ʊ placed *under* the consonant,

e.g. কু, খু etc.

ঊ is indicated by the sign ʊ placed *under* the consonant,

e.g. কু, খু etc.

ঋ is indicated by the sign ʌ placed *under* the consonant,

e.g. কৃ, খৃ etc.

এ is indicated by the sign ɛ placed *before* the consonant, e.g. কে, খে etc.

ঐ is indicated by the sign ɛ placed *before* the consonant, e.g. কৈ, খৈ etc.

ও is indicated by the sign ɔ placed *around* the consonant, e.g. কো, খো etc.

ঔ is indicated by the sign ɔ placed *around* the consonant, e.g. কৌ, খৌ etc.

There are seven exceptions to this scheme, all concerned with the sounds উ, ঊ and ঋ, as follows:

গ and ঊ has the symbol গু

র and ঊ has the symbol রু

শ and ঊ has the symbol শু

হ and ঊ has the symbol হু

র and ঊ has the symbol রু

স and ঋ has the symbol সৃ

হ and ঋ has the symbol হৃ

In addition to these symbols there are a number of “combined consonants” which will be noticed as they are introduced. It is now possible, however, to start using some Bengali words. If you have a Bengali to help you it is good to listen to the words first, then repeat them.

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE MEANING UNTIL YOU CAN IMITATE THE SOUNDS CORRECTLY.

If you have someone to read to you do not even look at the book at first, just listen and repeat the words, then when you can do that reasonably well, read them out.

NOTE ON METHOD

The first sixteen Lessons contain Sentence-drills, followed by notes on points of grammar and construction, and they are the most important part of the book. The later Lessons have teaching about formal grammar, and also exercises, and people who have been accustomed to doing a language as a "school subject" may be tempted to go quickly through the first part, and come to the "solid teaching" of the later lessons. THIS IS WRONG. The natural way to learn a language is first to hear it, then to speak it, and only after that to study the formal grammar. Grammar should be first assimilated through being used. If you want to learn about a motor car engine it is much easier to see it working, and then to look at the individual parts, rather than taking each part separately and then trying to fit them together.

All the Sentence-drills are arranged as conversations which are likely to be heard, and it is good if you can read them as such. They should first of all be read by your tutor, if you have one, and emphasis should be put on the sounds until they are correctly pronounced, rather than on the meaning. The notes on grammar and construction are for explanation, and not for learning as they stand. In each lesson only certain points are explained. DO NOT TRY TO GET EXPLANATIONS FOR EVERYTHING AT ONCE. Other points will be explained later, for the present they should be taken on trust. It is much better to learn off the sentences as they stand, in order to become familiar with the usage of words together, rather than as individual words.

LESSON 1

SENTENCE-DRILL 1

1. Teacher : নমস্কার, আপনি কেমন আছেন ?
Good-morning, how are you ?
2. Student : ভাল আছি । আপনি কোথায় থাকেন ?
I am well. Where do you live ?
3. Teacher : আমি কলকাতায় থাকি ।
I live in Calcutta.
4. Student : আপনি কি কাজ করেন ?
What work do you do ?
5. Teacher : আমি আপিসের কাজ করি, আমি কেরানী, আমি চিঠি লিখি ।
I do office work, I am a clerk, I write letters.
6. Student : আপনি কি বাংলায় লিখেন, না ইংরেজিতে ?
Do you write in Bengali or in English ?
7. Teacher : আমি বাংলায় লিখি, ইংরেজিতে লিখি না ।
I write in Bengali, not in English.
8. Student : আমি ইংরেজি জানি, বাংলা জানি না ।
I know English, but not Bengali.
9. Teacher : আচ্ছা, এখন বাংলা লেখা দেখি ।
Very well, now let us see some Bengali writing.
10. Student : এ কাগজে বাংলা লিখি ।
Let me write Bengali on this paper.

Notes :

(a) Sentences 1 and 9 have combined letters. স্ক is a combination of স and ক, চ্ছ is a combination of চ and ছ ।

(b) নমস্কার is a greeting used at any time of day, so it may

mean “ Good-morning ”, “ Good-afternoon ”, “ Good-evening ” or “ Good-night ”. It is used both at meeting and at parting.

(c) “ I ” is আমি and “ you ” is আপনি, but there are three sentences (2, 9, 10) where neither of these appear, yet it is possible to tell who is the subject because the verb has a different ending for “ I ” (first person) and for “ you ” (second person). This is called INFLECTION, or “ bending ” at the end of a word. English has a few inflections left (e.g. I say, he says) but has mostly discarded them, so is compelled to use the personal pronoun every time.

The first person ending in the present tense is -ই (আছি, থাকি, করি, লিখি, জানি, দেখি).

The second person ending in the present tense is -এন (আছেন, থাকেন, করেন, লিখেন).

These endings are used both for singular and plural.

(d) Nouns and pronouns are also inflected, and to express “ in ” or “ on ” the noun has either -য় or -এ or -তে added, e.g. বাংলায়, কলকাতায়, ইংরেজিতে, কাগজে ।

This is called the LOCATIVE CASE.

(e) The verb is made negative by adding না e.g. লিখি না, জানি না ।

Note carefully that in statements না NEVER CARRIES ANY STRESS.

(f) Bengali has mostly adopted European punctuation except for the full-stop. The traditional mark is retained for the end of a sentence, । called দাঁড়ি ।

LESSON 2

SENTENCE-DRILL 2

1. Student: নমস্কার, আপনার পরিবার আছে কি ?
Good day, have you a family ?
2. Teacher: হ্যাঁ, আমার পরিবার আছে ।
Yes, I have.
3. Student: আপনার ক'টি ছেলেমেয়ে ?
How many children have you ?
4. Teacher: আমার তিন ছেলে আর দুই মেয়ে আছে ।
I have three boys and two girls.
5. Student: ছেলে কি ইন্সকুলে পড়ে ?
Do the boys go to school ? (lit. : Do the boys read in school ?)
6. Teacher: হ্যাঁ, একজন ইন্সকুলে পড়ে আর দুজন বাড়িতে থাকে ।
Yes, one goes to school and two stay at home.
7. Student: আপনার নিজের বাড়ি কলকাতায় আছে কি ?
Have you your own house in Calcutta ?
8. Teacher: না, নিজের বাড়ি কলকাতায় নেই, আমি ভাড়া দিই ।
No, not my own house, I pay rent.
9. Student: ছেলেপিলে বাড়িতে কি করে ?
What do the children do at home ?
10. Teacher: তারা খেলা করে আর মাঝে মাঝে দুষ্টমি করে ।
They play, and sometimes are naughty.

Notes :

(a) Sentence 6 has the combined letter হ্য which is হ + য. When য is combined with another consonant it is written ঙ and is called যফলা. In this particular word ঙ (যফলা)

reinforced by ̣ (চক্রবিন্দু) gives the following vowel the sound of very short “a” in standard English. Sentence 10 has a new combined letter, ষ্ট which is ষ and ট sometimes this is printed ষ্ট ।

(b) The third person ending of the Present Tense is -এ (আছে, পড়ে, থাকে, করে).

(c) To express ownership the noun or pronoun has a different ending, as in English we change “me” to “my”, and “you” to “your”. The Bengali endings are in -র (আমার, আপনার). There is no word in Bengali for “I have”, but instead the phrase “mine is” or “mine are”, is used.

(d) The third person plural pronoun, “they”, is তারা ।

(e) কি is used in two ways; in Sentences 1, 5 and 7 it is merely a sign of a question and is not translated into English; in Sentence 9 it is a pronoun meaning “what?” and in this sentence it has more emphasis.

(f) The negative of আছে (is) is নেই (is not).

(g) In Sentence 3 ক'টি is written with an apostrophe to show that it is short for কয়টি ।

LESSON 3

SENTENCE-DRILL 3

1. Teacher: নমস্কার, আপনি কি করছেন?
Good day, what are you doing?
2. Student: আমি এ বই পড়ছি। আপনি কি করছেন?
I am reading this book. What are you doing?
3. Teacher: আমি আপনাকে পড়াচ্ছি। আপনার কি ভাল লাগছে?
I am teaching you. Do you like it?
4. Student: হ্যাঁ, ভাল লাগছে।
Yes, I do.
5. Teacher: এখন আমি দুই একটা কথা লিখছি।
Now I am writing one or two words. (lit.: “two-one words.”)
6. Student: আপনি কি কথা লিখছেন?
What words are you writing?
7. Teacher: আমি বাংলা কথা লিখছি।
I am writing Bengali words.
8. Student: আচ্ছা, আমিও বাংলা কথা লিখছি।
Very well, I also am writing Bengali words.
9. Teacher: আমরা দুজনে লিখছি। আমরা দুজনে কাজ করছি।
We are both writing; we are both working.
10. Student: এখন কাজ শেষ করছি। আমি বাড়ি যাচ্ছি।
Now we are finishing the work. I am going home.

Notes :

(a) There is another present tense which shows that the action is continuing, and this has endings -ছি, -ছেন, -ছে for

the first person, second person and third person respectively. These are actually parts of the verb “to be”, just as in English we make the same tense by saying “I am going”, etc. The consonant before the ending has no inherent vowel, and here it is printed with *hasanta* but often this is omitted.

(b) Previously the verbs used have had stems ending in a consonant, but in Sentences 3 and 10 there are two verbs whose stems end in vowels (পড়াচ্ছি and যাচ্ছি). In this case the ending has a doubled letter ছ. There are not many verbs of this kind and most of them are “Causative Verbs”, i.e. they express the idea of getting someone to do something, e.g. পড়াছি means “I am reading”, whilst পড়াচ্ছি means “I am causing you to read”, i.e. I am teaching you.

(c) When a person is the object of a verb it has the ending -কে as in Sentence 3 (আপনাকে) but a thing has no extra ending, as in Sentences 2 and 5 (বই and কথা).

(d) The word লাগছে is very useful (see Appendix C). Its literal meaning is “touch” or “strike” but it is used in many idiomatic ways, usually as an impersonal verb, as in Sentence 3, which literally means “Does it strike you as good?” Notice that in answering a question in English we often use the auxiliary verb “I do, I am, I have” but in Bengali there is no auxiliary verb and so the verb used by the speaker must be repeated.

(e) The addition of the vowel ও to a word means “also”, as in Sentence 8 (আমিও).

LESSON 4

SENTENCE-DRILL 4

1. Student: নমস্কার, আসুন, বসুন।
Good day, come in. Sit down, please.
2. Teacher: আচ্ছা বসছি, আপনি কি করছেন, বলুন।
Very well, I am sitting down. What are you doing, tell me?
3. Student: আমি কিছুই করছি না। আপনি আমাকে কাজ দিন।
I am doing nothing, please give me some work.
4. Teacher: দিচ্ছি। এ সব কথা পড়ুন। কি কি আছে?
I am giving you some. Read all these words. What are they?
5. Student: অনেক কথা আছে। আমাকে বলুন। এ সব কথার মানে কি?
There are a lot of words. Please tell me; what are the meanings of all these words?
6. Teacher: একটু পরে বলছি, আগে পড়ুন, তার পরে লিখুন।
I shall tell you a little later; first read them, and after that write them.
7. Student: আচ্ছা পড়াছি আর লিখছি। এখন বলুন ঠিক আছে কি না।
Very well, I am reading them and writing them. Now please tell me whether they are right or not.
8. Teacher: প্রায় সব ঠিক। শুধু দুই একটা ভুল।
Nearly all are right, there are only one or two mistakes.
9. Student: সে দুই একটা আবার লিখছি।
I am writing those one or two again.

10. Teacher: এখন ঠিক আছে । আমাদের কাজ এখন শেষ । আমি আসি ।

Now they are right. Now our work is finished. Good-bye.

11. Student: আসুন, নমস্কার ।
Good-bye.

Notes :

(a) The ending of the Imperative of consonant stems, by which a command is expressed, is -উন. In Indian languages there are no separate words for “Please” and “thank you”, though sometimes phrases are invented on the model of English. But the use of the “Honorific” endings expresses a polite request, so in Sentences 1, 3 and 7 the translation has “please”, which is necessary in English to make it as polite as the Bengali.

(b) The verb “to give” has a vowel stem in -ই or -এ therefore the Imperative is দিন (Sentence 3) and the Present Continuous is দিচ্ছি (Sentence 4).

(c) The Indirect Object has the same ending as the Direct Object, though Bengali grammar describes them as two separate endings to two separate cases. (আমাকে in Sentences 3 and 5.)

(d) The Possessive Case in the plural ends in -দের (আমাদের).

(e) The Bengali idiom used when parting means literally “I am coming”, and the reply is “Please come”. It is similar to the French “au revoir” or the German “Auf wiedersehen” in intention.

(f) প্ৰ (Sentence 8) is a combination of প + র. The sign ্ is called রফলা and is always used when র is the second consonant in a combined letter.

LESSON 5

SENTENCE-DRILL 5

1. Teacher: নমস্কার, আস্তে পারি ?
Good-day, may I come in ?
2. Student: আসুন, আমার কাছে বসুন ।
Please come in, sit beside me.
3. Teacher: এখন বাংলা লিখতে পারেন ? আমায় দেখান ।
Can you now write Bengali ? Please show me.
4. Student: আচ্ছা, লিখছি । আমি কি কি লিখব বলুন ।
Very well, I will write it. Please tell me what to write.
5. Teacher: এ সব জিনিষের নাম লিখুন, — টেবিল, কলম, কাগজ, বই, হাত, মুখ, পা, মাথা, চুল, কান, কাপড় ।
Write the names of all these things: table, pen, paper, book, hand, face, leg, head, hair, ear, cloth.
6. Student: আচ্ছা, লিখছি । টেবিলের উপর কাগজ ও বই আছে, আমার হাতে কলম আছে, আমার মাথায় চুল আছে ।
Very well, I am writing. The paper and book are on the table, the pen is in my hand, the hair is on my head.
7. Teacher: এখন কলম দিন, আমি নেব ।
Now please give me the pen; I shall take it.
8. Student: দেব, আমি আর লিখব না ।
I shall give it. I shall not write any more.
9. Teacher: আমিই লিখব, আপনি পড়ুন ।
I shall write; you read.

10. Student: এখন আমি আর পড়ব না, কাল পড়ব।
I shall not read any more now; I shall read tomorrow.

Notes :

(a) The Infinitive ends in তে (আসতে, লিখতে) and is used just as in English.

In this lesson *hasanta* has been added to indicate that there is no inherent vowel, but it is often omitted (as the next lesson shows).

(b) The Imperative of the Causative verb ends in আন, (দেখান).

(c) In expressing the plural of things (not persons), one method is to repeat the singular word, e.g. in Sentence 4 কি কি means "what things". Another way is to use a collective word, e.g. in Sentence 5 সব (all) is collective. Bengali usually uses only one sign of the plural for a particular set of connected words so that in Sentence 5, since সব indicates the plural জিনিস and নাম are unchanged, though in English we say "things", and "names".

(d) The Possessive Case of a word ending in a consonant has এর (জিনিসের and টেবিলের).

(e) Bengali has no prepositions, but has post-positions, i.e. they follow the noun instead of coming before it as in English. The noun is usually put in the Possessive Case (টেবিলের উপর on the table).

(f) The Future Tense in the first person ends in ব with the inherent vowel pronounced (নেব, লিখব, দেব, পড়ব).

(g) In Sentence 3 আমায় is an alternative form for the Indirect Object (আমাকে).

LESSON 6

SENTENCE-DRILL 6

1. Teacher: নমস্কার, এখন আপনাকে পড়াব ?
Good day, shall I teach you now ?
2. Student: আসুন, আমি এখনই পড়তে বসছি।
Come in, I am just now sitting down to read.
3. Teacher: এখন কি লিখবেন, বলুন ?
What will you write now, tell me ?
4. Student: আপনি যা বলবেন, তাই লিখব।
I shall write exactly what you tell me.
5. Teacher: আচ্ছা আমি বই থেকে কিছু পড়ব, আপনি লিখুন।
Very well, I shall read something from the book, you write it.
6. Student: দয়া করে আস্তে আস্তে পড়বেন, আমি তাড়াতাড়ি লিখতে পারি না।
Please read slowly, I cannot write quickly.
7. Teacher: আপনাকে শিখতে হবে, তাহলে আপনি তাড়াতাড়ি লিখতে পারবেন।
You must learn, then you will be able to write quickly.
8. Student: অনেক দিন লাগবে, আপনার ভাষা খুব কঠিন।
It will take a long time. Your language is very difficult.
9. Teacher: না, না, অনেক দিন লাগবে না, আপনি এখনই খুব ভাল করে জানেন।
No, no, it will not take long, you already know it quite well.

10. Student: অল্প কিছু জানি তো, আরও বেশী শিখতে হবে।
I know a little, at any rate; I must learn a lot more.

Notes :

(a) The Second Person Future ends in বেন (লিখবেন, বলবেন, পড়বেন). This form can also be used as a more polite command or request (Sentence 6 পড়বেন).

(b) The addition of ই at the end of a word gives emphasis (এখনই just now; তাই exactly that). In 9 এখনই = already.

(c) যা is the Relative Pronoun “ what ”. There are two things to notice about Relative words in Bengali: first, the Relative word always has its complementary Demonstrative.

যা “ what ” is followed by তা “ that ”.

যখন “ when ” is followed by তখন “ then ” and so on.

Secondly, the Relative Clause is usually put first, unlike English, where the main clause is usually put first, and the Relative Clause follows.

(d) আস্তে is an adverb meaning “ slowly ”. Note that when স is combined with ত it is pronounced as “ s ” and not as “ sh ”.

(e) “ Must ” is expressed by using the Impersonal Verb হবে (lit. “ it shall be ”) with the Infinitive, and the Objective Case of the Personal Pronoun (Sentences 7 and 10). Sometimes the Possessive Case is also used.

(f) Note another useful idiom with লাগবে (Sentences 8 and 9).

(g) দয়া করে (Sentence 6) and ভাল করে (Sentence 9) are participial phrases used as adverbs, about which more is said in the next lesson.

