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**nepali**

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## Welcome to Teach Yourself Nepali

Nepali is a member of the Indo-Aryan group of languages that includes most of the languages of the northern half of the Indian sub-continent. These languages are derived from Sanskrit in much the same way that the European Romance languages are derived from Latin, and each has developed its own distinctive character over the course of many centuries. Nepali is the lingua franca of the central and eastern Himalaya, and the national language of Nepal. It is also recognized by the Indian Constitution as a major language of India because of its dominance in Sikkim and the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Bhutan promotes the use of its own national language, Dzongkha, but there too Nepali is widely spoken and understood.

Nepal is one of the world's most linguistically variegated countries; more than 40 different languages have been recorded. Just over half the population has Nepali as its mother tongue: the mother-tongue Nepali-speakers are primarily the higher caste and politically dominant Bahuns (Brahmins) and Chetris. Most of the rest of the population speaks either Indo-Aryan languages such as Maithili, Bhojpuri, Awadhi and Hindi, or Tibeto-Burman languages such as Tibetan, Tamang, Newari, Gurung, Magar, Rai and Limbu. The use of these languages was discouraged until 1990, when a democracy movement succeeded in granting some rights to Nepal's linguistic minorities. However, the level of bilingualism with Nepali is now very high in most parts of the kingdom.

This book is designed to enable those with no previous knowledge of Nepali to progress to a point where they can communicate

effectively in Nepali on a range of everyday topics, and can also read and write the language. Like every language, Nepali has a range of different styles and levels of sophistication. A hillfarmer who has a Tibeto-Burman language as his mother tongue may use the same verb ending for all genders, numbers and levels of politeness, because for him Nepali is a workaday link-language that enables him to communicate with people who have other languages as their mother tongue. In contrast, an educated urbanite will use various verb endings which depend not only upon the number and gender of the subjects performing the actions of the verbs, but also on how polite s/he chooses to be about them. Meanwhile, inside the royal palace a completely new set of verbs and honorific vocabulary (not covered here!) comes into play.

By and large, the Nepali in this book is that which Nepali speakers use unselfconsciously in the various situations that are introduced. Where choices arise, however, we err towards the more grammatically correct. While accepting that some Nepali speakers would not make the same choices in everyday conversation, we take the view that it is better to learn rules before learning the exceptions to those rules. Similarly, the language of this book admits only a handful of English words, although many Nepali-speakers (particularly in the capital) do make free use of English vocabulary in their conversation.

## How to use the book

The book is divided into 24 units. Each unit contains from one to three Nepali dialogues (in **Unit 13**, instead of a dialogue, there is an exchange of letters, in **Unit 20** a prose passage). In the first four units all of the Nepali appears in both Devanagari (the script in which Nepali is written) and Roman transliteration. Each dialogue is followed by a box containing the new vocabulary it contains, and a literal English translation. Each dialogue or passage is followed by a section of more detailed grammatical explanation including further examples and exercises. The key to each exercise is given at the end of the book, followed by a complete end vocabulary.

You should begin by learning the characters of the Devanagari script and their pronunciation. Although the book can be used on its own, the descriptions of the sound of each character can only be approximate and the cassette that is available to accompany the book

will be of great help to you in developing accurate pronunciation at an early stage.

You may choose how to approach each unit: you might wish to learn the dialogue and its meaning first by hearing and repeating it, and then work through the translation and the grammar section to understand why it means what it does; alternatively, you might prefer to work through the grammar section first and then turn back to the dialogue to see the grammar in action, as it were. Whichever way you approach each unit, it is important not to move on until you have:

- mastered the dialogue;
- fully digested the grammar section and the examples it contains;
- learned all new vocabulary;
- completed the exercises and checked them against the key;
- repeated the exercises if they were not correct the first time.

The grammatical explanations are intended to be as clear and jargon-free as possible, although it is not possible to explain the structures of a language without using some grammatical terminology. The book cannot claim to cover every feature of Nepali, but it does contain all of the most common verb constructions and a basic vocabulary of some 1600 words. It will equip you with what you need to speak and read, and if you continue with Nepali after you have mastered this book your vocabulary and your familiarity with more complex constructions will grow very quickly. As well as helping you to master the Nepali language, the dialogues are also intended to provide you with an insight into Nepali culture and daily life.

The authors of this book wish you all the very best in your efforts to learn the Nepali language.

## Further reading

Other beginners' courses in Nepali include Tika B. Karki and Chij K. Shrestha's *Basic Course in Spoken Nepali* (Kathmandu, various editions) and David Matthews's *A Course in Nepali* (London, School of Oriental and African Studies, 1984). The first of these has been used for many years to teach Nepali to Peace Corps volunteers without introducing the Devanagari script. The second adopts a more academic approach and also introduces more complex grammatical structures.

Once you have completed *Teach Yourself Nepali*, you might wish to move on to the later units of the Matthews course to supplement your understanding of Nepali grammar. You will also find the following textbooks useful: M.K. Verma and T.N. Sharma's *Intermediate Nepali Structure* and *Intermediate Nepali Reader*, both published by Manohar Publishers in New Delhi in 1979; and Michael Hutt's *Modern Literary Nepali: an Introductory Reader*, published by Oxford University Press in New Delhi in 1997.

The best Nepali-English dictionary currently on the market is *A Practical Dictionary of Modern Nepali*, produced by an editorial board headed by Ruth Laila-Schmidt and published by Ratna Sagar Publishers in New Delhi in 1993. Ralph Turner's celebrated Nepali dictionary, first published in 1930, was reprinted in India in 1981; this is a work of immense interest, but is perhaps a little forbidding for a beginner in the language.

Pradyumna P. Karan and Hiroshi Ishii's *Nepal: a Himalayan Kingdom in Transition* (United Nations University Press, 1996) is a good introduction to all aspects of the country, while Jan Salter and Harka Gurung's beautifully illustrated book *Faces of Nepal* (Himal Books, Kathmandu, 1996) describes the cultures of Nepal's many ethnic groups.


For English translations from modern Nepali literature, see Michael Hutt's *Himalayan Voices: an Introduction to Modern Nepali Literature* (University of California Press, 1991); for a descriptive account of the history of Nepali literature, see Abhi Subedi's *Nepali Literature: Background and History* (Sajha Publishers, Kathmandu, 1978).

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## Abbreviations & symbols

M	middle (case)	Dr	doctor
L	low (case)	Er.	elder
H	high (case)	Yr.	younger
Q	question	Mat.	maternal
A	answer	Pat.	paternal
S	statement	bro	brother
m.	masculine	sis	sister
f.	feminine	D	daughter
ej.ptc.	conjunctive participle	S	son

 flags those passages that you can listen to on the recording that accompanies this book.

**Vocabulary boxes** follow each dialogue. Use these to make sure you've understood the dialogue.

The **exercises**, throughout the book, give you plenty of opportunity to practise the Nepali language points as you learn.

The **grammar** section gives a clear explanation of the grammatical issues explored in that chapter.

▶ When you have read through this section, listen to the recording, so that you can hear the vowels and consonants of the Devanagari script.

Nepali is written in the **Devanāgarī** (or 'Nagari') script, which is also used for Hindi, Sanskrit and Marathi, with only minor modifications being made to accommodate the special features of the Nepali sound system. Devanagari is a phonetic script, which means that almost every word is pronounced exactly as it is written: learning a character means also learning a sound. The system is comprised of three kinds of characters: vowels, consonants, and conjunct characters. There are no capital letters.

## Vowels

The Devanagari script has 11 vowels. Every vowel except अ **a** has two symbols. The first symbol is the full form of the vowel, called the *vowel character*. This is used when the vowel is the first letter of a word or syllable, and when it follows another vowel. The second symbol is the *vowel sign*, which is used after a consonant, i.e. when the vowel is the second letter of a syllable. The alphabet begins with the vowels, and the vowel characters are shown opposite.

## Consonants

The Devanagari script has 33 consonants. The traditional Indian system very helpfully orders consonants according to the way they are pronounced, and they are listed here in alphabetical order. Each of the first five groups of consonants has as its final member a nasal consonant (a consonant pronounced through the nose).

अ	a	like the 'a' in <i>ago</i> , but like the 'o' in <i>pot</i> when it follows a labial consonant (a consonant pronounced on the lips)
आ	ā	like the 'a' in <i>father</i>
इ	i	like the 'ee' in <i>feet</i> ; rarely like the 'i' in <i>hit</i>
ई	ī	like the 'ee' in <i>feet</i>
उ	u	like the 'oo' in <i>food</i> ; rarely like the 'u' in <i>put</i>
ऊ	ū	like the 'oo' in <i>food</i>
ऋ	r̄	like the 'ri' in <i>trip</i> , <i>ripple</i> (only occurs in words borrowed from Sanskrit)
ए	e	like the first part of the vowel sound in <i>made</i>
ऐ	ai	like the 'oy' sound in <i>boy</i> or the 'i' sound in <i>quite</i>
ओ	o	like the first part of the vowel sound in <i>hole</i>
औ	au	like the 'ow' sound in <i>cow</i>

Each Devanagari character is followed by a Roman transliteration which consists of the consonant followed by the letter **a**. This is because, in the absence of any other vowel sign, each consonant is held to contain the inherent अ **a** vowel. Because each Devanagari consonant therefore comes to represent a syllable, some scholars call the Devanagari system a 'syllabary' rather than an 'alphabet'. In words that end in a consonant, the inherent **a** of the final letter is sometimes pronounced, but is more often silent. This final **a** will appear in transliteration only when it is to be pronounced.

Two important contrasts that exist in Nepali, but not in English, should be pointed out. The first is between *aspirated* and *non-aspirated* consonants, the second between *dental* and *retroflex* consonants.

- Aspirated consonants are pronounced with a strong expulsion of breath, while non-aspirated consonants are pronounced with only minimal breath being expelled. The amount of breath expelled during the pronunciation of an English consonant is usually somewhere between these two extremes, so discipline is required to learn the Nepali way: less breath than normal while uttering a non-aspirated consonant, much more breath than normal while uttering an aspirated one. Hold a mirror in front of your face as you practise, and compare the extent to which it clouds up in each instance! Or put a hand in front of



your mouth to feel the difference. Take care also to utter each aspirate consonant as a single sound: although the second letter of the Roman transliteration of Devanagari aspirates is 'h', this is there to indicate the expulsion of breath, not to suggest that there are two separate sounds.

- To pronounce Nepali words correctly, it is also important to differentiate between dental consonants and retroflex consonants, and most particularly between dental **ta** and **da** and retroflex **ṭa** and **ḍa**. For dental consonants the tongue should touch the back of the upper front teeth, for retroflex consonants it should be curled back up against the roof of the mouth. For the English 't' and 'd' the tongue is held somewhere between these two positions, which sounds like a retroflex to a Nepali-speaker's ear. Learners therefore need to work harder to pronounce dental consonants than they do to pronounce retroflex ones, though they often imagine the opposite.

#### Velar or guttural consonants (pronounced in the throat)

क	<b>ka</b>	as the 'k' in <i>skit</i>
ख	<b>kha</b>	as <b>ka</b> but with a strong release of breath
ग	<b>ga</b>	as the 'g' in <i>go</i>
घ	<b>gha</b>	as <b>ga</b> but with a strong release of breath
ङ	<b>ṅ</b>	as the 'n' in <i>sing</i>

#### Palatal consonants (pronounced at the palate or the upper gum-line)

च	<b>ca</b>	like the 'ch' in <i>cheese</i> , but with less release of breath and pronounced with the tip of the tongue touching the lower front teeth
छ	<b>cha</b>	somewhere between the 'ch' in <i>cheese</i> and the 'ts' in <i>tsar</i> , pronounced with a strong release of breath
ज	<b>ja</b>	as the 'j' in <i>jug</i>
झ	<b>jha</b>	as <b>ja</b> but with a strong release of breath
ञ	<b>ña</b>	as the 'n' in <i>injury</i>

#### Retroflex consonants (pronounced with the tongue curled back to touch the palate)

ट	<b>ṭa</b>	like the 't' in <i>stop</i> , but with the tongue curled up to touch the roof of the mouth
ठ	<b>ṭha</b>	as <b>ṭa</b> but with a strong release of breath
ड	<b>ḍa</b>	when the first letter of a syllable: as the 'd' in <i>dug</i> , but with the tongue curled up to touch the roof of the mouth in the middle or at the end of a word: as the 'r' in <i>rug</i> , but with the tongue curled up to touch the roof of the mouth
ढ	<b>ḍha</b>	as <b>ḍa</b> but with a strong release of breath
ण	<b>ṇa</b>	like the 'n' in <i>and</i> , but with the tongue curled up to touch the roof of the mouth

#### Dental consonants (pronounced with the tongue touching or close to the upper front teeth)

त	<b>ta</b>	like the 't' in <i>tip</i> , with the tip of the tongue against the back of the upper front teeth
थ	<b>tha</b>	as <b>ta</b> but with a strong release of breath
द	<b>da</b>	as the 'd' in <i>dip</i>
ध	<b>dha</b>	as <b>da</b> but with a strong release of breath
न	<b>na</b>	as the 'n' in <i>nip</i>

#### Labial consonants (pronounced on the lips)

प	<b>pa</b>	as the 'p' in <i>pot</i>
फ	<b>pha</b>	as <b>pa</b> but with a strong release of breath; often like the 'f' in <i>father</i>
ब	<b>ba</b>	as the 'b' in <i>bud</i>
भ	<b>bha</b>	as <b>ba</b> but with a strong release of breath; sometimes like a breathy 'v' as in <i>driver</i>
म	<b>ma</b>	as the 'm' in <i>mud</i>

**Semi-vowels**

य	<b>ya</b>	as the 'y' in <i>yes</i>
र	<b>ra</b>	like the 'r' in <i>run</i> , but pronounced with a trill of the tongue, not on the lips
ल	<b>la</b>	like the 'l' in <i>lot</i> , but pronounced with the tongue further forward
व	<b>va</b>	pronounced either as the 'b' in <i>bud</i> or as the 'w' in <i>worse</i>

**Sibilant ('hissing') consonants**

श	<b>śa</b>	as the 'sh' in <i>shun</i> , but also frequently pronounced 's'
ष	<b>ṣa</b>	as the 'sh' in <i>shun</i> , but also frequently pronounced 's'
स	<b>sa</b>	as the 's' in <i>sun</i>

**Aspirate consonant**

ह	<b>ha</b>	as the 'h' in <i>hug</i>
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**Script exercise 1** Make a flash card for each character, with the Devanagari letter on the front and the Roman transliteration on the back. Use these to help you memorize each character.

**Script exercise 2** Write out the following Nepali words in Devanagari:

jhan	saral	thap	bhavan	kamal	had
chad	bakhat	jarah	yas	thag	dar
tara	gaṇa	śahar	daśak	nabh	vaś
calan	ṭaṭh	ma	ghar	phaṭ	rath
dhaval	dhab	lay	paḍha	ṣaṭh	khatam

**Constructing syllables**

Every vowel except अ **a** has a vowel sign which is added to a consonant to form a syllable. The अ **a** vowel is inherent in the consonant itself. When a vowel other than अ **a** is added to a consonant, it automatically replaces the अ **a** vowel. Vowel signs are attached to the consonant क् **k** in the following ways:

क् <b>k</b>	+	अ <b>a</b>	=	क	<b>ka</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	आ <b>ā</b>	=	का	<b>kā</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	इ <b>i</b>	=	कि	<b>ki</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	ई <b>ī</b>	=	की	<b>kī</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	उ <b>u</b>	=	कु	<b>ku</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	ऊ <b>ū</b>	=	कू	<b>kū</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	ऋ <b>r</b>	=	कृ	<b>kṛ</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	ए <b>e</b>	=	के	<b>ke</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	ऐ <b>ai</b>	=	कै	<b>kai</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	ओ <b>o</b>	=	को	<b>ko</b>
क् <b>ka</b>	+	औ <b>au</b>	=	कौ	<b>kau</b>

A vowel sign is generally attached to the stem or downstroke of a consonant – to the foot of the downstroke in the case of उ **u**, ऊ **ū**, and ऋ **r**, to the head of the downstroke in the case of ए **e** and ऐ **ai**, as an additional downstroke attached by a loop to the head of the stem in the cases of इ **i** and ई **ī**, and as an additional downstroke with or without extra elements in the cases of आ **ā**, ओ **o**, and औ **au**. क **ka** is a single-stemmed consonant, but some consonants have two downstrokes, and in such cases the vowel sign must be attached to the right-hand member of the pair. The consonant ग **ga** is an example:

ग	गा	गि	गी	गु	गू	गृ	गे	गै	गो	गौ
<b>ga</b>	<b>gā</b>	<b>gi</b>	<b>gī</b>	<b>gu</b>	<b>gū</b>	<b>gr</b>	<b>ge</b>	<b>gai</b>	<b>gō</b>	<b>gau</b>

The consonant र **ra** is an exception to these general rules when it takes the vowel signs -**u** and -**ū**. Instead of attaching these to the foot of the downstroke, you should allow them to nestle higher up in the crook of the character:

र	+	उ	=	रु	<b>ru</b>
र	+	ऊ	=	रू	<b>rū</b>

A consonant can only support one vowel at a time. In words in which one vowel follows directly after another, the second vowel must always appear as a full vowel character. Thus, to write the word दुई (*two*) you must write दु **du** followed by ई **ī** in its full form: दुई. Similarly, note the spellings खाउ **khāu**, गाई **gāi**, and लिए **lie**.

**Script exercise 3** Write out the following Nepali words in Devanagari:

luṭapīṭ	bemausam	aghāunu	ghṛṇā	anauṭho
auṣadhi	bhautik	risāunu	ainā	deū
khicaḍī	dobāto	gūḍh	hariyo	ukusamukus
itarinu	janatā	yahī	nakhāū	choṭakarī
oḍār	br̥hat	phūladānī	guruko	śarīr
sāikal	jhilimili	taipani	bhailo	vinā
śīsī	yātāyāt	āmā	thego	īśān
ḍaul	eghāra	ūṣār		

## Nasalization

Every vowel can be nasalized. To pronounce a nasalized vowel, direct as much as you can of the breath that is involved in its pronunciation towards the nasal cavity. In Nepali, nasalization is indicated by a sign called चन्द्रबिन्दु **candrabindu** (literally, *moon dot*), whose name describes its appearance well: ण्. In Roman transliteration, nasalization is represented by a *tilde* over the vowel (e.g. ã).

The चन्द्रबिन्दु **candrabindu** is written either over the nasalized vowel itself, e.g. कहाँ **kaḥāñ**, or above the consonant to which the vowel is attached, e.g. गरूँ **garūñ**, हुँ **hūñ**. If any part of the vowel is written above the headstroke, the चन्द्रबिन्दु **candrabindu** is reduced to its बिन्दु **bindu** or 'dot', e.g. छिडी **chīḍī**, गरे **garē**.

In some Nepali words it is customary to represent nasalization not with the चन्द्रबिन्दु **candrabindu** but with a conjunct of which the first member is one of the nasal consonants. The two most common combinations are:

ङ्	ñ	+	क	ka	=	ङ्क	ñka
ङ्	ñ	+	ग	ga	=	ङ्ग	ñga

Thus, certain words can be spelled in two different ways: हाँगे **hāñgo** or हाङ्गे **hāñgo**; गुरूंग **gurūñg** or गुरुङ्ग **gurūñg**. The conjuncts tend to be used in words that are felt to be unique to the language, while चन्द्रबिन्दु **candrabindu** is used in words that Nepali shares with Hindi, Sanskrit, etc.

**Script exercise 4** Write out the following Nepali words in Devanagari:

hã	chãyã	nayã	gãũ	sãga
gãũchu	ãinã	diinã	tapãĩ	jãdaina
pãc	aũlo	garẽ	sãsar	ãkhã
guruñg	chãngã	mãnãn	ãng	

## Conjunct characters

The spellings of many Nepali words involve the combination or clustering of two or more consonants; these combinations are known as *conjuncts*. By joining two consonants in this way, you cancel out the inherent अ a between them.

Certain combinations produce what are in effect new characters rather than recognizable combinations of their constituent consonants. These *special* conjuncts are listed below:

### Special conjunct characters

क	ka	+	ष	ṣa	=	क्ष	kṣa (often pronounced 'che')
ज	ja	+	ञ	ña	=	ज्ञ	jña (pronounced 'gya')
श	śa	+	र	ra	=	श्र	śra
त	ta	+	त	ta	=	त्त	tta
त	ta	+	र	ra	=	त्र	tra
द	da	+	य	ya	=	द्य	dya

## Half characters

More than half of all the conjuncts are formed simply by dropping a downstroke from the first member and then joining what remains to the full form of the second member. For instance, to produce the conjunct **gya**, consisting of the consonants ग **ga** and य **ya**, remove the second downstroke of ग **ga** to produce ण and add this to the full form of य **ya** to produce the conjunct ग्य.

The following table shows all the half characters, followed by examples of ways in which they are combined with full characters to form conjuncts.

Full character	Half character	Examples
क् k	क्	क्क <b>kka</b> , क्ख <b>kkha</b> , क्त <b>kṭa</b>
क्ष <b>kṣa</b>	क्ष	क्ष्म <b>kṣma</b> , क्ष्य <b>kṣya</b>
ख <b>kha</b>	ख	ख्य <b>khya</b> , ख्न <b>khna</b> , ख्छ <b>khcha</b>
ग <b>ga</b>	ग	ग्य <b>gya</b> , ग्ल <b>gla</b> , ग्व <b>gva</b>
घ <b>gha</b>	घ	घ्छ <b>ghcha</b> , घ्न <b>ghna</b> , घ्य <b>ghya</b>
च <b>ca</b>	च	च्च <b>cca</b> , च्छ <b>ccha</b> , च्य <b>cya</b>
ज <b>ja</b>	ज	ज्ज <b>jja</b> , ज्य <b>jya</b> , ज्व <b>jva</b>
झ <b>jha</b>	झ	झ्य <b>jhya</b> , झ्द <b>jhda</b> , झ्न <b>jhna</b>
ञ <b>ña</b>	ञ	ञ्च <b>ñca</b> , ञ्ज <b>ñja</b>
ण <b>ṇa</b>	ण	ण्ट <b>ṇṭa</b> , ण्ठ <b>ṇṭha</b> , ण्य <b>ṇya</b>
त <b>ta</b>	त	त्त <b>tta</b> , त्त्य <b>ttya</b> , त्तस <b>ttsa</b>
त्त <b>tta</b>	त्त	त्त्व <b>ttva</b>
थ <b>tha</b>	थ	थ्य <b>thya</b>
ध <b>dha</b>	ध	ध्छ <b>dhcha</b> , ध्य <b>dhya</b> , ध्व <b>dhva</b>
न <b>na</b>	न	न्त <b>nta</b> , न्द्र <b>ndra</b> , न्ह <b>nha</b>
प <b>pa</b>	प	प्ठ <b>pṭha</b> , प्प <b>ppa</b> , प्स <b>psa</b>
फ <b>pha</b>	फ	फ्न <b>phna</b>
ब <b>ba</b>	ब	ब्ज <b>bja</b> , ब्द <b>bda</b> , ब्व <b>bba</b>
भ <b>bha</b>	भ	भ्य <b>bhya</b>
म <b>ma</b>	म	म्न <b>mna</b> , म्प <b>mpa</b> , म्ह <b>mha</b>
य <b>ya</b>	य	य्य <b>yya</b>
ल <b>la</b>	ल	ल्क <b>lka</b> , ल्द <b>lda</b> , ल्ल <b>lla</b>
व <b>va</b>	व	व्य <b>vya</b>
श <b>śa</b>	श	श्य <b>śya</b> , श्ल <b>śla</b> , श्व <b>śva</b>
ष <b>ṣa</b>	ष	ष्ठ <b>ṣṭha</b> , ष्ण <b>ṣṇa</b> , ष्य <b>ṣya</b>
स <b>sa</b>	स	स्क <b>ska</b> , स्त <b>ṣṭa</b> , स्त <b>sta</b>

## The halant

If the diagonal stroke called हलन्त **halant** is placed at the foot of a consonant, it removes its inherent अ **a**. हलन्त **halant** is used regularly in verbs, but very rarely in other words. It is also used to show that a conjunct exists between two consonants whose joining cannot be represented in any other way. The round or oval characters ट, ठ, ड, ढ, द cannot drop a downstroke and remain recognizable. For this reason, if they are the first member of a conjunct they will keep their full form and the junction will be effected by the हलन्त **halant**, e.g.

ड	ḍa	+	ड	ḍa	=	ड्ड	ḍḍa
ट	ṭa	+	द	da	=	टद	ṭda
ठ	ṭha	+	म	ma	=	ठम	ṭhma
ट	ṭa	+	न	na	=	टन	ṭna

## Conjuncts containing the consonant र ra

When र **ra** is the first member of a conjunct combination, it takes a form known as रेफ **reph**, which is a hook ( ^ ) written above the headstroke of the second member of the conjunct combination, e.g. गर्छ **garcha**, गर्न **garna**. If a vowel sign follows the consonant to which र **ra** is being joined, the रेफ **reph** sign must move to the right, i.e. to the end of the syllable it precedes: गर्दा **gardā**, भर्ती **bhartī**, गर्ने **garne**.

When र **ra** is the first member of a conjunct of which the second member is य **ya**, it is written instead as a curved dash: गर्यो **garyo**, पार्यो **paryo**.

When र **ra** is the second member of a conjunct it is written as a diagonal slash down from the left of the lower part of the downstroke of the first member of the conjunct: राम्रो **rāmro**, उग्र **ugra**. If the first member of the conjunct has two stems, the diagonal slash will be added to the right-hand stem. If the first member of the conjunct is an oval or round consonant, a slightly different form is used: ड्रा **ḍra**, ट्रा **ṭra**. Note also the forms स्रा **sra**, ह्रा **hra**, श्रा **śra**.

## Other special cases

If the second member of a conjunct is य **ya** and the first member is a retroflex consonant, the य **ya** takes a special form (च):

ट	ṭa	+	य	ya	=	टच	ṭya
ड	ḍ	+	य	ya	=	डच	ḍya

Conjuncts that consist of two identical retroflex consonants may be represented with the characters arranged vertically, e.g.

ट	ṭa	+	ट	ṭa	=	ट्ट	ṭṭa
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The consonants द **da** and ह **ha** form the following special conjuncts:

द <b>da</b>	+	ग <b>ga</b>	=	द्ग <b>dga</b>	ह <b>ha</b>	+	र <b>ra</b>	=	ह्रा <b>hra</b>
द <b>da</b>	+	द <b>da</b>	=	द्द <b>dda</b>	ह <b>ha</b>	+	व <b>va</b>	=	ह्रा <b>hva</b>
द <b>da</b>	+	घ <b>dha</b>	=	द्घ <b>ddha</b>	ह <b>ha</b>	+	ल <b>la</b>	=	ह्रा <b>hla</b>
द <b>da</b>	+	भ <b>bha</b>	=	द्भ <b>dbha</b>	ह <b>ha</b>	+	म <b>ma</b>	=	ह्रा <b>hma</b>
द <b>da</b>	+	व <b>va</b>	=	द्व <b>dva</b>	ह <b>ha</b>	+	न <b>na</b>	=	ह्रा <b>hna</b>

**Script exercise 5** Write out the following Nepali words in Devanagari:

kakṣā	jñān	natra	śrīmān	hlāsā	vidyā
divya	mahattā	lakṣya	hāttī	garchin	śānti
subbā	sakdaina	śabda	bhāgya	haptā	ṭhattā
pakkā	aḍḍā	jhyāl	āphno	phyāknu	rāmro
kr̥ṣṇa	dr̥śya	pradhān	paddhati	bharyān	viśva
bhañjyāṅg	pañcāyat	garthyo	khelcha	kātyo	garyo
kāthmāḍaū	paḍhyo	vīrendra	bujhnu	mvāi	kyā
dhvani	āgrejī	kvāppa	prakhyāt	icchā	acyūt
ujjval	ṭrak	aṇḍā	utkr̥ṣṭa	tattva	ātmā
drava	dvārā	ārambh	rāṣṭra	svāsthya	hissī

## Visarga

Visarga is a sign like a colon (but with its dots further apart) that occurs at the end or in the middle of certain words. It is pronounced as **ha** and is transliterated as **ḥ**. The only word in this book that requires visarga is दुःख **duḥkha**.

## Numerals

The Nepali numerals are as follows:

१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	०
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

## Dictionary order

अ	a	क	ka	ठ	ṭha	ब	ba
आ	ā	ख	kha	ड	ḍa	भ	bha
इ	i	ग	ga	ढ	ḍha	म	ma
ई	ī	घ	gha	ण	ṇa	य	ya
उ	u	ङ	ṅa	त	ta	र	ra
ऊ	ū	च	ca	थ	tha	ल	la
ऋ	ṛ	छ	cha	द	da	व	va
ए	e	ज	ja	ध	dha	श	śa
ऐ	ai	झ	jha	न	na	ष	ṣa
ओ	o	ञ	ña	प	pa	स	sa
औ	au	ट	ṭa	फ	pha	ह	ha

The nasalized form of a vowel always precedes its unnasalized form in the dictionary order: thus, words beginning with अँ will come before words beginning with अ, words beginning with कुँ before words beginning with कु, etc.

## Stress and accent

In Sanskrit, the language from which Nepali originally developed, consonants are always pronounced with their inherent अ **a** unless हलन्त **halant** is there to cancel it out. In Nepali, however, this is no longer the rule. The हलन्त **halant** is used only to mark the absence of a final अ **a** at the end of certain verb endings where without it some ambiguity of meaning could arise, or to mark the absence of the inherent अ **a** between two consonants that cannot be conjoined to form a conjunct in any other way. Otherwise, some words that end in a consonant but no vowel sign are pronounced with a final अ **-a**, whereas others are not. Although the best way to learn pronunciation is by hearing Nepali words spoken, certain rules can be discerned here.

The following categories of words should usually be pronounced as they are written (i.e. with the inherent अ **a** unless this is cancelled out with the हलन्त **halant**):

- 1 verb forms, where the हलन्त **halant** is used whenever necessary to cancel the inherent अ **a**: दिएर **diera**, गर **gara**, गर्छन् **garchan**, पढ्छन् **paḍhchan**;
- 2 most adverbs and postpositions: तर **tara**, बाहिर **bāhira**, आज **āja**, तिर **-tira**;
- 3 repetitive onomatopoeic words: सललल **salalala**;
- 4 words of one syllable: म **ma**, त **ta**;
- 5 words whose final syllable is a conjunct: कर्म **karma**, भक्त **bhakta**;
- 6 most words ending in a semi-vowel: मह **maha**, शिव **śiva**.

An inherent **-a** is usually not pronounced:\*

- 1 at the end of postpositions of two or more syllables that are written as separate words (i.e. that are not joined to the noun or pronoun they follow): समेत **samet**, बाहेक **bāhek**;
- 2 in words (other than verbs) consisting of Cv-Ca: दिन **din**, or V-Ca: औल **aul**;
- 3 in words (other than verbs) consisting of Cv-Cv-Ca: नेपाल **nepāl**, विकास **bikās**, किताब **kitāb**;

4 in words consisting of Cv-Ca-Cv-Ca, where both medial and final अ a are dropped: किनमेल **kinmel**, खलबल **khalbal**, तरवार **tarvār**, लतपत **latpat**.

\* Cv = syllable consisting of consonant + any vowel (including अ a).  
Ca = syllable consisting of consonant + अ a.

## Punctuation

Devanagari now employs all of the punctuation symbols used in English, with the exception of the full stop. This consists instead of a single downstroke: ।

## Samples of Nepali handwriting

सर्वप्रथम धोरी अन्जकी उपलब्धमा धेरै धेरै पछाइ।  
अटिले न धोरी झुली अइसकी टोली।

त्यहाँ नेपाल आखर सपनादे बरफा नरीमा धेरै पानी बगिराकेको छ।

मेरो सयत मित्र तहाँ पुग्नुहुन्छ सफल हुँदा मेरो मनमा कति हर्ष भएका छ।

तपाईं काठमाडौं आइपुग्नु आफैँ एकै भेट हुने नै छ।

## Key to script exercises

### Script exercise 2

झन	सरल	थप	भवन	कमल	हद
छद	बखत	जरह	यस	ठग	डर
तर	गण	शहर	दशक	नभ	वश
चलन	टठ	म	घर	फट	रथ
धवल	ढब	लय	पढ	षठ	खतम

### Script exercise 3

लुटपीट	बेमौसम	अघाउनु	घृणा	अनीठो
भोषधि	भौतिक	रिसाउनु	ऐना	देऊ
खिचडी	दोबाटो	गूढ	हरियो	उकुसमुकुस
इतरिनु	जनता	यही	नखाऊ	छोटकरी
भोडार	बृहत	फूलदानी	गुरुको	शरीर
साइकल	झिलिमिलि	तैपनि	भैलो	वीणा
शिशी	यातायात	आमा	थेगो	ईशान
डोल	एघार	ऊषार		

### Script exercise 4

हाँ	छायौं	नयाँ	गाउँ	सँग
गाउँछु	आइनेँ	दिइनेँ	तपाईं	जाँदैन
पाँच	औलो	गरेँ	सँसार	आँखा
गुरुङ्ग	छाङ्गा	मानाङ्	अङ्ग	

### Script exercise 5

कक्षा	ज्ञान	नत्र	श्रीमान	ह्लासा	विद्या
दिव्य	महत्ता	लक्ष्य	हात्ती	गर्छिन्	शान्ति
सुब्बा	सक्दैँन	शब्द	भाग्य	हप्ता	ठट्टा
पक्का	अड्डा	इयाल	आफ्नो	पर्याँवन्	राम्रो
कृष्ण	दृश्य	प्रधान	पद्धति	भन्थ्याङ्	विश्व
भञ्ज्याङ्ग	पञ्चायत	गर्थ्यो	खेल्ल	काट्यो	गन्यो
काठमाडौं	पढ्यो	वीरेन्द्र	बुझ्नु	म्वाई	क्या
ध्वनि	अँग्रेजी	क्वाप्प	प्रख्यात	इच्छा	अच्युत
उज्ज्वल	ट्क	अण्डा	उत्कृष्ट	तत्त्व	आत्मा
द्रव	द्वारा	आरम्भ	राष्ट्र	स्वास्थ्य	हिस्सी

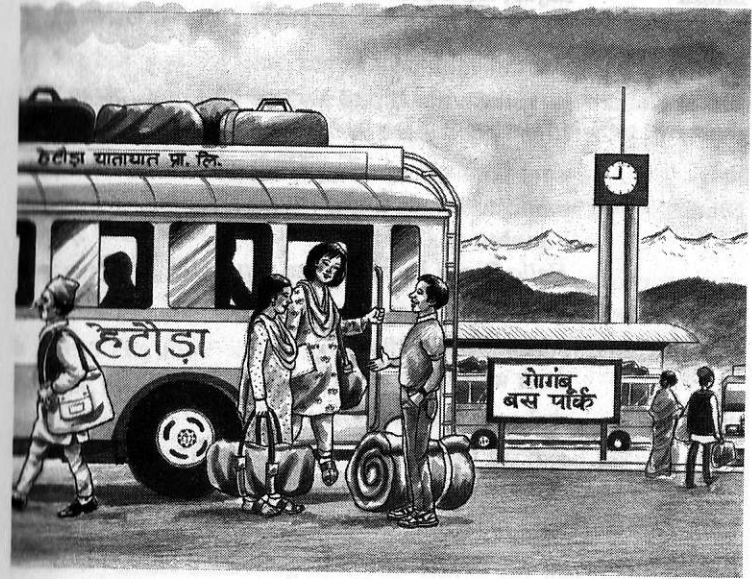
# 01

## Are you Bindu? तिमी बिन्दु हौ ?

In this unit you will learn

- how to identify yourself and others
- how to ask and answer simple questions
- how to exchange greetings
- how to address people politely
- how to apply adjectives to nouns

### 1 Meeting the bus



Gita and Bindu, two young women from Hetauda, have just arrived in Kathmandu to take up their college courses. Bimal Kumar, a senior male student, has been sent to meet them.

बिमल कुमार नमस्ते !

**Bimal Kumār** namaste!

*Hello!*

गीता

हजुर ?

**Gītā**

**hajur?**

*Pardon?*

बिमल कुमार

नमस्ते ! तिमी गीता हौ ?

**Bimal Kumār**

**namaste! timī Gītā hau?**

*Hello! Are you Gita?*

गीता

हो, म गीता हूँ । नमस्ते ।

**Gītā**

**ho, ma Gītā hū. namaste.**

*Yes, I am Gita. Hello.*

बिमल कुमार

अनि तिमी बिन्दु हौ ?

**Bimal Kumār**

**ani timī Bindu hau?**

*And are you Bindu?*

- बिन्दु हजुर, म बिन्दु हुँ।  
**Bindu hajur, ma Bindu hū.**  
*Yes, I am Bindu.*
- बिमल कुमार ल, राम्रो। म बिमल कुमार हुँ।  
**Bimal Kumār la, rāmro. ma Bimal Kumār hū.**  
*Right, good. I am Bimal Kumar.*
- बिन्दु नमस्ते बिमल कुमारजी! तपाईं सन्चै हुनुहुन्छ ?  
**Bindu namaste Bimal Kumārji! tapāī sancai hunuhuncha?**  
*Hello Bimal Kumarji! Are you well?*
- बिमल कुमार सन्चै। तिमीहरू नि ?  
**Bimal Kumār sancai. timīharū ni?**  
*I am well. How about you?*
- गीता सन्चै ! तपाईं शिक्षक हुनुहुन्छ ?  
**Gītā sancai! tapāī śikṣak hunuhuncha?**  
*We are well. Are you a teacher?*
- बिमल कुमार होइन, म विद्यार्थी हुँ। तिमीहरू पनि विद्यार्थी हो, होइन ?  
**Bimal Kumār hoina, ma vidyārthī hū. timīharū pani vidyārthī hau, hoina?**  
*No, I am a student. You are students too, aren't you?*
- बिन्दु हजुर, हामीहरू पनि विद्यार्थी हौं।  
**Bindu hajur, hāmīharū pani vidyārthī haū.**  
*Yes, we are students too.*

नमस्ते ! **namaste! hello!**  
(Hindu greeting; also used for  
*goodbye*)  
हजुर? **hajur? yes? pardon?**  
तिमी... हौ **hau? you are... or are  
you...?**  
हो **ho** yes (literally, *is*)  
म... हुँ **ma... hū I am...**  
अनि **ani and**  
हजुर **hajur yes**  
ल **la there! or that's it!**  
राम्रो **rāmro good**

बिमल कुमारजी **Bimal Kumārjī -jī** is  
added to his name for politeness \*  
सन्चै **sancai well, in good health**  
तपाईं... हुनुहुन्छ ? **tapāī hunuhuncha**  
*you are... or are you...?*  
नि ? **ni ? what about...?**  
तिमीहरू **timīharū you (plural)**  
शिक्षक **śikṣak teacher**  
होइन **hoina no (literally, is not)**  
पनि **pani too, also**  
विद्यार्थी **vidyārthī student, students**  
होइन ? **hoina? is that not so?**  
हामीहरू... हौं **hāmīharū... haū we... are**

\* Some Nepali-speakers add the suffix -ज्यू -**jiyū** to names instead. The suffix -जी -**jī** is common to both Hindi and Nepali.

## Grammar

### 1 *Is* and *are* in Nepali

In English you say that something or someone *is* large, or *is* a policeman, or *is* in Kathmandu. But in Nepali a distinction is made between two different kinds of *is*, and in the plural between two kinds of *are*. These two forms are:

a The हो **ho** form which normally defines the thing or person you are talking about with a noun:

ऊ प्रहरी हो। **ū praharī ho.** *He is a policeman.*  
यो काठमाडौं हो। **yo kāṭh māḍāū ho.** *This is Kathmandu.*

b The छ **cha** form which describes with an adjective, or locates a thing or person:

त्यो ठूलो छ। **tyo ṭhūlo cha.** *That is big (describing).*  
ऊ काठमाडौंमा छ। **ū kāṭh māḍāūmā cha.** *He is in (-mā) Kathmandu (locating).*

If you wish to say that something is large you must use छ **cha** for *is*, because you are describing it; if you wish to say that someone is in Kathmandu, you must again use छ **cha** for *is*, because you are locating them; but if you wish to state that someone is a policeman you must use हो **ho** for *is*, because you are defining him. छ **cha** and हो **ho** have different forms, depending on which of the Nepali pronouns (the words for *I, we, you, he, she, it* and *they*) is their subject. These forms are introduced in the pages that follow.

### 2 First person pronouns (*I, we*)

The first person pronouns are म **ma I** and हामी **hāmī we**. हामी **hāmī we** is sometimes used to mean *I* in place of म **ma**, though not with the pomposity of the English 'royal we'. When it is necessary to make it absolutely clear that हामी **hāmī** is intended to mean *we* in the plural, the pronoun is pluralized to become हामीहरू **hāmīharū**.

### 3 Second person pronoun (*you*)

When speaking to a person, you must address that person using a pronoun (a word for *you*) that reflects whether you are senior to him/her, or vice versa, and to what degree. This kind of seniority can depend, among other things, on age difference, family relationships, gender or social class.



The three levels of politeness, working upward, are:

LOW	(intimate or contemptuous)
MIDDLE	(familiar)
HIGH	(polite and super-polite)

LOW: the intimate or contemptuous तैं **tā** (*you or thou*) is used to address a social inferior (a junior servant, one's own small child, an animal, etc.), to express contempt or anger (one driver to another after a collision between their cars, perhaps!), or to address someone with whom one's relationship is intimate. Foreign speakers of Nepali will never use this pronoun. It can only be used to address an individual, and therefore has no plural form.

MIDDLE: the familiar तिमि **timī** (roughly equivalent to the French *tu*) is used to address persons significantly younger or of lower social standing than oneself (servants, children, etc.) or to address friends with whom an established informal relationship exists. To form the plural, you add the pluralizing suffix -हरू **-harū**.

HIGH: the polite तपाईं **tapāī** (roughly equivalent to the French *vous*) is used to address most equals and all superiors except those to whom especial deference is due. (Foreign speakers of Nepali inevitably find themselves using this word for *you* more commonly than any other. In fact, they will probably feel more comfortable using it to address people, such as servants or porters, whom Nepalis would tend to address as तिमि **timī**.) To form the plural, you add the pluralizing suffix -हरू **-harū**.

The super-polite हजुर **hajur** is sometimes used to express especial deference when addressing someone. It takes the same verb-forms as the other High pronouns. It might be used by a lower grade employee to address his employer, for example, or by a new bride to address her husband. It is also used as a polite word of assent (हजुर ! **hajur!** Yes!) or to indicate that one has not heard or understood (हजुर ? **hajur?** Pardon me?).

#### 4 I am, you are, we are with हो **ho**

Singular		
म	<b>ma hū</b>	<i>I am</i>
तैं होस्	<b>tā hos</b>	<i>you (Low) are</i>
तिमी हो	<b>timī hau</b>	<i>you (Middle) are</i>
तपाईं हुनुहुन्छ	<b>tapāī hunuhuncha</b>	<i>you (High) are</i>

Plural		
हामी हो	<b>hāmī haū</b>	<i>we are (occasionally I am)</i>
हामीहरू हो	<b>hāmīharū haū</b>	<i>we are</i>
तिमीहरू हो	<b>timīharū hau</b>	<i>you (Middle) are</i>
तपाईंहरू हुनुहुन्छ	<b>tapāīharū hunuhuncha</b>	<i>you (High) are</i>

#### Negatives

Each affirmative form of हो **ho** has a negative form:

affirmative			negative		
हूँ	<b>hū</b>	<i>I am</i>	होइन	<b>hoina</b>	<i>I am not</i>
हो	<b>haū</b>	<i>we are</i>	होइनौं	<b>hoinaū</b>	<i>we are not</i>
होस्	<b>hos</b>	<i>you (Low)</i>	होइनस्	<b>hoinas</b>	<i>you (Low)</i>
		<i>are</i>			<i>are not</i>
हो	<b>hau</b>	<i>you (Middle)</i>	होइनौ	<b>hoinau</b>	<i>you (Middle)</i>
		<i>are</i>			<i>are not</i>
हुनुहुन्छ	<b>hunuhuncha</b>	<i>you (High)</i>	हुनुहुन्न	<b>hunuhunna</b>	<i>you (High)</i>
		<i>are</i>			<i>are not</i>

#### 5 Nouns

Nearly all Nepali nouns have masculine gender. The only feminine nouns are those that are female and human. Many feminine nouns end in -ी. Here are some examples of feminine nouns:

केटी	<b>keṭī</b>	<i>girl</i>	आइमाई	<b>āimāī</b>	<i>woman</i>
आमा	<b>āmā</b>	<i>mother</i>	छोरी	<b>chorī</b>	<i>daughter</i>
दिदी	<b>didī</b>	<i>elder sister</i>	बहिनी	<b>bahinī</b>	<i>younger sister</i>
श्रीमती	<b>śrīmatī</b>	<i>wife</i>	साली	<b>sālī</b>	<i>wife's younger sister</i>

There is no definite article *the* in Nepali, nor is there an indefinite article *a*. Therefore a sentence such as ऊ विद्यार्थी हो **ū vidyārthī ho** can be translated as *s/he is a student* or as *s/he is the student*, depending on the context.

All nouns, and most pronouns, are pluralized simply by adding the suffix -हरू **-harū**:

Singular			Plural		
मान्छे	<b>mānche</b>	person	मान्छेहरू	<b>māncheharū</b>	people
नेपाली	<b>nepālī</b>	Nepali	नेपालीहरू	<b>nepālīharū</b>	Nepalis
तपाईं	<b>tapāī</b>	you	तपाईंहरू	<b>tapāīharū</b>	you people
		(High)			(High)
तिमी	<b>timī</b>	you	तिमीहरू	<b>timīharū</b>	you people
		(Middle)			(Middle)

However, it is not necessary to attach -हरू -harū to a noun when some other word in the sentence makes it clear that the noun is plural. In the following sentences, the word that takes the plural suffix is the one that the speaker wishes to emphasize:

हामीहरू शिक्षक हौं । **hāmīharū śikṣak haū.** *We are teachers.*

There is no need to add -हरू -harū to शिक्षक **śikṣak** as well as to हामी **hāmī**. हामी **hāmī** is emphasized.

तिमीहरू विद्यार्थी हौं । **timīharū vidyārthī hau.** *You are students.*

There is no need to add -हरू -harū to विद्यार्थी **vidyārthī** as well as to **तिमी timī**. **तिमी timī** is emphasized.

हामी शिक्षकहरू हौं । **hāmī śikṣakharū haū.** *We are teachers.*

शिक्षक **śikṣak** is emphasized.

तिमी विद्यार्थीहरू हौं । **timī vidyārthīharū hau.** *You are students.*

विद्यार्थी **vidyārthī** is emphasized.

## 6 Asking and answering questions

In everyday spoken Nepali, the only difference between a statement and a question is the intonation. To put it simply: the tone of your voice goes up at the end of a question, while at the end of a statement it goes down:

यो काठमाडौं हो । **yo kāṭhmāḍāū ho.** *This is Kathmandu.*  
(हो **ho** pronounced in a low tone.)

यो काठमाडौं हो ? **yo kāṭhmāḍāū ho?** *Is this Kathmandu?*  
(हो **ho** pronounced in a rising tone.)

Nepali does possess words for *yes* and *no*: these are **अँ ā** and **अहँ ahā** respectively.

Q यो काठमाडौं हो ? **yo kāṭhmāḍāū ho?** *Is this Kathmandu?*  
A **अँ, काठमाडौं हो । ā, kāṭhmāḍāū ho.** *Yes, this is Kathmandu.*

or

A **अहँ, पोखरा हो । ahā, pokharā ho.** *No, this is Pokhara.*

However, when answering a question it is more common to respond with the affirmative or negative form of the verb with which the question ended:

Q यो काठमाडौं हो ? **yo kāṭhmāḍāū ho?** *Is this Kathmandu?*  
A **हो, काठमाडौं हो । ho, kāṭhmāḍāū ho.** *Yes, this is Kathmandu.*

or

A **होइन, यो पोखरा हो । hoina, yo pokharā ho.** *No, this is Pokhara.*

हजुर **hajur** is often used for *yes*:

Q **त्यो रमेश हो ? tyo Rameś ho?** *Is that Ramesh?*  
A **हजुर, रमेश हो । hajur, Rameś ho.** *Yes, that's Ramesh.*

Often, **हो ho** is and **होइन hoina** is not are also used to mean *yes* and *no* regardless of the verb in the question:

Q **तपाईं रमेशजी हुनुहुन्छ ? tapāī Rameśjī** *Are you Rameshji?*  
**hunuhuncha?**  
A **हो, म रमेश हुँ । ho, ma Rameś hū.** *Yes, I am Ramesh.*

or

A **होइन, म ओम हुँ । hoina, ma Om hū.** *No, I am Om.*

## 2 Arriving at the college

Gita and Bindu reach the college with Bimal Kumar.

गीता **Gītā** यो महेन्द्र महाविद्यालय हो ?  
**yo Mahendra mahāvidyālay ho?** *Is this Mahendra College?*

बिमल कुमार **Bimal Kumār** हो । यो महेन्द्र महाविद्यालय हो ।  
**ho, yo Mahendra mahāvidyālay ho.** *Yes. This is Mahendra College.*

बिन्दु **Bindu** ती मान्छेहरू को हुन् ?  
**tī māncheharū ko hun?** *Who are those people?*

बिमल कुमार तिनीहरू विद्यार्थी हुन् । यो सलील हो, त्यो गणेश हो, र तिनीहरू माया र अम्बिका हुन् ।

**Bimal Kumār** *tinīharū vidyarthī hun. yo Salīl ho, tyo Gaṇeś ho, ra tinīharū Māyā ra Ambikā hun.*  
*They are students. This is Salil, that is Ganesh, and those are Maya and Ambika.*

गीता अनि त्यो मान्छे शिक्षक हो ?  
**Gītā** *ani tyo mānche śikṣak ho?*  
*And is that person a teacher?*

बिमल कुमार हजुर । वहाँ डाक्टर रमेश थापा हुनुहुन्छ । नमस्कार डाक्टर थापा !  
**Bimal Kumār** *hajur. vahā ḍākṭar Rameś Thāpā hunuhuncha. namaskār ḍākṭar Thāpā !*  
*Yes. He is Dr Ramesh Thapa. Hello, Dr Thapa!*

रमेश थापा नमस्कार बिमल कुमारजी । वहाँहरू को हुनुहुन्छ ?  
**Rameś Thāpā** *namaskār Bimal Kumārjī. vahāharū ko hunuhuncha?*  
*Hello, Bimal Kumarji. Who are they?*

बिमल कुमार वहाँहरू गीता खड्का र बिन्दु शर्मा हुनुहुन्छ । नयाँ विद्यार्थीहरू ।  
**Bimal Kumār** *vahāharū Gītā Khaḍkā ra Bindu Śarmā hunuhuncha. nayā vidyārthīharū.*  
*They are Gita Khadka and Bindu Sharma. New students.*

रमेश थापा नमस्ते, नमस्ते ।  
**Rameś Thāpā** *namaste, namaste.*  
*Hello, hello.*

गीता र बिन्दु नमस्ते हजुर ।  
**Gītā ra Bindu** *namaste hajur.*  
*Hello, sir.*

महेन्द्र महाविद्यालय ती <b>tī</b> those	<b>Mahendra mahāvidyālay</b> <i>Mahendra College</i>
मान्छेहरू <b>māncheharū</b> people	डाक्टर <b>ḍākṭar</b> doctor
को <b>ko</b> who?	नमस्कार <b>namaskār</b> hello or goodbye (more formal than नमस्ते <b>namaste</b> )
हुन् <b>hun</b> are	नयाँ <b>nayā</b> new
र <b>ra</b> and	

**EXERCISE 1** Answer the following questions about yourself:

- तपाईं बिमल कुमार हुनुहुन्छ ? **tapāī Bimal Kumār hunuhuncha?**
- तपाईं विद्यार्थी हुनुहुन्छ ? **tapāī vidyārthī hunuhuncha?**
- तपाईं नेपाली हुनुहुन्छ ? **tapāī nepālī hunuhuncha?**

## Grammar

### 7 Third person pronouns (*he, she, they*)

If you are speaking about a person, the pronoun you choose must reflect whether that person is senior or junior to you in age, social class, etc., and must also indicate whether s/he is in the proximity or not when you speak. The same three levels of politeness exist here that apply to the second person pronouns, although they are not exact equivalents in terms of their usage:

LOW	(simple reference)
MIDDLE	(polite reference)
HIGH	(honorific reference)

LOW third person pronouns are:

ऊ **ū** *he/she*  
यो **yo** *it, this*  
त्यो **tyo** *it, that*

ऊ **ū** *he/she* is used to refer to a person in his/her absence when there is no need to talk about that person with deference or politeness. ऊ **ū** cannot be used as a pronoun to refer to things or objects, and is used only to refer to human beings.

While यो **yo** and त्यो **tyo** both mean *it*, the difference between them is that यो **yo** refers to something near to the speaker ('this') while त्यो **tyo** refers to something away from the speaker ('that'). यो **yo** and त्यो **tyo** have the plural forms यी **yī** and ती **tī** respectively: the first of these is often pronounced without its initial *y*, i.e. *ī*.

यो **yo** and त्यो **tyo** can also sometimes be used to mean *he* or *she*, but this can sound impolite and it is better to use only ऊ **ū** to refer to people at this level of politeness.

MIDDLE pronouns उनी **unī**, यिनी **yinī** and तिनी **tinī** are in their singular forms generally a feature of cultured or literary Nepali rather than of colloquial speech. When they are used in speech, they refer most commonly to women. They are used to refer to persons who are felt to deserve a modicum of honorific reference, but not the full-blown honorific grade (one example might be a man speaking about his wife).

उनी **unī** and तिनी **tinī** have distant reference, while यिनी **yinī** refers to a person who is physically close to the speaker. The plural forms उनीहरू **unīharū**, यिनीहरू **yinīharū** and तिनीहरू **tinīharū** are used much

more commonly in speech than the singular forms, and here they are simply pronouns that refer, politely but not exceptionally politely, to persons in the plural. उनीहरू **uniharū** is in most contexts the word you should use to refer to people as *they*.

HIGH pronouns यहाँ **yahā** and वहाँ **vahā** and their plural forms यहाँहरू **yahāharū** and वहाँहरू **vahāharū** are used to refer to persons very politely in their presence and absence respectively. Inevitably, you will be more polite about a person who can hear what you are saying, so वहाँ **vahā** is generally used only for persons deserving especial deference and respect: one's parents, teacher, etc. वहाँ **vahā** is often pronounced and sometimes written as उहाँ **uhā**.

## 8 He is, she is, it is, they are with हो **ho**

Singular		
LOW		
ऊ हो	<b>ū ho</b>	<i>s/he (distant, Low) is</i>
यो हो	<b>yo ho</b>	<i>it/ this (nearby, Low) is</i>
त्यो हो	<b>tyo ho</b>	<i>it/that (distant, Low) is</i>
MIDDLE		
उनी हुन्	<b>unī hun</b>	<i>s/he (distant, Middle) is</i>
यिनी हुन्	<b>yini hun</b>	<i>s/he (nearby, Middle) is</i>
तिनी हुन्	<b>tini hun</b>	<i>s/he (distant, Middle) is</i>
HIGH		
यहाँ हुनुहुन्छ	<b>yahā hunuhuncha</b>	<i>s/he (nearby, High) is</i>
वहाँ हुनुहुन्छ	<b>vahā hunuhuncha</b>	<i>s/he (distant, High) is</i>
Plural		
LOW		
यी हुन्	<b>yī hun</b>	<i>they (nearby, Low) are</i>
ती हुन्	<b>tī hun</b>	<i>they (distant, Low) are</i>
MIDDLE		
उनीहरू हुन्	<b>uniharū hun</b>	<i>they (distant, Middle) are</i>
यिनीहरू हुन्	<b>yiniharū hun</b>	<i>they (nearby, Middle) are</i>
तिनीहरू हुन्	<b>tiniharū hun</b>	<i>they (distant, Middle) are</i>
HIGH		
यहाँहरू हुनुहुन्छ	<b>yahāharū hunuhuncha</b>	<i>they (nearby, High) are</i>
वहाँहरू हुनुहुन्छ	<b>vahāharū hunuhuncha</b>	<i>they (distant, High) are</i>

## Negatives

Each affirmative form of हो **ho** has a negative form:

affirmative	negative
LOW SINGULAR	
हो <b>ho</b> is	होइन <b>hoina</b> is not
LOW PLURAL & MIDDLE SINGULAR	
हुन् <b>hun</b> are/is	होइनन् <b>hoinan</b> are not/is not
HIGH SINGULAR & PLURAL	
हुनुहुन्छ <b>hunuhuncha</b> is/are	हुनुहुन्न <b>hunu-</b> are not/is not <b>hunna</b>

**To be** (using हो **ho** to define people's nationalities). Here are some examples:

### affirmative

म अंग्रेज हुँ ।	<b>ma āgrej hū.</b>	<i>I am English.</i>
हामी जर्मन हौं ।	<b>hāmī jarman haū.</b>	<i>We are German.</i>
तिमी भारतीय हौ ।	<b>timī bhāratīya hau.</b>	<i>You (M) are Indian.</i>
तपाईं नेपाली हुनुहुन्छ ।	<b>tapāī nepālī hunuhuncha.</b>	<i>You (H) are Nepali.</i>
ऊ अमेरिकन हो ।	<b>ū amerikan ho.</b>	<i>S/he (L) is American.</i>
उनी पाकिस्तानी हुन् ।	<b>unī pākistānī hun.</b>	<i>S/he (M) is Pakistani.</i>
वहाँ चिनियाँ हुनुहुन्छ ।	<b>vahā ciniyā hunuhuncha.</b>	<i>S/he (H) is Chinese.</i>

### negative

म जर्मन होइन ।	<b>ma jarman hoina.</b>	<i>I am not German.</i>
हामी अंग्रेज होइनौं ।	<b>hāmī āgrej hoinaū.</b>	<i>We are not English.*</i>
तिमी अमेरिकन होइनौ ।	<b>timī amerikan hoinau.</b>	<i>You (M) are not American.</i>
तपाईं चिनियाँ हुनुहुन्न ।	<b>tapāī ciniyā hunuhunna.</b>	<i>You (H) are not Chinese.</i>
ऊ हिन्दुस्तानी होइन ।	<b>ū hindustānī hoina.</b>	<i>S/he (L) is not Indian.</i>
उनी नेपाली होइनन् ।	<b>unī nepālī hoinan.</b>	<i>S/he (M) is not Nepali.</i>
वहाँ पाकिस्तानी हुनुहुन्न ।	<b>vahā pākistānī hunuhunna.</b>	<i>S/he (H) is not Pakistani.</i>

\*Note: The terms अमेरिकन **amerikan** *American* and अँग्रेज **āgrej** *English* are often used to refer generally to foreigners or white people.

तैं **tā**, the Low word for *you*, would not be used in sentences such as the above. An example of its use would be:

तैं मूर्ख होस् । **tā mūrkh hos.** *You (L) are an idiot.*

## 9 This, that, these and those

यो **yo** and त्यो **tyo** and their plural forms यी **yī** and ती **tī** are most commonly used as adjectives to mean *this, that, these and those*:

त्यो मान्छे नेपाली हो । **tyo mānche nepālī ho.** *That person is Nepali.*

यो केटा विद्यार्थी हो । **yo keṭā vidyārthī ho.** *This boy is a student.*

ती मान्छेहरू अँग्रेज होइन् । **tī māncheharū āgrej hoinan.** *Those people are not English.*

यी बहिनीहरू गीता र बिन्दु हुन् । **yī bahinīharū Gītā ra Bindu hun.** *These young girls are Gīta and Bindu.*

## 10 Adjectives

Adjectives are of two types:

**a** inflecting adjectives which end in the vowel -ओ -o,

**b** invariable adjectives ending in some other vowel, or in a consonant.

The endings of adjectives of type (a) must change ('inflect') according to the number and gender of the noun they describe. The endings are:

-ओ -o in the masculine singular,

-ई -ī in the feminine singular,

-आ -ā in the masculine and feminine plural.

### a Inflecting adjectives

ठूलो राजा	<b>ṭhūlo rājā</b>	<i>great king</i>
ठूला राजाहरू	<b>ṭhulā rājāharū</b>	<i>great kings</i>
राम्रो केटा	<b>rāmro keṭā</b>	<i>good boy</i>
राम्रा केटाहरू	<b>rāmra keṭāharū</b>	<i>good boys</i>

सेतो किताब  
सेता किताबहरू  
सानो केटी  
साना केटीहरू

**seto kitāb**  
**setā kitābharū**  
**sānī keṭī**  
**sānā keṭīharū**

*white book*  
*white books*  
*small girl*  
*small girls*

### b Invariable adjectives

गरीब किसान  
गरीब किसानहरू  
सफा कोठा  
सफा कोठाहरू  
धनी मान्छे  
धनी मान्छेहरू  
नयाँ कलम  
नयाँ कलमहरू

**garīb kisān**  
**garīb kisānharū**  
**saphā koṭhā**  
**saphā koṭhāharū**  
**dhanī mānche**  
**dhanī māncheharū**  
**nayā kalam**  
**nayā kalamharū**

*poor farmer*  
*poor farmers*  
*clean room*  
*clean rooms*  
*rich man / person*  
*rich men / people*  
*new pen*  
*new pens*

**EXERCISE 2** Complete the following sentences with the appropriate form of हो **ho** to form an affirmative statement. Work in transliteration first, then write the sentences out in Devanagari:

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 म अँग्रेज...           | <b>ma āgrej...</b>              |
| 2 हामी विद्यार्थी...     | <b>hāmī vidyārthī...</b>        |
| 3 तिमि हिन्दुस्तानी...   | <b>timī hindustānī...</b>       |
| 4 तिमिहरू किसान ...      | <b>timīharū kisān...</b>        |
| 5 तपाईं शिक्षक...        | <b>tapāī śikṣak...</b>          |
| 6 ऊ शिक्षक...            | <b>ū śikṣak...</b>              |
| 7 उनी धनी मान्छे...      | <b>unī dhanī mānche...</b>      |
| 8 ती मान्छेहरू प्रहरी... | <b>tī māncheharū praharī...</b> |
| 9 वहाँ नेपाली...         | <b>vahā nepālī...</b>           |
| 10 यहाँहरू भारतीय...     | <b>yahāharū bhāratīya...</b>    |

**EXERCISE 3** Convert the affirmative statements into negative statements by changing the forms of the verbs.

**EXERCISE 4** Translate into Nepali, giving both the script and the transliteration forms, taking care to give the adjectives the correct endings:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1 good farmer | 6 rich farmers |
| 2 big book    | 7 good books   |
| 3 rich girl   | 8 small girls  |
| 4 new boy     | 9 poor boys    |
| 5 good king   | 10 rich kings  |

# 02

## how far is it to Kathmandu, brother? काठमाडौं कति टाढा छ दाइ ?

In this unit you will learn

- how to describe and ask about things and people
- how to discuss distances and locations
- how to use relationship terms to address people

### 3 A view of Kathmandu

Two villagers have reached a hilltop overlooking the Kathmandu Valley. From there they can see Kathmandu and the villages that surround it. They discuss the view.



रामे त्यो शहर काठमाडौं हो, होइन ?  
**Rāme** **tyo śahar kāṭhmāḍāũ ho, hoina?**  
*That town is Kathmandu, isn't it?*

धने हो, त्यो शहर काठमाडौं हो ।  
**Dhane** **ho, tyo śahar kāṭhmāḍāũ ho.**  
*Yes, that town is Kathmandu.*

रामे काठमाडौं ठूलो छ, होइन ?  
**Rāme** **kāṭhmāḍāũ ṭhūlo cha, hoina?**  
*Kathmandu is big, isn't it?*

धने हो, धेरै ठूलो छ ।  
**Dhane** **ho, dherai ṭhūlo cha.**  
*Yes, it's very big.*

रामे काठमाडौं कस्तो छ ? राम्रो छ ?  
**Rāme** **kāṭhmāḍāũ kasto cha? rāmro cha?**  
*What is Kathmandu like? Is it nice?*

- धने राम्रै छ ।  
**Dhane** **rāmrai cha.**  
*It's quite nice.*
- रामे अनि त्यो कुन गाउँ हो ?  
**Rāme** **ani tyo kun gāū ho?**  
*And which village is that?*
- धने त्यो गाउँ होइन, भक्तपुर शहर हो ।  
**Dhane** **tyo gāū hoina, bhaktapur śahar ho.**  
*That is not a village, that is Bhaktapur town.*
- रामे ए । त्यो शहर सानो छ, होइन ?  
**Rāme** **e. tyo śahar sāno cha, hoina?**  
*Oh. That town is small, isn't it?*
- धने हो, अलि सानो छ । धेरै ठूलो छैन । तर भक्तपुर धेरै पुरानो शहर हो ।  
**Dhane** **ho, ali sāno cha. dherai ṭhūlo chaina. tara bhaktapur dherai purāno śahar ho.**  
*Yes, it is quite small. It is not very big. But Bhaktapur is a very old town.*

शहर <b>śahar</b> town	गाउँ <b>gāū</b> village
धेरै <b>dherai</b> very	भक्तपुर <b>bhaktapur</b> Bhaktapur
छ <b>cha</b> is	ए <b>e</b> Oh
कस्तो <b>kasto</b> like what? how?	अलि <b>ali</b> quite
राम्रै <b>rāmrai</b> quite nice	तर <b>tara</b> but
कुन <b>kun</b> which?	पुरानो <b>purāno</b> old

**EXERCISE 5** Answer the following questions in Nepali about **Dialogue 3**. If your answer to 1 is in the affirmative, write the Nepali for *Yes, Kathmandu is big*; if your answer is negative, write the Nepali for *No, Kathmandu is not big, it is small*, and so on.

- काठमाडौं ठूलो छ ? **kāṭhmāḍāū ṭhūlo cha?**
- भक्तपुर गाउँ हो ? **bhaktapur gāū ho?**
- काठमाडौं राम्रो छ ? **kāṭhmāḍāū rāmro cha?**
- काठमाडौं ठूलो शहर हो ? **kāṭhmāḍāū ṭhūlo śahar ho?**
- भक्तपुर पुरानो छ ? **bhaktapur purāno cha?**
- भक्तपुर नयाँ शहर हो ? **bhaktapur nayā śahar ho?**

## Grammar

### 11 Pronouns with छ **cha**

You must use the हो **ho** form of the verb *to be* if you are defining something or someone with a noun, but if you are locating the thing or person you are talking about or describing it with an adjective you must use the छ **cha** form. The High forms हुनुहुन्छ **hunuhuncha** (affirmative) and हुनुहुन्न **hunuhunna** (negative), which were introduced in **Unit 1**, are the same regardless of whether they are defining, describing or locating. The other forms are as follows:

Verb form	Pronoun(s)
हु <b>chu</b>	म <b>ma</b>
छौं <b>chaū</b>	हामी <b>hāmī</b> and हामीहरू <b>hāmīharū</b>
छस् <b>chas</b>	तैं <b>tā</b>
छौ <b>chau</b>	तिमी <b>timī</b> and तिमीहरू <b>timīharū</b>
छ <b>cha</b>	ऊ <b>ū</b> यो <b>yo</b> त्यो <b>tyo</b>
छन् <b>chan</b>	उनी <b>unī</b> यिनी <b>yinī</b> and तिनी <b>tinī</b>
	यी <b>yī</b> and ती <b>tī</b>
	उनीहरू <b>unīharū</b> , यिनीहरू <b>yinīharū</b> and तिनीहरू <b>tinīharū</b>

### Negatives

Each affirmative form of छ has a negative form:

Affirmative	Negative
हु <b>chu</b> (I) <i>am</i>	छैन <b>chaina</b> <i>am not</i>
छौं <b>chaū</b> (we) <i>are</i>	छैनौं <b>chainaū</b> <i>are not</i>
छस् <b>chas</b> (you) <i>are (L)</i>	छैनस् <b>chainas</b> <i>are not</i>
छौ <b>chau</b> (you) <i>are (M)</i>	छैनौ <b>chainau</b> <i>are not</i>
छ <b>cha</b> <i>is (L)</i>	छैन <b>chaina</b> <i>is not</i>
छन् <b>chan</b> <i>is (M)/ are (L)</i>	छैनन् <b>chainan</b> <i>is/are not</i>

### Feminine forms of छ **cha**

If you are talking to a particular woman or girl and addressing her as तैं **tā** or तिमि **timī** you can choose to use the following feminine forms of छ **cha**:

तँ छेस् **tā ches** you (Low) are  
तिमी छ्याँ **timī chyau** you (Middle) are

If you are talking *about* a particular woman or girl and intend to use the Low pronoun for *she* (ऊ **ū**), you can choose to use the feminine form of छ **cha**, which is छे **che**:

ऊ छे **ū che** she (Low) is

If you are talking *about* a particular woman or girl and are using one of the Middle words for *he* or *she* (उनी **unī**, यिनी **yinī**, or तिनी **tinī**), you can choose to use the feminine form of छन् **chan**, which is छिन् **chin**:

उनी छिन् **unī chin** she (distant, Middle) is  
यिनी छिन् **yinī chin** she (nearby, Middle) is  
तिनी छिन् **tinī chin** she (distant, Middle) is

These feminine forms are not used very consistently in everyday spoken Nepali, but they are often used by men to refer politely to their wives and other female relatives, and they should always be used in the written language. There are no feminine negative forms of छ **cha**.

## 12 अलि **ali quite** and धेरै **dherai very, many**

Nepali adjectives can be qualified or emphasized by putting the words अलि **ali quite** or धेरै **dherai very** in front of them.

ऊ अलि दुब्लो छ । **ū ali dublo cha.** He is quite thin.  
राम धेरै मोटो छैन । **Rām dherai moṭo chaina.** Ram is not very fat.  
उनी अलि होची छिन् । **unī ali hocī chin.** She is rather short.  
म धेरै अग्लो छु । **ma dherai aglo chu.** I am very tall.

A second way to qualify or emphasize an adjective is to change its ending to -ऐ **-ai** if it ends in a vowel or to add -ऐ **-ai** to the end of the word if it ends in a consonant:

दुब्लो <b>dublo</b>	<i>thin</i>	दुब्लै <b>dublai</b>	<i>quite thin</i>
मोटो <b>moṭo</b>	<i>fat</i>	मोटै <b>moṭai</b>	<i>quite fat</i>
होचो <b>hoco</b>	<i>short in stature</i>	होचै <b>hocai</b>	<i>rather short in stature</i>
अग्लो <b>aglo</b>	<i>tall</i>	अग्लै <b>aglai</b>	<i>fairly tall</i>
राम्रो <b>rāmro</b>	<i>good, nice</i>	राम्रै <b>rāmrai</b>	<i>nice enough</i>
सानो <b>sāno</b>	<i>small</i>	सानै <b>sānai</b>	<i>rather small</i>
सफा <b>saphā</b>	<i>clean</i>	सफै <b>saphai</b>	<i>clean enough</i>

धेरै **dherai very** has a second meaning, which is *many*. It means *very* when it comes before an adjective, but if it comes before a noun, or on its own, it means *many*:

Q नेपालमा धेरै शहरहरू छन् ? **nepālmā dherai śaharharū chan?** Are there many towns in Nepal?

A अहँ, धेरै छैनन् । **ahā, dherai chainan.** No, there are not many.

But if you want to ask *are there many big towns in Nepal?* you have the problem that धेरै ठूला शहरहरू **dherai ṭhulā śaharharū** could be taken to mean *very big cities* instead of *many big cities*. You get over this problem by moving the position of धेरै **dherai** in the sentence:

Q नेपालमा ठूला शहरहरू धेरै छन् ? **nepālmā ṭhulā śaharharū dherai chan?** Are there many big towns in Nepal? ('are big towns many in Nepal?')

A अहँ, धेरै छैनन् । **ahā, dherai chainan.** No, there are not many.

One other commonly used word is अलिकति **alikasi a small quantity of**, which should only be used to qualify nouns:

अलिकति दूध **alikasi dūdh** a little milk  
अलिकति चिनी **alikasi cinī** a little sugar  
अलिकति पानी **alikasi pānī** a little water

## 13 Questioning words (interrogatives)

In Nepali, many questioning words (called *interrogatives*) begin with a क **k-** and belong to a group of words that follows a set pattern. Those beginning with य **y-** are 'this-words', those beginning with त्य **ty-** or उ **u-** are 'that-words', and those beginning with क **k-** are words that ask a question.

'this-word'	'that-word'	interrogatives
यो <b>yo</b> <i>it/this</i>	ऊ <b>ū</b> <i>he/she</i>	को <b>ko</b> <i>who?</i>
यो <b>yo</b> <i>it/this</i>	त्यो <b>tyo</b> <i>it/that</i>	के <b>ke</b> <i>what?</i>
यति <b>yati</b> <i>this much</i>	त्यति <b>tyati</b> <i>that much</i>	कुन <b>kun</b> <i>which?</i>
यस्तो <b>yasto</b> <i>like this</i>	त्यस्तो <b>tyasto</b> <i>like that</i>	कति <b>kati</b> <i>how much?</i>
यहाँ <b>yahā</b> <i>here</i>	त्यहाँ <b>tyahā</b> <i>there</i>	कस्तो <b>kasto</b> <i>like what?</i>
		कहाँ <b>kahā</b> <i>where?</i>



उति **uti** and उस्तो **usto** are alternative forms for *that much* and *like that* respectively.

Because कुन **kun** means *which?*, an enquiry that involves the use of कुन **kun** may use either the verb हो **ho** or the verb छ **cha**:

यो कुन देश हो ?	<b>yo kun deś ho?</b>	<i>Which country is this?</i>
यो देश नेपाल हो ।	<b>yo deś nepāl ho.</b>	<i>This country is Nepal.</i>
पसलमा कुन साबुन सस्तो छ ?	<b>pasalmā kun sābun sasto cha?</b>	<i>In the shop which soap is cheap?</i>
काठमाडौंमा कुन होटेल राम्रो छ ?	<b>kāṭhmāḍāūmā kun hoṭel rāmro cha?</b>	<i>In Kathmandu, which hotel is good?</i>

Because कस्तो **kasto** means *like what?*, a question in which it is used usually asks for a 'describing' reply. So, an enquiry that involves the use of कस्तो **kasto** usually uses the verb छ **cha**:

यो देश कस्तो छ ?	<b>yo deś kasto cha?</b>	<i>What is this country like?</i>
यो देश राम्रो छ ।	<b>yo deś rāmro cha.</b>	<i>This country is good.</i>
यो पानी कस्तो छ?	<b>yo pānī kasto cha?</b>	<i>What is this water like?</i>
यो पानी सफा छ ।	<b>yo pānī saphā cha.</b>	<i>This water is clean.</i>

However, it is also possible to ask *what kind of country is this?*, in which case you are asking for a 'defining' statement and calling for the use of हो **ho**:

यो कस्तो देश हो?	<b>yo kasto deś ho?</b>	<i>What kind of country is this?</i>
यो धेरै धनी देश हो ।	<b>yo dherai dhanī deś ho.</b>	<i>This is a very rich country.</i>
यो कस्तो पानी हो?	<b>yo kasto pānī ho?</b>	<i>What kind of water is this?</i>
यो मैलो पानी हो ।	<b>yo mailo pānī ho.</b>	<i>This is dirty water.</i>

## 14 The simple sentence

You have no doubt realized by now that Nepali has a different word order from English. In Nepali, the natural place for the verb is at the end of a sentence. Simply, an English speaker says *I am English*, while a Nepali speaker says:

म नेपाली हूँ ।	<b>ma nepālī hū.</b>	<i>'I Nepali am'.</i>
तपाईं विद्यार्थी हुनुहुन्छ ।	<b>tapāī vidyārthī hunuhuncha.</b>	<i>'You student are'.</i>

Unless there is some good reason for it not to, a Nepali sentence will always begin with a subject and end with a verb: everything else will come in between. If a change is made to this word order it has an effect on the meaning of a sentence: it may emphasize something, or express hesitation or doubt:

नेपाली हूँ म ।	<b>nepālī hū ma.</b>	<i>I'm a <u>Nepali</u>, I am!</i>
विद्यार्थी हुनुहुन्छ तपाईं ?	<b>vidyārthī hunuhuncha tapāī?</b>	<i>Are you a <u>student</u>, then?</i>

## 4 Near and far

Salil has just arrived in town and he needs to visit the bank and the post office. He asks a passer-by for directions.

सलील ए भाइ, नमस्ते ! यहाँ हुलाक घर छ ?  
**Salil e bhāi, namaste! yahā hulāk ghar cha?**  
*Oh (younger) brother, hello! Is there a post office here?*

रने छ दाइ ।  
**Rane cha dāi.**  
*Yes, (elder) brother.*

सलील यहाँबाट हुलाक घर कति टाढा छ ?  
**Salil yahābāṭa hulāk ghar kati ṭāḍhā cha?**  
*How far is the post office from here?*

रने धेरै टाढा छैन, नजिकै छ दाइ ।  
**Rane dherai ṭāḍhā chaina, najikai cha dāi.**  
*It's not very far, it's quite near, (elder) brother.*

सलील त्यहाँ बैंक पनि छ ?  
**Salil tyahā baik pani cha?**  
*Is there a bank there too?*

रने छ, बैंक पनि छ । ठूलै छ ।  
**Rane cha, baik pani cha. ṭhulai cha.**  
*Yes, there's a bank too. It's quite big.*

सलील हुलाक घरदेखि बैंक धेरै टाढा छ ?  
**Salil hulāk ghardekhi baik dherai ṭāḍhā cha?**  
*Is the bank very far from the post office?*

रने अहँ, त्यो पनि नजिकै छ। बैंक र हुलाक घर यहाँबाट टाढा छैन।

**Rane ahā, tyo pani najikai cha. baīk ra hulāk ghar yahābāṭa ṭāḍhā chaina.**

*No, that's quite near too. The bank and the post office are not far from here.*

सलील आज बैंक र हुलाक घरमा भीड छ ?

**Salil āja baīk ra hulāk ghar mā bhīḍ cha?**

*Are the bank and the post office crowded today?*

रने छैन दाइ। आज बैंक र हुलाक घर बन्द छन्। आज सरकारी बिदा छ।

**Rane chaina dāi. āja baīk ra hulāk ghar banda chan. āja sarkārī bidā cha.**

*No, (elder) brother. Today the bank and the post office are closed. There's a government holiday today.*

भाइ **bhāi** (younger) brother  
यहाँ **yahā** here  
हुलाक घर **hulāk ghar** post office  
दाइ **dāi** (elder) brother  
यहाँबाट **yahābāṭa** from here  
कति **kati** how much?  
टाढा **ṭāḍhā** far, distant  
नजिकै **najikai** quite near  
त्यहाँ **tyahā** there

बैंक **baīk** bank  
हुलाक घरदेखि **hulāk ghardekhi**  
from the post office  
आज **āja** today  
भीड **bhīḍ** crowd  
घर **ghar** house, home, building  
बन्द **banda** shut, closed  
सरकारी **sarkārī** governmental  
बिदा **bidā** holiday

## Grammar

### 15 Postpositions: -मा -mā, -बाट -bāṭa, -देखि -dekhi

In English there is a category of words called prepositions: *to, at, in, from, for*, etc. These are called prepositions because they come *in front of* the noun or pronoun they are acting upon: *to the man, at the house, from London*, etc. The Nepali equivalents of these words are called postpositions because they come *after* the noun they are acting upon: *the man to, the house at, London from*. In writing they must always be joined to the end of the noun or pronoun.

The postposition -मा **mā** means *in, at* or *on*:

नेपालमा  
टेबुलमा  
बैंकमा

**nepālmā**  
**ṭebulmā**  
**baīkmā**

*in Nepal*  
*on the table*  
*at the bank*

Two other postpositions that are used in **Dialogue 4** are -बाट **-bāṭa** from and -देखि **-dekhi** from, since. Both of these mean *from*, but only -देखि **-dekhi** can also be used with expressions of time:

काठमाडौँबाट  
लण्डनदेखि  
आजदेखि  
हिजोदेखि

**kāṭhmāḍāūbāṭa**  
**laṇḍandekhi**  
**ājadekhi**  
**hijodekhi**

*from Kathmandu*  
*from London*  
*from today*  
*since yesterday*

If you need to ask how far away something is, you will use the adjective टाढा **ṭāḍhā** distant with one or other of these two postpositions. When stating or discussing distances, the word टाढा **ṭāḍhā** must usually be retained, even when you also mention some units or measures of distance.

भक्तपुरबाट काठमाडौँ कति  
टाढा छ ?

**bhaktapurbāṭa**  
**kāṭhmāḍāū kati**  
**ṭāḍhā cha?**

*How distant is*  
*Kathmandu from*  
*Bhaktapur?*

भक्तपुरबाट काठमाडौँ आठ  
माइल टाढा छ।

**bhaktapurbāṭa**  
**kāṭhmāḍāū āṭh māil**  
**ṭāḍhā cha.**

*Kathmandu is eight*  
*miles distant from*  
*Bhaktapur.*

If you wish to say that something has been the case for a certain period of time, and still is the case, you should use -देखि **-dekhi** with the present tense of the verb:

म हिजोदेखि नेपालमा छु।  
अबदेखि म नेपालमा छु।

**ma hijodekhi**  
**nepālmā chu.**  
**abadekhi ma**  
**nepālmā chu.**

*I am in Nepal since*  
*yesterday.*  
*From now on I am*  
*in Nepal.*

### Units of distance

Nepalis think in terms of both miles and kilometres, though the metric system is gradually becoming prevalent:

आठ माइल  
नौ किलोमिटर

**āṭh māil**  
**nau kilomīṭar**

*eight miles*  
*nine kilometres*

In the hills of Nepal, a traditional measure of distance is the कोस **kos**, which is usually interpreted to mean *two miles*, or sometimes *half an hour's walk*. Foreigners walking in Nepal often find the कोस **kos** an elusive concept, perhaps because it measures distance partly in terms

of the time taken to travel it, and because Nepalis are naturally much more adept at negotiating the steep ups and downs of their landscape than foreign visitors.

## 16 Using relationship terms to address people

It is common practice in Nepali for people to address others, whether they are strangers, friends, or acquaintances, by using a relationship term. Obviously, you need to judge which term is appropriate for the person you are addressing, but it is perfectly acceptable to address a male younger than yourself as भाइ **bhāi** *younger brother*, or a female who is older than you as दिदी **didī** *elder sister*. Elderly people may be addressed as बा **bā** *father* or आमा **āmā** *mother*, no stigma is attached to age in Nepal. These terms are often also added to people's personal names in conversation: अमिता दिदी **Amitā didī**, सलील भाइ **Salil bhāi**. A chart of kinship terminology is given in the Appendices at the back of this book.

### नेपाली परिवार **nepālī parivār** A Nepali family

#### 1 To be addressed and referred to with High pronouns

बुवा, बा	<b>buvā</b> or <b>bā</b>	<i>father</i>
आमा, मा	<b>āmā</b> or <b>mā</b>	<i>mother</i>
बुवा-आमा, बा-आमा	<b>buvā-āmā</b> or <b>bā-āmā</b>	<i>mother and father</i>
हजुरबा, बाजे	<b>hajurbā</b> or <b>bāje</b>	<i>grandfather</i>
हजुरआमा, बज्यै	<b>hajurāmā</b> or <b>bajyai</b>	<i>grandmother</i>

#### 2 To be addressed with High pronouns and usually referred to with High (male) or Middle (female) pronouns

स्वास्नी, श्रीमती	<b>svāsni</b> or <b>śrīmatī</b> *	<i>wife</i>
लोग्ने, श्रीमान्	<b>logne</b> or <b>śrīmān</b> *	<i>husband</i>
दिदी	<b>didī</b>	<i>elder sister</i>
दाइ, दाज्यू, दाजु	<b>dāi</b> or <b>dājyū</b> or <b>dāju</b>	<i>elder brother</i>

#### 3 To be addressed with Middle pronouns and usually referred to with Low (male) and Middle (female) pronouns

भाइ	<b>bhāi</b>	<i>younger brother</i>
बहिनी	<b>bahini</b>	<i>younger sister</i>
छोरा	<b>chorā</b>	<i>son</i>
छोरी	<b>chorī</b>	<i>daughter</i>
छोराछोरी	<b>chorāchorī</b>	<i>sons and daughters</i>

नाति	<b>nāti</b>	<i>grandson</i>
नातिनी	<b>nātini</b>	<i>granddaughter</i>
नाति-नातिनी	<b>nāti-nātini</b>	<i>grandchildren</i>

\*When referring to a known individual, the foreign speaker should use the honorific terms श्रीमान् **śrīmān** and श्रीमती **śrīmatī**. लोग्ने **logne** and स्वास्नी **svāsni** are used to refer to husbands and wives more generally. In rural areas, some people use the words जोई **joī** or बूढी **būdhī** ('old woman') for *wife* and पोई **poi** or बूढा **būdhā** ('old man') for *husband*.

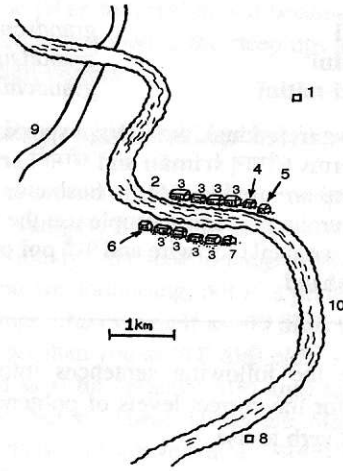
**EXERCISE 6** Translate the following sentences into Nepali, referring to the box above for the correct levels of politeness when choosing which form of the verb to use.

- 1 Younger brother is at school.
- 2 Elder brother is in Darjeeling.
- 3 Elder sister is at Mahendra Mahāvidyālay.
- 4 Tomorrow mother and father are at home.
- 5 There are many brothers and sisters in the family.

**EXERCISE 7** Convert the affirmative Nepali sentences you have completed for Exercise 6 into negative statements, by changing the forms of the verbs.

**EXERCISE 8** Overleaf there is a simple map of the part of Nepal in which you are staying, showing:

1 सरस्वती मन्दिर	<b>sarasvatī mandir</b>	Saraswati temple
2 बजार	<b>bajār</b>	marketplace
3 पसलहरू	<b>pasalharū</b>	shops
4 बैंक	<b>baīk</b>	bank
5 हुलाक घर	<b>hulāk ghar</b>	post office
6 प्रहरी थाना	<b>praharī thānā</b>	police station
7 होटल	<b>hoṭel</b>	hotel
8 डाँफे लज	<b>dāphe laj</b>	Danphe Lodge
9 सेती खोला	<b>setī kholā</b>	Seti Khola (a river)
10 सडक	<b>saḍak</b>	road



Referring to the map, and assuming that you are staying in the lodge, answer the following questions in Nepali:

- १ प्रहरी थाना नजिक छ ?
- २ हुलाक घर टाढा छ ?
- ३ लजबाट बजार कति टाढा छ ?
- ४ बजारमा के के छ ?
- ५ प्रहरी थाना कहाँ छ ?
- ६ सरस्वती मन्दिर बजारबाट कति टाढा छ ?

praharī thānā najik cha?  
 hulāk ghar ṭāḍhā cha?  
 lajbāṭa bajār kati ṭāḍhā cha?  
 bajārmā ke ke cha?  
 praharī thānā kahāñ cha?  
 sarasvatī mandir bajārbāṭa  
 kati ṭāḍhā cha?

# 03

कति ?

## how many?

- In this unit you will learn
- how to count and enumerate people, things and units
  - how to talk about portable possessions

## 5 Students at the language school

The Minister for Education is visiting a school and is asking the teacher how many students are studying each language.

मन्त्री नेपाली कक्षामा कतिजना विद्यार्थीहरू छन् ?  
**mantri nepālī kakṣāmā katijanā vidyārthīharū chan?**  
*How many students are there in the Nepali class?*

शिक्षक दसजना विद्यार्थी छन् । पाँचजना केटा र पाँचजना केटी ।  
**śikṣak dasjanā vidyārthī chan. pācjanā keṭā ra pācjanā keṭī.**  
*There are ten students. Five boys and five girls.*

मन्त्री ए । अनि अँग्रेजी कक्षामा कतिजना विद्यार्थीहरू छन् ?  
**mantri e. anī āgrejī kakṣāmā katijanā vidyārthīharū chan?**  
*Oh. And how many students are there in the English class?*

शिक्षक त्यो कक्षा अलि ठूलो छ । नौजना केटा र दसजना केटी छन् । जम्मा  
उन्नाइसजना विद्यार्थीहरू छन् ।  
**śikṣak tyo kakṣā ali ṭhūlo cha. naujanā keṭā ra dasjanā keṭī  
chan. jammā unnāisjanā vidyārthīharū chan.**  
*That class is quite big. There are nine boys and ten girls.  
All together there are 19 students.*

मन्त्री नेपाली कक्षामा विदेशीहरू मात्रै छन् ?  
**mantri nepālī kakṣāmā videśīharū mātrai chan?**  
*Are there only foreigners in the Nepali class?*

शिक्षक विदेशीहरू मात्रै छन् मन्त्रीज्यू । तीनजना चिनियाँ, पाँचजना अँग्रेज, र  
दुईजना जर्मन छन् ।  
**śikṣak videśīharū mātrai chan mantriṣyū. tīnjanā ciniyā,  
pācjanā āgrej, ra duījanā jarman chan.**  
*There are only foreigners, Minister. Three Chinese, five  
English and two Germans.*

मन्त्री **mantri minister**  
कक्षा **kakṣā class**  
मा **mā in**  
कतिजना **katijanā how many?**  
दसजना **dasjanā ten**  
पाँचजना केटा **pācjanā keṭā five  
boys**  
पाँचजना केटी **pācjanā keṭī five  
girls**  
नौजना केटा **naujanā keṭā nine  
boys**

दसजना केटी **dasjanā keṭī ten  
girls**  
जम्मा **jammā all together, in  
total**  
उन्नाइसजना **unnāisjanā 19**  
विदेशीहरू **videśīharū foreigners**  
मात्रै **mātrai only**  
मन्त्रीज्यू **mantriṣyū form of  
address for a minister**

## Grammar

### 17 The Nepali numerals

The Nepali numerals are very similar to the Hindi numerals, with only a few exceptions. The system is complex, and it is necessary to learn each number from one to 100 as a separate item of vocabulary, though each group of ten has its own internal logic and it is occasionally possible to guess! The first ten numbers are given here, both on their own and with the classifier suffixes they often need to take (as explained below). You are advised to learn the numbers in sets of ten (see the appendices).

#### Numbers and numeral classifiers: summary

number	+ human classifier	+ non-human classifier
1 १ एक <b>ek</b>	एकजना <b>ekjanā</b>	एउटा <b>euṭā</b>
2 २ दुई <b>duī</b>	दुईजना <b>duījanā</b>	दुइटा <b>duiṭā</b>
3 ३ तीन <b>tīn</b>	तीनजना <b>tīnjanā</b>	तीनवटा <b>tīnvaṭā</b>
4 ४ चार <b>cār</b>	चारजना <b>cārjanā</b>	चारवटा <b>cārvaṭā</b>
5 ५ पाँच <b>pāc</b>	पाँचजना <b>pācjanā</b>	पाँचवटा <b>pācvaṭā</b>
6 ६ छ <b>cha</b>	छजना <b>chajanā</b>	छवटा <b>chavaṭā</b>
7 ७ सात <b>sāt</b>	सातजना <b>sātjanā</b>	सातवटा <b>sātvaṭā</b>
8 ८ आठ <b>āṭh</b>	आठजना <b>āṭhjanā</b>	आठवटा <b>āṭhvaṭā</b>
9 ९ नौ <b>nau</b>	नौजना <b>naujanā</b>	नौवटा <b>nauvaṭā</b>
10 १० दस <b>das</b>	दसजना <b>dasjanā</b>	दसवटा <b>dasvaṭā</b>

### 18 Numbers of people

When you are using numbers to enumerate human nouns – i.e. words that represent people – you should add the classifier -जना **janā** to the end of the number. It is incorrect to say एक मान्छे **ek mānche one person**: the correct form is एकजना मान्छे **ekjanā manche**. If the number is plural, there is no need to add the plural suffix -हरू **-harū** to the noun, because the number already tells you that there is more than one person and therefore -हरू **-harū** is superfluous:

एकजना मान्छे	<b>ekjanā manche</b>	<i>one person</i>
दुईजना लोग्ने-मान्छे	<b>duījanā logne-mānche</b>	<i>two men (literally, husband-person)</i>
तीनजना स्वास्नी-मानिस	<b>tīnjanā svāsnī-mānis</b>	<i>three women (literally, wife-person)</i>

The words मान्छे **mānche** and मानिस **mānis** are interchangeable, though the first is used more commonly. Both mean *person*, but unless qualified by the addition of स्वस्त्री **svāsni** (*woman/wife*) they can usually be taken to represent a male.

► **EXERCISE 9** Answer the following questions in Nepali on **Dialogue 5**:

नेपाली कक्षामा:

१. कतिजना विद्यार्थीहरू छन् ?
२. कतिजना अँग्रेजहरू छन् ?
३. कतिजना जर्मनहरू छन् ?
- अँग्रेजी कक्षामा:
४. कतिजना विद्यार्थीहरू छन् ?
५. कतिजना केटाहरू छन् ?
६. कतिजना केटीहरू छन् ?

nepālī kakṣāmā:

- katijanā vidyārthīharū chan?**  
**katijanā āgrejharū chan?**  
**katijanā jarmanharū chan?**  
**āgrejī kakṣāmā:**  
**katijanā vidyārthīharū chan?**  
**katijanā keṭāharū chan?**  
**katijanā keṭīharū chan?**

## ► 6 Setting up the exam room

Poshan, a junior teacher, is setting up a room for an examination. Ramesh, the principal, comes to check that all is well.

रमेश यो कोठामा कतिवटा टेबुल छन् ?

**Ramesh yo koṭhāmā kativaṭā ṭebul chan?**

*How many tables are there in this room?*

पोषण दसवटा छन् हजुर ।

**Poshan dasvaṭā chan hajur.**

*There are ten, sir.*

रमेश अनि कतिवटा मेच छन् ?

**Ramesh ani kativaṭā mec chan?**

*And how many chairs are there?*

पोषण आठवटा मात्रै छन् ।

**Poshan āṭhvaṭā mātraī chan.**

*There are only eight.*

रमेश ए। कक्षामा दसजना विद्यार्थी छन्, होइन ?

**Ramesh e. kakṣāmā dasjanā vidyārthī chan, hoina?**

*Oh. There are ten students in the class, aren't there?*

पोषण हजुर, दसजना छन् । अर्को कोठामा दुई-चारवटा मेच छन् ।

**Poshan hajur, dasjanā chan. arko koṭhāmā duī-cārvaṭā mec chan.**

*Yes, there are ten. There are a few chairs in the next room.*

रमेश ठीक छ । कलम र कागतहरू पनि ठीक छन् ?

**Ramesh ṭhik cha. kalam ra kāgatharū pani ṭhik chan?**

*OK. Are the pens and papers OK too?*

पोषण हरेक टेबुलमा एउटा कलम र कागत छ हजुर ।

**Poshan harek ṭebulmā euṭā kalam ra kāgat cha hajur.**

*On each table there is a pen and paper, sir.*

कोठा **koṭhā** room

कतिवटा **kativaṭā** how many?

टेबुल **ṭebul** table

दसवटा **dasvaṭā** ten

मेच **mec** chair

आठवटा **āṭhvaṭā** eight

मात्रै **mātraī** only

अर्को **ariko** other, next

दुई-चारवटा **duī-cārvaṭā** two or four (= 'a few')

ठीक **ṭhik** fine, correct

कलम **kalam** pen

कागत **kāgat** paper

हरेक **harek** each, every

एउटा **euṭā** one or a

## Grammar

### 19 Numbers of things

When you are using numbers to enumerate non-human nouns – i.e. animals and inanimate objects – you must always add the classifier -वटा **vaṭā** to the end of the number. It is incorrect to say चार किताब **cār kitāb** *four books*: the correct form is चारवटा **cārvaṭā kitāb**. Again, -हरू **-harū** is superfluous when the number is plural.

The classifier -वटा **vaṭā** is not pronounced as it is spelled: the correct pronunciation is 'auṭā'. It is added to the numbers in a rather less regular way than the classifier -जना **janā**. When it is added to एक **ek** *one*, the combination produces एउटा **euṭā**, pronounced and often spelled यौटा **yauṭā**, and when it is added to दुई **duī** *two* the combination produces दुइटा **duiṭā**, pronounced 'dwiṭā'. For obvious practical reasons, these two are used very commonly in everyday spoken Nepali.

एउटा किताब

**euṭā** ('yauṭā') **kitāb**

*one book*

दुइटा मेच

**duiṭā** ('dwiṭā') **mec**

*two chairs*

Perhaps because Nepali does not have an indefinite article *a*, एउटा **euṭā** is often used with human nouns, e.g. एउटा मान्छे **euṭā mānche** *one man* or *a man* to refer to a person about whom the speaker feels no need to be especially polite.

## 20 How many?

When you are asking the question *how many?* you must add one of the classifiers to the interrogative कति **kati**, the choice of classifier depending upon whether you are asking about people or other things. Because -जना **janā** can only be used to enumerate people and -वटा **vaṭā** can only be used to enumerate things and animals, the combination of a number plus a classifier can also be used on its own:

घरमा कतिजना मान्छे छन् ?	<b>gharmā katijanā mānche chan?</b>	<i>How many people are in the house?</i>
दसजना छन् ।	<b>dasjanā chan.</b>	<i>There are ten.</i>
घरमा कतिवटा कोठा छन् ?	<b>gharmā kativaṭā koṭhā chan?</b>	<i>How many rooms are there in the house?</i>
तीनवटा छन् ।	<b>tīnvaṭā chan.</b>	<i>There are three.</i>

However, when the question concerns units of measurement, कति **kati** can be used without a classifier suffix (see **Grammar 22**).

## 7 Kamal and Amrit

Kamal bumps into Amrit on the street. Kamal, an office worker, always has money to spare, while Amrit, a young student, is always penniless.

कमल अहो अमृत भाइ !  
**Kamal aho Amṛt bhāi!**  
*Oh, it's Amrit!*

अमृत नमस्कार कमल दाइ !  
**Amrit namaskār Kamal dāi!**  
*Hello, Kamal!*

कमल नमस्कार ! अहिले कतातिर ?  
**Kamal namaskār! ahile katātira?**  
*Hello! Where are you off to now?*

अमृत घरतिर ।  
**Amrit ghartira.**  
*Home.*

कमल अनि हालखबर कस्तो छ ?  
**Kamal ani hālkhavar kasto cha?**  
*And how are things?*

अमृत राम्रै छ ।  
**Amrit rāmrai cha.**  
*Fine.*

कमल आज तिमिसँग पैसा छ ?  
**Kamal āja timisāga paisā cha?**  
*Do you have any money on you today?*

अमृत मसँग? अलिकति छ । एक मोहर मात्रै छ ।  
**Amrit masāga? alikati cha. ek mohar mātrai cha.**  
*On me? I have a little. I have just one half-rupee.*

कमल केही छैन । आज मसित दस रुपियाँ छ ।  
**Kamal kehī chaina. āja masita das rupiyā cha.**  
*It doesn't matter. I've got ten rupees today.*

अमृत मसँग न पैसा छ न चुरोट छ । तपाईंसँग चुरोट छ ?  
**Amrit masāga na paisā cha na curoṭ cha. tapāisāga curoṭ cha?**  
*I have neither money nor cigarettes. Do you have a cigarette?*

कमल छ, मसँग एक बट्टा याक चुरोट छ ।  
**Kamal cha, masāga ek baṭṭā yāk curoṭ cha.**  
*Yes, I have a packet of Yak cigarettes.*

अमृत आहा, याक चुरोट राम्रो छ !  
**Amrit āhā, yāk curoṭ rāmro cha!**  
*Oh, Yak cigarettes are good!*

कमल होइन, तिमि सानो केटा हौ । धूम्रपान खराब छ ।  
**Kamal hoina, timi sāno keṭā hau. dhūmrāpān kharāb cha.**  
*No, you are a small boy. Smoking is bad.*

अहो **aho** (an exclamation of pleasure or surprise)

अहिले **ahile now**

कता **katā where, in which direction**

तिर **tira towards**

घरतिर **ghartira towards home**

हालखबर **hālkhavar news**

तिमिसँग **timisāga with you**

पैसा **paisā money**

मसँग? **masāga? with me?**

एक मोहर **ek mohar one mohar (a half-rupee)**

केही छैन **kehī chaina it doesn't matter**

आज **āja today**

मसित **masita with me**

दस रुपियाँ **das rupiyā ten rupees**

चुरोट **curoṭ cigarette**

न... न... **na... na neither... nor...**

एक बट्टा **ek baṭṭā one packet**

आहा **āhā** (another exclamation of pleasure or surprise)

धूम्रपान **dhūmrāpān smoking (a rather highflown Sanskrit term)**

खराब **kharāb bad**

## Grammar

### 21 Possession of portable items

Nepali does not have a verb that is the equivalent of the English *to have* or *to own*, but establishes ownership and possession in different ways. The first way is used in relation to things that someone can carry around on his/her person. Often, these are things that are disposable or acquired temporarily: money, for instance, comes and goes, and items such as pens generally run out of ink and have to be discarded.

Possession is indicated by using either one of two postpositions that both have exactly the same meaning: *with*. The two words are -सँग **sāga** (sometimes spelt सङ्ग **saṅga**) and -सित **sita**. These are added directly on to nouns, names and pronouns:

केटासँग	<b>keṭāsāga</b>	or	केटासित	<b>keṭāsita</b> with the boy
कुमारसँग	<b>Kumārsāga</b>	or	कुमारसित	<b>Kumārsita</b> with Kumar
मसँग	<b>masāga</b>	or	मसित	<b>masita</b> with me

Having added one or other of these words to the possessor, all that is left to create a simple statement of possession is to state the thing possessed and end with the verb, which is always छ **cha** (because you are *locating* the possession on the person of the possessor):

त्यो मान्छेसँग दुई रुपियाँ छ ।	<b>tyo mānchesāga</b>	<b>duī rupiyā cha.</b>	<i>That man has two rupees (on his person).</i>
ऊसँग एउटा कलम छ ।	<b>ūsāga eutā kalam cha.</b>		<i>He has a pen (on his person).</i>

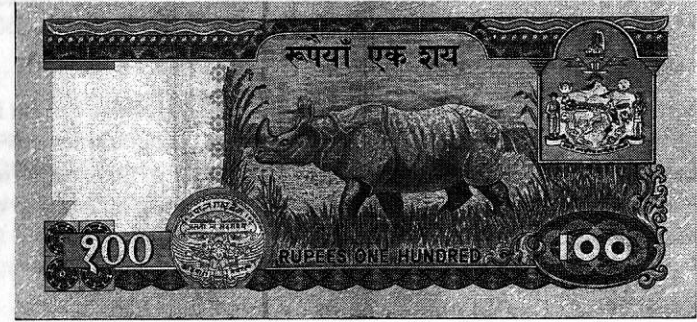
If the statement or question is about someone *not* possessing something, use the negative form of छ **cha**.

मसित पैसा छैन ।	<b>masita paisā chaina.</b>	<i>I don't have any money (on my person).</i>
गीतासँग साबुन छैन ।	<b>Gitāsāga sābun chaina.</b>	<i>Gita does not have any soap (with her).</i>

### 22 Using numbers without classifiers

When you are talking about sums of money, weights and measures, units of time, distances, or any other kind of measure or unit, there is no need to add a classifier to the numerals involved, or to use the

plural suffix -हरू **-harū**. Nor is it correct to use the plural form of a verb when its subject is a plural numerical quantity.



### Currency

The Nepali रुपियाँ **rupiyā rupee** consists of 100 पैसा **paisā**. There are also special words for a quarter-rupee (सुका **sukā**) and a half-rupee (मोहर **mohar** or मोहोर **mohor**), though these terms are gradually falling into disuse, partly as a result of inflation. The abbreviation for *rupee* is Rs. in Roman script, and रु **ru.** in Devanāgarī. The Nepali rupee is sometimes referred to as the ने रु **ne. ru.** (short for नेपाली रुपियाँ **nepālī rupiyā**), to distinguish it from the भा रु **bhā. ru.** (भारतीय रुपियाँ **bhāratīya rupiyā**) or Indian rupee.

Prices and sums of money can be expressed in three different ways:

- by using numbers with the terms साढे **sāḍhe plus one half**, सवा **savā plus one quarter** and पौने **paune minus one quarter**. There are special words for *one and a half* and *two and a half*:

एक रुपियाँ	<b>ek rupiyā</b>	रु १	Rs.1
सवा एक रुपियाँ	<b>savā ek rupiyā</b>	रु १.२५	Rs.1.25
डेढ रुपियाँ	<b>ḍeḍh rupiyā</b>	रु १.५०	Rs.1.50
पौने दुई रुपियाँ	<b>paune duī rupiyā</b>	रु १.७५	Rs.1.75
दुई रुपियाँ	<b>duī rupiyā</b>	रु २	Rs.2
सवा दुई रुपियाँ	<b>savā duī rupiyā</b>	रु २.२५	Rs.2.25
अढाई रुपियाँ	<b>aḍhāi rupiyā</b>	रु २.५०	Rs.2.50

- by expressing small sums in terms of मोहर **mohar** and सुका **sukā**:
 

एक रुपियाँ सुका	<b>ek rupiyā sukā</b>	रु १.२५	Rs.1.25
तीन मोहर	<b>tīn mohar</b>	रु १.५०	Rs.1.50
तीन मोहर सुका	<b>tīn mohar sukā</b>	रु १.७५	Rs.1.75
पाँच मोहर	<b>pāc mohar</b>	रु २.५०	Rs.2.50
पाँच मोहर सुका	<b>pāc mohar sukā</b>	रु २.७५	Rs.2.75
- by expressing sums in terms of रुपियाँ **rupiyā** and पैसा **paisā**:



एक रुपियाँ पच्चीस पैसा	<b>ek rupiyā paccīs paisā</b>	रु० १.२५	Rs.1.25
एक रुपियाँ पचास पैसा	<b>ek rupiyā pacās paisā</b>	रु० १.५०	Rs.1.50
दुई रुपियाँ पच्चीस पैसा	<b>duī rupiyā paccīs paisā</b>	रु० २.२५	Rs.2.25
दुई रुपियाँ पचास पैसा	<b>duī rupiyā pacās paisā</b>	रु० २.५०	Rs.2.50

### Weights and capacities

There are two systems of measuring weights and quantities current in Nepal. One is the metric European system of kilogrammes (किलो **kilo**), the other is a more complicated traditional system based on capacity, which is particularly suited to measuring quantities of grain:

चौथाई	<b>cauthāī</b>	one quarter of a <b>mānā</b>
आधा माना	<b>ādhā mānā</b>	half a <b>mānā</b>
एक माना	<b>ek mānā</b>	one <b>mānā</b> (= 0.7 litres or 20 ounces)
एक कुरुवा	<b>ek kuruvā</b>	(= two <b>mānās</b> )
एक पाथी	<b>ek pāthī</b>	(= eight <b>mānās</b> )
एक मुरी	<b>ek murī</b>	(= 20 <b>pāthīs</b> )

Neither kind of unit requires the use of classifiers or plural suffixes:

एक किलो आलु	<b>ek kilo ālu</b>	<i>one kilo of potatoes</i>
पाँच किलो स्याउ	<b>pāc kilo syāu</b>	<i>five kilos of apples</i>
दुई माना चामल	<b>duī mānā cāmal</b>	<i>two mānās of rice</i>
एक पाथी दाल	<b>ek pāthī dāl</b>	<i>one pāthī of lentils</i>

Note that words such as *cup* and *pot* are also treated as measures of quantity in phrases such as the following, and therefore the numbers do not take a classifier:

दुई कप चिया	<b>duī kap ciyā</b>	<i>two cups of tea</i>
एक पाट चिया	<b>ek pāṭ ciyā</b>	<i>one pot of tea</i>

### Units of time

एक सेकण्ड	<b>ek sekaṇḍ</b>	<i>one second</i>
एक छिन	<b>ek chin</b>	<i>one moment</i>
दुई मिनेट	<b>duī mineṭ</b>	<i>two minutes</i>
तीन घण्टा	<b>tīn ghaṇṭā</b>	<i>three hours</i>
चार दिन	<b>cār dīn</b>	<i>four days</i>
पाँच हप्ता	<b>pāc haptā</b>	<i>five weeks</i>
छ महिना	<b>cha mahinā</b>	<i>six months</i>
सात वर्ष	<b>sāt varṣa</b>	<i>seven years</i>

**EXERCISE 10** Translate the following sentences into Nepali:

- I have ten rupees and a packet of cigarettes.
- We have been in Nepal for three weeks.

- There are ten men, three women and five boys in the post office.
- How much money do you have with you?
- That Indian man has no money, but the Nepali boy has ten rupees.
- The rich farmer has ten **pāthīs** of rice and ten kilogrammes of potatoes.
- There are two cups of tea on each table.
- The teacher has no books and the students have no pens.

**EXERCISE 11** Write six Nepali sentences that define each of the people in the left-hand column as teachers, using an appropriate form of the verb *to be* from the right-hand column. Then do the same thing for each once again, but this time locating them at home.

भाइ	<b>bhāī</b>		हनुहुन्छ	<b>hunuhuncha</b>
दिदी	<b>didī</b>		हो	<b>ho</b>
भाइहरू	<b>bhāīharū</b>	शिक्षक	छन्	<b>chan</b>
दाज्यू	<b>dājyū</b>	घरमा	हुन्	<b>hun</b>
आमा	<b>āmā</b>		छ	<b>cha</b>
म	<b>ma</b>		छिन्	<b>chin</b>
			छ	<b>hū</b>
			छ	<b>chu</b>

**EXERCISE 12** Translate into Nepali:

- one week
- two men
- three books
- four boys
- five rupees
- six chairs
- seven women
- eight classes
- nine kilos
- ten foreigners
- two kilos
- seven and a half kilos
- three **pāthīs**
- two and a half **mānās**
- three rupees and seventy-five **paisā**
- nine and a half rupees.

# 04

कसको हो ?

## whose is it?

In this unit you will learn

- how to talk about ownership
- how to express and ask about knowledge
- how to ask further questions

## 8 Jyoti's houses

Anil and Bijay are comparing notes on Jyoti, a new acquaintance.

अनिल ज्योतिका कतिवटा घरहरू छन् ? तपाईंलाई थाहा छ ?

**Anil** **Jyotikā kativaṭā gharharū chan? tapāīlāi thāhā cha?**  
*How many houses does Jyoti have? Do you know?*

बिजय थाहा छ । ज्योतिका दुइटा घर छन् : एउटा सानो र एउटा ठूलो ।

**Bijay** **thāhā cha. Jyotikā duiṭā ghar chan: euṭā sāno ra euṭā ṭhūlo.**

*I know. Jyoti has two houses: one big and one small.*

अनिल ए । ज्योतिको सानो घर कहाँ छ ?

**Anil** **e. Jyotiko sāno ghar kahā cha?**  
*I see. Where is Jyoti's small house?*

बिजय ज्योतिको सानो घर बजारमा छ । त्यहाँ ज्योतिको बुवाको एउटा पसल पनि छ ।

**Bijay** **Jyotiko sāno ghar bajārmā cha. tyahā Jyotiko buvāko euṭā pasal pani cha.**

*Jyoti's small house is in the marketplace. Jyoti's father has a shop there too.*

अनिल अनि ज्योतिको ठूलो घर नि ?

**Anil** **ani Jyotiko ṭhūlo ghar ni?**  
*And what about Jyoti's big house?*

बिजय ज्योतिको ठूलो घर पोखराबाट दुई कोस टाढा छ ।

**Bijay** **Jyotiko ṭhūlo ghar Pokharābāṭa dui kos ṭāḍhā cha.**  
*Jyoti's big house is two kos away from Pokhara.*

अनिल त्यो घर निकै ठूलो छ ?

**Anil** **tyo ghar nikkai ṭhūlo cha?**  
*Is that house very large?*

बिजय हो, निकै ठूलो छ । त्यो घरमा दसवटा कोठा छन् ।

**Bijay** **ho, nikkai ṭhūlo cha. tyo gharmā dasvaṭā koṭhā chan.**  
*Yes, it's very large. There are ten rooms in that house.*

अनिल ज्योतिको परिवार पनि ठूलो छ ?

**Anil** **Jyotiko parivār pani ṭhūlo cha?**  
*Is Jyoti's family large too?*

बिजय ठूलो छैन, तर उनीहरू धनी छन् । हरेक शहरमा ज्योतिको बुवाका दुई-चारवटा पसल छन् ।

**Bijay** **ṭhūlo chaina, tara uniharū dhanī chan. harek śaharmā Jyotiko buvakā dui-cārvaṭā pasal chan.**

*It's not large, but they are rich. Jyoti's father has several shops in every town.*

- अनिल अनि ज्योतिको दाजु-भाइ छैनन् ?  
**Anil ani Jyotiko dāju-bhāi chainan?**  
*And does Jyoti not have any brothers?*
- बिजय छैनन् । ज्योतिको एउटी बहिनी छ, कान्ती । हिजोआज उनी दार्जीलिङ्गको एउटा स्कूलमा छिन् ।  
**Bijay chainan. Jyotikī euṭī bahinī cha, Kāntī. hiĵoāja unī Darjeelingko euṭā skūlmā chin.**  
*No. He has one sister, Kanti. Nowadays she is at a school in Darjeeling.*

ज्योतिका **Jyotikā** *Jyoti's, belonging to Jyoti* (plural possessions)  
 थाहा **thāhā** *knowledge, information*  
 ज्योतिको **Jyotiko** *Jyoti's, belonging to Jyoti* (single possession)  
 निकै **nikkai** *very* (used only with adjectives)  
 दाजु-भाइ **dāju-bhāi** *brothers*  
 ज्योतिकी **Jyotikī** *Jyoti's, belonging to Jyoti* (female possession)  
 एउटी **euṭī** *one* (feminine ending)  
 हिजोआज **hiĵoāja** *nowadays*  
 दार्जीलिङ्ग **Dārjiling** *Darjeeling*  
 स्कूल **skūl** *school*

## Grammar

### 23 Ownership: -को -ko, -की -kī, -का -kā with nouns and names

Unless you are using -सँग -sāga or -सित -sita to talk about possessions that are 'with' an owner at the time, the particle -को -ko must be used to link an owner to a thing that is owned. The particle performs the same function, and occurs in the same place in a sentence or phrase, as the 'apostrophe s' ( 's) in English, and can be attached to nouns and names in the same way:

रामको किताब	<b>Rāmko kitāb</b>	<i>Ram's book</i>
सेतीको बुवा	<b>Setīko buvā</b>	<i>Seti's father</i>

However, -को -ko behaves like an inflected adjective in that the vowel must change according to the number and gender of whatever is owned – to -ī when a female human noun is owned, and to -ā when

the owned nouns are plural:

रमेशकी आमा	<b>Rameškī āmā</b>	<i>Ramesh's mother</i>
नेपालका गाउँहरू	<b>Nepālkā gāūharū</b>	<i>Nepal's villages</i>

As in statements of possession using -सँग -sāga or -सित -sita, statements of ownership involve the use of the verb छ **cha**:

रमेशका दुईजना दाजु छन् ।	<b>Rameškā duijanā dāju chan.</b>	<i>Ramesh has two elder brothers.</i>
बिन्दूको दाजु छैन ।	<b>Bindūko dāju chaina.</b>	<i>Bindu does not have an elder brother.</i>

However, if something is being identified as a belonging then it becomes necessary to use हो **ho** instead of छ **cha**:

यो सानो घर ज्योतिको हो ।	<b>yo sāno ghar Jyotiko ho.</b>	<i>This small house is Jyoti's.</i>
ऊ बिन्दूको दाजु होइन ।	<b>ū Bindūko dāju hoīna.</b>	<i>He is not Bindu's elder brother.</i>

It is possible to use -को -ko in a string of ownerships:

ज्योतिको साथी	<b>Jyotiko sāthī</b>	<i>Jyoti's friend</i>
ज्योतिको साथीको बुवा	<b>Jyotiko sāthiko buvā</b>	<i>Jyoti's friend's father</i>
ज्योतिको साथीको बुवाको घर	<b>Jyotiko sāthiko buvāko ghar</b>	<i>Jyoti's friend's father's house</i>
ज्योतिको साथीको बुवाको घरका झ्यालहरू	<b>Jyotiko sāthiko buvāko gharkā jhyālharū.</b>	<i>Jyoti's friend's father's house's windows</i>

### 24 Words for and: र ra, अनि ani

So far you have met two different Nepali words that are both translated as *and*. र **ra** is used to link pairs or the members of a group of nouns, pronouns, or names:

ज्योति, अम्बिका र राम	<b>Jyoti, Ambikā ra Rām</b>	<i>Jyoti, Ambika and Ram</i>
बैंक र हुलाक घर	<b>baik ra hulāk ghar</b>	<i>the bank and the post office</i>

अनि **ani**, on the other hand, is used to mean *and* when we wish to introduce another topic or to ask an additional question: it can often mean *and then*. In spoken Nepali, a sentence can never begin with र **ra**, but it is possible to begin a sentence with अनि **ani**.

अनि बैंक कहाँ छ ?	<b>ani baīk kahā̃ cha?</b>	<i>And where is the bank?</i>
अनि ?	<b>ani?</b>	<i>And then?</i>
अनि तिमी को हौ ?	<b>ani timī ko hau?</b>	<i>And who are you?</i>

A third word for *and* that is used only in scholarly, formal or official contexts as a substitute for र **ra** is the Sanskrit loan तथा **tathā**.

## 25 I know, you know, etc. using थाहा **thāhā**

थाहा **thāhā**, often pronounced **thā**, means *knowledge* or *information*. The most common way to state that you know something is to say that the knowledge exists *for you* or *to you*, using the postposition -लाई **-lāi**, which means *to* or *for*:

मलाई थाहा छ ।	<b>malāi thāhā cha.</b>	<i>I know ('to me there is knowledge').</i>
तपाईंलाई थाहा छैन ।	<b>tapāilāi thāhā chaina.</b>	<i>You do not know ('to you there is not knowledge').</i>
बिन्दुलाई पक्का थाहा छ ?	<b>Bindulāi pakkā thāhā cha?</b>	<i>Does Bindu know for sure? ('to Bindu is there certain knowledge?')</i>

These questions and statements are frequently abbreviated:

थाहा छ ।	<b>thāhā cha.</b>	<i>I know.</i>
थाहा छ ?	<b>thāhā cha?</b>	<i>Do you know?</i>
थाहा छैन ।	<b>thāhā chaina.</b>	<i>I don't know.</i>

## 9 Ratan's motorcar

Subir and Anand have just spotted their friend Ratan driving past in a red car.

सुबीर	रातो मोटरमा त्यो को हो ?
<b>Subir</b>	<b>rāto moṭarmā tyo ko ho?</b> <i>Who is that in the red car?</i>
आनन्द	रतन, होइन ?
<b>Anand</b>	<b>Ratan, hoina?</b> <i>It's Ratan, isn't it?</i>

सुबीर हो, त्यो रतन हो ।  
**Subir** **ho, tyo Ratan ho.**  
*Yes, that's Ratan.*

आनन्द त्यो रातो मोटर रतनजीको आफ्नो मोटर हो ?  
**Anand** **tyo rāto moṭar Ratanjiko āphno moṭar ho?**  
*Is that red car Ratanji's own car?*

सुबीर होइन, रतनको साथीको मोटर हो ।  
**Subir** **hoina, Ratanko sāthiko moṭar ho.**  
*No, it's Ratan's friend's car.*

आनन्द तपाईंको पनि मोटर छ ?  
**Anand** **tapāiko pani moṭar cha?**  
*Do you too have a car?*

सुबीर अहँ, मेरो मोटर छैन । तर मेरो दाज्यूको एउटा मोटर छ ।  
**Subir** **ahā, mero moṭar chaina. tara mero dājyūko euṭā moṭar cha.**  
*No, I don't have a car. But my elder brother has a car.*

आनन्द तपाईंको दाज्यूको मोटर कस्तो छ ?  
**Anand** **tapāiko dājyūko moṭar kasto cha?**  
*What's your elder brother's car like?*

सुबीर दाज्यूको मोटर अलि पुरानो छ, तर राम्रो छ, एकदम राम्रो । तपाईंको मोटर छ कि छैन नि ?  
**Subir** **dājyūko moṭar ali purāno cha, tara rāmro cha, ekdam rāmro. tapāiko moṭar cha ki chaina ni?**  
*Elder brother's car is rather old, but it's nice, really nice. So do you have a car or not?*

आनन्द छैन! मेरो एउटा साइकल मात्रै छ ।  
**Anand** **chaina! mero euṭā sāikal mātrai cha.**  
*No! I have only a bicycle.*

रातो **rāto** red  
मोटर **moṭar** car  
आफ्नो **āphno** own

साथी **sāthi** friend  
एकदम **ekdam** really, very  
साइकल **sāikal** bicycle

**EXERCISE 13** Answer the following questions about Dialogue 9:

- |                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| १ रतनजीको आफ्नो मोटर छ ? | <b>Ratanjiko āphno moṭar cha?</b> |
| २ रातो मोटर रतनको हो ?   | <b>rāto moṭar ratanko ho?</b>     |
| ३ सुबीरको आफ्नो मोटर छ ? | <b>Subirko āphno moṭar cha?</b>   |

५ सुबीरको दाज्यूको मोटर छ कि छैन ?

Subirko dājyūko moṭar cha  
ki chaina?

## Grammar

### 26 Ownership using -को -ko, -की -kī, -का -kā with unchanged ('direct case') pronouns

The postposition -को -ko can be added to two kinds of pronouns in exactly the same way that it is added to nouns and names, i.e. without requiring any change to be made to these pronouns. The two categories are:

- i The most polite pronouns (तपाईं **tapāī**, यहाँ **yahā**, वहाँ **vahā**, हजुर **hajur**),  
ii Plural pronouns that end in -हरू.

यहाँको शुभनाम के हो ?	<b>yahāko śubhanām</b>	<i>What is this</i>
	<b>ke ho?</b>	<i>person's name? *</i>
वहाँको काम के हो ?	<b>vahāko kām ke ho?</b>	<i>What is his job?</i>
उनीहरूको लुगा अनौठो छ !	<b>unīharūko luḡā</b>	<i>Their clothing is</i>
	<b>anauṭho cha!</b>	<i>strange!</i>

\*Using शुभनाम **śubhanām** *auspicious name* to ask a personal name is more polite than using नाम **nām**.

### 27 My, your, our

-को -ko cannot be added to the pronouns म **ma** I, तैं **tā** you, तिमि **timī** you and हामी **hāmī** we. Instead, these four pronouns have special ownership ('genitive') forms:

म	<b>ma</b>	<i>I</i>	becomes	मेरो	<b>mero</b>	<i>my, mine</i>
तैं	<b>tā</b>	<i>you</i>	becomes	तेरो	<b>tero</b>	<i>your, yours</i>
तिमी	<b>timī</b>	<i>you</i>	becomes	तिम्रो	<b>timro</b>	<i>your, yours</i>
हामी	<b>hāmī</b>	<i>we</i>	becomes	हाम्रो	<b>hāmro</b>	<i>our, ours</i>

मेरो नाम जेनी हो । **mero nām Jenī ho.** *My name is Jenny.*  
तिम्रो नाम सोनाम होइन, **timro nām Sonām** *Your name is not*  
छिरिङ्ग हो । **hoina, Chiring ho.** *Sonam, it is*  
*Tsering.\**

हाम्रो थर अधिकारी हो । **hāmro thar** *Our family name*  
**Adhikāri ho.** *is Adhikari.*

\* These are both Tibetan names, current among people who live along Nepal's northern border, and also among Tibetan refugees in

Nepal. Nepali does not have a letter to represent the Tibetan sound **ts**, so it uses **ch** instead.

**EXERCISE 14** Create sentences that state ownership, using the elements provided:

Owner	Quantity	Possession
<i>E.g. I</i>	2	houses
= मेरा दुइट्टा घर छन्	<b>merā duiṭā</b>	<i>I have two houses</i>
	<b>ghar chan</b>	
1 Dhan Bahādur's wife	2	elder sisters
2 I	0	mother and father
3 My mother	4	grandchildren
4 They	0	sons and daughters
5 He (High)	9	cows (गाई <b>gāī</b> )
6 We	5	fat buffaloes (भैँसी <b>bhaīśī</b> )

### 28 One's own: emphasizing ownership using

आफ्नो **āphno**

The word आफ्नो **āphno** means *own* and can be used with any of the possessive pronouns. It does not matter whether it is being used to mean *my own* or *your own* or anyone else's *own*; the word remains the same. It is an adjective, however, so its ending must change according to the number and gender of the thing or things owned:

मेरो आफ्नो साथी	<b>mero āphno sāthī</b>	<i>my own friend</i>
तपाईंका आफ्ना छोराछोरी	<b>tapāīkā āphnā</b>	<i>your own children</i>
	<b>chorāchorī</b>	
अमिताकी आफ्नी बहिनी	<b>Amitākī āphnī bahinī</b>	<i>Amita's own</i>
		<i>younger sister</i>

To emphasize that the thing that is owned is the owner's very own possession and does not belong to anyone else, the ending of आफ्नो **āphno** is changed to **-ai**:

रमेशको आफ्नै साइकल ।	<b>Rameško āphnai sāikal.</b>	<i>Ramesh's very</i>
		<i>own bicycle.</i>
अमिताकी आफ्नै बहिनी ।	<b>Amitākī āphnai bahinī.</b>	<i>Amita's very own</i>
		<i>younger sister.</i>
यिनीहरू मेरा आफ्नै	<b>yiniharū merā āphnai</b>	<i>These are my own</i>
छोराछोरी हुन् ।	<b>chorāchorī hun.</b>	<i>children.</i>

## 29 Asking questions: the use of कि ki

The word order of a question in Nepali is exactly the same as the word order of a statement: when spoken, the difference lies in the intonation; when written, the only difference between a statement and a question is the absence or presence of a question-mark. However, Nepali-speakers frequently end a question with the questioning word कि ? **ki**? which literally means *or...?* हो कि ? **ho ki** ? and छ कि ? **cha ki** ? mean *is it or...?* and *is there or...?*

यो तपाईंको आफ्नो साइकल हो कि ?	<b>yo tapāiko āphno sāikal ho ki?</b>	<i>Is this your own bicycle, or...?</i>
तपाईंको घरमा साइकल छ कि ?	<b>tapāiko ghar mā sāikal cha ki?</b>	<i>Is there a bicycle in your house, or...?</i>

The question might also include the negative form of the verb, to mean *is it or isn't it?* or *is there or isn't there?*

चिया हो ?	<b>ciyā ho?</b>	<i>is it tea?</i>
चिया हो कि ?	<b>ciyā ho ki?</b>	<i>is it tea or...?</i>
चिया हो कि होइन ?	<b>ciyā ho ki hoina?</b>	<i>is it tea or not?</i>
चिया छ ?	<b>ciyā cha?</b>	<i>is there any tea?</i>
चिया छ कि ?	<b>ciyā cha ki?</b>	<i>is there any tea or...?</i>
चिया छ कि छैन ?	<b>ciyā cha ki chaina?</b>	<i>is there any tea or not?</i>

These last three questions carry the implication that if there is any tea the speaker would like to drink it. Similarly, a sentence such as:

तपाईंको घरमा नून छ कि ?	<b>tapāiko ghar mā nūn cha ki?</b>	<i>Is there salt in your house?</i>
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suggests that the person asking the question is in need of salt.

### EXERCISE 15 Translate into Nepali:

- 1 You (Middle) are my son's friend, aren't you? Is your name Gautam (**gautam**)?
- 2 Is your (Middle) friend's father's name Ganesh Man (**gaṇeś mān**)? Do you know or don't you?
- 3 His (High) name is Laksmi Nath (**lakṣmī nāth**). I know that.
- 4 My home is not far from here. Where is your (Middle) home?
- 5 Your (High) father is at the bank. Does your mother know?
- 6 Their (Middle) cows are in our field. Don't they know?
- 7 Our family name is Pokharel (**pokharel**). We are Brahmins.
- 8 This is not your (Middle) watch. It is my mother's.

### EXERCISE 16 Write a simple account of the members of your family, along the following lines:

My name is... My home is in...

In my family we are... people: (list the members of your family, using relationship terms).

Next, give the following information about each member of your family:

My elder sister's name is...

She is in... (give the name of the town where she lives).

Repeat this information for each member of your family.

If any of your siblings is married, state the name of their husband or wife.

## 10 Whose book is this?

रश्मि यो कसको किताब हो ?

**Raśmi** **yo kasko kitāb ho?**

*Whose book is this?*

प्रीति मेरो विचारमा त्यो सूर्यकी छोरीको किताब हो ।

**Pṛiti** **mero vicārmā tyo Sūryakī chorīko kitāb ho.**

*I think that is Surya's daughter's book.*

रश्मि सूर्यकी छोरी छ र ? मलाई थाहा छैन ।

**Raśmi** **Sūryakī chorī cha ra? malāi thāhā chaina.**

*Does Surya have a daughter then? I don't know.*

प्रीति मेरो विचारमा उनका एकजना छोरा र एकजना छोरी छन् ।

**Pṛiti** **mero vicārmā unkā ekjanā chorā ra ekjanā chorī chan.**

*I think he has one son and one daughter.*

रश्मि छोरीको नाम के हो त ?

**Raśmi** **chorīko nām ke ho ta?**

*What's the daughter's name then?*

प्रीति थाहा छैन ।

**Pṛiti** **thāhā chaina.**

*I don't know.*

रश्मि छोराको नाम के हो ?

**Raśmi** **chorāko nām ke ho?**

*What's the son's name?*

- प्रीति उसको नाम गिरीश हो ।  
**Prīti usko nām Girīś ho.**  
*His name is Girish.*
- रश्मि अनि उसको उमेर कति हो ? थाहा छ ?  
**Raśmi ani usko umer kati ho? thāhā cha?**  
*And how old is he? Do you know?*
- प्रीति उसको उमेर कति हो थाहा छैन ।  
**Prīti usko umer kati ho thāhā chaina.**  
*I don't know how old he is.*
- रश्मि ए ठीकै छ नि ! किताबमा गिरीशको नाम छ । यो किताब उसैको हो ।  
**Raśmi e thīkai cha ni! kitābmā Girīśko nām cha. yo kitāb usaiko ho.**  
*Oh, it's OK. Girish's name is on the book. This book is his.*

कसको <b>kasko</b> whose?	उमेर <b>umer</b> age
विचार <b>vicār</b> thought, opinion	उसैको <b>usaiko</b> his (and no-one else's)
र ? <b>ra?</b> indeed? then?	

### EXERCISE 17 Answer the following questions about Dialogue 10:

- सूर्यका कतिजना छोराछोरी छन् ?  
**Sūryakā katijanā chorāchorī chan?**
- प्रीतिको विचारमा सूर्यकी छोरी छ कि छैन ?  
**Prītiko vicārmā Sūryako chorī cha ki chaina?**
- सूर्यको छोराको नाम के हो ?  
**Sūryako chorāko nām ke ho?**
- अनि किताबमा कसको नाम छ ?  
**ani kitābmā kasko nām cha?**

## Grammar

### 30 Ownership using -को -ko, -की -kī, -का -kā with changed ('oblique case') pronouns

Nepali grammar has only two cases. A noun or pronoun is always in either the 'direct' case, which means that it remains as it appears in a dictionary, or the 'oblique' case, which means that its ending might need to change.

A word will always take the 'oblique case' when a postposition has been added to it; whether this means that its ending actually has to

change depends on what the word is. Generally, nouns do not change in the oblique case, but certain pronouns do. When -को -ko is added to pronouns (except (i) the most polite forms, (ii) plurals ending in -हरू -harū and (iii) म ma, तैं tā, तिमी timī, and हामी hāmī – see **Grammar 26 and 27**), the pronouns have to be modified slightly, and are said then to have changed into the oblique case, from their original, unchanged direct case:

direct case	oblique case	+ को -ko
ऊ ū	उस us	उसको usko his/her
यो yo	यस yas	यसको yasko his/her/its
त्यो tyo	त्यस tyas	त्यसको tyasko his/her/its
उनी unī	उन un	उनको unko his/her (polite)
यिनी yinī	यिन yin	यिनको yinko his/her (polite)
तिनी tinī	तिन tin	तिनको tinko his/her (polite)

The oblique forms of the pronouns यो yo *this* and त्यो tyo *that* are not pronounced exactly as they are spelled:

direct form	oblique form	pronunciation
यो yo	यस yas	'es'
त्यो tyo	त्यस tyas	'tes'

When the postposition -लाई -lāi is added to the oblique forms of यो yo, त्यो tyo, and ऊ ū the word is often pronounced as if the 's' has been lost and the 'l' has been doubled:

spelling	pronunciation
यसलाई yaslāi	'ellāi'
त्यसलाई tyaslāi	'tellāi'
उसलाई uslāi	'ullāi'

All of the pronouns in the box above must change to their oblique forms whenever a postposition is added to them. The examples given in the box show what happens when the postposition is -को -ko, but exactly the same changes are necessary when other postpositions are involved:

उनलाई थाहा छैन । यसमा चिनी छ?	<b>unlāi thāhā chaina.</b> <b>yasmā cinī cha?</b>	<i>S/he does not know.</i> <i>Is there (any) sugar in this?</i>
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An exception to this rule is the postposition -सँग -sāga *with*, which is always added to the unchanged ('direct case') form of a pronoun:

ऊसँग पैसा छैन । **ūsāga paisā chaina.** *He has no money (on his person).*

When यो **yo** and त्यो **tyo** are being used before a noun to mean *this* and *that*, they should take their oblique form if a postposition is added to the noun.

यो शहर becomes	<b>yo śahar</b>	<i>this town</i>
यस शहरमा	<b>yas śaharmā</b>	<i>in this town</i>
त्यो दिन becomes	<b>tyo din</b>	<i>that day</i>
त्यस दिनदेखि	<b>tyas dindekhī</b>	<i>since that day</i>

However, this is a rule that is often ignored in everyday spoken Nepali. It is particularly likely to be ignored if यो **yo** and त्यो **tyo** are separated from the noun they describe by another adjective or adjectives. The longer the following phrase becomes, the more permissible it is to use the direct form यो **yo** *this* instead of its oblique form यस **yas**:

<i>In this town:</i>	यस शहरमा	<b>yas śaharmā</b>
or	यो शहरमा	<b>yo śaharmā</b>
<i>In this big town:</i>	यस ठूलो शहरमा	<b>yas ṭhūlo śaharmā</b>
or	यो ठूलो शहरमा	<b>yo ṭhūlo śaharmā</b>
<i>In this big old town:</i>	यस ठूलो पुरानो शहरमा	<b>yas ṭhūlo purāno śaharmā</b>
or	यो ठूलो पुरानो शहरमा	<b>yo ṭhūlo purāno śaharmā</b>

यी **yī** *these* and ती **tī** *those* do not take oblique forms:

यी शहरहरू	<b>yī śaharharū</b>	<i>these towns</i>
यी शहरहरूमा	<b>yī śaharharūmā</b>	<i>in these towns</i>
ती घरहरू	<b>tī gharharū</b>	<i>those houses</i>
ती घरहरूबाट	<b>tī gharharūbāṭa</b>	<i>from those houses</i>

### 31 Interrogatives: कसको **kasko** *whose*, केको **keko** *of what*, कहाँको **kahāko** *of / from where?*

The Nepali word for *who?* is को **ko**? When the -को **-ko** that links owner to owned is added to the को **ko** that means *who?*, the latter must change to its oblique form, which is कस **kas**:

को <b>ko</b> <i>who?</i> +	-को <b>-ko</b> 's =	कसको <b>kasko</b> <i>whose?</i>
कसको किताब	<b>kasko kitāb</b>	<i>whose book?</i>
कसका छोराहरू	<b>kaskā chorāharū</b>	<i>whose sons?</i>
कसकी बहिनी	<b>kaskī bahinī</b>	<i>whose sister?</i>

Most other interrogatives (e.g. के **ke** *what?*, कहाँ **kahā** *where?*) do not have an oblique form, so they do not change when -को **-ko** is added to them:

यो केको मासु हो ?	<b>yo keko māsu ho?</b>	<i>What kind of meat is this?</i>
त्यो कुखुराको मासु हो ।	<b>tyo kukhurāko māsu ho.</b>	<i>That is chicken's meat.</i>

In English it is said that a person is 'from' a particular place, if that is where that person resides or has his/her origin. In Nepali, the same expression uses the genitive -को **-ko**, instead of any word meaning *from*:

ऊ कहाँको मान्छे हो ?	<b>ū kahāko mānche ho?</b>	<i>Where is he from? (literally, 'he is a person of where?')</i>
ऊ गोरखाको मान्छे हो ।	<b>ū Gorkhāko mānche ho.</b>	<i>He is from Gorkha. (literally, 'he is a person of Gorkha')</i>
यो कहाँको चामल हो ?	<b>yo kahāko cāmal ho?</b>	<i>Where is this rice from?</i>
त्यो पोखराको चामल हो ।	<b>tyo Pokharāko cāmal ho.</b>	<i>It is rice from Pokhara.</i>

**EXERCISE 18** Create sentences that state ownership, observing grammatical rules to the letter and using the elements provided:

Owner	Quantity	Possession
E.g. he	2	house
= उसका दुइटा घर छन्	<b>uskā duiṭā ghar chan</b>	<i>he has two houses</i>
1 That boy	2	houses
2 This big village	only 1	teashop
3 He (Low)	8	daughters
4 She (Middle)	4	sons
5 This man	many	friends
6 Who	0	friend?



# 05

## तपाईं के गर्नुहुन्छ ? what do you do?

### In this unit you will learn

- how to talk about what you and others do normally, habitually or in the near future
- how to use simple adverbs
- how to discuss times, days, and frequency

## ► 11 The cook and the pilot

Ravi is soon to marry Shailendra's younger sister, and the two men are meeting for the first time. Ravi's job takes him all over South Asia, while Shailendra is tied down to his work in a Kathmandu hotel. Ravi, who is very much Shailendra's elder, feels he knows more about the world than Shailendra, but Shailendra has the last word.

रवि तिमी शैलेन्द्र, होइनौ ?

शैलेन्द्र हजर, म शैलेन्द्र । तपाईं रविज्यू हुनुहुन्छ, होइन ?

रवि हो, म रवि ।

शैलेन्द्र तपाईं कहाँ काम गर्नुहुन्छ, रविज्यू ?

रवि म आर० एन० ए० सी० मा काम गर्छु । अनि तिमी नि ?

शैलेन्द्र म सॉग्रिला होटेलमा काम गर्छु ।

रवि तिमी कहिले काहीं नेपालबाहिर पनि जान्छौ ?

शैलेन्द्र अहँ । म कहिल्यै पनि बाहिर जाँदिन । म सधैं यहीं हुन्छु । तर तपाईं सधैं बाहिर जानुहुन्छ, होइन ?

रवि अँ, अलि अलि घुम्छु । दिल्ली जान्छु, कलकत्ता जान्छु, ढाका जान्छु, कराँची जान्छु । कहिले काहीं दुवई पनि जान्छु ।

शैलेन्द्र तपाईं के काममा बाहिर जानुहुन्छ ?

रवि म हवाई जहाजको पाइलट हुँ नि !

शैलेन्द्र लण्डन जानुहुन्छ ?

रवि जाँदिन । धेरै जसो म भारत मात्रै जान्छु । धेरै विदेशी पर्यटकहरू हाम्रो विमानबाट नेपाल आउँछन् ।

शैलेन्द्र म पनि हाम्रो होटेलमा विदेशी पाहुनाहरूको लागि खाना पकाउँछु नि ।

रवि ए, तिमी भान्से हो ?

शैलेन्द्र हो, म पाँच वर्षदेखि त्यस होटेलको भान्से हुँ ।

रवि ल, कस्तो राम्रो ! अबदेखि म हरेक शनिवार तिम्रो होटेलमा आउँछु र मीठो खाना खान्छु ।

शैलेन्द्र तर म यहाँ हुँदिन ! एक हप्तापछि म लण्डन जान्छु । त्यहाँ म एउटा नयाँ रेष्टुराँ खोल्छु ।

काम गर्नु <i>to work</i>	लण्डन <i>London</i>
आर० एन० ए० सी० <i>Royal Nepal Air Corporation</i>	धेरै जसो <i>usually</i>
होटेल <i>hotel</i>	भारत <i>India</i>
जानु <i>to go</i>	पर्यटक <i>tourist</i>
कहिले काही <i>sometimes</i>	विमान <i>flight</i>
बाहिर <i>outside</i>	आउनु <i>to come</i>
कहिल्यै पनि <i>never</i>	पाहुना <i>guest</i>
यहीं <i>right here</i>	-को लागि <i>for</i>
सधैं <i>always</i>	खाना <i>food</i>
हुनु <i>to be</i>	पकाउनु <i>to cook</i>
अलि अलि <i>a little</i>	भान्से <i>cook</i>
घुम्नु <i>to travel</i>	शनिवार <i>Saturday</i>
दिल्ली <i>Delhi</i>	मीठो <i>tasty</i>
कलकत्ता <i>Calcutta</i>	खानु <i>to eat</i>
ढाका <i>Dhaka</i>	हप्ता <i>week</i>
कराँची <i>Karachi</i>	पछि <i>after</i>
दुबई <i>Dubai</i>	रेष्टुराँ <i>restaurant</i>
हवाई जहाज <i>aeroplane</i>	खोल्नु <i>to open</i>
पाइलट <i>pilot</i>	

- Ravi** You're Shailendra, aren't you?  
**Shailendra** Yes, I'm Shailendra. You are Ravijyu, aren't you?  
**Ravi** Yes, I'm Ravi.  
**Shailendra** Where do you work, Ravijyu?  
**Ravi** I work at RNAC (the Royal Nepal Air Corporation). And you?  
**Shailendra** I work at the Shangri-la Hotel.  
**Ravi** Do you go outside Nepal sometimes too?  
**Shailendra** No. I never go outside. I am always here. But you always go outside, don't you?  
**Ravi** Yes, I travel a little. I go to Delhi, I go to Calcutta, I go to Dhaka, I go to Karachi. Sometimes I go to Dubai as well.  
**Shailendra** On what work do you go outside?  
**Ravi** I am an aeroplane pilot, you know!  
**Shailendra** Don't you go to London?  
**Ravi** No I don't. Usually I go only to India. Many foreign tourists come to Nepal by our flight.  
**Shailendra** I too cook food for the foreign guests in our hotel, you know.  
**Ravi** Oh, you're a cook?

**Shailendra** Yes, I've been that hotel's cook for five years.

**Ravi** There, how splendid! From now on I will come to your hotel every Saturday and eat good food.

**Shailendra** But I shan't be here! After a week I go to London. There I will open a new restaurant.

## Grammar

### 32 The dictionary form of verbs

A verb is a word that indicates the performance or occurrence of an action, or the existence of a state or condition. English verbs are words like *see, run, do, eat* and *hear*. So far, you have encountered the various forms of छ and हो that mean *am, is, and are*. These are all forms of the Nepali verb हुनु *hunu to be*.

The dictionary form of a Nepali verb always ends in -नु **-nu**. This -नु ending is attached to the 'verb base' – the part of the verb that distinguishes it from all other verbs.

For instance,

गर्नु **garnu to do** consists of verb base गर्- **gar-** + the dictionary form ending -नु **-nu**;

बस्नु **basnu to sit, to reside** consists of verb base बस्- **bas-** + the dictionary form ending -नु **-nu**;

बोल्नु **bolnu to speak** consists of verb base बोल्- **bol-** + the dictionary form ending -नु **-nu**,

and so on.