LESSON 7

SENTENCE-DRILL 7

1. Teacher: নমস্কার, অনেক দেরি করে এসেছি।
Good-day. I have come very late.
2. Student: নমস্কার, আপনাকে দেখে আমি খুব খুশী, আপনি দেরিতে এসেছেন কেন?
Good-day; I am very glad to see you; why have you come late?
3. Teacher: আমার ছেলের অসুখ হয়েছে, তার পেটে খুব ব্যথা হয়েছে।
My son is ill; he has bad stomach-ache (lit.: there is a bad pain in his stomach).
4. Student: আপনি কি ডাক্তারকে ডেকেছেন? তিনি কি বলছেন?
Have you called the doctor? What does he say?
5. Teacher: হ্যাঁ ডেকেছি। তিনি বলছেন যে ছেলেটি বোধ হয় কাঁচা আম খেয়েছে।
Yes, I have called him. He says that perhaps the boy has eaten unripe mangoes.
6. Student: কাঁচা আম কি করে পেয়েছে?
How has he got unripe mangoes?
7. Teacher: আমি বাজার থেকে নিয়ে গিয়েছি।
I brought some from the market.
8. Student: আপনি ছেলের জন্য ওষুধ নিয়েছেন?
Have you got some medicine for the boy?
9. Teacher: নিয়েছি। সে জন্য আমি এখানে দেরি করে এসেছি।
I have; that is why I have come here late.

10. Student: এখন আমার কাজ হয়ে গিয়েছে। আশা করি যে আপনার ছেলে শীঘ্রই ভাল হবে।
Now my work is finished. I hope that your son will soon be well.

Notes :

(a) The Perfect Participle ends in এ (করে, দেখে, নিয়ে, কিনে, হয়ে).

(b) The endings of the Perfect Tense are এছি, এছেন, এছে, added to the Perfect Participle (এসেছি, এসেছেন, হয়েছে, ডেকেছেন, ডেকেছি, বলেছেন, খেয়েছে, পেয়েছে, গিয়েছে, নিয়েছেন, নিয়েছি, এসেছি, গিয়েছে).

(c) There are two new combined letters. ব্য is ব + য.
ভ is a combination of ক and ত.

(d) The Participle is used to make an adverbial phrase (দেরি করে—late; কি করে—how).

(e) Bengali prefers to put a Participle with a Finite Verb instead of two Finite Verbs joined by “and”, e.g. নিয়ে গিয়েছি in Sentence 7. The phrase হয়ে গিয়েছে is used idiomatically to mean “is finished”; literally it means “having become, it has gone”.

(f) জন্য “for, because of”, is a post-position normally with the Possessive Case (Sentence 8) but with এ and সে the Possessive Case is not used (Sentence 9).

(g) তিনি (Sentences 4 and 5) is a third person pronoun used for referring to persons respectfully, and is called “Honorific”. The same verb endings are used with it as with আপনি (see Lesson 17).

(h) বোধ হয় (Sentence 5) is an idiomatic phrase meaning “perhaps”.

LESSON 8

SENTENCE-DRILL 8

1. Student: নমস্কার, আপনার ছেলে আজ কেমন আছে?
Good-day; how is your son today?
2. Teacher: আজ একটু ভাল আছে, কিন্তু এখনও জ্বর আছে।
Today he is a little better, but he still has fever.
3. Student: ওষুধ খেয়েছে, না কি?
Has he taken the medicine or not?
4. Teacher: খায় নি; আমরা খাওয়াতে চেষ্টা করেছি, কিন্তু পারি নি।
He has not; we tried to get him to take it but were not able.
5. Student: আপনারা পারেন নি কেন? আমার মনে হয় যে ছেলে খুব দুষ্ট।
Why were you not able? I think the boy is very naughty.
6. Teacher: দুষ্ট নয়, কিন্তু ওষুধ যখন খায়, তখন আরও ব্যথা হয়।
He is not naughty, but when he takes the medicine the pain is worse.
7. Student: ডাক্তারকে আবার ডেকেছেন? তিনি কি করেছেন?
Have you called the doctor again? What has he done?
8. Teacher: তাঁর বাড়িতে কেউ নেই; কাউকে পাই নি।
There was no one at his house; I did not find anyone.
9. Student: দুঃখের কথা, আপনি এখানে থাকবেন না; বাড়ি যান না।
That is unfortunate; please do not stay here, please go home.

10. Teacher: আচ্ছা যাচ্ছি। কাল আসব, না ?
Very well, I am going. I shall come tomorrow,
shall I not ?

Notes :

(a) The symbol ও is a little confusing. As an initial letter it is a vowel, and has no line over the top. ত্ত is a combined letter which is ত + ত্ত.

স্ত is a combination of ন + ত + উ so কিন্তু is “ kintu ” (Sentence 2). জ্ব is a combination of জ + ব.

(b) The tenses previously learnt form their negatives by adding না (করি না, করছি না, করব না) but the Perfect Tense NEVER adds না. Instead, the negative is formed by using the Present Tense with নি (খেয়েছে — খায় নি ; পেয়েছি — পারি নি ; পেয়েছেন — পারেন নি ; পেয়েছি — পাই নি).

(c) The Imperative is not negated by adding না. On the contrary, to add না to the Imperative makes it more polite, a request rather than a command (Sentence 9 যান না). To express a negative command it is necessary to use the Future (থাকবেন না).

(d) না may also be used as a Conjunction (“ or ”), and at the end of a question, with a rising tone of voice, as a request for confirmation, like “ is it not so ? ” in English (Sentence 10).

(e) “ Is not ” when it joins a subject and predicate (the technical term is “ copula ”) is expressed by নয় (Sentence 6), when it merely expresses the non-existence of the subject it is নেই (Sentence 8).

(f) কেউ (Someone, any one) has Objective Case কাউকে (Sentence 8).

(g) তাঁর is the Possessive Case of তিনি.

LESSON 9

SENTENCE-DRILL 9

- Teacher: নমস্কার, কালকে আমি অন্যায় করেছিলাম, আমার কাজ ভাল ভাবে করি নি।
Good-day. Yesterday I did wrong, I did not do my work well.
- Student: অন্যায় কিছু করেন নি, আপনি খুব ব্যস্ত ছিলেন।
You did not do anything wrong, you were very upset.
- Teacher: কিন্তু নিজের বিষয় চিন্তা করা উচিত নয়, কাজ করা উচিত।
But one ought not to worry about one's own affairs, one ought to work.
- Student: আপনার ছেলের অবস্থা এখন কেমন? ভাল হয়েছে?
How is your son now? (lit.: How is your son's condition now?) Is he well?
- Teacher: এখন ভাল। কাল বিকালে জ্বর ছেড়ে গিয়েছে।
Now he is well; yesterday afternoon the fever subsided.
- Student: রাতে ঘুমিয়েছিল, না জেগে ছিল?
Did he sleep at night, or was he awake?
- Teacher: দশ ঘন্টা ঘুমিয়েছিল, সকাল সাতটা পর্যন্ত।
He slept for ten hours, until seven this morning.
- Student: ভাল। এখন সে জানে নিশ্চয় যে কাঁচা আম খাওয়া ভাল নয়।
Good. Now he certainly knows that it is not good to eat unripe mangoes.

9. Teacher: জানে নিশ্চয়। এর পরে শুধু পাকা আম খাবে।
He knows indeed. In future (lit: after this)
he will eat only ripe mangoes.
10. Student: পাকা আম খুব ভাল। আমিও যত পাই, তত খাই।
Ripe mangoes are good. I also eat as many
as I can get.

Notes :

(a) Two more words with যফলা (see Lesson 2, note (a)) অন্যায় in which the second vowel is pronounced as in Lesson 2, Sentence 6, and ব্যস্ত where the vowel sound in ব্য is pronounced very like the short English “e”, but it is useful to listen carefully to a Bengali pronouncing it.

(b) More combined letters, some of which are obvious:—
স্ত = ন + ত; ন্ট = ণ + ট; স্ত্র = স + ত্র; ত্র = ত + র; শ্চ =
শ + চ। The sign ˘ indicates র pronounced before the
consonant beneath it, and it is called রেফ। In classical
Bengali a consonant with রেফ is usually doubled so some-
times we find পর্যন্ত with যফলা as the second য. In modern
Bengali, however, it is becoming more common not to
double the consonant, so the word is written পর্যন্ত।

(c) This drill has examples of the tense which is grammati-
cally named “ Past Perfect ” or “ Pluperfect ”, and which is
represented in English by “ I had done ”. Idiomatically,
however, in Bengali and the other Sanskrit-based languages
of India, it has become no more than a Simple Past Tense in
most cases. Because of its grammatical relationship to the
Past Perfect you will find many Indians whose English is not
very strong saying, “ I had gone ” when they mean “ I
went ”.

(d) The endings of the Past Perfect Tense are ছিলাম, ছিলেন,
ছিল added to the Perfect Participle (করেছিলাম, গিয়েছিল,

পেয়েছিল). The negative is the same as the negative of the
Perfect (করি নি, করেন নি etc.).

(e) The Past Tense of the verb “ to be ” is ছিলাম, ছিলেন,
ছিল so the Past Perfect is actually formed from the Perfect
Participle with the Past Tense of the verb “ to be ”.

(f) কাল literally means “ time ”, and it is used idio-
matically to mean either “ yesterday ” or “ tomorrow ”
depending on the context. Sometimes কালকে is used but
the meaning is the same.

(g) ভাবে is an alternative to করে in an adverbial phrase.
ভাব means “ manner ” so that ভাল ভাবে means “ in a good
manner ”.

(h) করা (Sentence 3) and খাওয়া (Sentence 8) are verbal
nouns, corresponding to the English verbal nouns, “ doing ”
and “ eating ”. It is important to distinguish between the
two uses in English of words in “ -ing ”, which may be
verbal nouns (e.g. Seeing is believing) or verbal adjectives
(participles), (e.g. Seeing this, he went away). Sentence 3
may be translated “ Worrying is not right ” and Sentence 8,
“ Eating is not good ”, but it is more common in English to
use the redundant “ it ” with the Infinitive (to worry, to eat).

The verbal noun is used in Bengali as the key-sign of the
verb, whereas in English we use the Infinitive. In Bengali
we refer to “ the verb করা, the verb খাওয়া ”, whereas in
English we refer to “ the verb ‘ to do ’, ‘ to eat ’ ”.

(i) Note another pair of correlatives: যত as much as— তত
so much.

LESSON 10

SENTENCE-DRILL 10

1. Student: নমস্কার। আপনি কি দার্জিলিংয়ে কখনও গিয়েছেন?
Good-day. Have you ever been to Darjeeling?
2. Teacher: হ্যাঁ, গত বৎসর আমি গিয়েছিলাম। সেখানে তিন মাস
ছিলাম।
Yes, I went last year. I was there for three
months.
3. Student: আপনি কেন গেলেন? কাজে গেলেন না ছুটিতে?
Why did you go? For work or for a holiday?
4. Teacher: কাজে গেলাম। আমি শিক্ষকের কাজ করলাম।
I went for work. I did the work of a teacher.
5. Student: আপনি কি করে গেলেন, ট্রেনে না প্লেনে?
How did you go? By train or plane?
6. Teacher: আমি ট্রেনে গেলাম; সেই দিকে একটি খুব ছোট ট্রেন
চলে।
I went by train. There is a very small train
goes that way.
7. Student: কলকাতা থেকে কতক্ষণ লাগল?
How long did it take from Calcutta?
8. Teacher: চব্বিশ ঘন্টার একটু বেশী লাগল। সকাল দশটায় রওনা
হলাম, তার পরদিন দুপুরে পৌঁছলাম।
It took a little more than 24 hours. I set off at
10 in the morning, and arrived the next day
at mid-day.
9. Student: আপনি কি বড় বড় পাহাড় দেখলেন?
Did you see big mountains?

10. Teacher: হ্যাঁ কয়েকটা দেখলাম, কিন্তু সবচেয়ে বড় পাহাড় দেখি
নি।

Yes, I saw some, but I did not see the biggest.

Notes :

(a) The combined letter ক্ষ is a combination of ক and ষ and is pronounced like a doubled ক.

(b) The Simple Past Tense, which is used in narrative, ends in—লাম, লেন and ল. Its negative is like the Perfect negative (করি নি) but sometimes also না is added (করলাম না).

(c) করে (Sentence 5) or দিয়ে are used as signs of the Instrumental Case, but are written separate from the noun, not as endings.

(d) থেকে is the sign of the Ablative (Separation) Case, and this also is usually separate from the noun. It is now possible to give a list of the cases of the noun. The names used in English are derived from Latin and Greek grammar, but in Bengali they are given names, and the endings are also given numbers. It is not necessary to learn the Bengali names at this point, but the order should be noted.

For personal nouns and nouns referring to animals the following is the pattern:—

		Singular	Plural
Nominative	Subject		
	1st ending	ছেলে	ছেলেরা
Accusative	Object		
	2nd ending	ছেলেকে	ছেলেদের
Instrumental	Instrument		
	3rd ending	ছেলে দ্বারা	ছেলেদের দ্বারা
Dative	Indirect Object		
	4th ending	ছেলেকে	ছেলেদের

Ablative	Separation	
5th ending	ছেলের কাছ থেকে	ছেলেদের কাছ থেকে
Genitive	Possessive	
6th ending	ছেলের	ছেলেদের
Locative	Place	
7th ending	ছেলেতে	ছেলেদের মধ্যে
Vocative	Address	
8th ending	ছেলে	ছেলেরা

For inanimate objects there are modifications:—

(1) the Objective (2nd ending) is not usually used unless it is necessary to make the sense clear ;

(2) the Instrumental (3rd ending) is usually দিয়ে instead of দ্বারা ;

(3) the Ablative (5th ending) has হইতে or থেকে with no inflection of the noun, e.g. বাড়ি হইতে, or বাড়ি থেকে ;

(4) there is not usually a Vocative (8th ending).

(Note :—Bengali is a developing language and many grammarians would now repudiate this scheme entirely, or reduce it to four cases (Nominative, Object, Possessive, Locative) in the singular and two (Nominative, Possessive) in the plural, using post-positions to express the other shades of meaning.)

(e) Bengali has a number of particles which are attached to nouns in order to express definiteness. There is no article (the) in Bengali, and these particles in some ways take the place of the article, but they are not exactly parallel to the English “ the ”.

জন (Drill 2, Sentence 6) is used only when referring to persons. Since a number is always definite a particle is usually used with a number.

টি (Drill 10, Sentence 6) is also used with persons and with small things.

টা is used normally with things. It is always used with numbers which refer to time (দশটা Sentence 8). There are some others, but these are the most common. A full understanding of the usage will be acquired in time, but it is not possible to give rules for them.

LESSON 11

SENTENCE-DRILL 11

1. Teacher: নমস্কার। আপনি এ দেশে কত দিন আছেন?
Good-day. How long have you been in this country?
2. Student: এখন দুমাস হল।
I have now been here two months (lit.: Now two months have passed).
3. Teacher: এ দেশে আসবার আগে আপনি কোথায় থাকতেন?
Before coming to this country, where did you live?
4. Student: আমি বিলাতে থাকতাম, লণ্ডন শহরে।
I lived in England, in London.
5. Teacher: আপনি কি কাজ করতেন, না স্কুলে পড়তেন?
Were you working, or were you at school?
6. Student: চৌদ্দ বৎসর স্কুলে পড়লাম, তারপর কলেজে পড়লাম।
I went to school for fourteen years, then I went to college.
7. Teacher: আপনি ছুটির সময়ে কি করতেন? কোথায় যেতেন?
What did you do in the holidays? Where did you go?
8. Student: মাঝে মাঝে সমুদ্রের ধারে যেতাম, মাঝে মাঝে পাহাড়ে।
Sometimes I used to go to the seaside, sometimes to the hills.
9. Teacher: কোনটা ভাল লাগে? না দুটো একই রকম?
Which do you like, or (do you like) both the same?

10. Student: সমুদ্র ভাল, পাহাড়ও ভাল; আমার কাছে দুই সমান।
Sea and hills are both good; they are both alike to me.

Notes:

(a) Where English says, "How long *have you been* here?" Bengali says, "How long *are* you here". To express "how long" different phrases may be used, depending on the answer expected. In Drill 10, Sentence 7, when the answer was expected in hours the word used was কতক্ষণ. Here a longer period is in mind, so কত দিন is used. If an even longer period is in mind it might be কত বৎসর, though কত দিন might also be used for a period of years.

(b) The Past Frequentative Tense which expresses something happening as a habitual action in the Past, has endings in তাম, তেন and ত. Note that the verb থাকা cannot have the Simple Past Tense, but always has the Frequentative, because the meaning involves sustained action over the period.

(c) The verbal noun has a variant form which inserts ব for the Possessive Case with post-positions (Sentence 3) so that আসা with আগে becomes আসবার আগে। It is used with other words also, e.g. সময় (Lesson 14, Sentence 5) কথা (Lesson 17, Sentence 8) and frequently with জন্য "for the purpose of" (see Lesson 22).

(d) ও in Sentence 4 is গ + ড.

LESSON 12

SENTENCE-DRILL 12

1. Student: নমস্কার। আমার মনে হয় যে আমার লেখাপড়া খুব ধীরে ধীরে চলছে।
Good-day. I think my study is going very slowly.
2. Teacher: ধীরে ধীরে পড়লে খুব ভাল ভাবে পড়া হয়ে যাবে।
If you study slowly, the study will be well done.
3. Student: কিন্তু আমি এখনও বেশী কথা বলতে পারি না তো।
But I can still not say many words, you know.
4. Teacher: অল্প করে বলতে বলতে, সে সব কথা ভাল করে শিখবেন।
As you go on saying a few words, you will learn all those words well.
5. Student: তা হতে পারে, কিন্তু আমি আরও অনেক কথা শিখতে চাই।
That may be so, but I want to learn a lot more words.
6. Teacher: রোজ দু-একটা নূতন কথা শিখলে, দেখতে না দেখতেই অনেক কথা শেখা হবে।
If you learn one or two words daily, before you realise it many words will be learned.
7. Student: সে কথা ঠিক। আপনি সাহায্য করলে, আমি খুব চেষ্টা করব।
That is so. If you help me, I shall try very hard.

8. Teacher: আপনি চেষ্টা করলে পারবেন। এভাবে ভাল কাজ করা যায়।
If you try you will be able to do it. In this way good work may be done.
9. Student: চেষ্টা না করলে, কিছুই করা যায় না, জানি।
If one does not try, nothing at all can be done, I know.
10. Teacher: ঠিক কথা। আর চেষ্টা করতে করতে আপনি সব পারবেন।
True, and by continual trying you will be able to do everything.

Notes :

(a) Besides the Perfect Participle there are two other Participles in Bengali, the Present Participle in তে and the Conditional Participle in লে।

(b) The Present Participle must be carefully distinguished from the Infinitive, which has the same form. বলতে (Sentence 3) হতে (Sentence 5) and শিখতে (Sentence 5) are Infinitives, but বলতে বলতে (Sentence 4) দেখতে না দেখতে (Sentence 6) and করতে করতে (Sentence 10) are all Present Participles. Note that the Negative is put before the Participle, not after it.