### 33 The habitual present tense

A tense is a set of forms of a verb which indicates what the relationship is between the time the verb is spoken or written and the time when its action takes place. That is: are you speaking or writing the verb after it has taken place, while it is taking place, or before it takes place? Most Nepali verbs have a full set of past, present and future tenses. The *habitual present* tense is used to make statements about habits or regular occurrences such as *I do, he lives, they eat, she takes*, etc. It can also be used to refer to the future: *I go tomorrow, they come next year, she arrives on Thursday*, etc.

The *habitual present* tense of all Nepali verbs consists of the verb base + a verb ending. (The verb bases introduced here are the present tense verb bases. As will be explained later on, there are also past tense bases.) Nasalization is added between the base and ending of certain verbs. If the verb is affirmative (*I do, I go, I come*), its ending is one of the छ forms of हुनु *to be* as set out in **Grammar 11**. If the verb is negative (*I do not, I don't go, I don't come*), its ending will be -दैन् **dain** + the same ending taken by छ in the affirmative form of the verb. The only exception to this rule is the form of the verb taken by म, where -छु in the affirmative becomes -दिन **dina** in the negative:

Affirmative		Negative		
-छ	<b>-cha</b>	-दिन	<b>-daina</b>	(with ऊ, यो, त्यो)
-छु	<b>-chu</b>	-दिन	<b>-dina</b>	(with म)
-छस्	<b>-chas</b>	-दैन्स्	<b>-dainas</b>	(with तँ)
-छौ	<b>-chau</b>	-दैन्	<b>-dainau</b>	(with तिमी)
-छौं	<b>-chauñ</b>	-दैन्	<b>-dainauñ</b>	(with हामी, हामीहरू)
-छन्	<b>-chan</b>	-दैन्	<b>-dainan</b>	(with यी, ती, उनी, यिनी, तिनी, and the plural forms of उनी, यिनी and तिनी)

There are three categories of verb: C-verbs, V-verbs and VV-verbs. If the base of a verb ends in a consonant, it is a C-verb; if it ends in a vowel it is a V-verb and if it ends in two vowels it is a VV-verb:

Dictionary form			Base		Category
गर्नु	<b>garnu</b>	<i>to do</i>	गर्-	<b>gar-</b>	C-verb
बस्नु	<b>basnu</b>	<i>to sit, reside</i>	बस्-	<b>bas-</b>	C-verb
हुनु	<b>hunu</b>	<i>to be</i>	हु-	<b>hu-</b>	V-verb
खानु	<b>khānu</b>	<i>to eat</i>	खा-	<b>khā-</b>	V-verb
लिनु	<b>linu</b>	<i>to take</i>	लि-	<b>li-</b>	V-verb
आउनु	<b>āunu</b>	<i>to come</i>	आउ-	<b>āu-</b>	VV-verb
पिउनु	<b>piunu</b>	<i>to drink</i>	पिउ-	<b>piu-</b>	VV-verb

The way in which the verb base and the ending are joined together depends on which category the verb belongs to. All C-verbs behave in the same way as the verb गर्नु *to do*, in which the final consonant of the base forms a conjunct with the ending:

गर्नु **garnu** *to do*

	Affirmative		Negative	
<b>singular</b>				
म	गर् + -छु	= गर्छु	गर् + -दिन	= गर्दिन
हामी, हामीहरू	गर् + -छौं	= गर्छौं	गर् + -दैन्	= गर्दैन्
तँ	गर् + -छस्	= गर्छस्	गर् + -दैन्स्	= गर्दैन्स्
तिमी, तिमीहरू	गर् + -छौ	= गर्छौ	गर् + -दैन्	= गर्दैन्
ऊ, यो, त्यो (m.)	गर् + -छ	= गर्छ	गर् + -दैन्	= गर्दैन्
उनी, यिनी, तिनी	गर् + -छन्	= गर्छन्	गर् + -दैन्	= गर्दैन्
यी, ती				
उनीहरू, यिनीहरू, तिनीहरू				

In V-verbs, a 'half n' (र्) is infixed between the base and the ending in the affirmative form, and the vowel is nasalized in the negative form. This is an important spelling convention, though both affirmative and negative forms are pronounced as if there is an 'n' in the middle of the word:

जानु **jānu** *to go*

	Affirmative		Negative	
<b>singular</b>				
म	जा + र् + -छु	= जान्छु	जा + र् + -दिन	= जाँदिन
हामी, हामीहरू	जा + र् + -छौं	= जान्छौं	जा + र् + -दैन्	= जाँदैन्
तँ	जा + र् + -छस्	= जान्छस्	जा + र् + -दैन्स्	= जाँदैन्स्
तिमी, तिमीहरू	जा + र् + -छौ	= जान्छौ	जा + र् + -दैन्	= जाँदैन्
ऊ, यो, त्यो	जा + र् + -छ	= जान्छ	जा + र् + -दैन्	= जाँदैन्
उनी, यिनी, तिनी	जा + र् + -छन्	= जान्छन्	जा + र् + -दैन्	= जाँदैन्
यी, ती				
उनीहरू, यिनीहरू, तिनीहरू				

In VV-verbs, the second of the two vowels is nasalized before the ending is added:

आउनु **āunu** *to come*

	Affirmative		Negative	
<b>singular</b>				
म	आउ + र् + -छु	= आउँछु	आउ + र् + -दिन	= आउँदिन
हामी, हामीहरू	आउ + र् + -छौं	= आउँछौं	आउ + र् + -दैन्	= आउँदैन्
तँ	आउ + र् + -छस्	= आउँछस्	आउ + र् + -दैन्स्	= आउँदैन्स्
तिमी, तिमीहरू	आउ + र् + -छौ	= आउँछौ	आउ + र् + -दैन्	= आउँदैन्
ऊ, यो, त्यो	आउ + र् + -छ	= आउँछ	आउ + र् + -दैन्	= आउँदैन्
उनी, यिनी, तिनी	आउ + र् + -छन्	= आउँछन्	आउ + र् + -दैन्	= आउँदैन्
यी, ती				
उनीहरू, यिनीहरू, तिनीहरू				

With the High pronouns (तपाईं, वहाँ, यहाँ, हजुर) the verbs behave differently. The base is simply the dictionary form ending in -नु, and the affirmative and negative endings are -हुन्छ **huncha** and -हुन्न **hunna** respectively. The verbs remain exactly the same in the singular and the plural.

### High forms

गर्नु **garnu** to do

Affirmative

गर्नु + -हुन्छ = गर्नुहुन्छ

Negative

गर्नु + -हुन्न = गर्नुहुन्न

आउनु **aanu** to come

Affirmative

आउनु + -हुन्छ = आउनुहुन्छ

Negative

आउनु + -हुन्न = आउनुहुन्न

## 34 Using the habitual present tense

The habitual present tense is used for habitual actions in the present:

म पोखरामा काम गर्छु ।  
उनीहरू नेपालमा बस्छन् ।

*I work in Pokhara.  
They live in Nepal.*

to describe facts or situations that are regularly or generally true:

दार्जीलिङ्गको चिया मीठो हुन्छ ।  
नेपालका धेरै किसानहरू गरीब हुन्छन् ।

*Darjeeling tea is good-tasting.  
Many of Nepal's farmers  
are poor.*

for actions that are going to occur at a specific time, usually in the near future:

भोलि म लण्डन जान्छु ।

*Tomorrow I (shall) go  
to London.*

म एक घण्टापछि तपाईंलाई भन्नेछु ।

*After an hour I shall tell you.*

The habitual present tense of हुनु can be used in place of the हो and छ forms, in order to create an important difference of meaning. Compare the following four sentences:

म यहाँ छु ।

*I am here.*

This is a simple statement of fact and therefore it needs nothing more than the simple present tense छु.

म यहाँ हुन्छु ।

*I am here.*

This means *I am here (on a regular basis) or I shall be here.*

आज म यहाँ छु ।

*I am here today.*

Again, this is a simple statement of fact and therefore it needs nothing more than the simple present tense छु.

आज म यहाँ हुन्छु ।

*I am here today.*

This implies that I am regularly here on this particular day: *this is where I am on this day of the week* or that this is a statement about the future: *I shall be here today.*

Any sentence that is in the present tense and uses an adverb such as *usually, always, every day, monthly, often, etc.* must use this tense:

म हरेक दिन अफिसमा हुन्छु ।

*I am in the office every day.*

ऊ सधैं त्यहाँ हुन्छ ।

*He is always there.*

## 35 धेरै जसो **usually**

धेरै जसो is a combination of धेरै *much, many* with जसो *similarly*. Therefore the phrase means, literally, *like much* or *like many*, and is used to mean *mostly* or *usually*:

ऊ धेरै जसो कुन रेष्टुराँमा भात खान्छ ?

*In which restaurant does he  
usually eat?\**

नेपालीहरू धेरै जसो हिन्दू हुन्छन् ।

*Nepalis are mostly Hindus.*

\* भात *rice* is virtually a synonym for *food* in Nepali.

## 36 मात्रै **only**, पनि **also, too, even**

मात्रै (and occasionally its non-emphasized form मात्र) is used to mean much the same thing as the English word *only*, but it comes after the noun or pronoun it qualifies in a sentence:

म मात्रै भारत जान्छु ।

*Only I go to India (I am the only one  
who goes to India).*

म भारत मात्रै जान्छु ।

*I go only to India (India is the only  
place I go to).*

ऊ मात्रै भात खान्छ ।

*Only he eats rice (he is the only one  
who eats rice).*

ऊ भात मात्रै खान्छ ।

*He eats only rice (rice is the only thing  
he eats).*

The first meaning of पनि is *too* or *also*:

म पनि भारत जान्छु ।

*I too go to India (as well as other people).*

म भारत पनि जान्छु ।

*I go to India too (as well as to other  
countries).*

ऊ पनि भात खान्छ ।

*He too eats rice (as well as other people).*

ऊ भात पनि खान्छ ।

*He eats rice too (as well as other foods).*

The second meaning of पनि is *even*, especially when it is used in negative statements:

घरमा भात पनि छैन । *There isn't even any rice in the house.*  
 मसँग एक रुपियाँ पनि छैन । *I don't have even one rupee.*  
 तिम्रो घरमा मूसा पनि भोको हुन्छ । *In your house even a mouse is hungry.*

### 37 कहिले ? when?, कहिले काहीं sometimes, कहिल्यै पनि never

कहिले is primarily an interrogative word meaning *when*?

तपाईं भारत कहिले जानुहुन्छ ? *When do you/will you go to India?*  
 उनीहरू बजार कहिले जान्छन् ? *When do they/will they go to the market?*

Two very useful two-word phrases that include कहिले and its emphasized form कहिल्यै are: कहिले काहीं *sometimes*, and कहिल्यै पनि *never*. The first is usually only used in affirmative statements, the second can be used only in negative statements; both can form part of a question:

Q तिमी कहिले काहीं नेपाल जान्छौ ? *Do you go to Nepal sometimes?*  
 A अहँ, म कहिल्यै पनि जाँदैन । *No, I never go.*  
 Q वहाँ कहिल्यै पनि त्यहाँ जानुहुन्छ ? *Does he never go there?*  
 A कहिल्यै पनि जानुहुन्छ तर कहिले काहीं म जान्छु । *He never goes, but sometimes I go.*

### 38 Modes of transport

The postposition -बाट, despite its primary meaning of *from*, is also used to mean *by* in connection with modes of transport:

वहाँ साइकलबाट आउनुहुन्छ । *He does not come by bicycle.*  
 सुरेश ट्याक्सीबाट घर जाँदैन, बसबाट जान्छ । *Suresh doesn't go home by taxi, he goes by bus.*

### 39 New postpositions: -पछि after; -सम्म up to, until; -को लागि for

The single-word postpositions -पछि *after* and -सम्म *up to, until* (pronounced *samma*) are used in exactly the same way as other simple postpositions:

त्यसपछि *after that*  
 दुई बजेपछि *after 2 o'clock*

भोलिसम्म  
 पोखरासम्म

*until tomorrow*  
*as far as Pokhara*

-सम्म is often used in phrases that also contain either -बाट *from* or -देखि *from, since* (do not forget that only -देखि can be used with expressions of time to mean *since*):

उनी दिल्लीदेखि काठमाडौंसम्म हवाई *She goes from Delhi to Kathmandu by plane.*  
 जहाजबाट जान्छन् ।  
 वहाँ दुई बजेदेखि छ बजेसम्म घरमा हुनुहुन्छ । *From two o'clock until six o'clock he is at home.*  
 तिनीहरू मेरो घरसम्म मात्रै आउँछन् । *They only come as far as my house.*

-को लागि is one of a small number of two-word postpositions that begin with the ownership suffix -को. It means *for*, in the sense of *for the sake of* or *intended for*:

ऊ मेरो बुवाको लागि खाना पकाउँछ । *He cooks food for my father.*  
 यो किताब उसको लागि हो । *This book is for him.*  
 तिमी मेरो लागि के गर्छौ ? *What do you do for me?*

### EXERCISE 19 Translate into Nepali:

- 1 We won't go to the market today. There isn't even one rupee in the house.
- 2 What work does Rāju do? He works in the Nepal Rāṣṭra Bank. His elder brother works there too.
- 3 Where do you (High) live? Nowadays I live in Kathmandu.
- 4 Does your (High) younger brother go to the office by taxi? No, he goes by bus.
- 5 People from Darjeeling usually speak good Nepali.

### EXERCISE 20 Construct sentences along the following lines:

Subject	Time	Place	Verb
1 म	every day	Kathmandu	go.
2 उनीहरू	usually	in Pokhara	live.
3 तिमी	always	in father's shop	speak(बोल्नु) Nepali.
4 हामीहरू	nowadays	in Ram's office	work.
5 ऊ	never	in school	speak English.
6 त्यो मान्छे	after one week	London	goes.

## 12 Women in the villages

Anne, a Nepali-speaking British woman who works in Kathmandu, is making her first visit to rural Nepal. She is now on familiar terms with Shanti, who lives in the village where she is staying. Unusually for a Nepali woman of her age, Shanti is unmarried.

एन तिमी धेरै जसो कति बजे उठ्छ्यौ ?

शान्ती म धेरै जसो छ बजे उठ्छु । तर मेरी भाउज्यू चार बजेतिर उठ्छिन् ।

एन किन त्यति बिहानै उठ्छिन् ? चार बजेतिर अँध्यारो नै हुन्छ, होइन ?

शान्ती अँध्यारै हुन्छ, जाडो पनि हुन्छ ! भाउज्यू उठ्छिन् र धारातिर जान्छिन् ।

त्यसपछि उनी घरका सबै मानिसको लागि चिया पकाउँछिन् ।



एन तर तिमीलाई सजिलो छ । बिहान काम छैन, होइन ?

शान्ती म यहाँ बा-आमाको घरमा बस्छु नि, मेरो भागमा घरको काम धेरै हुँदैन ।

एन अनि तिम्रो दाज्यू कति बजेतिर उठ्नुहुन्छ नि ?

शान्ती वहाँ सात बजेसम्म सुत्नुहुन्छ । त्यसपछि उठ्नुहुन्छ, हातमुख धुनुहुन्छ, चिया खानुहुन्छ र खेततिर जानुहुन्छ ।

एन खेतमा तिम्रो दाज्यू एकलै जानुहुन्छ ?

शान्ती होइन, वहाँ बुवा र भाइसँग जानुहुन्छ ।

एन उनीहरू बेलुका मात्रै फर्कन्छन् कि ?

शान्ती होइन, एघार बजेपछि गाउँका सबै लोग्नेमान्छेहरू खेतबाट फर्कन्छन् । अनि साढे एघार बजेतिर भात खान्छन् ।

एन सधैं स्वास्नी-मानिसहरू भात पकाउँछन् कि ?

शान्ती भात पकाउनु सधैं स्वास्नी-मानिसहरूको काम हुन्छ ।

एन लोग्नेमान्छेहरू कहिल्यै पनि भात पकाउँदैनन् ?

शान्ती कहाँ लोग्नेमान्छेहरू भात पकाउँछन् ? पकाउँदैनन्, हाम्रो घरमा त्यो पनि भाउज्यूको काम हुन्छ !

एन तिमीहरू बेलुका पनि भात खान्छौ ?

शान्ती हो । हामीहरू बिहान बेलुका दिनको दुई पटक भात खान्छौं ।

एन तिम्रो भाउज्यूको जिन्दगी कति गाह्रो छ !

शान्ती बिहापछि स्वास्नी-मानिसहरूको जिन्दगी गाह्रो हुन्छ ।

एन अनि तिमी बिहा गर्दिनौ त ?

शान्ती अहँ, म कहिल्यै पनि बिहा गर्दिन ।

कति बजे *at what time?*

उठ्नु *to get up*

छ बजे *at six o'clock*

भाउज्यू *elder brother's wife*

-तिर *about*

त्यति *so, that much*

बिहानै *early morning*

अँध्यारो *dark*

नै *emphasizing word*

जाडो *cold*

धारा *spring, water source*

त्यसपछि *after that, then*

सबै *all (emphasized)*

चिया *tea*

सजिलो *easy*

बस्नु *to live, reside*

भाग *share*

सुत्नु *to sleep*

हातमुख *hands and face*

धुनु *to wash*

खेत *wet or irrigated field*

एकलै *alone, on one's own*

फर्कनु *to return*

साढे एघार बजे *at half past eleven*

पटक *time, turn*

जिन्दगी *life*

गाह्रो *hard*

बिहा *marriage*

**Anne** At what time do you usually get up?

**Shanti** I usually get up at 6 o'clock. But my sister-in-law gets up at about 4 o'clock.

**Anne** Why does she get up so early in the morning? At about 4 o'clock it is very dark, isn't it?

**Shanti** It certainly is dark, and it's cold too. Sister-in-law gets up and goes to the spring. Then she makes tea for everyone in the house.

**Anne** But it's easy for you. In the morning you've no work, is that so?

**Shanti** I live here in my parents' home you see, I don't have much housework to do.

- Anne** And when does your (elder) brother get up then?  
**Shanti** He sleeps until 7 o'clock. Then he gets up, washes his face and hands, drinks tea and goes to the fields.  
**Anne** Does your brother go to the fields on his own?  
**Shanti** No, he goes with Father and younger brother.  
**Anne** Do they only return in the evening?  
**Shanti** No, after 11 o'clock all the men of the village return from the fields. And at about half past 11 they eat rice.  
**Anne** Is it always the women who cook the rice?  
**Shanti** Cooking the rice is always the women's job.  
**Anne** Do the men never cook the rice?  
**Shanti** Where do men ever cook rice? \* They do not, in our house that is always sister-in-law's job.  
**Anne** Do you eat in the evening too?  
**Shanti** Yes. We eat in the morning and the evening, twice a day.  
**Anne** How hard your sister-in-law's life is!  
**Shanti** After marriage women's life is hard.  
**Anne** And will you not marry then?  
**Shanti** No, I will never marry.

\*Note: This is sarcastic, and should not be taken literally.

## Grammar

### 40 The habitual present tense: feminine forms

The छ forms of हुनु have special feminine forms (see Grammar 11). These may be used as feminine endings in the habitual present tense:

तैं आउँछस् ।	You (Low) come.
तिमी गच्छ्यौ ।	You (Middle) do.
ऊ जान्छे ।	She (Low) goes.
उनी सुत्छिन् ।	She (Middle) sleeps.

Each of the four affirmative endings has a negative counterpart. The difference between these and the masculine negative endings is that the -दै- **-dai-** of the masculine becomes -दि- **-di-** in the feminine:

तैं आउँदिनस् ।	You (Low) do not come.
तिमी गर्दिनौ ।	You (Middle) do not do.
ऊ पकाउँदिन ।	She (Low) does not cook.
तिनी रँदिनन् ।	She (Middle) does not weep.

It is fairly uncommon for speakers of Nepali to use these forms in conversation, and in many contexts they would sound almost pedantically over-correct. They are encountered much more commonly in literary, official, and journalistic language.

### 41 Times of day

The word बजे is derived from the verb बज्नु which means *to ring, strike*. It translates as *at... o'clock*:

एक बजे	at 1 o'clock
दुई बजे	at 2 o'clock
तीन बजे	at 3 o'clock

Three further words are of use here: साढे *plus a half*; सवा *plus a quarter*; पौने *minus a quarter*:

सवा तीन बजे	at a quarter past 3
साढे पाँच बजे	at half past 5
पौने चार बजे	at a quarter to 4

This is the general pattern, but there are two exceptions to it:

- Instead of साढे एक बजे, it is customary to express *half past 1* as डेढे बजे.
- Instead of साढे दुई बजे, it is customary to express *half past 2* as अढाई बजे.

To make it clear whether one is talking about a.m. or p.m. (because most Nepalis do not use the 24-hour clock), it is sometimes necessary to specify the time of day when using बजे, by using one of the following terms:

बिहान	<i>morning</i> (from dawn to late morning)
दिउँसो	<i>daytime</i> (from late morning to dusk); also used to mean <i>afternoon</i>
बेलुका	<i>evening</i> (after sunset, before night begins)
राति	<i>night</i>
बिहान आठ बजे	at 8 o'clock in the morning
दिउँसो दुई बजे	at 2 o'clock in the afternoon
बेलुका छ बजे	at 6 o'clock in the evening
राति दस बजे	at 10 o'clock at night

Two further times of day are साँझ *dusk* and मध्याह्न *midday*.

## 42 Days of the week

The word for *day* that is used to denote a day-long period of time is दिन, but when it is necessary to specify one particular day of the week, the word used for *day* is वार (pronounced *bār*):

आज के वार हो?

*What day (of the week) is it today?*

Accordingly, each day of the week has a Nepali name that ends in वार, just as the names of English weekdays end in '-day':

<i>Sunday</i>	आइतवार	<i>Thursday</i>	बिहिवार
<i>Monday</i>	सोमवार	<i>Friday</i>	शुक्रवार
<i>Tuesday</i>	मङ्गलवार	<i>Saturday</i>	शनिवार
<i>Wednesday</i>	बुधवार		

In Nepal, Sunday is the first working day of the week, and offices are closed on Saturdays. In India, both Saturday and Sunday are holidays.

In everyday spoken Nepali, the word अस्ति *the day before yesterday* is used to denote a day of the previous week, while अर्को *other* is used to denote a day of the week to come:

अस्ति शुक्रवार  
अर्को शनिवार

*last Friday*  
*next Saturday*

## 43 Frequency: पटक

The word पटक can be used in combination with a number to communicate the frequency of an occurrence:

एक पटक  
दुई पटक  
तीन पटक

*one time, once*  
*two times, twice*  
*three times*

These phrases can then be joined to a period of time (a week, a day, etc.), using either -को or -मा, to express how often something happens or is done within that period:

मेरी आमा एक हप्तामा एक पटक  
बजार जानुहुन्छ।

*My mother goes to the market  
once a week.*

मेरी बहिनी हप्ताको पाँच पटक स्कूल जान्छे।

*My younger sister goes to  
school five times a week.*

Nepali has several words that are near synonyms of पटक. These are चौटि, बाजि and पल्ट. For the time being, use पटक in preference to these others.

**EXERCISE 21** Construct sentences along the following lines:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Verb</i>
1 तपाईं	at 7 o'clock	at home	eat rice.
2 त्यो मान्छे	in the evening	in the hotel	drinks tea.
3 वहाँहरू	on Thursday	to my house	come.
4 यिनीहरू	twice a week	to the temple	go.
5 यो केटी	on Saturday	at a friend's house	sleeps.

**EXERCISE 22** Construct sentences along the following lines:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>verb, etc.</i>
1 म	2 p.m.	6 p.m.	am not at home.
2 तपाईं	Wednesday	Friday	are not in Birātanagar.
3 उनीहरू	Tuesday	Thursday	do not work.
4 तिमी	8 a.m.	10.30 a.m.	do not go out.
5 यिनीहरू	1 p.m.	2 p.m.	do not study.



# 06

पच्चीस रुपियाँ दिनुहोस्  
give me 25  
rupees

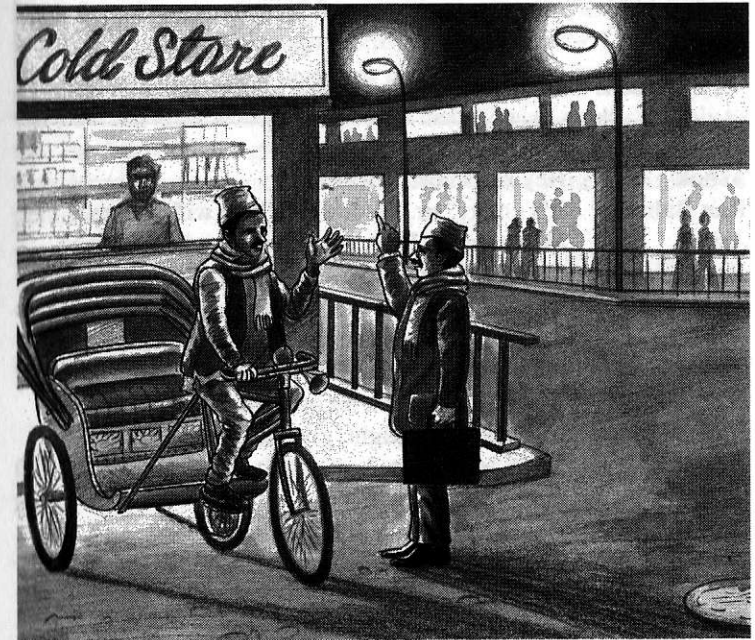
**In this unit you will learn**

- how to ask or tell people to do or not to do things
- how to use the postposition -लाई with the indirect objects of verbs
- how to use the alternative negative forms of the habitual present tense
- how to use the postposition -तिर
- how to use the words for *but*, *why* and *because*; express agreement and assent

## ► 13 Hiring a rickshaw

It is a late evening in winter. Ashok, a government official, needs to get to his home in Maharajganj, a northern suburb of Kathmandu. Ran Bahadur, a rickshaw driver, is not keen to travel out so far at this time of night, but he is prepared to take Ashok part of the way if the price is right.

- अशोक ए रिक्शा ! खाली हो ?  
रण बहादुर खाली छ हजुर । बस्नुहोस् । कहाँ जानुहुन्छ ?  
अशोक महाराजगंज । कति पैसा लिन्छौ ?  
रण बहादुर हेर्नुहोस्, राति म महाराजगंज जान्ने । टाढा छ, जाडो पनि छ । म तपाईंलाई लाजिम्पाटसम्म मात्रै लान्छु । त्यहाँबाट ट्याक्सी लिनुहोस् न ।  
अशोक हुन्छ, हुन्छ । तर कति लिन्छौ नि? अनि हेर । मलाई अलि हतार छ । छिटो गर है ।  
रण बहादुर हतार छ हजुर ? ल, पचास रुपियाँ दिनुहोस् ।  
अशोक पचास रुपियाँ ? म त ट्याक्सीलाई पनि पचास रुपियाँ दिन्नै !  
रण बहादुर ट्याक्सीलाई कति दिनुहुन्छ त ?  
अशोक यो ट्याक्सी होइन, रिक्शा हो । ल, बीस रुपियाँ लेऊ अनि हिंड !



- रण बहादुर तीस रुपियाँ दिनुहोस् साहेब । बीस रुपियाँमा म राति यस्तो जाडोमा कतै जान्न ।
- अशोक ठीकै छ । कतै नजाऊ ! म अर्को रिक्शा लिन्छु ।
- रण बहादुर यो जाडोमा तपाईं अर्को रिक्शा पाउनुहुन्छ । म मात्रै छु अहिले ।
- अशोक ठीकै छ । म ट्याक्सीबाट जान्छु । फरक पर्दैन ।
- रण बहादुर ट्याक्सी त झन् महंगो पर्छ हजुर । अनि यतातिर राति ट्याक्सी पाउनुहुन्छ । हुन्छ, मलाई पच्चीस रुपियाँ दिनुहोस् । म छिटै लान्छु ।
- अशोक ल, ल । अब ढिलो नगर है, छिटो चलाऊ ।

रिक्शा *rickshaw*खाली *empty*बस्नु *to sit down*महाराजगंज *Maharajganj*, a suburb of Kathmanduलिनु *to take*हेर्नु *to look*लानु *to transport, take somewhere*लाजिम्पाट *Lazimpat*, a part of

Kathmandu

ट्याक्सी *taxi*न *won't you?*हुन्छ *all right*हतार *hurry*छिटो गर्नु *to act quickly, hurry*है *hey! / do you hear?*दिनु *to give*त *though, but, then*हिँड्नु *to set out, get going \**कतै *anywhere*पाउनु *to get, find*फरक पर्नु *to make a difference*झन् *even more*महंगो पर्नु *to be expensive*छिटै *quickly*अब *now*ढिलो गर्नु *to act slowly, be late*चलाउनु *to drive, operate*\* हिँड्नु means both *to walk* and *to begin a journey or to set out*.

- Ashok** Hey rickshaw! Is it empty?
- Ran Bahadur** It's empty, sir. Sit down. Where will you go?
- Ashok** Maharajganj. How much money will you take?
- Ran Bahadur** Look, I won't go to Maharajganj at night. It's a long way, and it's cold too. I will take you only as far as Lazimpat. Please take a taxi from there, won't you?
- Ashok** All right, all right. But how much will you take? And look. I'm in a bit of a hurry. Go quickly.
- Ran Bahadur** In a hurry sir? Right, give me 50 rupees.
- Ashok** 50 rupees? But I wouldn't even pay a taxi 50 rupees!
- Ran Bahadur** How much would you pay a taxi then?
- Ashok** This isn't a taxi, it's a rickshaw. Right, take 20 rupees and get going.

- Ran Bahadur** Give me 30 rupees, Saheb. I won't go anywhere at night in this cold for 20 rupees.
- Ashok** That's fine. Don't go anywhere! I'll take another rickshaw.
- Ran Bahadur** You won't find another rickshaw in this cold. There's only me now.
- Ashok** OK then. I'll go by taxi. It makes no difference.
- Ran Bahadur** A taxi will be even more expensive, sir. And you won't get a taxi around here at night. All right, give me 25 rupees. I'll take you quickly.
- Ashok** Right, right. Now don't be slow, drive quickly.

## Grammar

### 44 The imperatives

An imperative is a form of a verb that is used to give orders or make requests. Imperatives range from peremptory commands to polite requests. In English, the different levels of politeness are usually distinguished by the use or omission of a word such as *please*, or a phrase such as *would you... ?* but in Nepali levels of politeness are implicit in the grammatical forms of the various imperatives. There are four levels of politeness, corresponding with the Low, Middle and High second-person pronouns plus an extra Super-Polite level.

The Low and Super-Polite are not forms that a foreign speaker is likely to use. The four levels are given below, using the verb गर्नु *to do*. The English translations are not meant to be literal, but to give a sense of the level of politeness.

LOW	गर्	<b>gar</b>	<i>do!</i> (used to give commands or advice to a person you would normally address as तँ)
MIDDLE	गर	<b>gara</b>	<i>do!</i> (used to instruct a person of lower status than yourself, or a familiar, whom you would address as तिमी)
HIGH	गर्नुहोस्	<b>garnuhos</b>	<i>please do!</i> (used to ask a request of someone you would address politely as तपाईं)

**SUPER-POLITE** गर्नुहोला **garnuholā** *please would you do!* (used to ask a request of someone you might address deferentially)

You are advised to use the High imperatives in all contexts, at least until you are sure of your reasons for using another level.

Negative imperatives are exactly the same as positive imperatives, except that they take a negative prefix, न- **na-**.

LOW	नगर्	<b>nagar</b>	<i>don't!</i>
MIDDLE	नगर	<b>nagara</b>	<i>don't!</i>
HIGH	नगर्नुहोस्	<b>nagarnuhos</b>	<i>please don't!</i>
<b>SUPER-POLITE</b>	नगर्नुहोला	<b>nagarnuholā</b>	<i>please would you not do!</i>

Clearly, the more polite the imperative is, the longer the word becomes: in its positive form the most polite is a word of four syllables, while the least polite has only one syllable. The High and Super-Polite forms consist of the dictionary form + a suffix (the suffixes are -होस् and -होला respectively). For C-verbs, the Low and Middle forms are simply the verb base without and with a final -a vowel respectively.

### Summary of imperative forms

#### C-verbs

##### affirmative

	गर्नु to do	बस्नु to sit
Low	गर्	बस्
Middle	गर	बस
High	गर्नुहोस्	बस्नुहोस्
Super-Polite	गर्नुहोला	बस्नुहोला

##### negative

Low	नगर्	नबस्
Middle	नगर	नबस
High	नगर्नुहोस्	नबस्नुहोस्
Super-Polite	नगर्नुहोला	नबस्नुहोला

The Middle imperatives of all V- and VV-verbs take the suffix -ऊ -ū, which is added to the verb base. At Low and Middle levels, five commonly used V-verbs behave irregularly by adopting special imperative bases. These verbs are:

#### Dictionary form Imperative base

to take	लिनु	ले-
to give	दिनु	दे-
to wash	धुनु	धो-
to weep	रूनु	रो-
to be	हुनु	हो-

The second vowel is dropped from the bases of VV-verbs:

to come	आउनु	आ-
to send	पठाउनु	पठा-

### Summary of imperative forms

#### V-verbs and VV-verbs

##### affirmative

	जानु to go	लिनु to take	धुनु to wash	आउनु to come	पठाउनु to send
Low	जा	ले	धो	आ	पठा
Middle	जाऊ	लेऊ	धोऊ	आऊ	पठाऊ
High	जानुहोस्	लिनुहोस्	धुनुहोस्	आउनुहोस्	पठाउनुहोस्
S-P	जानुहोला	लिनुहोला	धुनुहोला	आउनुहोला	पठाउनुहोला

##### negative

Low	नजा	नले	नधो	नआ	नपठा
Middle	नजाऊ	नलेऊ	नधोऊ	नआऊ	नपठाऊ
High	नजानुहोस्	नलिनुहोस्	नधुनुहोस्	नआउनुहोस्	नपठाउनुहोस्
S-P	नजानुहोला	नलिनुहोला	नधुनुहोला	नआउनुहोला	नपठाउनुहोला

One additional form of the imperative is simply the dictionary form of a verb with its final vowel lengthened from उ u to ऊ ū. This you use to give specific instructions to a person of lower status than yourself, or to a familiar. Again, the negative form has the prefix न-:

अब यो किताब पढ्नु ।

रातो लुगा तातो पानीमा नधुनु ।

रँग जान्छ नि ।

Now read this book.

Don't wash the red clothes in

hot water. They'll fade,

you know.

### EXERCISE 23 Translate the following commands into Nepali:

a addressing the person concerned as तिमी:

- Hey, don't sit on that chair, sit on this chair.
- Speak Nepali in Kathmandu, don't speak English.
- Read the big red book, don't read the newspaper.
- Give the boy an apple, don't give him an orange.

*b addressing the person concerned as तपाईं:*

- 5 Please don't come at 6 o'clock, come at about 8 o'clock.
- 6 Please tell me but don't tell him.
- 7 Please take this cup and give that cup to him.
- 8 Please go to Nepal. Please speak Nepali there.

## 45 The postposition -लाई -lāī as object marker

All verbs must have a subject: the subject of a verb is the thing or person that is performing the action of the verb. In the sentence *the man eats rice*, the verb is *eats* and its subject is *the man*. Many verbs (those verbs that are called 'transitive verbs', as explained in **Grammar 58**) can also have an object. In the sentence above, the object is *rice*, because that is what is eaten: the rice receives the action of the verb.

Objects can be of two kinds: *direct* or *indirect*. In Nepali, an indirect object must always carry the postposition -लाई, which will often be translatable as *to* or *at*:

म तिमीलाई भन्छु ।	<i>I say to you.</i>
ऊ मलाई दिन्छ ।	<i>He gives to me.</i>
तपाईं उसलाई दिनुहोस् ।	<i>Please give to him.</i>

In sentences that contain only one object, the general rule is that personal names, human nouns and human pronouns (*he, she, we, etc.*) should carry -लाई when they are the object of a verb, while inanimate nouns need not:

म भात खान्छु ।	<i>I eat rice.</i>
हामी टी.भी. हेर्छौं ।	<i>We watch television.</i>
उनीहरू गीत गाउँछन् ।	<i>They sing a song.</i>
ऊ चिठी लेख्छ ।	<i>He writes a letter.</i>
म वहाँलाई सोध्छु ।	<i>I'll ask him.</i>
उनीहरू मलाई हेर्छन् ।	<i>They watch me.</i>

However, there are certain situations in which this rule is broken:

- in contexts in which a human being is being treated as a commodity that can be bought or given away (giving a daughter in marriage, for example), in which case it will be treated as an inanimate noun and will not take -लाई;

- when an inanimate noun is being treated like an animate being (a devout person might bow to a book, or offer worship to a sacred rock, for instance), in which case it will be treated as an animate noun and take -लाई;
- if the subject carries the subject-marking suffix -ले (introduced in **Grammar 59**) and it is obvious what its object is, it is sometimes unnecessary to mark the object with -लाई.

More complex sentences may include both a direct and an indirect object. In these the indirect object carries -लाई but the direct object does not, and the rules about animate and inanimate nouns become irrelevant:

म तिमीलाई यो कुरा भन्छु ।	<i>I say this thing to you.</i>
ऊ मलाई पैसा दिन्छ ।	<i>He gives money to me.</i>
तपाईं उसलाई त्यो किताब दिनुहोस् ।	<i>Please give that book to him.</i>

This is a complex area of Nepali grammar, and the foreign learner must develop an intuitive sense of when to use and when not to use -लाई.

## 46 The habitual present tense: alternative negative forms

All V- and VV-verbs have a second series of negative endings, which sound more abrupt than the standard -दैन -daina range. In this, the **dai** or **di** syllable is replaced by a half **n** (र्) while the vowel of the verb base is no longer nasalized.

standard ending	alternative ending
-दैन -daina	-न्न -nna (with ऊ, यो, त्यो)
-दिन -dina	-न्नँ -nnañ (with म)
-दैनस् -dainas	-न्नस् -nnas (with तँ)
-दैनौ -dainau	-न्नौ -nnau (with तिमी)
-दैनौं -dainauñ	-न्नौं -nnauñ (with हामी, हामीहरू)
-दैनन् -dainan	-न्नन् -nnan (with यो, ती, उनी, यिनी, तिनी, and the plural forms of उनी, यिनी and तिनी)

These endings are commonly used with the verbs जानु and खानु:

ऊ जान्	<i>S/he does not / will not go</i>	ऊ खान्	<i>S/he does not / will not eat</i>
म जान्	<i>I do not / will not go</i>	म खान्	<i>I do not / will not eat</i>
तैं जान्स्	<i>You do not / will not go</i>	तैं खान्स्	<i>You do not / will not eat</i>
तिमी जानौ	<i>You do not / will not go</i>	तिमी खानौ	<i>You do not / will not eat</i>
हामी जानौ	<i>We do not / will not go</i>	हामीहरू खानौ	<i>We do not / will not eat</i>
यिनी जान्न्	<i>S/he does not / will not go</i>	उनीहरू खान्न्	<i>They do not / will not eat</i>

The use of the alternative negative ending is obligatory in the phrases *I do not/will not give* and *I do not/will not take*:

म तपाईंलाई मेरो साइकल दिन्नै ।	<i>I shall not give you my bicycle.</i>
म तपाईंको हातबाट पैसा लिन्नै ।	<i>I will not take money from your hand.</i>

Otherwise, these alternative negative endings are generally interchangeable with the standard forms, but they are most often used with the first person pronoun (म *I*) to convey the sense of *I shall not* or *I will not* rather than *I do not*. That is, they are often used to express refusal to do something:

म भात खाँदिन ।	<i>I do not eat rice.</i>
म भात खान्नेँ ।	<i>I will not eat rice.</i>
म स्कूल जाँदिन ।	<i>I do not go to school.</i>
म स्कूल जान्नेँ ।	<i>I will not go to school.</i>

### 47 The postposition -तिर towards

-तिर **-tira** is a postposition used with words that denote a place or location. It means either (i) *in the direction* of that place or location, or (ii) *in the vicinity* of that place or location. It is also used (iii) with times of day to mean *about* or *approximately*.

i When the phrase or sentence involves a verb of movement -तिर means literally *in the direction of* (though often it can be translated as *to*):

दिदी दाजीलिङ्गतिर जान्छिन् ।  
पर्यटकहरू पहाडतिर जान्छन् ।

*Elder sister goes to Darjeeling.  
Tourists go to the hills.*

ii If no verb of movement is involved in the phrase or sentence, -तिर means *in the vicinity of* the place or location to which it is added:

दार्जीलिङ्गतिर मान्छेहरू नेपाली बोल्छन् ।  
पहाडतिर मौसम अलि चिसो हुन्छ ।

*Around Darjeeling, people speak Nepali.  
In the hill areas the weather is rather cold.*

iii -तिर can be added to the word बजे *at... o'clock* to introduce a measure of vagueness to statements of time:

म एक बजेतिर आउँछु ।  
हामी दस बजेतिर भात खान्छौं ।

*I'll come at about 1 o'clock.  
We eat at about 10 o'clock.*

### 48 The negative particle न

न **na** means *do not before* an imperative, but *won't you? after* an imperative:

भात नखानुहोस् ।  
यहाँ नआउनुहोस् ।  
भात खानुहोस् न ।  
यहाँ आउनुहोस् न ।

*Please don't eat the rice.  
Please don't come here  
Please eat the rice, won't you?  
Please come here, won't you?*

It also means both *neither* and *nor*:

यहाँ न पसल छ न स्कूल ।  
मसँग न पैसा छ न चुरोट ।

*Here there is neither a shop nor a school.  
I have neither any money nor any cigarettes.*

### 49 तर but, त though

There are two ways of saying *but* in Nepali. तर is pretty well an exact translation of *but* and can be used in much the same way as *but* at the beginning of or in the middle of a sentence:

किताब राम्रो छ, तर अलि छोटो छ ।

*The book is good, but it's rather short.*

भोलि म बिराटनगर जान्छु तर राति बस्दिन ।  
*Tomorrow I shall go to Biratnagar but I shall not stay the night.*

त can never be the first word in a sentence. It can follow a time, or a subject, or something else, which it qualifies. When used in statements, it means *as for, though, but or however*.

म त शाकाहारी हूँ । म मासु खाँदिन ।

*I am a vegetarian. I do not eat meat.*

काठमाडौँ त नेपालको राजधानी हो,  
भारतको राजधानी होइन ।

*But Kathmandu is the capital of Nepal, not the capital of India.*

नेपाली भाषा त सजिलै छ, किन बुझ्नुहुन्छ ?

*But the Nepali language is quite easy, why don't you understand?*

त may also end a question or a command, in which case it translates as *then or in that case*:

तपाईंकी आमा नेपालमा हुनुहुन्छ ?  
हुनुहुन्छ ।

*Is your mother in Nepal?  
No.*

कहाँ हुनुहुन्छ त ?  
भारतमा हुनुहुन्छ ।

*Where is she then?  
She's in India.*

तपाईं तीन बजेतिर मेरो घर आउनुहुन्छ ?

*Will you come to my house at about three o'clock?*

होइन, त्यो बेला फुर्सद हुँदैन ।  
कति बजे आउनुहुन्छ त ?

*No, I don't have the time then.  
At what time will you come, then?*

यो तिम््रो झोला हो ?  
होइन ।  
कसको हो त ?  
मेरो साथीको ।

*Is that your bag?  
No.  
Whose is it then?  
My friend's.*

## 50 हवस् and हुन्छ: OK, all right

If a Nepali-speaker is asked or told to do something, and s/he agrees to do it, the response given is commonly either हवस् **havas** or हुन्छ **huncha**. These words are both derived from the verb हुनु *to be*. हवस् translates as *may it be so*, and is a polite word that indicates assent. The middle *v* of हवस् is pronounced as if it were a vowel, and the word is pronounced 'haus':

ए धने, तिमी पाहुनाहरूको लागि  
चिया पकाऊ है ।  
हवस् हजुर ।

*Hey Dhane, make tea for the  
guests!  
Certainly, sir.*

हुन्छ means something like *it is good or OK*; it has much the same meaning as हवस्, but is rather less deferential.

## EXERCISE 24 Translate into Nepali:

- 1 Those women never come to the bazaar on Thursday. When do they come, then? They usually come on Tuesday.
- 2 Foreigners go from Kathmandu to Lukla by plane. Nepalis usually go by bus up to Jiri. From Jiri they walk to Lukla.
- 3 At what time do those men go to the fields? They go at about 8 o'clock and they come home after three hours.
- 4 I will stay in Nepal only until tomorrow. At 10.30 tomorrow morning I go to Delhi. After that I go to London.
- 5 After 8 o'clock at night all the shops are shut. I won't go to the market for you now. I will go tomorrow morning.
- 6 What work will you (Middle) do for me? I'll go to the market for you (High), OK?
- 7 My younger sister never cooks food for the family. Sometimes elder sister cooks, sometimes mother cooks.
- 8 She (Low) goes to school every day, and so does he (Low). But their little brother doesn't go.

# 07

## सबैभन्दा राम्रो the best

- In this unit you will learn
- how to make comparisons
  - how to express likes and dislikes

### 14 Towns and villages

Bimla is doing her homework. She has to write an essay about the differences between life in a city and life in a village. Her younger brother and her parents are helping her out.

बिमला आज अलिकति स्कूलको काम छ। मलाई सहयोग गर्नुहोस् है बुवा।

बुवा हुन्छ, म सहयोग गर्छु।

बिमला सँसारको सबैभन्दा ठूलो शहर कुन हो, थाहा छ ?

सुरेश थाहा छ। काठमाडौं हो।

बिमला सँसारको सबैभन्दा ठूलो शहर काठमाडौं हो ? कहाँको काठमाडौं हुनु ? काठमाडौंभन्दा त दिल्ली ठूलो छ, होइन आमा ?

आमा हो, दिल्ली, लण्डन, टोक्यो सँसारका ठूला शहरहरू हुन्।

बुवा तर टोक्योभन्दा ठूलो शहर छैन यो सँसारमा। टोक्यो सँसारको सबैभन्दा ठूलो शहर हो।

बिमला ठीक छ। तपाईंलाई ठूलो शहर मन पर्छ ? मलाई त मन पर्दैन।

सुरेश किन मन पर्दैन ?

बिमला किनभने शहरको जीवन जटिल हुन्छ। गाउँको जीवन सजिलो हुन्छ।

सुरेश कहाँको सजिलो हुनु ? शहरको जीवनभन्दा गाउँको जीवन बढी गाह्रो हुन्छ नि। गाउँमा न ठूला पसलहरू हुन्छन् न सिनेमा-घरहरू हुन्छन् न त राम्रा स्कूलहरू हुन्छन्। मलाई त शहर नै मन पर्छ।

बिमला कुरा त ठीकै हो। तर गाउँमा हावा सफा हुन्छ, पानी पनि मीठो हुन्छ। गाउँमा दालभात स्वादिलो हुन्छ। होइन त आमा ?

आमा हो, तिम्रो कुरा साँचो हो। तर शहरमा यातायात, अस्पताल, स्कूल, बजारहरूका सुविधा हुन्छन्। धेरै मान्छेहरू शहरको जीवन मन पराउँछन्।

बुवा बिमला, अब तिम्रीलाई गाउँ र शहरको जीवनमा फरक त थाहा छ। अब भन, तिम्रीलाई शहर र गाउँमा कुन मन पर्छ ?

बिमला शहरको जिन्दगी मलाई मन पर्दैन। मलाई गाउँको जीवन देऊ !

सहयोग गर्नु *to assist, help*

सँसार *the world*

सबैभन्दा ठूलो *biggest*

-भन्दा *than*

टोक्यो *Tokyo*

मन पर्नु *to be liked*

किन *why?*

किनभने *because*

जीवन *life*

जटिल *complicated, difficult*

हावा *air*

सफा *clean*

स्वादिलो *tasty, flavoursome*

कुरा *thing, matter*

साँचो *true*

यातायात *transport*

अस्पताल *hospital*

सुविधा *facility, convenience*

मन पराउनु *to like*

- Bimala** Today I have some school work. Please help me, Father.  
**Father** All right, I'll help.  
**Bimala** Which is the world's biggest city, do you know?  
**Suresh** I know. It's Kathmandu.  
**Bimala** The world's biggest city is Kathmandu? How can it be Kathmandu? Delhi is bigger than Kathmandu, isn't it Mother?  
**Mother** Yes, Delhi, London, Tokyo are the world's big cities.  
**Father** But there is no city bigger than Tokyo in this world. Tokyo is the world's biggest city.  
**Bimala** OK. Do you like big towns? I don't like them.  
**Suresh** Why don't you like them?  
**Bimala** Because town life is complicated. Village life is easy.  
**Suresh** How can it be easy? Village life is much harder than town life. In a village there are neither big shops nor cinemas, nor are there good schools. The town is what I like.  
**Bimala** What you say is true enough. But in a village the air is clean, and the water tastes good too. In a village the food is flavoursome. Isn't that so, Mother?  
**Mother** Yes, what you say is true. But in a town there are the facilities of transport, hospitals, schools and marketplaces. Many people like town life.  
**Father** Bimala, now you know the difference between village and town life. Tell me now, out of the town and the village, which do you prefer?  
**Bimala** I don't like town life. Give me village life!

## Grammar

### 51 Comparatives and superlatives

When you compare things in English, you say that something is *bigger than* or *better than* something else. Much the same convention exists in Nepali, where the equivalent of the English preposition *than* is a postposition, -भन्दा. But in Nepali the adjective remains the same as it would if you were simply describing what you are talking about – for example, राम्रो *good* remains as राम्रो *good*, and there is no single Nepali word that means *better*. Comparative sentences can be cast either way:

मेरो घर तिम्रो घरभन्दा ठूलो छ ।

*My house is bigger than your house.*

तिम्रो घरभन्दा मेरो घर ठूलो छ ।

*Than your house my house is bigger.*

त्यो दाल यो दालभन्दा मीठो हुन्छ ।

*That dāl is tastier than this dāl.*

यो दालभन्दा त्यो दाल मीठो हुन्छ ।

*Than this dāl that dāl is tastier.*

The words बढी or ज्यादा *more*, or the emphatic ज्यादा *much more*, are often put in front of the adjective to make it absolutely clear that a comparison is being made:

मेरो गाउँ तिम्रो गाउँभन्दा बढी ठूलो छ ।

*My village is bigger than yours.*

जुम्लाका स्याउ ज्यादा मीठो हुन्छन् ।

*Apples from Jumla are much tastier.*

To express a superlative – that is, to say that something is the *best* or the *cheapest* – the same construction is used, except that instead of comparing something to one or a number of other things you simply compare it to सब, *all*, or to सबै, *absolutely all*:

मेरो गाउँ सबभन्दा ठूलो छ ।

*My village is the biggest (of all).*

तातोपानीका सुन्तला सबैभन्दा मीठो हुन्छन् ।

*Oranges from Tatopani are the tastiest (of all).*

Since all of these examples have been descriptive, they have used either छ or हुन्छ. However, it is possible to define something as the *biggest village* or the *cheapest rice*: in these cases the noun may be mentioned twice (though it need not be), and the हो form of the verb can be used:

मेरो घर सबभन्दा ठूलो (घर) हो ।

*My house is the biggest (house).*

त्यो आँप सबभन्दा मीठो (आँप) हो ।

*That mango is the tastiest (mango).*

अमेरिकनहरू संसारका सबैभन्दा धनी मानिसहरू हुन् ।

*Americans are the world's richest people.*

**EXERCISE 25** Translate into Nepali:

- 1 London is bigger than Kathmandu.
- 2 American people are usually richer than English people.
- 3 Kathmandu is further from England than Delhi.
- 4 Kathmandu is Nepal's biggest town.



- 5 Which is the world's poorest country?  
6 There is no language easier than Nepali.

## 52 Likes and dislikes using मन पर्नु

The simplest way of expressing a like or a dislike of something is to use the verb phrase मन पर्नु which literally means *mind* (मन) *to fall* (पर्नु) but translates as *to be liked*. The subject of this verb phrase is not the person who is doing the liking, but the thing that is being liked.

If no person is mentioned in a statement that uses मन पर्नु, then the person who is doing the liking is most probably the person who is making the statement:

त्यो गीत मन पर्छ ।	<i>That song is liked.</i> ('I like that song')
लण्डन मन पर्दैन ।	<i>London is not liked.</i> ( <i>'I do not like London.'</i> )
यो पत्रिका मनै पर्दैन ।	<i>This magazine is not liked at all.</i> ( <i>'I do not like this magazine at all.'</i> )

If no person is mentioned in a question that uses मन पर्नु, then the person who is doing the liking is most probably the person to whom the question is being addressed:

नीलो रँग मन पर्छ ?	<i>Is blue colour liked?</i> ( <i>'do you like blue?'</i> )
रातो रँग मन पर्छ कि मन पर्दैन ?	<i>Is red colour liked or not?</i> ( <i>'do you like red or don't you?'</i> )

If it is necessary to state *by whom* a thing is liked or disliked, then the person who likes, or the pronoun that stands for that person, must take the postposition -लाई :

मलाई पहेंलो रँग मन पर्छ ।	<i>I like the colour yellow.</i>
सुशीललाई हरियो रँग मन पर्छ ।	<i>Sushil likes the colour green.</i>
तपाईंलाई कालो रँग मन पर्दैन ?	<i>Do you not like the colour black?</i>
उसलाई यो सेतो कपडा मन पर्दैन ।	<i>He does not like this white cloth.</i>

Less commonly, the liker of something can become the subject of this kind of sentence by using the verb मन पराउनु, in which case the postposition -लाई is sometimes added to the thing that is liked.

म खैरो रँग मन पराउँछु ।	<i>I like the colour brown.</i>
तपाईं प्याजी रँगलाई मन पराउनुहुन्छ ?	<i>Do you like the colour purple?</i>

**EXERCISE 26** Construct sentences about likes and dislikes along the following lines:

Person	Colour	likes?
<i>Example:</i> my mother	red	× = मेरी आमालाई रातो रँग मन पर्दैन । ✓ = मेरी आमालाई रातो रँग मन पर्छ ।
1 grandfather	blue	✓
2 my elder sisters	black	×
3 you (High)	green	✓
4 his younger brothers	yellow	×
5 they	purple	✓

## 53 किन why, किनभने because

किन ? why? can be used on its own to ask a question:

A आज म अफिस जान्छु ।	<i>Today I shall go to the office.</i>
B किन ?	<i>Why?</i>
A उसलाई त्यो पसल मन पर्छ ।	<i>He likes that shop.</i>
B किन ?	<i>Why?</i>

More commonly, however, किन ? why? is part of a longer question:

आज तपाईं किन छिटै अफिस जानुहुन्छ ?	<i>Why will you go to the office early today?</i>
उसलाई त्यो पसल किन मन पर्छ ?	<i>Why does he like that shop?</i>

In such questions, the position of किन ? depends on what the question asked actually focuses on. In these examples, it focuses on *going to the office* and on *liking*, so it is positioned immediately before them in the sentence. Nepali questions very rarely begin with किन ?. The replies to such questions generally, however, do begin with किनभने, because:

किनभने अफिसमा धेरै काम छ ।	<i>Because there is a lot of work at the office.</i>
किनभने त्यो पसल अलि सस्तो हुन्छ ।	<i>Because that shop is quite cheap.</i>

किनभने because can of course be used in a sentence to link a cause and its effect:

म गाईको मासु खाँदिन किनभने म हिन्दू हुँ । *I do not eat beef because I am a Hindu.*

ऊ नेपाली बोल्दैन किनभने ऊ हिन्दीभाषी हो। *He does not speak Nepali because he is a Hindi-speaker.*

### EXERCISE 27 पढेर बुझ्नुहोस् (Read and understand)

The following is your first encounter with a passage of connected prose. Look up any unfamiliar words in the Nepali-English glossary at the back of the book, and then answer the questions that follow in Nepali.

हामी नेवार हौं। हाम्रो घर एउटा सानो शहरमा छ। शहरको नाम साँखु हो। काठमाडौंदेखि हाम्रो घर अलि टाढा छ। तर बा हरेक दिन काठमाडौं जानुहुन्छ। वहाँको अफिस त्यहाँ छ। कहिले काहीं म बासँग जान्छु। म हरेक दिन जान्छु। भोलि म बासँग जान्छु किनभने भोलि धेरै किनमेल छ। म बालाई मदत गर्छु। मा कहिल्यै पनि काठमाडौं जानुहुन्न। वहाँ घरै बस्नुहुन्छ र घरको काम गर्नुहुन्छ। हामीहरूको लागि वहाँ भात पकाउनुहुन्छ। मालाई दुईजना बहिनी मदत गर्छन्। हाम्रो घरनजिक एउटा धारा छ। हरेक दिन बेलुकातिर कान्छी बहिनी गाग्री लिन्छे र धारा जान्छे। गाग्री भर्छे र घर ल्याउँछे। बारीमा इनार छ, तर हामीहरू कहिल्यै पनि इनारको पानी खान्छौं। अर्को शहरका मान्छेहरू धेरैजसो बिरामी हुन्छन् किनभने उनीहरू इनारको पानी खान्छन्।

#### प्रश्नहरू (questions)

- १ हामी कहाँ बस्छौं ?
- २ भोलि म बासँग किन शहर जान्छु ?
- ३ मा काठमाडौं जानुहुन्छ ?
- ४ घरमा मा के गर्नुहुन्छ ?
- ५ बेलुका को धारा जान्छ ?
- ६ अर्को शहरका मान्छेहरू किन धेरैजसो बिरामी हुन्छन् ?

08  
I came  
yesterday  
म हिजो आएँ

#### In this unit you will learn

- how to use the simple past tense of verbs
- how to use the agentive suffix -le
- how to name the parts of the body

## 15 Sandhya drops by

Sandhya has come to call on her friend Asha. She had also called at the house the morning before, but had been surprised to find it deserted. Asha explains.

- सन्ध्या हिजो तपाईं कहाँ जानुभयो ?  
 आशा हिजो म कतै गइनेँ । घरै बसेँ ।  
 सन्ध्या तर हिजो बिहान म तपाईं कहाँ आएँ । घरमा कोही पनि थिएन ।  
 आशा तपाईं म कहाँ कति बजे आउनुभयो ?  
 सन्ध्या म सात, होइन, साढे सात बजेतिर आएँ । म अलि ढिलो भएँ ।  
 आशा अब सम्झौं ! अस्ति बुवा, आमा र भाइहरू केही दिनको लागि नेपालगंज गए । हिजो शनिवार थियो, होइन ?  
 सन्ध्या हो, शनिवार थियो ।  
 आशा शनिवार बिहान म सधैं मन्दिर जान्छु । अनि हिजो बिहान हामीहरू साढे पाँच बजेतिर पशुपतिनाथको मन्दिर गयौं । घरमा कोही थिएन ।  
 सन्ध्या तपाईं हरेक शनिवार पशुपतिनाथ जानुहुन्छ ?  
 आशा होइन । अस्ति शनिवार म वज्र जोगिनीको मन्दिर गएँ । कहिले काहीं म चाँगु नारायण पनि जान्छु ।  
 सन्ध्या हिजो कोसँग जानुभयो ?  
 आशा म धेरै जसो एकलै जान्छु तर अस्ति मेरी दिदी बाग्लुङ्बाट आइन् । अब केही दिनसम्म हाम्रो घरमा बस्छिन् । हामी सँग-सँगै मन्दिर गयौं । निककै रमाइलो भयो नि ।  
 सन्ध्या मन्दिरमा भीड थियो ?  
 आशा थिएन । शनिवार सात बजेपछि मात्र त्यहाँ भीड हुन्छ । हामीहरू त बिहानै गयौं अनि भीड थिएन ।  
 सन्ध्या तर तपाईंहरू पशुपतिबाट सीधै फर्कनुभएन, होइन ? म तपाईंको ढोकामा आधा घण्टासम्म पर्खेँ तर पनि तपाईंहरू आउनुभएन । आखिर म निराश भएँ अनि घर फर्केँ ।  
 आशा बीचबाटोमा ठूलो पानी पन्यो । हामीहरूसँग छाता थिएन । हामी केही बेरसम्म एउटा रूखको ओतमा बस्यौं । तपाईं भिज्नुभयो ? माफ गर्नुहोला कि ?  
 सन्ध्या होइन, केही छैन । मसँग छाता थियो । यतातिर आकाश अँध्यारो भयो र सिमसिमै पानी मात्रै पन्यो ।।  
 आशा हवस् त दिदी । आज त भेट भयो नि । बस्नुहोस्, चिया लिनुहोस्, सबै खबर सुनाउनुहोस् ।

हिजो <i>yesterday</i>	तर पनि <i>but even so</i>
कतै <i>anywhere</i>	आखिर <i>in the end</i>
घरै <i>at home</i>	निराश <i>without hope</i>
म कहाँ <i>my place, my home</i>	बीचबाटोमा <i>on the way</i>
तपाईं कहाँ <i>your place, your home</i>	ठूलो पानी <i>heavy rain</i>
कोही <i>someone</i>	बेर <i>time (a quantity of)</i>
सम्झनु <i>to remember</i>	रूख <i>tree</i>
अस्ति <i>day before yesterday</i>	ओत <i>shelter</i> *
केही <i>a few, some</i>	भिज्नु <i>to get wet</i>
पशुपतिनाथको मन्दिर <i>Pashupatinath temple</i>	माफ गर्नु <i>to forgive</i>
वज्र जोगिनीको मन्दिर <i>Bajra Jogini temple</i>	छाता <i>umbrella</i>
चाँगु नारायण <i>Changu Narayan (a temple)</i>	आकाश <i>sky</i>
सँग-सँगै <i>together, each with the other</i>	सिमसिमै पानी <i>light rain</i>
रमाइलो <i>enjoyable</i>	भेट हुनु <i>to meet up</i>
सीधै <i>directly, straight</i>	खबर <i>news</i>
आधा <i>half</i>	सुनाउनु <i>to tell, relate</i>
पर्खनु <i>to wait</i>	

\* Nepali has two words for shelter: ओत means *shelter from the rain*, while छायाँ means *shelter from the sun*.

- Sandhya** Where did you go yesterday?  
**Asha** I didn't go anywhere yesterday. I stayed at home.  
**Sandhya** But I came to your place yesterday morning. There was no one in the house.  
**Asha** What time did you come to my place?  
**Sandhya** I came at seven, no, at about half past 7. I was a bit late.  
**Asha** Now I've remembered! The day before yesterday Father, Mother and my younger brothers went to Nepalganj for a few days. Yesterday was Saturday, wasn't it?  
**Sandhya** Yes, it was Saturday.  
**Asha** On Saturday morning I always go to the temple. And yesterday morning we went to Pashupatinath temple at about half past 5. There was no one at home.  
**Sandhya** Do you go to Pashupatinath every Saturday?  
**Asha** No. Last Saturday I went to Bajra Jogini temple. Sometimes I go to Changu Narayan temple too.  
**Sandhya** Who did you go with yesterday?

- Asha** I usually go alone but the day before yesterday my elder sister came from Baglung. Now she will stay a few days in our house. We went to the temple together. It was very enjoyable, you know.
- Sandhya** Was there a crowd at the temple?
- Asha** No. There's a crowd there only after 7 o'clock on a Saturday. We went very early, so there wasn't a crowd.
- Sandhya** But you didn't come straight back from Pashupati, did you? I waited at your door for half an hour but even so you did not come. In the end I lost hope and I went back home.
- Asha** On the way back it rained heavily. We didn't have an umbrella. We sat in the shelter of a tree for a while. Did you get wet? Will you forgive me?
- Sandhya** No, it doesn't matter. I had an umbrella. Over here the sky became dark and only light rain fell.
- Asha** All right then sister. Today we have met up anyway. Please sit down, have some tea, tell me all the news.

## Grammar

### 54 The simple past tense

The *simple past* tense refers to actions and events that happened in the past, or describes situations and conditions that were true in the past. It usually corresponds with the English *I went, you came, he said, they were, it was, etc.*, but can also sometimes be similar to the English present perfect: *I've gone, the rain has come.*

#### Past tense verb bases

The past tense bases of all C-verbs and most V-verbs are the same as the present tense bases (that is, they are formed by taking the dictionary form and dropping the ending -नु - see **Grammar 33**). However, there are four particular V-verbs which form their past tense bases differently. These are:

Verb	Present tense base	Past tense base
धुनु <i>to wash</i>	धु-	धो-
रुनु <i>to weep</i>	रु-	रो-
जानु <i>to go</i>	जा-	ग-
हुनु <i>to be</i>	हु-	थि- or भ-

These four verbs take the same endings as all other verbs. It should also be noted that the final **-a** of the present tense base of the V-verb बिर्सनु *to forget* is dropped before the past tense ending is added:

Verb	Present tense base	Past tense base
बिर्सनु <i>to forget</i>	बिर्स- <b>birsa-</b>	बिर्सि- <b>birs-</b>

The bases of VV-verbs in past tenses are shortened forms of the present tense verb bases (see **Grammar 33**). The second vowel of the present tense base is dropped to form the past tense base:

VV-verb	Present tense base	Past tense base
आउनु <i>to come</i>	आउ-	आ-
पकाउनु <i>to cook</i>	पकाउ-	पका-
पिउनु <i>to drink</i>	पिउ-	पि-

#### Past tense verb endings

The simple past tense is formed by taking the past tense base of a verb and adding an ending to it. As always, the choice of ending depends upon what or who the subject of the verb is, and the endings must be learned by heart. They are:

	Affirmative		Negative	
<i>singular</i>				
म	-एँ	-ē	-इनेँ	-inā
हामी, हामीहरू	-यौँ	-yaū	-एनाँ	-enaū
तँ	-इस्	-is	-इनस्	-inas
तिमी, तिमीहरू	-यौ	-yau	-एनाँ	-enau
ऊ, यो, त्यो (m.)	-यो	-yo	-एन	-ena
ऊ, यो, त्यो (f.)	-ई	-ī	-इन	-ina
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (m.)	-ए	-e	-एनन्	-enan
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (f.)	-इन्	-in	-इनन्	-inan
यी, ती, उनीहरू etc.	-ए	-e	-एनन्	-enan

The boxes that follow contain the simple past tense forms of the VV-verb आउनु *to come* and the irregular V-verb जानु *to go*.

#### आउनु *to come*

	Affirmative		Negative	
	<i>(I came, you came, etc.)</i>		<i>(I did not come, you did not come, etc.)</i>	
म	आ + -एँ	= आएँ	आ + -इनेँ	= आइनेँ
हामी, हामीहरू	आ + -यौँ	= आयौँ	आ + -एनाँ	= आएनाँ
तँ	आ + -इस्	= आइस्	आ + -इनस्	= आइनस्

तिमी, तिमीहरू	आ + -यो	= आयौ	आ + -एनौ	= आएनौ
ऊ, यो, त्यो (m.)	आ + -यो	= आयो	आ + -एन	= आएन
ऊ, यो, त्यो (f.)	आ + -ई	= आई	आ + -इन	= आइन
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (m.)	आ + -ए	= आए	आ + -एनन्	= आएनन्
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (f.)	आ + -इन्	= आइन्	आ + -इनन्	= आइनन्
यी, ती, उनीहरू etc.	आ + -ए	= आए	आ + -एनन्	= आएनन्

जानु to go

	Affirmative		Negative	
	(I went, you went, etc.)		(I did not go, you did not go, etc.)	
म	ग + -एँ	= गएँ	ग + -इनेँ	= गइनेँ
हामी, हामीहरू	ग + -यौँ	= गयौँ	ग + -एनौँ	= गएनौँ
तैं	ग + -इस्	= गइस्	ग + -इनस्	= गइनस्
तिमी, तिमीहरू	ग + -यो	= गयो	ग + -एनौ	= गएनौ
ऊ, यो, त्यो (m.)	ग + -यो	= गयो	ग + -एन	= गएन
ऊ, यो, त्यो (f.)	ग + -ई	= गई	ग + -इन	= गइन
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (m.)	ग + -ए	= गए	ग + -एनन्	= गएनन्
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (f.)	ग + -इन्	= गइन्	ग + -इनन्	= गइनन्
यी, ती, उनीहरू etc.	ग + -ए	= गए	ग + -एनन्	= गएनन्

The High forms of the simple past tense consist of the dictionary form of a verb (हुनु, आउनु, जानु etc.), combined with:

- the suffix -भयो in the affirmative
- the suffix -भएन in the negative.

These forms are always the same, regardless of the number and gender of their subject.

### High forms

आउनु to come

Affirmative

आउनु + -भयो = आउनुभयो

Negative

आउनु + -भएन = आउनुभएन

जानु to go

Affirmative

जानु + -भयो = जानुभयो

Negative

जानु + -भएन = जानुभएन

Note the following examples in which the Nepali simple past tense must be translated with the English present perfect tense:

पानी आयो !	<i>It has begun to rain!</i>
गुरुजी आउनुभयो ?	<i>Has Gururji arrived?</i>
बत्ती गयो !	<i>Power cut! *</i>

Note: \*Power cuts are an unfortunate feature of daily life in Nepal. बत्ती means lamp but by extension it is also used to mean electric light. When power is restored after a power cut, the cry is बत्ती आयो !

## 55 The simple past forms of हुनु to be: थियो and भयो

	थि-	भ-		
	Affirmative	Negative	Affirmative	Negative
म	थिएँ	थिइनेँ	भएँ	भइनेँ
हामी, हामीहरू	थियौँ	थिएनौँ	भयौँ	भएनौँ
तैं	थिइस्	थिइनस्	भइस्	भइनस्
तिमी, तिमीहरू	थियो	थिएनौ	भयो	भएनौ
ऊ, यो, त्यो (m.)	थियो	थिएन	भयो	भएन
ऊ, यो, त्यो (f.)	थिई	थिइन	भई	भइन
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (m.)	थिए	थिएनन्	भए	भएनन्
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (f.)	थिइन्	थिइनन्	भइन्	भइनन्
यी, ती, उनीहरू etc.	थिए	थिएनन्	भए	भएनन्

### High forms

तपाईं, तपाईंहरू etc. हुनुहुन्थ्यो हुनुहुन्नथ्यो हुनुभयो हुनुभएन

The simple past tense of the verb हुनु to be has two forms. The थियो form translates as was or were, and this form of the verb is used to talk about situations and conditions in the past:

हिजो म नेपालमा थिइनेँ, अमेरिकामा थिएँ । *Yesterday I was not in Nepal, I was in America.*

भात जूठो थिएन, चोखो थियो ।

*The food was not polluted, it was pure.\**

हिजोको मौसम असाध्य नराम्रो थियो ।

*Yesterday's weather was very bad.*

धन बहादुरका दुइजना छोरा थिए ।

*Dhan Bahadur had two sons.*

\* The word जूठो is loosely translated as polluted. Any food that has come into contact with someone's mouth – either directly, or indirectly via a hand or a utensil – is considered जूठो and therefore may not be eaten by any other person. This everyday concern about cleanliness and hygiene is given a deeper meaning by notions of caste and ritual purity. The observance of this rule is traditionally stricter among higher Hindu castes such as the Bahuns than among, for instance, the various Tibeto-Burman-speaking ethnic groups, and it also varies between families and social classes. While parents and elder siblings may share food with the younger children of a family, as an outsider you should observe these rules unless and until you know for sure that the people with whom you are eating do not observe them so strictly themselves. Food should be touched only with the right hand, because the left hand is used for toilet ablutions.