(c) The Conditional Participle in লে may or may not have the same subject as the main verb. If the two subjects are different the Participle is said to be "Absolute", i.e. "loosened from" the rest of the sentence. This Participle is found in Sentence 2 (পড়লে), 6 (শিখলে), 7 (করলে) and 9 (করলে). With this also the negative is put before the Participle (Sentence 9).

(d) The Passive is formed by the Verbal Noun with the appropriate part of হওয়া or যাওয়া (Sentences 2, 6, 8, 9). The latter expresses possibility.

(e) তে is a useful particle which cannot be translated by any one word in English. It may express concession (Sentence 3), agreement or even surprise or incredulity, depending on the intonation it is given.

LESSON 13

SECOND PERSON COMMON

So far the Second Person pronouns and verbs have all been in the so-called "Honorific" forms, which are the most usual forms in modern Bengali for ordinary conversation, and therefore should be learned first. There are, however, two other forms, which are called "Common" and "Inferior". This last is nowadays almost confined to addressing children, or for very familiar use amongst bosom friends, and it is better not to try to use it until one is quite at home in the language.

The "Common" form is used for addressing persons who are much younger than oneself, or persons of a definitely inferior status (e.g. servants, coolies, etc.) or close relations or friends. It is not wise to use it in any case which may be doubtful unless one is given a definite lead by the person to be addressed. Many of the older books are out-of-date on this point, and should be used with care.

The following conversation is with changed personnel, to indicate this. Whilst the "Common" form is normally used by a Bengali teacher to his student, it is not likely that a tutor would use it to a foreigner of more or less equal status to himself. A foreign teacher would not cause offence in using it to his own pupils since they would be accustomed to it from their Bengali teachers.

SENTENCE-DRILL 13

1. Master: শোনো, বাজারে যেতে হবে। আমি কয়েকটা জিনিস চাই।
Listen, you must go to the market; I want several things.

2. Servant : আজ্ঞে হাঁ, আপনি কি কি চান ?
Yes sir, what do you want ?
3. Master : আজ ডিমের দাম কত, জান ?
What is the price of eggs today, do you know ?
4. Servant : আজ আড়াই টাকা কুড়ি হবে ।
Today they will be 2½ rupees a score.
5. Master : আচ্ছা, দশটা নিয়ে এস । কাল তুমি কলা পেয়েছিলে কি ?
Very well, bring ten. Did you get some plantains yesterday ?
6. Servant : পেয়েছিলাম । এখনও কিছু আছে, কিন্তু লেবু নেই ।
Yes, I did. There are still some, but there are no limes.
7. Master : আচ্ছা দু-জোড়া নিয়ে এস । তোমার হাতে কি পয়সা আছে ?
Very well, bring two pairs. Have you got money ?
8. Servant : পঁচিশ পয়সা আছে, আরও লাগবে ।
I have 25 P. I shall need more (lit.: More will be needed).
9. Master : আচ্ছা দিচ্ছি, তাড়াতাড়ি যাবে, দেরি করবে না ।
Very well, I shall give it. Go quickly and do not delay.
10. Servant : আমি এখনই যাচ্ছি, আধ ঘন্টার মধ্যে আসব ।
I am just off, I shall be back in half-an-hour.

Notes :

(a) The Second Person Common in the Present and Imperative ends in the inherent vowel (অ) which is sometimes modified in the Imperative to ও ।

Present (Sentence 3) জান ।

Imperative (Sentences 1 and 5) শোনো, এস ।

(b) The Second Person Common in the Future and Past Perfect ends in এ ।

Future (Sentence 9) যাবে, করবে ।

Past Perfect (Sentence 5) পেয়েছিলে ।

(c) The Pronoun is তুমি (Sentence 5) and its Possessive Case is তোমার (Sentence 7) and the direct or indirect object তোমাকে (Sentence 9).

(d) Bengali has a special word for “ 2½ ” (Sentence 4).

LESSON 14

SENTENCE-DRILL 14

1. Servant : আপনি যা চেয়েছেন, সে সব এনে দিয়েছি, স্যার।
I have brought all you wanted, sir.
2. Master : বেশ, মোট কত খরচ হয়েছে ?
Good, what was the total expense ?
3. Servant : এক টাকা বার আনা। ডিম এক টাকা চার আনা আর
লেবু আট আনা।
One rupee twelve annas. Eggs one rupee
four annas, and limes eight annas.
4. Master : আচ্ছা। বাকি পয়সা তোমার কাছে রাখ, কাল আরও
লাগবে।
Very well, keep the remaining money with
you; tomorrow we shall want more.
5. Servant : যাবার সময় কি হল, জানেন ?
Do you know what happened as I was
going ?
6. Master : তুমি যদি না বল, তবে কেমন করে জানতে পারব ?
If you don't tell me, how can I know ?
7. Servant : আমি বড় রাস্তা দিয়ে যাচ্ছিলাম আর ঠিক সেই সময়ে
এক দুর্ঘটনা হলো।
I was going along the main road and just
then there was an accident.
8. Master : কি রকম দুর্ঘটনা ? কোন গাড়ি কি কাউকে ধাক্কা দিল ?
What kind of accident ? Did a car hit
someone ?

9. Servant : একটা গাড়ি একদিকে যাচ্ছিল আর একজন ভদ্রলোক
আর একদিকে হেঁটে যাচ্ছিলেন। সেই ভদ্রলোক
উচোট খেয়ে গাড়ির সামনে পড়ে গেলেন।
A car was going one way and a gentleman
was going the other way. That gentleman
stumbled and fell in front of the car.
10. Master : হায়, হায় ! সেই রাস্তার অবস্থা খুবই খারাপ কিন্তু কেউ
কিছুই করে না।
Dear, dear. That road is in very bad
condition but nobody does anything.

Notes :

(a) The Past Continuous Tense has endings in ছিলাম, ছিলে, ছিলেন, ছিল। It differs from the Past Frequentative in expressing something which continued for a limited time, and was not habitual.

(b) The official units of weight, measurement and currency are now metric (100 paise per rupee) but the old system of 16 annas per rupee and 4 pice per anna is still quite common and should be noted (Sentence 3) 12 annas is 75 P, 8 annas is 50 P and 4 annas is 25 P.

(c) Conditional sentences may be expressed by যদি (if) followed by তবে or তাহলে (then), or by a Conditional Participle. [Lesson 12 (c)] Note that in any Conditional clause the negative comes *before* the verb (Sentence 6).

LESSON 15

FUTURE IMPERATIVE TENSE

As already stated in Lesson 8, when না is added to the Imperative it does not express a prohibition, but a rather more polite request. This is also true of the Common form of the Imperative, already learnt, but there is a second form of the Common Imperative which is called by grammarians the Future Imperative. Actually all Imperatives are Future, because it is not possible to give a command to do something in the Past, but the form already mentioned implies a command to do something immediately, whilst the so-called Future Imperative implies a command to do something later, e.g. tomorrow.

The tricky point about this is that না added to the Present Imperative Common makes it more emphatic, whereas না added to the Future Imperative Common makes it a prohibition. Even more confusing for a foreigner is that in many verbs in colloquial Bengali there is only a very slight difference of pronunciation of one vowel sound between the two Imperatives. Usually, however, the context or the intonation will indicate which is intended. Fortunately, there is a way out, since it is possible to use the Future Tense either for command or prohibition, and it is much safer to stick to this until you are thoroughly at home in Bengali.

The following sentences are given for illustration, and should be read by a Bengali in order to get the proper intonations.

SENTENCE-DRILL 15

1. Father: এস, আমার একটি কথা আছে। এখানে বস।
Come here, I want to say something, sit down.

2. Son: আসছি, বাবা। তুমি কি চাও, বল।
I am coming, Father; what do you want, tell me.
3. Father: তোমার হাতে কি কি আছে? টেবিলের উপরে রাখ।
What have you got in your hand? Put them on the table.
4. Son: তোমার জন্য ফল এনেছি। নাও।
I have brought some fruit for you. Take it.
5. Father: আমাকে একটা দাও, বাকিগুলো মাকে দিও।
Give me one, give the rest to your Mother.
6. Son: নাও না, ওখানে রেখ না, এখনই খাও না।
Take it; don't put it down there, eat it now.
7. Father: পরে খাব। এখন বল, তুমি কালকে একটা চিঠি আমার জন্য নিয়ে যাবে?
I shall eat it later. Now tell me, will you take this letter for me tomorrow?
8. Son: নিশ্চয় নিয়ে যাব। কিন্তু এখন দিও না, কালকে দিও। তাহলে ভুলব না।
Certainly I shall take it. But don't give it me now, give it tomorrow, then I shall not forget.
9. Father: আচ্ছা। কালকে সুনীল বাবুর বাড়ীতে যেও, আমার চিঠি নিয়ে।
Very well. Go to Sunil Babu's house tomorrow with my letter.
10. Son: যাব। কাল সকালে আমাকে চিঠি দেবে, ভুলে যাবে না।
I shall go. Give me the letter tomorrow morning. Don't forget.

Notes :

- (a) The Present Imperative Common is in Sentences 1 (এস, বস), 2 (বল), 3 (রাখ), 4 (নাও), 5 (দাও) and 7 (বল).

(b) The Present Imperative Common with না to express polite request is in Sentence 6 (নাও না, খাও না).

(c) The Future Imperative Common is in Sentences 5 (দিও) and 9 (যেও).

(d) The Future Imperative common with না to express prohibition is in Sentences 6 (রেখ না) and 8 (দিও না).

(e) The Future Simple Tense is used in Sentence 10 to express request (দেবে) and with না to express prohibition (ভুলে যাবে না).

(f) The polite way of referring to a Bengali gentleman is to use his first name followed by the title “ Babu ” (Sentence 9). Surnames are not very varied in Bengali and usually are not sufficient for identification. In many places, particularly in cities, “ Mr. ” (মিঃ) has been adopted from English, and more recently “ শ্রী ” has been adopted all over India in imitation of “ Mr. ”, and this is used with the surname. In more sophisticated circles the use of “ Babu ” seems to be dying out. মহাশয় (a complimentary term, see App. B Rule a) is also used, and follows a surname.

LESSON 16 SECOND PERSON INFERIOR

In order to complete the pattern of the verb it is necessary to introduce the Second Person Inferior form of the tenses, but it is a safe rule never to use this form except to small children whom one knows well. It may have a tone of contempt, hence it is called “ Inferior ”, but it may also have a tone of very close friendship and familiarity. It is very difficult, however, for a foreigner to be sure of such subtle points, and it is better to avoid its use completely.

SENTENCE-DRILL 16

1. Mother: ওরে খোঁকা, কি করছিস্? চুপ করে বস্ না।
Hi, sonny, what are you doing? Sit down quietly.
2. Child: মা, আমায় কিছু খেতে দেবে?
Mother, please give me something to eat.
3. Mother: সেই দুটো কলা খেয়েছিলি, আর কি দেব?
You ate two plantains. What else shall I give you?
4. Child: একটা সন্দেশ দাও না, মা। আমার খুব খিদে পাচ্ছে।
Please give me a sandesh, Mother. I am very hungry.
5. Mother: সন্দেশ সব খেয়েছিস্, আমার আর নেই।
You have eaten all the sandesh; I have no more.
6. Child: কালকে কি কি তৈরী করলে, মা?
What did you make yesterday, Mother?

7. Mother: তোর জন্য করি নি। তোর বাবার জন্য করেছিলাম।
I did not make it for you, I made it for your Father.
8. Child: বাবা সব খেতে পারবে না। আমায় একটি মাত্র দাও না।
Father will not eat it all. Please give me just one.
9. Mother: তোকে দেব না। তুই সমস্ত দিন খেয়ে থাকিস্।
I shall not give it to you. You go on eating all day.
10. Child: আচ্ছা আমি বাবাকে বলব। বাবা আমায় দেবে।
Very well, I shall ask Father. Father will give me some.

Notes :

(a) The endings of the Second Person Inferior in Present Simple, Present Continuous, Perfect and Frequentative are in ইস্ (করিস্, করছিস্, করেছিস্, করতিস্).

(b) The endings in Past Simple, Past Continuous and Past Perfect are in লি (করলি, করছিলি, করেছিলি).

(c) The ending of the Future is in বি (করবি).

(d) The Imperative has just the stem (কর, বস, দে).

(e) The Inferior Pronoun is তুই (Subject), তোকে (Object), তোর (Possessive). The Plural, which is not illustrated is তোরা, তোদের।

(f) Note the phrase " I am hungry " আমার খিদে পাচ্ছে।

LESSON 17

THIRD PERSON HONORIFIC

Just as there are Common and Honorific forms for the Second Person Pronoun, with corresponding different verb-endings, so there are Common and Honorific forms for the Third Person. In the case of the Second Person, the Honorific form is used more frequently, and therefore was learned first; but in the case of the Third Person, things are never honorific, and the special form is only used for persons who are definitely indicated as deserving it, therefore it is not so frequent as the Third Person Common.

As far as verb-endings is concerned, they are the same as the Second Person Honorific (করেন, করবেন, করছেন, করছিলেন, করেছেন, করেছিলেন, করলেন, করতেন) so there is nothing more to learn.

As far as the Pronoun is concerned, there is only one new form to learn, the Nominative Singular, which is তিনি. The other forms are the same as the Common pronoun, with the addition of a nasal tone, which is represented in writing by the chandrabinthu ̃.

SENTENCE-DRILL 17

1. Visitor: রাজেন বাবু কি বাড়ীতে আছেন? তাঁর সঙ্গে আমার কথা আছে।
Is Rajen Babu at home? I want to speak to him.
2. Servant: এখন তিনি বাড়ীতে নেই। ঘন্টা খানেকের মধ্যে আসবেন।
He is not at home just now. He will be back in about an hour.

3. Visitor: তিনি কোথায় গিয়েছেন? তাঁকে ডাকতে পারবে।
Where has he gone? Will you be able to fetch him?
4. Servant: আমি জানি না। সকালে তিনি বাজারে গিয়েছিলেন, তার পরে ফিরে এসে আবার বাইরে গেলেন।
I don't know. In the morning he went to market, and after returning he went out again.
5. Visitor: আমার খুব দরকার আছে। তিনি কি সন্ধ্যা বেলা থাকবেন?
I need him urgently (lit.: I have great need of him). Will he be here in the evening.
6. Servant: প্রায়ই থাকেন, কিন্তু আজ বোধ হয় থাকবেন না।
He is usually here, but today perhaps he won't be.
7. Visitor: কেন? তাঁর কোন নিমন্ত্রণ আছে?
Why? Is he invited out?
8. Servant: আর দুজন ভদ্রলোকের আসবার কথা আছে। তাঁরা সবাই এক সঙ্গে যাবেন।
It is likely that two other gentlemen are coming. They will all go together.
9. Visitor: তাঁদের যাবার আগে আমি তাঁর সঙ্গে কথা বলব।
I shall have a word with him before they go.
10. Servant: আচ্ছা, আপনি পাঁচটার সময়ে এলে তাঁকে পাবেন।
Very well, come at five o'clock and you'll catch him.

Notes :

(a) খানেক is used as a suffix which makes the word to which it is attached less precise, "about". With numbers এক is used in the same way, e.g. দশেক = "about 10".

(b) ক্ = ন + ধ.

(c) কথা is used with the Verbal Noun to suggest something reported as possible or probable, cf. the English "there is talk of".

CONJUGATION OF VERBS

At this point it will be useful to set down the tenses of the verb in tabular order. For the verbs with consonant stems the pattern is করা and for verbs with vowel stems the pattern is খাওয়া. The persons are indicated by numbers, 1, 2, 3 for the "common" forms, and H for the "Honorific" forms, which are the same for both second and third persons. There are therefore four parts to each tense. Note that the Imperative is reckoned to have three persons, just as any other tense, though this is not quite logical, since it is only the second person to whom an order can be given. In English we use the forms "let me do, let him do" for the first and third person Imperative, and these are sometimes referred to as "Hortatory". It is useful at this point to learn the tenses by heart so that they will come spontaneously to mind when needed.

Simple Tenses

	Present	Impera- tive	Future	Past	Frequenta- tive
1	করি	করি	করব	করলাম	করতাম
2	কর	কর	করবে	করলে	করতে
3	করে	করুক	করবে	করল	করত
H	করেন	করুন	করবেন	করলেন	করতেন
1	খাই	খাই	খাব	খেলাম	খেতাম
2	খাও	খাও	খাবে	খেল	খেতে
3	খায়	খাক	খাবে	খেল	খেত
H	খান	খান	খাবেন	খেলেন	খেতেন

Continuous Tenses		Perfect Tenses	
Present	Past	Present	Past
1	করছি	করেছি	করেছিলাম
2	করচ্ছ	করেচ্ছ	করেছিলেন
3	করছে	করেছে	করেছিল
H	করছেন	করেছেন	করেছিলেন
1	খাচ্ছি	খেয়েছি	খেয়েছিলাম
2	খাচ্ছ	খেয়েচ্ছ	খেয়েছিলেন
3	খাচ্ছে	খেয়েছে	খেয়েছিল
H	খাচ্ছেন	খেয়েছেন	খেয়েছিলেন
Infinitive :		করতে	খেতে
Participles : Present		করতে	খেতে
Perfect		করে	খেয়ে
Conditional		করলে	খেললে

There are very few irregular verbs in Bengali and almost all verbs follow the above pattern. There are one or two verbs which have modifications, due to the coming together of particular vowels which influence one another, and the following may be noted :

Verbs with consonant stems preceded by আ, e.g. পারা, আসা. In the Perfect Tenses and the Perfect Participle আ changes to এ,

পারা — পেরেছি, পেরেছিলাম, পেরে
 মারা — মেরেছি, মেরেছিলাম, মেরে
 আসা — এসেছি, এসেছিলাম, এসে

Verbs with stems in a vowel other than আ । There are very few of these, but three of them are very common verbs, হওয়া, দেওয়া and নেওয়া ।

The stem of হওয়া ends in the inherent vowel, and is quite regularly inflected on that basis. The third person of the

Imperative হউক is sometimes written হোক or হ'ক, and is frequent in the phrase যাই হোক (let whatever be == however).

দেওয়া and নেওয়া make use of two stems each, one in দে- and নে-, the other in দি- and নি-.

Note particularly :—

Present Tense: দিই, দেও, দেয়, দেন ।

নিই, নেও, নেয়, নেন ।

Imperative: দিই, দেও (দাও, দিও), দিক, দিন ।

নিই, নাও (নিও), নিক, নিন ।

(দিও and নিও are the forms of the Future Imperative.)