The भयो form refers to changes, events and transformations in the past and may often be translated as *happened* or *became*:

ऊ लाटो थियो, पछि त पण्डित भयो ।	<i>He was stupid, but later he became a Pandit.</i>
खाना तातो थियो, पछि त चिसो भयो ।	<i>The food was hot, but then it became cold.</i>
ऊ सुखी थियो, पछि त दुःखी भयो ।	<i>He was happy, but later he became sad.</i>
कोठा फोहोर थियो, पछि पनि सफा भएन ।	<i>The room was dirty, and later it didn't become clean either.</i>
ओहो गोविन्दजी, तपाईंलाई के भयो ? मलाई त केही भएन ।	<i>Oho Govindaji, what happened to you? Nothing has happened to me.</i>

The following pairs of statements illustrate the difference in the meaning of the two forms:

मेरी बहिनी बिरामी थिइन् ।	<i>My sister was ill.</i>
मेरी बहिनी बिरामी भइन् ।	<i>My sister became ill.</i>
कोठामा गर्मी थियो ।	<i>It was hot in the room.</i>
कोठामा गर्मी भयो ।	<i>It became hot in the room.</i>
पसलहरू बन्द थिए ।	<i>The shops were shut.</i>
पसलहरू बन्द भए ।	<i>The shops became shut.</i>

भयो and भएन are commonly used on their own to tell someone that something has or has not been done or completed, when both speakers know what it is that they are talking about. For instance, **A** and **B**, who are both staying in the same hotel, had previously been discussing **B**'s difficulty in getting an air ticket. **A** sees **B** coming back to the hotel, and he knows that he has been to the airline office. Instead of asking him *did you succeed in booking your ticket?* all he needs to say is:

**A** भयो ? *Did it happen?/Any luck?*

to which **B** will give one of the following replies:

**B** भयो ! *Yes, it's done!* or **B** भएन ! *No, no luck!*

## 56 Location and movement

Nepali has two sets of words that mean *here*, *there*, and *where*. The first, ending in -हाँ, refers mainly to static locations, while the second, ending in -त, is most commonly used with verbs of motion:

यहाँ	<i>here, in this place</i>	यत	<i>over here, in this direction, hither</i>
त्यहाँ	<i>there, in that place</i>	उत	<i>over there, in that direction, thither</i>
कहाँ	<i>where, in which place</i>	कत	<i>in which direction? whither?</i>
कहीं	<i>somewhere, in any place</i>	कतै	<i>to somewhere, in any direction</i>

## 57 Someone and something: the uses of केही and कोही

As an adjective, केही means *some* or *a few*:

केही दिन	<i>a few days</i>	केही पैसा	<i>some money</i>
केही मान्छेहरू	<i>some people</i>	केही न केही	<i>something or other</i>

As an adjective, कोही also means *some*, but can only be used with human nouns, and usually in the singular:

कोही मान्छे	<i>some man (whom I do not know)</i>
कोही न कोही	<i>someone or other</i>

Much more commonly, these two words are used as third-person pronouns, and they can be understood to have the following meanings, depending on the kind of sentence they occur in:

	<i>Affirmative statement</i>	<i>Negative statement</i>	<i>Question</i>
केही	<i>something</i>	<i>nothing</i>	<i>anything</i>
कोही	<i>someone</i>	<i>no-one</i>	<i>anyone</i>

घरमा कोही छ ? घरमा कोही छैन ।	<i>Is there anyone in the house?</i>
उनीहरू बगैँचामा छन् ।	<i>There is no-one in the house. They are in the garden.</i>

तिम्रो हातमा के छ ? मेरो हातमा केही त छैन आमा ।	<i>What do you have in your hand? I don't have anything in my hand, mother.</i>
-------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------

In negative sentences पनि *even*, also can be added to both केही and कोही to heighten the negativity of the sentence: *nothing at all*, *nobody whatsoever*:

मेरो हातमा केही पनि छैन ।	<i>I don't have anything at all in my hand.</i>
घरमा कोही पनि छैन ।	<i>There is no-one at all in the house.</i>

**EXERCISE 28** Translate into Nepali:

- 1 Please open the window, it has become very hot in this room.
- 2 Yesterday morning the children were all here. But today no-one came to school at all.
- 3 Last Wednesday it rained heavily. I didn't have an umbrella, and I got soaked.
- 4 Grandfather had two sons. One was called Sanju and one was called Niroj. Sanju became very rich but Niroj was very poor.
- 5 The people of that country were very poor and there was nothing at all in their houses.
- 6 Yesterday many people went to Paśupatināth temple, because yesterday was a full moon day (**pūrṇimā**).

**▶ 16 A visit from Shankarprasad**

Shankarprasad Acharya is a priest and teacher of high social status. Motilal phoned Shankarprasad Acharya a little earlier, to invite him to his house. He is anxious to cultivate good relations with such a man. Shankarprasad Acharya has just arrived, but the domestic arrangements are not running smoothly.

मोतीलाल आचार्यजी, नमस्कार।  
आरामे हुनुहुन्छ ?

शंकरप्रसाद आराम। तपाईं नि ?

मोतीलाल मलाई राम्रो छ ।  
बस्नुहोस्, के लिनुहुन्छ  
तपाईं ?

शंकरप्रसाद तपाईं जे लिनुहुन्छ म  
त्यही नै लिनछु नि ।

मोतीलाल हवस् त । एकै छिन । म  
श्रीमतीलालाई खबर गर्छु ।  
आज उनले के के  
पकाइन् मलाई थाहा  
भएन । म सोध्छु, है ? ...  
ए, अंजु, अंजु, तिमी  
कता गयी है ? खाना  
तयार भएन ?

अंजु हजुर ? म भरखरै  
बजारबाट आएँ । के गर्नु



र, काम धेरै छ । म एकलै छु । म पहिला चिया तयार गर्छु नि । तपाईंहरू  
बस्नुहोला ।

मोतीलाल ओहो कस्तो ढिलो भयो आज । मैले वहाँलाई घरमा बोलाएँ । वहाँ टाढाबाट  
आउनुभयो, तर तिमिले खाना पकाएनौ ।

अंजु सुन्नुहोस् । मलाई गाली नगर्नुहोस् । घरमा अरू पनि धेरै काम थियो ।

मोतीलाल ठीक छ, ठीक छ, अब चाँडै गर । ... आचार्यजी, माफ गर्नुहोला । पहिला  
चिया लिनुहुन्छ कि ?

शंकरप्रसाद हुन्छ, हुन्छ । केही छैन ।

मोतीलाल ए ल चिया पनि आइपुग्यो । बिस्कुट पनि लिनुहुन्छ कि ?

शंकरप्रसाद हुन्छ । एउटा दिनुहोस् न ।

आचार्यजी a respectful title for  
a religious teacher or a learned man

आरामे in good health (polite)

जे that which

त्यही that same (emphasized form of त्यो that)

एकै just one

खबर गर्नु to inform

सोध्नु to ask

तयार ready

भरखरै recently, just now

बोलाउनु to call, invite

गाली गर्नु to tell off, abuse

अरू other, additional

चाँडै गर्नु to do immediately

माफ गर्नु to forgive

पहिला firstly

आइपुगनु to arrive

बिस्कुट biscuit

**Motilal** Acharyaji, greetings. Are you well?

**Shankarprasad** I am well. And you?

**Motilal** I am well. Please sit down, what would you like?\*

**Shankarprasad** I will have whatever you are going to have.

**Motilal** That's fine then. Just one moment. I will tell my wife. I don't know what\*<sup>2</sup> she has cooked today. I'll ask her, all right? ... Oh, Anju, Anju, where have you gone, huh?\*<sup>3</sup> Isn't the food ready?

**Anju** What? I have only just come from the market. What to do, indeed, there's lots of work. I am all alone. I'll prepare tea first, for sure. You people please sit down.

**Motilal** Oho, how late things are today! I invited him to our home. He came from far away, but you didn't cook any food.

**Anju** Listen. Don't tell me off. There was a lot of other work in the house.

**Motilal** OK, OK, now do it immediately ... Acharyaji, please forgive (me). Will you first take tea?

**Shankarprasad** Yes, yes. It doesn't matter.

**Motilal** There now, the tea has arrived too. Would you like a biscuit as well?

**Shankarprasad** Yes. Please give me one, would you?

\*<sup>1</sup> के लिनुहन्छ ? *what will you take?* is a more polite way of asking someone what they would like to eat or drink than के खानुहन्छ *what will you eat?*

\*<sup>2</sup> के is repeated because Motilal expects his wife to have cooked a number of different things.

\*<sup>3</sup> Motilal and his wife Anju are a traditional couple in that their use of pronouns is asymmetrical: he addresses her as तिमी, while she calls him तपाईं. Less traditional couples nowadays address one another as तिमी.

## Grammar

### 58 Transitive and intransitive verbs

All Nepali verbs are either transitive or intransitive. When using the simple past tense of any verb it is important to know which category the verb belongs to.

A transitive verb is a verb that must have an object. For instance, we cannot see without seeing *something*, and that something is the object of our seeing: it receives the action of our seeing. We cannot eat, or do, or make, or look, without something being eaten, done, made or looked at: therefore, all of these verbs, plus many others, are said to be 'transitive' because they act upon something, which is their object.

An intransitive verb is a verb that cannot have an object. For instance, all verbs of motion are intransitive: we may go to a place, or come from a place, but these places are not receivers of the action of motion, they are simply destinations or sources.

### 59 Transitive verbs and the suffix -ले

The subject of a transitive verb in the simple past tense must take the agentive (or 'subject-marking') suffix -ले. Linguistically, -ले is a relic of an old passive construction, and it has the original meaning of *by*. Because -ले is a postposition, the subject word must change to the

oblique case when -ले is added to it. म and तैं take special forms when -ले is added to them:

म	becomes	मै	producing	मैले
तैं	becomes	तै	producing	तैले

All of the other pronouns change in exactly the same way as they do with other postpositions:

ऊ	becomes	उस	producing	उसले (often pronounced <b>ulle</b> )
यो	becomes	यस	producing	यसले (often pronounced <b>elle</b> )
त्यो	becomes	त्यस	producing	त्यसले (often pronounced <b>telle</b> )
को	becomes	कस	producing	कसले (often pronounced <b>kalle</b> )
उनी	becomes	उन	producing	उनले
यिनी	becomes	यिन	producing	यिनले
तिनी	becomes	तिन	producing	तिनले

मैले काम गरें ।

हामीले फिल्म हेर्‍यौं ।

उसले मलाई नमस्ते गरेन ।

उनीहरूले एउटा चिठी पनि लेखेनन् ।

तपाईंले उनलाई उपहार दिनुभयो ?

*I worked.*

*We watched a film.*

*He did not greet me.*

*They did not write even one letter.*

*Did you give her a present?*

Some commonly used verbs are a combination of a noun with either the verb गर्नु *to do* or the verb हुनु *to be*. Such a verb is transitive with गर्नु but intransitive with हुनु:

उनीहरूले सिनेमा-घर बन्द गरे ।

सिनेमा-घर बन्द भयो ।

हामीहरूले काम शुरू गर्‍यौं ।

काम शुरू भयो ।

सरकारले हडताल खतम गर्‍यो ।

हडताल खतम भयो ।

*They shut the cinema.*

*The cinema closed.*

*We started work.*

*The work began.*

*The government stopped the strike.*

*The strike ended.*

**EXERCISE 29** Put the following sentences into the simple past tense, beginning each new sentence with the word हिजो *yesterday* and removing the word आज *today* :

१ आज तपाईं चिया खानुहुन्न ?

२ आज म एउटा किताब किन्छु ।

३ आज हामीहरू मासु खाँदैनौं ।

४ आज उनीहरू भात खाँदैनन् । उनीहरूको घरमा चामल छैन ।

५ आज तिमी रेडियो किन सुन्दैनौं ? आज अम्बर गुरुङ्ग गीत गाउनुहुन्छ ।

६ आज आमा उठ्नुहुन्न । वहाँ बिरामी हुनुहुन्छ ।



## 60 Further uses of -ले

### a With the subject of a transitive verb in tenses other than the past

-ले must always be affixed to the subject of a transitive verb in the simple past tense, but it can also be used to emphasize the subject of a transitive verb in the habitual present tense in the following circumstances:

- if the sentence says that it is part of the natural order of things for the subject to perform the verb, and therefore states that this is a role that is specific to the subject:

कुखुराले फुल पार्छ ।

*A chicken lays eggs.*

बाघले बाखा खान्छ ।

*A tiger eats goats.*

घामले न्यानो दिन्छ ।

*Sunshine gives warmth.*

पक्का बाहुनले रक्सी खाँदैन ।

*A proper Brahmin does not drink alcohol.*

- if the sentence is a question asking who or what is the subject of a transitive verb:

कसले त्यो कुरा भन्छ ?

*Who says that?*

आज कसले चिया बनाउँछ ?

*Who will make the tea today?*

- if the sentence is a response to a question such as those above, or focuses in any way upon the subject of the verb:

आमाले भन्नुहुन्छ नि ।

*Mother says so, you know!*

आज भाइले चिया बनाउँछ ।

*Today younger brother will make the tea.*

### b To denote the use of faculties or instruments

हामी कानले सुन्छौं ।

*We hear with (our) ears.*

हामी दाँतले टोक्छौं ।

*We bite with (our) teeth.*

हामी आँखाले हेर्छौं ।

*We look with (our) eyes.*

हामी मुखले बोल्छौं ।

*We speak with (our) mouths.*

हामी नाकले सूँघ्छौं ।

*We smell with (our) noses.*

नेपालीहरू दाहिने हातले भात खान्छन् ।

*Nepalis eat rice with (the)*

*right hand.*

नेपालीहरू देब्रे हातले भात खाँदैनन् ।

*Nepalis do not eat rice with (the) left hand.*

### c With nouns to mark a causal function

यस कारणले

*because of this*

त्यस कारणले

*because of that*

के कारणले ?

*because of what?*

The phrases त्यस कारणले and यस कारणले mean *due to that cause* and *due to this cause* respectively, and they are commonly used to mean *so* or *thus*:

ऊ कलिलो उमेरको केटा हो । यस कारणले

*He is a boy of a tender age.*

उसलाई चुरोट नदिनुहोला ।

*So please do not give him a cigarette.*

पोहोर साल कम पानी पियो । त्यस कारणले

*Last year little rain fell.*

बजारमा चामल साह्रै महँगो भयो ।

*Therefore rice became very expensive in the market.*

The abbreviated forms of this phrase, त्यस कारण and त्यसैले, are very commonly used.

Other nouns can take -ले when they are the cause of an event or a condition, regardless of whether the main verb of the sentence is transitive or not:

अनिकालको बेलामा धेरै मानिसहरू भोकले

*In time of famine, many*

मर्छन् ।

*people die of hunger.*

मेरो लुगा पानीले भिज्यो ।

*My clothes were made wet*

*by rain.*

### EXERCISE 30 पढेर बुझ्नुहोस्

अस्ति शनिवार थियो । नेपालमा शनिवार बिदा हुन्छ र अस्ति सबै पसल र अफिसहरू बन्द थिए । त्यो दिन ठूलो पानी पनि पियो । रामसँग छाता थिएन, ऊ बाहिर गएन । उसले एउटा किताब पढ्यो । हिजो आइतवार थियो । नेपालमा आइतवार बिदाको दिन हुँदैन । हिजो पानी परेन र राम अफिस गयो । रामको बुवा पनि अफिस जानुभयो । रामकी आमा बिहानै मन्दिर जानुभयो । मन्दिरमा बह्रैले पूजा गर्नुभयो र आठ बजेतिर घर फर्कनुभयो । राम र रामकी बहिनी माया साढे छ बजे उठे । उनीहरूले चिया र रोटी खाए । “ अब म अफिस जान्छु र बाटोमा म एउटा छाता किन्छु ” रामले भन्यो ।

#### प्रश्नहरू

१ अस्ति के वार थियो ?

५ हिजो राम कता गयो ?

२ अस्तिको मौसम कस्तो थियो ?

६ हिजो रामकी आमा कहाँ जानुभयो ?

३ अस्ति रामले के गर्‍यो ?

७ राम र माया कति बजेसम्म सुते ?

४ हिजो के वार थियो ?

## 61 Parts of the body

<b>HEAD</b>		<b>ARMS</b>	
टाउको	head	पाखुरा	upper arm
मुख, अनुहार	face	हात	hand/ forearm
आँखा	eye	औला	finger
नाक	nose	कहिनो	elbow
मुख	mouth	नंग	finger nail
कान	ear	बूढी औला	thumb
कपाल	hair		
दाँत	tooth	<b>LEGS</b>	
जिब्रो	tongue	खुट्टा	leg
घाँटी	neck/throat	खुट्टा	foot
चिउँडो	chin	घुँडा	knee
दाढी	beard	कुक्कुच्चा	heel
		औला	toe
<b>BODY</b>		<b>OTHER</b>	
शरीर	body	रगत	blood
पिठचूँ	back	छाला	skin
पेट	stomach	हाड	bone
छाती	breast/chest		
काँध	shoulder		
कम्मर	waist		
मुटु	heart		
फोक्सो	lung		

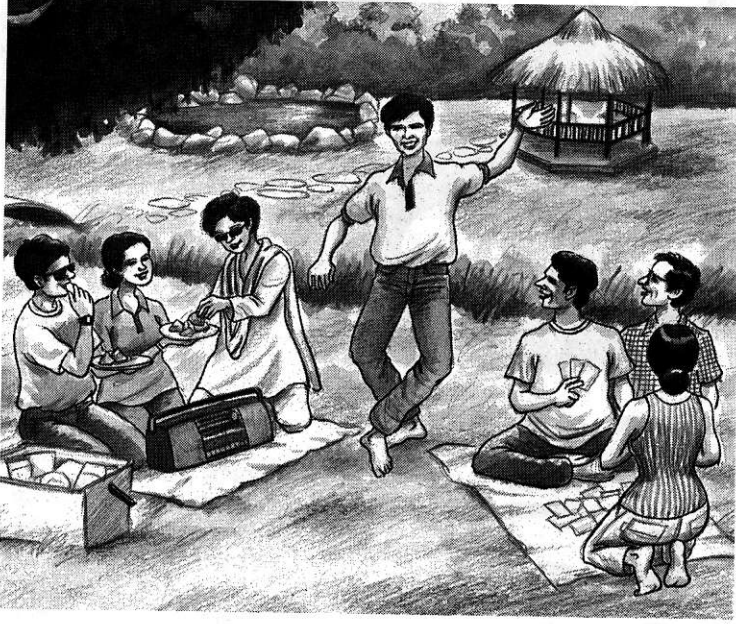
म श्रात खाएर जान्छु  
I'll go when  
I've eaten

In this unit you will learn

- how to use two verbs in one sentence
- how to report information from other sources
- how to use the continuous tenses of verbs
- how to discuss people's ages

## 17 A day off work

Rajiv has just completed his first week at the office. He and Keshav discuss plans for their day off.



राजीव भोलि हाम्रो छुट्टी होइन र ?

केशव हो । भोलि त शनिवारै हो नि ! शनिवार हरेक अफिसको लागि छुट्टीको दिन हुन्छ । तपाईं छुट्टी लिनहुन्छ कि कसो ?

राजीव लिन्छु नि ! तपाईं धेरै जसो छुट्टीको दिन कसरी बिताउनुहुन्छ ? दिनभरि सुत्नुहुन्छ ?

केशव दिनभरि सुत्दिन । जिन्दगी त्यति लामो हुँदैन ! म छुट्टीका दिनहरू धेरै जसो केही-न-केही गरेर अथवा कता-न-कता गएर बिताउँछु । कहिले काहीँ म अफिसका केही साथीहरूसँग भेटेर बाहिर जान्छु । आज बिहान मैले दौलतजीसँग कुरा गरे । भोलि पनि यस्तै कार्यक्रम छ रे ।

राजीव भोलिको कार्यक्रम कहाँ छ नि ?

केशव उनीहरू गोदावरी जान्छन् रे ।

राजीव तपाईं पनि जानुहुन्छ कि ?

केशव म कोशिश गर्छु । भोलि बिहान मेरी श्रीमती बजार जान्छन् रे । त्यसैले भोलि

बिहान म घरै बसेर नानीहरूलाई हेर्छु ।

राजीव तपाईंका साथीहरू हिंडेरै जान्छन् ? अलि टाढा छ, होइन ?

केशव हो, टाढै छ । उनीहरू बस चढेर जान्छन् रे । गोदावरीका बसहरू घण्टा-घण्टामा पाटन भएर जान्छन् रे ।

राजीव गोदावरी पुगेर उनीहरू के गर्छन् ?

केशव उनीहरू यहाँबाट केही खाने कुरा लिएर जान्छन् रे । केही हप्ता अघि हामीहरू पिकनिक लिएर सुन्दरीजल पनि गयौं । सुन्दरीजल पुगेर हामीहरूले खोलाको बगरमा बसेर खाना खायौं अनि रमाइलो गर्नुभयो । कोही साथीहरूले रूखको छायाँमा बसेर ताश खेले अथवा गफ गरे । कोही साथीहरू भुईँमा पल्टेर निदाए । त्यस्तै हुन्छ । भोलि तपाईं पनि गोदावरी जानुहुन्छ कि ?

राजीव भोलि बिहान ससुरालीमा निम्तो छ । त्यस कारणले अप्ठ्यारो छ । उनीहरू कति बजेतिर हिंड्छन् ?

केशव त्यो त अहिलेसम्म पक्का भएन । बेलुकातिर म दौलतजीलाई फोन गरेर पता लगाउँछु ।

राजीव थाहा पाएर मलाई पनि फोन गर्नुहोस्, है त । भरे बेलुका म घरै हुन्छु ।

केशव हवस् । भरे बेलुका म तपाईंलाई फोन गर्छु । अब त अबेर भयो । आज छुट्टीको दिन होइन, हाकिम रिसाएर हामीलाई गाली गर्नुहुन्छ ।

छुट्टी *day off, holiday*

कसो ? *how? in what manner?*

बिताउनु *to spend time*

दिनभरि *all day*

लामो *long*

केही-न-केही *something or other*

अथवा *or*

कता-न-कता *somewhere or other*

भेट्नु *to meet*

कुरा गर्नु *to talk, converse*

कार्यक्रम *programme*

रे a word marking information

gathered elsewhere

कोशिश गर्नु *to try*

त्यसैले *therefore*

नानी *small child*

हिंडेरै *on foot*

बस चढ्नु *to board a bus*

पाटन the second largest city of the

Kathmandu valley

पिकनिक *picnic*

खोला *river*

बगर *bank of a river*

रमाइलो गर्नु *to enjoy oneself*

छायौं *shade*

ताश *cards*

खेल्लु *to play*

गफ गर्नु *to chat*

भुईँ *ground*

पल्ट्नु *to lie down*

निदाउनु *to fall sleep*

ससुराली *the home of a man's*

parents-in-law

निम्तो *invitation*

अप्ट्यारो *difficult, awkward*

फोन गर्नु *to phone*

पक्का *decided*

पता लगाउनु *to find out*

थाहा पाउनु *to find out*

है त *OK then?*

भएर *via*  
पुग्नु *to reach, arrive*  
खाने कुरा *things to eat; food*  
अघि *ago*

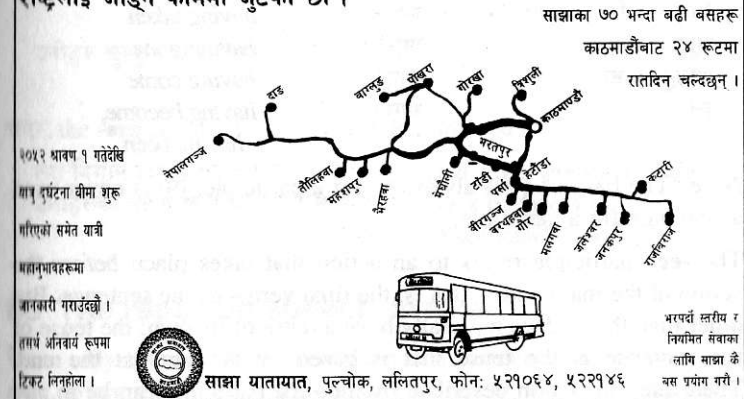
भरे बेलुका *this evening*  
हाकिम *boss*  
रिसाज्नु *to become angry*

- Rajiv** Tomorrow's our day off, isn't it?  
**Keshav** Yes. Tomorrow *is* Saturday, you know! Saturday is a day off for every office. Won't you take the day off, or what?  
**Rajiv** I certainly will, you know! How do you usually spend a day off? Do you sleep all day?  
**Keshav** I do not sleep all day. Life isn't that long! I usually spend my days off doing something or other or going somewhere or other. Sometimes I meet up with some office friends and go out. This morning I talked to Daulatji. He says there is just such a programme tomorrow too.  
**Rajiv** Where is tomorrow's programme then?  
**Keshav** He says they will go to Godavari.\*<sup>1</sup>  
**Rajiv** Will you go too?  
**Keshav** I shall try. My wife says she will go to the market tomorrow morning. So tomorrow morning I will stay at home and look after the children.  
**Rajiv** Will your friends go on foot? It's quite far, isn't it?  
**Keshav** Yes, it is rather far. They say they will go by bus. Apparently buses for Godavari go every hour, via Patan.  
**Rajiv** What will they do when they have reached Godavari?  
**Keshav** They say they will take some food from here. A few weeks ago we took a picnic to Sundarijal too.\*<sup>2</sup> When we reached Sundarijal we sat on the riverbank and ate and enjoyed ourselves. Some friends sat in the shade of a tree and played cards or chatted. Some friends lay down on the ground and went to sleep. That's how it is. Will you go to Godavari tomorrow too?  
**Rajiv** Tomorrow morning we are invited to my in-laws' house. So it's difficult. At about what time will they leave?  
**Keshav** That has not been decided yet. This evening I'll phone Daulatji and find out.  
**Rajiv** When you find out please phone me too, OK? I'll be at home this evening.  
**Keshav** Sure. I'll phone you this evening. But now it's late. Today isn't a day off, the boss will get angry and tell us off.

Notes \*<sup>1</sup> A popular picnicking spot in the south of the Kathmandu Valley where there are botanical gardens.

\*<sup>2</sup> A beauty spot to the northeast of Kathmandu.

हामी बितेका ३२ वर्षदेखि  
राफ्टलाई जोड्ने काममा जुटेका छौं ।



Sājhā bus network map, Nepal

## Grammar

### 62 Two verbs with the same subject: the -एर participle

In English, if a sentence or a part of a sentence (a clause) contains two verbs performed by the same person, both of the verbs take the same tense and the word 'and' is used to link them, e.g. *I came and (I) sat down, I ate the rice and went out*. In Nepali, the first of the two verbs almost always takes a special form (called the 'conjunctive participle'), and the literal translation of the same sentences in Nepali becomes *having come in I sat down* and *having eaten the rice I went out*.

A participle is a form of a verb that may be used adjectivally (to describe nouns) or as one part of a verb phrase in certain tenses. Nepali has a variety of different participles, each with a different ending and its own technical name. In this book, each participle will be referred to by the ending that distinguishes it from all the others.

The conjunctive participle of a Nepali verb is most commonly formed by taking its past tense base and adding the ending -एर -era to it. Therefore, we will call it the '-era participle':

Verb	Past tense base	-era participle	
गर्नु	गर-	गरेर	<i>having done</i>
हिंडनु	हिंड-	हिंडेर	<i>having walked</i>
लिनु	लि-	लिएर	<i>having taken</i>
जानु	ग-	गएर	<i>having gone</i>
आउनु	आ-	आएर	<i>having come</i>
हुनु	भ-	भएर	<i>having become, having been *</i>

Note \*The base of हुनु is always भ- for a participle. थि- is never used as the base for a participle.

The -era participle refers to an action that takes place *before* the action of the main verb – that is, the final verb – of the sentence. But other than that it does not really have a tense of its own: the tense of the sentence is the tense that is given by the verb at the end. Therefore, the action described by the -era participle can be in any tense: past, present or future:

#### Nepali

म आएर बसें ।  
म आएर बस्छु ।  
म भोलि आएर बस्छु ।

म भात खाएर बाहिर गएँ ।  
म भात खाएर बाहिर जान्छु ।  
भोलि म भात खाएर बाहिर जान्छु ।

#### English

*I came and sat down.*  
*I come and sit down.*  
*I shall come and sit down tomorrow.*

*I ate rice and went out.*  
*I eat rice and go out.*  
*Tomorrow I shall eat rice and go out.*

In the English sentences, both verbs are in the same tense; in the Nepali versions only the main final verb has a tense. The subject of the Nepali sentence is usually stated at the very beginning of the sentence, as in these examples, but sometimes it is not mentioned until after the -era participle:

भात खाएर म बाहिर जान्छु । *Having eaten rice I go out.*

The -era participle is formed in exactly the same way, no matter what or who the subject of the sentence is: the level of politeness is indicated by the main verb of the sentence. If the main verb is transitive and in a past tense, the subject must take -ले.

उसले झ्यालनेर बसेर एउटा केरा खायो ।

*He sat near the window and ate a banana.*

म उसको लुगा धोएर तपाईंलाई दिन्छु ।

*I shall wash his clothes and give them to you.*

हिजो किशनजीले हाम्रो पसलमा आएर एक जोर जुता किन्नुभयो ।

*Yesterday Kishanji came into our shop and bought a pair of shoes.*

उनीहरू खुम्बु गएर सगरमाथा चढे ।

*They went to Khumbu and climbed Mount Everest.*

भएर, the -era participle of हुनु to be, is also used to mean via:

त्यो विमान दिल्ली भएर जान्छ ।

*That flight goes via Delhi.*

उनीहरूको बस पोखरा भएर काठमाडौं गयो ।

*Their bus went to Kathmandu via Pokhara.*

## 63 The reported speech-marker रे

रे can only be used as an appendage to a sentence, and never on its own. When it is added to the end of a statement, the word रे indicates that the person speaking has been told what s/he has just said by someone else. It is usually possible to ascertain who or what the source of the information is, but sometimes it is left quite vague, just as in English one reports a rumour by beginning 'I hear that...' or 'they say that...'

If someone says:

तपाईंको छोरालाई भोक लाग्यो रे ।

*Your son is hungry*

(+ reported speech-marker)

the presence of तपाईंको छोरा *your son* in the sentence means that the person speaking has probably been told by your son that he is hungry, in which case the sentence could be translated *your son says he's hungry*. However, it could also mean that someone else has informed the speaker of this fact: one can only be sure if one knows the context in which the statement is made.

Similarly, a sentence such as:

आज अफिस जाँदैन रे ।

*(He) won't go to the office today (+ reported speech-marker)*

could mean *he says he won't go to the office today* or *she says he won't go to the office today* or *they say he won't go to the office*

today. Without knowing the context in which the statement is made you really cannot choose between these translations.

This kind of confusion should not occur during a conversation, because the meaning is always clear in its context. Sometimes, however, a speaker will add रे to the end of a statement in order to disown responsibility for its truth or falsity. The following statements suggest that the speaker has heard the news s/he reports on the radio, or has read them in a newspaper:

आज पानी पर्दैन रे । *They say it will not rain today.*  
भारतको राष्ट्रपति आज नेपाल आउँछ रे । *The Indian president comes to Nepal today, I hear.*

If someone said something but you did not hear what they said, you might wish to ask someone else what was said. A quick way of doing this is simply to say:

के रे ? *What was said?*

**EXERCISE 31** Convert the following pairs of sentences into one sentence by changing the first verb into the **-era** participle.

*Example*

म घर जान्छु । त्यसपछि म खाना खान्छु । = म घर गएर खाना खान्छु ।  
*I shall go home. After that I shall eat. I shall go home and eat.*

- १ म नेपाल जान्छु । त्यसपछि म तपाईंलाई चिठी लेख्छु ।
- २ म विचार गर्छु । म तपाईंलाई भन्छु ।
- ३ उनीहरू किताब किन्छन् । त्यसपछि तपाईंकहाँ आउँछन् ।
- ४ यो केटी स्कूल जान्छे । त्यहाँ अँग्रेजी सिक्छे ।
- ५ म अफिस जान्छु । म तपाईंलाई फोन गर्छु ।
- ६ वहाँ झापा जानुभयो । वहाँ मेरो दाइको घरमा बस्नुभयो ।

**EXERCISE 32** Construct sentences that tell someone to do two things, one after the other, along the following lines:

तपाईं / भात खानु / सुत्नु = तपाईं भात खाएर सुत्नुहोस् ।  
*you / eat rice / sleep You please eat the rice and go to sleep.*

- १ तिमी / घर जानु / काम गर्नु
- २ तपाईं / रेडियो सुन्नु / घर जानु
- ३ तिमी / चुरोट लिनु / आउनु
- ४ तपाईं / यो किताब पढ्नु / मलाई दिनु
- ५ तिमी / लण्डन पुग्नु / मकहाँ आउनु
- ६ तपाईं / झापा जानु / मेरो दाइको घरमा बस्नु

## 18 A chance encounter in Darjeeling

Subir is a resident of Darjeeling, and Ashesh lives in Kathmandu. Some months ago the two men met while Subir was visiting Kathmandu. Now Subir is surprised to meet Ashesh unexpectedly in Darjeeling.

सुबीर अहो! तपाईं यहाँ के गर्दै हुनुहुन्छ ? तपाईंलाई देखेर म छक्क परें नि ! तपाईंहरू दार्जीलिङमा बसाइँ सर्नुभयो कि क्या हो ?

अशेष होइन, म एक हप्तादेखि यहाँको वन संरक्षण विभागमा काम गर्दै छु । पोहोर साल पनि म नेपालमा यस्तै काम गर्दै थिएँ नि ।

सुबीर अनि कति बस्नुहुन्छ दार्जीलिङमा ? परिवार पनि सँगै छन् ?

अशेष श्रीमती र छोरीहरू मसँग छन् तर छोराहरूलाई छाडेर आयौँ यसपालि । कान्छो छोराको उमेर अहिले तेह्र वर्ष भयो, जेठो छोरा चाहिँ सोह्र वर्ष लाग्यो । स्कूल नगई उनीहरूको प्रगति हुँदैन । त्यस कारणले उनीहरू उतै पढ्दै छन् ।

सुबीर हो, तपाईंका तीनजना छोरीहरू छन्, अब याद आयो । कान्छी छोरीको नाम चाहिँ लक्ष्मी अनि जेठी छोरीको चाहिँ सरस्वती, होइन ? तर माहिँली छोरीको नाम के हो ? मैले बिर्सैँ ।

अशेष माहिँली छोरीको नाम राधिका हो । अहिले लक्ष्मी र राधिका एभरेष्ट होटलमा पौडी खेल्दै छन् । सरस्वती र मेरी श्रीमती बजारमा किनमेल गर्दै छन् । स्कूलहरू भोलिदेखि खुल्छन् नि, आज छुट्टीको अन्तिम दिन हो ।

सुबीर उनीहरू भोलीदेखि कुन चाहिँ स्कूल जान्छन् ? लोरेटो कलेज ?

अशेष हो, लोरेटो कलेज जान्छन् । स्कूल असाध्य राम्रो छ रे । त्यो कुरा थाहा पाएर उनीहरूलाई त्यही स्कूलमा राख्यौँ हामीहरूले । उनीहरू दुई महिनासम्म त्यहाँ पढ्छन् । दुई महिनापछि हामी काठमाडौँ फर्कन्छौँ ।

सुबीर ठीक गर्नुभयो तपाईंले । अब तपाईं एभरेष्ट होटलसम्म हिडेरै जानुहुन्छ ? निक्कै माथि छ नि, उकालो पनि छ ।

अशेष म बिर्सेर घरबाट पैसा नलिईकन निस्कें । त्यस कारणले हिडेर जाँदै छु । तपाईं कता जाँदै हुनुहुन्छ ?

सुबीर मेरो अफिसको काम पाँच बजे सिद्धियो, अनि म ऊ त्यो चियापसलमा बसेर साथीहरूसँग गफ गर्दै थिएँ । अलिपछि घर जान्छु । मेरो घर पनि उतै छ नि । तर यो बाटो चाहिँ अलि घुमाउरो छ । म तपाईंसँग अलि माथिसम्म गएर तपाईंलाई अर्को बाटो देखाउँछु, हुन्न ? त्यो बाटो नघुमीकन सीधैँ होटलमा पुग्छ ।

अशेष बिस्तारै चिया खाएर आउनुहोस् न त । केही हतार छैन ।

सुबीर भैगो, चिया चिसो भयो । चिया नखाईकन आउँछु । अबेर भयो, श्रीमती रिसाउँछिन् । ल, साहूजी, म गएँ, नमस्कार ।

छक्क पर्नु *to be surprised*देख्नु *to see*बसाई सर्नु *to move house*क्या *what?*वन *forest*संरक्षण *conservation*विभाग *department*छाड्नु *to leave, quit*यसपालि *this time*कान्छो *youngest*जेठो *eldest*लाग्नु *to begin to be, tend towards*प्रगति *progress*उते *there (emphasized form of उता )*पढ्नु *to study*याद *memory*माहिलो *second eldest*बिसर्नु *to forget*पौडी खेल्नु *to swim*किनमेल *shopping*खुल्नु *to open*अन्तिम *last, final*कुनचाहि *which?*असाध्य *extremely*राख्नु *to put, place*माथि *up, above*उकालो *steep, uphill*निस्कनु *to come out*सिद्धिनु *to end*ऊ त्यो *that one, over there*-चाहि *as for*घुमाउरो *indirect*देखाउनु *to show*घुम्नु *to circle, wander*सीधै *directly*बिस्तारै *slowly, gently*भैगो *it's over*चिसो *cold*अबेर *lateness*साहूजी *shopkeeper*

**Subir** Oho! What are you doing here? I was surprised to see you, you know! Have you moved to Darjeeling or what?

**Ashesh** No, I've been working in the Forest Conservation Department since one week ago. Last year too I was doing the same kind of work in Nepal, you know.

**Subir** And how long will you stay in Darjeeling? Are the family with you too?

**Ashesh** My wife and daughters are with me but this time we came without our sons. The younger son is 13 years old now, the elder is just 14. If they don't go to school they won't make progress. So they are studying there.

**Subir** Yes, you have three daughters, now I remember. The youngest is called Lakshmi and the eldest Sarasvati, is that not right? But what is the middle daughter's name? I have forgotten.

**Ashesh** The middle daughter's name is Radhika. Now Lakshmi and Radhika are swimming at the Everest Hotel. Sarasvati and my wife are shopping in the market. The schools open from tomorrow, you know, today is the last day of the holiday.

**Subir** Which school will they go to from tomorrow? Loretto College?

**Ashesh** Yes, they will go to Loretto College. I hear the school is extremely good. When we got to know that we put them in that school. They will study there for two months. After two months we will return to Kathmandu.

**Subir** You did the right thing. Are you going to walk to the Everest Hotel now? It's a long way up, you know, and it's steep too.

**Ashesh** I forgot and I came out of the house without any money. That's why I'm walking. Where are you going?

**Subir** My office work finished at 5 o'clock, and I was sitting in that teashop over there, chatting with my friends. I'll go home in a little while. My house is in the same direction, you know. But this path is rather indirect. I'll come a little way up with you and show you another path, no? That path goes straight to the hotel without any diversions.

**Ashesh** But please drink your tea slowly and then come, won't you? There's no hurry.

**Subir** Forget it,\* the tea's gone cold. I'll come without drinking the tea. It's 6 o'clock now, it's late. My wife will be cross. Here, shopkeeper, I'm off, goodbye.

*Note* \* भैगो is a colloquial expression meaning *that's over and done with*, or *that's not something that need detain us further*.

## Grammar

### 64 The continuous tenses in -दै छ

The *continuous present* tense refers to actions that are occurring even as the verb is being stated, and is the exact equivalent of English verb phrases such as *I am going, they are watching, we are eating*. Just as in English, the tense can also be used to talk about the future, so long as something else in the sentence makes this clear: *I am going tomorrow, we are eating out next Sunday*. This tense of a verb consists of a word that is the Nepali equivalent of *going / watching / eating*, followed by the appropriate form of छ *is* or *are*. To form the first word, the ending -दै is added to the present tense base of the verb.

If the base ends in a vowel, this vowel must be nasalized. The ending is invariable: that is, it is always the same no matter what or who the subject of the verb may be. छ is the verb that must change according to number, gender and level of politeness.

गर्नु **garnu** to do

म	गर् + -दै छु	=	गर्दै छु	<i>I am doing</i>
हामी, हामीहरू	गर् + -दै छौं	=	गर्दै छौं	<i>we are doing</i>
तँ	गर् + -दै छस्	=	गर्दै छस्	<i>you are doing</i>
तिमी, तिमीहरू	गर् + -दै छौ	=	गर्दै छौ	<i>you are doing</i>
ऊ, यो, त्यो (m.)	गर् + -दै छ	=	गर्दै छ	<i>he is doing</i>
ऊ, यो, त्यो (f.)	गर् + -दै छे	=	गर्दै छे	<i>she is doing</i>
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (m.)	गर् + -दै छन्	=	गर्दै छन्	<i>he is doing</i>
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (f.)	गर् + -दै छिन्	=	गर्दै छिन्	<i>she is doing</i>
यी, ती, उनीहरू etc.	गर् + -दै छन्	=	गर्दै छन्	<i>they are doing</i>

जानु **jānu** to go

म	जा + - -दै छु	=	जाँदै छु	<i>I am going</i>
हामी, हामीहरू	जा + - -दै छौं	=	जाँदै छौं	<i>we are going</i>
तँ	जा + - -दै छस्	=	जाँदै छस्	<i>you are going</i>
तिमी, तिमीहरू	जा + - -दै छौ	=	जाँदै छौ	<i>you are going</i>
ऊ, यो, त्यो (m.)	जा + - -दै छ	=	जाँदै छ	<i>he is going</i>
ऊ, यो, त्यो (f.)	जा + - -दै छे	=	जाँदै छे	<i>she is going</i>
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (m.)	जा + - -दै छन्	=	जाँदै छन्	<i>he is going</i>
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (f.)	जा + - -दै छिन्	=	जाँदै छिन्	<i>she is going</i>
यी, ती, उनीहरू etc.	जा + - -दै छन्	=	जाँदै छन्	<i>they are going</i>

The *continuous past* tense is used to describe what was actually going on at a particular time, and is the exact equivalent of English verb phrases such as *I was going, they were watching, we were eating*. It is formed by adding the invariable ending -दै to the present tense base of a verb to create the Nepali for *going / watching / eating*, just as in the continuous present tense. Instead of ending with छ, however, the verb phrase must end with the थि- form of the past tense of हुनु, meaning *was* or *were*. With High pronouns, these tenses end with हुनुहुन्छ in the present and हुनुहुन्थ्यो in the past.

### Continuous present

हाम्रा साथीहरू गीत गाउँदै छन् ।  
बहिनी कविता पाठ गर्दै छे ।

*Our friends are singing a song.*  
*Younger sister is reading out a poem.*

आमा समाचार पत्र हेर्दै हुनुहुन्छ ।

*Mother is looking at the newspaper.*

### Continuous past

हाम्रा साथीहरू ठट्टा गर्दै थिए ।  
बहिनी पूजा गर्दै थिई ।

*Our friends were joking.*  
*Younger sister was performing puja.*

आमा चिया पकाउँदै हुनुहुन्थ्यो ।

*Mother was making tea.*

Theoretically, the negative form of these tenses should be created by changing छ to छैन, थियो to थिएन, and so on. But in real life these forms are very rarely used. For instance, if someone asks: तपाईं काम गर्दै हुनुहुन्छ ? *are you working?*, and in fact you are simply reading a book, your answer should be along the lines of होइन, म किताब पढ्दै छु *No, I'm reading a book.*

There is a specialized continuous present form of छ *is*. This is used to say that something exists in a particular place, contrary to a listener's expectations, or to state or emphasize the fact of its existence plainly. It occurs only in the singular form छदै छ:

भाखिर, पोखरामा हाम्रो घर छदै छ ।

*After all, we do have a house Pokhara.*

काठमाडौंमा विमानस्थल छदै छ नि !

*There is an airport in Kathmandu, you know!*

**EXERCISE 33** Change the tense of the verb in the following sentences into the continuous present:

- १ तपाईं अखबार पढ्नुहुन्छ ?
- २ भाइ किताब पढ्छ ।
- ३ म बाहिर जान्छु ।
- ४ उनीहरू नेपाली भाषा बोल्छन् ।
- ५ अब ऊ त्यही कलमले चिठी लेख्छ ।

**EXERCISE 34** Change the tense of the verb in the following sentences into the continuous past, and make any other changes to the sentences that thus become necessary:

- १ बुवाले अखबार पढ्नुभयो ।
- २ तिमिले त्यो किताब पढ्छौ ?
- ३ मैले जापानी भाषा सिकेँ ।
- ४ उनीहरूले टी० भी० हेरे ।
- ५ बुवाले बारीमा के गर्नुभयो ?

### 65 Which one? This one! The uses of -चाहिं

The word चाहिं is frequently added to adjectives, or to words such as यो, त्यो, कुन to replace a noun. In this context it can be understood to mean *one*:

अग्लोचाहिं	<i>the tall one</i>	त्योचाहिं	<i>that one</i>
रातोचाहिं	<i>the red one</i>	योचाहिं	<i>this one</i>
कुनचाहिं ?	<i>which one?</i>		



तपाईंको घर कुनचाहिं हो ? मेरो घर ऊ त्यो अग्लोचाहिं हो । *Which one is your house? My house is that tall one over there.*

तपाईंले कुनचाहिं किन्नुभयो ? सस्तोचाहिं किनें । *Which one did you buy? I bought the cheap one.*

The second usage of चाहिं is contrastive. Here it means as for:

म रातो बङ्गला स्कूल जान्छु । दाईचाहिं स्कूल जानुहुन्न, अफिस जानुहुन्छ । *I go to Rato Bangala School. As for elder brother, (he) does not go to school, he goes to the office.*

यो मान्छे बाहुन हो, त्योचाहिं नेवार हो । *This man is a Brahmin, but that one is a Newar.*

## 66 Other forms of the conjunctive participle

There are two other forms of conjunctive participle which mean much the same as, but are used less frequently than the -एर participle. These forms end in -ई -i and -ईकन -ikana:

Verb		cj. ptc. 1	cj. ptc. 2	cj. ptc. 3	
गर्नु	to do	गरेर	गरी	गरीकन	doing, having done
हिंड्नु	to walk	हिंडेर	हिंडी	हिंडीकन	walking, having walked
लिनु	to take	लिएर	लिई	लिईकन	taking, having taken
जानु	to go	गएर	गई	गईकन	going, having gone
हुनु	to be	भएर	भई	भईकन	being, having become

The negative forms of all participles are formed simply by adding the prefix न- *na-* to the affirmative form:

cj. ptc. 1	cj. ptc. 2	cj. ptc. 3	
नगरेर	नगरी	नगरीकन	not doing, not having done
नहिंडेर	नहिंडी	नहिंडीकन	not walking, not having walked
नलिएर	नलिई	नलिईकन	not taking, not having taken
नगएर	नगई	नगईकन	not going, not having gone
नभएर	नभई	नभईकन	not being, not having become

In practice, affirmative forms almost always take the -एर ending, while negative forms most usually take the -ईकन ending. Because ईकन is the longest of the three possible endings, it is emphatic. Consider the differences between the following pairs of sentences:

म भात खाएर बाहिर गएँ ।

*I ate and went out.*

म भात नखाईकन बाहिर गएँ ।

*I went out without having eaten.*

The form ending in -i is less commonly used, though it is obligatory in certain idiomatic expressions:

तपाईंसँग नभेटे हुँदैन ।

*I simply have to meet you ('having not met you it will not be all right').*

मेरी छोरीलाई सिनेमा नगई सुख छैन !

*My daughter simply has to go to the cinema (literally, if my daughter does not go to the cinema there is no happiness).*

आयो दसैं ढोल बजाई, गयो दसैं रिन बोकाई ।

*Dasain came beating the drum, Dasain left, having given us debts to bear.\**

*Note \** A proverb. ढोल बजाउनु *to play a drum*; बोकाई is from the verb बोकाउनु, which is the causative of बोक्नु *to carry*. Dasain is Nepal's most important annual Hindu festival.

Incidentally, Nepali poets are blessed by this wealth of choice, which makes it much easier for them to adjust the number of beats in a line of verse.

मेरा छोराछोरीहरू हात धोएर भात खान्छन् । *My children wash their hands before they eat. It's not good to eat without washing your hands.*

उनी नुहाएर सुत्छिन् । ननुहाईकन कहिल्यै पनि सुत्दिनन् । *She takes a shower before she goes to bed. She never goes to bed without showering first.*

**EXERCISE 35** Construct sentences that state that each of the people in column 1 performed each of the verbs in column 3 *without* performing the verb in column 2, thus producing 12 different sentences:

1

उनका छोराहरू  
मेरी आमा  
तिमी  
रामे  
रामेकी दिदी  
म

2

भात खानु

3

चिठी लेख्नु  
मन्दिर जानु

## 67 Expressions of age

There are several ways in which a person's age is expressed in Nepali. The most straightforward is simply to define a person's age using हो :

मेरो छोराको उमेर बीस वर्ष हो ।  
संजयको बुवाको उमेर अस्सी वर्ष हो ।

*My son's age is 20 years.*  
*Sanjay's father's age is 80 years.*

More commonly, however, a person is described as being of a certain age, using the possessive -को :

मेरी जेठी छोरी बाइस वर्षकी हो ।

*My eldest daughter is  
22 years old.*

म चालीस वर्षको हुँ र मेरी श्रीमती  
उनन्चालीस वर्षकी हुन् ।

*I am 40 years old and my  
wife is 39.*

In all of the above examples, the verb at the end of the sentence is equally likely to be the past tense भयो, indicating that this is the age that has been attained or reached by the person concerned:

मेरो छोराको उमेर बीस वर्ष भयो ।  
संजयको बुवाको उमेर अस्सी वर्ष भयो ।  
मेरी जेठी छोरी बाइस वर्षकी भई ।  
म चालीस वर्षको भएँ र मेरी श्रीमती उनन्चालीस वर्षकी भइन् ।

## 68 Further relationship terms

The various offspring of a family each has a title that indicates the relative status in terms of age. As average family size decreases, some of these titles are falling into disuse, but five are still quite common:

### Brothers or sons

जेठो  
माहिलो  
साहिलो  
काहिलो  
कान्छो

### Sisters or daughters

जेठी  
माहिली  
साहिली  
काहिली  
कान्छी

eldest  
second eldest  
third eldest  
fourth eldest  
youngest

These terms are primarily adjectives:

मेरो जेठो छोरा केही वर्षसम्म बिराटनगरमा बस्यो ।  
हिजो उसकी माहिली छोरीको बिहा भयो ।  
तपाईं मभन्दा तीन वर्ष जेठो हुनुहुन्छ ।

*My eldest son stayed in  
Biratnagar for some years.*  
*Yesterday his second  
daughter was married.*  
*You are three years older  
than me.*

Although जेठो is used to mean *older* or *senior to*, both कान्छो and सानो *small* can be used to mean *younger* or *junior to*.

तिमी मभन्दा तीन वर्ष कान्छो छौ ।  
तिमी मभन्दा तीन वर्ष सानो छौ ।

*You are three years younger  
than me.*

कान्छा and जेठा are often used rather like nicknames for children. कान्छा and कान्छी *youngest* can also be used to address or refer to young children whose names one does not know:

ए कान्छी, एक छिन यता आऊ !  
ए कान्छा, चिया ल्याऊ !

*Hey girl, come here a minute!*  
*Hey boy, bring the tea!*

# 10

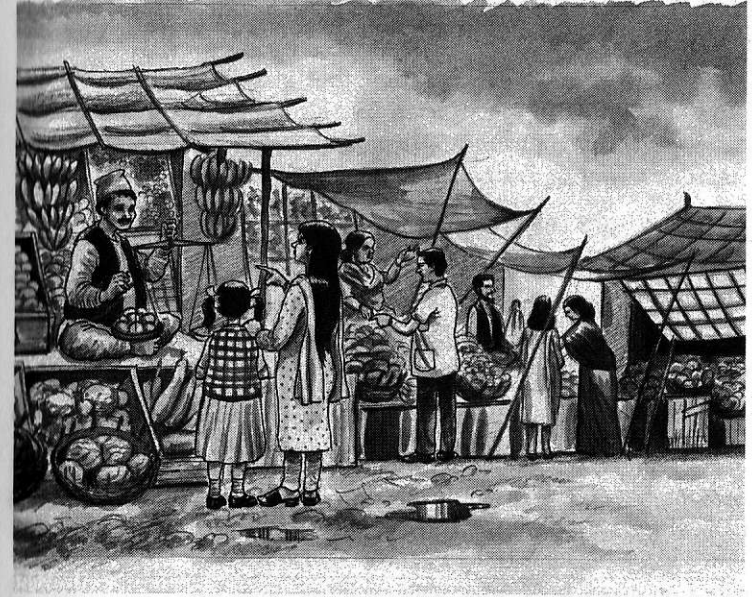
बजारमा

## in the market

**In this unit you will learn**

- how to discuss the prices and availability of various foods
- how to declare needs and wants

### 19 Out shopping



Anjali and her younger sister have gone to the vegetable market to buy food for the evening meal. Dil Bahadur, who has a stall at the market, sells them some of the items they need.

- अञ्जली साहूजी नमस्ते !  
दिल बहादुर नमस्ते दिदी । तपाईंलाई के चाहियो ?  
अञ्जली यहाँ तरकारी पाइन्छ ?  
दिल बहादुर पाइन्छ दिदी, किन पाईंदैन ? यो तरकारी-पसल हो नि ! मकहाँ हरेक किसिमको तरकारी सस्तोमा पाइन्छ ।  
अञ्जली आलुको दाम कति हो ?  
दिल बहादुर यो रातो आलु किलोको आठ रुपियाँ हो, त्यो सेतो आलु किलोको छ रुपियाँ हो । तपाईंलाई कस्तो आलु चाहियो ?  
अञ्जली कुनचाहिं मीठो हुन्छ नि ?  
दिल बहादुर रातो आलु मीठो हुन्छ रे तर सेतोचाहिं पनि ठीकै छ । कुनचाहिं लिनुहुन्छ दिदी?  
अञ्जली हामीलाई तीन किलो रातो आलु दिनुहोस् । प्याज छ ?  
दिल बहादुर छ । किलोको दस रुपियाँ ।  
अञ्जली एक किलो दिनुहोस् । रायोको साग मुठाको कति हो ?

- दिल बहादुर मुठाको पाँच रुपियाँ । तपाईंलाई कति चाहियो ?  
 अञ्जली एक मुठा मात्रै दिनुहोस् । अलि महंगो छ । चामल र दाल पनि छ ?  
 दिल बहादुर अहँ, छैन । यो तरकारी-पसल हो नि ! चामल र दालको लागि अर्को पसलमा जानुहोस् ।  
 अञ्जली अनि मासु ?  
 दिल बहादुर मासु पनि यहाँ पाइँदैन । मासु खिचापोखरीमा पाइन्छ । त्यहाँ माछा पनि पाइन्छ ।  
 अञ्जली हुन्छ । अब हामी उतै जान्छौं । कति भयो ?  
 दिल बहादुर एक छिन, म हिसाब गर्छु । ल, उनन्चालीस रुपियाँ भयो ।  
 अञ्जली मसँग सयको नोट मात्रै छ । चानचुन छ ?  
 दिल बहादुर छ, त्यो समस्या होइन । तर तपाईंहरूलाई खुर्सानी चाहिँदैन ?  
 अञ्जली अहँ, चाहिँदैन । आजलाई यति हो ।  
 दिल बहादुर कस्तो अनौठो कुरा ! सबै नेपालीहरूलाई खुर्सानी मन पर्छ, होइन ?  
 तपाईंहरूलाई पिनो खाना मीठो लाग्दैन ?  
 अञ्जली मीठो त लाग्छ, तर हाम्रो घरमा आजकल अँग्रेज साथीहरू छन् ।  
 उनीहरूलाई पिनो खाना मनै पर्दैन ।

चाहिनु *to be wanted, needed*

तरकारी *vegetables*

पाइनु *to be available*

किसिम *type, kind*

सस्तो *cheap*

आलु *potato(es)*

दाम *price*

प्याज *onion(s)*

रायो *mustard*

साग *greens*

मुठा *bunch*

चामल *uncooked rice*

दाल *lentils*

मासु *meat*

खिचापोखरी *Khichapokhari*

(an area of Kathmandu)

माछा *fish*

हिसाब गर्नु *to add up, calculate*

नोट *note* (of currency)

चानचुन *change*

समस्या *problem*

खुर्सानी *chilli pepper(s)*

यति *this much*

अनौठो *strange*

पिनो *spicy*

आजकल *nowadays*

- Anjali** Shopkeeper, hello!  
**Dil Bahadur** Hello sister. What do you want?  
**Anjali** Are vegetables available here?  
**Dil Bahadur** Yes they are, sister, why wouldn't they be? This is a vegetable shop, you know! In my shop every kind of vegetable is available cheaply.

- Anjali** How much are the potatoes?  
**Dil Bahadur** These red potatoes are eight rupees a kilo, those white potatoes are six rupees a kilo. Which kind of potatoes would you like?  
**Anjali** Well, which one tastes good?  
**Dil Bahadur** They say the red potatoes are tasty, but the white ones are fine as well. Which will you take, sister?  
**Anjali** Give us three kilos of red potatoes. Do you have any onions?  
**Dil Bahadur** Yes. Ten rupees a kilo.  
**Anjali** Give me one kilo. How much are the mustard greens per bunch?  
**Dil Bahadur** Five rupees a bunch. How much do you want?  
**Anjali** Just give me one bunch. It's a bit expensive. Do you have rice and lentils too?  
**Dil Bahadur** No, I don't. This is a vegetable shop, you know! Please go to another shop for rice and lentils.  
**Anjali** And meat?  
**Dil Bahadur** You can't get meat here either. You can get meat in Khichapokhari. You can get fish there too.  
**Anjali** All right. We'll go there now. How much do I owe you?  
**Dil Bahadur** One moment, I'll add it up. Right, it comes to 39 rupees.  
**Anjali** I have only a 100 rupee note. Do you have change?  
**Dil Bahadur** Yes, that's not a problem. But don't you want any chilli peppers?  
**Anjali** No, we don't. This is enough for today.  
**Dil Bahadur** What a strange thing! All Nepalis like chilli, don't they? Don't you like spicy food?  
**Anjali** Yes we do, but nowadays we have some English friends at our house. They don't like spicy food at all.

## Grammar

### 69 Needed and available: चाहिनु and पाइनु

The passive verbs पाइनु *to be obtained/be available* and चाहिनु *to be needed/be wanted* belong to a category of verbs called 'i-stem verbs'

because a short **i** vowel (इ) is added to the verb base to create them. It is a feature of Nepali, and other related languages, that verbs such as *to want, need, get* are expressed in passive terms: rather than *I need*, Nepali-speakers say *is necessary to/for me*; instead of *I got*, they will often say *was obtained to/for me*. The thing that is wanted, needed or obtained is made the subject of the passive verb, while the wanter, needer or obtainer becomes its indirect object, marked by the postposition -लाई.

चाहिनु

चाहिनु *to be needed / wanted* is the passive form of the verb चाहनु *to wish*. चाहनु is used mostly with other verbs: *I wish to leave, I want to learn English* (see **Grammar 110**), whereas चाहिनु is used when some *thing* is needed or wanted.

The habitual present tense of चाहिनु is used to denote needs that are regular or habitual:

जिन्दगीमा मान्छेहरूलाई के चाहिन्छ ? मान्छेहरूलाई पानी चाहिन्छ ।	<i>What do people need in life? People need water.</i>
मान्छेहरूलाई अरु के चाहिन्छ ? मान्छेहरूलाई खाने कुरा पनि चाहिन्छ ।	<i>What else do people need? People also need food.</i>
बिरामीहरूलाई के चाहिन्छ ? बिरामीहरूलाई औषधि चाहिन्छ ।	<i>What do sick people need? Sick people need medicine.</i>

To express the sense *I want something*, Nepali uses the simple past tense चाहियो, e.g.:

मलाई चिनी चाहियो । उसलाई पैसा चाहियो ।	<i>I want sugar. He wants money.</i>
-------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------

Such sentences denote a need or desire that is very much in the *present*, despite the *past* tense of the verb. The person who is speaking considers that this need or desire arose immediately *before* s/he gave utterance to it.

The negative form चाहिँदैन is grammatically in the present tense, but it is used as the negative form of both चाहिन्छ and चाहियो to mean *is not wanted* or *is not needed*:

ए दिदी, तपाईंलाई चिनी चाहियो ? अहँ, चाहिँदैन ।	<i>Hey elder sister, do you want some sugar? No I don't.</i>
---------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------

स्वस्थ मानिसलाई औषधि पटककै चाहिँदैन । *A healthy person has  
absolutely no need of  
medicine.*

पाइनु

The passive verb पाइनु means *to be obtained/be available*, and it is the passive form of the verb पाउनु *to get/obtain*. Its most common use has the sense of *to be available*:

ए दिदी, यहाँ बास पाइन्छ ? यहाँ पाइँदैन हजुर, उता गएर सोधनुहोस् ।	<i>Hey elder sister, is lodging available here? It is not available here sir, go and ask over there.</i>
नेपालमा गाईको मासु पाइँदैन तर राङ्गोको मासु पाइन्छ ।	<i>You cannot get beef in Nepal, but you can get buffalo meat.</i>

Sometimes the active and the passive form of the verb are equally appropriate. For instance, if you wish to inform someone that you received the letter they sent you, you can choose between the following:

अस्ति मैले तपाईंको चिठी पाएँ ।	<i>I received your letter the other day.</i>
अस्ति तपाईंको चिठी पाइयो ।	<i>Your letter was received the other day.</i>

If the passive form is used, it is normal to leave out a mention of who received the letter. This will be understood to be the person speaking unless it is stated otherwise.

**EXERCISE 36** Answer the following questions about **Dialogue 19**:

- १ दिल बहादुरको पसलमा तरकारी पाइन्छ ?
- २ रातो आलुको दाम कति हो ?
- ३ अनि सेतो आलुको दाम नि ?
- ४ दिल बहादुरको पसलमा मासु पाइन्छ ?
- ५ मासु कहाँ पाइन्छ त ?
- ६ अञ्जलीलाई खुसानी चाहिन्छ कि चाहिँदैन ?

## 70 Food vocabulary

तरकारी	<b>Vegetables</b>	फलफूल	<b>Fruits</b>
आलु	potato	अम्बा	guava
काँक्रो	cucumber	आँप	mango
काउली, फूलकोपी	cauliflower	कागती	lime
बन्दा कोपी	cabbage	केरा	banana
गोलभेंडा	tomato	निबुवा	lemon
चना	chickpea	सुन्तला	orange
प्याज	onion	स्याउ	apple
फर्सी	pumpkin		
मूला	radish	मासु	<b>Meat</b>
रामतोरियाँ	okra	कुखुराको मासु	chicken meat
		खसीको मासु	goat meat
साग	greens (of several varieties)	राङ्गोको मासु	buffalo meat
सिम्री	beans	सुँगुरको मासु	pig meat
		अदुवा	ginger
<b>Other foods</b>		खुर्सानी	chilli
अचार	chutney	चामल	rice (uncooked)
कोदो	millet	दही	yoghurt
घिउ	ghee	भटमास	soybean
		मकै	corn, maize
दाल	lentils	लसून	garlic
फूल	egg		
भात	rice (cooked)		
माछा	fish		
नौनी	butter		

## 71 Using -लाई instead of -को लागि

Although the principal use of -लाई is as an 'object-marker', it is often interchangeable with the postposition -को लागि for:

बुवाको लागि	or	बुवालाई	for father
एक महिनाको लागि	or	एक महिनालाई	for a month
मेरो लागि	or	मलाई	for me

यो कोसेली मेरी आमालाई हो ।  
उषालाई ।

*This gift is for my mother.  
For Usha (dedication on the  
title page of a book of  
poems).*

आजलाई तिमिललाई के के चाहियो ?

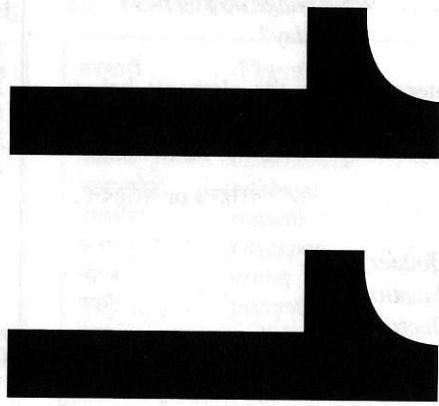
What things do you need  
for today?

**EXERCISE 37** Create ten sentences using the elements below, first stating whether people need the nouns listed in the middle column, and then whether buffaloes (भैंसीहरू) need the same things:

मान्छेहरूलाई  
भैंसीहरूलाई

पानी  
हावा  
घाँसपात (fodder)  
शिक्षा (education)  
बिजुली (electricity)

चाहिन्छ or चाहिँदैन



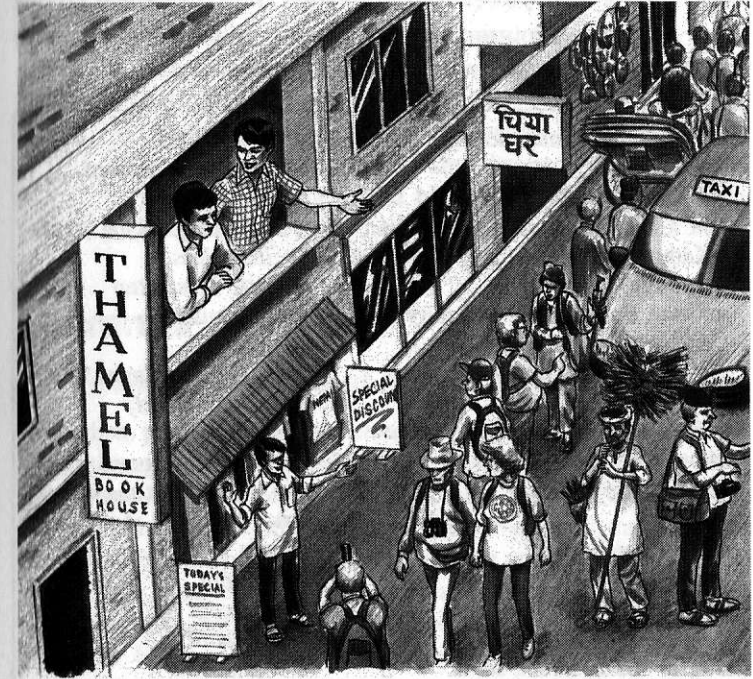
मलाई ठीक जस्तो लाग्छ  
it seems fine  
to me

In this unit you will learn

- how to describe feelings and impressions
- how to discuss resemblances

## 20 A place to stay in Kathmandu

Dipak and Mahesh have both come to Kathmandu to study at Trichandra College. Their first need was to find places to stay. They compare how each has fared in the search for accommodation.



दीपक तपाईले डेरा सजिलैसँग पाउनुभयो ?

महेश अहँ, पाइनँ । अलि गाह्रो भयो । बल्ल बल्ल ठमेलमा यो सानो कोठा पाइयो । तपाईले नि ?

दीपक मलाई खूब राम्रो भयो । म बाग बजारमा एकजना साथीकहाँ बस्छु । उसको घरदेखि त्रिचन्द्र कलेज पाँच मिनेटमा पुगिन्छ । कलेज इयालबाट नै देखिन्छ !

महेश ओहो, मेरो डेरा त अलिक टाढा पन्यो । इयालबाट कुनै कलेज देखिदैन । पसल, रेष्टुराँ र टूरिष्टहरू मात्रै देखिन्छन् र पप सँगैत मात्रै सुनिन्छ ।

दीपक डेरा तपाईलाई राम्रो लागेन जस्तो छ ।

महेश कोठा ठीकै छ । तर घरपति काठमाडौँ बाहिरको मान्छे हो । ऊ राम्रोसँग नेपाली बोल्दैन । कहिले काहीं ऊसँग कुरा मिल्दैन ।

दीपक कहाँको मान्छे हो ?

- महेश ऊ मानाङ्गको हो । तपाईं पनि एक पटक मानाङ्ग पुग्नुभयो, होइन ?  
 दीपक हो, म एक पटक गएँ । उतातिर नेपाली भाषा अलि कम बोल्दिन्छ किनभने त्यहाँका मानिसहरूको आफ्नै भाषा हुन्छ ।  
 महेश ठाउँ कस्तो लाग्यो त ?  
 दीपक मानाङ्ग त मलाई एकदम मन पर्‍यो । त्यहाँबाट हिमाल छर्लङ्ग देखिन्छ । हावाको सुई-सुई र खोला-नालाहरूको कलकल ध्वनी बाहेक अरु केही सुनिँदैन । ठमेल जस्तो होइन । एकदम सुन्दर र शान्त ठाउँ हो ।

डेरा lodgings, rented accommodation	घरपति landlord
सजिलैसँग easily	मिल्नु to match, accord, come together
बल्ल बल्ल eventually, in the end	मानाङ्ग Manang (central Nepal)
ठमेल a locality in north-central Kathmandu where many tourists stay	कम little, less
खूब really, very	बोल्नु to be spoken
बाग बजार Bag Bazaar: a locality in east-central Kathmandu	भाषा language
त्रिचन्द्र कलेज Trichandra College	ठाउँ place
पुगिनु to be reached	हिमाल the Himalayas
इयाल window	छर्लङ्ग clear, clearly
देखिनु to be seen, visible	हावा wind, air
अलिक slightly, a little	सुई-सुई sighing sound
कुनै any	खोला-नालाहरू rivers and streams
टुरिष्ट tourist	कलकल the sound of running water
पप pop	ध्वनी sound
सँगीत music	बाहेक except for
सुनिनु to be heard, audible	सुन्दर beautiful
लाग्नु to strike, affect, seem	शान्त peaceful
जस्तो like, similar to	

- Dipak** Did you find lodgings easily?  
**Mahesh** No, I didn't. It was rather difficult. In the end I found this little room in Thamel. What about you?  
**Dipak** It went very well for me. I will stay at a friend's place in Bag Bazaar. From his house you can reach Trichandra College in five minutes. You can even see the college from the window!  
**Mahesh** Oho, my lodgings are rather far away. You can't see any college from the window. You can see only shops, restaurants and tourists, and you can hear only pop music.  
**Dipak** It seems that you don't like the lodgings.

**Mahesh** The room's OK. But the landlord comes from outside Kathmandu. He doesn't speak Nepali well. Sometimes we misunderstand one another.

**Dipak** Where is he from?

**Mahesh** He's from Manang. You once went to Manang too, didn't you?

**Dipak** Yes, I went once. Over there they don't speak very much Nepali because the people have their own language.

**Mahesh** But how did you like the place?

**Dipak** I really liked Manang. You can see the Himalayas clearly from there. You can't hear anything except the sighing of the wind and the sound of running water. It's not like Thamel. It's a really beautiful and peaceful place.

## Grammar

### 72 Feelings: the use of nouns with लाग्नु

In English, people actively experience physical or mental conditions such as hunger, thirst or happiness: *I feel hungry, I am thirsty, I was happy*. In Nepali, however, the relationship between the condition and the person who experiences it is reversed, and the condition (*hunger, thirst, happiness*) becomes an active agent which *affects* the person who experiences it. That person becomes the indirect object of the condition, and is therefore marked by the suffix -लाई, while the condition becomes the subject of the verb लाग्नु which can be translated in various ways according to context but here means to *affect/be felt*.

As with चाहिनु, *to be wanted*, if the person in the sentence is experiencing the condition at the time the sentence is uttered, the verb लाग्नु must be in the simple past tense, to show that the condition has *affected* that person or *been felt* by him/her. Thus, an English phrase such as *I feel hungry* becomes in Nepali translation *me+object-marker hunger affected*:

मलाई भोक लाग्यो ।

*I feel hungry.*

If the person in the sentence experienced the condition in the past, the verb लाग्नु should be in one of the various past tenses, including the simple past tense. However, if the simple past tense is used, the time needs to be mentioned to avoid ambiguity:



हिजो मलाई भोक लाग्यो ।

*I felt hungry yesterday.*

If the verb लाग्नु is in the habitual present tense, it implies a regular or habitual occurrence:

हरेक दिन पाँच बजेतिर मलाई भोक लाग्छ । *I feel hungry at about 5 o'clock every day.*

In all such sentences, despite the fact that they translate as *I feel*, *you are*, etc., the grammatical subject of the verb is the condition that is experienced, not the person who experiences it, and so the verb लाग्नु *to be felt* can take only third person singular endings (लाग्छ/लाग्दैन or लाग्यो/लागेन).

हिजो मैले धेरै चिउरा खाएँ र मलाई तिर्खा लाग्यो ।

*Yesterday I ate a lot of chiurā and I was thirsty.*

तपाईंसँग भेटेर मलाई खुशी लाग्यो ।

*I am very pleased to have met you.*

राति उसलाई जाडो लाग्यो । केही दिनपछि उसलाई रुघा लाग्यो ।

*In the night he felt cold. A few days later he caught a cold.*

रामेकी आमा चैतमा खस्नुभयो र सबैजनालाई दुःख लाग्यो । \*

*Rame's mother died in (the month of) Chait and everyone was sad.*

मलाई मध्यराततिर निद्रा लाग्यो ।

*I fell asleep around midnight.*

Note \* खस्नु, literally *to fall*, is used as an honorific verb meaning *to die*. The non-honorific verb meaning *to die* is मर्नु.

In statements of general fact, the person or people affected need not always be mentioned:

पूस महिनामा जाडो लाग्छ ।

*In the month of Pus one feels cold.*

यहाँका बसहरूमा कहिले काहीं उकुस-मुकुस लाग्छ ।

*On the buses here one sometimes feels suffocated.*

Another meaning of लाग्नु is *to apply* in a more literal, physical sense:

मेरो कमिजमा हिलो लाग्यो ।

*My shirt became muddy.*

घरमा आगो लाग्यो ।

*The house caught fire.*

**EXERCISE 38** Construct sentences that say that the following people felt, experienced or contracted the following things:

Example: म

१ तपाईं

२ दिदी

३ रामेकी बहिनी

४ मेरो दाइ

५ बुवा

६ तिमि

७ हामी

८ म

९ केटी

१० छोरा

११ वहाँ

१२ रामे

*happiness* (खुशी)

= मलाई खुशी लाग्यो ।

*thirst* (तिर्खा)

*hunger* (भोक)

*sadness* (दुःख)

*diarrhoea* (दिसा)

*tiredness* (थकाइ)

*coldness* (जाडो)

*a headcold* (रुघा)

*a cough* (खोकी)

*embarrassment* (लाज)

*sleep* (निद्रा)

*fear* (डर)

*liquor* (रक्सी)

### 73 How do you like Nepal? Using adjectives with लाग्नु

The verb लाग्नु occurs with adjectives with the basic sense of *to strike one as*, or *to seem*, and the person affected by the verb takes the postposition -लाई. The question कस्तो लाग्यो? means *what did you think of it?*, *how did you like it?* or *how did you find it?* with reference to a particular point in time:

(तपाईंलाई) नेपाल कस्तो लाग्यो ?

*How did you like Nepal?*

नेपाल मलाई धेरै राम्रो लाग्यो ।

*I liked Nepal very much.*

अंग्रेजी भाषा कस्तो लाग्यो ?

*How did you find the English language?*

मलाई असाध्य गाह्रो लाग्यो ।

*I found it very difficult indeed.*

अनि जापानी भाषा कस्तो लाग्यो ?

*And how did you find Japanese?*

त्यो भाषा झन् गाह्रो लाग्यो ।

*I found that language even harder.*

The question कस्तो लाग्छ? with the verb लाग्नु in the habitual present tense means *what do you think of it?* or *how do you like it?* in more general terms. Contrast the following pairs:

हिजो रातिको खाना कस्तो लाग्यो ?

*How did you find the food last night?*

नेपाली खाना कस्तो लाग्छ ?

*What do you think of Nepali food?*

त्यो उपन्यास कस्तो लाग्यो ?

How did you like that novel?

नेपाली साहित्य तपाईंलाई कस्तो लाग्छ ?

How do you find Nepali literature?

**EXERCISE 39** Construct sentences that say that the people in the left-hand column did **not** find the things in the central column to be as described in the right-hand column.

Example

तपाईं	this food	good-tasting = तपाईंलाई यो खाना मीठो लागेन ।
१ म	that song	sweet-sounding (मीठो)
२ रामेकी आमा	his village	strange (अनौठो)
३ उनीहरू	Japanese	difficult
४ बुबा	India	nice
५ मेरो भाइ	Nepali	easy

## 74 More passive verbs

Every transitive verb in Nepali can, at least in theory, produce a passive 'i-stem' counterpart:

### Examples of active and passive verbs

बोल्नु	to speak	बोलिनु	to be spoken
देख्नु	to see	देखिनु	to be seen
सुन्नु	to hear	सुनिनु	to be heard
बुझ्नु	to understand	बुझिनु	to be understood
भन्नु	to say	भनिनु	to be said
खानु	to eat	खाइनु	to be eaten

There are also a few intransitive verbs that can do the same:

पुग्नु	to arrive	पुगिनु	to be reached
--------	-----------	--------	---------------

जापानमा नेपाली भाषा बुझिंदैन ।

In Japan the Nepali language is not understood.

भनिन्छ एउटा भूत यहाँ हरेक रात आउँछ ।

It is said (that) a ghost comes here every night.

नेपाल सँसारको एकमात्र हिन्दू राज्य हो । त्यस कारणले यहाँ गाईको मासु खाईंदैन ।

Nepal is the world's only Hindu kingdom. For that reason, beef is not eaten here.

Often the passive form of the verb is used instead of the active form to indicate that something is or is not possible: सुनिन्छ *can be heard*, is audible, देखिन्छ *can be seen*, is visible:

मेरो स्वर त्यहाँबाट सुनिन्छ कि सुनिंदैन ? *Can you or can you not hear my voice from there?*

नगरकोटबाट सगरमाथा राम्रोसँग देखिन्छ । *From Nagarkot, Everest is easily visible.*

अब हाम्रो गाउँ एक घण्टाभित्र पुगिन्छ । *Now our village can be reached within one hour.*

## 75 Similar to: जस्तो

जस्तो is a member of the group of words that also includes यस्तो *like this*, उस्तो or त्यस्तो *like that*, and कस्तो *like what ? / how?* It is used in two slightly different ways:

जस्तो can be used as a postposition to mean *similar to* or *like*:

मजस्तो मान्छे ।

A person like me.

तपाईंको छोरा मेरो भाइजस्तो छ ।

Your son is like my younger brother.

तपाईंहरूको भाषा नेपालीजस्तो सुनिन्छ ।

Your language sounds like Nepali.

The following phrases can also be appended to a statement to make it less categorical:

... जस्तो छ ।

... it seems

... जस्तो मलाई लाग्छ ।

... it seems to me

... जस्तो मलाई लाग्यो ।

... it seemed to me

आज पानी पर्दैन जस्तो छ ।

It looks like it won't rain today.

ऊ आज आउँछ जस्तो मलाई लाग्दैन ।

It doesn't seem to me that he will come today.

नेपाल एउटा भूस्वर्ग हो जस्तो मलाई लाग्यो । *It seemed to me that Nepal was a heaven on earth.*

## 76 Making adjectives into adverbs

Adjectives (words that describe nouns) can be made into adverbs (words that describe the actions of a verb) in a variety of ways. Some have the postposition -सँग added to them:

छिटो  
ढिलो

quick  
slow

छिटोसँग  
ढिलोसँग

quickly  
slowly

सजिलो	easy	सजिलोसँग	easily
राम्रो	good	राम्रोसँग	well

Some adjectives can also be made into adverbs simply by emphasizing them:

छिटो	quick	छिटै	quickly
------	-------	------	---------

Others can be made into adverbs by adding the postposition -ले to them:

गाह्रो	difficult	गाह्रोले	with difficulty
मुश्किल	difficult	मुश्किलले	with difficulty

The two sets of adverbs in the following box are derived from the set of adjectives to their left:

Adjective		Adverb		
यस्तो	like this	यसरी or	यसो	in this manner
त्यस्तो or उस्तो	like that	त्यसरी or उसरी	त्यसो or उसो	in that manner
जस्तो	similar to	जसरी or	जसो	similarly
कस्तो	like what?	कसरी or	कसो	how?

The ubiquitous adjective राम्रो can also take the adverbial form राम्ररी.

त्यो काम मुश्किलले गरियो ।

*That work was done with difficulty.*

यो अक्षर यसरी लेख्नुहोस् ।

*Write this letter like this.*

त्यो मान्छे जर्मन हो तर नेपाली राम्ररी बोल्छ । *That man is German but he speaks Nepali well.*

**EXERCISE 40** Insert -लाई or -ले in the gaps in the following sentences:

- १ म \_\_\_\_\_ तिर्खा लागेन ।
- २ मेरो भाइ \_\_\_\_\_ एउटा किताब किन्यो ।
- ३ उस \_\_\_\_\_ मेरो घर राम्रो लाग्यो ।
- ४ मेरी आमा \_\_\_\_\_ थकाइ लाग्यो ।
- ५ हामीहरू \_\_\_\_\_ गीत गायौं ।
- ६ उस \_\_\_\_\_ दाहिने हात \_\_\_\_\_ भात खायो ।
- ७ वहाँ \_\_\_\_\_ चार बजेतिर सधैं निद्रा लाग्छ ।
- ८ तपाईं \_\_\_\_\_ पोखरा कस्तो लाग्यो ?
- ९ म \_\_\_\_\_ रक्सी लागेन ।
- १० हामी \_\_\_\_\_ धेरै रक्सी खायौं ।

**EXERCISE 41** Translate into Nepali:

- 1 The Himalayas can be seen from my window.
- 2 The Magar language is spoken around Pokhara.
- 3 Your (High) voice cannot be heard from here.
- 4 Your (Middle) village will not be reached in an hour.
- 5 It is said (that) there is a witch (**boksi**) in that house.
- 6 In Tibet the Nepali language is sometimes understood.
- 7 Please walk slowly (High). We'll reach the village easily now.
- 8 I am very happy to have met your (High) son. He seemed like a very clever (**calak**) boy to me.

# 12

## where has he gone? ऊ कता गएको छ ?

In this unit you will learn

- how to use the completed tenses
- how to state the time of day
- how to report what others have said
- how to use verb forms to specify causes

## 21 A late start

The Paudel family have overslept, and to make matters worse Father has lost his watch and they do not know what time it is.

- लक्ष्मी बा, बा, अहिले कति बज्यो ?  
बा थाहा छैन छोरी । शायद आठ बजेको होला । भाइ उठेको छैन ?  
लक्ष्मी उठेको छैन बा । अझ पनि आफ्नै कोठामा छ ।  
बा उसलाई उठाऊ अब । पहिला तिमी छिटो तल गएर पसलको भित्ते-घडी हेरेर आऊ त ।  
लक्ष्मी हवस् । पहिला म घडी हेरेर आउँछु अनि त्यसपछि मात्र भाइलाई उठाउँछु ।  
बा उमा, मेरो घडी कता पन्यो ? तिमिले देख्यौ ?  
आमा खै, कुन्नि मैले त देखिनँ । तपाईंले हिजो कुन कोट लाउनुभयो ? ऊ त्यो कालो कोट, होइन ? त्यसको भित्री खल्लीमा छाम्नुहोस् त । त्यहाँ छ कि ?  
लक्ष्मी बा ! बा ! आठ बजेको होइन, पौने नौ बजेको छ ।  
बा अहो आज साह्रै ढिलो भयो । तिम्रो भाइ उठेको छैन अहिलेसम्म ? खोइ चिया बनाएनौ तिमीहरूले ?  
लक्ष्मी पानी भरखर उम्लेको छ । अब म तुरुन्तै बनाउँछु ।  
आमा लक्ष्मी, ए लक्ष्मी ! धोबी आएन अहिलेसम्म ?  
लक्ष्मी आएको छैन, आमा । तपाईंले उसलाई मेरो नयाँ सारी दिनुभएन ?  
आमा दिएको छैन छोरी, तिम्रो भाइको स्कूलको लुगा मात्रै दिएँ ।  
लक्ष्मी ठीकै छ नि । आज आइतवार हो । भाइको स्कूल छुट्टी छदैं छ । भरेसम्म लुगा ल्याउँछ नि । ल, चिया तयार भयो, आउनुहोस् । बा पनि आउनुहोस् ।  
आमा ल, ल, बाबुछोरी चिया खानुहोस् । म भाइलाई पनि उठाएर ल्याउँछु ।

बा *father, dad*

अहिले *now*

बज्नु *to ring, strike*

शायद *perhaps*

होला *it might be* (see Grammar 92 on होला)

अझ पनि *still, even now*

उठाउनु *to rouse, lift up*

पहिला *first* (adverb)

तल *down, below*

भित्ते-घडी *wall clock*

खै *well; I don't know*

कुन्नि *who knows? search me!*

कोट *coat*

लाउनु *to wear*

भित्री *inner*

खल्ली *pocket*

छाम्नु *to feel with the hand*

पौने *a quarter to*

खोइ *well; I don't know*

उम्लनु *to come to the boil*

तुरुन्तै *immediately*

धोबी *laundryman*

सारी *sari; woman's dress*

लुगा *clothes*

भरे *this evening*

बाबुछोरी *father and daughter*

- Lakshmi** Father, Father, what time is it now?  
**Father** I don't know, daughter. Perhaps it's 8 o'clock. Is your brother not up yet?  
**Lakshmi** No he's not. He is still in his own room.  
**Father** Get him up now. But first go quickly downstairs, look at the wall clock in the shop and come back.  
**Lakshmi** Very well. First I'll look at the clock, and only after that I'll get brother up.  
**Father** Uma, where's my watch got to? Have you seen it?  
**Mother** Well I don't know, I haven't seen it. Which coat did you wear yesterday? It was that black coat over there, wasn't it? Feel inside its inner pocket, then. Is it there?  
**Lakshmi** Father, father! It's not 8 o'clock, it's a quarter to nine!  
**Father** Oho, we're really late today. Hasn't your brother got up yet? And haven't you made any tea?  
**Lakshmi** The water has only just boiled. Now I'll make it right away.  
**Mother** Lakshmi, oh Lakshmi! Hasn't the washerman come yet?  
**Lakshmi** No he hasn't, mother. You haven't given him my new sari?  
**Mother** No I haven't, daughter, I only gave him your brother's school clothes.  
**Lakshmi** Then that's all right, you know. Today's Sunday. It's brother's school holiday. He'll bring the clothes by this evening, you know. There, the tea's ready, please come. Father please come too.  
**Mother** There, there, father and daughter drink your tea. I'll get brother up and bring him too.

## Grammar

### 77 The completed present tense

This tense describes an event or action that happened in the past but still has some bearing on the present because nothing has happened since to supersede or negate it. It is the equivalent of the English *he has come, she has seen, they have done*, but in Nepali the English *has* is replaced by the Nepali *for is or are* (छ, छस्, छौ etc.)

The tense consists of two words. Technically, the first word is called the 'perfect participle', because it describes an action that has been

'perfected' or 'completed'. We shall see later that this participle can be used on its own and in other tenses too. It is formed very simply by adding the ending -एको -eko to the past tense base of the verb or, in the case of the High forms, by adding -भएको -bhaeko to the dictionary form of the verb. The -एको participle describes the condition of its subject in terms of something it has done or has been in the past.

#### High forms

गर्नु + भएको	= गर्नुभएको
बस्नु + भएको	= बस्नुभएको
बिर्सनु + भएको	= बिर्सनुभएको
आउनु + भएको	= आउनुभएको
जानु + भएको	= जानुभएको
रनु + भएको	= रनुभएको
हुनु + भएको	= हुनुभएको

#### All other forms

गर्- + एको	= गरेको	done
बस्- + एको	= बसेको	seated
बिर्स- + एको	= बिर्सको	forgotten
आ- + एको	= आएको	come
ग- + एको	= गएको	gone
रो- + एको	= रोएको	cried
भ- + एको	= भएको	been

The second word in the completed present tense is the appropriate form of the verb छ, according to the number and gender of the subject of the verb. If the verb is transitive, the subject must take -ले because grammatically this is a past tense:

मैले गरेको छु ।  
 तिमी सुतेको छैनौ ।  
 उसले किनेको छ ।  
 हामीले बिर्सका छौं ।  
 उनीहरू गएका छैनन् ।

*I have done.*  
*You are not asleep.*  
*He has bought.*  
*We have forgotten.*  
*They have not gone.*

The -एको participle can take feminine and plural endings, just as adjectives do. If the subject of the verb is feminine, the ending should be -एकी -ekī:

बहिनी स्कूल गएकी छे ।

*Younger sister has gone to school.*

If the subject is plural the ending should change to -एका -ekā:

केटाहरूले नमस्ते भनेका छन् ।

*The boys have said hello.*

These rules are observed consistently in written Nepali, but less consistently in the spoken language. As always, the High forms are the same regardless of the number and gender of the subject.

Although the completed present tense generally refers to an action that was completed in the past, certain verbs must be translated into the continuous present in English. These verbs should be thought of as verbs that indicate a specific limited action (for instance, बस्नु to sit down and सुत्नु to go to bed or to fall asleep), or that refer to the beginning of an action:

ऊ मेचमा बसेको छ ।

*He is sitting on a chair (he has sat down on a chair).*

पानी परेको छ ।

*It is raining (it has begun to rain).*

मेरो टाउको दुखेको छ ।

*My head is hurting (my head has begun to hurt).*

पानी उम्लेको छ ।

*The water is boiling (the water has come to the boil).*

ऊ माथिको कोठामा सुतेको छ ।

*He is sleeping (he has gone to bed/fallen asleep) in the upstairs room.*

The completed present tense is often used to give negative answers to questions that have been posed in the simple past tense, because the simple past (as explained earlier) does sometimes mean much the same as the completed present:

Q को आयो ?

*Who has come?*

A कोही आएको छैन ।

*No one has come.*

In everyday speech, the -एको -eko ending is often dropped in the negative, and if the base ends in -a or -ā the vowel is lengthened:

कोही आ'छैन ।

*No one has come.*

म गा'छैन ।

*I have not gone.*

#### EXERCISE 42 Translate into Nepali:

- 1 Elder brother has gone to Darjeeling.
- 2 Sister-in-law has stayed in Kathmandu.
- 3 Has anyone come to your (High) house? Your (Middle) younger brother has come, but apart from him nobody has come.
- 4 The water hasn't boiled yet.
- 5 I have given your clothes to the washerman.
- 6 He (Low) has bought five new books.

**EXERCISE 43** Answer the following questions with (a) a simple past affirmative and (b) a completed present negative:

#### Example

कान्छाले भाँडा माइयो ?

a अँ, माइयो । (Yes he has).

(Has Kānchā scrubbed the pots?) b अहँ, माइएको छैन । (No he hasn't).

1 दाइ दार्जीलिङ्ग जानुभयो ?

2 भाउज्यू काठमाडौँ आउनुभयो ?

3 तपाईंको घरमा त्यो मान्छे आयो ?

4 तिमिले भात खायौ ?

#### 78 Stating the time of day using बज्यो

बज्यो is the simple past tense of the verb बज्नु, to ring or to strike. Literally, बज्यो means it struck or it rang, and its subject is a number: three rang, half past four rang, etc. The verb remains singular (that is, it ends in -यो in the affirmative) in all instances.

Although it is grammatically in the past tense, बज्यो is used to ask or tell the present time. The negative form is usually बजेको छैन.

अहिले चार बज्यो ?

*Is it 4 o'clock now?*

अँ, चार बज्यो ।

*Yes, it is 4 o'clock.*

or

अहँ, चार बजेको छैन ।

*No, it is not 4 o'clock.*

It is very important to distinguish between the verb ... बज्यो ... bajyo, it is... o'clock now, and the adverb ... बजे ... baje, at... o'clock:

तपाईं कति बजे घर जानुहुन्छ ?

*At what time do you go home?*

म साढे पाँच बजे जान्छु ।

*I go at half past 5.*

अहिले सवा पाँच बज्यो, होइन ?

*It's a quarter past 5 now, isn't it?*

हो, म पन्ध्र मिनेटपछि जान्छु ।

*Yes, I'll go in ('after')*

*15 minutes.*

Stating times that include minutes past or minutes to the hour (other than half and quarter hours) involves the use of two different forms of the verb बज्नु to ring: these are the -era participle बजेर and the infinitive form बज्नु plus the postposition -लाई:

पाँच बजेर बीस मिनेट ।

*Twenty minutes past 5.*

पाँच बज्नुलाई बीस मिनेट ।

*Twenty minutes to 5.*

**EXERCISE 44** Answer the following questions about the clockfaces below:

घडी नं० १ मा कति बज्यो ?

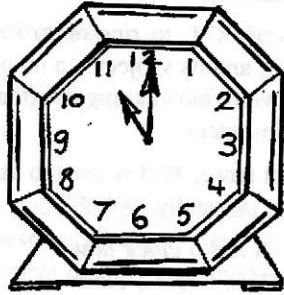
घडी नं० २ मा कति बज्यो ?

घडी नं० ३ मा कति बज्यो ?

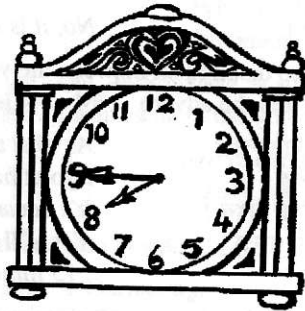
घडी नं० १ मा साढे दस बज्यो ? कति बज्यो त ?

घडी नं० २ बाह्र बज्यो ? कति बज्यो त ?

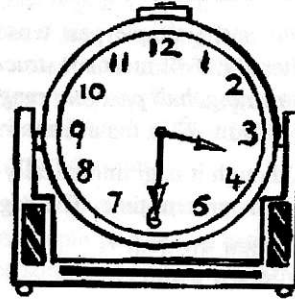
i.



iii.



ii.



## 22 Which countries have you visited?

Surya Prakash has come to visit Om Bahadur and his son Dhan Bahadur, and the conversation has turned to the subject of foreign travel. Dhan Bahadur relates an unfortunate experience he once had in London.

सूर्य प्रकाश तपाईं विदेशमा कहाँ कहाँ घुम्नुभएको छ ?

ओम बहादुर म भारतमा घुमेको छु र बर्मा पनि । तपाईं नि ?

सूर्य प्रकाश पोहोर सालसम्म म भारतसम्म मात्रै घुमेको थिएँ तर गएको पूस महिनामा म बेलायत गएँ । तपाईं यूरोप जानुभएको छैन ?

ओम बहादुर यूरोप त म गएको छैन । मेरो जेठो छोरा धन बहादुर दुई वर्ष अघि लण्डन पुगेको थियो कामको सिलसिलामा । ऊबाहेक हाम्रो परिवारको कोही पनि यूरोप गएको छैन ।

सूर्य प्रकाश तपाईंको छोरालाई लण्डन मन पन्यो त ?

ओम बहादुर साह्रै रमाइलो छ रे । अस्ति मात्रै म अलिपछि दोस्रो पटक बेलायत जान्छु भनेर भन्दै थियो । लण्डनका रमाइला अनुभवहरू बिर्सिको छैन उसले । तर लण्डन बसेको बेलामा उसलाई एउटा नरमाइलो घटना पनि भयो रे ।

सूर्य प्रकाश के भयो त ?

ओम बहादुर ए धने, यता आएर सूर्य प्रकाशजीलाई आफ्नो कथा सुनाऊ न !

धन बहादुर हवस् त बुवा । एक दिन मेरो काम साँझतिर सिद्धिएको थियो । मेरो डेरा अफिसबाट टाढा भएकोले र पानी परेकोले म बस चढेर त्यसैमा घर गएँ । बस हिडेको बेलासम्म खाली सीट नपाएकोले म अर्को मान्छेको छेउमा बसेँ । बीचबाटोमा छेउमा बसेको मान्छे उठेर गयो र त्यसको अलि बेरपछि बस कण्डक्टर आएर मसँग टिकटको पैसा माग्यो ।

सूर्य प्रकाश अँ, अनि के भयो ?

धन बहादुर छेउमा बसेको मानिसले मेरो झोलाबाट वालेट निकालेर भागेको थियो तर मैले केही पनि थाहा पाएको थिइनँ ।

सूर्य प्रकाश अनि त्यसपछि के भयो ?

धन बहादुर कण्डक्टर साह्रै असल मानिस थियो । उसले अबदेखि आफ्नो पैसा सुरक्षित ठाउँमा राख्नुहोस् भनेर मलाई सल्लाह दियो ।

सूर्य प्रकाश पैसाबाहेक अरु थोक त हराएको थिएन ?

धन बहादुर थिएन । पैसा मात्रै हरायो ।

ओम बहादुर अनि पैसा यसरी हराएर तिमीले एउटा उपयोगी पाठ सिक्‍यो, होइन त ?

धन बहादुर हजुर ! सिकें ।

विदेश <i>abroad</i>	कण्डक्टर <i>conductor</i>
घुम्नु <i>to travel</i>	टिकट <i>ticket</i>
बर्मा <i>Burma</i>	माग्नु <i>to ask for</i>
पोहोर साल <i>last year</i>	झोला <i>bag</i>
गएको <i>last, previous</i>	वालेट <i>wallet</i>
पूस <i>Pūs</i> (the name of a month)	निकाल्नु <i>to extract, take out</i>
यूरोप <i>Europe</i>	भाग्नु <i>to run away</i>
सिलसिला <i>course, process</i>	असल <i>of good character, honest</i>
अनुभव <i>experience</i>	सुरक्षित <i>secure</i>
घटना <i>incident</i>	सल्लाह <i>advice</i>
धने the familiar form of the son's name	थोक <i>thing, item</i>
कथा <i>story</i>	हराउनु <i>to be lost</i>
बेला <i>time, occasion</i>	उपयोगी <i>useful</i>
सीट <i>seat</i>	पाठ <i>lesson</i>
-को छेउमा <i>beside</i>	सिक्नु <i>to learn</i>

- Surya Prakash** To which places have you travelled abroad?  
**Om Bahadur** I have travelled in India and in Burma too. What about you?
- Surya Prakash** Up until last year I had travelled only as far as India, but last Pūs I went to England. Have you not visited Europe?  
**Om Bahadur** Europe is somewhere I haven't visited. My eldest son Dhan Bahadur got to London two years ago in the course of his work. Apart from him, no-one in our family has visited Europe.
- Surya Prakash** Did your son like London then?  
**Om Bahadur** He says it's very pleasant. Just the other day he was saying that after a little while he will go to London a second time. He hasn't forgotten the enjoyable experiences of London. But when he stayed in London one unpleasant incident apparently also occurred.
- Surya Prakash** What happened?  
**Om Bahadur** Oh Dhane, come here and tell Surya Prakash your story, won't you?
- Dhan Bahadur** Certainly, father. One day my work had finished around dusk. Because my lodgings were far from the office and because it was raining, I boarded a bus and went home in that. Because I couldn't find

an empty seat before the bus set off, I sat down beside another man. On the way, the man who was sitting beside me got up and left, and a little while later the bus conductor came and asked me for the money for the ticket.

- Surya Prakash** Yes, and then what happened?  
**Dhan Bahadur** The man who was sitting beside me had taken the wallet out of my bag and run away, but I had not known at all.
- Surya Prakash** And what happened after that?  
**Dhan Bahadur** The conductor was a very good man. He advised me, saying that I should from now on keep my money in a secure place.
- Surya Prakash** Apart from the money, no other thing was lost?  
**Dhan Bahadur** No. Only the money was lost.  
**Om Bahadur** And, having lost money like this, you learned a useful lesson, didn't you?  
**Dhan Bahadur** Yes, I did!

## Grammar

### 79 The completed past tense

The -एको participle is used with the appropriate form of the verb थियो (was, were) to describe an action that occurred in the past and does not necessarily tell us anything about the present. The technical name for this tense is the 'pluperfect'. Often, the sense is that the action or event described has been superseded or negated by some other action or event. This tense can usually be translated by using the English word *had*, but in Nepali the tense is used whenever the speaker feels that there is a certain remoteness between the event that is described and the present time. The following examples illustrate the contrast in meaning between the 'completed present' tense that takes छ and the 'completed past' tense that takes थियो:

म घर फर्केको छु ।

*I have returned home (and that is where I am now).*

म घर फर्केको थिएँ ।

*I had returned home (but I am not necessarily there any more).*



उसकी दिदीले बिहा गरेकी छैनन् ।

*His elder sister has not married (she is currently unmarried).*

उसकी दिदीले बिहा गरेकी थिइनन् ।

*His elder sister had not married (but this is not to say that she has not married since).*

मेरो छोराले यो किताब पढेको छैन ।

*My son has not read this book (and still hasn't read it).*

मेरो छोराले यो किताब पढेको थिएन ।

*My son had not read this book (but he might have read it by now).*

पानी परेको छ ।

*It is raining (it has begun to rain).*

पानी परेको थियो ।

*It was raining (it had begun to rain).*

मेरो टाउको दुखेको छ ।

*My head is hurting (my head has begun to hurt).*

मेरो टाउको दुखेको थियो ।

*My head was hurting (my head had begun to hurt).*

#### EXERCISE 45 Translate into Nepali:

- 1 My father had never been abroad.
- 2 In 1978 I went ('had gone') to Nepal for the first time.
- 3 They (Middle) were sitting in the bus station (**bas bisauni**) but the bus had not come.
- 4 It was raining but Rame had not brought his umbrella.
- 5 His (Low) head was hurting but he had not taken any medicine.
- 6 They (Middle) had come from Ilām but they had not brought any tea.

### 80 Reporting speech using भनेर

In English, when one reports what someone else has said, the usual construction is 's/he said that' following which one summarizes what was said: 'she said that she was going out'. In Nepali, however, speech is usually reported by quoting the actual words that a person has uttered: 'she said "I am going out"'. If a woman has told you that she will come to visit your mother tomorrow, in Nepali you would

report her words verbatim to your mother: 'the woman said "I will come to visit your mother tomorrow".'

The natural place for a Nepali verb is at the end of a Nepali sentence, and so the Nepali for *said* or *asked* or *told* usually comes after the words that are being quoted. In addition, the word for *said* or *asked* or *told* is usually preceded by the -एर -era participle of the verb भन्नु to say, (i.e. भनेर, but occasionally भनी) which serves the purpose of marking the end of the quotation. Speech marks are not usually used when reported speech is written down. The basic structure of a sentence that reports what someone has said is:

**quoted person + -ले — verbatim quote — भनेर — said / told / asked, etc.**

उसले तिम्रो नाम के हो भनेर मलाई सोध्यो । *He asked me what my name was.*

उसले टोपी लगाऊ भनेर केटालाई अह्लायो । *He ordered the boy to put his hat on.*

तिम्रो साथीले म आउँछु तर आमा आउनुहुन्न भनेर भनेको छ । *Your friend has said that he will come but his mother will not.*

If the person whose words are being quoted was making an enquiry of any kind, the quotation will end with the interrogative word कि to show that it was a question:

उसले आज तिम्रो बाहिर गयो कि भनेर मसँग सोध्यो । *He asked me whether I had been out today.*

मेरो गाइडले तपाईंलाई थकाइ लाग्यो कि भनी सोध्यो । *My guide asked whether I was tired.*

**EXERCISE 46** Report that the person in column A said the thing in column B to the person or persons in column C:

A	B	C
1 my younger brother	it won't rain today	said to father
2 that tall man	are you English?	asked me
3 mother	is your friend hungry?	asked my sister
4 the teacher	close your books	told the children
5 father	don't go out tomorrow	advised us

## 81 Because it is, because it was: the participle with -ले

The -एको -eko participle is used in combination with the word कारण (cause, reason) plus -ले (the subject-marking suffix introduced in Grammar 59) to show that the action of a verb is the cause of something else:

हिजो पानी परेको कारणले मैले एउटा छाता किनें ।  
Because it was raining yesterday I bought an umbrella.

टाउको दुखेको कारणले म दिनभरि घरै बसें ।  
Because I had a headache I stayed home all day.

The word कारण is very often dropped from this construction, leaving only the -एको participle plus -ले :

अमेरिकामा नेपाली साथी नभएकोले कृष्णलाई विरह लाग्यो ।  
Because he had no Nepali friend in America, Krishna felt lonely.

तातो चिया खानुभएकोले वहाँको जिब्रो पोल्यो ।  
Because he drank hot tea, his tongue got burned.

**EXERCISE 47** Combine the pairs of sentences to produce a single sentence, along the following lines:

*Example:* खाना चिसो छ । त्यसैले मैले खाइनें । = खाना चिसो भएकोले मैले खाइनें ।

- १ तपाईंले धेरै पिरो खाना खानुभयो । त्यसैले तपाईंलाई दिसा लाग्यो ।
- २ वहाँको पेट दुख्यो । त्यसैले वहाँ स्कूल जानुभएन ।
- ३ बाहिर गर्मी छ । त्यसैले हामी बाहिर जाँदैनौं ।
- ४ उसँग कलम छैन । त्यसैले उसले चिठी लेखेन ।
- ५ उनको श्रीमान बिरामी हुनुभयो । त्यसैले उनलाई दुःख लाग्यो ।

## 82 Using the -एको participle as an adjective

In English, sentences containing constructions such as 'the man who...' or 'the house where...' are very common, but in Nepali such constructions are rare. Instead, a phrase such as 'the man who came yesterday' becomes in Nepali 'the yesterday-came man' and 'the house where Ram lives' becomes 'the Ram-lived house':

हिजो आएको मान्छे *the man who came yesterday*  
Literally: yesterday-came man

राम बसेको घर *the house where Ram lives*  
Ram-lived house

तिमीले भनेका कुराहरू *the things you said*  
by-you-said things

पोहोर साल परेको पानी *the rain that fell last year*  
last-year-fallen rain

हामीहरू सुतेको बेला *the time we went to bed*  
we-slept time

गएको सोमवार *last Monday*  
gone Monday

In these phrases, the -एको participle behaves like an adjective, and its -o ending must change according to the number and gender of the nouns it describes:

हिजो आएको लोग्ने-मान्छे *the man who came yesterday*  
हिजो आएकी केटी *the girl who came yesterday*  
हिजो आएका केटाहरू *the boys who came yesterday*

देवकोटाले लेखेको चिठी कुनचाहिं हो ?  
*Which is the letter that Devkota wrote?*

तपाईंलाई भेटेको दिन अस्तित्व जस्तो लाग्छ ।  
*The day I met you seems like just the other day.*

पढे-लेखेका मान्छेहरू यस्ता किताबहरू पढ्दैनन् ।  
*Educated people do not read books like this.*

## 83 Ordinal numbers

The ordinal numbers (*first, second, third, etc.*) function as adjectives, just as they do in English. With five exceptions, they are all formed by adding the suffix -ौं to the number in question. Thus:

चार	<i>four</i>	चारौं	<i>fourth</i>
पाँच	<i>five</i>	पाँचौं	<i>fifth</i>
बीस	<i>20</i>	बीसौं	<i>20th</i>
तेत्तीस	<i>33</i>	तेत्तीसौं	<i>33rd</i>

The following numbers have special forms:

एक	<i>one</i>	पहिलो	<i>first</i>
दुई	<i>two</i>	दोस्रो	<i>second</i>
तीन	<i>three</i>	तेस्रो	<i>third</i>
छ	<i>six</i>	छैटौं	<i>sixth</i>
नौ	<i>nine</i>	नवौं	<i>ninth</i>

यो महाराजाधिराजको आठौं नेपाल-भ्रमण हो ।

*This is His Majesty's eighth tour of Nepal.*

असारको पहिलो दिनमा हाम्रो गाउँमा पहिरो *On the first day of Asar there had been a landslide in our village.*

पहिलो, *first*, can also be used as an adverb to mean *before* or *previously*, by changing its ending from *-o* to *-ā*:

तपाईं पहिला पनि नेपाल आउनुभयो ? *Have you visited Nepal previously as well?*  
होइन, यो मेरो लागि पहिलो पटक हो । *No, this is the first time for me.*

When it is added to certain large numbers, the suffix *-ँ* modifies their meanings in a rather different way:

सय	<i>hundred</i>	सयौं	<i>hundreds of</i>
हजार	<i>thousand</i>	हजारौं	<i>thousands of</i>
लाख	<i>hundred thousand</i>	लाखौं	<i>hundreds of thousands</i>
			<i>of ('lakhs of')</i>
करोड	<i>ten million</i>	करोडौं	<i>tens of millions</i>
			<i>of ('crores of')</i>

दोस्रो विश्व-युद्धमा लाखौं मान्छेहरू मरे । *Hundreds of thousands of people died in the Second World War. There were thousands of Nepali citizens among them too.*  
तीमध्ये हजारौं नेपाली नागरिकहरू पनि थिए ।

#### EXERCISE 48 Translate into Nepali:

- The guests who came yesterday are all English.
- It's raining outside. Take that umbrella you (Middle) bought in the bazaar last week.
- The month when you (Middle) arrived in Nepal is Baisākh.
- This is the tenth time that I have visited Nepal.
- The house that you (High, plural) stayed in is very old.
- Last Friday I had not received the letter you (High) wrote.
- He (Low) is not the man who came from India.
- This is not the present you (Middle) gave to mother.

13  
dear Raju ...  
प्रिय राजु...

#### In this unit you will learn

- how to say how long ago something happened
- how to talk about seeing or hearing actions performed by others
- how to discuss intentions and the meanings of words
- how to use dates

## 23 An exchange of letters

This text is adapted from a passage in TW Clark's *Introduction to Nepali*, first published in 1963.

काठमाडौं  
२०४५ / ९ / ९

प्रिय मित्र राजु

भोलिदेखि म स्कूल जाँदिन । आज स्कूलमा मेरो अन्तिम दिन थियो । ढोकानेर उभिएर मैले मभन्दा साना उमेरका केटाहरूले गट्टा खेलेको हेरेँ । कस्तो रमाइलो ! एउटा मास्टरले मलाई देखेर अबेर भयो किन घर नगएको भनेर सोध्नुभयो । मैले मुख फर्काएँ किनभने मेरा आँखाबाट आँसु बगेको थियो ।

बिस्तारै ढोकासम्म पुगेँ । ढोकाबाहिर एउटा गाइने उभिएको थियो । मैले बाल्यकालमा धेरै चोटि उसले गाएको र सारङ्गी बजाएको सुनेको थिएँ । मैले उसको हातमा अलिकति पैसा राखेर यतिका दिनसम्म स्कूलमा किन नआएको भनेर सोधेँ । म बिरामी भएँ, हैजा लागेर झण्डै मरेको हजुर भनेर भन्यो ।

बाले मलाई घरभित्र पसेको देख्नुभयो । किन यस्तो ढिलो भएको भनेर सोध्नुभयो । मैले जवाफ दिइँ तर वहाँले बुझ्नुभएको जस्तो थियो ।

तपाईंको चिठी नपाएको धेरै भयो । अब चाँडै लेख्नुहोला । तपाईं र तपाईंका प्रियजनलाई प्रेम र शुभकामना ।

तपाईंको मित्र, कुमार

दार्जीलिङ्ग  
२५ फेब्रेरी १९६९

प्रिय मित्र कुमार

तिमीले काठमाडौंबाट पठाएको चिठी पाएर खुशी लाग्यो । गएको महिनादेखि नै अब जवाफ लेख्छु लेख्छु भनेको तर हरेक दिन कुनै न कुनै काम परेकोले लेखिँनँ । यति ढिलो गरेकोमा मलाई माफी देऊ ।

तिमीले लेखेको स्कूलको अन्तिम दिनको बयान मर्मस्पर्शी थियो । मैले एकजना सम्पादक साथीलाई सुनाएँ । उनको नाम कुमार भण्डारी हो । उनले ज्यादै मन पराए । अलि लामो बयान लेखेर मलाई पठाऊ भनेका छन् । मनमा लागेको जे कुरा पनि लेख्नु भनेका छन् । कुमार भण्डारी तिम्रो दाइले चिनेका मान्छे हुन् क्यारे, होइन ? तर तिम्रो दाइसँग नभेटेको धेरै महिना भयो रे । उनी सिक्किमबाट बसाइँ सरेर आएका हुन् ।

आमालाई मेरो नमस्कार सुनाऊ । चिठी नलेखेकोमा म वहाँसँग क्षमा माग्छु । वहाँको दर्शन नपाएको पनि धेरै वर्ष भयो । कति वर्ष भयो सम्झना छैन ।

तिम्रो हितैषी, राजु

प्रिय *dear*

मित्र *friend*

नेर *near to*

उभिनु *to stand upright*

गट्टा *a game played with pebbles*

मास्टर *schoolmaster*

मुख *face*

फर्काउनु *to turn*

आँसु *tear(s)*

बगनु *to flow*

गाइने a member of a caste of itinerant  
village singers or minstrels

बाल्यकाल *childhood*

चोटि *time, turn*

सारङ्गी *fiddle, Nepali violin*

गाउनु *to sing*

बजाउनु *to play music*

बिरामी *ill*

हैजा *cholera*

झण्डै *almost*

मर्नु *to die*

पस्नु *to enter*

बुझ्नु *to understand*

प्रियजन *loved ones*

प्रेम *love*

शुभकामना *good wish(es)*

फेब्रेरी *February*

पठाउनु *to send*

जवाफ *reply*

लेख्नु *to write*

माफी *forgiveness*

बयान *account, description*

मन पराउनु *to like*

चिन्नु *to know (a person)*

क्यारे *I think*

क्षमा *forgiveness*

दर्शन पाउनु *to get to see someone*

(ultra-polite)

सम्झना *memory*

Kathmandu, 2045/9/9

Dear friend Raju,

From tomorrow I will not go to school. Today was my last day at school. I stood near the gate and watched boys younger than me playing with pebbles. What fun! A master saw me and asked me why I hadn't gone home, it was late. I turned my face away because tears were flowing from my eyes.

Slowly I reached the gate. A Gaine was standing outside the gate. In my childhood I had heard him singing and playing the fiddle many times. I put a little money in his hand and asked him why he hadn't been to the school for so many days. He said that he had been ill, that he had caught cholera and nearly died.

Father saw me enter the house. He asked me why I was so late. I did not answer him, but Father seemed to understand.

It's been a long time since I received a letter from you. Now please write soon. Love and good wishes to you and your loved ones.

Your friend, Kumar.

Darjeeling, 25 February 1989

Dear friend Kumar,

I was happy when I received the letter you sent from Kathmandu. Since last month I have been intending to write but I didn't write because every day some job or other came my way. Forgive me for being so late.

The description you wrote of your last day at school was very touching. I read it out to an editor friend. His name is Kumar Bhandari. He liked it very much. He says you should write a slightly longer account and send it to him. He says you should write whatever you like. I think Kumar Bhandari is someone your brother knows, is that not so? But he says he hasn't met your brother for many months. He has moved here from Sikkim.

Please convey my greetings to your mother. I ask her forgiveness for not having written a letter. It is many years since I have seen her. I cannot remember how many years it is.

Your well-wisher, Raju.

## Grammar

### 84 Using the -एको participle as a verb

The -एको participle is used on its own, without any auxiliary verb, to form an abbreviated completed present tense. In this case, the negative is formed by adding the prefix न-:

ऊ कहिले आएको ?  
हिजो आएको ।

*When did he come?  
He came yesterday.*

तिमीहरू अघि किन नआएको ?  
खै, कुन किन नआएको हजुर !

*Why didn't you come before?  
Well, who knows why we  
didn't come sir!*

के गरेको तिमिले ?  
आफ्नै काम गरेको ।

*What have you done?  
Just my own work.*

### 85 How long is it since... ?

The -एको participle is used to express the idea of time having elapsed since something happened. For example, if you wish to ask someone how long they have been in Nepal you can phrase the question 'you Nepal come how much time happened':

तिमी नेपाल आएको कति दिन भयो ?

*How many days has it been  
since you came to Nepal?*

The word दिन *day(s)* is optional here. It can be left out, or have another word for a period of time (e.g. हप्ता *week*, महिना *month*, or वर्ष *year*) substituted for it. A person who has *not* visited Nepal for a long time might be asked the question

तिमी नेपाल नगएको कति वर्ष भयो ?

*How many years is it that  
you have not gone to Nepal?  
(i.e. since you last went to  
Nepal?)*

मासु नखाएको दुई महिना भयो ।

*It's two months since I ate meat.*

हिन्दी फिलिम नहेरेको धेरै भएको छ ।

*It's been a long time since  
I watched a Hindi film.*

### 86 Seeing or hearing another person's actions

The -एको participle is used to describe what someone is doing when another person sees or hears them. The sentences on the left-hand side below say that someone saw or heard someone else. The sentences on the right amplify them by noting what the person who is seen or heard was doing at the time.

In such sentences, the -एको participle translates as *going, singing, playing, speaking* etc. and in the word order it must follow the person who is being seen or heard. If the person who is seen or heard is performing a transitive verb, then s/he must take the suffix -ले

अस्ति मैले तिमिलाई देखें ।  
*I saw you two days ago.*

अस्ति मैले तिमिलाई स्कूल गएको देखें ।  
*I saw you going to school  
two days ago.*

बुवाले मलाई सुन्नुभयो ।  
*Father heard me.*

बुवाले मैले गीत गाएको सुन्नुभयो ।  
*Father heard me singing  
a song.*

आमाले बच्चाहरूलाई हेर्नुभयो ।

*Mother watched the children.*

आमाले बच्चाहरूले गट्टा खेलेको  
हेर्नुभयो ।

*Mother watched the children  
playing pebbles.*

### EXERCISE 49 Translate into Nepali:

1 She (Middle) saw him (Low) playing cards yesterday.

- 2 I heard her (Middle) singing that song last month.
- 3 He (Low) saw him (High) coming home three days ago.
- 4 I saw you (Middle) smoking a cigarette last Wednesday.
- 5 He (High) heard her (Middle) speaking Hindi last week.
- 6 They (Middle) saw you (Middle) going to school the day before yesterday.

### 87 The -एको participle with हो or होइन

The -एको participle is also used in combination with the appropriate form of the verb हो to form a completed present tense which identifies and emphasizes the subject of the verb (this is less common than the combinations with छ and थियो):

त्यो काम उसले गरेको हो ।  
ऊ मेरी प्रेमिका हो, बिहा गरेको होइन ।

*That job is the one he did.  
She is my girlfriend, we are not married.*

The -एको participle is also used with हो or होइन to form a completed present tense which emphasizes the fact that something is or is not the truth:

मैले माछा किनेको होइन ।  
उनीहरू मन्दिर गएका होइनन् ।

*It is not fish that I bought.  
It is not true that they went to the temple.*

### 88 Thoughts and intentions using भनेर and भनेको

The primary meaning of the verb भन्नु is to say or to tell, but it also has the important secondary meaning of to think/to remember. You might find it helpful to think of the -एर participle of भन्नु, (i.e., भनेर) as meaning saying to oneself in the following sentences:

भरे घरमा पाहुनाहरू आउँदै छन् भनेर म  
बजारतिर लागें ।

*Remembering ('saying (to myself)') that guests were coming to my home in the evening, I headed for the market.*

जिरीबाट खुम्बु टाढा छ भनेर उनीहरू चामल,  
दाल, नून र चिया बोकेर हिडे ।

*They set out carrying rice, dāl, salt and tea, remembering ('saying (to themselves)') that Khumbu is far from Jirī.*

भाँडामा कोदो बाँकि छ कि भनेर उसले  
भित्र हेर्‍यो ।

*Wondering ('saying (to himself)') if there was any millet left in the pot, he looked inside.*

The -एको participle of भन्नु followed by त or तर, (i.e. भनेको त... or भनेको तर... ) means I intended to but... It follows a statement of what the speaker intended to do:

आज बिहान बजार जान्छु भनेको  
त पैसा नै भएन ।

*This morning I thought I'd go to the market, but I didn't even have any money.*

चिठी लेख्छु भनेको त बत्ती नै गयो ।

*I thought I'd write a letter, but there was a power cut.*

### 89 What does this word mean?

Another use of the -एको participle of भन्नु is to state or ask the meaning of a word.

अँग्रेजीमा 'किताब' भनेको के हो ? अँग्रेजीमा  
'किताब' भनेको book हो ।

*What is the meaning of the word 'किताब' in English? In English 'किताब' means 'book'.*

नेपालीमा 'book' भनेको के हो ? नेपालीमा  
'book' भनेको किताब हो ।

*What is the meaning of the word 'book' in Nepali? In Nepali, 'book' means 'किताब'.*

A second way of asking the meaning of a word involves the use of the word अर्थ, meaning:

हिमालयको अर्थ हिउँको घर हो ।

*The meaning of himālaya is 'home of snow'.*

पुस्तकालयको अर्थ पुस्तकहरूको घर हो । पुस्तक  
भनेको किताब हो ।

*The meaning of 'pustakālaya is home of books'. pustak means 'book'.*

**EXERCISE 50** Fill in the gaps in the following sentences:

- १ अँग्रेजीमा पुल भनेको \_\_\_\_\_ हो ।
- २ अँग्रेजीमा ओरालो भनेको \_\_\_\_\_ हो ।
- ३ अँग्रेजीमा हैजा भनेको \_\_\_\_\_ हो ।
- ४ नेपालीमा letter भनेको \_\_\_\_\_ हो ।
- ५ नेपालीमा face भनेको \_\_\_\_\_ अथवा \_\_\_\_\_ हो ।
- ६ नेपालीमा month भनेको \_\_\_\_\_ हो ।

## 90 The Nepali year

In Nepal, most people use the traditional Bikram calendar, the विक्रम संवत्, instead of the Western or Gregorian calendar. The Bikram year begins on the first day of the spring month of बैसाख, which falls sometime around the middle of April (on April 19 in 1998). The months are solar rather than lunar, so the correspondence between Western and Bikram dates is slightly different from year to year.

The Bikram calendrical era runs 56 years ahead of the Western calendar from January 1 to the first day of बैसाख, and 57 years ahead from the first day of बैसाख until December 31. Thus, January 1998 begins in the middle of the month of पूस and ends in the middle of the following month of माघ in the Bikram year of 2054, while September 1998 begins in the middle of the month of भदौ and ends in the middle of असोज in the Bikram year of 2055.

Bikram Sambat dates may be expressed in full:

२०५४ साल कार्तिक २२ गते शुक्रवार  
Friday, the 22nd day of Kāttik,  
year 2054 (= 7 November,  
1997)

or in an abbreviated form:

२०५४ असार ३१ गते  
31st day of Asār, 2054  
(= 15 July, 1997)

The word गते means *day of the solar month*. Thus, if you want to know the date in the Bikram year it is common to ask

आज कुन गते हो ?  
आज एक्काईस गते हो ।  
What's the date today?  
It's the 21st today.

The Bikram Sambat is used less commonly among Nepali-speakers outside Nepal itself. In Nepali-speaking communities in North-east India and Bhutan, the Western calendar is more generally used, and in this case the word गते is replaced by the word तारीख, *day of a month in the Western calendar*:

१९९३ मा मेरी कान्छी छोरीको जन्म भयो । कुन  
महिनामा ? जून महिनाको तेईस तारीखमा ।  
My youngest daughter was  
born in 1993. In which  
month? On the 23rd of the  
month of June.

The word साल is used to refer to particular years, instead of the other word for *year*, वर्ष, which is used for periods of time (तीन वर्ष *three years*, एक सय वर्ष *one hundred years*). Nepali-speakers often omit the दुई हजार *two thousand* when mentioning a particular year, just as English speakers might talk about what happened in '97, rather than '1997'. So, instead of saying that something happened in दुई हजार सात साल *the year 2007*, they will often simply refer to that year as सात साल *the year seven*.

तपाईं कुन सालमा पहिलो पटक नेपाल  
आउनुभयो ?  
म चार वर्ष अघि, एकाउन्न सालमा आएँ ।  
In which year did you first  
come to Nepal?  
I came four years ago, in the  
year 51.

The months of the Hindu year have classical Sanskrit names which take slightly different colloquial forms in each of the languages of South Asia. The classical names are used on formal or official documents, the colloquial names in everyday speech and also often in writing.

**EXERCISE 51** Translate the following dates into Nepali:

### The months of the Nepali year

	Classical name	Colloquial name
१	वैशाख	बैसाख mid-April to mid-May
२	ज्येष्ठ	जेठ mid-May to mid-June
३	आषाढ	असार mid-June to mid-July
४	श्रावण	साउन mid-July to mid-August
५	भाद्र	भदौ mid-August to mid-September
६	आश्विन	असोज mid-September to mid-October
७	कार्तिक	कार्तिक mid-October to mid-November
८	मार्गशीर्ष	मङ्सिर mid-November to mid-December
९	पौष	पूस mid-December to mid-January
१०	माघ	माघ mid-January to mid-February
११	फाल्गुण	फागुन mid-February to mid-March
१२	चैत्र	चैत्र mid-March to mid-April

- 1 Thursday 10th January 1921.
- 2 Tuesday 10th Chaitra 2016.
- 3 Sunday 26th November 1956.
- 4 Friday 1st Phalgun 2042.

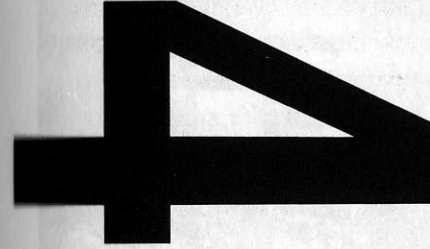
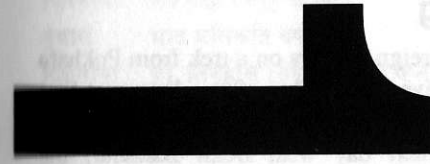
## EXERCISE 52

पढेर बुझ्नुहोस् ।

सुरेन्द्रको दाइ जापान गएको दुई वर्ष भयो । गएको साल दाइले नेपाल फर्केर सुरेन्द्रलाई एउटा राम्रो क्यामेरा दिनुभयो । दुई हप्ता अघि एउटा राम्रो रेडियो पनि पठाउनुभयो । दाइले दिएका क्यामेरा र रेडियो दुवै जापानमा बनेका हुन् । त्यस कारणले राम्रा र बलिया छन् । एक हप्ता अघि दार्जीलिङ्गबाट आउनुभएको काकाले पनि सुरेन्द्रलाई एउटा क्यामेरा दिनुभयो । तर काकाले दिएको क्यामेरा दाइले दिएको क्यामेरा जस्तो राम्रो र बलियो देखिएन । सुरेन्द्रलाई दुइटा क्यामेरा चाहिँदैन । उसलाई एउटा क्यामेरा मात्रै चाहिन्छ । गएको सोमवार काका दार्जीलिङ्ग फर्कनुभयो । र आज बिहान सुरेन्द्रले काकाले दिएको क्यामेरा एउटा साथीलाई बेच्यो । उसले ठूलो नाफा गरेको छ तर उसकी आमा यो कुरा थाहा पाएर रिसाउनुभएको छ । आमा भन्दै हुनुहुन्छ 'केही दिनपछि तेरो काका फेरि आउनुहुन्छ नि । अनि तँ वहाँलाई के भन्छस् ? 'तपाईंले दिनुभएको क्यामेरा मैले बेचें' भनेर भन्छस् ? तरुन्तै साथीकहाँ गएर बेचेको क्यामेरा फिर्ता ले र साथीलाई पैसा फिर्ता दे । नातेदारले दिएको कोसेली बेच्नु अपराध हुन्छ, बुझिस् ? ।

प्रश्नहरू

- १ सुरेन्द्रको दाइ जापान गएको कति वर्ष भयो ?
- २ सुरेन्द्रको दाइले जापानबाट के पठाउनुभयो ?
- ३ दाइले दिएका क्यामेरा र रेडियो किन बलिया र राम्रा छन् ?
- ४ सुरेन्द्रको काका कहाँबाट आउनुभएको थियो ?
- ५ सुरेन्द्रलाई कतिवटा क्यामेरा चाहिन्छ ?
- ६ आमा सुरेन्द्रसँग किन रिसाउनुभयो ?



पानी प्यो भने...  
if it rains ...

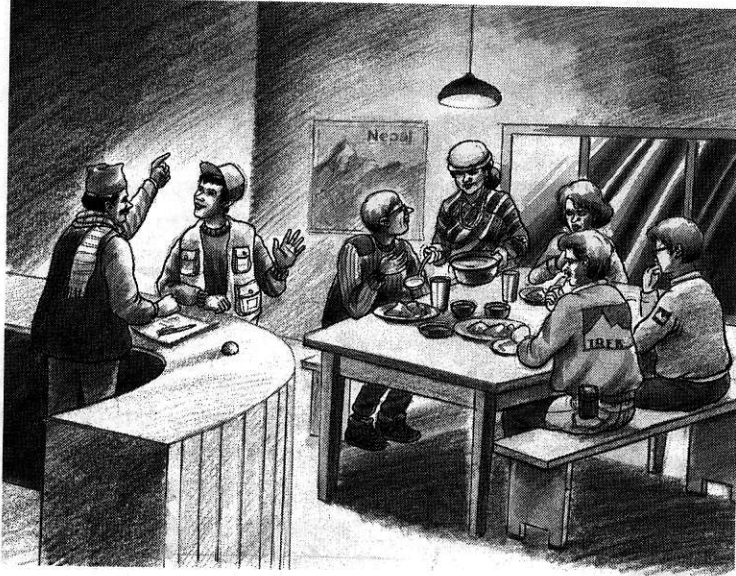
In this unit you will learn

- how to construct conditional sentences
- how to express doubt
- how to make suggestions
- how to discuss whether something is enough



## ► 24 Out trekking

Subhas is leading a group of foreign visitors on a trek from Pokhara to Jomsom. They have just arrived at a lodge after a long wet first day. As they eat their evening meal, served by Dilmaya, Subhas discusses the route for the next day with Bekh Bahadur, the lodgekeeper.



- दिलमाया तपाईंहरू यतातिर बसेर भात खानुहोस् है त ! यति भातले पुग्छ कि पुग्दैन ?
- सुभास यति भातले मलाई शायद पुग्दैन होला दिदी । अरू पनि छ कि ?
- दिलमाया पुगेन भने केही छैन । अरू थुप्रै छ ।
- बेख बहादुर भोलि तपाईंहरू कतातिर लाग्ने नि ?
- सुभास गण्डकी पुल झरेर जोमसोमतिर जाने । बाटो ओरालो छ, होइन ? भोलि मौसम सफा भयो भने हामीहरू साँझतिर तातोपानी पुग्छौं होला । तर आज जस्तो भोलि पनि पानी पत्थो भने अलि गाह्रो होला । बाटो चिप्लो हुन्छ, बिस्तारै बिस्तारै हिंडेर तातोपानी साँझसम्म पुगिंदैन होला । साँझसम्म तातोपानी पुगिएन भने राति कहाँ बास बस्ने त ?
- बेख बहादुर तातोपानीभन्दा तल अर्को एउटा सानो गाउँ छ । बाटोमा ढिलो भयो भने त्यहाँ बास बस्नुहोस् न । गाउँको नाम त बिर्सै । तर त्यहाँबाट तातोपानी माथितिर पर्छ, बाटो अलि उकालो पनि छ । तपाईंहरू त्यहीं बस्नुभयो भने बेस होला । ए दिलमाया, भात खोइ त !

- दिलमाया अरू केही लिनुहुन्छ कि ?
- सुभास भात अलिकति थप्ने ।
- दिलमाया लौ, लिनुहोस् । तरकारी पनि थप्ने ?
- सुभास हवस्, तरकारी पनि थप्नुहोस् । अलिकति दाल छ कि ?
- दिलमाया दाल त सकियो । साथीहरूलाई भात पुग्यो ?
- सुभास पुग्यो होला । विदेशीहरूले त त्यति धेरै भात खाँदैनन् ।
- दिलमाया हातले पनि खाँदैनन्, होइन ?
- सुभास हो, उनीहरूलाई अलि अफ्ठ्यारो हुन्छ ।
- बेख बहादुर भोलि तपाईंहरू घोडेपानी भएर जाँदै हुनुहुन्छ, होइन ?
- सुभास अर्को बाटै छैन । अरू कसरी जाने त ?
- बेख बहादुर यहाँबाट घोडेपानी जाने बाटो र घान्द्रुङ्ग जाने बाटो एउटै हो । तर पल्लो गाउँदेखि बाटो छुट्टिन्छ । तलको बाटोचाहिँ घोडापानी जाने बाटो हो, माथिकोचाहिँ घान्द्रुङ्ग जाने बाटो हो । भोलि ठूलो पानी पत्थो भने घान्द्रुङ्ग बाटोबाट जानुहोस्, अलि सजिलो होला ।
- सुभास त्यो बाटोबाट धवलागिरी देखिंदैन होला । घोडेपानीबाट राम्रोसँग देखिन्छ रे । हिमाल हेर्ने यिनीहरूको कस्तो रहर हुन्छ, हगि ?
- बेख बहादुर त्यो त हो तर ठूलो पानी परेको बेलामा कतैबाट केही पनि देखिंदैन । आउने हप्ता तपाईंहरू त त्यही बाटोबाट फर्कनुहुन्छ, होइन त ? भोलि पानी परेन भने मात्र घोडेपानी जानुहोस् ।
- सुभास ल त, धन्यवाद । अब त सुत्ने बेला भयो । है त ? भोलि भेटौंला ।

भात *cooked rice, food, meal*  
 पुगनु (1) *to be enough*  
 शायद *perhaps*  
 थुप्रै *heaps*  
 गण्डकी *the Gandaki river*  
 पुल *bridge*  
 झर्नु *to descend*  
 जोमसोम *Jomsom (a village)*  
 मौसम *weather*  
 सफा *clear*  
 तातोपानी *Tatopani (a village)*  
 पुगनु (2) *to reach, arrive*

बास बस्नु *to stay for a night*  
 -भन्दा तल *below, lower down than*  
 बेस *best, better*  
 थप्नु *to add, supplement, top up*  
 सकिनु *to be finished*  
 घोडेपानी *Ghorepani (a village)*  
 घान्द्रुङ्ग *Ghandrung (a village)*  
 पल्लो *next, further*  
 छुट्टिनु *to divide, bifurcate*  
 धवलागिरी *Dhaulagiri (a mountain)*  
 रहर *desire*  
 हगि ? *isn't that so?*  
 भेटौंला *we will meet (probable future tense: see Grammar 96)*

- Dilmaya** Please sit over here and eat. Will this much rice be enough or not?
- Subhas** This much rice might not be enough for me, sister. Is there any more?
- Dilmaya** If it's not enough it doesn't matter. There's heaps more.
- Bekh Bahadur** Where are you heading tomorrow, eh?
- Subhas** We're going down to the Gandaki bridge and then towards Jomsom. The path is downhill, isn't it? If the weather is clear tomorrow we'll probably reach Tatopani around dusk. But if it also rains tomorrow like it did today it will be rather difficult. The path will be slippery, and walking slowly we probably won't reach Tatopani by dusk. If we don't reach Tatopani by dusk, where shall we lodge for the night?
- Bekh Bahadur** Below Tatopani there is another small village. If you are slow on the way stay there. I've forgotten the name of the village, though. But from there Tatopani is higher up, the path is rather steep too. If you stay there that will be better. Oh Dilmaya, where's the rice?
- Dilmaya** Will you have something more?
- Subhas** A little more rice, please.
- Dilmaya** There you are. Shall I put vegetables too?
- Subhas** Sure, please put vegetables too. Is there a little bit of *dāl* too?
- Dilmaya** I'm afraid the *dāl*'s finished. Have your friends had enough rice?
- Subhas** I expect they've had enough. Foreigners don't eat such a lot of rice.
- Dilmaya** They don't eat with their hands either, do they?
- Subhas** Yes, it's a bit difficult for them.
- Bekh Bahadur** Tomorrow you're going via Ghorepani, aren't you?
- Subhas** There's no other way. How else can we go?
- Bekh Bahadur** From here, the path to Ghorepani and the path to Ghandrung are one and the same. But from the next village the path divides. The lower path is the path going to Ghorepani, the higher one is the path

going to Ghandrung. If it rains heavily tomorrow, go by the Ghandrung path, it will be a bit easier.

**Subhas** You probably can't see Dhaulagiri from that path. I gather that you can get a good view of it from Ghorepani. How they long to see the Himalayas, right?

**Bekh Bahadur** That's true, but when it rains heavily nothing can be seen from anywhere. Next week you will come back by that path, won't you? Only go to Ghorepani if it doesn't rain tomorrow.

**Subhas** Right then, thank you. Now it's time for bed. OK? We'll meet tomorrow.

## Grammar

### 91 Real conditional sentences

A real conditional sentence is the equivalent of a sentence in English that begins with *if*, and talks about events that might happen or situations that might exist in the future. It is called a 'real' conditional sentence because it always refers to what will be or what might be, and therefore what it describes is *possible*: *if it doesn't rain I will go out*. There is another kind of conditional sentence that talks about what might have been, but was not, and is therefore *impossible* or *unreal*: *if it hadn't rained I wouldn't have gone out*. This second kind of conditional sentence is introduced in **Grammar 130**.

To form a real conditional sentence in Nepali, you take two sentences and link them together with the word *भने*. *भने* is a participle of the verb *भन्नु* *to say* that is not easily translated when it is used in this way, because it simply marks the end of the 'if' clause of the sentence. The closest English parallel is found in an informal expression such as *say / suppose it doesn't rain...* The 'if' clause of the sentence usually comes before the main clause. When it is referring to some possibility in the future, its verb must be in the *simple past* tense. The 'if' clause of a conditional sentence can begin with *यदि if*, and in fact it often does, but *यदि if* is not essential. *भने* is essential in such sentences whether *यदि* is used or not.

To construct a Nepali sentence that means *if it doesn't rain I will go out*, begin with the simple past tense of *to rain* as the 'if' clause, then

add भने to show that the 'if' clause has ended, and then state that you will go out:

(यदि) पानी परेन भने म बाहिर जान्छु ।  
(If) it didn't rain (marks end of 'if' clause) I will go out.  
(condition) (consequence)

= पानी परेन भने म बाहिर जान्छु । *If it doesn't rain I will go out.*

यदि तिम्री आएनौ भने म एकलै जान्छु । *If you don't come I will go alone.*

यदि आमा रुनुभयो भने दिदी पनि रुन्छिन् । *If mother cries elder sister will cry too.*

यदि दालमा खुसानी राख्नुभएन भने मीठो हुँदैन । *If you don't put any chilli in the dāl it won't taste good.*

The second half of a real conditional sentence can also take the form of a request or a command, instead of a prediction:

यदि तपाईंलाई थकाई लाग्यो भने मेरो कोठामा सूलुहोस् । *If you feel tired, please lie down in my room.*

यदि बजारमा लसून पाइएन भने अदुवा मात्रै किन्नु, बुझ्यौ ? *If garlic is not available in the market, just buy ginger, do you understand?*

### EXERCISE 53 Translate into Nepali:

- If you are tired, please rest.
- If you are thirsty, please drink this water.
- If our guests are hungry I will go to the market and buy fruit and vegetables.
- If you (Middle) do not come tomorrow, mother will stay at home and cry.
- If I do not come to the office by 5 o'clock, please meet me at the temple.
- If father does not send me a letter this week I will phone him at home.

### 92 Using होला to mean perhaps, might be

होला is the *probable future* tense of the verb हुनु to be, and means it (probably) will be. It can be added to the end of statements, regardless of their tense, to qualify them and make them less categorical.

For instance, shopkeeper A is asked whether there is any rice in his shop, and he is sure that there isn't, so he answers categorically:

Q साहूजी, चामल छ ? *Any rice, shopkeeper?*  
A छैन ! *No!*

But shopkeeper B is less certain; he thinks there probably isn't any, but feels he had better check:

Q साहूजी, चामल छ ? *Any rice, shopkeeper?*  
B छैन होला । *Probably not...*

आज पानी पर्दैन होला । *It probably won't rain today.*  
आज गिरीश घरै छ ? थाहा छैन, घरै छ होला । *Is Girish at home? I don't know, he probably is at home.*  
बजारमा मासु पाइँदैन होला । *You probably won't get any meat in the market.*

The probable future tense is introduced in full in **Grammar 96**.

### 93 The -ने -ne participle as an adjective

This participle is simply the dictionary form of a verb with its ending changed from -नु -nu to -ने -ne:

dictionary form	-ne participle
जानु to go (verb)	जाने going (adjective)
खानु to eat (verb)	खाने eating (adjective)
गर्नु to do (verb)	गर्ने doing (adjective)

The first use of the -ने -ne participle is to describe nouns:

पोखरा जाने बाटो	<i>the road to Pokhara ('Pokhara going road')</i>
खाने कुरा	<i>things to eat ('eating things')</i>
आउने हप्ता	<i>next week ('coming week')</i>
सुत्ने कोठा	<i>bedroom ('sleeping room')</i>
काम गर्ने मान्छे	<i>a working man</i>
नेपाली बोल्ने मानिस	<i>a Nepali-speaking person</i>

It is important to distinguish between the -ने participle and the -एको participle, because both are used to describe nouns. However, the -एको participle always refers to actions or situations that are in the past as compared with the main verb of the sentence, while the -ने participle refers to situations that are either coterminous or in the future as compared with the main verb:

हामी नेपाल बसेको बेलामा ।

हामी नेपाल बस्ने बेलामा ।

सगरमाथा चढेको मान्छे ।

सगरमाथा चढ्ने मान्छे ।

प्रवचन दिएको मान्छे ।

प्रवचन दिने मान्छे ।

*When we lived in Nepal.*

*When we live in Nepal.*

*A person who has climbed Everest.*

*A person who does/will climb Everest.*

*The person who gave the lecture.*

*The person who gives lectures / will give a lecture.*

The negative is formed simply by adding the prefix न- to the verb:

नपाइने

नखाने

नबिसिने

रक्सी नखाने मान्छेलाई किन रक्सी दिएको तिमिले ?

अंग्रेजी नबुझ्ने केटालाई अंग्रेजीमा किन गाली गर्छौ ?

नेपालमा नपाइने फलफूल अमेरिकामा जताततै पाइन्छ ।

आज बादल लागेकोले सगरमाथा देख्ने कुरै छैन ।

*unavailable*

*not eating*

*unforgettable*

*Why have you given raksi to a person who does not drink?*

*Why do you tell off a boy who does not understand English in English?*

*Fruits that are not available in Nepal can be found everywhere in America.*

*Because it is cloudy today there's no chance of seeing Everest.*

## 94 Using the -ने participle to talk about future actions

The second use of the -ने participle is as a kind of grammatical shortcut to talk about plans and intentions for the near future. It is used frequently in informal conversation, and people who speak Nepali as a second language (both Nepalis and foreigners) find it so convenient (because the verb ending is the same no matter who the subject of the verb is) that they sometimes use it excessively:

तपाईंहरू भोलि जाने ?

होइन, भोलि बस्ने, पर्सि जाने ।

तपाईं चिया खाने कि कफी खाने ?

*Are you leaving tomorrow?*

*No, we're staying tomorrow and leaving the day after tomorrow.*

*Will you drink tea or coffee?*

म चिया खाने ।

चियामा चिनी राख्ने ?

चिनी नराख्ने, दूध मात्रै राख्ने ।

अब जाने, होइन ?

हो, अबेर भयो, अब अलिपछि जाने ।

*I'll drink tea.*

*Shall I put sugar in the tea?*

*Don't put sugar, just put milk.*

*We're off now, aren't we?*

*Yes, it's late, we'll leave in a little while now.*

These usages are acceptable, but it is more polite to use the variable verb endings, especially when talking to someone you are addressing as तपाईं.

## 95 The verb पुग्नु to arrive, suffice

This verb has two different uses. In the first, it is used to mean to reach/arrive at a destination, and in this context it is intransitive (that is, the subject never needs to take -ले):

यो विमान साढे तीन बजे दिल्ली पुग्छ ।

*This flight reaches Delhi at half past 3.*

Although it is an intransitive verb, पुग्नु also has a passive 'i-stem' version, which is पुगिनु to be reached:

मेरो गाउँ टाढै छ । साँझसम्म पनि पुगिदैन होला ।

*My village is quite a long way away. We probably won't reach it even by nightfall.*

When the subject of the verb to arrive is coming towards the speaker, rather than going away from him/her, then the compound verb आइपुग्नु (consisting of the 'i-stem' of आउनु + पुग्नु) is commonly used:

ल, हेर त, वाराणसीको विमान आइपुग्यो ।

*There, look, the Varanasi flight has arrived.*

The second use of पुग्नु is to mean to suffice/be enough, and in these contexts the verb is transitive (i.e. its subject must take -ले in past tenses, and will most often take -ले in the habitual present tense too). The person for whom the commodity mentioned suffices or has sufficed must take the object-marking suffix -लाई. For instance, if you wish to say that five rupees will be enough money for you, the sentence will be constructed as follows:

मलाई  
for me

पाँच रुपियाँले  
five rupees + -ले

पुग्छ ।  
suffices.