The defective verb যাওয়া ।

Just as in English “went” is not really derived from “go” but belongs to a different root, so the word যাওয়া in Bengali has some parts from a different root. The tenses are all regular in conjugation, but the different roots should be noted :—

Present Tense	যাই, যাও, যায়, যান
Imperative	যাই, যাও, যাক, যান
Future	যাব
Frequentative	যেতান
Continuous tenses	যাচ্ছি, যাচ্ছিলাম
Infinitive	যেতে
Present Participle	যেতে
Perfect Tenses	গিয়েছি, গিয়েছিলাম
Perfect Participle	গিয়ে
Past Tense	গেলাম
Conditional Participle	গেলে

LESSON 18

INTERROGATIVE WORDS AND SENTENCES

The basic pattern of Bengali grammar has now been indicated. So far no exercises have been given because the main purpose has been to indicate by examples the use of the colloquial style of speech, and this is best done by conversations. It is now possible to introduce idiomatic phrases and constructions, which will give more flexibility, but to introduce these into conversations is somewhat cumbersome, so they will be arranged in sentences to give varying examples of the way the constructions are used. There will also be some exercises, which are so arranged that the translation is done both ways, i.e. Exercise I (b) translates into Bengali what has been translated into English in I (a). This, of course, provides a temptation to look forward or back to the corresponding exercise, but in order to get the best use out of them it is better to *write out* the whole exercise first before checking. Many of the idioms and constructions have already been mentioned, but they are here arranged more systematically and in more detail.

It is also useful for those who have access to other books, to read a simple reader alongside the lessons, though this is not essential for completing the course.

INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

Interrogative words in Bengali all begin with ক।

The Interrogative Personal Pronoun কে? (who?) is declined as follows:—

Nominative—Subject—কে

কে এসেছে? Who has come?

Accusative—Object—কাকে

কাকে ডাকব? Whom shall I call?

Genitive—Possessive—কার

তুমি কার ছেলে? Whose son are you?

Plural: Nominative—কারা or কে কে

কারা এসেছে? Who have come?

Other cases—কাদের

কাদের পাঠাব? Whom shall I send?

কাদের বাড়ীতে থাকেন? In whose house do you live?

The other cases are formed with prepositions along with কার (singular) or কাদের (plural).

The Interrogative Impersonal Pronoun কি? (what?) is declined as follows:—

Nominative and Accusative—কি

কি আছে? What is there?

আপনি কি করবেন? What will you do?

Genitive—কিসের

কিসের ভয় কর? What are you afraid of?

Locative—কিসে

আপনি কিসে এলেন? In what did you come?

INTERROGATIVE WORDS

কি—as sign of a question

আপনি কি এসব দেখেছেন?

Have you seen all these?

কেন—why?

তিনি কেন এ কাজ করলেন? তিনি এ কাজ করলেন, কেন?

Why did he do this?

কেমন—how ?

আপনি কেমন আছেন ?
How are you ?

কোন—which ?

আপনি কোন দিন আসবেন ?
Which day will you come ?

কোথায়—where ?

আপনি কোথায় থাকেন ?
Where do you live ?
আপনার বাড়ী কোথায় ?
Where is your home ?

কত—how much ?

আপনি কত টাকা পেয়েছেন ?
How much money have you got ?

কখন—when ?

সে কখন আসবে ?
When will he come ?

কি করে }
কেমন করে }—how ?

আমি কি করে (কেমন করে) বলব ?
How shall I tell you ?

Exercise I (a)

আমি কলকাতায় থাকি । আমি একজন শিক্ষক । আমি রোজ স্কুলে যাই কিন্তু মাঝে মাঝে আমাদের ছুটি, এবং সে দিন আমি স্কুলে যাই না । আমাদের স্কুলে ছেলে আছে, মেয়েও আছে কিন্তু তারা একসঙ্গে পড়ে না । আমাদের স্কুলের এক পাশে ছেলেদের ক্লাশ থাকে, আর এক পাশে মেয়েদের ক্লাশ থাকে । আমাদের আড়াই শ' ছাত্র-ছাত্রী আছে, দেড় শ ছেলে আর এক শ' মেয়ে । মেয়েরা খুব কাজের কিন্তু ছেলেদের মধ্যে অনেকেই অলস ।

Vocabulary :

ছুটি—holiday

পাশ—side

আড়াই—2½

শ or শত—100

অলস—lazy

একসঙ্গে—together

ক্লাশ—class (English)

দেড়—1½

আড়াই শ—250

দেড় শ—150

LESSON 19

RELATIVE SENTENCES

Relative words in Bengali begin with য (v. Lesson 6) and they are always followed by a correlative. The following list will be useful. The pairs are given in the same case, but this is not necessarily always true, e.g. one may be Subject and the other Object.

Pronouns যে (who) সে (he or she)—are declined as follows:—

Singular:

Nominative—যে সে

এ কথা যে বলেছে, সে মিথ্যাবাদী।

The man who said this is a liar.

Objective—যাকে তাকে

আপনি যাকে পাঠিয়ে দিলেন, তাকে আমি টাকা দিলাম।

I gave the money to the man you sent.

Possessive—যার তার

যার বুদ্ধি থাকে, তার কাজ ভাল।

The man who has intelligence does good work.

(Note: দ্ব is দ + ধ.)

Locative—যাতে তাতে

যাতে তোমার কাজ নেই, তাতে তুমি হাত দিও না।

Don't meddle with what is not your business.

Plural:

Nominative—যারা তারা

যারা এসেছে, তারা সবাই ইংরেজ।

All those who have come are English.

Other cases—যাদের তাদের

যাদের বুদ্ধি থাকে, তাদের কাজ ভাল।

Those who have intelligence do good work.

Honorific Relative:

Nominative—যিনি তিনি

এ কথা যিনি বললেন, তিনি রাজা।

The man who said this is the king.

(The other cases are the same as the common relative, with the addition of the nasal tone ̃:—যাঁকে তাঁকে; যাঁর তাঁর; যাঁতে তাঁতে; যাঁরা তাঁরা; যাঁদের তাঁদের.)

Impersonal Relative Pronoun:

যা তা

আমি যা বলেছিলাম, তা কর।

Do what I told you.

Indefinite Relative is formed by adding কেউ to the Personal Pronoun or কিছু to the Impersonal. This is straightforward with the Subjective Case, with which it usually occurs, but with other cases it is often cumbersome and it is better to use a periphrasis.

আপনাকে যে কেউ বলবে না কেন, তার কথা শুনবেন না।

Whoever tells you, don't listen.

আপনি যা কিছু চান না কেন, তা আমি দেব।

I shall give you whatever you want.

Relative Adverbs:

যেমন তেমন

as so

আপনি যেমন বললেন, তেমনই করলাম।

I did just as you said.

যত তত
as many so many

যত লোক আসবে, আমি তত লোককে খাওয়াব।

I shall entertain as many people as come.

(Note: Future Tense in both clauses in Bengali.)

যখন তখন
when then

তিনি যখন আসবেন, তখন আমি বলব।

I shall tell him when he comes. (Note: as before)

যেখানে সেখানে
where there

আপনি যেখানে থাকেন, সেখানে কি পাহাড় আছে?

Are there hills where you live?

যে পর্যন্ত সে পর্যন্ত
until till then

তিনি যে পর্যন্ত না আসবেন, আমি সে পর্যন্ত এখানে বসব।

I shall sit here until he comes.

(Note: Bengali, like French, says: "until he does not come".)

Exercise I (b)

I live in Calcutta; I am a teacher; I go to school daily but sometimes there is a holiday and then I do not go to school. We have boys and girls in our school, but they do not study together. On one side of the school are the boys' classes, and on the other side the girls' classes. We have two hundred and fifty pupils, one hundred and fifty boys and one hundred girls. The girls are very hard-working, but many of the boys are lazy.

Exercise II (a)

আসুন, আমরা বাগানে যাচ্ছি। আমাদের বাগানে অনেক গাছ আছে; ফুল গাছ আছে, ফলও আছে। আপনি কি ফলের নাম জানেন? এখানে আম, ওখানে লিচু আর কলা। গাছ যখন বড় হবে, তখন আমরা খুব ভাল কলা পাব। বর্ষাকালের শেষে আমরা বীজ লাগাব, আর শীতকালে আমরা আলু, পিঁয়াজ, গাজর এবং বিলাতী বেগুন পাব। জায়গা যদি থাকত, তবে আমরা কপি চারা লাগাতাম কিন্তু জায়গা যথেষ্ট নেই, সেজন্য বাঁধাকপি আর ফুলকপি বাজার থেকে কিনতে হবে।

Vocabulary:

বাগান—garden

ফুল—flower

আম—mango

বর্ষাকাল—rainy season

বীজ—seed

পিঁয়াজ—onion

বেগুন—brinjal, egg-plant, aubergine

কপি—any plant of cabbage family

ফুলকপি—cauliflower—

যথেষ্ট—enough

গাছ—tree or plant

ফল—fruit

লিচু—lichu

শীতকাল—cold season

আলু—potato

গাজর—carrot

বিলাতী বেগুন—tomato

বাঁধাকপি—cabbage

চারা—seedlings

জায়গা—place, space

Notes :

(a) Theoretically in Bengali there are six seasons, but in practice there are only three, hot, cold and wet. The hot season is called গ্রীষ্মকাল.

(b) The difference between এ, ও and সে (এখানে, ওখানে and সেখানে) is roughly that এ means "this one near" ও means "that one there, but visible" and সে means "that one not visible".

(c) The phrase জায়গা যদি থাকত is explained more fully in the following lesson.

LESSON 20

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

There are only two types of Conditional Sentences in Bengali, one which expresses an “open” condition, i.e. in which nothing is implied about whether the condition is fulfilled or not; and one which expresses an “unfulfilled” condition, i.e. in which it is definitely implied that the condition was not fulfilled.

(a) An “open” condition is expressed by using a Present Tense in the “if” clause, and either Present or Future in the “consequence” clause.

তিনি যদি আসেন, তবে আমি চলে যাব।

If he comes, I shall go away.

If he were to come, I should go away.

(b) An “unfulfilled” condition is expressed by using a Past Frequentative Tense in both clauses.

তিনি যদি আসতেন, তাহলে আমি চলে যেতাম।

If he had come, I should have gone away.

(c) In both types (a) and (b) it is essential that a correlative (তবে or তাহলে) should be used after যদি, but in either type a Conditional Participle may be used in the “if” clause, in which case correlatives are not used.

তিনি এলে, আমি চলে যাব।

If he comes, I shall go away.

তিনি এলে, আমি চলে যেতাম।

If he had come, I should have gone away.

(d) If the “if” clause is negative, না is put *before* the verb in each case.

তিনি যদি না আসেন, তবে আমি চলে যাব না।

তিনি না এলে যাব না।

If he does not come, then I shall not go.

তিনি যদি না আসতেন, তবে আমি চলে যেতাম।

তিনি না এলে আমি চলে যেতাম।

If he had not come, I should have gone away.

(e) In the “if” clause, any part of the verb “to be” is expressed by the appropriate part of থাক। This even applies when ছি, ছ, ছে and ছেন as part of a Perfect Tense of a verb are involved.

তার যদি বুদ্ধি থাকে, তবে সে নিশ্চয় এসব জানে।

If he has any common sense, then he certainly knows all this.

পয়সা থাকলে, কিনতে পারবেন।

If you have money, you will be able to buy it.

এসব যদি পড়ে থাকেন, তবে ভাল করে লিখতে পারবেন।

If you have read all this, then you will be able to write well. (N.B. not পড়েছেন but পড়ে থাকেন)

There is an idiomatic use of the Imperative to express a Conditional Sentence, particularly when a disjunctive condition is stated.

সে আসুক, তবে আমি চলে যাব।

If he comes (lit.: Let him come), I shall go away.

আপনি বলুন আর না-ই বলুন, আমি চলে যাব।

Whether you tell me or not, I shall go away.

CONCESSIVE CLAUSES

Clauses introduced by “ although ” or “ even if ” have ও added to each of the correlatives, or to the Conditional Participle. তবে becomes তবু or তবুও.

তিনি যদিও আসেন তবু (or তাহলেও) আমি চলে যাব।

Even if he comes, I shall go.

তিনি যদিও আসতেন, তবুও আমি চলে যেতাম।

Even if he had come, I should have gone away.

তিনি এলেও, আমি চলে যাব।

Although he is coming I shall go away.

Exercise II (b)

Come on, we are going into the garden. We have lots of trees (or plants) in our garden; there are both flowers and fruit. Do you know the names of the fruit? Here are mangoes, there are lichus and bananas. When the tree is big, then we shall get some very good bananas. At the end of the rains we shall sow seed, and in the cold weather we shall get potatoes, onions, carrots and tomatoes. If we had had room, we should have set cabbage seedlings, but there is not sufficient room, so we shall have to buy cabbage and cauliflower from the market.

Exercise III (a)

আপনি যদি একটা বড় শহর দেখতে চান তাহলে আপনাকে কলকাতায় যেতে হবে। সেখানে অনেক বড় দোকান আছে, আর আপনি যা কিছু চান, সব সেখানে পাবেন। একটা খুব বড় ময়দান আছে আর সে ময়দানে ফুটবল খেলা হয় আর লোকে সন্ধ্যা বেলায় বেড়াতে যায়। ময়দানের কাছে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের রাজ্যপালের রাজভবন আছে। তার পশ্চিমে গঙ্গা নদীতে ভিন্ণা ভিন্ণা দেশ থেকে অনেক জাহাজ আসে।

Vocabulary :

শহর—city	ফুটবল—football (!)
ময়দান—open space, park land	পশ্চিম—west
বেড়ান—go out for a walk	রাজভবন—Government
রাজ্যপাল—Governor	House
নদী—river	ভিন্ণা—various, different
জাহাজ—steamer, ship	সন্ধ্যা—evening
দোকান—shop	

Note :

লোকে is a collective plural form. It is used when the noun is referring to a class in general, not to individuals.

গোরুতে ঘাস খায়

Cows eat grass

লোকে বলে

People say

LESSON 21

CAUSATIVE VERBS

A note on the distinctive Causative verb stem has already been given in Lesson 5 and its meaning explained, e.g. from verbal noun করা (do) the Causative verb is করান (cause to do). The inherent vowel is always pronounced and sometimes in dictionaries it is printed করানো. Sometimes the meaning is differently expressed in English, but is usually easily inferred, e.g. পড়া is “to read”, and পড়ান is “to teach”. There are some verbs which have only the causative form, and these are translated in English as simple verbs. Amongst these are:

পাঠান—to send	বানান—to build
দৌড়ান—to run	বেড়ান—to walk about
দাঁড়ান—to stand	

The stem is in আ and therefore the conjugation is the same as verbs with vowel stems in the Present, Imperative, Future and Continuous Tenses. The other tenses are as follows:—

Past Tense—করলাম
Frequentative—করাতাম
Perfect Tenses—করিয়েছি, করিয়েছিলাম
Infinitive—করাতে
Participles—করাতে, করিয়ে, করালে

Exercise III (b)

If you want to see a big city, then you must go to Calcutta. There are many big shops there, and you can get whatever you want there. There is a very big open space, and football

is played on it, and in the evening people go walking. Near the open space there is the West Bengal Governor's House. On the west of it many ships from different countries come up the River Ganges.

Exercise IV (a)

একদিন একটি কুকুর কর্তার বাড়ী থেকে এক টুকরো মাংস চুরি করে নিল। কর্তার ভয়ে সে বাড়ী থেকে দৌড়িয়ে গেল। যেতে যেতে তার সামনে একটি নদী দেখতে পেল আর নদী পার করবার জন্য একটা পুল। সে পুলের উপরে দাঁড়িয়ে জলে তার নিজের মুখ দেখল কিন্তু মুখ চিনতে পারেনি। তার মনে হল যে আর একটি কুকুর মুখে মাংস নিয়ে জলের মধ্যে ছিল। সেজন্য সে নিজের মাংস ফেলে দিয়ে অন্য কুকুরের মাংস ধরতে চেষ্টা করল। এর ফলে কিছুই খেতে পায়নি কারণ এক টুকরো মাংস নদীতে পড়ে গেল আর এক টুকরো মোটেই ছিল না।

Vocabulary :

কুকুর—dog	কর্তা—master
টুকরো—piece	মাংস—meat
চুরি—theft	পুল—bridge
মোট—at all, totally	

LESSON 22

CLAUSES EXPRESSING PURPOSE

Purpose can be expressed in Bengali in three ways:—

(a) By the use of the Possessive Case of the Verbal Noun, followed by *জন্য* (cf. Lesson 11).

(b) By the simple use of the Infinitive, as in English.

(c) By a clause introduced by *যেন* (so that). There are two rules about the use of *যেন*:—

(i) It is always followed by the Present Tense, no matter what be the tense of the main verb.

(ii) If the clause is negative, *না* precedes the verb.

Examples :

I went to the market to buy mangoes.

(a) আমি আম কিনবার জন্য বাজারে গেলাম।

(b) আমি বাজারে আম কিনতে গেলাম।

(c) আমি বাজারে গেলাম যেন আম কিনতে পারি।

I held the child's hand so that he would not fall.

আমি ছেলের হাত ধরলাম যেন সে না পড়ে।

Negative purpose can also be expressed by the use of *পাছে* "lest".

আমি ছেলের হাত ধরলাম পাছে সে পড়ে।

If *পাছে* is followed by a negative they cancel one another and the meaning is positive:—

আমি তাঁকে একটি চিঠি দিলাম পাছে তিনি না আসেন।

I sent him a letter to make sure he would come.

(lit. lest he should not come)

CLAUSES EXPRESSING CAUSE

(a) Cause may be expressed as in English by a clause after the main sentence introduced by a conjunction *কারণ* or *কেন না* (because).

আমি তাকে বকেছিলাম কারণ (কেন না) তার কাজ খুব খারাপ।

I scolded him because his work was very bad.

(b) There is an idiom which is unlike anything in English, by which *বলে* ("seeing that") is inserted after the Causal clause, which comes first in the sentence.

আমার পয়সা নেই বলে আমি এ সব জিনিষ কিনব না।

Since I have no money, I shall not buy all these things.

তিনি আমাকে কিছু বলেননি বলে আমি সেখানে যাইনি।

Since he did not say anything to me, I did not go there.

(c) It is also possible to use a form of the Verbal Noun in the Locative Case (*করায়* or *করাতে*) but this is not a very common construction in conversation and may just be noted.

আমাদের দেরি করে আসায় কাজ শেষ হয়নি।

Because of our coming late, the work was not finished.

আপনি সে কথা আমাকে না বলাতে আমি জানতাম না।

Because you did not tell me of that, I did not know.

CLAUSES EXPRESSING RESULT

There is no difficulty here, since the construction is exactly as in English, with a clause following the main sentence introduced by a conjunction, and the same usage of the verb as in English. The conjunctions used are:—*তাই*—so; *সুতরাং*—consequently; *কাজেই*—therefore; *সেজন্য*—for that reason; *তার ফলে*—as a result, and all of them are reasonably common.

আমার অনেক কাজ আছে, তাই আমি বেড়াতে পারব না।

I have a lot of work, and so I cannot go out for a walk.

Exercise IV (b)

One day a dog stole a piece of meat from his master's house. For fear of the master it ran away from the house. As it was going it saw in front a river, and a bridge for crossing the river. As it stood on the bridge it saw its own face in the water, but did not recognise its face. It thought that another dog with meat in its mouth was in the water. Therefore it dropped its own meat and tried to snatch the other dog's meat. As a result it got nothing to eat, because one piece of meat fell in the river, and the other did not exist at all.

Exercise V (a)

এ দেশে অনেক ছোট গ্রাম আছে। দেশের লোক প্রায়ই গ্রামে বাস করে। তাদের বাড়ী-ঘর কাঁচা আর তাদের অবস্থা খুব ভাল নয়। তারা ধান বা পাট চাষ করে খায়। গ্রামে হয় তো একটি ছোট প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়, হয় তো একটি ডাক-ঘর, হয় তো সপ্তায় একবার হাট, কিন্তু অনেক গ্রামে এমন সুখ-সুবিধা নেই। যে সব গ্রাম শহরের কাছে, সেই সব গ্রামে পাকা বাড়ী থাকতে পারে, আর যারা শহরে চাকরি করেন, তাঁরা সেই বাড়ীতে থাকেন। শহর থেকে দূরে যে গ্রাম, সে গ্রামে শুধু চাষী থাকে। অনেকে দু-বেলা ভাত খেতে পায় না সুতরাং তাদের শরীর দুর্বল হওয়াতে অল্প বয়সে মরে যায়।

গ্রাম—village	দেশ—country
বাস করা—live	কাঁচা—not built of brick or stone (of house)
ধান—paddy, rice (in the field)	ভাত—rice (when cooked)
পাট—jute	চাষ করা—cultivate
প্রাথমিক—primary	বিদ্যালয়—school
ডাক-ঘর—Post office	সপ্তা—week
হাট—market (periodic)	পাকা—brick-built (of house)
চাকরি—employment	

* বেলা—time of day	চাষী—farmer, peasant
শরীর—body	দুর্বল—weak
মরে যাওয়া—die	বয়স—age

* This is used with other words indicating which particular time of day, e.g. দুপুর বেলা—mid-day, সন্ধ্যা বেলা—evening. এ বেলা (this time) means “morning”, ও বেলা (that time) means “evening”, particularly in reference to the two normal meal-times of the Bengali day. দু-বেলা খাওয়া means to have a proper standard of living, whilst এক-বেলা খাওয়া means “to be half-starved”.

LESSON 23

NUMBERS, WEIGHTS, MEASURES

The world is indebted to India for the metric system of numeration, since it was in India that zero was invented, and so arithmetic became possible. The Arabs took the system over, and so the numerals used in modern Europe are called "Arabic numerals". The form of one or two bears resemblance to the Bengali numerals, but there is even more resemblance in the words used for number. There are only ten numerals, and they are used just as in all metric systems, and also they are used for fractions. They are ১ ২ ৩ ৪ ৫ ৬ ৭ ৮ ৯ ০.

It is most convenient to arrange the words for numbers in a chart (opposite) so that their inter-relationship can be seen. শত is often pronounced and written শ. Higher numbers are just combined as in English, i.e. 200 is দুই শ, 300 তিন শ etc.

Where a number ends in শ, the শ has no inherent vowel pronounced with it. All the numbers in col. 10+ which end in র or ল have the inherent vowel sounded at the end. This is NOT so with the 'seventies'.

"Thousand" is হাজার and this also is combined—দুই হাজার, তিন হাজার etc.

The next number with a special word is 1,00,000 which is এক লাখ or এক লক্ষ, then there is 1,00,00,000 which is এক কোটি or এক ক্রোর.

Note that the commas in longer numbers are not inserted after three noughts, but after two.

A careful study of the chart will reveal the relationships of the numbers.

10 +	এগার	একুশ	একত্রিশ	একচল্লিশ	একান্ন	একষট্টি	একাত্তর	একাশি	একানব্বই
20 +	বার	বাইশ	বত্রিশ	বয়ত্রিশ	বাহান্ন	বায়ট্টি	বাহাত্তর	বিরাশি	বিরানব্বই
30 +	তের	তেইশ	তেত্রিশ	তেতাল্লিশ	তিপ্পান্ন	তেষট্টি	তিয়াত্তর	ত্রিরাশি	ত্রিরানব্বই
40 +	চৌদ্দ	চব্বিশ	চোত্রিশ	চুয়াল্লিশ	চুয়ান্ন	চৌষট্টি	চুয়াত্তর	চুরাশি	চুরানব্বই
50 +	পনের	পঁচিশ	পঁয়ত্রিশ	পঁয়তাল্লিশ	পঞ্চান্ন	পঁয়ষট্টি	পঁচাত্তর	পঁচাশি	পঁচানব্বই
60 +	ষোল	ছাব্বিশ	ছত্রিশ	ছেচল্লিশ	ছাপ্পান্ন	ছেষট্টি	ছিয়াত্তর	ছিয়াশি	ছিয়ানব্বই
70 +	সতের	সাতাশ	সাঁইত্রিশ	সাতচল্লিশ	সাতান্ন	সাতষট্টি	সাতাত্তর	সাতাশি	সাতানব্বই
80 +	আঠার	আঠাশ	আটত্রিশ	আটচল্লিশ	আটান্ন	আটষট্টি	আটাত্তর	অষ্টাশি	অষ্টানব্বই
90 +	উনিশ	উনত্রিশ	উনচল্লিশ	উনপঞ্চাশ	উনষাট্টি	উনষাত্তর	উন আশি	উনগব্বই	নিরানব্বই
	কড়ি, বিশ	ত্রিশ	চল্লিশ	পঞ্চাশ	ষাট্টি	সত্তর	আশি	নব্বই	একশত

Note particularly that 19, 29, 39, 49, 59, 69, 79, 89, are expressed by "one less than" the next ten.

Classical Bengali has separate Ordinal Numerals (first, second, third, etc.) which are rather complicated, but in colloquial speech the Possessive Case of the Cardinal Numerals are used, except for the first two or three. It is useful to note the first ten, since they are incorporated into the titles of various festivals, most of which are fixed according to the day of the lunar month, and it is good to recognize them.

প্রথম—first	* ষষ্ঠ—sixth
* দ্বিতীয়—second	সপ্তম—seventh
* তৃতীয়—third	অষ্টম—eighth
* চতুর্থ—fourth	নবম—ninth
পঞ্চম—fifth	দশম—tenth

For ordinary usage চারের, পাঁচের, ছয়ের, etc., are sufficient.

* In these the final consonant has the inherent vowel sounded.

DAYS OF THE MONTH

The words used for the first four days of the month are not really Bengali at all but Persian, introduced during Mogul times.

They are:—

পয়লা—first দোসরা—second তেসরা—third চৌঠা—fourth.

From 5th to 18th the cardinal numbers with ই are used পাঁচই, ছয়ই, সাতই, etc.

From the 19th to 31st the cardinal numbers with এ are used উনিশে, বিশে, একুশে, etc.

The Bengali months are as follows, with their approximate English equivalent:—

বৈশাখ—April–May	কা্তিক—October–November
* জ্যৈষ্ঠ—May–June	অগ্রহায়ণ—November–
আষাঢ়—June–July	December
শ্রাবণ—July–August	পৌষ—December–January
* ভাদ্র—August–September	মাঘ—January–February
আশ্বিন—September–	ফাল্গুন—February–March
October	* চৈত্র—March–April

* In these three the final inherent vowel is pronounced, in the rest it is silent.

The days of the week are as follows:—

রবিবার—Sunday	বৃহস্পতিবার—Thursday
সোমবার—Monday	শুক্রবার—Friday
মঙ্গলবার—Tuesday	শনিবার—Saturday
বুধবার—Wednesday	

These names are closely parallel, since the first parts are all names of deities, just as in the European names. They are actually closest to the French, since মঙ্গল is Mars, বুধ is Mercury, বৃহস্পতি is Jupiter and শুক্র is Venus, whilst রবি, সোম and শনি are the Sun, Moon and Saturn.

FRACTIONS

These are a little different in usage from English, but care in the beginning will avoid confusion.

পোয়া—quarter, আধ (আধা) half তিন পোয়া—three-quarters. When “one-half” stands by itself the word is অর্ধেক।

দেড়—1½ and আড়াই—2½ have already been noted. Other fractions up to 2½ are usually expressed in quarters, e.g. 1¾—সাত পোয়া। 2¼—নয় পোয়া and even 2½ দশ পোয়া।

After $2\frac{1}{2}$ there are three words which are used before the digit—পৌনে which means “minus $\frac{1}{4}$ ”, সওয়া—plus $\frac{1}{4}$ and সাড়ে—plus $\frac{1}{2}$. Phrases like “seven and three-quarters” are never used in Bengali, but instead it is “eight minus one-quarter”.

The sequence is therefore as follows:—

পোয়া	আধ	তিন পোয়া	এক
পাচ পোয়া	দেড়	সাত পোয়া	দুই
নয় পোয়া	আড়াই	পৌনে তিন	তিন
সওয়া তিন	সাড়ে তিন	পৌনে চার	চার
সওয়া চার	সাড়ে চার	পৌনে পাঁচ	পাঁচ

and so on.

TIME

The above words are used for telling the time, with the particle—টা added, so that we get the following list:—

one o'clock—একটা	quarter-past one—সওয়া একটা
half-past one—দেড়টা	quarter to two—পৌনে দুটা
half-past two—আড়াইটা	three o'clock—তিনটা

and so on. The same particle টা is used when asking the time, with an abbreviated form of কত (how much), and the perfect of the word “to strike”, so that “what time is it?” is ক'টা বেজেছে? If the answer is an exact hour the same form is used, e.g. চারটা বেজেছে and if it is a number of minutes after the hour, until the following half-hour, these are added, e.g. চারটা বেজে দশ মিনিট (ten minutes past four) If the time is between the half-hour and the following hour, then it is given as so many minutes less than the next hour, just as in English. In this case the verb is in the Infinitive, e.g. twenty minutes to ten is দশটা বাজতে কুড়ি মিনিট thirteen minutes to eight is আটটা বাজতে তের মিনিট।

In places which are accustomed to train times, etc., it is not at all uncommon (and much easier) to use the method which has been adopted from English and say “nine-forty”—নয়টা চল্লিশ “seven-forty-seven”—সাতটা সাতচল্লিশ। This does not appear so elegant to the Bengali purist, but when accuracy is needed rather than elegance it comes in very useful.

MONEY

Officially India has gone back to the metric system of money and weights, and there is no difficulty about these, since the way of saying them is straightforward. The changeover, however, has not been completely assimilated by those who were brought up in the old ways, and it is necessary to know the tables as follows:—

তিন পাই—three pies	= এক পয়সা—one pice
চার পয়সা—four pice	= এক আনা—one anna
ষোল আনা—16 annas	= এক টাকা—one rupee

Note also the word সিকি which means “a four-anna (25 P.) piece”.

For writing money the ordinary numerals are used with hasanta for full rupees and smaller amounts are expressed by the following symbols:—

/০—1 anna	১/০—5 annas	১১/০—9 annas	৬/০—13 annas
২/০—2 annas	১৬/০—6 annas	১১৬/০—10 annas	৬৬/০—14 annas
৩/০—3 annas	১৭/০—7 annas	১১৭/০—11 annas	৬৭/০—15 annas
৪/০—4 annas	১৮/০—8 annas	৬০—12 annas	১\—1 rupee

These are also used sometimes to express fractions, e.g. $6\frac{1}{4}\%$ is এক আনা, etc.

WEIGHTS

পাঁচ তোলা—5 tolas = এক ছটাক—1 chatak = 2 oz.

চার ছটাক—4 chataks = এক পোয়া—1 pawa = 8 oz.

চার পোয়া—4 pawa = এক সের—1 seer = 2 lb.

চল্লিশ সের—40 seers = এক মণ—1 maund = 80 lb.

Distance is now measured in metres, but the English system of inches, feet, yards, furlongs and miles was most common previously. In the measurement of cloth the cubit (হাত) was quite common and may still be found.

Percentage is expressed by the words শতকরা e.g. 3% = শতকরা তিন।

Fractions other than quarters have to be expressed somewhat clumsily by quoting the denominator, then the numerator with ভাগ part.

e.g. three-fifths is পাঁচ ভাগের তিন ভাগ
 $\frac{3}{5}$ is বত্রিশ ভাগের একত্রিশ ভাগ

Exercise V (b)

In this country there are many small villages. The people of the country almost all live in villages. Their houses are not built of brick, and their condition is not good. They earn their living by growing rice or jute. In the village there may be a small primary school, there may be a post-office, and there may be a weekly market, but many villages do not have these facilities. In the villages which are near to the town, there may be brick-built houses and people who are employed in the city live in them. In the villages far away from the town there are only cultivators. Many of them do not get two full meals a day, and since their physique is poor they die at an early age.

Exercise VI (a)

বর্তমান শতাব্দে লোকের খুব উন্নতি হয়েছে। ১৯০০ সালে দেশ-বিদেশে যাওয়া সম্ভব ছিল কিন্তু অনেক দিন লাগত। আজকাল কলকাতা থেকে লগুনে চব্বিশ ঘন্টার মধ্যে যাওয়া যায়। জগতে যা কিছু ঘটে, তার খবর আমরা পরদিনে খবরের কাগজে পড়তে পারি। যদি যে কোন দেশে দুর্ভিক্ষ হয় অন্য সব দেশ থেকে খাবার জিনিষ সংগৃহ করা হয়। বিজ্ঞানীরা অনেক সাহায্য করেছেন যাতে স্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতি হতে পারে আর অনেক রোগের চিকিৎসা জানতে পেরেছেন।

Vocabulary :

বর্তমান—present day	শতাব্দ—century
উন্নতি—progress	সাল—year (in giving dates)
ঘটা—happen	খবর—news
দুর্ভিক্ষ—famine	সংগৃহ করা—collect
বিজ্ঞানী—scientist	সাহায্য—help
স্বাস্থ্য—health	রোগ—disease
চিকিৎসা—treatment	

LESSON 24

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

The Demonstrative Pronouns সে and তিনি have already been noted, also the common forms এ (this) and ও (that). There are also honorific forms of the last two ইনি (this) and উনি (that). The declension of these is as follows:—

Singular

Nom.	এ	— ইনি —	ও	— উনি —
Acc.	একে	এঁকে or ইঁহাকে	ওকে	ওঁকে or উঁহাকে
Poss	এর	এঁর or ইঁহার	ওর	ওঁর or উঁহার
Loc.	এতে	এঁতে or ইঁহাতে	ওতে	ওঁতে or উঁহাতে

Plural

Nom.	এরা	এঁরা or ইঁহারা	ওরা	ওঁরা or উঁহারা
Others	এদের	এঁদের or ইঁহাদের	ওদের	ওঁদের or উঁহাদের

In some places colloquial forms এনারা and উনারা may be found.

OTHER NOUN-SUBSTITUTES

সকল (all) and অন্য (other) may be used as nouns and may be declined, সকল in the singular and collective nominative plural, and অন্য in both singular and plural:—

আমি সকলকে বলব	—I shall tell everyone
সকলের কাজ ভাল নয়	—Everyone's work is not good
সকলেই জানে	—Everyone knows
অন্যদের সাহায্য করা উচিত	—One ought to help others

EXPRESSING “SELF” AND “OWN”

The word নিজে is used in the appropriate case to express “self” or “own”. This is a rare example of two words

being made to agree in case and number; normally one indication of either case or number is sufficient in Bengali.

আমি নিজে বললাম	—I said it myself
এসব আমার নিজের বই	—These are my own books
তারা নিজ নিজ বাড়িতে গেল	—They went to their own homes
তাদের নিজেদের টাকা নেই	—They have no money of their own

The word আপনি is also sometimes used for “self” but not usually in speech.

আপন (own) is used as an adjective, particularly in the phrase আমার আপন ভাই or আমার আপন বোন—brother or sister of the same parents. ভাই and বোন in Bengali have a much wider reference than “brother” and “sister” in English, and are used of quite distant relatives (see Appendix E).

Exercise VI (b)

In the present century there has been much progress amongst the peoples. In 1900 it was possible to travel from country to country but it took a long time. Today it is possible to go from Calcutta to London in 24 hours. Whatever happens in the world, we can read the news in the following day's paper. If there is a famine in any country, food can be collected from other countries. Scientists have helped greatly in improving health, and have come to know the treatment for many diseases.

Exercise VII (a)

একদিন যখন তিনি বাগানে বসে তামাক খাচ্ছিলেন তখন একজন চাকর হাতে এক বালতি জল নিয়ে বেরিয়ে এল। তখনও তার কর্তার অদ্ভুত অভ্যাসের কথা সে চাকর শুনেনি। কর্তার দিকে লক্ষ্য করে দেখল যে

চারিদিকে ধোঁয়া ছিল আর তার মনে হল যে কর্তার কাপড়ে আগুন লেগে গেল। সে খুব বুদ্ধিমান হয়ে, তার প্রিয় কর্তার কাছে দৌড়িয়ে গিয়ে, তাঁর উপরে বাল্‌তির জল ফেলে দিল, আর এক মুহূর্ত না থেকে, আরও জল আনতে ছুটে গেল।

তামাক—tobacco	অদ্ভুত—strange
বেরোন—go out	লক্ষ্য করা—glance, notice
অভ্যাস—habit	আগুন—fire
ধোঁয়া—smoke	মুহূর্ত—moment
বাল্‌তি—bucket	

LESSON 25

COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

Just as in English the suffixes “-er” and “-est” are added to make the comparative and superlative, so in Bengali there are some Sanskrit words which add -তর and -তম, but these are very few.

ক্ষুদ্র, ক্ষুদ্রতর, ক্ষুদ্রতম—small, smaller, smallest
প্রিয়, প্রিয়তর, প্রিয়তম—dear, dearer, dearest

The much more common way is to put আরও (more) and সবচেয়ে (most) before the adjective.

বড়, আরও বড়, সবচেয়ে বড়—big, bigger, biggest
(চেয়ে literally means “looking at”, but it is easiest to think of it as equivalent to “than”.)