**EXERCISE 54** Write Nepali sentences stating that the amounts or commodities in the right-hand column were or were not enough for the people in the left-hand column:

- |                                   |                |   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 1 the tourists who came yesterday | food           | ✓ |
| 2 the Sherpa who helped us        | ten rupees     | ✗ |
| 3 the woman who cooked the food   | a kilo of ghee | ✗ |

**EXERCISE 55** Write Nepali sentences stating that the amounts or commodities in the right-hand column might or might not be enough for the people in the left-hand column:

- |                                        |                |   |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 1 the tourists who are coming tomorrow | food           | ✗ |
| 2 the Sherpa who is going to help us   | ten rupees     | ✓ |
| 3 the woman who cooks the food         | a kilo of ghee | ✓ |

# 15

म आउने साल जाउँना  
I'll go next year

**In this unit you will learn**

- how to use the probable future tense
- how to talk about how much time and/or money it takes to do something

## 25 Going home for Dasain

Saroj and Krishna both live and work in London, but as the great annual festival of Dasain approaches they begin to wonder whether they might go home to Nepal to celebrate it.

- सरोज यो साल तपाईं दसैंको लागि घर जानुहुन्छ ?
- कृष्ण अहिलेसम्म निश्चय गरेको छैन। तपाईं नि ?
- सरोज पैसा पाइयो भने जाउँला। तर पैसा मात्रै होइन, छुट्टी पनि चाहिन्छ नि।
- कृष्ण एक हप्ताको छुट्टी त पाइएला नि। त्यो समस्या नहोला। मेरो लागि मुख्य समस्या पैसा नै हो। आजकाल नेपाल पुग्न कति पैसा लाग्छ ?
- सरोज हवाई जहाजबाट जानुभयो भने पाँच सय पाउण्ड लाग्छ, होइन ?
- कृष्ण हो, पाँच सय जति लाग्ला। अनि हवाई जहाजबाट जानुभएन भने पनि कसरी जानुहुन्छ त ? लण्डनबाट बस अथवा रेल काठमाडौं जान्छ त ?
- सरोज केही टूरिष्ट बसहरू त जान्छन्। तर बसमा नेपाल पुग्न कम्तिमा दुई हप्ता लाग्ला।
- कृष्ण अनि हामीलाई साहूजीले चार हप्ताको छुट्टी देला र ? मेरो विचारमा दिंदैन !
- सरोज दिंदैन ! हवाई जहाजबाट जानु बाहेक अर्को उपाय छैन।
- कृष्ण दसैंको बेलामा तपाईंको घरमा को को होलान् त ?
- सरोज बुवा र आमा हुनुहुन्छ। कान्छा र साहिला भाइहरू पनि हुन्छन्। अरू नातेदारहरू पनि आउलान्। भगवानको कृपा भयो भने म पनि पुर्गुला।
- कृष्ण अनि दिदी नि ?
- सरोज तीन वर्ष अघि दिदीको बिहा भयो। अहिलेसम्म उनी हरेक साल भाइ टीकाको लागि माइत आएकी छिन्। यो साल पनि आउलिन्।
- कृष्ण माहिला भाइचाहिं आउँदैन ?
- सरोज माहिलो भाइ शायद आउँदैन होला यस पालि। ऊ दुई महिनादेखि अरबमा काम गर्दै छ। यो साल छुट्टी लिएन भने शायद अर्को साल पाइएला रे। तर यो साल आउने कुरै छैन रे। एक वर्षपछि अलि सजिलो होला उसलाई।
- कृष्ण अरबमा नेपालीहरूको जिन्दगी कस्तो हुन्छ ? भाइले लेखेको होला नि ?
- सरोज गाह्रो होला, तर तपाईं हेर्नुहोला। दुई-चार वर्षभित्र ऊ दस लाख कमाएर फर्किन्छ। अनि पोखरा गएर उसले महल जस्तो घर बनाउला र त्यसैमा बसेर हामी धूमधामसित दसैं मनाऔंला। अनि हामी हेराँला, कसको जिन्दगी गाह्रो छ भनेर !

दसैं (the festival of) Dasain

निश्चय गर्नु to decide

मुख्य main

पाउण्ड pound

जति as much as

कम्तिमा at least

जानु बाहेक except for / apart from going

उपाय means

नातेदार relative

भगवान God

कृपा kindness

टीका anointing

माइत a married woman's parents' home; her natal home

अरब Arabia

कमाउनु to earn

फर्किनु to return

महल palace

धूमधाम pomp and splendour

मनाउनु to celebrate

- Saroj** Will you go home for Dasain this year?
- Krishna** I haven't decided yet. What about you?
- Saroj** If I get the money I'll go. But it's not just the money, I need time off too, you know.
- Krishna** You'll probably get one week's leave, you know. That won't be a problem. For me the main problem is money. How much does it cost to get to Nepal these days?
- Saroj** If you go by air it costs £500, doesn't it?
- Krishna** Yes, it probably costs about 500. And if you don't go by air how else will you go? Does a bus or a train go to Kathmandu from London?
- Saroj** Some tourist buses do go. But to get to Nepal by bus will probably take at least two weeks.
- Krishna** And will the boss give us four weeks' leave, indeed?\*<sup>1</sup> I think he won't!
- Saroj** He won't! There is no alternative to going by plane.
- Krishna** But who will be at your house at Dasain?
- Saroj** Father and Mother will be there. Youngest and third eldest brother will also be there. Other relatives will probably come too. If God is kind I'll also get there.
- Krishna** And what about your elder sister?
- Saroj** Three years ago my sister got married. So far she has come to the natal home every year for Bhai Tika.\*<sup>2</sup> She'll probably come this year.
- Krishna** Won't your second eldest brother come?
- Saroj** My second eldest brother might not come this time. He's been working in Arabia for two months. He says that if he doesn't take leave this year he'll probably get it next year.

But this year he says there's no question of coming. After a year it will be a bit easier for him.

**Krishna** What is life like for Nepalis in Arabia? Your brother must have written?

**Saroj** It's probably hard, but you watch! Within a few years he will earn a million and come back. Then he'll go to Pokhara and build a house like a palace, and we'll stay in it and celebrate Dasain with pomp and splendour. Then we'll look to see whose life is hard!

*Notes* \*<sup>1</sup> The addition of र makes a question rhetorical: the person asking knows that the answer is 'no'.

\*<sup>2</sup> भाइ टीका is a day of the Dasain festival when sisters anoint their brothers.

## Grammar

### 96 The probable future tense

Nepali has several different ways of expressing the future tense, and the main difference between them lies in their degree of certainty.

The habitual present and continuous present tenses can be used to refer to the future, just as they can in English:

भोलि मेरो भाइ भारत जान्छ ।

*Tomorrow my brother goes to India.*

भोलि मेरो भाइ भारत जाँदै छ ।

*Tomorrow my brother is going to India.*

Of course, both of these sentences would be in the present tense if the word भोलि were removed from them. The probable future tense, however, is used exclusively to refer to the future, and it contains within it a measure of uncertainty:

भोलि मेरो भाइ भारत जाला ।

*Tomorrow my brother will (probably) go to India.*

In the affirmative, the probable future tense consists of a verb base plus an ending; the endings are as follows:

#### Probable future tense: verb endings

म	-उँला
हामी, हामीहरू	-औंला
तँ	-लास्
तिमी, तिमीहरू	-औला
ऊ, यो, त्यो (m.)	-ला
ऊ, यो, त्यो (f.)	-ली
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (m.)	-लान्
उनी, यिनी, तिनी (f.)	-लिन्
यी, ती, उनीहरू etc.	-लान्

#### Probable future tense: verb bases

The formation of the verb bases for the probable future tense has five rules:

- The endings are added to the bases of C-verbs in a regular manner (म गर्रँला *I will do*, तँ गर्रासि *you will do*, तिमी गरौला *you will do*, etc.)
- If the base of a V-verb ends in -ā, the endings are added in a regular manner (म खाउँला *I will eat*, ऊ खाला *he will eat*, उनी खालान् *he will eat*, etc.).
- The V-verbs दिनु *to give*, लिनु *to take*, and हुनु *to be* are irregular:
  - दिनु employs the base दि- in first person forms (म दिउँला *I will give*, हामी दिऔंला *we will give*) and दे- in all others (ऊ देला *he will give*, उनीहरू देलान् *they will give*, etc.)
  - लिनु employs the base लि- in first person forms (म लिउँला *I will take*, हामी लिऔंला *we will take*) and ले- in all others (ऊ लेला *he will take*, उनीहरू लेलान् *they will take*, etc.)
  - हुनु employs the base हो- in all forms except the first person singular; thus म हुँला *I will be*, but उनी होलिन् *she will be*.
- Verbs other than दिनु and लिनु whose bases end in -i (principally the passive 'i-stem' verbs) take an intervening -e- between base and ending, e.g. बिर्सिएला *it will be forgotten*, पाइएला *it will be obtained*, etc.
- The base of a VV-verb is usually the normal present tense base (आउ- from आउनु, पिउ- from पिउनु etc.). But for the first person forms the second vowel is dropped. Thus: म आउँला *I will come*, हामी आऔंला *we will come*, but ऊ आउला *he will come*, उनीहरू आउलान् *they will come*, etc.

## Probable future tense

	हुनु to be	जानु to go	गर्नु to do	आउनु to come	दिनु to give
म	हुँला	जाउँला	गरूँला	आउँला	दिउँला
हामीहरू	होऔँला	जाऔँला	गरौँला	आऔँला	दिऔँला
व	होलास्	जालास्	गरास्	आउलास्	देलास्
तिमी, तिमीहरू	होऔला	जाऔला	गरौला	आऔला	देऔला
ऊ (m.)	होला	जाला	गरा	आउला	देला
ऊ (f.)	होली	जाली	गरा	आउली	देली
उनी (m.)	होलान्	जालान्	गरान्	आउलान्	देलान्
उनी (f.)	होलिन्	जालिन्	गरिन्	आउलिन्	देलिन्
यी, ती, उनीहरू	होलान्	जालान्	गरान्	आउलान्	देलान्

Formally, Nepali grammar contains negative forms of these verbs in which their endings change to -ओइन, -ओइनस्, -ओइनौ, etc. but these are encountered very rarely indeed and there is very little purpose in the foreign learner memorizing them. Generally, the future negative is formed either by adding the prefix न- to the forms listed above, or by using the habitual present tense in the negative and adding होला perhaps to the end of the statement. The meaning varies slightly, according to which form is used:

म जाउँला ।	<i>I'll probably go.</i>
म नजाउँला ।	<i>I'll probably not go (with the sense that the person who is being spoken to would prefer the person who is speaking not to go).</i>
म जाँदिन होला ।	<i>I probably won't go.</i>
ऊ एउटा सिपाही होला ।	<i>He may be a soldier.</i>
ऊ सिपाही नहोला ।	<i>He may not be a soldier.</i>
ऊ सिपाही हुँदैन होला ।	<i>He probably won't be a soldier.</i>

Because of the slightly doubtful tone of this future tense, it has to be used in sentences that refer to the future and begin with the word शायद, perhaps:

आज जाँदिन । शायद भोलि-पर्सि जाउँला । *I won't go today. Perhaps I'll go tomorrow or the day after.*

The following proverb uses the probable future tense of the verb भर्नु to fill:

तैं रानी मै रानी को भर्ला कुवाँको पानी ? *(If) you're a queen and I'm a queen, who will fill water from the well?*

The High form of the probable future tense consists of the dictionary form of the verb + होला . It is therefore identical to the Super-Polite imperative (see Grammar 44) and in fact the two meanings do converge:

बेलायतबाट मलाई चिठी लेख्नुहोला । *Please write me a letter from England.*  
बेलायतबाट मलाई चिठी लेख्नुहोला कि ? *Will you write me a letter from England?*

## 97 The infinitive + लाग्नु: What does it cost to... ?, How long does it take to... ?

The verb लाग्नु is used to mean:

- to cost when it is combined with a sum of money:

कति पैसा लाग्छ ? *How much does it cost?*  
बीस रुपियाँ लाग्छ । *It costs 20 rupees.*

- to take when it is combined with a quantity of time:

कति समय लाग्छ ? *How much time does it take?*  
तीन घण्टा लाग्छ । *It takes three hours.*

Note: there is no Nepali equivalent of the English 'it' in these sentences; and, although the subject of the verb लाग्नु may be plural (e.g. three hours), the verb behaves as if it is singular; hence तीन घण्टा लाग्छ, not तीन घण्टा लाग्छन्.

These sentences may be extended by prefacing them with a verb, which must appear in its infinitive form. This is very simply the dictionary form minus its final -u:

Dictionary form	Infinitive		
जानु	जान	jāna	to go
आउनु	आउन	āuna	to come
पुग्नु	पुग्न	pugna	to reach

Both forms of the verb (-नु and -न) can be translated as to go, to come and so on, and there is very little difference in their meaning. However, only the form ending in -न may be used in this kind of sentence:

गोरखा जान कति पैसा लाग्छ ? *How much does it cost to go to Gorkha?*



गोरखा पुन तीन घण्टा लाग्छ ।

*It takes three hours to reach Gorkha.*

गोरखा जान र आउन पूरा एक दिन लाग्छ ।

*It takes a whole day to go to Gorkha and come (back).*

If the sentence involves nouns or pronouns (e.g. *how long does it take you...*, or *how much does it cost them...*) then these must take the postposition -लाई:

पोखराबाट मुक्तिनाथ पुग्न उनीहरूलाई एक हप्ता लाग्यो ।

*It took them a week to reach Muktinath from Pokhara.*

जुम्लाबाट हुम्ला पुग्न हामीलाई एक हप्ता लाग्दैन होला, तीन-चार दिन मात्रै लाग्ला ।

*It probably won't take us a week to reach Humla from Jumla, it will probably only take us three or four days.*

**EXERCISE 56** Put the following sentences into the probable future tense, substituting the word भोलि for हिजो in each:

- १ हिजो मौसम साह्रै राम्रो थियो ।
- २ हिजो दिल्लीबाट काठमाडौं पुग्न दुई घण्टा जति लाग्यो ।
- ३ हिजो नानीहरूले खेतमा फुटबल खेले । उनीहरूको लुगामा हिलो लाग्यो ।
- ४ हिजो सीताले घर राम्रोसँग सफा गरिन् ।
- ५ हिजो दिदीले भात पकाइनन्, दाइले पकाए ।
- ६ हिजो घरमा पाहुनाहरू भएको कारणले उनीहरू स्कूल आएनन् ।

## 98 Words for approximately

Nepali has various words that can be used to mean *about* or *approximately*:

-तिर	<i>about</i> (with expressions of time only)
करीब	<i>approximately, roughly</i>
जति	<i>about as much as</i>
झण्डै	<i>almost, virtually</i>

The postposition -तिर (see **Grammar 47**) is used with expressions of time to mean *at roughly such-and-such a time*:

दस बजेतिर आउनुहोस् ।

*Please come at about 10 o'clock.*

छिटो हिंड्यौं भने हामी साँझतिर पुगौंला ।

*If we walk quickly we will arrive at around dusk.*

The word करीब is used before an expression of quantity to mean *about* or *approximately*:

एक महिनाको लागि हामीलाई करीब दुई किलो नून चाहिन्छ होला ।

*We will probably need about two kilos of salt for a month.*

यहाँबाट मेरो घर पुग्न करीब दस मिनेट लाग्छ ।

*It takes about ten minutes to reach my house from here.*

The word जति is used after an expression of quantity or time to mean *as much as* or *as many as*:

यस गाउँका बाह्रजना जति मानिसहरू दोस्रो विश्व-युद्धमा मरे ।

*As many as 12 people from this village died in the Second World War.*

झण्डै has the sense of *almost* or *very nearly*:

यी व्यापारीहरूलाई ल्हासा पुग्न झण्डै एक हप्ता लाग्यो ।

*It took these traders almost a week to reach Lhasa.*

**EXERCISE 57** Translate into Nepali:

It costs £500 to go to Nepal by air from London, and it takes 15 hours to reach Kathmandu. I always buy an interesting book at the airport! When I went to Nepal last year I bought a very fat novel and it took me about ten hours to read it. I will probably go to Nepal again next year, and I might buy two novels this time. In Nepal, I went to Bhadrapur. If you go to Bhadrapur by bus from Kathmandu it's quite cheap but it takes a whole day to arrive there. There were a lot of people on the bus going to Bhadrapur and the road leading to Bhadrapur was very bad. I didn't buy a book for that journey, because I was going with one or two Nepali friends. If you go to Bhadrapur by plane it costs a lot of money but it doesn't take much time. A plane going to Bhadrapur leaves the capital every morning at 10 o'clock. If I go to Bhadrapur again next year, I will probably go by plane.

# 16

के गर्नुपर्छ ?

## what should I do?

In this unit you will learn

- how to use expressions meaning *should*, *ought*, *must* and *had to*

## 26 Arriving at Tribhuvan International Airport



Harish has returned to Nepal after an absence of 20 years. He finds the airport completely unrecognizable, and he enlists the help of Nirmal, an airport attendant, to see him through the various formalities.

- हरिश नमस्ते !  
निर्मल नमस्ते हजुर । तपाईं लण्डनबाट आउनुभएको हो ?  
हरिश हजुर, भरखरै आइपुगेको आर० ए० को विमानमा । सुन्नुहोस् न, मलाई नेपाल नआएको धेरै वर्ष भयो । पहिले विमानस्थल गौचर मात्रै थियो । भन्नुहोस् न, कता जानुपर्छ, के के गर्नुपर्छ ?  
निर्मल ठीक छ, म तपाईंको लागि सबै कुरा मिलाउँछु । तपाईंलाई भिसा चाहियो? त्यसो हो भने तपाईंलाई ऊ त्यो लाइनमा उभिनपर्छ ।  
हरिश म त नेपाली नागरिक हुँ नि । भिसा लिनुपर्दैन !  
निर्मल ए, माफ गर्नुहोस् है । ऊ, सामान आइपुग्यो । अब सामान टिप्नुपर्छो ।  
हरिश मेरो सामान त अहिलेसम्म निस्केको छैन । यहाँ धेरै बेरसम्म कुर्नुपर्छ कि के हो ?

- निर्मल पदैँन होला । धेरै जसो पाँच मिनेट पनि लाग्दैन ।  
(पाँच मिनेटपछि)
- हरिश अझ पनि आएको छैन । बीचबाटोमै हुरायो कि के हो ?  
निर्मल चिन्ता गर्नुपर्दैन । म भित्र गएर तपाईंको सामान निकाल्छु । तर तपाईंले मलाई दस रुपियाँ दिनुपर्छ ।
- हरिश दस रुपियाँ ? मसँग नेपाली पैसा छैन । पैसा साट्नुपर्छ ।  
निर्मल ऊ त्यहाँ बैंक छ । त्यहीं गएर साट्नुहोस् ।  
(पाँच मिनेटपछि)
- निर्मल भयो ? हेर्नुहोस्, तपाईंको सामान आइपुग्यो । अब तपाईंलाई सामान लिएर भन्सारतिर जानुपर्छ ।  
(भन्सारमा)
- हरिश नमस्कार, नमस्कार ।  
भन्सार अधिकृत पासपोर्ट देखाउनुहोस् त । आज कहाँबाट आउनुभएको ?  
हरिश लण्डनबाट । झोला खोल्नुपर्छ ?  
भन्सार अधिकृत खोल्नुपर्छ । हामीले भित्र हेर्नुपर्छ एक चोटि । तपाईंले आफै प्याक गरेको हो ?  
हरिश हो, मैले आफै प्याक गरेको । लुगा-फाटाबाहेक यसमा अरु खास त केही छैन ।  
भन्सार अधिकृत त्यस्तै होला, तर हामीले हेर्नुपर्छ, के गर्ने ? ल, ठीक छ । भयो ।  
निर्मल आउनुहोस् हजुर म तपाईंको लागि ट्याक्सी बोलाउँछु । सामान पनि दिनुहोस्, तपाईं त थाक्नुभयो होला, म बोक्छु ।  
हरिश पदैँन, गह्रौँगो छैन ।  
निर्मल तपाईं कहाँसम्म जाने ? होटेलको रिजर्वेशन भयो ?  
हरिश पदैँन । दाइको घर छ नक्सालमा ।  
निर्मल लौ त । यहाँबाट नक्साल पुग्न ट्याक्सीमा एक सय रुपियाँ जति लाग्छ । अनि तपाईंले मलाई पनि एक सय दिनुपर्छो । धन्यवाद । फेरि भेटौँला है ।

आर० ए० R.A. (Royal Nepal Air Corporation)

गौचर cow pasture  
भिसा visa

अधिकृत official  
पासपोर्ट passport  
खोल्नु to open  
आफै self, oneself

लाइन queue, line  
नागरिक citizen  
सामान luggage  
टिप्नु to pick up  
गुनु to wait  
अझ पनि still  
चिन्ता गर्नु to worry  
साट्नु to exchange  
भन्सार Customs

प्याक गर्नु to pack  
लुगा-फाटा clothes and such like  
खास special, particular  
थाक्नु to be tired  
बोक्नु to carry  
गह्रौँगो heavy  
रिजर्वेशन reservation  
नक्साल Naxal (a district of Kathmandu)

- Harish** Hello!
- Nirmal** Hello sir. Have you come from London?
- Harish** Yes, on the R.A. flight that has just arrived. Listen, I have not visited Nepal for many years. Before, the airport was just a cow pasture. Tell me, where should I go, what things do I have to do?
- Nirmal** OK, I'll organize everything for you. Do you need a visa? If so, you have to stand in that queue over there.
- Harish** But I'm a Nepali citizen, you know. I don't need to get a visa.
- Nirmal** Oh, please forgive me. Look, the luggage has arrived. Now you must pick up your luggage.
- Harish** But my luggage hasn't come out yet. Does one have to wait a long time here, or what?
- Nirmal** Probably not. It usually doesn't even take five minutes.  
*After five minutes:*
- Harish** It still hasn't come. Has it been lost on the way or something?
- Nirmal** No need to worry. I'll go inside and get your luggage out. But you must give me ten rupees.
- Harish** Ten rupees? I haven't any Nepali money. I must exchange some money.
- Nirmal** There's a bank over there. Go there and exchange it.  
*After five minutes:*
- Nirmal** Done? Look, your luggage has arrived. Now you must take the luggage and go towards Customs.  
*At Customs...*

- Harish** Hello, hello.  
**Customs official** Show me your passport then. Where have you come from today?  
**Harish** From London. Should I open my bag?  
**Customs official** Yes. We have to take a look inside. Did you pack it yourself?  
**Harish** Yes, I packed it myself. There's nothing special in it apart from clothes and such like.  
**Customs official** That's probably how it is, but we have to look, what to do? There, that's OK. It's done.  
**Nirmal** Come sir, I'll call a taxi for you. Give me your luggage too, you must be tired, I'll carry it.  
**Harish** There's no need, it's not heavy.  
**Nirmal** How far are you going? Have you made a hotel reservation?  
**Harish** No need. There's my brother's house in Naksal.  
**Nirmal** That's that then. To get from here to Naksal by taxi costs about 100 rupees. And you must give me 100 too. Thank you. See you again!

## Grammar

### 99 Must, should, don't have to

The combination of the dictionary form of a verb with third person singular forms of the verb *to fall* (पर्छ and पर्दैन in the present tense, and पर्‍यो and परेन in the past) is used to express meanings such as *must, need to, should, have to, and ought to*. The two words are joined together when written:

हुनुपर्छ	<i>must be / should be / has to be / ought to be</i>
बोल्नुपर्छ	<i>must speak / should speak / has to speak / ought to speak</i>
गर्नुपर्छ	<i>must do / should do / has to do / ought to do</i>

If the sentence mentions a person upon whom this need or obligation 'falls', s/he must be marked in the sentence – with the postposition -लाई if the verb is intransitive:

तिमीहरूलाई भोलि आउनुपर्दैन ।

*You do not have to come tomorrow.*

– or with -ले if the verb is transitive:

केटा-केटीहरूले साँचो बोल्नुपर्छ ।

*Boys and girls should speak the truth.*

The affirmative construction is commonly used to prescribe correct behaviour in general terms:

विद्यार्थीहरूले गुरुलाई आदर गर्नुपर्छ ।

*Students should respect their teacher.*

सबैले ईश्वरलाई मान्नुपर्छ ।

*Everyone should believe in God.*

लोग्नेले स्वास्थ्यलाई माया गर्नुपर्छ ।

*A husband should love his wife.*

## स्वस्थ माइर बाँच्न पाउनु एक मानव अधिकार हो, यो अधिकार हरेक महिलाले पाउनु पर्छ ।

मेरी श्रीमती गर्भवती भएको बेलामा	स्वस्थ जन्माउने कुरामा परिवारका	पछि सम्म पनि समाजमा अघि बढन
उनको स्वाहार पुर्यो कि पुगेन	सदस्यहरूको निकै ठूलो हात हुन्छ ।	गान्ने हुन्छ ।
भनेर मैले विचार पुऱ्याउनु पर्छ ।	छोरीलाई धेरै महत्व दिने र छोरी	हामी पुरुष जातिले समाज र परिवार
मलाई थाहा छ, हामीकहाँ गर्भवतीको	जन्मदा राम्रो हेरचाह नगर्ने पनि चलन	बाटै यस्तो 'हीन' भावना हटाएर
खाना र पोषणमा त्यति ध्यान दिने	छ । यसो गर्दा छोरीलाई सानैदेखि	समाजमा महिला प्रति राम्रो धारणा
चलन छैन । गर्भको बच्चाालाई	कमजोरीको 'हीन' भावना आउँछ र	ल्याउन सक्छौ ।

महिला प्रति हामी पुरुष जातिले व्यवहार बदल्नु पर्छ,  
हामी बदलियो भने यसबाट परिवारका सबैलाई फाइदा हुन्छ ।



a UNICEF advertisement in Nepali

the main heading translates 'To be able to live healthily is a human right, every woman should get this right'

The meaning of the negative construction with पर्दैन is not exactly the opposite of this. Rather than saying that it is wrong to do something, it simply states that there is no need to do it:

उनीहरूलाई म भन्छु, तपाईंले भन्नुपर्दैन ।

*I will tell them, you do not need to.*

मसँग दुइटो कलम छ, तपाईंले किन्नुपर्दैन ।

*I have two pens, you do not need to buy (one).*

सुन्दरी केटीले गहना लाउनुपर्दैन ।

*A pretty girl does not need to wear jewellery.*

The word पर्दैन is commonly used on its own, without being attached to a verb, to mean *no need* or *don't bother*:

म तपाईंको लागि पानी लिएर आउँछु है ? पर्दैन, *I'll bring some water for you, OK?*

हामीसँग दुई बोतल पानी छ ।

*No need, we have two bottles of water.*

If a need or obligation to be something or somewhere 'falls' upon an inanimate noun, that noun takes neither ले nor लाई:

तपाईंको खल्लिमा पैसा त हुनैपर्छ ।

*There simply must be money in your pocket.*

**EXERCISE 58** Change the following statements of fact into statements of general obligation.

*Example*

ऊ हरेक दिन अफिस जान्छ ।

उसलाई हरेक दिन अफिस जानुपर्छ ।

*He goes to the office every day. = He has to go to the office every day.*

ऊ हरेक दिन अफिस जाँदैन

उसलाई हरेक दिन अफिस जानुपर्दैन

*He doesn't go to the office every day. = He doesn't have to go to the office every day.*

१ हामी ईश्वरलाई पूजा गर्छौं ।

२ मेरो भाइ हरेक दिन दाल भात खान्छ ।

३ आज बिदा हो, हामीहरू अफिसमा जाँदैनौं ।

४ उनीहरू हामीलाई त्यो कथा सुनाउँदैनन् ।

५ सीताले घर सफा गर्दिन । त्यो काम एउटा नोकरले गर्छ ।

६ आज म भात पकाउँदिन । मेरो श्रीमानले पकाउनुहुन्छ ।

## 100 Must, had to

The obvious meaning of a verb followed by the simple past tense of पर्नु *to fall* (पन्यो or परेन) is an obligation in the past:

हिजो घरमा तरकारी नभएर मलाई बजार जानुपर्‍यो ।

*Yesterday there were no vegetables in the house and I had to go to the market.*

अस्ति अफिस बन्द थियो, त्यस कारण मलाई शहर जानुपर्‍येन ।

*The day before yesterday the office was shut, so I did not have to go to town.*

हिजो शहरमा मलाई यता-उता धेरै ठाउँ दौडनुपर्‍यो ।

*Yesterday I had to run here and there to many places in town.*

However, the same construction is used when the speaker is talking about the immediate present, because he considers the obligation that presses upon him as he speaks to have 'fallen' in the past tense. Because the obligation has already 'fallen', the speaker expresses his intention to carry out the action without further delay:

नानीको लुगामा हिलो लाग्यो, अब धनुपर्‍यो । *Mud has got on to the child's clothing, now I must wash it.*

ल, गुरुजी आउनुभयो । अब किताब खोलेर पढ्नुपर्‍यो ।

*Look, teacher has arrived. Now we must open (our) books and read.*

रेष्टुराँ पाँच मिनेटपछि बन्द हुन्छ । अब पैसा तिर्नुपर्‍यो ।

*The restaurant will close in five minutes. Now I must pay the bill.*

**EXERCISE 59** Change the following statements of fact into statements of past or immediate need:

*Example* अब म जान्छु । = अब मलाई जानुपर्‍यो ।

हिजो म गइनँ । = हिजो मलाई जानुपर्‍येन ।

१ अब बुवा पशुपतिनाथको मन्दिर जानुहुन्छ ।

२ अब तिम्री अलिकति भात खान्छौ ।

३ अब म चाँडै सुत्छु ।

४ हिजो मैले धेरै काम गरिनँ ।

५ हिजो किसानहरू खेतमा गएनन् ।

६ हिजो आमा बजार जानुभएन ।

## 101 The verbs मिल्नु and मिलाउनु

The verb मिल्नु is very versatile, and can mean *to come together, match, fit, get along*, etc. It is best explained through examples:

त्यो रँग यो रँगसँग पटककै मिल्दैन ।

*That colour really doesn't match with this colour.*

ताल्लामा यो साँचो मिलेको छैन ।

*This key hasn't fitted the lock.*

उनीहरूको कुरा मिल्‍यो ।

*They came to an agreement.*

यस वाक्यमा त्यो शब्द अलि मिल्दैन ।

*In this sentence that word is a little unsuitable.*

मेरो छोरा आफ्ना साथीहरूसँग राम्रोसँग मिल्छ । *My son gets along well with his friends.*

The verb मिलाउनु is the causative of मिल्नु. That is, it causes a coming together, a matching, etc. and translates into English as *to arrange, assemble, adjust, bring together, sort out:*

त्यो त अलि महंगो भयो, साहूजी । दाम मिलाएर दिनुहोस् ।

*That's a little expensive, shopkeeper. Please adjust the price for me.*

भोलि कति बजे भेट्ने ? समय मिलाउनुपर्छ ।

*What time shall we meet tomorrow? We must arrange a time.*

एक छिन पर्खनुहोस् है । कपाल मिलाउनुपर्छ ।

*Wait a moment, won't you. I have to tidy my hair.*

अब तपाईंहरूको कुरा मिल्यो । हात मिलाउनुहोस् ।

*Now you are in agreement. Please shake hands.*

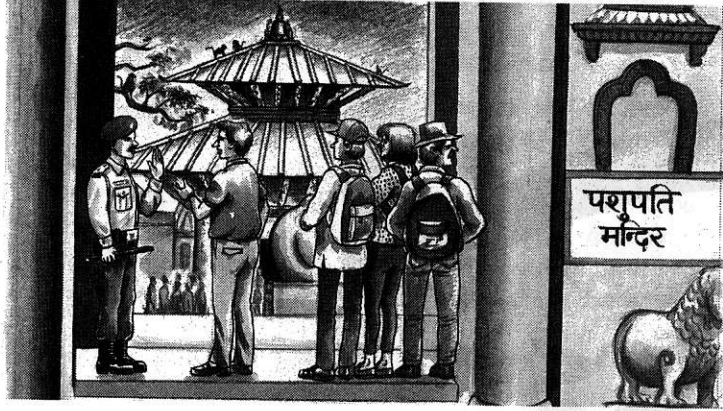
भिन्न जान हुँदैन  
you're not  
allowed in

**In this unit you will learn**

- how to ask and state what is right and what is wrong
- how to ask and state what one is allowed to do
- how to identify some basic facts about religion in Nepal

## 27 Americans at Pashupati temple

Jim has been living in Nepal for three months, and he is showing some American friends who have come to visit him the sights of the Kathmandu Valley. He wonders if he might take them into Pashupati temple. The policeman at the entrance explains why he cannot.



जिम हामी मन्दिरभित्र जान हुन्छ ?

प्रहरी तपाईंहरू कुन देशबाट आउनुभएको ?

जिम हामीहरू अमेरिकाबाट आएको ।

प्रहरी हो र ? कति राम्रो नेपाली बोल्नुहुन्छ तपाईं । तपाईंले नेपाली भाषा कहाँ सिक्नुभयो ?

जिम वहाँ अमेरिकामा अलिकति सिकें । अहिले नेपाल बसेको तीन महिना भयो । २०४  
हामी मन्दिरभित्र...

प्रहरी अहो, अमेरिकामा पनि नेपाली भाषा सिक्न पाइन्छ ? मलाई थाहा थिएन । नेपाली सिकाउने मानिसहरू छन् ?

जिम प्रशस्त छन् । भन्नुहोस् न, हामी मन्दिरभित्र पस्न हुन्छ कि हुन्छ ?

प्रहरी तपाईं हिन्दू धर्मावलम्बी हुनुहुन्छ ?

जिम धर्मावलम्बी भनेको के हो ? मैले बुझिनँ ।

प्रहरी भनाइको मतलब, तपाईं हिन्दू हुनुहुन्छ ?

जिम अहँ, म हिन्दू होइन । हामीहरू हिन्दू नभएको कारणले तपाईं हामीलाई भित्र पस्न दिनुहुन्छ ?

प्रहरी अलि मिल्दैन । यो पशुपतिनाथको मन्दिर नेपालको सबैभन्दा प्राचीन तीर्थस्थल हो । त्यो तपाईंलाई थाहा हुनुपर्छ । त्यसैले यहाँ विशेष नियमहरू लाग्छन् । पुजारीहरूले हिन्दूहरूलाई मात्र भित्र पस्न दिन्छन् । अनि हिन्दू भएर पनि कसैले

छालाबाट बनेको कुनै कुरा लाउन हुँदैन ।

जिम केही छैन । हामी हिन्दू नभएकोले भित्र पस्ने कुरै छैन जस्तो छ । तर मन्दिरको आँगन हेर्न पाइन्छ कि ?

प्रहरी बाग्मती खोलाभन्दा पर ऊ त्यो रूख रूखले ढाकेको थुम्को छ नि । त्यसलाई मृगस्थली भन्छन् । तपाईंहरू बाग्मती खोला ऊ त्यो पुरानो पुलबाट तर्नुहोस् । पुलबाट राजराजेश्वरी घाट देखिन्छ । त्यहाँ काठमाडौंका हिन्दूहरूले आफ्ना मृतहरू जलाउँछन् । त्यसको फोटो खिच्न हुँदैन । साह्रै अनुचित हुन्छ ।

जिम बुझें । तर मृगस्थलीमा के छ ? रूखहरू मात्रै ?

प्रहरी होइन, मृगस्थलीमा पुराना शिवालयहरू धेरै छन् । बाँदरहरू पनि थुप्रै छन् । त्यहाँ घाममा बसेर पशुपतिनाथको मन्दिरको साह्रै राम्रो दृश्य हेर्न पाइन्छ ।

जिम त्यहाँबाट मन्दिरको फोटो खिच्न हुन्छ ?

प्रहरी हुन्छ, एकदमै ठीक छ । तर बाँदरहरूसँग होश गर्नुहोस् । बाँदरहरूलाई फलफूल दिन हुँदैन । दुःख दिन्छन् ।

वहाँ *there; in that very place*

सिकाउनु *to teach*

धर्मावलम्बी *a follower of a religion*

भनाइ *utterance, something said*

मतलब *meaning*

प्राचीन *ancient*

तीर्थस्थल *place of pilgrimage*

विशेष *special*

नियम *rule*

छाला *leather*

बन्नु *to be made*

आँगन *courtyard, compound*

बाग्मती खोला *the Bagmati river*

-भन्दा पर *the other side of*

ढाक्नु *to be covered*

थुम्को *hillock*

तर्नु *to cross*

मृत *dead person*

जलाउनु *to burn, cremate*

फोटो खिच्नु *to take a photograph*

अनुचित *improper*

शिवालय *Shiva temple*

दृश्य *view*

होश गर्नु *to be careful*

दुःख *trouble*

**Jim** Is it all right for us to go into the temple?

**Policeman** Which country have you come from?

**Jim** We have come from America.

**Policeman** Is that so? What good Nepali you speak! Where did you learn the Nepali language?

**Jim** Right there in America I learned a little. Now I have lived in Nepal for three months. Can we...

**Policeman** Aho, can you learn Nepali language in America too? I didn't know. Are there people who teach Nepali?

**Jim** There are plenty. Tell me, is it or isn't it all right for us to enter the temple?

- Policeman** Are you a follower of Hinduism?
- Jim** What does **dharmāvalambī** mean? I didn't understand.
- Policeman** What I mean is, are you a Hindu?
- Jim** No, I am not a Hindu. Will you not allow us into the temple because we are not Hindus?
- Policeman** It's a bit inappropriate. This temple of Pashupatinath is Nepal's most ancient pilgrimage place. That you should know. So special rules apply here. The priests only allow Hindus to enter. And even if they are Hindus, no-one is supposed to wear anything made from leather.
- Jim** It doesn't matter. It seems that because we are not Hindus there is no question of going inside. But can one get to look at the temple courtyard?
- Policeman** On the far side of the Bagmati river over there, the hillock covered by trees, right? They call that Mrigasthali. Cross the Bagmati river by that old bridge over there. From the bridge you can see Rajarajeshwari Ghat. \* There, Kathmandu's Hindus burn their dead. It is not right to take a photo of that. It is extremely improper.
- Jim** I've understood. But what is there at Mrigasthali? Just trees?
- Policeman** No, at Mrigasthali there are many Shiva shrines. There are lots of monkeys too. You can sit in the sun there and look at a very fine view of Pashupatinath temple.
- Jim** Is it all right to take a photo of the temple from there?
- Policeman** Yes, that's absolutely fine. But be careful with the monkeys. You shouldn't give the monkeys any fruit. They'll give you trouble.

**Note** \* A **ghāt** is a stepped platform leading down to a river. **Ghāṭs** are often used for the performance of religious devotions and as cremation sites.

## Grammar

### 102 Is it all right to... ? Using the infinitive with हुन्छ / हुँदैन

The combination of the infinitive of a verb + हुन्छ / हुँदैन expresses meanings such as *should / should not, is / is not permitted, is / is not*

*advisable, is / is not all right.* Often, no subject is mentioned in these sentences, which are often general statements about what is and what is not correct behaviour: in such cases it can be understood to mean *one should... or one should not...*

मन्दिरमा जुत्ता लाउन हुँदैन ।

*One should not wear shoes in a temple.\**

हिन्दू धर्म अनुसार गाई काट्न हुँदैन ।

*According to Hindu religion, it is wrong to kill a cow.*

इस्लामी धर्म अनुसार सुँगूरको मासु खान हुँदैन ।

*According to Islamic religion, it is wrong to eat pork.*

**Note** \* The soles of the feet or shoes are unclean, and shoes should be removed before entering the interiors of houses, temples, etc. It is also insulting to sit with one's legs crossed in such a way that the sole of one's shoe is in front of another person's face. Similarly, care should be taken not to let one's feet pass above any part of a Nepali person's body, nor should one touch another person on the crown of the head.

The alternative negative form of हुनु (हुन्न instead of हुँदैन) is also frequently used in these contexts. The subject of a verb in a sentence of this type must take -ले if the verb is transitive:

तिमीले पिरो धेरै खान हुन्न,  
अलिकति खान त हुन्छ ।

*You should not eat too much spicy (food), but it's OK to eat a little.*

### 103 They don't allow you to...

Nepali uses the verb दिनु *to give* to mean *to let* or *to allow*. The subject of दिनु will usually take -ले in all tenses, to make it absolutely clear who the subject is. When one of the first person pronouns (म or हामी) is the subject, however, it is unlikely to take -ले except in past tenses. The structure of such a sentence is typically:

Allowor + -ले Person allowed+ -लाई Infinitive दिनु (*to allow*)

मैले घरमा उसलाई चुरोट खान दिइँन ।

*I did not allow him to smoke a cigarette in the house.*

प्रहरीले तिमीलाई मन्दिरमा जुत्ता लाउन दिँदैन होला ।

*The policeman probably won't allow you to wear shoes in the temple.*



बत्ती किन बन्द गर्नु तिमिले ? बत्ती खोलेर  
मलाई अखबार पढ्न देऊन ।

*Why have you switched off  
the light? Switch it on and  
let me read the newspaper,  
won't you!\**

यहाँभन्दा माथि जान दिँदैनन् । पहिरो जाने  
खतरा छ ।

*(They) don't let you go  
higher than this. There is a  
danger of landslides.*

**Note \*** The Nepali equivalent of *to switch on* is खोल्नु *to open*, while *to switch off* is बन्द गर्नु, *to shut*.

**EXERCISE 60** Create five sentences along the following lines:

allower	allowee	place/ time	verb	allow?
I	people	in my house	smoke	×

= म मान्छेहरूलाई मेरो घरमा चुरोट खान दिन्नै ।

allower	allowee	place/ time	verb	allow?
1 mother	my friends	in our house	drink alcohol	×
2 they	us	into the temple	go	✓
3 elder brother	children	in the morning	watch TV	✓
4 father	us	in the evening	go out	×
5 you (High)	tourists	in the temple	wear shoes	✓?

### 104 भएर *being and* भएर पनि *despite being*

भएर, the -एर participle of हुनु, is commonly used to point out the cause of something, in much the same way that the -एको participle is used in combination with -ले to create a part of a sentence beginning with *because*. When भएर is used, however, the cause is stated less emphatically:

नेवार भएर उनीहरू नेपाली मात्रै होइन नेपाल  
भाषा पनि बोल्छन् ।

*Being Newars, they speak  
not only Nepali but Nepal  
Bhasha too.\**

मेरी हजुरआमा बूढी भएर घरबाट धेरै कम  
निस्कनुहुन्छ ।

*Being old, my grandmother  
very seldom comes out  
of the house.*

**Note \*** The official name for the Newari language is नेपाल भाषा. The Kathmandu Valley, where it is the indigenous language, was known as नेपाल until the present century.

The English translation of each of the above sentences could equally begin *because they are Newars...* and *because she is old...*

The addition of पनि (*even, also*) to भएर makes the sentence mean that although what is stated is indeed the case, other things are not as might be expected:

नेवार भएर पनि उनीहरू नेपाली मात्रै  
बोल्छन् ।

*Despite being Newars, they  
speak only Nepali.*

बूढी भएर पनि मेरी हजुरआमा हरेक  
दिन मन्दिर जानुहुन्छ ।

*Despite being old, my  
grandmother goes to the  
temple every day.*

### 105 Religion in Nepal

Religion is an integral part of traditional life in Nepal, which is the only country in the world with Hinduism as its official religion. The concept of धर्म (*righteousness, duty, morality, religion*) pervades many activities, and religious concepts have played an important role in the shaping of society. Most Nepali-speaking people are Hindus, though there are many Buddhist Newars and Buddhism is also prevalent among the people of the high mountain regions. Islam is represented in most Tarai towns, and there is a Muslim community in Kathmandu. The Christian community is very small.

For Hindus, religion consists in the worship (पूजा) of special beings (*gods*: देव, देवता) at particular times (certain times of the day, holy days of the week or month, annual festivals, etc.), in particular holy places (at a family altar, at a temple, etc.). They share a belief in the principle of rebirth, the consequence of actions (कर्म), and the illusory nature of the material world (सँसार). The ultimate aim of religious practice is deliverance (मोक्ष) from the endless cycle of birth and rebirth, but most Hindus simply hope for a better rebirth through the accumulation of merit (पुण्य).

Buddhism and Hinduism are closely intertwined in the Kathmandu Valley towns, and sometimes it is difficult to decide whether a particular temple has a Buddhist or a Hindu dedication. For many Nepalis, the distinction is meaningless. However, Buddhism is a distinct religion which, unlike Hinduism, has a founder, the historical Buddha called Gautama, who is also given the title Shakyamuni. Buddhism shares many beliefs in common with Hinduism, but it has a different conception of the concept of deliverance, which is निर्वाण,

the 'snuffing out' of desire. Unlike Hinduism, Buddhism is also practised by monastic communities. The religion has its own pantheon of deities. Of these, the Bodhisattvas (beings who have delayed their own attainment of निर्वाण and have vowed to work for the enlightenment of all sentient beings) are widely worshipped.

To state that a particular deity is worshipped at a particular place or time, use the verb phrase -को पूजा हुनु

यो मन्दिरमा महादेवको पूजा हुन्छ ।

*Mahādev is worshipped at this temple.*

दसैँको ठूलो पर्वमा दुर्गा देवीको पूजा हुन्छ ।

*The goddess Durga is worshipped in the great festival of Dasain.*

**EXERCISE 61** Translate into Nepali:

- A Which god does this temple belong to? Is it all right to go inside?  
 B This is the temple of Ganesh. Yes, it is all right for you to go inside, but you must take your shoes off.  
 A Is this a very old temple?  
 B Yes, it is very ancient. People come here every morning and do **pūjā** of Ganesh.  
 A Why do they have to come here every morning?  
 B They do not have to come, but it is good to come here every day. If you do **pūjā** of Ganesh every morning your day will be successful. That is a belief of ours.  
 A What should I do now?  
 B You have done **darśan** of the god, and that is good. Please give a little money for the temple.  
 A I do not have very much money on me. But perhaps it will be all right to give ten rupees?  
 B Yes, that is fine. Please come, it is late. Now we must go to Paśupati temple. It is not so far. If we walk there we can reach it in half an hour.  
 A Which deity is worshipped at Paśupati temple?  
 B Shivajī is worshipped there.

# 18

I can learn  
Nepali

म नेपाली सिक्न सक्छु

**In this unit you will learn**

- how to use the Nepali verbs that mean *can*
- how to describe verbs
- how to talk about learning and teaching
- how to talk about wanting to do something

## 28 How many languages can you speak?

हर्षराज तपाईं कतिवटा भाषा बोल्न सक्नुहुन्छ ?

तिलविक्रम म बाल्यकालदेखि नै लिम्बू भाषा बोल्छु । लिम्बू भाषा मेरो मातृभाषा नै हो । मेरो लागि लिम्बू भाषा आमाको दूध जस्तै हो ।

हर्षराज लिम्बू भाषा तपाईंको मातृभाषा नै होला, तर तपाईंको लागि नेपाली पनि दोस्रो मातृभाषा जस्तो छ, होइन ?

तिलविक्रम लिम्बू भाषा मैले आमाबाट सिकेको भाषा हो, तर सानो उमेरदेखि नै म नेपाली भाषा पनि बोल्छु । वास्तवमा मातृभाषा भनेको के हो ? आफुले जन्मदेखि बोलेको भाषा हो कि आमाबाट सिकेको भाषा हो ?

हर्षराज मेरो विचारमा तपाईं मातृभाषा भन्ने शब्दलाई ती दुवै अर्थ दिन सक्नुहुन्छ । तपाईंकी आमा पनि नेपाली भाषा बोल्न सक्नुहुन्छ ?

तिलविक्रम वहाँलाई नेपाली बोल्न आउँदैन ।

हर्षराज पटककै आउँदैन ?

तिलविक्रम त्यसो त होइन, तर धेरै कम आउँछ वहाँलाई । बुवा त नेपालीमा काम चलाउन सक्नुहुन्छ । हाम्रो गाउँका लोग्ने-मान्छेहरू गाउँभन्दा बाहिर व्यापारको लागि घुम्छन् अथवा काम गर्छन् तर स्वास्नी-मानिसहरू प्राय जसो गाउँभित्र नै बस्छन् । त्यसै कारणले उनीहरू लिम्बूबाहेक अन्य भाषाहरू सिक्न पाउँदैनन् । अनि बूढा बूढीहरू धेरै जसो कुनै पनि भाषा लेख्न पढ्न सक्दैनन् ।

हर्षराज लिम्बू र नेपालीबाहेक तपाईंलाई कुन कुन भाषाहरू बोल्न आउँछन् ?

तिलविक्रम म हिन्दी बुझ्न सक्छु र अलि अलि बोल्न पनि सक्छु । नेपालीभाषीहरूलाई हिन्दी बुझ्न त्यति गाह्रो हुँदैन । युवा-युवतीहरू सिनेमा घरमा हिन्दी फिलिमहरू हेर्छन् । आजकाल नेपालमा दूरदर्शन पनि हेर्न पाइन्छ । हिन्दी बुझ्न नसक्ने युवा-युवती अब बिरलै पाइन्छन् नेपालमा ।

हर्षराज त्यो त हो । अनि नयाँ पुस्ताका केटाकेटीहरू आफ्ना पुर्खाहरू जस्ता अपढ हुँदैनन्, होइन त ? उनीहरू स्कूलहरूमा नेपाली मात्रै होइन, अँग्रेजी पनि लेख्न पढ्न सक्छन् ।

तिलविक्रम तर केटाकेटीहरू मात्रै होइन, अँग्रेजी भाषा बोल्न सक्ने केही बूढाहरू पनि छन् हाम्रो गाउँमा । उनीहरू धेरै जसो ब्रिटिश आर्मीको पिन्सेन खान्छन् । बोल्न मात्रै होइन, कोही-कोही बूढाहरू त अँग्रेजी भाषा पढ्न पनि सक्छन् । गजबको कुरा हो नि । एक समयमा मलाई पनि अँग्रेजी सिक्न मन लागेको थियो । तपाईंलाई कहिल्यै अँग्रेजी सिक्न मन लागेन ?

हर्षराज अँग्रेजी त म पढ्न सक्छु तर बोल्न सकिदैन । अभ्यास गर्न त मन लाग्छ तर अँग्रेजी जान्ने साथी छैन । के गर्ने ?

भाषा *language*  
बोल्नु *to speak*  
सक्नु *to be able to*  
दूध *milk*  
मातृभाषा *mother tongue*  
वास्तव *reality*  
आफु *one's self*  
जन्म *birth*  
शब्द *word*  
दुवै *both*  
काम चलाउनु *to get by, function*  
पटककै *at all*  
प्राय जसो *usually, mostly*

अन्य *other*  
पाउनु *to get to, manage to*  
बूढा *old man*  
बूढी *old woman*  
युवा-युवतीहरू *young men and women*  
दूरदर्शन *the state-run Indian TV channel*  
बिरलै *rarely*  
पुर्खा *ancestor*  
ब्रिटिश आर्मी *British Army*  
पिन्सेन खानु *to receive ('consume')*  
*a pension*  
गजब *surprise, amazement*  
जान्नु *to know*

**Harsharaj** How many languages can you speak?

**Tilbikram** I speak the Limbu language ever since childhood. The Limbu language is my mother tongue, in fact. For me the Limbu language is like mother's milk.

**Harsharaj** The Limbu language might well be your mother tongue, but for you Nepali too is like a second mother tongue, isn't it?

**Tilbikram** The Limbu language is the language I learned from my mother, but I also speak Nepali from a young age. In reality, what does 'mother tongue' mean? Is it the language spoken from birth or the language learned from your mother?

**Harsharaj** I think you can give both those meanings to the word 'mother tongue'. Can your mother speak Nepali too?

**Tilbikram** She can't speak Nepali.

**Harsharaj** Not at all?

**Tilbikram** It's not quite like that, but she knows very little. Father can get by in Nepali. The men of our village travel for trade or they work outside the village, but the women generally stay right in the village. So they don't get to learn any languages other than Limbu. And the old men and women usually can't read or write any language.

**Harsharaj** What languages can you speak except for Limbu and Nepali?

**Tilbikram** I can understand Hindi and I can speak just a little as well. It's not so hard for Nepali-speakers to understand Hindi. The young men and women watch Hindi films at

the cinema. Nowadays you can get to watch Doordarshan in Nepal as well. It's rare to find young people who cannot understand Hindi in Nepal today.

**Harsharaj** That's true. And the children of the new generation are not illiterate like their ancestors, are they? In schools they learn to write and read not only Nepali but English too.

**Tilbikram** But it's not just children, there are also some old men in our village who can speak English. Most of them receive British Army pensions. And there are some old men who can not only speak but can also read English. It's amazing, you know. At one time I wanted to learn English too. Did you ever want to learn English?

**Harsharaj** I can read English but I can't speak it. I'd like to practise it but I don't have a friend who knows English. What to do?

## Grammar

### 106 To be able to...

Nepali has two verbs that mean *can*. They are each used in combination with the infinitive of a verb. सक्नु means *can* in a way that refers to the inherent or physical capability of its subject to perform the verb in question:

ऊ सगरमाथा चढ्न सक्छ ।

*He can climb (is capable of climbing) Everest.*

ऊ सगरमाथा चढ्न सक्दैन ।

*He cannot climb (is not capable of climbing) Everest.*

In sentences in past tenses, the subject will take -ले if the verb that it was able or unable to perform is transitive:

*Present tense*

ऊ तपाईंको कुरा बुझ्न सक्दैन ।

*He can't understand what you say.*

म त्यो किताब पढ्नु सकिदैन ।

*I can't read that book.*

*Past tense*

उसले तपाईंको कुरा बुझ्न सकेन ।

*He couldn't understand what you said.*

मैले त्यो किताब पढ्नु सकिनँ ।

*I couldn't read that book.*

When discussing a person's ability to speak a language, a common construction has it that the language *comes* to that person:

मलाई नेपाली अलि अलि आउँछ ।

*I know just a little Nepali.*

मलाई अँग्रेजी बोल्न आउँछ तर लेख्न आउँदैन ।

*I can speak English but I cannot write it.*

**EXERCISE 62** Write nine short Nepali sentences stating that each of the persons on the left is able to perform each of the verbs on the right:

I

speak Nepali

she (Middle)

cook Nepali food

you (High)

understand this book

### 107 To get to, manage to

पाउनु means *can* in the sense of *getting the opportunity to/managing to*. It suggests that permission has been granted, or that circumstances are in some other way favourable. The difference in meaning between पाउनु and सक्नु is particularly marked in negative sentences:

लण्डनमा म नेपाली बोल्न पाउँदैन ।

*In London I can't (don't get the chance to) speak Nepali.*

नेपालमा मैले अँग्रेजी सिक्न पाइँनँ ।

*In Nepal I couldn't (didn't get the chance to) learn English.*

उसले सगरमाथा चढ्न पाएन ।

*He could not (did not get a chance to) climb Everest.*

लण्डनमा तपाईं गुन्द्रुक खान पाउनुहुन्न ।

*You won't be able to (won't get the chance to) eat gundruk in London.*

The passive form of पाउनु, i.e. पाइनु, can also be used impersonally to state that something is permitted, or that the opportunity exists to do something:

लण्डनमा नेपाली बोल्न पाइँदैन ।

*In London one doesn't get to speak Nepali.*

जाडो मौसममा सगरमाथा चढ्न पाइँदैन ।

*One cannot (get permission to) climb Everest during the cold weather.*

हेलाम्बुतिर गुन्द्रुक खान पाइन्छ ।

*One gets (the chance) to eat gundruk in the Helambu area.*

**EXERCISE 63** Write nine short Nepali sentences stating that each of the persons on the left managed to perform each of the verbs on the right yesterday:

he (Low)	climb Everest
they (Middle)	make a phone call
you (Middle)	eat <b>gundruk</b>

### 108 Describing a verb

Nepali usually uses the infinitive of the verb (e.g. सिक्नु *to learn, learning*) when that verb is being described with an adjective. If you wish to celebrate the ease with which you have mastered Nepali so far, you might like to declare:

नेपाली सिक्नु सजिलो हुन्छ।

*To learn Nepali is easy.*

उसको उच्चारण अलि अनौठो छ। त्यस कारणले उसको नेपाली बुझ्न गाह्रो छ।

*His pronunciation is a little odd. So it is difficult to understand his Nepali.*

नातेदारबाट पैसा माग्नु अठ्ठारो हुन्छ।

*It is awkward to ask a relative for money.*

अठ्ठारो and गाह्रो can both be translated as *difficult*, but they have slightly different connotations. गाह्रो means *difficult* in the sense of something being hard or tough, while अठ्ठारो means that something is problematic, awkward or tricky.

### 109 To learn to, teach to

सिक्नु means *to learn*. It is used with both nouns and verbs; when combined with another verb in a phrase meaning *to learn to...*, the verb that is learned takes its infinitive form:

म नेपाली भाषा सिक्दै छु।

*I am learning Nepali.*

म नेपाली भाषा पढ्न सिक्दै छु।

*I am learning to read Nepali.*

म चिनियाँ भाषा सिक्दै थिएँ।

*I was learning Chinese.*

म चिनियाँ भाषा लेख्न सिक्दै थिएँ।

*I was learning to write Chinese.*

अब रामे गाडी हाँक्न सिक्दै छ।

*Now Rame is learning to drive a car.*

मेरी छोरीले अहिलेसम्म साइकल चढ्न सिकेकी छैन।

*My daughter has not learned to ride a bicycle yet.*

सिकाउनु is the causative of सिक्नु and it therefore means *to cause to learn or to teach*.

गाउँको एउटा बुढाले मलाई यो गीत गाउन सिकाएको थियो।

*An old man in the village taught me to sing this song.*

वहाँ यी साना बच्चाहरूलाई अक्षर पढ्न सिकाउँदै हुनुहुन्छ।

*She is teaching these small children to read the alphabet.*

A second verb that means *to teach* is पढाउनु, which is actually the causative of पढ्नु *to read, to study*. Therefore, पढाउनु is only used in more academic contexts, and only सिकाउनु is used in combination with the infinitive of a verb to mean *to teach to...*

तपाईं यो स्कूलमा के पढाउनुहुन्छ ?

*What do you teach at this school?*

म गणित पढाउँछु यहाँ।

*I teach mathematics here.*

आज तपाईं बच्चाहरूलाई के गर्न सिकाउनुहुन्छ ?

*What will you teach the children to do today?*

आज म उनीहरूलाई हिसाब गर्न सिकाउँछु।

*Today I shall teach them to add up.*

#### School subjects

इतिहास	History	विज्ञान	Science
गणित	Mathematics	अँग्रेजी	English
भूगोल	Geography	नेपाली	Nepali

### 110 To want to...

There are several ways of expressing a wish to do something. The first is to use the verb चाहनु *to want to* in combination with the infinitive form of a verb:

गुरुजीले नानीहरूलाई एउटा कुरा भन्न चाहनुहुन्छ।

*Guruji wants to tell the children something.*

नेपालमा तपाईं आफ्नो परिवारको लागि कस्ता उपहारहरू किन्न चाहनुहुन्छ ?

*What sort of presents do you want to buy for your family in Nepal?*

The second way of expressing a wish to do something is to use the past tense of the verb phrase मन लाग्नु, which is मन लाग्यो. This is perhaps a more typically Nepali way of expressing the same idea. मन लाग्यो means something like *mind struck* or *mind tended*. It is in the

past tense because the person in question has in the very recent past conceived the wish to perform whatever the verb might be: the wish has just 'struck' him/her. In their simplest form, such sentences are structured as follows:

subject + लाई – infinitive verb – मन लाग्यो

मलाई रुन मन लाग्यो ।

*I want to cry.*

उसलाई घर जान मन लाग्यो ।

*He wants to go home.*

The negative form is मन लागेन:

तपाईंलाई हामीकहाँ बस्न मन लागेन ?

*Don't you want to stay at our place?*

खै, तिमिलाई गीत गाउन किन मन लागेन ?

*Well, why don't you want to sing a song?*

If the sentence is about a wish that was conceived in the past but is no longer entertained, मन लाग्नु must take the completed past tense:

मलाई अमेरिकाको कुनै युनिवर्सिटीमा पढ्न मन लागेको थियो, तर सकिँनँ ।

*I wanted to study in some American university, but I could not.*

मलाई नेपाल पुगेर तपाईंको परिवारलाई फोन गर्न मन लागेको थियो, तर नम्बर फेला परेन ।

*I wanted to phone your family when I reached Nepal, but I could not find the number.*

### 111 Verbs meaning to believe

The English verb *to believe* translates into Nepali in several different ways, and the question of which verb to use depends very much on context. The three main verbs are:

(-लाई) मान्नु

*to accept, regard well, respect*

(-मा) विश्वास गर्नु

*to trust in, have faith in*

पत्याउनु

*to accept as a factual truth*

म तपाईंको दाईंलाई धेरै मान्छु ।

*I respect your elder brother a lot.*

म हिन्दू धर्मलाई पनि मान्छु, बौद्ध धर्मलाई पनि मान्छु ।

*I believe in both Hinduism and Buddhism.*

म उनीहरूको कुरामा विश्वास गर्दिन ।

*I don't trust in what they say.*

देवी-देवताहरूमा म धेरै विश्वास गर्छु ।

*I believe strongly in the gods and goddesses.*

उनीहरूले भनेको कुरा पत्याउन गाह्रो छ ।

*It is difficult to believe what they say.*

# 10

डाक्टरकहाँ

## at the doctor's

In this unit you will learn

- how to talk about purpose and beginning to do something
- how to talk about remembering and forgetting

## ▶ 29 Kalyani visits the doctor

Jivan takes his daughter Kalyani to see Dr Shrestha because she has been complaining of sore eyes.

जीवन नमस्ते डाक्टर साहेब ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ नमस्ते । बस्नुहोस् । भन्नुहोस् त, के भयो ?

जीवन डाक्टर साहेबलाई मेरी छोरी बिरामी भएर देखाउन आएको । बिसन्चो भएको दुई-चार दिन भयो । आज बिहान टाउको दुखेको कुरा गर्न थाली । अनि त्यो सुनेपछि डाक्टरलाई देखाउनुपर्ने भनेर हामीहरू हतार हतार आयौं ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ ए, ठीक गर्नुभयो तपाईंले... नानी, तिम्रो नाम के हो त ?

कल्याणी कल्याणी, डाक्टर साहेब ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ अनि तिम्रो उमेर ?

कल्याणी सात वर्ष, डाक्टर साहेब ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ इनको टाउको आज मात्र दुख्न थालेको ? यसभन्दा अघि बिरामी थिइनन् ?

जीवन केही दिनदेखि आँखा दुखेको कुरा गर्दै थिई । हिजो हेरेर थाहा पाएँ दुवै आँखा रातो भएका थिए ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ भन त नानी, तिमीलाई कस्तो छ ?

कल्याणी आँखा दुख्यो डाक्टर साहेब ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ एक चोटि जिब्रो देखाऊ त । कुनचाहिँ आँखा दुख्यो नि ?

कल्याणी दुवै आँखा दुख्छ डाक्टर साहेब ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ आँखा कहिले दुख्न थाल्यो ?

कल्याणी बुधवार स्कूल पुगेपछि दुख्न थाल्यो डाक्टर साहेब । म किताब पढ्नु बसेँ अनि त्यही बेला मेरो आँखा दुख्न थाल्यो ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ टाउको पनि दुख्छ ?

कल्याणी आज बिहान दुखेको थियो, डाक्टर साहेब । अब त निको भयो ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ अनि पेट नि ?

कल्याणी दुख्दैन डाक्टर साहेब ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ तपाईंकी छोरीको स्वास्थ्य धेरै जसो कस्तो हुन्छ ?

जीवन केही महिना अघि यसलाई दिसा लागेको थियो डाक्टर साहेब । दिसा लागेपछि हामीले जीवन-जल दियोँ अनि चाँडै निको भयो । त्यसबाहेक केही त भएको छैन ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ घरमा तपाईंहरू केमा भात पकाउनुहुन्छ ?

जीवन चूल्होमा डाक्टर साहेब ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ मट्टीतेलको चूल्हो ?

जीवन होइन, डाक्टर साहेब, हामी दाउरामा पकाउँछौं । हामी गरीब मान्छे, मट्टीतेल किन्न सकिँदैन ।

डा० श्रेष्ठ घरभित्रको धुवाँले इनका आँखालाई अलि बिगारेको हुन सक्छ । म तपाईंलाई यसको औषधि दिन्छु । अनि केही दिनसम्म बिहान र बेलुका दिनको दुई पटक उमालेर सेलाएको पानीले सफा गर्न नबिर्सनु, है त ?

जीवन हवस् डाक्टर साहेब, धन्यवाद । औषधि किन्न कता जानुपर्छ ?

डा० श्रेष्ठ कुनै पनि औषधि पसलमा पाइन्छ । ल, बिस्तारै जानुहोस् । चार दिनभित्र निको भएन भने मलाई देखाउन फेरि आउनुहोस् ।

डा० Dr

बिरामी ill

बिसन्चो unwell (opposite of सन्चो)

टाउको head

दुख्नु to hurt

थाल्नु to start, begin

-पछि after

नानी child, little one

जिब्रो tongue

दिसा diarrhoea

जीवन-जल life-water: a diarrhoea remedy

चूल्हो cooker, stove, cooking hearth

दाउरा firewood

धुवाँ smoke

बिगार्नु to spoil, pollute, cause harm to

उमाल्नु to boil

सेलाउनु to cool

औषधि medicine

किन्नु to buy

फेरि again

**Jivan** Hello Doctor Saheb.

**Dr Shrestha** Hello. Sit down, Tell me then, what's happened?

**Jivan** My daughter's become ill and I have come to show her to Doctor Saheb. She's been unwell for several days. This morning she began to say that her head hurt. And when we heard that we thought we should show her to Doctor Saheb and we came in a hurry.

**Dr Shrestha** Oh, you did the right thing... Child, what is your name?

**Kalyani** Kalyani, Doctor Saheb.

**Dr Shrestha** And your age?

**Kalyani** Seven years, Doctor Saheb.

**Dr Shrestha** Did her head only begin to hurt today? She wasn't ill before this?

**Jivan** For several days she was saying that her eyes hurt. Yesterday I looked and discovered that both eyes had become red.

**Dr Shrestha** Tell me child, how are you?

**Kalyani** My eyes hurt, Doctor Saheb.

- Dr Shrestha Kalyani** Just show me your tongue then. Which eye hurts?  
**Kalyani** Both eyes hurt, Doctor Saheb.
- Dr Shrestha Kalyani** When did your eyes begin to hurt?  
**Kalyani** My eyes began to hurt after I got to school on Wednesday, Doctor Saheb. I sat down to read a book and at that moment my eyes started to hurt.
- Dr Shrestha Kalyani** Does your head hurt too?  
**Kalyani** It was hurting this morning, Doctor Saheb. But now it's better.
- Dr Shrestha Kalyani** And what about your stomach?  
**Kalyani** It doesn't hurt, Doctor Saheb.
- Dr Shrestha Jivan** How is your daughter's health usually?  
**Jivan** A few months ago she had diarrhoea, Doctor Saheb. When she got diarrhoea we gave her 'Jivan-Jal' and she got better quickly. Apart from that, nothing has happened.
- Dr Shrestha Jivan** What do you cook your food on at home?  
**Jivan** On a cooker, Doctor Saheb.
- Dr Shrestha Jivan** A kerosene cooker?  
**Jivan** No, Doctor Saheb, we cook on firewood. We are poor people, kerosene cannot be afforded.
- Dr Shrestha** The smoke inside the house might have harmed her eyes a little. I will give you medicine for this. And for a few days do not forget to wash her eyes twice a day, morning and evening, with water that has been boiled and cooled, OK?
- Jivan** Very well, Doctor Saheb, thank you. Where should I go to buy the medicine?
- Dr Shrestha** You can get it in any medicine shop. There, take care. If she is not better within four days come to show (her to) me again.

## Grammar

### 112 Expressing purpose

The infinitive of a verb can be used in combination with verbs such as जानु *to go*, आउनु *to come*, and also with other verbs, to express purpose. In these contexts, the infinitive of the verb means *in order to do whatever the verb might be*:

हेर्न जानु  
 लिन पठाउनु  
 गर्न आउनु

हामीहरू दाउरा काट्न वनतिर जाँदै छौं ।

आज दिउँसो पल्लो गाउँको मान्छे हाम्रो  
 गाई हेर्न आउँदै छ ।

*to go (in order) to watch  
 to send (in order) to get  
 to come (in order) to do*

*We are going to the forest to  
 cut firewood.*

*This afternoon a man from  
 the next village is coming  
 to look at our cow.*

Sometimes, the postposition -लाई is added to the infinitive of the verb to emphasize the sense of purpose. This is especially necessary in spoken Nepali, when purpose is often expressed outside the framework of a full sentence:

उनीहरू किन पोखरा जाँदै छन् ? सिनेमा  
 हेर्नलाई ?  
 तिमीहरू किन वनभित्र पसेको ? दाउरा  
 काट्नलाई ?

*Why are they going to  
 Pokhara. To watch a film?  
 Why have you entered the  
 forest? To cut firewood?*

Another context in which purpose is expressed is one in which you wish to say that some thing is needed in order for a particular verb to happen. In this case, the postposition -को लागि *for* is added to the infinitive of the verb:

फोटो खिच्नको लागि के चाहिन्छ ? फोटो  
 खिच्नको लागि क्यामेरा चाहिन्छ ।

यो रेडियो बजाउनको लागि मैले एउटा ब्याटरी  
 किन्नुप्यो ।

*What does one need to take a  
 photograph? To take a  
 photograph you need a camera.  
 In order to play this radio  
 I had to buy a battery.*

### 113 Beginning to do something

Nepali has four verbs that mean *to begin*. These are: शुरु हुनु, शुरु गर्नु, थाल्नु, and लाग्नु .

शुरु हुनु and शुरु गर्नु

शुरु is a noun meaning *beginning*. Thus, शुरुमा means *in the beginning*. शुरु हुनु is intransitive, while शुरु गर्नु is transitive; they have the sense of *to commence* and *to start* respectively. They are both used as the main verb of a sentence and cannot be combined with any other verb:

आजको कार्यक्रम कति बजे शुरु हुन्छ ?

काम साह्रै दिलो भयो । अब हामीले शुरु गर्नुप्यो ।

*At what time does today's  
 programme begin?*

*The work is very overdue.  
 We must start now.*



थाल्नु

थाल्नु and लाग्नु can both be used with the infinitive of a verb to indicate the beginning of an event or action. Although थाल्नु and लाग्नु both mean *to begin*, there are certain tenses and contexts in which one should be used instead of the other, and in some contexts there is some difference in meaning between the two verbs. Nepali-speakers use these two verbs rather more than English-speakers use the English verb *to begin*.

थाल्नु has the sense *to start to...* In the past tense, it means that the subject began to perform the verb with which थाल्नु is combined, but it does not imply that the verb is still being performed:

ऊ मन्दिर जान थाल्यो ।  
मेरी बहिनी रुन थाली ।

*He started to go to the temple.*  
*My younger sister started to cry.*

थाल्नु is transitive when it is used with transitive verbs, so the subject must take -ले in the past tense:

मैले अस्ति बुधवारदेखि अफिसमा  
काम गर्न थालें ।

*I started to work at the office  
from last Wednesday.*

बाले भरखरै अखबार पढ्न थाल्नुभएको थियो ।  
*Father had just started to read  
the newspaper.*

थाल्नु is used in the present tense in situations where the subject makes a voluntary choice to perform the verb:

म आजै गर्न थाल्छु ।

*I shall start to do it today.*

भोलिदेखि ऊ अँग्रेजी सिक्न थाल्छ रे ।

*He says he will start to learn  
English from tomorrow.*

लाग्नु

लाग्नु has the sense *to begin to...* It is very rarely used in the present tense, where it gives way to थाल्नु. In the past tense, it often means that the verb has begun to happen or be performed, but is still on-going. For instance, the sentences म घर जान लागें and म घर जान लागेको छु might be taken literally to mean *I began to go home* and *I have begun to go home* but in fact they can both mean *I am going home* or *I am on my way home*:

ए भाइ, तिमी कता जान लागेको ?