If two things are compared চেয়ে is used with the Possessive Case, e.g. Hari is bigger than Ram—হরি রামের চেয়ে বড়

Sometimes থেকে is used instead of চেয়ে।

COMPOUND VERBS

The number of simple verbs in Bengali is comparatively small and most verbs are compound verbs formed by putting together a noun or an adjective with করা, হওয়া or দেওয়া। There is often a difference of meaning when the same word is used with করা or দেওয়া and usually the latter is the passive of the former, but sometimes they are practically indistinguishable. Here are some examples:—

with nouns:	কাজ করা—work	খেলা করা—play
	রাগ করা—be angry	স্নান করা—bathe
	ফাঁকি দেওয়া—cheat	ধাক্কা দেওয়া—knock

with adjectives : নষ্ট করা—spoil	নষ্ট হওয়া—be spoilt
সন্তুষ্ট করা—please	সন্তুষ্ট হওয়া—be pleased
বন্ধ করা—shut	বন্ধ হওয়া—be shut

Bengali also likes to make compound verbs by using a Perfect Participle with a main verb. This may be a repetition of the same root for special emphasis, or may be two similar words put together to complement one another. The equivalent in English is a verb with an adverb:—

চলে যাওয়া—go away	ফিরে আসা—come back
ডেকে পাঠান—send for	উঠে বসা—sit up

In these cases the force of the two words is more or less equal, but there are a number of examples where the basic meaning is in the participle, and the verb which follows gives a special emphasis. The following verbs can be recognized frequently in compounds :—

পড়া—implies suddenness or collapse	
ভেঙ্গে পড়া—fall to pieces	এসে পড়া—arrive suddenly
উঠে পড়া—get up suddenly	
থাকা—implies continuing to do, or doing habitually	
বসে থাকা—keep on sitting	শুনে থাকা—keep on listening
উঠা—implies doing something suddenly or violently	
চটে উঠা—burst into rage	
কেঁদে উঠা—burst into tears	
ফেলা—implies completeness	
খেয়ে ফেলা—eat up	মেরে ফেলা—kill

Exercise VII (b)

One day when he was sitting in his garden smoking, a servant came out with a bucket of water in his hand. That

servant had not yet heard of his master's strange habit. Glancing towards his master he saw that smoke was all around him, and he thought that his master's clothes had caught fire. Since he was intelligent, he ran towards his dear master, threw over him the bucket of water, and without waiting a moment, ran to get more water.

APPENDIX A: LONG FORMS OF VERBS

The forms of verbs used in the book are those used in standard spoken Bengali, and in some modern written Bengali, but these are really abbreviations and the older written language and some local variations of the spoken language used longer forms of verbs. In order to read more widely it is necessary to note these forms, and after a short time they will be easily recognizable. The endings are the same as those already learnt, but the stems are longer in all except the Present and Imperative. The following are the First Person of each Tense, as well as Infinitive and Participles, in both forms:—

Verbs with consonant stems.	short	long
Present Tense	করি	করি
Imperative	করি	করি
Future Imperative (2nd person)	ক'রো	করিও
Future Tense	করব	করিব
Past Tense	করলাম	করিলাম
Frequentative Tense	করতাম	করিতাম
Present Continuous	করছি	করিতেছি
Past Continuous	করছিলাম	করিতেছিলাম
Present Perfect	করেছি	করিয়াছি
Past Perfect	করেছিলাম	করিয়াছিলাম
Infinitive	করতে	করিতে
Participles: Present	করতে	করিতে
Perfect	করে	করিয়া
Conditional	করলে	করিলে

(Note :—When the inherent vowel occurs in a syllable preceding ি its pronunciation moves slightly higher up the

triangle (p. 3) towards ও, and this modification persists in the shorter forms of verbs even when the original ি has been dropped in the abbreviation. To indicate this in the 2nd Person Future Imperative an apostrophe is inserted.)

Verbs with vowel stems.

Present Tense	খাই	খাই
Imperative	খাই	খাই
Future Imperative (2nd person)	খাইয়ো	খাইয়ো
Future Tense	খাব	খাইব
Past Tense	খেলাম	খাইলাম
Frequentative Tense	খেতাম	খাইতাম
Present Continuous	খাচ্ছি	খাইতেছি
Past Continuous	খাচ্ছিলাম	খাইতেছিলাম
Present Perfect	খেয়েছি	খাইয়াছি
Past Perfect	খেয়েছিলাম	খাইয়াছিলাম
Infinitive	খেতে	খাইতে
Participles: Present	খেতে	খাইতে
Perfect	খেয়ে	খাইয়া
Conditional	খেলে	খাইলে

Causative Verbs have long forms exactly like those of verbs with vowel stems, since the stem of the Causative Verb ends in আ ।

It is clear from the long forms that the two Continuous Tenses are formed from the Present Participle and parts of the verb “to be”, whilst the two Perfect Tenses are similarly formed from the Perfect Participle and parts of the verb “to be”.

APPENDIX B : COMBINATION OF LETTERS—SANDHI

In all languages when roots are combined, or prefixes or suffixes added, there is often a modification of the letters which are brought together, e.g. the Latin root “cum” (with) has appeared in English in different forms in “comfort” and “constant”, etc.

These modifications are more elaborate in Bengali and grammarians have evolved rules for them. Whilst it is possible to read Bengali without knowing these rules, they are useful in tracing derivations of compound words, which otherwise might be puzzling.

Sandhi may be divided into two sections, Vowel-sandhi and Consonant-sandhi, and in order to understand it, it is necessary to recall the relationships between the various letters as given in the Introduction, so that it will be useful first to look back and check this before going on to the following explanation.

VOWEL-SANDHI

First of all, look carefully at the following chart:—

1	2	3	4
অ আ	আ		
ই ঈ	এ	ঐ	য
ঊ ঋ	ও	ঔ	ব
ঋ	অর	আর	র

The rules can then be understood:—

(a) Any pair of vowels in column 1 coalesce to form the longer of the two. (Note that the first word in each case is assumed to have the inherent vowel if it has no other.)

হিম—snow + আলয়—abode = হিমালয়—Himalaya

মহা—great + আশয়—mind = মহাশয়—great-minded

মঙ্গল—good + অমঙ্গল—bad = মঙ্গলামঙ্গল—good and evil

অতি—beyond + ইন্দ্রিয়—sense = অতীন্দ্রিয়—imperceptible

ক্ষিতি—earth + ঈশ—lord = ক্ষিতীশ—lord of the earth

ভানু—sun + উদয়—rising = ভানুদয়—sunrise

কটু—harsh + উক্তি—saying = কটুক্তি—hard saying

(b) When অ or আ combine with one of the other letters in column 1 the result is the letter in column 2 corresponding to the second letter of the combination. This change is called by grammarians ঙ্গণ.

যথা—as + ইষ্টে—desired = যথেষ্টে—enough

পরম—supreme + ইশ্বর—god = পরমেশ্বর—Supreme God

সূর্য—sun + উদয়—rising = সূর্যোদয়—sunrise

মহা—great + উৎসব—festival = মহোৎসব—great festival

মহা—great + ঋষি—saint = মহর্ষি—great saint

(Note two forms where the resultant letter is in column 3 instead of column 2:—

শীত—cold + ঋত—afflicted = শীতর্ষিত—afflicted by cold

ক্ষুধা—hunger + ঋত—afflicted = ক্ষুধাৰ্ষিত—hungry)

(c) When অ or আ combine with one of the letters in column 2 or 3 the result is the letter in column 3 corresponding to the second letter of the combination. This change is called বৃদ্ধি

জন—person + এক—one = জনৈক—a certain one

মহা—great + ঐশ্বর্য—wealth = মহৈশ্বর্য—great wealth

মহা—great + ঔষধি—plant = মহৌষধি—great plant
 মহা—great + ঔষধ—medicine = মহৌষধ—panacea

(d) So far the letter which governed the change was the second in the combination. When the first letter is other than অ or আ it is the first letter which governs the change. When the first letter is one of the letters in column 1 or 2 (other than অ or আ) it becomes the corresponding semi-vowel in column 4, and combines with the consonant before it.

অতি—much + আচার—behaviour = অত্যাচার—oppression
 পরি—about + অন্ত—end = পর্যন্ত—as far as
 সু—good + আগত—arrival = স্বাগত—welcome
 অনু—after + এষণ—search = অন্বেষণ—enquiry
 পিতৃ—father + আলয়—house = পিত্রালয়—father's house
 নে + অন = নয়ন—eye
 ভো + অন = ভবন—house

(Note: The last two are formed from Sanskrit roots which are not found separately. In these cases the vowel changes to a semi-vowel which does not combine with the consonant but remains separate.)

(e) A letter in column 3 with a letter in column 1 becomes the semi-vowel in column 4 preceded by আ.

নৈ + অক = নায়ক—leader
 পৌ + অক = পাবক—fire

VOWEL FOLLOWED BY CONSONANT

The only case in which there is any modification is when a short vowel is followed by ছ, in which case ছ becomes চ্ছ

রবি + ছায়া = রবিচ্ছায়া তরু + ছায়া = তরুচ্ছায়া

CONSONANT FOLLOWED BY VOWEL

When the unvoiced consonants ক, চ, ট, ত, প are followed by a vowel they change into the corresponding voiced consonants গ, জ, ড, দ, ব, though ড here, not ড, is a little surprising.

দিক + অন্ত = দিগন্ত ঘট + আনন = ঘটানন
 জগৎ + ইন্দ্র = জগদিন্দ্র জগৎ + ঈশ = জগদীশ

CONSONANT SANDHI

In consonant sandhi the letter which ends the first word of the two components is always one of the first letters of each class ক, চ, ট, ত, প or one of the three ন, ম or ষ.

Some words which apparently end in দ are found in sandhi, but in these cases the Sanskrit root ends in ৎ and therefore for purposes of sandhi they are reckoned as ending in ৎ.

(a) The unvoiced letters (ক চ ট ত প) followed by voiced letters (গ ষ জ ঝ ড ঢ দ ধ ব ভ), semi-vowels (য র ল ব) or হ change into the corresponding voiced letters (গ জ ড দ ব). But ত followed by জ ঝ ড ঢ ল হ differs (see below).

দিক + গজ = দিগ্গজ, জগৎ + বন্ধু = জগদ্বন্ধু, বাক + দেবী = বাগ্‌দেবী, তৎ + রূপ = তদ্রূপ, সৎ + গতি = সদ্‌গতি ।

(b) The unvoiced letters followed by a nasal change into the nasal of their own class (occasionally into the voiced letter of their own class).

দিক্ + নাগ = দিগ্‌নাগ, জগৎ + নাথ = জগন্নাথ, প্রাক্ + মুখ = প্রাঙ্‌মুখ, বাক্ + ময় = বাঙ্‌ময়, তৎ + মাত্র = তন্মাত্র, অপ্ + ময় = অন্ময় ।

(c) চ or জ followed by ন become চ্ছ or জ্জ.
 যাচ + না = যাচ্ছা, রাজ + নী = রাজ্জী ।

(d) ত followed by letters of the second class (e.g. চ ছ জ) forms a corresponding double-letter of the second class (চ ছ জ্জ).

সং + চরিত্র = সচ্চরিত্র, উৎ + ছেদ = উচ্ছেদ, বিপদ্ + জাল = বিপজ্জাল।

(Note: In the last example দ becomes ত before combining, as noted above.)

(e) ত followed by letters of the third class (ট ঠ ড ঢ) forms a corresponding double-letter of the third class.

উৎ + ডীন = উডডীন, বৃহৎ + ঢকা = বৃহড্ঢকা।

(f) ত followed by ল becomes ল্.

উৎ + লেখ = উল্লেখ, তৎ + লিপি = তল্লিপি।

(g) ত followed by শ forms চ্ছ.

উৎ + শৃঙ্খল = উচ্ছৃঙ্খল, উৎ + শ্বাস = উচ্ছ্বাস।

(h) ত followed by হ forms হ্ছ.

উৎ + হত = উহ্ছত, তৎ + হেতু = তহ্ছেতু।

(i) ন followed by a sibilant becomes ঙ্.

প্রশন্ + সা = প্রশংসা।

(j) ম followed by one of the “class-consonants” changes to either ঙ or the nasal of the corresponding class.

অহম্ + কার = অহঙ্কার or অহংকার, সম্ + খ্যা = সম্খ্যা or সংখ্যা, সম্ + জাত = সম্জাত or সংজাত, সম্ + বুদ্ধ = সম্ভুদ্ধ or সংভুদ্ধ।

But with ত it only changes to স্ত. গম্ + তব্য = গস্তব্য.

(k) ম followed by a semi-vowel or sibilant becomes ঙ্.

সম্ + যোগ = সংযোগ, সম্ + রক্ষা = সংরক্ষা, সম্ + বাদ = সংবাদ, সম্ + সার = সংসার।

(l) ষ্ followed by ত or থ changes ত or থ into ট or ঠ.

হৃষ + ত = হৃষ্ট, ঘৃষ + থ = ঘৃষ্ঠ।

(m) Note the following irregular sandhis:—

উৎ + স্থান = উস্থান, উৎ + স্তম্ভন = উস্তম্ভন, সম্ + রাজ = সম্ৰাজ।

BISARGA-SANDHI

Apart from the eight letters mentioned above, none of the consonants can end the first component of a sandhi, but there are some roots and prefixes which end in স or র. In order to be combined in a sandhi, either of these two must become bisarga ঙ, and in some cases what happens to the bisarga depends on whether it is originally স or র.

(a) When bisarga is followed by অ it produces ও.

ততঃ + অধিক = ততোধিক, বয়ঃ + অধিক = বয়োধিক।

(b) When followed by a vowel other than অ bisarga drops out.

অতঃ + এব = অতএব।

(c) When followed by a voiced letter, nasal, semi-vowel or হ it becomes ও.

অধঃ + গতি = অধোগতি, মনঃ + যোগ = মনোযোগ, বয়ঃ + বৃদ্ধি = বয়োবৃদ্ধি, তেজঃ + ময় = তেজোময়, মনঃ + হর = মনোহর

(d) But bisarga which was originally র preceded by অ and followed by a vowel, a voiced letter nasal, semi-vowel or হ becomes অর.

পুনঃ + আগত = পুনরাগত, অন্তঃ + গত = অন্তর্গত, অন্তঃ + যামী = অন্তর্যামী, অন্তঃ + আশ্রা = অন্তরাশ্রা, পুনঃ + দান = পুনর্দান, অন্তঃ + হিত = অন্তর্হিত

(e) Bisarga preceded by অ or আ and followed by ক, খ, প, ফ, becomes স.

পুরঃ + কার = পুরস্কার, ভাঃ + কর = ভাস্কর, বাচঃ + পতি = বাচস্পতি।

But there are some exceptions to this.

প্রাতঃকাল, অস্তঃকরণ, অস্তঃপুর, ইতঃপূর্বে ।

(f) Bisarga preceded by ই or উ and followed by a vowel, a voiced letter, nasal semi-vowel or হ becomes র.

নিঃ + অবধি = নিরবধি, দুঃ + অবস্থা = দুরবস্থা, নিঃ + গম = নির্গম, দুঃ + লভ = দুর্লভ, নিঃ + জন = নির্জন ।

(g) Bisarga preceded by ই or উ and followed by ক, খ, প, ফ, becomes ঘ.

পরিঃ + কার = পরিষ্কার, নিঃ + ফল = নিষ্ফল, চতুঃ + পদ = চতুপদ ।

(h) Bisarga followed by চ or ছ becomes শ.

নিঃ + চল = নিশ্চল, দুঃ + চিন্তা = দুশ্চিন্তা, শিরঃ + ছেদ = শিরশ্ছেদ ।

(i) Bisarga followed by ট or ঠ becomes ষ.

ধনুঃ + টংকার = ধনুষ্টংকার, নিঃ + ঠুর = নিষ্ঠুর ।

(j) Bisarga followed by ত or থ becomes স.

ইতঃ + ততঃ = ইতস্ততঃ ।

(k) Bisarga followed by র disappears, but the vowel before it is lengthened.

নিঃ + রস = নীরস, নিঃ + রোগ = নীরোগ, চক্ষুঃ + রোগ = চক্ষুরোগ ।

(l) Bisarga followed by স্থ is sometimes omitted.

দুঃ + স্থ = দুঃস্থ or দুস্থ ।

APPENDIX C : THE USE OF লাগা AND লাগান ।

As noted in Lesson 3, the verb লাগা and its causative form লাগান has a wide range of idiomatic usages. The following list is by no means exhaustive, but gives an idea of the variety of meanings which may be represented.

কাপড়ে দাগ লেগেছে ।

There is a mark on the cloth.

ঘরে আগুন লেগেছে ।

The house is on fire.

মাটিতে চারা গাছ লেগেছে ।

The seedlings have taken root in the earth.

আমার গায়ে বাতাস লাগছে ।

The breeze is blowing on me.

ঘাটে জাহাজ লেগেছে ।

The boat has arrived at the quay.

এ তালায় চাবিটা লাগে না ।

The key does not fit this lock.

আপনার পরামর্শ আমার মনে লাগে না ।

I do not accept your advice.

এ জিনিষ কিনতে গেলে, অনেক টাকা লাগবে ।

If you want to buy this you will need a lot of money.

এ কাজ শেষ করতে এক মাস লাগবে ।

It will take a month to finish this work.

সে খেতে লাগল ।

He began to eat.

দু-জনের মধ্যে ঝগড়া লেগে গেল ।

A quarrel sprang up between them.

এ বই আমার ভাল লাগছে ।

I like this book.

আজকে বড় শীত লাগে ।

It is very cold today.

লাঠি দিয়ে তার আঘাত লেগেছিল ।

He had been injured with a stick.

এ বিষয় আমার অন্তরে লেগেছে ।

This thing has cut me to the quick.

উনুনে আগুন লাগাও ।

Light the fire in the oven.

দরজায় তালা লাগাও ।

Lock the door.

কাঠে রং লাগিয়েছে ।

He has painted the wood.

পাখা বাতাস আন্ডায় লাগিয়ে দিচ্ছে ।

The fan is making the air strike me (is fanning me).

মাঝি ঘাটে নৌকা লাগাচ্ছে ।

The boatman is fastening the boat to the quay.

মন লাগাও না ।

Please pay attention.

এতে সময় লাগাবেন না ।

Don't spend time on this.

APPENDIX D : PROVERBS

Bengali, like other languages, has many proverbs and proverbial sayings, and it is useful to recognize them. Here are a few, with literal translation in brackets and English equivalent below.

নাই মামার চেয়ে কানা মামা ভাল ।

(A one-eyed uncle is better than no uncle.)

Half a loaf is better than no bread.

জোর যার মুল্লুক তার ।

(The country is his who has strength.)

Might is right.

তিলকে তাল করা ।

(To make a palm-tree out of a sesamum-seed.)

To make a mountain out of a molehill.

আপনার ষোল কেহ টক বলে না ।

(No one calls his own buttermilk sour.)

No one sees his own faults.

নাচতে না জানলে উঠানের দোষ ।

(If one does not know how to dance, the courtyard is at fault.)

A bad workman blames his tools.

ধর্মের ঢাক আপনিই বাজে ।

(The drum of religion sounds of itself.)

Truth will out.

যতক্ষণ শ্বাস, ততক্ষণ আশ ।

(While there is breath there is hope.)

While there is life there is hope.

তেলে মাথায় তেল দেওয়া ।
 (To put oil on an oiled head.)
 To carry coals to Newcastle.

চোর পালালে বুদ্ধি বাড়ে ।
 (When the thief has gone, sense increases.)
 Locking the stable-door when the horse has gone.

বসতে পেলে শুতে চায় ।
 (If he is allowed to sit, he wants to lie down.)
 Give him an inch and he takes an ell.

নিজের চরকায় তেল দাও ।
 (Put oil on your own spinning-wheel.)
 Mind your own business.

অবস্থা বুঝে ব্যবস্থা কর ।
 (Make your arrangement according to the conditions.)
 Cut your coat according to your cloth.

আকাশের চাঁদ হাতে পাওয়া ।
 (To get in one's hand the moon from the sky.)
 To realise one's wildest dreams.

যেমন কুকুর তেমনি মুণ্ডর ।
 (As the dog, so the stick.)
 Make the punishment fit the crime.

বহু সন্ন্যাসীতে গাজন নষ্ট ।
 (By too many sannyasis the sacrifice is spoiled.)
 Too many cooks spoil the broth.

আপনার গায়ে কুড়াল মারা ।
 (To strike oneself with an axe.)
 To kill the goose which lays the golden eggs.

জলে কুমীর দাঙ্গায় বাধ ।
 (A crocodile in the water, a tiger on the bank.)
 Between the devil and the deep blue sea.

ভাই ভাই ঠাই ঠাই ।
 (Brothers—places.)
 Brothers separate.

মরার উপর খাড়ার ঘা ।
 (A sword-cut on a dead man.)
 Hitting a man when he's down.

যত গর্জে তত বম্বে না ।
 (It does not rain as much as it rumbles.)
 His bark is worse than his bite.

ঢিল ছুড়লে পাটকেলটী খেতে হয় ।
 (If one throws a stone, one must receive a brickbat.)
 People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

উলুবনে মুক্তা ছড়ান ।
 (Throwing pearls amongst the long grass.)
 Casting pearls before swine.

অরণ্যে রোদন ।
 (A weeping in the forest.)
 A voice in the wilderness.

অপরের মাথায় কাঁঠাল ভাঙ্গা ।
 (To break one's jack-fruit on someone else's head.)
 To get someone else to do one's dirty work.

বামন হয়ে চাঁদে হাত ।
 (Being a dwarf, but putting a hand on the moon.)
 To cry for the moon.

চিরদিন সমান যায় না ।
 (The whole time does not pass smoothly.)
 It's a long lane that has no turning.

বরের ঘরের মাসী, কনের ঘরের পিসি ।
 (Aunt on the mother's side to the bridegroom, and on the
 father's side to the bride.)
 To run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.

সবুরে মেওয়া ফলে ।

(Mewa ripens slowly.)

Rome was not built in a day.

গাছে কাঠাল গৌফে তেল ।

(Oiling the moustache while the jackfruit is on the tree.)

Counting one's chickens before they are hatched.

মুষল ধারে বৃষ্টি ।

(Rain in streams like pestles.)

Raining cats and dogs.

APPENDIX E: FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Bengali is much more precise than English in giving names to members of the family. Whereas English uses "uncle", "aunt" and "cousin" for a large group of persons who are related in different ways, in Bengali separate names are used for each particular relationship. It is difficult to trace all of these, but a list of some of the common ones is useful.

ভাই (brother) and বোন (sister) are used in a very wide sense to include cousins of several degrees. To express what English means by "brother" or "sister" it is necessary to say আপন ভাই or আপন বোন । ভাই is also used as a friendly term of greeting between those who are not related, e.g. school-friends. Girls also use ভাই and not বোন in addressing one another.

দাদা (elder brother) or দিদি (elder sister) are used as friendly greeting to persons older than oneself with whom one is very familiar, but not related, but these should not be used until the friendship becomes very close.

Apart from these terms, the words expressing relationships are very precise. It is useful to construct a family-tree with one's own relatives to see how they fit in.

(a) Relatives in the direct line

Paternal grandfather—	ঠাকুরদাদা	Maternal grandfather—	দাদা মহাশয় (দাদু)
Paternal grandmother—	ঠাকুরমা	Maternal grandmother—	দিদিমা
Father—বাবা		Mother—মা	
Elder brother—দাদা		Elder sister—দিদি	
Younger brother—ভাই		Younger sister—বোন	

(Any brother older than oneself has the suffix দা added to his name, and any sister older than oneself has দি added. If there are a number of older brothers they may be distinguished as বড়দা (eldest) মেজদা (middle) ছোটদা (third) and similarly with sisters.)

Son—ছেলে	Daughter—মেয়ে
Son's wife—বউমা	Daughter's husband—জামাই
Grandson—নাতী	Grand-daughter—নাতনী
Grandson's wife—নাতবউ	Grand-daughter's husband—নাতজামাই
Great-grandson—পুতী	Great-grand-daughter—পুতনী

(b) *Relatives through Father*

Father's eldest brother— জেঠা	His wife—জেঠিমা
His son—জেঠুতা ভাই	His daughter—জেঠুতা বোন
Any other brother—কাকা	His wife—কাকীমা
His son—কাকুত ভাই	His daughter—কাকুত বোন
Father's sister—পিসীমা	Her husband—পিসা
Her son—পিসতুতা ভাই	Her daughter—পিসতুতা বোন

(c) *Relatives through Mother*

Mother's brother—মামা	His wife—মামী
His son—মামাতো ভাই	His daughter—মামাতো বোন
Mother's sister—মাসীমা	Her husband—মেসো
Her son—মাসতুতা ভাই	Her daughter—মাসতুতো বোন

(d) *Collaterals*

Elder brother's wife—বউদি	Elder sister's husband— দাদাবাবু
Younger brother's wife— বউমা	Younger sister's husband— বোনাই (ভগিনীপতি)

Brother's son—ভাই পো	Sister's son—ভাগনে
Brother's daughter—ভাইবি	Sister's daughter—ভাগনী

(e) *Relatives by marriage*

Father-in-law—শ্বশুর	Mother-in-law—শাশুড়ী
Wife's brother—শালা	Wife's sister—শালী
His wife—শালাবউ	Her husband— ভায়রাভাই
Husband's elder brother— ভাশুর	Husband's sister—ঠাকুরবি
His wife—বড়জা	Her husband— ঠাকুরজামাই
His son—ভাশুরপো	Her son—ভাগনে
His daughter—ভাশুরবি	Her daughter—ভাগনী
Husband's younger brother—দেওর	
His wife—দেওরজা	
His son—দেওরপো	
His daughter—দেওরবি	

VOCABULARIES

Vocabulary I includes all the words found in the main part of the book in the sentence-drills and exercises, first in Bengali-English, and then in English-Bengali lists. Since this list is somewhat limited, additional vocabularies have been added which contain words which will be found useful, grouped in subjects. There are a number of excellent dictionaries available in different sizes, but one warning must be given, that these do not usually distinguish whether the words belong to the written or to the colloquial style, and care must be taken in using them without checking with someone more familiar with the language.

* These words have the inherent vowel pronounced with the final consonant.

VOCABULARY I: GENERAL

Bengali-English

অদ্ভুত	strange	আগে	before, first
অনেক	many	আঘাট	wound
অন্তর	heart	আচ্ছা	very well !
*অন্য	other	আজ	today
অন্যায়	wrong	আজ্ঞে	yes, sir !
অবস্থা	condition	আট	eight
অভ্যাস	habit	আড়াই	2½
অলস	lazy	আধ	half
*অল্প	a little	আনা (n)	anna
অসুখ	illness	আনা (v)	bring
		আপনি	you
আগুন	fire	আপিস	office

VOCABULARIES

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আবার	again	*কত, ক	how many ?
আম	mango	কথা	word, thing
আমি	I	কপি	cabbage, etc.
আর	and, more	কয়েক	several
আলু	potato	করা	do, work
আশা	hope	কর্ত্তা	master
আসা	come	কলম	pen
আস্তে	slowly	কলা	bananas
		কলেজ	college
ইস্কুল	school	কাগজ	paper
ইংরেজ	Englishman	কাঁচা	unripe
ইংরেজী	English	কাছে	near, beside
		কাজ	work
উচিত	right, ought	কাঠ	wood
উচোট খাওয়া	stumble	কান	ear
উনুন	oven	কাপড়	cloth
উন্নতি	progress	কারণ	because, cause
উপরে	on	কাল	time,
			yesterday,
			tomorrow
এ	this		
এক	one		
		কিছু	something
একটু	a little	কিছু... না	nothing
এখন	now	কিন্তু	but
এখনও	yet	কুকুর	dog
এখানে	here	কুড়ি	twenty
		কেউ... না	no one
ও	that	*কেন	why
ওষুধ	medicine	কেনা	buy
		কেমন	how
কখনও	ever	কেরানী	clerk
কঠিন	hard, difficult	কোথায়	where

কোন	which	চলা	go
*কোন	some	চাওয়া	want
ক্রাশ	class	চাকরি	employment
		চাবি	key
খবর	news	চার	four
খরচ	expense	চারা	seedling
খাওয়া	eat	চাষ করা	cultivate
খারাপ	bad	চাষী	farmer,
খিদে	hunger		peasant
খুব	very	চিকিৎসা	treatment
খুশী	happy	চিঠি	letter
খেলা	game	চিন্তা	thought,
খেলা করা	play		worry
খোকা	young boy	চুপ	silent
		চুরি	theft
		চুল	hair
*গত	last (previous)	চেপ্টা	try
গা	body		
গাছ	tree, plant	ছাড়া	leave, besides
গাজর	carrot	ছেলে	boy
গাড়ি	vehicle, car	ছেলেপিলে	children
গোরু	cow	ছেলেমেয়ে	children
গ্রাম	village	ছুটি	holiday
		*ছোট	small
ঘটা	happen		
ঘন্টা	hour	*জন্য	for
ঘর	house	*জাগান	wake (tr.)
ঘাট	quay, flight of	জানা	know
	steps on	জায়গা	place, space
	river-bank	জাহাজ	steamer, ship
ঘাস	grass	জিনিষ	thing
*ঘুমান	sleep	জোড়া	pair

জ্বর	fever	দরকার	need
ঝগড়া	quarrel	দরজা	door
		দশ	ten
টাকা	rupee	দাগ	mark
টুকরো	piece	*দাড়ান	stand
টেবিল	table	দাম	price
ট্রেন	train	দিন	day
		দুই	two
ঠিক	correct	দুপুর	noon,
			mid-day
ডাক-ঘর	post-office	দুর্ঘটনা	accident
ডাকা	call	দুর্বল	weak
ডাক্তার	doctor	*দুর্ভিক্ষ	famine
ডিম	egg	দুষ্টুমি	naughtiness
		দুষ্টু	naughty
তখন	then (time)	*দুঃখ	misfortune
*তত	so much	দেওয়া	give
তবে	then (conse-	দেখা	see
	quence)	*দেখান	show
তাড়াতাড়ি	quickly	দেড়	1½
তামাক	tobacco	দেরি করে	late
তারা	they	দেশ	country
তালা	lock	দোকান	shop
তাহলে	then (conse-	*দৌড়ান	run
	quence)		
তিন	three		
তৈরী করা	make, prepare	ধরা	hold, sieze
		ধাক্কা	hit, push
থাকা	stay, live	ধান	paddy
থেকে	from	ধার	side (of sea)
		ধীরে	slowly
দয়া করে	please	ধোঁয়া	smoke

নদি	river	প্রাথমিক	primary
নমস্কার	good-day	প্রায়	almost
নিজে	self	প্রায়ই	usually
নিমন্ত্রণ	invitation	প্লেন	plane
নিশ্চয়	certainly		
নুতন	new	ফল	fruit
নেওয়া	take	ফিরে আসা	return
নেবু	lime	ফুটবল	football
নৌকা	boat	ফুল	flower
		ফুলকপি	cauliflower
পড়া	1. read, study		
পড়া	2. fall	বই	book
পয়সা	pice, money	বকা	scold
*পরামর্শ	advice	*বড়	big
পরিবার	family, wife	*বড়	very much
পরে	after, later	বৎসর	year
*পর্যন্ত	until	বয়স	age
পশ্চিম	west	বর্তমান	present day
পা	foot, leg	বর্ষাকাল	rainy season
পাওয়া	get	বলা	say
পাকা	ripe, complete	বসা	sit
পাখা	fan	বাইরে	outside
পাঁচ	five	বাকি	rest
পাট	jute		(remainder)
*পাঠান	send	বাগান	garden
পারা	be able	বাজার	market,
পাশ	side		bazaar
পাহাড়	mountain	বাড়ি, বাড়ী	house, home
পিঁয়াজ	onion	বাতাস	breeze
পুল	bridge	বাঁধাকপি	cabbage
পেট	stomach	*বানান	build
*পৌছান	arrive	বাবা	father

*বার	twelve	ভাষা	language
বালতি	bucket	*ভিনু	different,
বাস করা	live in		various
বাংলা	Bengali	ভুল	mistake
বিকাল	afternoon	ভুলা	forget
বিজ্ঞানী	scientist		
বিদ্যালয়	school	মধ্যে	within
বিলাত	foreign	মন	mind
	country	ময়দান	open space,
	(usually		park
	England)	মরে যাওয়া	die
বিলাতি বেগুন	tomato	মা	mother
বিষয়	affair	মাঝে মাঝে	sometimes
বীজ	seed	মাথা	head
বুদ্ধি	intelligence	*মাত্র	only
*বেড়ান	go for walk	মানে	meaning
*বেরোন	go out	মাস	month
বেলা	time (of day)	*মাংস	meat
বেশ	good !	মিথ্যা	lie
বেশী	more, too	মিথ্যাবাদি	liar
	much	*মুহূর্ত	moment
বোধহয়	perhaps	মেয়ে	girl
ব্যথা	pain	মোট	total
*ব্যস্ত	busy, anxious		
ভদ্রলোক	gentleman	যখন	when
ভয়	fear	*যত	as much as
ভাই	brother	*যথেষ্ট	enough
ভাড়া	rent, fare	যদি	if
ভাত	cooked rice	যা	what
ভাব	manner	যাওয়া	go
*ভাল	good, well	যে	who

রওনা হওয়া	set off	শেষ	end (n)
রকম	kind, sort	শেষ করা	end, finish (v)
রং	colour, paint		
রাখা	keep, place	সকল	all
রাজা	king	সকাল	morning
রাজভবন	Government House	সঙ্গে	with
		সন্দেহ	kind of sweet
রাজ্যপাল	Governor	সন্ধ্যা	dusk
রাত	night	সপ্তা	week
রাস্তা	road	সব	all
রোগ	disease	সবাই	all
রোজ	daily	সময়	time
		*সমস্ত	all
*লক্ষ্য করা	glance, notice	সমান	equal
লাগা	(see App. C)	*সমুদ্র	sea
লাঠি	stick	*সংগ্রহ করা	collect
লিচু	lichu (fruit)	সাত	seven
লেখা	write	সামনে	in front of
লেবু	lime (fruit)	সাল	year
লোক	person	*সাহায্য করা	help
		সেখানে	there
*শত, শ	hundred	স্কুল	school
*শতাব্দ	century	স্যার	sir
শরীর	body	*স্বাস্থ্য	health
শহর	city		
শিক্ষক	teacher	হওয়া	be, become
শিঘ্র	quickly	হয় তো	perhaps
শীত	cold	হাট	market
শীতকাল	cold season		(periodic)
শুধু	only	হাঁটা	walk
		হাত	hand
শুনা	hear	হায়, হায়	dear, dear
শেখা	learn	হ্যাঁ	yes