*Hey, brother, where are  
you off to?*

म ठमेल जान लागेको । तिमी नि ?

*I'm going to Thamel. What  
about you?*

म भोटाहिटी जान लागेको ।

*I'm on my way to Bhotahiti.*

Compare the translations of the following sentences, one of which uses लाग्नु and the other थाल्नु:

ऊ मन्दिर जान लागेको छ ।

*He is on his way to the temple /  
he is about to set out for the  
temple.*

ऊ मन्दिर जान थालेको छ ।

*He has started going to  
the temple.*

The first sentence means that he has *begun to go* to the temple, and is currently headed in that direction. The second sentence suggests that he was not previously in the habit of visiting the temple, but has *started to go* recently.

लाग्नु is more suited than थाल्नु to casual or involuntary actions or events. It never takes -ले, even in the past tense when the verb it is linked with is transitive.

**Further examples of लाग्नु and थाल्नु**

ए दीपक, तिमी के गर्न लाग्यौ ?

*Hey Deepak, what are you doing?*

म भात खान लागेको, आमा !

*I'm eating rice, mother!*

पानी पर्न लाग्यो । अब छाता खोल्नुपर्ने ।

*It's started to rain. Now we  
must open the umbrella.*

कार्तिक महिनादेखि मौसम अलि चिसो  
हुन थाल्छ ।

*From the month of Kartik the  
weather starts to be rather cold.*

## 114 After doing something

The postposition -पछि *after* is added to the past tense base of verbs, with the -e- vowel forming a junction between them, to mean:

खाएपछि

*after eating*

गएपछि

*after going*

भनेपछि

*after saying*

उठेपछि

*after getting up*

भएपछि

*after being /becoming*

रातमा नराम्रो सपना देखेपछि ऊ फेरि  
निदाउन सकेन ।

*After he had a nightmare in  
the night, he could not sleep  
again.*

बा-आमा मरेपछि साना बच्चाहरूलाई  
कसले हेर्छ ?

*After mother and father have  
died, who will look after the  
small children?*

झिसमिसे बिहानमा उठेर हातमुख धोएर दाँत  
माझपछि म बाहिर निस्कें ।  
*I went out after I had got up  
in the pale early dawn,  
washed my hands and face,  
and brushed my teeth.*

Note \* In Nepali, one 'sees' a dream or nightmare.

## 115 Remembering and forgetting

The verb बिसर्नु means *to forget*:

हामीलाई नबिसर्नुहोस् ! \*

माफ गर्नुहोस् है, मैले तपाईंको नाम बिर्सें ।

आज तिमि स्कूलबाट किन ढिलो आयौ ? बाटो  
बिर्सेर कि क्या हो ?

*Don't forget us!*

*Please forgive me, I have  
forgotten your name.*

*Why did you come home late  
from school today? Did you  
forget the way or what?*

Note \* also the expression माया नमानुहोस् ! literally, *don't kill affection*, which means 'don't forget me/us' or 'keep in touch'.

बिसर्नु is also combined with the infinitive of a verb to mean *to forget to...*

क्षमा गर्नुहोला, मैले तपाईंको ठेगाना टिप्न  
बिर्सें ।

बिहा गर्ने हतपतले उसले केटी माग्न बिर्स्यो ।

*Please forgive me, I forgot to  
take a note of your address.*

*Because of (his) hurry to get  
married he forgot to ask  
for a girl.\**

Note \* A proverb which describes how in one's rush to get something done one can often forget some crucial ingredient.

If you wish to tell someone to remember to do something, you should tell them *not to forget* to do it, using बिसर्नु:

बेलायत फर्केपछि हामीलाई चिठी लेख्न  
नबिसर्न है त !

भरे बेलुका रेडियोमा समाचार सुन्न  
नबिसर्नुहोस् ।

*After you return to England,  
remember (don't forget) to  
write us a letter, OK?*

*Please remember (don't  
forget) to listen to the news  
on the radio this evening.*

There are two verbs that mean *to remember* – याद हुनु and सम्झनु . These are used in slightly different ways.

याद is a noun meaning *memory* or *recollection*. One way of saying that you do or do not remember something is simply to state:

मलाई याद छ ।

मलाई याद छैन ।

*I remember ('to me there is  
memory')*

*I don't remember ('to me  
there is not memory')*

In practice, this construction is used most commonly in the negative to state that someone has no recollection of some fact or event from the past:

यो घेरै अघिको कुरा हो । तपाईंलाई  
याद छैन होला ।

*This is something that  
happened a long time ago.  
Perhaps you don't  
remember.*

In the constructions that use याद, the person who is or is not remembering is passive. S/he is not actively remembering or forgetting the matter in question. But the verb सम्झनु is used to mean *to remember/recall* in a more active sense. As explained above, it rarely occurs in the negative, because the verb बिसर्नु *to forget* fulfills that role.

बल्ल सम्झें । तपाईंले छ बजे आजन् भनेर  
भन्नुभएको थियो, होइन ?

कहिले काहीं म आफ्नो बिहाको दिन  
सम्झेर हाँस्छु ।

*At last I've remembered. You  
said to come at 6 o'clock,  
didn't you?*

*Sometimes I recall my  
wedding day and I smile.*

The causative of सम्झनु is सम्झाउनु, which literally means *to remind*. However, it is most commonly used to mean *to explain/counsel*:

मेरो छोरा बिहा गर्न मान्दैन । उसलाई अलि  
सम्झाउनुहोस् न ।

*My son refuses to marry.  
Just explain things to him,  
would you?*

## 116 Before doing something: postpositions beginning with -भन्दा

There is a set of two-word postpositions of which the first word is -भन्दा. Because -भन्दा is also used to make comparisons (see **Grammar 51**), these postpositions have at least a vaguely comparative sense to them. Three of them mean *before*, and can be used with nouns or verbs:

-भन्दा पहिले  
-भन्दा अघि  
-भन्दा अगाडि

आजभन्दा दस वर्ष अघि यस टोलमा एउटा  
चियापसल पनि थिएन ।

सन् १९६९ भन्दा पहिले कसैले चन्द्रमामा पाइला  
टेकेको थिएन ।

*before, previous to, ago*  
*before, previous to, ago*  
*before, previous to, ago*

*Ten years ago there wasn't*  
*even a teashop in this part*  
*of town.*

*Before 1969 no-one had set*  
*foot on the moon.*

These three postpositions are also used with verbs to mean *before*. In such constructions, -भन्दा must be added to the dictionary form of the verb:

मन्दिरभित्र पस्नुभन्दा पहिले जुत्ता खोल्न  
नबिर्सनुहोस् ।

*Please remember (don't*  
*forget) to take off your*  
*shoes before going*  
*into the temple.*

घर जानुभन्दा अगाडि म तपाईंलाई यो कोसेली  
दिन चाहन्छु ।

*Before going home I want to*  
*give you this gift.*

सुत्नुभन्दा अघि तिमीहरूले हात खुट्टा  
किन नधोएको ?

*Why didn't you wash your*  
*hands and feet before going*  
*to bed?*

#### EXERCISE 64 Translate into Nepali:

My elder sister got married two weeks ago. Now she lives in Dhulikhel (**dhulikhel**). Dhulikel is about ten miles from Bhaktapur. Last Sunday we went there to meet her husband and her new family.

To get to Dhulikhel we had to take a taxi as far as Ratna Park. At Ratna Park we had to board a bus that was going to Panchkhal (**pācakhāl**). Dhulikel is on the way to Panchkhal.

After we arrived at Ratna Park father had to go into a shop. He had forgotten to buy any presents (**upahār**). You have to give presents when you are visiting someone for the first time. Father had to go into three shops to buy cloth (**kapaḍā**), sweets (**miṭhāī**) and bangles (**curā**). Mother began to feel worried because it had begun to get rather late. We did not know that it takes only one hour to reach Dhulikhel. We did not know either that buses leave (**chuṭnu**) every hour.

After father had bought the gifts we began to search for the Dhulikhel bus. A man standing beside a new blue bus had begun to shout (**karāunu**) 'Panchkhal! Panchkhal!' Father went to the office to buy

our tickets. Before father returned with the tickets I asked the driver (**chālāk**) if the bus would also go to Dhulikhel. He said that it would. He also said that there was no question of not going to Dhulikhel because there is a good hotel there. Before the bus sets out from Dhulikhel for Panchkhal all the passengers (**yātruharū**) eat their morning meal there, he said. Suddenly it began to rain, so we all found a place to sit on the bus. After a few minutes our journey (**yātrā**) began.

# 20

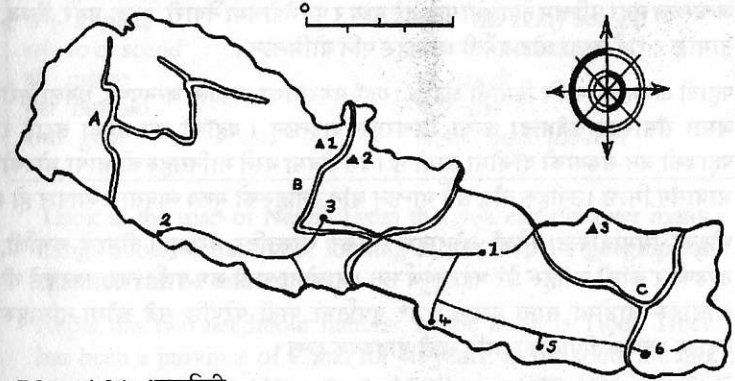
## the map of Nepal

नेपालको नक्सा

In this unit you will learn

- about the geography of Nepal
- how to use *bhanne* to mean *called* and *that*
- how to discuss physical locations

## 30 The map of Nepal



[Mountain] 1	धवलगिरी	[Town] 4	वीरगंज
[Mountain] 2	अन्नपूर्णा	[Town] 5	जनकपुर
[Mountain] 3	सगरमाथा	[Town] 6	विराटनगर
[Town] 1	काठमाडौं	[River] A	कर्णाली
[Town] 2	नेपालगंज	[River] B	गण्डकी
[Town] 3	पोखरा	[River] C	कोशी

नेपालको नक्सा हेर्नुहोस् । यसबाट तपाईं नेपालको बारेमा धेरै कुरा थाहा पाउन सक्नुहुन्छ। यसलाई हेरेपछि नेपालको भौगोलिक स्थिति पनि बुझिन्छ ।

नेपालका दुइटा छिमेकी राष्ट्रहरू छन् । उत्तरमा भोट छ । भोट चालीस वर्षदेखि चीनको एउटा प्रान्त भएको छ । दक्षिणमा भारतका उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, र पश्चिम बंगाल भन्ने प्रदेशहरू छन् । पूर्वतिर सिक्किम छ, अनि सिक्किमभन्दा पर भूटान पनि देखिन्छ यो नक्सामा । तर भूटान चीन र भारतजस्तो नेपालको छिमेकी राष्ट्र होइन ।

तपाईं दक्षिण नेपालको सिमानादेखि उत्तरतिर चढ्नुभयो भने तपाईंले तीनवटा भौगोलिक क्षेत्रहरू पार गर्नुपर्छ । दक्षिणमा तराई क्षेत्र छ । यसलाई नेपालीहरू मदेस पनि भन्छन् । तराईको जमीन समतल छ अनि त्यहाँ उत्तर भारतको जस्तो गर्मी हुन्छ । पहिला पहिला यहाँ जंगल थियो तर करीब दुई सय वर्ष अघि किसानहरू यहाँ खेतीपाती गर्न आए । उनीहरूले जङ्गल फाडेर खेती गर्न थाले । अहिले अलिकति जंगल मात्रै बाँकि छ । नेपालगंज, वीरगंज, जनकपुर र विराटनगर तराईका शहरहरू हुन् । तराईमा नेपाली मात्रै होइन, मैथिली, भोजपुरी, अवधी, थारु र अन्य भाषाहरू पनि बोलिन्छन् ।

तराई क्षेत्रभन्दा माथि पहाडी क्षेत्र छ । यहाँको जमीन प्राय जसो उकालो र ओरालो हुन्छ । किसानहरू बेंसीहरूमा धान रोप्न तल झर्छन्, पाखाहरूमा मकै रोप्न माथि चढ्छन् । उनीहरू भैंसी, बाखा र अन्य पशुहरू पनि पाल्छन् । काठमाडौंको ठूलो उपत्यका पहाडी क्षेत्रमा पर्छ । यो नेपाल अधिराज्यको राजनैतिक र साँस्कृतिक केन्द्र हो । पहाडी क्षेत्रमा जन-

संख्या ज्यादै बढेको कारणले खेतीपातीको लागि जमीनको अभाव छ । त्यस कारणले पहाडका मानिसहरू हिजोआज कामको खोजीमा विदेशिन लागेका छन् । नेपाली भाषाको जन्मस्थल सुदूर पश्चिम नेपालमा पर्छ, तर मध्य र पूर्व नेपालमा नेवारी, गुरुङ्ग, मगर, लिम्बू, तामाङ्ग र राई जस्ता भोट-बर्मेली भाषाहरू पनि बोलिन्छन् ।

पहाडी क्षेत्रभन्दा माथि हिमाली क्षेत्र छ । यहाँ सगरमाथा, मकालु, अन्नपूर्णा, धवलागिरी जस्ता सँसारका सबैभन्दा अग्ला शिखरहरू पाइन्छन् । यहाँको जन-संख्या तराई र पहाडको जन-संख्याको दौँजोमा सानो छ । यस क्षेत्रमा बस्ने मानिसहरूको भाषा भोटको भाषासँग मिल्छ । उनीहरू बौद्ध धर्म मान्छन् अनि उनीहरूको मुख्य व्यवसाय व्यापार हो ।

भोटको सिमानाबाट अनेकौं खोलाहरू निस्केर भारततिर बग्छन् । तीमध्ये कर्णाली, गण्डकी र कोशी नदीहरू धेरै महत्त्वपूर्ण छन् । जाडोमा पानी कम पर्छ । त्यस कारणले यी खोलाहरू जाडोमा साना हुन्छन् । तर वर्षातिमा पानी परेपछि सबै खोला-नालाहरू बढ्छन् । त्यो खेतीपातीको लागि साह्रै आवश्यक हुन्छ ।

नेपालमा बाटोहरू धेरै कम छन् भन्ने कुरा यो नक्सालाई हेरेर तपाईं थाहा पाउन सक्नुहुन्छ । ती बाटोहरूमा बस, ट्रक र गाडीहरू प्रशस्त चलछन् । तर पनि आ-आफ्ना घर पुग्न धेरै जसो नेपालीहरूलाई अझै पनि हिँड्नुपर्छ ।

नक्सा *map*

-को बारेमा *about*

भौगोलिक *geographical*

स्थिति *situation*

छिमेकी *neighbour*

राष्ट्र *nation*

उत्तर *north*

प्रान्त *province*

प्रदेश *state*

पूर्व *east*

दक्षिण *south*

सिमाना *border*

क्षेत्र *region*

पार गर्नु *to cross, traverse*

जमीन *land*

समतल *level, flat*

गर्मी *heat*

पहिला पहिला *long ago*

जंगल *jungle, uninhabited place*

खेतीपाती *agriculture, farming*

फाड्नु *to cut down*

खेती *agriculture, farming*

बाँकि *remaining*

पशु *animal, livestock*

पाल्नु *to rear*

उपत्यका *valley*

पर्नु *to be located*

अधिराज्य *kingdom*

राजनैतिक *political*

साँस्कृतिक *cultural*

केन्द्र *centre*

जन-संख्या *population*

बढ्नु *to increase, grow*

खोजी *search*

विदेशिनु *to go abroad*

जन्मस्थल *birthplace*

सुदूर *remote, far*

पश्चिम *west*

मध्य *mid-*

भोट-बर्मेली *Tibeto-Burman*

शिखर *peak*

-को दौँजोमा *compared to*

व्यवसाय *occupation*

अनेकौं *many*

मध्ये *among*

नदी *river*

पहाडी क्षेत्र *the hill region*

धान *growing rice, paddy*

रोप्नु *to plant*

झर्नु *to descend*

मकै *maize*

भैंसी *buffalo*

बाख्रा *goat*

महत्त्वपूर्ण *important*

जाडो *the cold season*

वर्षाति *the rainy season*

आवश्यक *necessary*

ट्रक *truck*

गाडी *car*

तर पनि *none the less*

Look at the map of Nepal. From this you can discover many things about Nepal. After looking at this Nepal's geographical situation can be understood.

Nepal has two neighbour nations. In the north is Tibet. Tibet has been a province of China for 40 years. In the south are the states of India called Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. To the east is Sikkim, and beyond Sikkim Bhutan is also seen on this map. But Bhutan is not a neighbour nation of Nepal as China and India (are).

If you climb from the border of southern Nepal towards the north you have to cross three geographical regions. In the south is the Tarai region. Nepalis also call this Mades. The land of the Tarai is flat and there there is heat like northern India's. Long ago there was jungle here but about 200 years ago farmers came here to do agriculture. They cut down the jungle and began to farm. Now there is only a little jungle left. Nepalganj, Birganj, Janakpur and Biratnagar are towns of the Tarai. In the Tarai not only Nepali but also Maithili, Bhojpuri, Awadhi, Tharu and other languages are spoken.

Above the Tarai region is the Hill region. Here the land is mostly uphill and downhill. The farmers go down to plant paddy rice in the valleys, and climb up to plant maize on the hillsides. They also rear buffaloes, goats and other animals. The large valley of Kathmandu is located in the Hill region. This is Nepal's political and cultural centre. Because the population has increased greatly in the Hill region there is a shortage of land for agriculture. For that reason the people of the hills have begun nowadays to go abroad in search of work. The birthplace of the Nepali language is in far west Nepal, but in middle and east Nepal Tibeto-Burman languages such as Newari, Gurung, Magar, Limbu, Tamang and Rai are also spoken.

Above the Hill region is the Himalayan region. Here one finds the world's highest peaks, such as Sagarmatha, Makalu, Annapurna, Dhaulagiri. The population here is small compared to the population of the Tarai and the Hills. The language of the people who live in this region is similar to the language of Tibet. They believe in Buddhism and their main occupation is trade.

Many rivers emerge from the Tibetan border and flow toward India. Among them, the Karnali, Gandaki and Koshi are very important. In the winter little rain falls. Therefore these rivers are small in the winter. But after rain falls in the rainy season all the rivers and streams grow. That is very necessary for agriculture.

You can discover that there are very few roads in Nepal by looking at this map. Many buses, trucks and cars run on those roads. None the less, most Nepalis still have to walk to reach their homes.

**EXERCISE 65** Answer the following questions about the geography of Nepal:

- १ नेपालीहरू तराई क्षेत्रलाई के भन्छन् ?
- २ नेपाली भाषाबाहेक तराई क्षेत्रमा अरु कुन कुन भाषाहरू बोलिन्छन् ?
- ३ पहाडी क्षेत्रको जमीन प्राय जसो कस्तो हुन्छ ?
- ४ नेपाली भाषाबाहेक पहाडी क्षेत्रमा अरु कुन कुन भाषाहरू बोलिन्छन् ?
- ५ नेपालका नदीहरूमध्ये कुन कुनचाहिं महत्त्वपूर्ण छन् ?
- ६ घर पुग्नलाई धेरै जसो नेपालीहरूले के गर्नुपर्छ ?

## Grammar

### 117 Using पर्नु with locations

The simplest way to state the location of something is to use the verb हुनु to be, which in the present tense must take its छ form. However, the verb पर्नु, literally to fall, is often used when the discussion of a location involves some sense of direction:

तपाईंको गाउँ कतारि पछ ?

*Where (in which direction) is your village located?*

It is also used to locate places within countries, districts or zones, in which case it can be thought of as meaning falls within:

ललितपुर शहर बागमती अञ्चलमा पर्छ ।

*The town of Lalitpur falls within the Bagmati zone.*

### 118 Above, below, beyond: more postpositions beginning with -भन्दा

A set of two-word postpositions, of which the first word is -भन्दा, deals with the physical locations of things, in terms of height, distance and so on:

-भन्दा माथि

*above*

-भन्दा तल

*below*

-भन्दा पर

*beyond, on the far side of*

हाम्रो गाउँभन्दा माथि बस्ती छैन । गाउँभन्दा माथि वन छ । तर गाउँभन्दा तल त धेरै खेतहरू छन् । गाउँभन्दा तलका खेतहरूमा हामी धान रोप्छौं ।

*There are no settlements above our village. Above our village there is nothing but forest. But below the village there are many fields. We plant rice in the fields below our village.*

Of course, both माथि and तल are also used as adverbs to describe the up-and-down way in which much human movement must take place in the Himalayas:

मिरमिरे बिहानमा हामी गाई-बाख्रा चराउन माथि चढ्यौं । साँझ पर्नुभन्दा अघि हामी तल गाउँतिर झर्न्यौं ।

*In the pale early dawn we climbed up to graze the cows and goats. Before dusk fell we came down to the village.*

### 119 The use of भन्ने to mean named

भन्ने is the -ने participle of the verb भन्नु to say. It can often be translated as called or named:

पूर्व नेपालको इलाम भन्ने सानो शहर

*a small town called Ilam in east Nepal*

यती भन्ने अनौठो प्राणी

*a strange creature called the Yeti*

गीता खड्का भन्ने नयाँ विद्यार्थी

*a new student named Gita Khadka*

Note the word order of the phrases above. Instead of 'a new student named Gita Khadka', Nepali has *Gita-Khadka-named new student*.

## 120 The use of भन्ने to mean *that*

भन्ने is also used to link a question, a fact, etc. with its content:

कुनचाहिं होटेल सबभन्दा राम्रो होला  
भन्ने प्रश्न उठ्यो ।

*The question arose as to  
which hotel would be  
the best.*

तपाईं नेपाल आउनुभएको थियो भन्ने मलाई  
थाहा थिएन ।

*I did not know that you had  
come to Nepal.*

तपाईं चाँडै निको हुनुहुन्छ भन्ने म आशा गर्छु ।

*I hope that you will be  
well soon.*

It is perhaps useful to think of the sentences given above as containing a question or an item of knowledge that is described by भन्ने, *saying*:

*the 'which hotel will be the best'-saying question*

*the 'you had come to Nepal'-saying knowledge*

*a 'you will be well soon'-saying hope*

Nepali is rich in proverbs (उखान), which might also be quoted using भन्ने:

बालुवा निचोरेर तेल आउन्न भन्ने उखान ।

*The proverb that says that oil  
does not come from  
squeezing sand.*

इमान भनेको लाख हो, धन भनेको  
खाक हो भन्ने उखान ।

*The proverb that says that  
honour means a great deal  
(but) wealth means ashes.*

हिराको मोल कीराले जान्दैन भन्ने उखान ।

*The proverb that says that an  
insect doesn't know the  
value of diamonds.*

# 21

म चुरोट खान्छे  
**I used to smoke**

**In this unit you will learn**

- how to use the habitual past tense
- how to use expressions meaning *while* and *as soon as*
- how to talk about hopes and desires

## 31 Bad habits

An old man tells his grandson about how he decided to give up smoking.

- नाति तपाईं कुनै बेला चुरोट खानुहुन्थ्यो, हजुरबा ?  
 हजुरबा पहिला खान्थे, अब खाँदिन । करीब बीस वर्ष अघि मैले चुरोट खान छाडे ।  
 नाति तपाईं धेरै चुरोट खानुहुन्थ्यो ?  
 हजुरबा अँ, थुप्रै खान्थे । बिहान उठ्नेबित्तिकै एउटा चुरोट झिकेर सल्काउन्थे । अनि चिया खान्थे । तर चिया खाँदाखेरि पनि चुरोट पनि खानुपर्दथ्यो ।  
 नाति एक दिनमा तपाईं कति किल्ली चुरोट खानुहुन्थ्यो, हजुरबा ?  
 हजुरबा खै, अहिले सम्झनै छैन ! हिंड्दाखेरि खान्थे, बस्दाखेरि खान्थे, खेतमा काम गर्दाखेरि खान्थे, भात खानुभन्दा अघि खान्थे, भात खाएपछि खान्थे । धेरै खान्थे !  
 नाति अनि सुत्दाखेरि नि ?  
 हजुरबा सुत्न गएपछि एक-दुई वटा खान्थे तर निदाएपछि चुरोट खान अलि अप्ठ्यारो हुन्छ, कान्छा । शायद सपनामा पनि खान्थे कि ? खै, थाहा छैन !  
 नाति अनि छाड्ने निधो कसरी गर्नुभयो ?  
 हजुरबा सानो उमेरदेखि नै तेरो बाले डाक्टर बन्ने आकाँक्षा राखेको थियो । उसले कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालयमा ठाउँ पायो अनि पढ्न गयो । डाक्टर बन्न उसले धेरै वर्षसम्म पढ्नुपर्‍यो त्यहाँ, तर बल्ल-बल्ल डाक्टर भयो । घर फर्केपछि उसले मलाई बा किन चुरोट खानुहुन्छ भनेर गाली गर्न थाल्यो ।  
 नाति डाक्टर भएपछि त कहाँले भन्नेपर्‍यो नि, हजुरबा !  
 हजुरबा हो, चुरोट खाने बानी स्वास्थ्यलाई हानीकारक छ भनेर भन्थ्यो, बारम्बार । कुनै दिन छाड्नेपर्‍ला भन्थ्यो । अनि ऊ कलकत्ताबाट फर्केको केही दिनभित्र नै मलाई रुघा-खोकी लाग्यो । अनि फोक्सो दुख्न थाल्यो । त्यही बेला उसकी आमाले पनि मलाई गाली गर्न थाली तिमी किन चाँडे मर्न चाहन्छौ भनेर ।  
 नाति अनि चुरोट खान छाड्नुभएको, हो ?  
 हजुरबा हो, छाड्नेपर्‍यो नि । अनि चुरोट नखाएको दुई-चार हप्तापछि मलाई केही फाइदा भएको थाहा पाएँ ।  
 नाति कस्तो फाइदा ?  
 हजुरबा रुचि बढ्यो । पहिला म भात अलि कम खान्थे किनभने भात खाँदाखेरि चुरोटको तलतल लाग्थ्यो । तर चुरोट छाडेको केही दिनभित्र त्यो पुरानो तलतल हरायो अनि मैले राम्ररी खान थालें ।  
 नाति तपाईं त रक्सी खानुहुन्न, हो ?  
 हजुरबा म रक्सी खाँदिन । कहिले पनि खाएको छैन । यस जिल्लाका गाउँहरूमा धेरै जसो

बाहुनहरू बस्छन् नि । यहाँका मानिसहरूले केही वर्ष अघिसम्म पुराना परम्पराहरूको पालन गर्थे । रक्सी खाँदैनथे, मासु पनि खाँदैनथे, जिल्लाबाहिरका केटीहरू ल्याउँदैनथे, तर...

- नाति तर तपाईं जस्तो उनीहरूले पनि चुरोट खान्थे, होइन ?  
 हजुरबा अहँ, खाँदैनथे । म र एउटा पसलको साहूजी मात्रै खान्थ्यौं । हामीहरूबाहेक कसैले खाँदैनथ्यो । छिमेकीहरू मलाई बिग्रेको भन्थे !

कुनै *any, some*  
 चुरोट खानु *to smoke cigarettes*  
 छाड्नु *to give up, quit*  
 झिक्नु *to take out*  
 सल्काउनु *to set light to*  
 -दाखेरि *while*  
 सपना *dream*  
 निधो *decision*  
 आकाँक्षा *ambition*  
 बानी *habit*  
 स्वास्थ्य *health*

हानीकारक *harmful*  
 चाहनु *to want to*  
 फाइदा *benefit*  
 रुचि *appetite*  
 तलतल *craving*  
 परम्परा *tradition*  
 पालन गर्नु *to maintain, foster*  
 जिल्ला *district*  
 ल्याउनु *to bring*  
 बिग्रेनु *to go wrong, be corrupted*

- Grandson** Did you smoke at any time, grandfather?  
**Grandfather** I used to smoke before, now I don't. I quit smoking about 20 years ago.  
**Grandson** Did you smoke a lot?  
**Grandfather** Yes, I smoked heaps. As soon as I got up in the morning I would get out a cigarette and light it. Then I would drink tea. But even while I was drinking the tea I had to smoke a cigarette as well.  
**Grandson** In one day how many cigarettes did you smoke, grandfather?  
**Grandfather** Well, I don't even remember now! I smoked while I was walking, I smoked while I was sitting down, I smoked while I was working in the field, I smoked before meals, I smoked after meals. I smoked a lot!  
**Grandson** And what about while you were sleeping?  
**Grandfather** After I had gone to bed I would smoke one or two but after you have fallen asleep it's a bit difficult to smoke a cigarette, Kancha. Perhaps I smoked in my dreams? Well, I don't know!  
**Grandson** And how did you decide to give up?  
**Grandfather** Your father had had an ambition to become a doctor



from a very young age. He got a place at Calcutta University and he went to study. To become a doctor he had to study for many years there, but in the end he became a doctor. After he came home he began to tell me off saying 'Why does Father smoke cigarettes?'

**Grandson** But after he became a doctor he had to say that, you know grandfather!

**Grandfather** Yes, he used to say again and again that the habit of smoking cigarettes is harmful to health. He used to say that I'd have to quit some day. And within a very few days after he returned from Calcutta I caught a cough and cold. And my lungs began to hurt. At that very time his mother also began to tell me off, saying 'Why do you want to die soon?'

**Grandson** And you quit smoking, right?  
**Grandfather** Yes, I had to quit, you know! And a few weeks after I quit I realized that I had had some benefit.

**Grandson** What sort of benefit?  
**Grandfather** My appetite increased. Before, I used to eat rather little rice because while I was eating I would crave a cigarette. But within a few days of quitting cigarettes that old craving was lost and I began to eat well.

**Grandson** But you don't drink alcohol, right?  
**Grandfather** I don't drink alcohol. I never have. It's mostly Brahmins who live in the villages of this district. Up until a few years ago the people here maintained old traditions. They didn't drink alcohol, they didn't eat meat either, they didn't bring girls from outside the district (as brides), but...

**Grandson** But like you they also smoked cigarettes, no?  
**Grandfather** No, they didn't. Only I and one shopkeeper smoked. Apart from us no-one smoked. The neighbours said I was corrupted!

*Note* \* When quoting what someone actually said to them, Nepali-speakers will usually refer to themselves using the Low or Middle pronoun (तैं or तिमी).

## Grammar

### 121 The habitual past tense

The habitual past tense is used to describe an event or action that happened repeatedly or as a matter of habit or custom in the past: *I used to eat, he used to drink, they used to smoke.*

#### Bases and endings

The habitual past tense of a verb in the affirmative is formed in a similar way to the habitual present tense, as set out in **Grammar 33**. The verb base is exactly the same as it is in the habitual present, but in the habitual past tense the ending is simply the थियो form of the verb हुनु to be, minus its 'i' vowel:

Pronoun	थियो form		Habitual past ending
म	थिएँ	becomes	-थेँ
हामी, हामीहरू	थियोँ	becomes	-थ्योँ
तैं	थिइस्	becomes	-थिस
तिमी, तिमीहरू	थियो	becomes	-थ्यौ
ऊ (m.)	थियो	becomes	-थ्यो
ऊ (f.)	थिई	becomes	-थी
उनी (m.)	थिए	becomes	-थे
उनी (f.)	थिइन्	becomes	-थिन्
यी, ती, उनीहरू	थिए	becomes	-थे

#### Affirmative forms in गर्नु

	Habitual present		Habitual past	
म	गर्छु	<i>I do</i>	गर्थे	<i>I used to do</i>
हामी, हामीहरू	गर्छौ	<i>we do</i>	गर्थ्यौ	<i>we used to do</i>
तैं	गर्छिस्	<i>you do</i>	गर्थिस्	<i>you used to do</i>
तिमी, तिमीहरू	गर्छा	<i>you do</i>	गर्थ्या	<i>you used to do</i>
ऊ (m)	गर्छ	<i>he does</i>	गर्थ्यो	<i>he used to do</i>
ऊ (f)	गर्छे	<i>she does</i>	गर्थी	<i>she used to do</i>
उनी (m)	गर्छन्	<i>he does</i>	गर्थे	<i>he used to do</i>
उनी (f)	गर्छिन्	<i>she does</i>	गर्थिन्	<i>she used to do</i>
यी, ती, उनीहरू	गर्छन्	<i>they do</i>	गर्थे	<i>they used to do</i>

The negative form of the habitual past tense is very simply the third person singular negative form of the habitual present (गर्दैन, हुँदैन, आउँदैन etc.) + the appropriate ending, taken from the list above. The one exception to this rule is the form that is used with म I, which takes the ending on to the first person form (that is, आउँदैन instead of आउँदैन).

### Negative forms

	Habitual present	Habitual past
म	आउँदैन <i>I do not come</i>	आउँदैनथे <i>I used not to come</i>
हामी, हामीहरू	पकाउँदैनौं <i>we do not cook</i>	पकाउँदैनथ्यौं <i>we used not to cook</i>
तैं	खाँदैनस् <i>you do not eat</i>	खाँदैनथिस् <i>you used not to eat</i>
तिमी, तिमीहरू	सुत्दैनौ <i>you don't sleep</i>	सुत्दैनथ्यौ <i>you used not to sleep</i>
ऊ (m)	हुँदैन <i>he is not</i>	हुँदैनथ्यो <i>he used not to be</i>
ऊ (f)	गर्दैन <i>she does not</i>	गर्दैनथी <i>she used not to do</i>
उनी (m)	जाँदैनन् <i>they do not go</i>	जाँदैनथे <i>they used not to go</i>
उनी (f)	रूँदैनन् <i>she does not cry</i>	रूँदैनथिन् <i>she used not to cry</i>
उनीहरू	दिँदैनन् <i>they do not give</i>	दिँदैनथे <i>they used not to give</i>

### Alternative negative forms

The same endings may also be added to the alternative negative forms of the habitual present (for which, see **Grammar 46**):

Habitual present	Habitual past
म जान्ने <i>I do not go</i>	म जान्नेथे <i>I used not to go</i>
ऊ खान्ने <i>he does not eat</i>	ऊ खान्नेथ्यो <i>he used not to eat</i>
तिमी आउन्नौ <i>you do not come</i>	तिमी आउन्नथ्यौ <i>you used not to come</i>

### High forms

The High forms of the habitual past tense are simply adapted forms of the habitual present tense:

- In the affirmative, the habitual present ending -हुन्छ becomes the habitual past ending -हुन्थ्यो.
- In the negative, the habitual present ending -हुन्न becomes the habitual past ending -हुन्नथ्यो.

### High forms

Habitual present	Habitual past
तपाईं हेर्नुहुन्छ <i>you watch</i>	तपाईं हेर्नुहुन्थ्यो <i>you used to watch</i>
तपाईं हेर्नुहुन्न <i>you do not watch</i>	तपाईं हेर्नुहुन्नथ्यो <i>you used not to watch</i>
वहाँ आउनुहुन्छ <i>s/he comes</i>	वहाँ आउनुहुन्थ्यो <i>s/he used to come</i>
वहाँ आउनुहुन्न <i>s/he does not come</i>	वहाँ आउनुहुन्नथ्यो <i>s/he used not to come</i>

The habitual past tense may often be translated as *used to go*, *used to eat*, *used to watch*, *used to say* and so on. It cannot express an action or an event that has happened only once or is part of a discrete series, because this is the function of the simple past tense. For instance, ऊ काठमाडौं गयो means *he went to Kathmandu*, with the sense that this was a one-time action, whereas ऊ काठमाडौं जान्थ्यो means *he used to go to Kathmandu*, indicating that this was his regular routine at some time in the past.

The following sentences illustrate this difference further. Those on the left-hand side refer to a specific event or action, those on the right describe a regular habit or truth:

मैले साथीको घरमा भात खाएँ ।  
*I ate at a friend's house.*

उसले गाउँ गएर रक्सी खायो ।  
*He went to the village and drank raksi.*

म साथीको घरमा भात खान्थेँ ।  
*I used to eat at a friend's house.*

ऊ गाउँ गएर रक्सी खान्थ्यो ।  
*He used to go to the village and drink raksi.*

Although the habitual past is obviously a past tense, the subject of a transitive verb need not take -ले in this tense unless it is being emphasized: this is the same rule that applies to the habitual present tense.

गर्मीमा घाँस काट्न चमेली कहाँ जान्थी ? *Where used Chameli to go to cut grass during the summer?*

पहिले हामीलाई बिजुली चाहिँदैनथ्यो, अहिले सधैं चाहिँन्छ । *We didn't need electricity before, now we need it all of the time.*

तीस वर्ष अघिसम्म तराई क्षेत्रमा धेरै मान्छेहरू औलोले मर्थे । *Up until 30 years ago many people used to die of malaria in the Tarai region.*

काठमाडौंको वातावरण बिग्रैको छ । *Kathmandu's environment has been spoiled. Long ago it used to be very good here, they say.*

**EXERCISE 66** Change the following sentences into the habitual past tense:

- १ यस गाउँका किसानहरू धान रोप्दैनन् । उनीहरू मकै रोप्छन् ।
- २ भात खाएपछि हामीले हात-मुख धुनुपर्छ ।
- ३ चियापसलमा चिया पनि पाइन्छ, खाने कुरा पनि पाइन्छ ।

- ४ तिमी भारत गएर के काम गर्छौ ? म चौकिदारको काम गर्छु ।  
 ५ दाइहरू जुम्लामा बस्नुहुन्न, दैलेखमा बस्नुहुन्छ ।  
 ६ म हरेक हप्ता उसलाई एउटा लामो चिठी लेख्छु ।

## 122 Finishing, stopping, quitting

Nepali has a number of verbs that mean *to end, finish, be completed, stop*, that can be used only with nouns:

### Intransitive

खतम हुनु	<i>to end</i>
टुङ्गिनु	<i>to come to a end</i>
समाप्त हुनु	<i>to conclude</i>
सिद्धिनु	<i>to be finished</i>
रुक्नु	<i>to stop, cease moving</i>
सकिनु	<i>to be finished</i>

### Transitive

खतम गर्नु	<i>to finish</i>
टुङ्ग्याउनु	<i>to bring to a end</i>
समाप्त गर्नु	<i>to bring to a conclusion</i>
सिद्ध्याउनु	<i>to finish off</i>
रोक्नु	<i>to stop, prevent</i>

२००७ सालमा राणाहरूको शासन खतम भयो र नेपालमा प्रजातन्त्रको स्थापना भयो ।  
*In the year 2007 the Ranas' regime ended and democracy was established in Nepal.*

आजको सामाचार समाप्त भयो । तपाईं रेडियो नेपाल सुन्दै हुनुहुन्छ ।  
*That is the end of today's news. You are listening to Radio Nepal.*

यति शब्दहरू बोलेपछि प्रधान मन्त्रीको भाषण टुङ्गियो ।  
*When he had spoken this many words, the Prime Minister's speech came to an end.*

भक्तपुर जाने बस त ठिमीमा रुकदैन भाइ !  
*But the Bhaktapur bus doesn't stop at Thimi, brother!*

The verb *छाड्नु to stop, leave off, quit*, is used with the infinitive of a verb to show that the subject has stopped performing that verb. In past tenses the subject of *छाड्नु* must take *-ले* if the verb is transitive.

आफ्नो स्वास्थ्य बिग्रिन थालेको देखेर बुवाले चुरोट खान छाड्नुभयो ।  
*Seeing his health declining, Father gave up smoking cigarettes.*

आमालाई घरको काममा सघाउनुपरेकोले चमेली स्कूल जान छाडी ।  
*Because she had to help Mother out at home, Chameli stopped going to school.*

छोरालाई औषधि खान छाड्नु नदिनुहोस् नत्र निको हुँदैन ।

*Don't let your son stop taking the medicine, or else he won't get well.*

## 123 While doing, immediately after doing

Every complete Nepali sentence must contain a verb, whose normal place is at the end of the sentence. This is the main verb of a sentence, and it provides the sentence with a tense (past, present or future). Sentences may contain other words which are derived from a verb but have no tense of their own. So far we have met two of these:

- i the past tense base of a verb plus -एर (or -ई or -ईकन) :
- ii the past tense base of a verb plus -एपछि :

Two new words of this type are introduced here.

a Present tense verb base + -दाखेरि *while...*

The suffix *-दाखेरि* is added to the present tense base of a verb to mean that the rest of the sentence happens/happened/ will happen at the same time as that verb. It can often be translated as *while doing, while going, while eating*, etc.

The ending *-दै* is added to verb bases in exactly the same way as the *-दै* ending is added to bases to form the continuous present tense (see **Grammar 64**): it is added directly to the bases of C-verbs, but when a base ends in a vowel that vowel must be nasalized:

Verb	Base	Suffix			
गर्नु	गर्	+ दाखेरि	=	गर्दाखेरि	<i>while doing</i>
बोल्नु	बोल्	+ दाखेरि	=	बोल्दाखेरि	<i>while speaking</i>
आउनु	आउ	+ दाखेरि	=	आउँदाखेरि	<i>while coming</i>
जानु	जा	+ दाखेरि	=	जाँदाखेरि	<i>while going</i>

भक्तपुर जाँदाखेरि म तिम्रो दाइसँग भेटौंला ।  
*On my way to Bhaktapur I'll (probably) meet your elder brother.*

बच्चाहरू बारीमा खेल्दाखेरि घरभित्र शान्ति हुन्छ ।  
*While the children are playing in the field there is peace in the house.*

भात खाँदाखेरि गफ गर्न हुँदैन ।  
*It is not good to talk while eating.*

This suffix can be added to the हूँ- base of the verb *to be*, and also to its छ form; there is a slight difference in meaning between the two:

हुँदाखेरि *while becoming / being (in a defining sense)*  
छँदाखेरि *while being (in a describing or locating sense)*

मानिसहरू बूढो हुँदाखेरि धर्म मान्न थाल्छन् । *When people are becoming old they begin to believe in religion.*

त्यो केटा सानो छँदाखेरि उसको बा मर्नुभयो । *When that boy was small his father died.*

The -दाखेरि suffix is often shortened to -दा, with no change in meaning:

भक्तपुर जाँदा... *While going to Bhaktapur...*  
मानिसहरू बूढो हुँदा... *When people are becoming old...*

**b** The -ने participle + -बित्तिकै *as soon as*

This suffix is added to the -ने participle of a verb to mean that something else happened immediately after it. If the verb is transitive, its subject must take -ले.

मैले भात खानुहोस् भन्नेबित्तिकै *As soon as I said 'please eat',*  
सबैजनाले खाखप खान थाले । *everyone began to eat voraciously.*

सिपाहीले खुकुरी टिप्नेबित्तिकै सबैजना भागे । *As soon as the soldier picked up the kukri, everyone ran away.*

मदनलाई देखेबित्तिकै मुनालाई उसको माया *As soon as she saw Madan,*  
लाग्यो । *Muna fell in love with him.\**

**Note \*** Muna and Madan are the eponymous hero and heroine of a narrative poem by Lakshmi Prasad Devkota (1905–59), first published in the 1930s, which is the most popular book ever written in Nepali.

## 124 Will have to, used to have to

Combinations of पर्छ / पर्दैन and पर्‍यो / परेन with the dictionary form of a verb to mean *must, should, have to* and *had to* are introduced in **Grammar 99** and **100**. It is of course sometimes necessary to talk about what someone used to have to do in the past or what someone might have to do in the future. In such cases पर्नु takes the habitual past

tense forms पर्‍यो / पर्दैनथ्यो and the probable future tense form पर्ला respectively:

ब्रिटिश आर्मीमा हुँदाखेरि मैले चक्रे, काँटा र *While I was a soldier in the*  
चम्चाले खाना खानुपर्‍यो । तिमीले पनि *British Army, I used to*  
भर्तिमा गएपछि त्यसरी नै खानुपर्ला । *have to eat with knife, fork*  
*and spoon. After you*  
*have enlisted you will*  
*probably have to eat in*  
*exactly the same way.*

यहाँ बिजुली आउनुभन्दा अगाडि *Before the electricity*  
दिदी-बहिनीहरूलाई पानी लिन *(supply) came here, the*  
खोलासम्म झर्नुपर्‍यो । *young women used to have*  
*to go down to the river to*  
*fetch water.*

## 125 Wishing, hoping and deciding

In English, you say that someone wishes, hopes or decides *to do* something. In Nepali, desires, hopes or decisions to do something are often expressed passively, using the expression मन लाग्नु, or actively by using the verb चाहनु *to want to* (**Grammar 110**). However, there is one other way of expressing these ideas in Nepali, and this uses the -ने participle of a verb to describe the wish, hope, etc.:

जाने इच्छा गर्नु *to wish to go ('to do a going wish')*  
हेर्ने रहर हुनु *to have a desire to see ('a seeing desire')*  
लेख्ने निधो गर्नु *to decide to write ('to do a writing decision')*  
बस्ने विचार गर्नु *to consider staying ('to do a staying thought')*  
पाउने आशा गर्नु *to hope to get ('to do a getting hope')*  
बन्ने आकांक्षा राख्नु *to have an ambition to become ('a becoming ambition')*

हाम्रो घरमा बस्दाखेरि उनीहरूले बिहा गर्ने *While they were living in our*  
निधो गरेका थिए । *house they decided to get*  
*married.*

सानै उमेरदेखि नै मैले काठमाडौं जाने इच्छा *Right from a young age I*  
गरेको थिएँ, आखिर म जान पाएँ । *wanted to go to Kathmandu,*  
*eventually I managed to go.*

म केही दिनभित्र उसको चिठी पाउने आशा *I am hoping to receive a letter*  
गर्दै छु । *from him within a few days.*

**Note** also the construction with -पर्ने:

पढ्नुपर्ने किताब

*a book one should read*

भेट्नुपर्ने मान्छे

a person one should meet

अंग्रेजी सिक्न मन लाग्यो भने तपाईंले पढ्नुपर्ने  
किताब यही हो ।

If you want to learn English  
this is the book you  
should read.

तपाईंलाई मुस्ताङ्ग जान अनुमति चाहियो भने  
भेट्नुपर्ने मान्छे लोबसाङ्ग नामग्याल हुन् ।

If you need permission to go  
to Mustang, the man you  
should meet is  
Lobsang Namgyal.

### EXERCISE 67 Translate into Nepali:

I used to live with my mother and father in a small town called Panauti. Panauti is in the south-east corner of the Kathmandu Valley. I used to study in a small school there. As soon as my age reached 11 years I had to quit that small school. From that time on I had to study in a big school in a town called Bhaktapur. I used to have to take a bus every morning at seven o' clock. Many of my friends used to go on that bus too. While we were returning in the evening we used to sing songs and when we reached Paunati we were very happy.

Below my house there was a big river. In the summer months we used to swim in the river as soon as we got home. Sometimes my school clothes were all wet and Mother used to be angry. She would have to wash them as soon as I came home and it was difficult to dry (sukāunu) them. But because Saturday was a holiday she used to let me swim on Fridays.

While I was studying in the big school at Bhaktapur I decided to become a teacher when I was big. Because I hoped to become a teacher I studied well. As soon as I left that school I went to Tribhuvan University and nowadays I live in Kathmandu. After a few days I will have to give my final exams (parikṣā). I am still hoping to become a teacher. If I am successful in my exams I will have to seek (khojnu) a job (jāgir).

# 22

म चिया पकाऊँ ?

## shall I make tea?

### In this unit you will learn

- how to use the subjunctive forms of verbs
- how to use compound verbs with दिनु
- how to talk about trying and searching

## 32 Cancelling the tea party



Like many middle-class urban Nepali housewives, Parvati has an older woman to help her with her chores. On this particular Wednesday the weather is against them.

जाई आज के काम छ ? पहिले चिया पकाऊं ?

पार्वती हुन्छ दिदी, पकाउनुहोस् न । चिया खाएर म तपाईंलाई भर्नुंला ।

जाई चियामा चिनी र दूध राखिदिऊं ?

पार्वती एक चम्चा चिनी र अलिकति दूध राखिदिनुहोस् ।

जाई चिनी कता पन्थो ?

पार्वती दर्राजभित्र खोज्नुहोस् । त्यहाँ हुनुपर्छ ।

जाई हवस्... । ल, चिया कहाँ राखूँ ? टेबुलमा राखिदिऊं ?

पार्वती टेबुल डढ्ला कि ? ऊ त्यो कपडामाथि राखिदिनुहोस् ।

जाई हवस् । आज के के गर्नुपर्छ ? म थाहा पाऊँ न ?

पार्वती आज दिउँसो श्रीमान अफिसका साथीहरू लिएर आउँदै हुनुहुन्छ ।

जाई उनीहरू बेलुकासम्म बस्ने कि ? म भरे भात पकाइदिऊं ?

पार्वती आज बुधवार भएकोले भान्से आउँदैन । त्यस कारण भात पकाउनु नपरोस् भनेर मैले चिया-सियाको लागि मात्रै निम्त्याउनु भनेको छु वहाँलाई । वहाँ सम्झनुहुन्छ कि बिर्सनुहुन्छ म भन्न सक्दिन । तपाईंलाई थाहै छ न दिदी, लोग्ने-मान्छेको जात !

जाई हेरौं न । बिर्सनुहुन्छ क्यारे । कतिजना आउँदै छन् ?

पार्वती मैले उनीहरूको लागि बगैँचामा दुइटा टेबुल राखेको छु । पछि तपाईं आठवटा मेचहरू मिलाइदिनुहोस् । आज पानी नपरोस् । घरभित्र आठजना अटाउने ठाउँ नै छैन !

जाई हवस् त । एक छिनपछि बजार जानुपर्ला, बिस्कुट-सिस्कुट किन्नलाई, होइन ?

पार्वती हो, जानुपर्छ । मलाई पनि उता जानुपर्छ दिउँसो । सँगै जाऔं ।

जाई हवस् । अब म घर सफा गर्न थाल्छु ।

पार्वती हुन्छ । एक पटक चर्पी र नुहाउने कोठामा पनि हेर्नुहोस् । भरसक पाहुनाहरूलाई असुविधा नहोओस् न । म भान्सा-कोठामा हुन्छु ।

जाई सुत्ने कोठा पनि मिलाइदिऊं ?

पार्वती पर्दैन दिदी । सबै अलपत्र छ । म पछि आफै मिलाउँला ।

जाई आमै ! पानी आयो ! सर्वनाश भयो !

पार्वती धन्दा नमान्नुहोस् । म अफिसमा फोन गरेर एक पटक सम्झाउन खोज्छु । अब उनीहरू आऊन् कि नआऊन् हामीलाई त घरभित्रै बस्नुपन्थो नि ।

पहिले *first*

चम्चा *spoon*

दर्राज *drawer*

खोज्नु *to search, look for*

डढ्नु *to burn, scorch*

चिया-सिया *tea and snacks*

निम्त्याउनु *to invite*

जात *species, type*

बगैँचा *garden*

अटाउनु *to fit, be accommodated*

बिस्कुट-सिस्कुट *biscuits and such like*

चर्पी *lavatory*

नुहाउने कोठा *bathroom*

भरसक *as much as possible*

असुविधा *inconvenience*

भान्सा-कोठा *kitchen*

सुत्ने कोठा *bedroom*

अलपत्र *untidy*

आमै ! *mother!* (an exclamation

of alarm)

सर्वनाश *disaster*

धन्दा मान्नु *to worry*

**Jai** What work is there today? Shall I make tea first?

**Parvati** OK sister, please do make some. I'll tell you while we drink tea.

- Jai** Should I put sugar and milk in the tea?  
**Parvati** Please put one spoonful of sugar and a little milk.  
**Jai** Where has the sugar got to?  
**Parvati** Search in the drawer. It should be there.  
**Jai** Very well... Now, where shall I put the tea? Shall I put it on the table?  
**Parvati** Might the table be marked? Put it on that cloth over there.  
**Jai** Very well. What things do we have to do today? May I know?  
**Parvati** This afternoon my husband is bringing some office friends.  
**Jai** Will they stay until the evening? Shall I cook rice this evening?  
**Parvati** Because it's Wednesday today the cook won't come. For that reason, so that we wouldn't have to cook food, I have told him to invite them only for tea and snacks.\* Whether he will remember or forget I cannot say. You know, don't you sister, what men are like!  
**Jai** Well, let's see. Perhaps he won't forget. How many are coming?  
**Parvati** I have put two tables for them in the garden. Later, please arrange eight chairs. I hope it won't rain today. There really isn't room in the house for eight people!  
**Jai** Certainly. In a moment I'll have to go to the market to buy biscuits and such like, no?  
**Parvati** Yes, you will. I have to go that way too this afternoon. Let's go together.  
**Jai** Of course. Now I'll start cleaning the house.  
**Parvati** Fine. Take a look in the lavatory and the bathroom too. As far as possible let there be no inconvenience for the guests. I'll be in the kitchen.  
**Jai** Shall I tidy the bedroom too?  
**Parvati** It's not necessary sister. Everything's untidy. I'll tidy it myself later.  
**Jai** Oh mother! It's raining. It's a disaster!  
**Parvati** Don't worry. I'll phone the office and try to explain. Now, whether they come or they don't, we have to sit inside the house.

*Note* \* चिया-सिया *tea* and *snacks*. It is possible to add a meaningless rhyming word to certain words to mean *and things associated with it*.

## Grammar

### 126 May I? Verbs in the subjunctive

The subjunctive form of a Nepali verb is used in three contexts:



a Nepali AIDS warning

- i to ask whether or suggest that you might do something:  
*may I come in? let's wash these clothes!*
- ii to express a wish that something might happen: *may the weather be good today! may you all be successful in your examination!*
- iii in phrases along the lines of *whether it does or it doesn't*.

Nepali grammar provides subjunctive forms of the verb for all possible subjects, but in practice you rarely need to know more than the four that are set out below.

Subject	ending	गनु	हुनु	आउनु	दिनु
म	-ū	गरूँ	होऊँ	आऊँ	दिऊँ
ऊ, त्यो, यो	-os	गरोस्	होओस्	आओस्	देओस्
हामी	-aū	गरौँ	होऔँ	आऔँ	दिऔँ
उनीहरू	-ūn	गरून्	होऊन्	आऊन्	दिऊन्

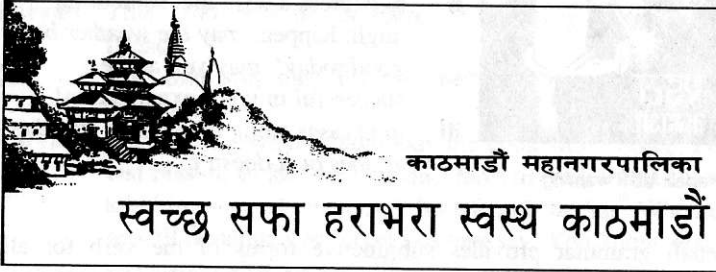
With **म I** and **हामी we**, the subjunctive is very similar to the probable future tense minus its **-ला** ending (see **Grammar 96**), except that **हुनु to be** keeps the base **हो-** in every instance, even with **म I**.

म तपाईंलाई एउटा गुनासो सुनाऊँ? तपाईं रिसाउनुहुन्न ?	<i>May I tell you of a complaint? You won't be angry?</i>
ऊ ठीक समयमा आइपुगोस् । नेपाली साहित्य फलोस् फुलोस् !	<i>He'd better arrive on time. May Nepali literature fruit and bloom!</i>
बाहुनको बाबुले न च्याउ खाओस् न च्याउको स्वाद पाओस् ।	<i>A Brahman's boy shall neither eat a mushroom nor know its taste.*</i>

*Note* \*A proverb. Certain Brahmans follow a strict dietary code, and avoid garlic, onions, mushrooms and many other foods.

**EXERCISE 68** Finish the following sentences with a subjunctive verb:

- १ तपाईंको छोरा चाँडै निको (be).
- २ भोलि हामीहरू फिलिम हेर्न पोखरा (go)?
- ३ हामीहरू तपाईंकी आमालाई के (say)?
- ४ तपाईंको जिन्दगी सुखी (be).
- ५ आजको बस ढिलो (not be).
- ६ म तपाईंकहाँ कति बजे (come)?



an environmental message from Kathmandu Municipal Council

## 127 Doing something for another person: compound verbs with दिनु

Any transitive verb may be combined with the verb दिनु to give, producing what is called a 'compound verb', when the action of the verb is being referred away from the person who performs the action. Often this means that the verb is being performed for someone else's benefit, or on someone else's behalf. In this context, the verb in question must take its 'i-stem', in which a short i vowel is attached to its past tense base:

verb	base	i-stem	compound verb	
गर्नु	गर-	गरि	गरिदिनु	to do for someone else
भन्नु	भन-	भनि	भनिदिनु	to inform
लेख्नु	लेख-	लेखि	लेखिदिनु	to write for

Because the meaning of a compound verb focuses very much on its positive aspect, it rarely occurs in the negative.

डाक्टर साहेबले हाम्रो लागि औषधि लेखिदिनुभयो ।

*The doctor wrote out a prescription for us.*

चिठी चाँडै पठाइदिनुहुन्छ कि ?

अलि पर्खनुपर्ला । थाहा पाउनेबित्तिकै म तपाईंलाई भनिदिन्छु ।

## 128 Trying and seeking

The verb खोज्नु has two meanings:

खोज्नु means to search for when it is associated with a noun or pronoun:

घरको साँचो कता पत्थो ? दिनभरि खोजेर पनि भेट्टाउन सकिनँ ।

*Where has the house key got to? Despite searching all day I could not find it.*

म उनीहरूको घर खोज्दै थिएँ । त्यो बेला उनीहरू पनि त्यहाँ टुप्लुक्क आइपुगे ।

*I was looking for their house. Then they suddenly arrived there too.*

खोज्नु means to try to when it is associated with the infinitive of a verb:

मैले बारम्बार सरकारी जागिर पाउन खोजें तर म हरेक पटक असफल भएँ ।

*I tried again and again to get a government job, but I was unsuccessful every time.*

मैले तपाईंलाई फोन गर्न खोजें तर लाइन एकदम बिजी थियो ।

*I tried to phone you but the line was really busy.*

An alternative to खोज्नु is the verb कोशिश गर्नु, which can be used in combination with the infinitive of a verb in much the same way as खोज्नु, or on its own:

मैले भोटिया भाषा पनि सिक्न कोशिश त गरेको थिएँ, तर पढ्ने फुर्सद नभएको कारणले असफल भएँ ।

*I did try to learn Tibetan, but I failed because I didn't have the time to study.*

हामीलाई भोलि आउन अलि अप्ठ्यारो होला, तर कोशिश गरौंला ।

*It might be a bit difficult for us to come tomorrow, but we will try.*



# 23

उसले औषधि खाएको भए  
if he'd taken the  
medicine

In this unit you will learn

- how to say that things have already happened
- how to construct unreal conditional sentences
- how to convey the sense that something has just been realized

## 33 A death in the neighbourhood

One of Sita's neighbours has died. She tells Manju how it happened.

मंजु हिजो मैले तपाईंलाई अस्पताल जान लागेको देखेको थिएँ, हो ? बिरामी हुनुहुन्छ कि के हो ?

सीता होइन, म छिमेकको एउटा चिनेको मान्छेसँग भेट्न गएको थिएँ। अस्ति उसको छोरासँग बजारमा भेट्दा उसले बालाई कमलपित्त भएर अस्पताल जानुभएको छ भन्यो।

मंजु ए, सिकिस्त बिरामी भएको रहेछ तपाईंको छिमेकी ? अहिले कस्तो छ रे ?

सीता अस्पताल पुग्नेबित्तिकै मैले उसलाई जाँच्ने डाक्टरसँग सोधें। तर बिचरा दुई घण्टा अघि नै मरिसकेको रहेछ।

मंजु ए। तपाईं अस्ति जानुभएको भए भेट हुन्थ्यो, हगि ?

सीता हो नि, तर के गर्ने र ? ऊ त्यति छिटै मर्छ भन्ने कुरा मैले कल्पना पनि गरेको थिइनँ। त्यस्तो थाहा भएको भए त म चाँडै जान्थेँ नि। यस्तो उमेरमा नमरेको भए हुन्थ्यो। उसको आत्माले शान्ति पाओस् भन्नुपन्थ्यो, अरु के भन्ने र ?

मंजु मान्छे त्यति बूढो होइन, क्यारे ?

सीता बूढो भएको भए त त्यति दुःखको कुरा पनि हुँदैनथ्यो नि। तर मान्छे पैंतीस वर्षको मात्रै रहेछ ! डाक्टरको भनाइ अनुसार रक्सी धेरै खान्थ्यो रे। रक्सी नखाइकन औषधि खाएको भए त यसरी अकालै मर्ने नै थिएन नि।

मंजु दाह-सँस्कार भइसकेको छ ?

सीता आज बिहानै पशुपतिमा भइसक्यो नि। कति चाँडै भएछ ! अफिसमा काम नभएको भए मेरो श्रीमान जानुहुन्थ्यो। तर मिलेन। भरे बेलुका उसकी स्वास्नीलाई भेट्न जानुपर्ला।

मंजु छोराछोरी कत्रो रहेछन् नि ?

सीता छोराको बिहा भइसक्यो क्यारे। छोरी पनि तरुनी भइसकेको छ। अब बिचरा त्यो आइमाईले एकलै छोरीको बिहाको कुरा मिलाउनुपन्थो।

मंजु तर सन्तान नभएको भए उसलाई झन् गाह्रो हुन्थ्यो नि। छोरा ठूलो भइसकेको रहेछ नि, केही छैन, उसले आमालाई सघाइदिन्छ।

चिन्नु *to know, be acquainted with*

कमलपित्त *jaundice*

सिकिस्त *gravely, seriously (ill)*

रहनु *to remain, be*

जाँच्नु *to examine*

शान्ति *peace*

दुःख *sorrow*

अनुसार *according to*

अकालै *early, untimely*

दाह-सँस्कार *cremation rite*

भेट *meeting*  
कल्पना गर्नु *to imagine*  
हुन्थ्यो *it would have been all right*  
आत्मा *soul*

कत्रो *how big?*  
तरुनी *young woman*  
सन्तान *offspring*  
सघाउनु *to help*

- Manju** I saw you going to the hospital yesterday, did I? Are you ill, or what is it?
- Sita** No, I went to see a man I know from the neighbourhood. The other day when I met his son in the market he said his father had contracted jaundice and had gone to hospital.
- Manju** Oh is he seriously ill, your neighbour? How do they say he is now?
- Sita** As soon as I reached the hospital I asked the doctor who examined him. But the poor man had already died just two hours earlier.
- Manju** Oh. If you had gone two days ago you'd have seen him, no?
- Sita** That's right, but what to do, indeed? I had never even imagined that he would die quickly like that. If I'd known that I'd have gone right away. It would have been better if he hadn't died at such an age. We must say 'may his soul find peace', what else can we say, after all?
- Manju** So the man wasn't so old, eh?
- Sita** If he'd been old then it wouldn't have been such a sad affair either, you know. But the man is only 35 years old! According to the doctor, he used to drink a lot. If he had taken his medicine and hadn't drunk alcohol he wouldn't have died such an untimely death, you know.
- Manju** Has the funeral ceremony taken place?
- Sita** It took place at Pashupati early this morning. How quickly it has happened! If there hadn't been work at the office my husband would have gone. But it wasn't convenient. This evening I'll have to go and see his wife.\*
- Manju** How big are the children?
- Sita** I think the son's already married. The daughter's a young woman already too. Now, poor thing, that woman has to arrange her daughter's marriage alone.
- Manju** But if she didn't have children it would be even harder for her, you know. The son's grown up already you know, it doesn't matter, he will help his mother.

Note \* Among Nepali Hindus, it is unusual for a woman to attend a funeral.

## Grammar

### 129 *Already done*: compound verbs with सक्नु

The verb सक्नु has been encountered before, in combination with the infinitive of a verb, where it means *can/be able*. However, the same verb has the second meaning of *to finish/be completed*. Its i-stem form सकिनु can therefore be used interchangeably with the verb सिद्धिनु to mean *to finish*:

आजको काम सकियो ।  
हिजोको पाठ अझै पनि सिद्धिएको छैन ।

*Today's work is finished.*  
*Yesterday's lesson is still not finished.*

The i-stem form of any verb (see **Grammar 69**), whether transitive or intransitive, may also be combined with सक्नु to emphasize that its action has already been completed. The compound verb consists of the i-stem of the verb + सक्नु, written as a single word:

मैले पढिसकें ।  
तिमी आइसकेको थियौ ।  
ऊ सुतिसकेको छ ।  
वहाँ मरिसक्नुभयो ।

*I have already read.*  
*You had already come.*  
*He is already asleep.*  
*He has already died.*

Because it serves to emphasize that something is over and done with when it is the second part of a compound verb, the verb सक्नु almost always takes a past tense in this context – usually this is the simple past or the completed past. For the same reason, it is rarely used in the negative. The completed present tense is also sometimes used, but often its meaning (*has already...*) is conveyed by the shorter simple past tense.

In Nepali, compound verbs with सक्नु are used much more commonly than the English translation *already* might suggest. In a context where an English-speaker might say *it's become dark* or *he has left*, a Nepali-speaker will often say अँध्यारो भइसक्यो *it's already become dark* and ऊ गइसक्यो *he's already left*.

मेरो त बिहा भइसक्यो नि । मेरो लागि दुलही खोज्नुपर्दैन ।  
*But I am already married, you know. You don't need to seek for a bride for me.*

आज म मन्त्रालय दुई पटक गइसकें । अब तेस्रो पटक जानु नपरोस् !

*I've already been to the ministry twice today. Let me not have to go a third time now!*

त्यो उपन्यास त मैले धेरै अघि पढिसकें ।

*I read that novel a long time ago.*

कुनै उपन्यास एक पटक पढिसकेपछि दोस्रो पटक पढ्न मनै लागदैन ।

*After I have read any novel once I really don't wish to read it a second time.*

### 130 Unreal conditional sentences

Unreal conditional sentences state that if something *had been* the case in the past something else *would have* happened: *if it had rained I wouldn't have gone out; if it hadn't rained I would have gone out*. Such sentences are 'unreal' because anyone who utters, hears, reads or writes them knows that in fact the reality turned out differently.

The 'if' clause must end with a combination of the -एको participle of whichever verb is involved, followed by the short -e participle of the verb हुनु to be, i.e. -एको भए. If the verb is negative it takes the prefix न-

#### Real condition

पानी पच्यो भने...

*If it rains...*

ऊ आएन भने...

*If he doesn't come...*

#### Unreal condition

पानी परेको भए...

*If it had rained...*

ऊ नआएको भए...

*If he hadn't come...*

In general, the form -एको भए is used no matter who or what the subject is, regardless of number, gender, or level of politeness. But occasionally, if the subject is felt to deserve especial deference or politeness, the High form consisting of the dictionary form + भएको भए is used instead:

तपाईं जानुभयो भने...

*If you go...*

तपाईं जानुभएन भने...

*If you don't go...*

तपाईं जानुभएको भए...

*If you had gone...*

तपाईं नजानुभएको भए...

*If you hadn't gone...*

The second part of an unreal conditional sentence usually ends with a verb that is exactly the same as the habitual past tense. However, the meaning of this tense when it is the conclusion of an unreal conditional sentence is very different:

त्यो रेष्टुराँमा हामीहरू गुन्द्रुक खान्थ्यौं ।

*We used to eat gundruk in that restaurant.*

त्यो रेष्टुराँमा गएको भए हामीहरू गुन्द्रुक खान्थ्यौं ।

*If we had gone into that restaurant we would have eaten gundruk.*

In fact, the final verb of an unreal conditional sentence is actually a shortened form of a tense that consists of the -ने participle + थियो. The second of the two sentences above could read as follows:

हामी त्यो रेष्टुराँमा गएको भए हामी गुन्द्रुक खाने थियौं ।

*If we had gone into that restaurant over there we would have eaten gundruk.*

This tense is also used on its own to talk about intentions in the past – usually intentions that were not fulfilled:

म सगरमाथा चढ्ने थिएँ ।

*I was going to climb / would have climbed Everest.*

This sentence does not make it clear whether the speaker actually got on to the mountain or not. When the same phrase becomes the second half of an unreal conditional sentence, however, it becomes clear that he did not:

हिउँ नपरेको भए म सगरमाथा चढ्ने थिएँ ।

*If it had not snowed I would have climbed Everest.*

The meaning remains exactly the same when the shorter form of the verb (the habitual past) is used instead:

हिउँ नपरेको भए म सगरमाथा चढ्थेँ ।

*If it had not snowed I'd have climbed Everest.*

मसँग पैसा भएको भए म परिवारको लागि कोसेलीहरू किन्थेँ ।

*If I'd had any money on me I'd have bought presents for the family.*

तपाईंले त्यो कुरा अँग्रेजीमा भन्नुभएको भए उसले बुझ्थ्यो ।

*If you had said that thing in English he would have understood.*

घाम लागेको भए बच्चाहरू बाहिर खेल्थे ।

*If the sun had shone the children would have played outside.*

बासी भात नखाएको भए तिम्रो पेट दुख्दैनथ्यो ।

*If you hadn't eaten stale rice your stomach wouldn't be hurting.*

**EXERCISE 69** Match up the beginnings and ends below to create five unreal conditional sentences. Translate the five sentences into English.

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| १ मलाई भोक लागेको भए...      | ... त्यो मान्छे अकालै मर्दैनथ्यो ।  |
| २ पानी नपरेको भए...          | ... हाम्रो घरमा बिजुली हुँदैनथ्यो । |
| ३ पहाडमा खोलाहरू नभएको भए... | ... बेलुका झन रमाइलो हुन्थ्यो ।     |
| ४ बेलासा औषधि खाएको भए...    | ... उनीहरू भात खान आउँथे ।          |
| ५ साथीले गीत गाएको भए...     | ... म खपाखप भात खान्थे ।            |

### 131 The short completed present tense

The completed present tense is explained in **Grammar 77**. In everyday spoken Nepali, this tense may take a shortened form, partly because it is rather longwinded. After all, why use five syllables to say 'I've done' in Nepali when you need only use three? The short forms of the completed present tense are also used to imply that something happened suddenly or unexpectedly.

The short form of the completed present tense is simply the full form minus the final -को of the -एको participle that is the first word of the pair. The two words of the full form become a single word in the short form:

#### Full form

म गएको छु  
उनीहरू आएका छन्  
तपाईंले गर्नुभएको छ

#### Short form

म गएछु  
उनीहरू आएछन्  
तपाईंले गर्नुभएछ

### 132 Realization: using रहेछ at the end of sentences

रहेछ is the short form of रहेको छ, the completed present tense of the verb रहनु *to remain/continue to be*. रहेछ can be thought of as an add-on word similar to होला (**Grammar 92**), although there is a difference in that रहेछ must take the place of another verb, and cannot simply be appended to any statement. रहेछ or its negative form रहेनछ may be used instead of छ, छैन, हो or होइन at the end of a sentence to indicate that the speaker has just realized what s/he is saying. It has no real equivalent in English, unless it be the exclamation mark, or the old-fashioned exclamation 'why!' with which an observation can begin in English.

#### Simple statements

तपाईंको घर राम्रो छ ।  
*Your house is nice.*  
उसको हातमा बन्दूक छ ।  
*There is a gun in his hand.*  
तपाईंको छोरा अग्लो भइसक्यो ।  
*Your son has become tall.*  
मेरो खल्लीमा पैसा छैन ।  
*There is no money in my pocket.*

#### Realizations

तपाईंको घर राम्रो रहेछ !  
*Why, your house is nice!*  
उसको हातमा बन्दूक रहेछ !  
*Hey, he's got a gun in his hand!*  
तपाईंको छोरा अग्लो भइसकेको रहेछ !  
*Why, your son has become tall!*  
मेरो खल्लीमा पैसा रहेनछ !  
*Why, there's no money in my pocket!*

### 133 The verb चिन्नु *to know/recognize*

This verb is used exclusively with human nouns as indirect objects. In the habitual present tense it means *to recognize* while in past tenses it means *to be acquainted with*.

तपाईं त्यस मान्छेलाई चिन्नुहुन्छ ? अहँ,  
चिन्दिन । वहाँ को हुनुहुन्छ ?