VOCABULARY I: GENERAL

English-Bengali

able, to be	পারা	book	বই
accident	দুর্ঘটনা	boy	ছেলে
advice	*পরামর্শ	breeze	বাতাস
affair	বিষয়	bridge	পুল
after	পরে	bring	আনা
afternoon	বিকালে	brinjal	বেগুন
again	আবার	brother	ভাই
age	বয়স	bucket	বালতি
all	সব, *সমস্ত,	build	*বানান
	সবাই, সকল	busy	*ব্যস্ত
almost	প্রায়	but	কিন্তু
and	আর, এবং, ও	buy	কেনা
anna	আনা		
arm	হাত	cabbage	কপি, বাঁধাকপি
arrive	*পৌঁছান	call	ডাকা
aubergine	বেগুন	can, able	পারা
		car	গাড়ি
bad	খারাপ	carrot	গাজর
balance	বাকি	cauliflower	ফুলকপি
(remainder)		century	*শতাব্দ
banana	কলা	certainly	নিশ্চয়
bazaar	বাজার	children	ছেলেমেয়ে,
because	কারণ, কেননা		ছেলেপিলে
before	আগে	city	শহর
Bengali	বাংলা	class	ক্লাস
beside	কাছে	clerk	কেরাণী
big	*বড়	cloth	কাপড়
boat	নৌকা	cold season	শীতকাল
body	শরীর, গা	collect	*সংগ্রহ করা

college	কলেজ	equal	সমান
colour	রং	ever	কখনও
come	আসা	expense	খরচ
condition	অবস্থা	face	মুখ
correct	ঠিক	fall	পড়া
country	দেশ	family	পরিবার
couple	জোড়া	famine	*দুর্ভিক্ষ
cow	গোরু	fan	পাখা
cultivate	চাষ করা	fare	ভাড়া
		farmer	চাষী
daily	রোজ	father	বাবা
day	দিন	fear	ভয়
die	মরে যাওয়া	fever	জ্বর
different	*ভিন্ন	finish	শেষ
difficult	কঠিন	fire	আগুন
disease	রোগ	first (adv)	আগে
do	করা	five	পাঁচ
doctor	ডাক্তার	flower	ফুল
dog	কুকুর	foot	পা
door	দরজা	football	ফুটবল
dusk	সন্ধ্যা	for (prep.)	*জন্য
		forget	ভুলে
ear	কান	four	চার
eat	খাওয়া	from	থেকে
egg	ডিম	front, in	সামনে
egg-plant	বেগুন	fruit	ফল
eight	আট		
employment	চাকরি	game	খেলা
end	শেষ	garden	বাগান
English	ইংরেজী	gentleman	ভদ্রলোক
Englishman	ইংরেজ	get	পাওয়া
enough	*যথেষ্ট		

girl	মেয়ে	house	বাড়ি, ঘর
give	দেওয়া	how	কেমন, কি করে
glance	*লক্ষ্য করা	how many	*কত
go	যাওয়া	hundred	*শত, শ
go out	*বেরোন	hunger	খিদে
good	*ভাল		
good-morning, etc.	নমস্কার	I	আমি
Governor	রাজ্যপাল	if	যদি
Government House	রাজভবন	illness	অসুখ
grass	ঘাস	intelligence	বুদ্ধি
		invitation	নিমন্ত্রণ
habit	অভ্যাস	jute	পাট
hair	চুল	keep	রাখা
half	আধ	key	চাবি
hand	হাত	kind (sort)	রকম
happen	ঘটা	king	রাজা
happy	খুশী	know	জানা
hard	কঠিন		
head	মাথা	language	ভাষা
health	স্বাস্থ্য	last (previous)	*গত
hear	শুনা	late	দেরি করে
heart	অন্তর	later	পরে
help	*সাহায্য	lazy	অলস
here	এখানে	learn	শেখা
hit	ধাক্কা মারা	leave	ছাড়া
hold	ধরা	leg	পা
holiday	ছুটি	letter	চিঠি
home	বাড়ি, বাড়ী	liar	মিথ্যাবাদী
hope (n)	আশা	lichu	লিচু
hour	ঘন্টা	lie	মিথ্যা

lime (fruit)	লেবু, লেবু	naughtiness	দুষ্টমি
little	*ছোট	naughty	দুষ্ট
little, a	একটু, *অল্প	near	কাছে
live in	খাকা, বাস করা	need	দরকার
lock	তালা	new	নতুন, নতুন
		news	খবর
make, prepare	তৈরী করা	night	রাত
mango	আম	no one	কেউ... না
manner	ভাব	noon	দুপুর
many	অনেক	nothing	কিছু... না
mark	দাগ	notice	*লক্ষ্য করা
market	বাজার (daily) হাট (periodic)	now	এখন
master	কর্তা	office	আপিস
meaning	মানেন	on	উপরে
meat	*মাংস	one	এক
medicine	ঔষধ	one-and-a- half	দেড়
mid-day	দুপুর	onion	পিঁয়াজ
mind	মন	only	শুধু, *মাত্র
misfortune	*দুঃখ	other	*অন্য
mistake	ভুল	outside	বাইরে
moment	*মহুর্ভ	oven	উনুন
money	টাকা, পয়সা or both together	paddy	ধান
month	মাস	pain	ব্যথা
more	আর, আরও, বেশী	paint	রং
morning	সকাল	pair	জোড়া
mother	মা	paper	কাগজ
mountain	পাহাড়	pen	কলম
mouth	মুখ	perhaps	বোধ হয়, হয় তো

person	লোক	right (correct)	ঠিক
pice	পয়সা	right (ought)	উচিত
piece	টুকরো	ripe	পাকা
place	জায়গা	river	নদি
plane	প্লেন	road	রাস্তা
plant	গাছ	run	*দৌড়ান
play	খেলা করা	rupee	টাকা
please !	দয়া করে		
pleased	খুশী	say	বলা
post-office	ডাক-ঘর	school	স্কুল, ইন্স্কুল
potato	আলু	scientist	বিজ্ঞানী
present day	বর্তমান	scold	বকা
previous	*গত	sea	*সমুদ্র
price	দাম	see	দেখা
primary	প্রাথমিক	seed	বীজ
progress	উন্নতি	seedling	চারা
		seize	ধরা
quarrel	ঝগড়া	self	নিজে, আপন
quay	ঘাট	send	*পাঠান
quickly	তাজাতাড়ি, *শীঘ্র	set off	রওনা হওয়া
quiet	চুপ	seven	সাত
		several	কয়েক
rainy season	বর্ষাকাল	shop	দোকান
read	পড়া	show	*দেখান
remain	থাকা	side	পাশ
rent	ভাড়া	side (of sea)	ধার
rest	বাকি	silent	চুপ
(remainder)		sir	স্যার
return	ফিরে আসা	sister	বোন
rice (in field)	ধান	sit	বসা
rice (threshed)	চাউল	sleep	*ঘুমান
rice (cooked)	ভাত	slowly	আন্তে, বীরে

small	*ছোট	tobacco	তামাক
smoke	ধোয়া	today	আজ
some	*কোন	tomato	বিলাতী বেগুন
something	কিছু	tomorrow	কাল
sometimes	মাঝে মাঝে	total	মোট
stand	*দাঁড়ান	train	ট্রেন
stay	থাকা	treatment	চিকিৎসা
steamer	জাহাজ	tree	গাছ
stick	লাঠি	try	চেষ্টা করা
stomach	পেট	twelve	*বার, বারো
strange	অদ্ভুত	twenty	কুড়ি, বিশ
study	পড়া, লেখাপড়া	two	দুই
stumble	উচোট খাওয়া	two-and-a-half	আড়াই
table	টেবিল	unripe	কাঁচা
take	নেওয়া	until	*পর্যন্ত
teach	*পড়ান	usually	প্রায়ই
teacher	শিক্ষক	various	*ভিনা
tell	বলা	very	খুব
ten	দশ	very well !	আচ্ছা, বেশ
theft	চুরি	village	গ্রাম
then (time)	তখন	wake (tr.)	*জাগান
(consequence)	তবে, তাহলে	walk	হাঁটা
there	সেখানে, ওখানে	walk, go for	*বেড়ান
they	তারা	want	চাওয়া
thing	জিনিস, কথা	weak	দুর্বল
this	এ	week	সপ্তা
thought	চিন্তা	well	*ভাল
three	তিন	west	পশ্চিম
time	সময়, কাল, বেল		

what	কি	worry	চিন্তা
when	কখন, কবে	wound	আঘাত
where	কোথায়	write	লেখা
which	কোন	wrong	অন্যায়
why	*কেন		
with	সঙ্গে	year	বৎসর
within	মধ্যে	year (in dates)	সাল
wood	কাঠ	yes	হ্যাঁ
word	কথা	yesterday	কাল
work (n)	কাজ	yet	এখনও
work (v)	কাজ করা	you	আপনি

VOCABULARY II: HOUSEHOLD TERMS

Some of the following words are included in the general vocabulary, when they occur in the course of the lessons, but it is convenient to group them together here for easy reference. Many of the words needed for "European style" cooking are English words, and have no Bengali equivalent, e.g. saucepan, frying-pan, roast, pudding, apple, plum. The words given here are words which will be found most useful for a beginner.

(a) Kitchen utensils

The commonest method of cooking is on an open fire-place which burns half-coked coal, charcoal or wood, and the utensils do not normally have handles. There is no 'baking', but only boiling or frying. The utensils are normally aluminium or cast-iron, and boiling is done in a ডেকচি which is a round pan without handles and a flat base, or a হাঁড়ি which is similar but with a rounded base. Frying

is done in a কড়া which is concave and may or may not have a handle at each side.

lid—ঢাকনা	fish-slice—খুন্তি
wide-mouthed water-pot— কলসী	narrow-necked water-pot— শরাই
fire-place—চুলা	oven—উন্ন
knife—ছুরি	fork—কাঁচি
spoon—চামচ	ladle—হাতা
cup—পিয়াল	saucer—পিরিচ
dish or bowl—বাঁটি	bucket—বালতি
grinding-stone—শিল	sieve—চালনী
rolling-board—চাকি	rolling-pin—বেলন
duster, dishcloth or tea- cloth—বাড়ন	

Knife for cutting vegetables, etc., curved and fixed to a piece of wood, which is held by the foot—বাঁটি.

(b) Cooking-methods

boil—ফুটা, সিদ্ধ করা	fry—ভাজ
mash—*চটকান	cut, chop—কাটা
wash (plates, etc.)—বোয়া	wash (clothes)—কাচা
soap—সাবান	matches—দেশলাই

oil (for stoves, etc.) may be তেল which is the general term, but more often is called “kerosene”. “Paraffin” is unknown !

(c) Food

rice (uncooked)—চাউল	rice (cooked)—ভাত
rice (flattened)—চিঁড়া	rice (puffed)—মুড়ি
wheat—গম	wholemeal flour—আটা
white flour—ময়দা	semolina—সুজি

bread (i.e. anything made with flour) is রুটি, and there are the following common varieties :—

চাপাটি — a flat round pancake, rather like an oat-cake
পরটি — a rather thicker pancake, made with a little fat
লুচি — a puffed pancake made with fat and fried in deep fat
পাউরুটি — baker's bread, a loaf.

fried rice চচ্চড়ি

fried rice with meat and various additions, both savoury and sweet — পোলাও

Lentils—দাল, ডাল

gravy—ঝোল

There are many different names for different kinds of curry. The word for “vegetable curry”—তরকারি—is often used as a general term. The specific names can only be learned by experience of the actual curries.

chutney—টক

curds—দই

rice-pudding—পায়স

curd for making sweets—

ছানা

Bengali sweets are many and various, and are indescribable. The base is mostly curd and sugar and the general term is মিঠাই. Some of the most frequently met are :—

শদেশ — a dry, soft sweet

বস্গোল্লা — a juicy ball, usually white in colour, and syrupy

পানতুয়া — a brown oval juicy sweet, with less syrup

লেডিকেনিং — a large round brown sweet, named after Lady Canning, who was supposed to be very fond of it

cream—মান্নাই

salty biscuit—নিম্বিকি

meat or vegetable patty—শিল্লাড়া

Spices. The general term is মসলা and the more common are :—

salt—নুন, লবন	pepper—গোলমরিচ
turmeric—হলুদ	chilli—লঙ্কা
aniseed—মৌরি	cardamom—এলাচ
tamarind—তেঁতুল	cloves—*লবঙ্গ
cinnamon—দারুচিনি	carroway—জীরে
ginger—আদা	garlic—রসুন
nutmeg—জায়ফল	coriander—ধনে

Meat. The general term is *মাংস and amongst Hindus this almost invariably implies mutton, either sheep or goat. Beef may be called *গোমাংস but often is just called “beef”. For any special cuts the English word may be used in places where Europeans are numerous, otherwise they are not known.

Fish. There are very many varieties of fish, which is the staple diet of Bengal. Most of them are river or tank fish, which have no English names. The most common species of white fish are ভেটুকি and রুই. The common term for shell-fish is চিংড়ি and the different sizes are distinguished as follows :—

shrimp—মুশো-চিংড়ি	prawn { বাগদা-চিংড়ি মোচা-চিংড়ি
lobster—গলদা-চিংড়ি	

Vegetables. The general name is আনাজ or সবজি

potato—আলু	peas—কড়াইগুঁটি, মটর
onion—পিঁয়াজ	bean—শিম
cabbage group—কপি	common cabbage—বাঁধাকপি
cauliflower—ফুলকপি	kohl rabi—ওলকপি
snake-gourd—চিচিঙ্গা	bottle gourd—লাউ
cucumber—শসা	pumpkin—কুমড়া
sweet potato—লাল আলু	radish—মুলো

egg-plant—বেগুন	tomato—বিলাতি বেগুন
lady's finger—টেঁড়স	carrot—গাজর
turnip—শালগম	spinach, etc.—শাক

Fruit. The general word is ফল some others are :—

plantain, banana—কলা	citrus fruit—লেবু, মেবু
small limes (different varieties)—কাগজি-লেবু, পাতি-লেবু, গোঁড়া-লেবু	sweet lime—মোসাম্বি
orange—কমলা-লেবু	pear—নাশপাতি
pomelo—বাতাবি-লেবু	mango—আম
guava—পেয়ারা	pineapple—আনারস
lichu—লিচু	grape—আঙ্গুর
custard-apple—আতাকল, শীতাকল	

Miscellaneous words.

tea—চা	sugar—চিনি
milk—দুধ	butter—মাখন
fat—চর্বি	

VOCABULARY III : Parts of the Body and medical terms

It is useful to know the terms for parts of the body, and also a few terms needed in sickness.

head	মাথা	hair	চুল
face, mouth	মুখ	nose	নাক
eye	চোখ	ear	কান
lip	ঠোঁট	tongue	জিহ্বা, জিভ
tooth	দাঁত	gum	মাড়ি
cheek	গাল	chin	চিবুক
throat	গলা	shoulder	কাঁধ

arm, hand	হাত	leg, foot	পা
chest	বুক	stomach	পেট
skin	চামড়া	bone	হাড়
blood	*রক্ত	sputum	খুখু
stool	বাহ্য	urine	প্ৰস্রাব
pulse	নাড়ী	respiration	শ্বাস, নিশ্বাস
temperature,	তাপ, জ্বর		প্ৰশ্বাস
fever		cough	কাশি
cold	সর্দি	illness	অসুখ
disease	রোগ	pain	ব্যথা, বেদনা

For many aches the word ব্যথা with the appropriate part is used, e.g. headache মাথার ব্যথা toothache দাঁতের ব্যথা, stomach-ache পেটের ব্যথা and for many diseases the English word is used, but the following may be noted :—

dysentery	আমাশয়	cholera	ওলাউঠা,
malaria	ম্যালেরিয়া		কলেরা
tuberculosis	যক্ষ্মা	leprosy	*কুষ্ঠ
chicken-pox	জল বসন্ত	smallpox	*বসন্ত
prickly-heat	ঘামাচি	measles	হাম

The following words are used in treatment :—

medicine	ঔষধ	powder	গুড়া
pill	গুলি, বড়ি	vaccination	টিকা
bottle	বোতল, শিশি	diet	*পথ্য

VOCABULARY IV : Words of similar sound

The following words which sound very similar should be carefully noted to avoid confusion :—

*অনু	food	*অন্য	other
কই	where (collo- quial)	খই	parched rice

*কত	how much	*ক্ষত	wounded
কবর	grave	খবর	news
কল	tap, machine	খল	deceitful
কলা	banana	খোলা	open
কাক	crow	খাক	let him eat
কাঠ	wood	খাট	bed
কাম	desire	খাম	envelope
কাল	time	খাল	canal
		*কাল	black
গড়	fort	ঘর	house
গতি	motion,	ঘাটি	waterpot
	course		
গা	body	ঘা	wound
গাদা	pile	গাধা	donkey
গোল	round	ঘোল	buttermilk
ঘাত	blow	ঘাট	landing-place
			quay
চাল	rice (collo- quial)	ছাল	skin of animal
চারা	seedling	ছাড়া	1. leave
			2. beside, without
চিড়া	flattened rice	ছিঁড়া	torn
চড়ি	bracelet	ছুড়ি	knife
		চুরি	theft
জল	water	ঝোল	gravy
জামা	garment	ঝামা	over-burnt
			bricks
জাল	net	ঝাল	spicy
জ্বর	fever	ঝড়	storm
টাক	baldness	তাক	plank
টানা	pull	থানা	police-station

ডাক	mail, call	ঢাক	drum
ডাকা	to call	ঢাকা	to cover (also Dacca city)
ডাটা	stalk	দাতা	giver
ডাল, দাল	lentils	ঢাল	shield
তলা	storey (of house)	তোলা	to weigh, a weight
তান	tune	খান	bolt of cloth
তাল	lock	খালা	platter
দান	gift	ধান	paddy
পাকা	ripe	পাখা	fan
পাট	jute	পাঠ	reading, lesson
পাট্টা	land lease	পাতা	leaf
পারা	be able	পাড়া	pluck
পিতা	father (literary)	ফিতা	tape
পুল	bridge	ফুল	flower
বাঘ	tiger	ভাগ	part
বাত	rheumatism	বাট	handle
		ভাত	cooked rice
বাতি	lamp	বাটি	dish, bowl
বাড়ি, বাড়ী	house	ভারী	heavy
বার	time (day)	ভার	weight
		*বার	twelve
বীর	hero	ভিড়	crowd
বেড়া	fence	ভেড়া	sheep
মাতা	mother (literary)	মাথা	head
		মাঠা	whey
মারা	hit	মাড়া	thresh
*যাগ	sacrifice	*যোগ্য	worthy
লতা	creeper	লোটা	waterpot

লাথি	kick	লাঠি	stick
ষাঁড়	bull	সার	manure
ষাট	sixty	সাত	seven
শাড়ী	sari	সারি	line
সমান	equal	সম্মান	honour
সারা	all, finished	সাদা	response
হাত	hand	হাট	market
হার	bracelet	হাড়	bone

VOCABULARY V: ANIMALS

dog	কুকুর	cat	বিরাঙ্গ
horse	ষোড়া	donkey	গাধা
cattle (general term)	গোবু, গো	cow	গাই, গাভী
bull	ষাঁড়	bullock	বলদ
buffalo	মহিষ	calf	বাচ্চুর
sheep	ভেড়া	goat	ছাগল
pig	শূকর, শুয়োর	rat, mouse	ইঁদুর
shrew	ছুঁচো	wild animal	*কন্য পশু
elephant	হাতি	camel	উট
lion	*সিংহ	tiger	বাঘ
leopard	চিত্র বাঘ	wolf	নেকড়ে বাঘ
jackal	শেয়াল, শূখাল	bear	পশুপক
rhinoceros	গণ্ডার	bison	গণ্ডার
deer	হরিণ	monkey	মনা
mongoose	বেজি, নেউল	alligator	কুম্ভীর
squirrel	কাঠবিড়াল	rabbit, hare	কান/গোশ
fowl (either sex)	মুরগি	hen	কুম্ভীর
cock	মোরগ	goose	গাভুঁয়
duck	হাঁস	pigeon	পাখি/বান্দা
		partridge	শিকার
		crane	গা

dove	ঘুঘু	sparrow	চড়ুই
peacock	ময়ূর	myna	ময়না
owl	পেচক	kingfisher	মাছরাঙা
crow	কাক	kite	চিল
parrot	টিয়া	vulture	শকুন
wagtail	খঞ্জন	snake	সাপ
woodpecker	কাঠঠোকরা	chameleon	বহুরূপী, গিরগিটি
hawk	বাজ	worm	কেঁচো, কীট
cuckoo (of a kind)	কোকিল	mosquito	মশা
cobra	গোখরো	bee	মৌমাছি
lizard	গোসাপ	caterpillar	গুঁয়োপোকা
house lizard	টিক্‌টিকি	cockroach	আরসোলা, তেলাপোকা
insect	পোকা, কীট	silkworm	গুঁটিপোকা, রেশমকীট
„ (flying)	*পতঙ্গ	tadpole	বেঙাচি
fly	মাছি	white ant	উই
wasp	বোলতা	common ant	পিঁপড়ে
butterfly	প্রজাপতি		
spider	মাকড়সা, মাকসা, মাকর		
frog, toad	ব্যাং, বেঙ		
hornet	ভিমরুল		
bug	ছারপোকা		