*Do you recognize that person? No, I don't.*  
*Who is he?*

त्यहाँ कोही चिनेको मान्छे भएको भए  
म उसैलाई भन्थेँ ।

*If there had been anyone there that I knew, I'd have told him/her.*

खबरदार, मैले तिमीलाई राम्रोसँग चिनेको छु ! *Beware, I know you very well!*

### EXERCISE 70 Translate into Nepali:

Today some people we know are coming to our house for dinner at 6 o'clock. I return home from the university at 4 o'clock, but the house is empty! And I look in my bag to see if the key is there and the bag is empty too! Where might it have gone? I search in every place but I cannot find the key.

The cook should have come at half past 3 but he has not come yet. Perhaps he has already come to the house and then gone to the market. If he had stayed in the house until 4 o'clock this problem would not have occurred. Should I break a window to get in? Or shall I go back to the university and search for the key in my office? I don't know, what shall I do?

Oh, now the cook has arrived and he has the key in his hand! If I had broken (फोड्नु *to break*) a window my husband would have really told me off!

It is already a quarter past 4. He opens the door for me. Shall I phone my husband and tell him to come home soon? No, there's probably no need. The cook has already bought all the food and now he will cook it for us.

# 24

if that's how  
it is ...

त्यसो भए...

- In this unit you will learn
- some verses of a Nepali folksong
  - how to intensify the action of a verb
  - the longer continuous tenses
  - the short real conditional sentence

## 34 Two porters and a folksong

Mahila works as a porter in the hills. On his way home one day he meets another porter, and they agree to keep each other company along the way.



भरिया ए भाइ, आज कतातिर ?

माहिंला आज घरतिर जाने ।

भरिया कहाँ हो घर ?

माहिंला त्रिसुली नदीपारि, फेदी गाउँ ।

भरिया आज कहाँबाट हिंडेको ?

माहिंला आज नुवाकोटबाट बिहानै हिंडेको ।

भरिया एकलै हिंड्दाखेरि अलि डर हुन्छ नि । साथी छैन ?

माहिंला साथी-भाइहरूसँग हिंडेको थिएँ उनीहरू त धादिङ्गतिर गएछन् । उनीहरूको बाटो उता पन्यो, मेरो बाटो यता पन्यो । के गर्ने ?

भरिया ल, त्यसो भए तपाईंको र मेरो बाटो यहाँदेखि एउटै भयो । यहाँबाट सँगै जाऔं ।

माहिंला हुन्छ, रमाइलो हुन्छ । तपाईंको भारी ठूलो रहेछ । के छ त्यसमा ?

भरिया यसमा नून, तेल र कपडा छ । देउरालीको एउटा साहूको भारी हो यो ।

माहिंला मलाई थकाइ लाग्यो । कस्तो चर्को घाम लागेको, हगि ? ऊ त्यो पीपलको बोटमुनि एक छिन थकाइ मारौं न ।

भरिया हुन्छ, बसौं । कस्तो तिर्खा लाग्यो ! यतातिर पानी पाइन्छ कि ?

माहिंला हेर्नुहोस्, ऊ त्यहाँ तलबाट एउटा केटा आइरहेको छ । घर नजिकै होला उसको । म सोध्छु, है... ए कान्छा, तिम्रो घर कहाँ हो ?

केटा यहीनेर छ, दाइ । किन र ?

माहिंला त्यसो भए एक लोटा पानी ल्याउन सक्छौ ? चर्को घाम लागेको छ, हामीलाई तिर्खा लाग्यो ।

केटा भइहाल्छ नि दाइ, म लिएर आउँछु ।

(पाँच मिनेटपछि)

केटा ल, पानी लिनुहोस् । ए तपाईंको साथी त सुतिहाल्नुभएछ ।

माहिंला ल, उसलाई उठाउन एउटा गीत गाउनुपर्न्यो । तिम्रीलाई गीत गाउन आउँछ ?

केटा आउँछ दाइ । गाऊँ त ? ल, सुन्नुहोस् है त ।

रेसम फिररि, रेसम फिररि

उडेर जाऊँ कि डाँडामा भन्ज्याङ्ग, रेसम फिररि

कुखुरालाई कुटीमा कुटी, बिरालोलाई सुरी

तिम्रो हाम्रो माया प्रीति दोबाटौमा कुरी

रेसम फिररि, रेसम फिररि

उडेर जाऊँ कि डाँडामा भन्ज्याङ्ग, रेसम फिररि

एकनाले बन्दुक दुईनाले बन्दुक मृगलाई ताकेको

मृगलाई मैले ताकेको होइन मायालाई डाकेको

रेसम फिररि, रेसम फिररि

उडेर जाऊँ कि डाँडामा भन्ज्याङ्ग, रेसम फिररि

माहिंला ए यो भाइले पानी ल्याइदिएको छ । मैले त खाएँ । तिम्री सुतिरहेको थियौ । खाने हो ?

-पारि <i>on the far side of</i>	कुबुरा <i>chicken</i>
डर <i>fear</i>	बिरालो <i>cat</i>
चर्को <i>hot, sharp</i>	माया <i>love, affection</i>
थकाइ मारुं <i>to rest ('to kill weariness')</i>	प्रीति <i>love, affection</i>
यहीं <i>right here</i>	दोबाटो <i>crossroads</i>
-नेर <i>near</i>	एकनाले <i>single-barrelled</i>
लोटा <i>jug, steel cup</i>	बन्दुक <i>gun</i>
रेसम <i>silk (handkerchief)</i>	दईनाले <i>double-barrelled</i>
फिरिरी <i>rippling (in the breeze)</i>	मृग <i>deer</i>
उड्नु <i>to fly</i>	ताक्नु <i>to aim</i>
डाँडा <i>hill, ridge</i>	डाक्नु <i>to call, invite</i>
भन्ज्याङ्ग <i>pass</i>	

- Porter** Oh brother, where are you going today?  
**Mahila** I'm going home today.  
**Porter** Where's home?  
**Mahila** The other side of the Trisuli river, Phedi village.  
**Porter** Where did you start from today?  
**Mahila** Early this morning I set out from Nuwakot.  
**Porter** It's a bit frightening when you walk alone, you know. Have you no companions?  
**Mahila** I set out with some friends, but they have gone to Dhading. Their path was in that direction, mine in this. What to do?  
**Porter** Well, if that's how it is your path and mine are the same from here. Let's go together from here.  
**Mahila** OK, it will be pleasant. Your load is big. What is in it?  
**Porter** There's salt, oil and cloth in this. This is a load for a businessman in Deurali.  
**Mahila** I'm tired. How hot the sun is, don't you think? Let's rest beneath that pipal tree for a moment.  
**Porter** Yes, let's sit down. How thirsty I am! Can we get some water somewhere here?  
**Mahila** Look, there's a boy coming from lower down. His house will be nearby. I'll ask... Hey Kancha, where's your house?  
**Boy** It's just near here. Why do you ask?  
**Mahila** If that's so, can you bring a jug of water? The sun is hot, we are thirsty.  
**Boy** No problem brother, I'll bring it. After five minutes:

- Boy** Here, take the water. Oh, your friend has gone to sleep.  
**Mahila** Right, we'll have to sing a song to wake him up. Can you sing?  
**Boy** Yes I can, brother. Shall I sing then? Right, listen to me.\*  
*Silk (handkerchief) rippling (in the breeze), Silk (handkerchief) rippling (in the breeze),\*<sup>2</sup>*  
*Shall I go flying (over the) hills and passes? Silk (handkerchief) rippling (in the breeze).*  
*(Saying) 'kuti kuti' to a chicken, (saying) 'suri' to a cat*  
*Your love and my love, waiting at the crossroads.*  
*Silk (handkerchief) rippling...*  
*One-barrelled gun, two-barrelled gun, aiming at a deer,*  
*It's not a deer that I am aiming at, it's love that I am calling.*  
*Silk (handkerchief) rippling...*

**Mahila** Oh, this brother has brought some water. I have drunk some. You were sleeping. Will you drink?

*Note* \*<sup>1</sup> The boy sings a few verses of one of the most famous Nepali folksongs, रेसम फिरिरी. Like many folksongs, रेसम फिरिरी contains a lot of wordplay that is difficult to translate.

\*<sup>2</sup> It is an old tradition for young men and women to exchange handkerchiefs as love tokens.

## Grammar

### 134 Compound verbs with हाल्नु

When used on its own, the verb हाल्नु means *to insert, put in*. It may be compared to the verb राख्नु *to place upon, keep*. In fact, राख्नु is felt by some Nepali-speakers to be a more polite way of saying *to put in*, so that one will hear some speakers saying म चियामा चिनी हालिदिऊँ ? *shall I put sugar in the tea?* and others saying म चियामा चिनी राखिदिऊँ ?

When it is combined with the i-stem of a verb to form a compound verb, however, हाल्नु simply reinforces and underlines the sense of that verb without changing its essential meaning.

ऊ गयो	<i>he went</i>	ऊ गइहाल्यो	<i>he's gone away</i>
भयो	<i>it's happened</i>	भइहाल्यो	<i>it's over and done with</i>

तपाईंले देख्नुभयो *you saw* तपाईंले देखिहाल्नुभयो *you have surely seen*

ऊ धेरै दिन बसेन । तीन दिनपछि त गइहाल्यो नि । *He didn't stay long. After three days he was gone, you know.*

तपाईंले देखिहाल्नुभयो यहाँ दिन दिनै बत्ती जान्छ । *You have seen very well that there is a power cut here every day*

तीनवटा उदाहरण भएपछि त भइहाल्यो नि । *After three examples it's over and done, you know.*

### 135 Continuous tenses using रहनु

When used on its own, the verb रहनु means *to remain, continue*. It is frequently combined with the i-stem of a verb to form a compound verb that emphasizes the continuous nature of an action. The -एको participle of such a compound verb is used to form a continuous tense:

अब हेर्नुहोस् नगर पालिकालाई आज म यो सुझाव लेखिरहेको छु । यस्तै सुझाव *Look now, today I am writing this suggestion for the municipality.*

पोहोर साल पनि यही बेला लेखिरहेको थिएँ । तर कसैले पनि ध्यान दिइरहेका छैनन् । *Last year too I was writing the same kind of suggestion at exactly this time.*

*But no-one is giving this matter any attention.*

म एउटा नेपाली भाषाको पाठ्य पुस्तक लेख्न सोचिरहेको थिएँ । साथीहरू नलेख भनिरहेका थिए । तर लेख्न शुरु गरिहालेँ । अहिलेसम्म पनि लेखिरहेको छु । *I was thinking of writing a textbook of the Nepali language. (My) friends were telling me not to write (it). Even so I began to write. I am still writing it now.*

Because of the greater length of these verbs, they are used instead of the other continuous tenses (गर्दै छ, गर्दै थियो etc.) when there is a need to stress the continuous nature of an activity.

**EXERCISE 71** Convert the tense of the following sentences from an habitual tense to a continuous tense with रहनु:

#### Examples

म अफिसमा काम गर्छु । म अफिसमा काम गरिरहेको छु ।  
म अफिसमा काम गर्थे । म अफिसमा काम गरिरहेको थिएँ ।

- १ उनीहरू जाँड-रक्सी धेरै पिउँथे ।
- २ गोपाल राम्रा राम्रा गीत गाउँथ्यो ।
- ३ मेरो भाइ टाढाको एउटा स्कूलमा जान्छ ।
- ४ खैरेनीबाट काठमाडौँमा धेरै तरकारी आउँछ ।
- ५ म यहाँबाट कीर्तिपुरसम्म हिंडेर जान्थे ।

### 136 Short real conditional sentences

The -e participle consists of a verb's past tense base + the vowel e or (another way of looking at it) the -एको participle minus its -को.

**Grammar 91** explained how to construct a real conditional sentence by using the simple past tense of a verb followed by भने for the 'if' clause, and a present or future tense (or an imperative) for the 'then' clause. A second, quicker way of expressing the same meaning replaces the verb of the 'if' clause with the short -e participle of the verb, and leaves out the word भने. For example, compare the long and short versions of the sentences *if it rains I won't go out* and *if it doesn't rain I will probably go out*:

#### Long version

पानी पच्यो भने म बाहिर जाँदिन ।  
पानी परेन भने म बाहिर जाउँला ।

#### Short version

पानी परे म बाहिर जाँदिन ।  
पानी नपरे म बाहिर जाउँला ।

Often, the -e participle will be followed by त, *though, but*, to underline the conditional nature of the sentence.

अलिकति भात भए पुग्छ ।

*A little rice will be enough ('if there is a little rice it will suffice').*

भोक लागे त भात खाऊ न भाइ ।

*If you're hungry just eat, younger brother,*

पैसा नभए त बिल कसरी तिर्ने ?

*But if there is no money how will we pay the bill?*

अँग्रेजी बोले पनि हुन्छ, नेपाली बोले पनि हुन्छ । *It is OK if you speak English, and it's OK if you speak Nepali too.*



**EXERCISE 72** Create one short real conditional sentence from each pair of sentences below:

**Example**

पानी पर्दैन । म बाहिर जाउँला । = पानी नपरे म बाहिर जाउँला ।

- १ भोक लाग्दैन । म खाजा नखाउँला ।
- २ थकाइ लाग्यो । म आराम गरूँला ।
- ३ काठमाडौं छाडेर जान मन लाग्दैन । काठमाडौंमै बसूँला ।
- ४ नेपाली सिक्न गाह्रो लाग्यो । हिन्दी सिक्न पनि गाह्रो लाग्यो । जापानी सिक्नुँला ।
- ५ गुन्दुक मीठो लागेन र आलु-तामा पनि मीठो लागेन । कालो दाल खाउँला ।

**EXERCISE 73** Translate into Nepali:

I went with elder brother to the airport yesterday. Some guests were coming from Delhi to stay with us. Early in the morning we had phoned the RNAC office and a woman had said that the Delhi flight would arrive at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. 'If that's the case then we must set out from home at 2.30', said elder brother.

As soon as we arrived at the airport elder brother asked an official (कर्मचारी) about the flight. The official told him that it had left Delhi only recently because the weather had been very bad. 'In that case how long will we have to wait here?', elder brother asked. 'It is flying (udnu) towards Nepal now', the official said, 'it will arrive within one hour.'

'The aeroplane is late and we will have to wait here', elder brother said. 'But mother and father are waiting at home', I told him, 'They do not know that the plane is coming late.'

'You go and phone them', elder brother said. 'Tell them that we will come straight home after the plane arrives.'

## Cardinal numbers

० शून्य				
१ एक	११ एघार	२१ एक्काइस	३१ एकतीस	४१ एकचालीस
२ दुई	१२ बाह्र	२२ बाईस	३२ बत्तीस	४२ बयालीस
३ तीन	१३ तेह्र	२३ तेईस	३३ तेत्तीस	४३ त्रिचालीस
४ चार	१४ चौध	२४ चौबीस	३४ चौत्तीस	४४ चवालीस
५ पाँच	१५ पन्ध्र	२५ पच्चीस	३५ पैंतीस	४५ पैँतालीस
६ छ	१६ सोह्र	२६ छब्बीस	३६ छत्तीस	४६ छयालीस
७ सात	१७ सत्र	२७ सत्ताइस	३७ सैंतीस	४७ सतचालीस
८ आठ	१८ अठार	२८ अट्ठाइस	३८ अठ्तीस	४८ अठचालीस
९ नौ	१९ उन्नाइस	२९ उन्तीस	३९ उनन्चालीस	४९ उनन्चास
१० दस	२० बीस	३० तीस	४० चालीस	५० पचास
५१ एकाउन्न	६१ एकसट्ठी	७१ एकहत्तर	८१ एकासी	९१ एकानब्बे
५२ बाउन्न	६२ बैसट्ठी	७२ बहत्तर	८२ बयासी	९२ बयानब्बे
५३ त्रिपन्न	६३ त्रिसट्ठी	७३ त्रिहत्तर	८३ त्रियासी	९३ त्रियानब्बे
५४ चउन्न	६४ चौंसट्ठी	७४ चौहत्तर	८४ चौरासी	९४ चौरानब्बे
५५ पचपन्न	६५ पैंसट्ठी	७५ पचहत्तर	८५ पचासी	९५ पञ्चानब्बे
५६ छपन्न	६६ छैंसट्ठी	७६ छहत्तर	८६ छयासी	९६ छयानब्बे
५७ सन्ताउन्न	६७ सतसट्ठी	७७ सतहत्तर	८७ सतासी	९७ सन्तानब्बे
५८ अन्ठाउन्न	६८ अठसट्ठी	७८ अठहत्तर	८८ अठासी	९८ अठानब्बे
५९ उनन्साठी	६९ उनहत्तर	७९ उनासी	८९ उनानब्बे	९९ उनान्सय
६० साठी	७० सत्तरी	८० असी	९० नब्बे	१०० सय

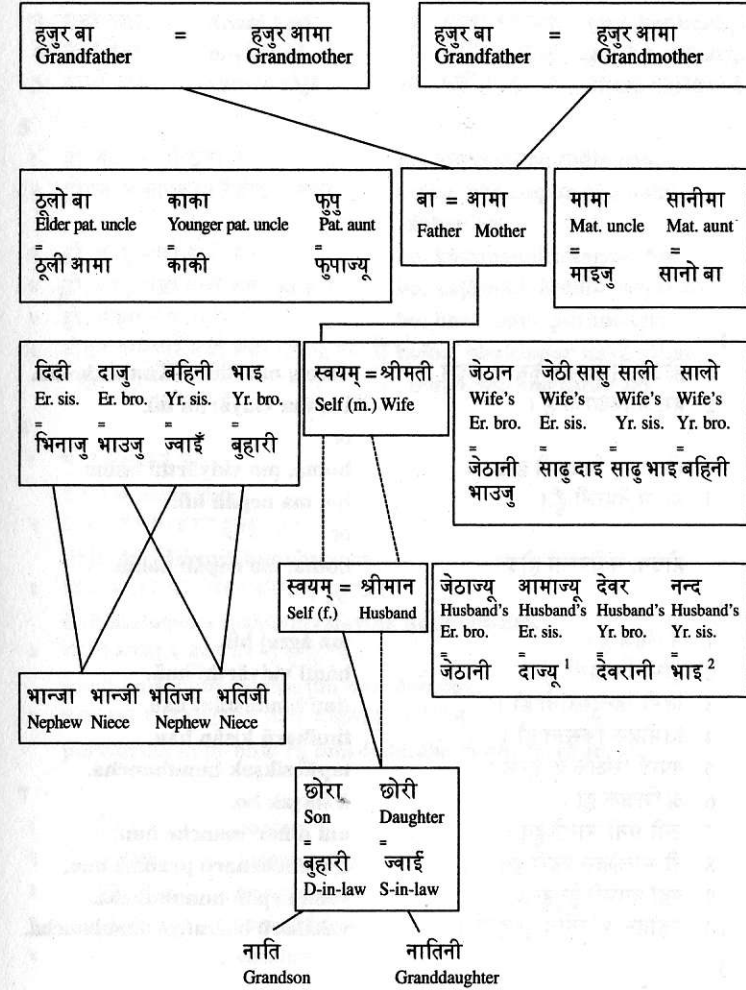
Above 100, the numbers proceed as they do in English, but omitting the English 'and':

१०१	एक सय एक
२६२	दुई सय बैसट्ठी
१०००	एक हजार or हजार
१४२३	एक हजार चार सय तेईस
२५१०८	पच्चीस हजार एक सय आठ
१०००००	एक लाख
११६४३३	एक लाख तेह्र हजार चार सय तेत्तीस
३१०००००	सैंतीस लाख
१०००००००	एक करोड

If commas are used to split up large numbers, the placing of the commas reflects the system of हजार, लाख, and करोड, rather than thousands and millions. For example, the number 31,350,226 will appear as:

३,१३,५०,२२६ तीन करोड तेह्र लाख पचास हजार दुई सय छब्बीस

## Kinship terms



<sup>1</sup> more formally, आमाज्यु दाज्यु

<sup>2</sup> more formally, नन्दे भाइ

- 1  
 1 होइन, म बिमल कुमार होइन । **hoina, ma Bimal Kumār hoina.**  
 2 हो, म विद्यार्थी हूँ । **ho, ma vidyārthī hū.**  
 or  
 होइन, म विद्यार्थी होइन । **hoina, ma vidyārthī hoina.**  
 3 हो, म नेपाली हूँ । **ho, ma nepālī hū.**  
 or  
 होइन, म नेपाली होइन । **hoina, ma nepālī hoina.**
- 2  
 1 म अँग्रेज हूँ । **ma āgrej hū.**  
 2 हामी विद्यार्थी हौं । **hāmī vidyārthī hau.**  
 3 तिमी हिन्दुस्तानी हौ । **timī hindustānī hau.**  
 4 तिमीहरू किसान हौ । **timīharū kisān hau.**  
 5 तपाईं शिक्षक हुनुहुन्छ । **tapāī śikṣak hunuhuncha.**  
 6 ऊ शिक्षक हो । **ū śikṣak ho.**  
 7 उनी धनी मान्छे हुन् । **unī dhanī mānche hun.**  
 8 ती मान्छेहरू प्रहरी हुन् । **tī māncheharū praharī hun.**  
 9 वहाँ नेपाली हुनुहुन्छ । **vahā nepālī hunuhuncha.**  
 10 यहाँहरू भारतीय हुनुहुन्छ । **yahāharū bhāratīya hunuhuncha.**
- 3  
 1 ... होइन । ... **hoina.**  
 2 ... होइनौं । ... **hoinau.**  
 3 ... होइनौ । ... **hoinau.**  
 4 ... होइनौ । ... **hoinau.**  
 5 ... हुनुहुन्न । ... **hunuhunna.**
- 4  
 1 राम्रो किसान **rāmro kisān**      6 धनी किसानहरू **dhanī kisānharū**

- 2 ठूलो किताब **ṭhūlo kitāb**      7 राम्रा किताबहरू **rāmra kitābharū**
- 3 धनी केटी **dhanī keṭī**      8 साना केटीहरू **sānā keṭīharū**  
 4 नयाँ केटा **nayā keṭā**      9 गरीब केटाहरू **garīb keṭāharū**  
 5 राम्रो राजा **rāmro rājā**      10 धनी राजाहरू **dhanī rājāharū**
- 5  
 १ हो, काठमाडौं ठूलो छ । **ho, kāṭhmāḍāū ṭhūlo cha.**  
 २ होइन, भक्तपुर गाउँ होइन, शहर हो । **hoina, bhaktapur gaū hoina, śahar ho.**  
 ३ हो, काठमाडौं राम्रै छ । **ho, kāṭhmāḍāū rāmrai cha.**  
 ४ हो, काठमाडौं ठूलो शहर हो । **ho, kāṭhmāḍāū ṭhūlo śahar ho.**  
 ५ हो, भक्तपुर पुरानो छ । **ho, bhaktapur purāno cha.**  
 ६ होइन, भक्तपुर नयाँ शहर होइन, पुरानो शहर हो । **hoina, bhaktapur nayā śahar hoina, purāno śahar ho.**
- 6  
 १ भाइ स्कूलमा छ । **bhāi skūlmā cha.**  
 २ दाजु दार्जिलिङमा हुनुहुन्छ । **dāju dārjilingmā hunuhuncha.**  
 ३ दिदी महेन्द्र महाविद्यालयमा हुनुहुन्छ । **didī mahendra mahāvidyālaymā hunuhuncha.**  
 ४ भोलि आमा र बुवा घरमा हुनुहुन्छ । **bholi amā ra buvā gharumā hunuhuncha.**  
 ५ परिवारमा दाजु-भाइ र दिदी-बहिनीहरू धेरै छन् । **parivārmā dāju-bhāi ra didī-bahinīharū dherai chan.**
- 7  
 १ ... छैन । ... **chaina.**  
 २ ... हुनुहुन्न । ... **hunuhunna.**  
 ३ ... हुनुहुन्न । ... **hunuhunna.**  
 ४ ... हुनुहुन्न । ... **hunuhunna.**  
 ५ ... छैनन् । ... **chainan.**
- 8  
 १ प्रहरी थाना नजिक छैन, अलि टाढा छ । **praharī thāna najik chaina, ali ṭāḍhā cha.**  
 २ हो, हुलाक घर अलि टाढा छ । **ho, hulāk ghar ali ṭāḍhā cha.**  
 ३ लजबाट बजार तीन किलोमीटर टाढा छ । **lajbāṭa bajār tīn kilomīṭar ṭāḍhā cha.**

- ४ बजारमा प्रहरी थाना, पसलहरू, हुलाक घर र बैंक छ ।  
**bajārmā praharī thānā, pasalharū, hulāk ghar ra baīk cha.**  
 ५ प्रहरी थाना बजारमा छ ।  
**praharī thānā bajārmā cha.**  
 ६ सरस्वती मन्दिर बजारबाट तीन किलोमीटर टाढा छ ।  
**sarasvatī mandir bajārbāṭa tīn kilomīṭar ṭāḍhā cha.**

9

- नेपाली कक्षामा: **nepālī kakṣāmā:**  
 १ दसजना विद्यार्थीहरू छन् । **dasjanā vidyārthīharū chan.**  
 २ पाँचजना अंग्रेजहरू छन् । **pācjanā āgrejharū chan.**  
 ३ दुईजना जर्मनहरू छन् । **duījanā jarmanharū chan.**  
 अंग्रेजी कक्षामा: **āgrejī kakṣāmā:**  
 ४ उन्नाइसजना विद्यार्थीहरू छन् । **unnāisjanā vidyārthīharū chan.**  
 ५ नौजना केटाहरू छन् । **naujanā keṭāharū chan.**  
 ६ दसजना केटीहरू छन् । **dasjanā keṭīharū chan.**

10

- १ मसँग दस रुपियाँ र एक बट्टा चुरोट छ ।  
**masāga das rupiyā ra ek baṭṭā curoṭ cha.**  
 २ हामीहरू तीन हप्तादेखि नेपालमा छौं ।  
**hāmīharū tīn haptādekhi nepālmā chaū.**  
 ३ हुलाक घरमा दसजना लोग्ने-मान्छे, तीनजना आइमाई र पाँचजना केटा छन् ।  
**hulāk gharumā dasjanā logne-mānche, tīnjanā āimāi ra pācjanā keṭā chan.**  
 ४ तपाईंसँग कति पैसा छ ?  
**tapāisāga kati paisā cha?**  
 ५ त्यो भारतीय मान्छेसँग पैसा छैन, तर नेपाली केटासँग दस रुपियाँ छ ।  
**tyo bhāratīya mānchesāga paisā chaina, tara nepālī keṭāsāga das rupiyā cha.**  
 ६ धनी किसानसँग दस पाथी चामल र दस किलो आलु छ ।  
**dhanī kisānsāga das pāthī cāmal ra das kilo ālu cha.**  
 ७ हरेक टेबुलमा दुई कप चिया छ ।  
**harek ṭebulmā duī kap ciyā cha.**  
 ८ शिक्षकसँग किताब छैन र विद्यार्थीहरूसँग कलम छैन ।  
**śikṣaksāga kitāb chaina ra vidyārthīharūsāga kalam chaina.**

11

- भाइ शिक्षक हो । **bhāi śikṣak ho.** भाइ घरमा छ । **bhāi gharumā cha.**  
 दिदी शिक्षक हुन् । **didī śikṣak hun.** दिदी घरमा छिन् । **didī gharumā chin.**

- भाइहरू शिक्षक हुन् । **bhāiharū śikṣak hun.** भाइहरू घरमा छन् । **bhāiharū gharumā chan.**  
 दाज्यू शिक्षक हुनुहुन्छ । **dājyū śikṣak hunuhuncha.** दाज्यू घरमा हुनुहुन्छ । **dājyū gharumā hunuhuncha.**  
 आमा शिक्षक हुनुहुन्छ । **āmā śikṣak hunuhuncha.** आमा घरमा हुनुहुन्छ । **āmā gharumā hunuhuncha.**  
 म शिक्षक हुँ । **ma śikṣak hū.** म घरमा छु । **ma gharumā chu.**

12

- 1 एक हप्ता **ek haptā**  
 2 दुईजना मान्छे **duījanā mānche**  
 3 तीनवटा किताब **tīnvaṭā kitāb**  
 4 चारजना केटा **cārjanā keṭā**  
 5 पाँच रुपियाँ **pāc rupiyā**  
 6 छवटा मेच **chavaṭā mec**  
 7 सातजना आइमाई **sātjanā āimāi**  
 8 आठवटा कक्षा **āṭhvaṭā kakṣā**  
 9 नौ किलो **nau kilo**  
 10 दसजना विदेशी **dasjanā videśī**  
 11 दुई किलो **duī kilo**  
 12 साढे सात किलो **sāḍhe sāt kilo**  
 13 तीन पाथी **tīn pāthī**  
 14 अढाई माना **aḍhāi mānā**  
 15 तीन रुपियाँ पचहत्तर पैसा **tīn rupiyā pacahattar paisā**  
 16 साढे नौ रुपियाँ **sāḍhe nau rupiyā**

13

- १ रतनजीको आफ्नो मोटर छैन ।  
**Ratanjīko āphno moṭar chaina.**  
 २ रातो मोटर रतनको होइन । रतनको साथीको हो ।  
**rāto moṭar Ratanko hoīna. Ratanko sāthīko ho.**  
 ३ सुबीरको आफ्नो मोटर छैन ।  
**Subīrko āphno moṭar chaina.**  
 ४ सुबीरको दाज्यूको एउटा मोटर छ ।  
**Subīrko dājyūko eṭā moṭar cha.**

14

- १ धन बहादुरकी श्रीमतीका दुईजना दिदी छन् ।  
**Dhan Bahādurkī śrīmatīkā duījanā didī chan.**  
 २ मेरो बुवा-आमा छैन ।  
**mero buvā-āmā chaina.**

- ३ मेरी आमाका चारजना नाति-नातिनी छन् ।  
**merī āmākā cārjanā nāti-nātinī chan.**
- ४ उनीहरूको छोराछोरी छैन ।  
**uniharūko chorāchorī chaina.**
- ५ वहाँका नौवटा गाई छन् ।  
**vahākā nauvaṭā gāi chan.**
- ६ हाम्रा पाँचवटा मोटा भैंसी छन् ।  
**hāmra pācvaṭā moṭā bhāisī chan.**

## 15

- १ तिमी मेरो छोराको साथी हौ, होइन ? तिम्रो नाम गौतम हो ?  
**timī mero chorāko sāthī hau, hoina? timro nām Gautam ho?**
- २ तिम्रो साथीको बुवाको नाम गणेश मान हो ? थाहा छ कि छैन ?  
**timro sāthīko buvāko nām Gaṇeś Mān ho? thāhā cha ki chaina?**
- ३ वहाँको नाम लक्ष्मी नाथ हो । त्यो मलाई थाहा छ ।  
**vahāko nām Lakṣmī Nāth ho. tyo malāi thāhā cha.**
- ४ मेरो घर यहाँबाट टाढा छैन । तिम्रो घर कहाँ छ ?  
**mero ghar yahābāṭa ṭāḍhā chaina. timro ghar kahā cha?**
- ५ तपाईंको बुवा बैंकमा हुनुहुन्छ । तपाईंकी आमालाई थाहा छ ?  
**tapāiṅko buvā baīkmā hunuhuncha. tapāiṅki āmalāi thāhā cha?**
- ६ उनीहरूका गाई हाम्रो खेतमा छन् । उनीहरूलाई थाहा छैन ?  
**uniharūkā gāi hāmro khetmā chan. uniharulāi thāhā chaina?**
- ७ हाम्रो थर पोखरेल हो । हामी बाहुन हौं ।  
**hāmro thar pokharel ho. hāmi bāhun hau.**
- ८ यो तिम्रो घडी होइन । मेरी आमाको हो ।  
**yo timro ghaḍī hoina. merī āmāko ho.**

## 16

- मेरो नाम... हो । मेरो घर... मा छ । मेरो परिवारमा हामी... जना हौं... .. र ... ।  
**mero nām... ho. mero ghar... mā cha. mero parivārmā hāmi... janā haū... .. ra...**
- मेरी दिदीको नाम... हो । वहाँ... मा हुनुहुन्छ ।  
**merī didīko nām... ho. vahā... mā hunuhuncha.**
- मेरी दिदीको श्रीमानको नाम... हो ।  
**merī didīko śrīmānko nām... ho.**

## 17

- १ सूर्यका एकजना छोरा र एकजना छोरी छन् ।  
**sūryakā ekjanā chorā ra ekjanā chorī chan.**
- २ प्रीतिको विचारमा सूर्यकी छोरी छ ।  
**Prīṭiko vicārmā Sūryakī chorī cha.**
- ३ सूर्यको छोराको नाम गिरीश हो ।  
**Sūryako chorāko nām Girīś ho.**

- ४ किताबमा गिरीशको नाम छ ।  
**kitābmā Girīśko nām cha.**

## 18

- १ त्यस केटाका दुइटो घर छन् ।  
**tyas keṭākā duiṭā ghar chan.**
- २ यस ठूलो गाउँको एउटा चियापसल मात्रै छ ।  
**yas ṭhūlo gāūko euṭā ciyāpasal mātrai cha.**
- ३ उसका आठजना छोरी छन् ।  
**uskā āṭhjanā chorī chan.**
- ४ उनका चारजना छोरा छन् ।  
**unkā cārjanā chorā chan.**
- ५ यस मान्छेका धेरै साथीहरू छन् ।  
**yas mānchekā dherai sāthīharū chan.**
- ६ कसको साथी छैन ?  
**kasko sāthī chaina?**

## 19

- १ आज हामी बजार जाँदैौं । घरमा एक रुपियाँ पनि छैन ।  
२ राजु के काम गर्छ ? ऊ नेपाल राष्ट्र बैंकमा काम गर्छ । उसको दाजु पनि त्यहाँ काम गर्छ ।  
३ तपाईं कहाँ बस्नुहुन्छ ? हिजोआज म काठमाडौंमा बस्छु ।  
४ तपाईंको भाइ ट्याक्सीबाट अफिस जान्छ ? होइन, ऊ बसबाट जान्छ ।  
५ दार्जीलिङ्गका मान्छेहरू धेरै जसो राम्रो नेपाली बोल्छन् ।

## 20

- १ म हरेक दिन काठमाडौं जान्छु ।  
२ उनीहरू धेरै जसो पोखरामा बस्छन् ।  
३ तिमी सधैं बुवाको पसलमा नेपाली बोल्छौ ।  
४ हामीहरू हिजोआज राम्रो अफिसमा काम गर्छौं ।  
५ ऊ कहिल्यै पनि स्कूलमा अँग्रेजी बोल्दैन ।  
६ त्यो मान्छे एक हप्तापछि लण्डन जान्छ ।

## 21

- १ तपाईं सात बजे घरमा भात खानुहुन्छ ।  
२ त्यो मान्छे बेलुका होटेलमा चिया खान्छ ।  
३ वहाँहरू बिहिवार मकहाँ (मेरो घर) आउनुहुन्छ ।  
४ यिनीहरू हप्ताको दुई पटक मन्दिर जान्छन् ।  
५ यो केटी शनिवार साथीकहाँ (साथीको घरमा) सुत्छे ।

## 22

- १ म दिउँसो दुई बजेदेखि छ बजेसम्म घरमा हुँदिन ।  
२ तपाईं बुधवारदेखि शुक्रवारसम्म बिराटनगरमा हुनुहुन्छ ।  
३ उनीहरू मङ्गलवारदेखि बिहिवारसम्म काम गर्दैनन् ।

- ४ तिमी आठ बजेदेखि साढे दस बजेसम्म बाहिर जाँदैनौ ।  
 ५ यिनीहरू दिउँसो एक बजेदेखि दुई बजेसम्म पढ्दैनन् ।

## 23

- १ ए, त्यो मेचमा नबस, यो मेचमा बस ।  
 २ काठमाडौँमा नेपाली बोल, अँग्रेजी नबोल ।  
 ३ ठूलो रातो किताब पढ, अखबार नपढ ।  
 ४ केटालाई एउटा स्याऊ देऊ, सुन्तला नदेऊ ।  
 ५ छ बजे नआउनुहोस्, आठ बजेतिर आउनुहोस् ।  
 ६ मलाई भन्नुहोस् तर उसलाई नभन्नुहोस् ।  
 ७ यो कप लिनुहोस् र त्यो कप उसलाई दिनुहोस् ।  
 ८ नेपाल जानुहोस् । त्यहाँ नेपाली बोल्नुहोस् ।

## 24

- १ ती आइमाईहरू बिहिवार कहिल्यै पनि बजारमा आउँदैनन् । कहिले आउँछन् त ?  
 उनीहरू धेरै जसो मङ्गलवार आउँछन् ।  
 २ विदेशीहरू काठमाडौँबाट लुक्लासम्म हवाई जहाजमा जान्छन् । नेपालीहरू धेरै  
 जसो बसबाट जिरिसम्म जान्छन् । जिरिबाट उनीहरू लुक्लासम्म हिँड्छन् ।  
 ३ ती लोग्ने-मान्छेहरू कति बजे खेतमा जान्छन् ? उनीहरू आठ बजेतिर जान्छन् अनि  
 तीन घण्टापछि फर्किन्छन् ।  
 ४ म भोलिसम्म मात्रै नेपालमा बस्छु । भोलि बिहान साढे दस बजे म दिल्ली जान्छु ।  
 त्यसपछि म लण्डन जान्छु ।  
 ५ राति आठ बजेपछि सबै पसल बन्द हुन्छन् । म तपाईंको लागि अहिले बजार जान्छु । म  
 भोलि बिहान जान्छु, हुन्छ ?  
 ६ तिमी मेरो लागि के काम गर्छौ ? म तपाईंको लागि बजार जान्छु, हुन्छ ?  
 ७ मेरी बहिनी कहिल्यै पनि परिवारको लागि खाना पकाउँदिन । कहिले काहीं दिदी  
 पकाउनुहुन्छ, कहिले काहीं आमा पकाउनुहुन्छ ।  
 ८ ऊ हरेक दिन स्कूल जान्छे, ऊ पनि जान्छ । तर उनीहरूको भाइ जाँदैन ।

## 25

- १ लण्डन काठमाडौँभन्दा ठूलो छ ।  
 २ अमेरिकनहरू धेरै जसो अँग्रेजहरूभन्दा धनी हुन्छन् ।  
 ३ काठमाडौँ बेलायतबाट दिल्लीभन्दा टाढा छ ।  
 ४ काठमाडौँ नेपालको सबभन्दा ठूलो शहर हो ।  
 ५ संसारको सबभन्दा गरीब देश कुन हो ?  
 ६ नेपाली भाषाभन्दा सजिलो भाषा छैन ।

## 26

- १ हजुरबालाई नीलो रँग मन पर्छ ।  
 २ मेरा दिदीहरूलाई कालो रँग मन पर्दैन ।  
 ३ तपाईंलाई हरियो रँग मन पर्छ ।  
 ४ उसका भाइहरूलाई पहेँलो रँग मन पर्दैन ।  
 ५ उनीहरूलाई प्याजी रँग मन पर्छ ।

## 27

- १ तपाईंहरू साँखुमा बस्नुहुन्छ ।  
 २ किनभने भोलि धेरै किनमेल छ अनि तपाईं बालाई मदत गर्नुहुन्छ ।  
 ३ मा कहिल्यै पनि काठमाडौँ जानुहुन्न ।  
 ४ घरमा मा घरको काम गर्नुहुन्छ र भात पकाउनुहुन्छ ।  
 ५ बेलुका तपाईंकी कान्छी बहिनी धारा जान्छे ।  
 ६ किनभने उनीहरू इनारको पानी खान्छन् ।

## 28

- १ झ्याल खोल्नुहोस्, यस कोठामा धेरै गर्मी भयो ।  
 २ हिजो बिहान बच्चाहरू सबै यहाँ थिए । तर आज कोही पनि स्कूल आएन ।  
 ३ अस्ति बुधवार ठूलो पानी पयो । मसँग छाता थिएन अनि म भिजेँ ।  
 ४ हजुरबाका दुईजना छोरा थिए । एकजनाको नाम संजु थियो, र एकजनाको नाम  
 निरोज थियो । संजु धेरै धनी हुनुभयो तर निरोज धेरै गरीब हुनुहुन्थ्यो ।  
 ५ त्यो देशका मानिसहरू धेरै गरीब थिए अनि उनीहरूका घरहरूमा केही पनि थिएन ।  
 ६ हिजो धेरै मानिसहरू पशुपतिनाथको मन्दिर गए, किनभने हिजो पूर्णिमा थियो ।

## 29

- १ हिजो तपाईंले चिया खानुभएन ?  
 २ हिजो मैले एउटा किताब किनेँ ।  
 ३ हिजो हामीहरूले मासु खानौँ ।  
 ४ हिजो उनीहरूले भात खाएनन् । उनीहरूको घरमा चामल थिएन ।  
 ५ हिजो तिमीले रेडियो किन सुनेनौ ? हिजो अम्बर गुरुङ्गले गीत गाउनुभयो ।  
 ६ हिजो आमा उठ्नुभएन । वहाँ बिरामी हुनुहुन्थ्यो ।

## 30

- १ अस्ति शनिवार थियो ।  
 २ अस्ति ठूलो पानी पयो ।  
 ३ उसले एउटा किताब पढ्यो ।  
 ४ हिजो आइतबार थियो ।  
 ५ हिजो राम अफिस गयो ।  
 ६ हिजो रामकी आमा मन्दिर जानुभयो ।  
 ७ राम र माया साढे छ बजेसम्म सुते ।

## 31

- १ म नेपाल गएर तपाईंलाई चिठी लेख्छु ।  
 २ म विचार गरेर तपाईंलाई भन्छु ।  
 ३ उनीहरू किताब किनेर तपाईंकहाँ आउँछन् ।  
 ४ यो केटी स्कूल गएर अँग्रेजी सिक्छे ।  
 ५ म अफिस गएर तपाईंलाई फोन गर्छु ।  
 ६ वहाँ झापा गएर मेरो दाइको घरमा बस्नुभयो ।

- 32  
 १ तिमी घर गएर काम गर ।  
 २ तपाईं रेडियो सुनेर घर जानुहोस् ।  
 ३ तिमी चुरोट लिएर आऊ ।  
 ४ तपाईं यो किताब पढेर मलाई दिनुहोस् ।  
 ५ तिमी लण्डन पुगेर मकहाँ आऊ ।  
 ६ तपाईं झापा गएर मेरो दाइको घरमा बस्नुहोस् ।

- 33  
 १ तपाईं अखबार पढ्दै हुनुहुन्छ ?  
 २ भाइ किताब पढ्दै छ ।  
 ३ म बाहिर जाँदै छु ।  
 ४ उनीहरू नेपाली भाषा बोल्दै छन् ।  
 ५ अब ऊ त्यही कलमले चिठी लेख्दै छ ।

- 34  
 १ बुवा अखबार पढ्दै हुनुहुन्थ्यो ।  
 २ तिमी त्यो किताब पढ्दै थियौ ?  
 ३ म जापानी भाषा सिक्दै थिएँ ।  
 ४ उनीहरू टी० भी० हेर्दै थिए ।  
 ५ बुवा बारीमा के गर्दै हुनुहुन्थ्यो ?

- 35  
 उनका छोराहरूले भात नखाईकन चिठी लेखे ।  
 मेरी आमाले भात नखाईकन चिठी लेख्नुभयो ।  
 तिमिले भात नखाईकन चिठी लेख्यौ ।  
 रामले भात नखाईकन चिठी लेख्यो ।  
 रामेकी दिदीले भात नखाईकन चिठी लेखिन् ।  
 मैले भात नखाईकन चिठी लेखें ।  
 उनका छोराहरू भात नखाईकन मन्दिर गए ।  
 मेरी आमा भात नखाईकन मन्दिर जानुभयो ।  
 तिमी भात नखाईकन मन्दिर गयी ।  
 रामे भात नखाईकन मन्दिर गयो ।  
 रामेकी दिदी भात नखाईकन मन्दिर गइन् ।  
 म भात नखाईकन मन्दिर गएँ ।

- 36  
 १ पाइन्छ । दिल बहादुरको पसलमा तरकारी पाइन्छ ।  
 २ रातो आलुको दाम किलोको आठ रुपियाँ हो ।  
 ३ सेतो आलुको दाम किलोको छ रुपियाँ हो ।  
 ४ पाईँदैन । दिल बहादुरको पसलमा मासु पाईँदैन ।  
 ५ मासु खिचापोखरीमा पाइन्छ ।  
 ६ अञ्जलीलाई खुर्सानी चाहिँदैन ।

- 37  
 मान्छेहरूलाई पानी चाहिँन्छ ।  
 मान्छेहरूलाई हावा चाहिँन्छ ।  
 मान्छेहरूलाई घाँसपात चाहिँदैन ।  
 मान्छेहरूलाई शिक्षा चाहिँन्छ ।  
 मान्छेहरूलाई बिजुली चाहिँन्छ ।  
 भैंसीहरूलाई पानी चाहिँन्छ ।  
 भैंसीहरूलाई हावा चाहिँन्छ ।  
 भैंसीहरूलाई घाँसपात चाहिँन्छ ।  
 भैंसीहरूलाई शिक्षा चाहिँदैन ।  
 भैंसीहरूलाई बिजुली चाहिँदैन ।

- 38  
 १ तपाईंलाई तिर्खा लाग्यो ।  
 २ दिदीलाई भोक लाग्यो ।  
 ३ रामेकी बहिनीलाई दुःख लाग्यो ।  
 ४ मेरो दाइलाई दिसा लाग्यो ।  
 ५ बुवालाई थकाइ लाग्यो ।  
 ६ तिमिलाई जाडो लाग्यो ।  
 ७ हामीलाई रुघा लाग्यो ।  
 ८ रामेलाई रक्सी लाग्यो ।  
 ९ वहाँलाई डर लाग्यो ।  
 १० छोरालाई निद्रा लाग्यो ।  
 ११ केटीलाई लाज लाग्यो ।  
 १२ मलाई खोकी लाग्यो ।

- 39  
 १ मलाई त्यो गीत मीठो लागेन ।  
 २ रामेकी आमालाई उसको गाउँ अनौठो लागेन ।  
 ३ उनीहरूलाई जापानी भाषा गाह्रो लागेन ।  
 ४ बुवालाई भारत राम्रो लागेन ।  
 ५ मेरो भाइलाई नेपाली भाषा सजिलो लागेन ।

- 40  
 १ मलाई तिर्खा लागेन ।  
 २ मेरो भाइले एउटा किताब किन्यो ।  
 ३ उसलाई मेरो घर राम्रो लाग्यो ।  
 ४ मेरी आमालाई थकाइ लाग्यो ।  
 ५ हामीहरूले गीत गायाँ ।  
 ६ उसले दाहिने हातले भात खायो ।  
 ७ वहाँलाई चार बजेतिर सधैं निद्रा लाग्छ ।  
 ८ तपाईंलाई पोखरा कस्तो लाग्यो ?

- ६ मलाई रक्सी लागेन ।  
१० हामीले धेरै रक्सी खायौं ।
- 41  
१ मेरो झ्यालबाट हिमालय देखिन्छ ।  
२ मगर भाषा पोखरातिर बोलिन्छ ।  
३ तपाईंको स्वर यहाँ सुनिंदैन ।  
४ तिम्रो गाउँ एक घण्टामा पुगिंदैन ।  
५ भनिन्छ त्यो घरमा बोक्सी छ ।  
६ भोटमा नेपाली भाषा कहिले काहीं बुझिन्छ ।  
७ बिस्तारै हिंड्नुहोस् है । अब गाउँ सजिलै पुगिन्छ ।  
८ तपाईंको छोरासँग भेटेर मलाई खुशी लाग्यो । मलाई धेरै चलाक केटा जस्तो लाग्यो ।
- 42  
१ दाजु दार्जीलिङ्ग जानुभएको छ ।  
२ भाउज्यु काठमाडौंमा बस्नुभएको छ ।  
३ तपाईंको घरमा कोही आयो ? तिम्रो भाइ आएको छ, तर ऊबाहेक कोही आएको छैन ।  
४ पानी अहिलेसम्म उम्लेको छैन ।  
५ मैले तिम्रो लुगा धोबीलाई दिएको छु ।  
६ उसले पाँचवटा नयाँ किताब किनेको छ ।
- 43  
१ अँ, जानुभयो । अहँ, जानुभएको छैन ।  
२ अँ, आउनुभयो । अहँ, आउनुभएको छैन ।  
३ अँ, आयो । अहँ, आएको छैन ।  
४ अँ, खाएँ । अहँ, खाएको छैन ।
- 44  
घडी न० १ मा एघार बज्यो ।  
घडी न० २ मा साढे तीन बज्यो ।  
घडी न० ३ मा पौने आठ बज्यो ।  
घडी न० १ मा साढे दस बजेको छैन । एघार बजेको छ ।  
घडी न० २ बाह्र बजेको छैन । साढे तीन बजेको छ ।
- 45  
१ मेरो बुवा कहिल्यै पनि विदेश जानुभएको थिएन ।  
२ १९७८ मा म पहिलो पटक नेपाल गएको थिएँ ।  
३ उनीहरू बस बिसौनीमा बसेका थिए तर बस आएको थिएन ।  
४ पानी परेको थियो तर रामेले छाता ल्याएको थिएन ।  
५ उसको टाउको दुखेको थियो तर उसले औषधि खाएको थिएन ।  
६ उनीहरू इलामबाट आएका थिए तर उनीहरूले चिया ल्याएका थिएनन् ।

- 46  
१ मेरो भाइले आज पानी पर्दैन भनेर बुवालाई भन्यो ।  
२ त्यो अग्लो मान्छेले तिम्रो अँग्रेज हौ कि भनेर मलाई सोध्यो ।  
३ आमाले तिम्रो साथीलाई भोक लाग्यो कि भनेर मेरो दिदीसँग सोध्यो ।  
४ शिक्षकले किताबहरू बन्द गर भनेर बच्चाहरूलाई अह्वाउनुभयो ।  
५ बुवाले भोलि बाहिर नजाऊ भनेर हामीलाई सल्लाह दिनुभयो ।
- 47  
१ (तपाईंले) धेरै पिरो खाना खानुभएकोले तपाईंलाई दिसा लाग्यो ।  
२ (वहाँको) पेट दुखेकोले वहाँ स्कूल जानुभएन ।  
३ (बाहिर) गर्मी भएकोले हामी बाहिर जाँदैनौं ।  
४ (ऊसँग) कलम नभएकोले उसले चिठी लेखेन ।  
५ (उनको) श्रीमान बिरामी हुनुभएकोले उनलाई दुख लाग्यो ।
- 48  
१ हिजो आएका पाहुनाहरू सबै अँग्रेज हुन् ।  
२ बाहिर पानी परेको छ । तिमिले गएको हप्ता बजारमा किनेको छाता लिएर जाऊ ।  
३ तिम्रो नेपाल पुगेको महिना बैसाख हो ।  
४ म नेपाल आएको यो दसौँ पटक हो ।  
५ तपाईंहरू बस्नुभएको घर धेरै पुरानो छ ।  
६ अस्ति शुक्रवार मैले तपाईंले लेख्नुभएको चिठी पाएको थिइँ ।  
७ ऊ भारतबाट आएको मान्छे (त) होइन ।  
८ यो तिमिले आमालाई दिएको उपहार होइन ।
- 49  
१ हिजो उनले उसले ताश खेलेको देखिन् ।  
२ गएको महिना मैले उनले त्यो गीत गाएको सुनें ।  
३ तीन दिन अघि उसले वहाँलाई घर आएको देख्यो ।  
४ अस्ति बुधवार मैले तिमिले चुरोट खाएको देखें ।  
५ गएको हप्ता वहाँले उनले हिन्दी बोलेको सुन्नुभयो ।  
६ अस्ति उनीहरूले तिमिलाई स्कूल गएको देखे ।
- 50  
१ अँग्रेजीमा पुल भनेको *bridge* हो ।  
२ अँग्रेजीमा ओरालो भनेको *downhill* हो ।  
३ अँग्रेजीमा हैजा भनेको *cholera* हो ।  
४ नेपालीमा *letter* भनेको चिठी अथवा अक्षर हो ।  
५ नेपालीमा *face* भनेको मुख अथवा अनुहार हो ।  
६ नेपालीमा *month* भनेको महिना हो ।
- 51  
१ बिहिवार, १० जनवरी १९२१  
२ २०१६ साल चैत्र १० गते, मङ्गलवार



- ३ आइतवार, २६ नोवेम्बर १९५६  
४ २०४२ साल फाल्गुण १ गते, शुक्रवार

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- १ सुरेन्द्रको दाइ जापान गएको दुई वर्ष भयो ।  
२ सुरेन्द्रको दाइले जापानबाट एउटा राम्रो रेडियो पठाउनुभयो ।  
३ दाइले दिएका क्यामेरा र रेडियो दुवै जापानमा बनेका हुन् । त्यसै कारण बलिया र राम्रा छन् ।  
४ सुरेन्द्रको काका दार्जीलिङ्गाट आउनुभएको थियो ।  
५ सुरेन्द्रलाई एउटा क्यामेरा मात्रै चाहिन्छ ।  
६ किनभने सुरेन्द्रले काकाले दिएको क्यामेरा एउटा साथीलाई बेचेको छ ।

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- १ यदि (तपाईंलाई) थकाइ लाग्यो भने आराम गर्नुहोस् ।  
२ यदि (तपाईंलाई) तिर्खा लाग्यो भने यो पानी खानुहोस् ।  
३ यदि हाम्रा पाहुनाहरूलाई भोक लाग्यो भने म बजार गएर फलफूल र तरकारी किन्छु ।  
४ यदि तिमी भोलि आएनौ भने आमा घरै बसेर रुनुहुन्छ ।  
५ यदि म पाँच बजेसम्म अफिसमा आइनेँ भने मलाई मन्दिरमा भेट्नुहोस् ।  
६ यदि यो हप्ता बुवाले मलाई चिठी पठाउनुभएन भने म वहाँलाई घरमा फोन गर्छु ।

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१. हिजो आएका पर्यटकहरूलाई खानाले पुग्यो ।  
२. हामीलाई मदत गरेको शेर्पालाई दस रुपियाँले पुगेन ।  
३. खाना पकाएकी आइमाईलाई एक किलो घिउले पुगेन ।

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- १ भोलि आउने पर्यटकहरूलाई खानाले पुग्दैन होला ।  
२ हामीलाई मदत गर्ने शेर्पालाई दस रुपियाँले पुग्छ होला ।  
३ खाना पकाउने आइमाईलाई एक किलो घिउले पुग्छ होला ।

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- १ भोलि मौसम साह्रै राम्रो होला ।  
२ भोलि दिल्लीबाट काठमाडौँ पुग्न दुई घण्टा जति लाग्ला ।  
३ भोलि नानीहरू खेतमा फुटबल खेल्नान् । उनीहरूको लुगामा हिलो लाग्ला ।  
४ भोलि सीताले घर राम्रोसँग सफा गरिन् ।  
५ भोलि दिदीले भात नपकाउलिन् दाइले पकाउलान् ।  
६ भोलि घरमा पाहुनाहरू भएको कारणले उनीहरू स्कूल नआउलान् ।

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लण्डनबाट नेपाल जान पाँच सय पाउण्ड लाग्छ र काठमाडौँ पुग्न पन्ध्र घण्टा लाग्छ । म विमानस्थलमा सधैं एउटा चाखलाग्दो किताब किन्छु । पोहोर साल नेपाल गएको बेलामा मैले एउटा मोटो उपन्यास किनेँ अनि त्यो पढ्न मलाई करीब दस घण्टा लाग्यो । म आउने साल फेरि नेपाल जान्छु होला अनि यस पालि चाहिँ

दुइटा उपन्यास किन्छु होला । नेपालमा म भद्रपुर गएँ । काठमाडौँबाट बसमा जानुभयो भने एकदम सस्तो हुन्छ तर त्यहाँ पुग्न पूरै एक दिन लाग्छ । भद्रपुर जाने बसमा धेरै मान्छेहरू थिए अनि भद्रपुर जाने बाटो साह्रै खराब थियो । मैले त्यो यात्राको लागि कुनै किताब किनिनेँ किनभने म एक-दुईजना नेपाली साथीहरूसँग गएको थिएँ । तपाईं भद्रपुर हवाई जहाजबाट जानुभयो भने धेरै पैसा लाग्छ तर समय धेरै लाग्दैन । भद्रपुर जाने हवाई जहाज हरेक बिहान दस बजे राजधानी छोड्छ । म अर्को साल फेरि भद्रपुर गएँ भने हवाई जहाजबाट जान्छु होला ।

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- १ हामीले ईश्वरलाई पूजा गर्नुपर्छ ।  
२ मेरो भाइले हरेक दिन दाल भात खानुपर्छ ।  
३ आज बिदा हो, हामीहरूलाई अफिसमा जानुपर्दैन ।  
४ उनीहरूले हामीलाई त्यो कथा सुनाउनुपर्दैन ।  
५ सीताले घर सफा गर्नुपर्दैन । त्यो काम एउटा नोकरले गर्नुपर्छ ।  
६ आज मैले भात पकाउनुपर्दैन । मेरो श्रीमानले पकाउनुपर्छ ।

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- १ अब बुवालाई पशुपतिनाथको मन्दिर जानुपर्छ ।  
२ अब तिमीले अलिकति भात खानुपर्छ ।  
३ अब मलाई चाँडै सुत्नुपर्छ ।  
४ हिजो मैले धेरै काम गर्नुपर्ने ।  
५ हिजो किसानहरूलाई खेतमा जानुपर्ने ।  
६ हिजो आमालाई बजार जानुपर्ने ।

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- १ आमाले मेरा साथीहरूलाई हाम्रो घरमा रक्सी खान दिनुहुन्छ ।  
२ उनीहरूले हामीलाई मन्दिरभित्र जान दिन्छन् ।  
३ दाजुले बच्चाहरूलाई बिहान टी० भी० हेर्न दिनुहुन्छ ।  
४ बुवाले हामीलाई बेलुका बाहिर जान दिनुहुन्छ ।  
५ तपाईं पर्यटकहरूलाई मन्दिरमा जुत्ता लाउन दिनुहुन्छ ?

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- (A) यो कुन देवताको मन्दिर हो ? भित्र जान हुन्छ ?  
(B) यो गणेशको मन्दिर हो । भित्र जान हुन्छ तर जुत्ता खोल्नुपर्छ ।  
(A) यो धेरै पुरानो मन्दिर हो ?  
(B) हो, धेरै पुरानो हो । मान्छेहरू हरेक दिन बिहान आएर गणेशको पूजा गर्छन् ।  
(A) उनीहरूलाई हरेक बिहान किन आउनुपर्छ ?  
(B) आउनेपर्दैन तर हरेक दिन यहाँ आउनु राम्रो हो । तपाईंले हरेक दिन गणेशको पूजा गर्नुभयो भने तपाईंको दिन सफल हुन्छ । त्यो हाम्रो एउटा विश्वास हो ।  
(A) अब मैले के गर्नुपर्छ त ?  
(B) तपाईंले भगवानको दर्शन गर्नुभयो, राम्रो भयो । मन्दिरको लागि अलिकति पैसा दिनुहोस् ।  
(A) मसँग त्यति पैसा छैन । तर दस रुपियाँ दिन हुन्छ होला ?

(B) हुन्छ, ठीक छ । ल, आउनुहोस्, ढिलो भयो । अब हामीलाई पशुपतिको मन्दिर जानुपर्छ । त्यति टाढा छैन । हिंडर आधा घण्टामा पुगिन्छ ।

(A) पशुपतिको मन्दिरमा कुन देवताको पूजा हुन्छ ?

(B) त्यहाँ शिवजीको पूजा हुन्छ ।

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- १ म नेपाली बोल्न सक्छु ।
- २ म नेपाली खाना पकाउन सक्छु ।
- ३ म यो किताब बुझ्न सक्छु ।
- ४ उनी नेपाली बोल्न सकिन्छन् ।
- ५ उनी नेपाली खाना पकाउन सकिन्छन् ।
- ६ उनी यो किताब बुझ्न सकिन्छन् ।
- ७ तपाईं नेपाली बोल्न सक्नुहुन्छ ।
- ८ तपाईं नेपाली खाना पकाउन सक्नुहुन्छ ।
- ९ तपाईं यो किताब बुझ्न सक्नुहुन्छ ।

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१. उसले हिजो सगरमाथा चढ्न पायो ।
२. उसले हिजो फोन गर्न पायो ।
३. उसले हिजो गुन्द्रुक खान पायो ।
४. उनीहरूले हिजो सगरमाथा चढ्न पाए ।
५. उनीहरूले हिजो फोन गर्न पाए ।
६. उनीहरूले हिजो गुन्द्रुक खान पाए ।
७. तिमीले हिजो सगरमाथा चढ्न पायौ ।
८. तिमीले हिजो फोन गर्न पायौ ।
९. तिमीले हिजो गुन्द्रुक खान पायौ ।

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दुई हप्ता अघि मेरी दिदीको बिहा भयो । अहिले वहाँ धुलिखेलमा बस्नुहुन्छ । धुलिखेल भक्तपुरबाट झण्डै दस माइल टाढा छ । अस्तित् आइतवार हामीहरू भिनाज्यू र दिदीको नयाँ परिवारलाई भेट्न गएका थियौं । धुलिखेल जान (लाई) हामीहरूले रत्न पार्कसम्म ट्याक्सी लिनुपर्छ । रत्न पार्कमा पाँचखाल जाने बस चढ्नुपर्छ । धुलिखेल पाँचखाल जाने बाटोमा पर्छ । रत्न पार्क पुगेपछि बुवालालाई एउटा पसलमा जानुपर्छ । वहाँले उपहार किन्न बिर्सनुभएको थियो । पहिलो पटक कसैको घरमा जाँदा (-खेरि) उपहार दिनुपर्छ । बुवालालाई लुगा, मिठाई र चुरा किन्नु तीनवटा पसलमा जानुपर्छ । अलि ढिलो हुन लागेकोले आमालाई अलि चिन्ता लाग्न थाल्यो । धुलिखेल पुग्न एक घण्टा मात्रै लाग्छ भन्ने कुरा हामीलाई थाहा थिएन । बसहरू एक एक घण्टामा छुट्छन् भन्ने कुरा पनि हामीलाई थाहा थिएन । बुवाले उपहारहरू किन्नुभएपछि हामीहरूले धुलिखेल जाने बस खोज्न थाल्यौं । एउटा नयाँ नीलो बसको छेउमा उभिएको मान्छे पाँचखाल पाँचखाल भनेर कराउन थालेको थियो । बुवा हाम्रो टिकट किन्न अफिसमा जानुभयो । बुवा टिकट

लिएर फर्किनुभन्दा पहिला नै यो बस धुलिखेल जाने हो कि भनेर मैले चालकलाई सोधें । जाने हो भनेर उसले भन्यो । धुलिखेल नजाने कुरे छैन किनभने त्यहाँ राम्रो होटेल छ भनेर उसले भन्यो । धुलिखेलबाट पाँचखालको लागि बस जानुभन्दा पहिला नै सबै यात्रुहरू बिहानको खाना त्यहीं खान्छन् भनेर भन्यो । अकस्मात पानी पर्न थाल्यो अनि हामीले बसभित्र बस्ने ठाउँ पायौं । केही मिनेटपछि हाम्रो यात्रा शुरु भयो ।

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- १ नेपालीहरू तराई क्षेत्रलाई मदेस भन्छन् ।
- २ नेपाली भाषाबाहेक तराई क्षेत्रमा मैथिली, भोजपुरी, अवधी, थारु र अन्य भाषाहरू बोलिन्छन् ।
- ३ पहाडी क्षेत्रको जमीन प्राय जसो उकालो र ओरालो हुन्छ ।
- ४ नेपाली भाषाबाहेक पहाडी क्षेत्रमा नेवारी, गुरुङ्ग, मगर, लिम्बू, तामाङ्ग र राई जस्ता भोट- बर्मेली भाषाहरू बोलिन्छन् ।
- ५ नेपालका नदीहरूमध्ये कर्णाली, गण्डकी र कोशी महत्त्वपूर्ण छन् ।
- ६ घर पुग्नलाई धेरै जसो नेपालीहरूले हिंड्नेपर्छ ।

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- १ यस गाउँका किसानहरू धान रोप्दैनथे । उनीहरू मकै रोप्ये ।
- २ भात खाएपछि हामीले हात-मुख धुनुपर्छ्यौं ।
- ३ चियापसलमा चिया पनि पाइन्थ्यो, खाने कुरा पनि पाइन्थ्यो ।
- ४ तिमी भारत गएर के काम गर्छ्यौं ? म चौकिदारको काम गर्छु ।
- ५ दाइहरू जुम्लामा बस्नुहुन्थ्यो, दैलेखमा बस्नुहुन्थ्यो ।
- ६ म हरेक हप्ता उसलाई एउटा लामो चिठी लेख्छु ।

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म पनौती भन्ने एउटा सानो शहरमा मेरो बुवा-आमासँग बस्थे । पनौती काठमाडौं उपत्यकाको दक्षिण-पूर्व कुनामा पर्छ । म त्यहाँको एउटा सानो स्कूलमा पढ्थे । म एघार वर्ष पुग्नेबित्तिकै मैले त्यो सानो स्कूल छाड्नुपर्छो । त्यो बेलादेखि मैले भक्तपुर भन्ने शहरको एउटा ठूलो स्कूलमा पढ्नुपर्छो । मैले हरेक बिहान सात बजे बस लिनुपर्छो । मेरा धेरै जसो साथीहरू त्यही बसबाट जान्थे । साँझमा फर्किदाखेरि हामीहरू गीत गाउँथ्यौं अनि पनौती आइपुगेपछि धेरै खुशी हुन्थ्यौं । मेरो घरभन्दा तल एउटा ठूलो नदी थियो । गर्मीको महिनामा घर पुग्नेबित्तिकै हामी त्यो नदीमा पाँडी खेल्न जान्थ्यौं । कहिले काहीं मेरा स्कूलका लुगाहरू भिज्थे अनि आमा रिसाउनुहुन्थ्यो । म घर आउनेबित्तिकै वहाँले ती लुगा धुनुपर्छो अनि सुकाउन गाह्रो हुन्थ्यो । तर शनिवार बिदा भएको कारणले आमा मलाई शुक्रवार पाँडी खेल्न दिनुहुन्थ्यो । भक्तपुरको ठूलो स्कूलमा पढ्दाखेरि मैले ठूलो भएपछि शिक्षक बन्ने निधो गरे । शिक्षक बन्ने आशाले मैले राम्ररी पढें । स्कूल छाड्नेबित्तिकै म त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालयमा पढ्न गएँ अनि हिजोआज म काठमाडौंमा बस्छु । केही दिनपछि मैले मेरो अन्तिम परिक्षा दिनुपर्छ । अझै पनि मेरो शिक्षक बन्ने आशा छ । परिक्षामा सफल भएँ भने एउटा जागिर खोज्नुपर्ला ।

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- १ तपाईंको छोरा चाँडै निको होओस् ।
- २ भोलि हामीहरू फिलिम हेर्न पोखरा जाऔं ?
- ३ हामीहरू तपाईंकी आमालाई के भर्ना ?
- ४ तपाईंको जिन्दगी सुखी होओस् ।
- ५ आजको बस ढिलो होओस् ।
- ६ म तपाईंकहाँ कति बजे आऊँ ?

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- १ मलाई भोक लागेको भए म खपाखप भात खान्थेँ ।
  - २ पानी नपरेको भए उनीहरू भात खान आउँथे ।
  - ३ पहाडमा खोलाहरू नभएको भए हाम्रो घरमा बिजुली हुँदैनथ्यो ।
  - ४ बेलामा औषधि खाएको भए त्यो मान्छे अकालै मर्दैनथ्यो ।
  - ५ साथीले गीत गाएको भए बेलुका झन रमाइलो हुन्थ्यो ।
- 1 If I had been hungry I would have eaten voraciously.
  - 2 If it had not rained they would have come for a meal.
  - 3 If there were no streams in the hills there would not be electricity in our house.
  - 4 If he had taken the medicine on time that man would not have died young.
  - 5 If a friend had sung a song the evening would have been even more enjoyable.

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आज केही चिनेका मान्छेहरू हाम्रो घरमा साँझ छ बजेतिर खाना खान आउँदै छन् । म चार बजे विश्वविद्यालयबाट घर फर्किन्छु त घर रिक्तै रहेछ ! अनि झोलामा साँचो छ कि भनेर हेर्छु त झोला पनि रिक्तै रहेछ । साँचो कहाँ गयो होला त ? म सबै ठाउँमा खोज्छु तर पाउँदिन । भान्से साढे तीन बजे आउनुपर्थ्यो तर अहिलेसम्म आएको छैन । शायद घरमा त आइसकेको होला तर पसलतिर गयो होला । घरमा चार बजेसम्म बसेको भए त यो समस्या आउने थिएन । इयाल फोडेर भित्र जाऊँ कि ? विश्वविद्यालयमा फर्केर अफिसमा गएर साँचो खोजूँ कि ? खै, के गर्छु ? ल भान्से पनि आइपुगेछ । साँचो उसको हातमा रहेछ । मैले इयाल फोडेको भए मेरो श्रीमानले मलाई गाली गर्नुहुन्थ्यो । सवा चार बजिसकेछ । ऊ मेरो लागि ढोका खोलिदिन्छ । श्रीमानलाई फोन गरेर अलिक छिटो घर आउनुहोस् भनूँ कि ? खै, के गर्छु ? पर्दैन होला । भान्सेले सबै कुरा किनेर ल्याएको छ अनि हामीलाई खाना पकाइदिन्छ ।

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- १ उनीहरू जाँड-रक्सी धेरै पिइरहेका थिए ।
- २ गोपाल राम्रा राम्रा गीत गाइरहेका थियो ।
- ३ मेरो भाइ टाढाको एउटा स्कूलमा गइरहेको छ ।
- ४ खैरेनीबाट काठमाडौंमा धेरै तरकारी आइरहेको छ ।
- ५ म यहाँबाट कीर्तिपुरसम्म हिंडेर गइरहेको थिएँ ।

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- १ भोक नलागे म खाजा नखाउँला ।
- २ थकाइ लागे म आराम गर्छु ।
- ३ काठमाडौं छाडेर जान मन नलागे काठमाडौंमै बसूँला ।
- ४ नेपाली सिक्न गाह्रो लागे र हिन्दी सिक्न पनि गाह्रो लागे जापानी सिक्नुला ।
- ५ गुन्द्रुक मीठो नलागे र आलु-तामा पनि मीठो नलागे कालो दाल खाउँला ।

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म हिजो दाइसँग विमानस्थल गएँ । दिल्लीबाट हामीकहाँ बस्न केही पाहुनाहरू आइरहेका थिए । बिहानै हामीहरूले आर० एन० ए० सी० अफिसमा फोन गरेका थियौं अनि एउटी आइमाईले दिल्लीबाट विमान दिउँसो तीन बजे आइपुग्छ भनेर भनेकी थिइन् । त्यसो भए हामीलाई ठीक साढे दुई बजे घर छोड्नुपर्छ भनेर दाइले भन्नुभयो । विमानस्थलमा पुग्नेबित्तिकै दाइले विमानको बारेमा त्यहाँको कर्मचारीसँग सोध्नुभयो । मौसम खराब भएकोले विमान भरखरै मात्रै दिल्लीबाट उड्यो भनेर कर्मचारीले दाइलाई भन्यो । त्यसो भए हामीहरूलाई कति बेरसम्म पर्खनुपर्ला भनेर दाइले सोध्नुभयो । अब नेपालतिर उडिरहेको छ एक घण्टाभित्र आइपुग्छ भनेर कर्मचारीले भने । हवाई जहाज ढिलो भयो र हामीलाई यहाँ पर्खनेपर्ला भनेर दाइले भन्नुभयो । तर बुवा-आमा घरमा पर्खिरहनुभएको छ भनेर मैले भनें, हवाई जहाज ढिलो भएको कुरा वहाँहरूलाई थाहा छैन नि । तिमी गएर वहाँहरूलाई फोन गर भनेर दाइले भन्नुभयो । हामीहरू हवाई जहाज आइपुगेपछि घर सीधै आउँछौं भनेर भनिदेऊ ।

Words marked \* are transitive verbs.

अ		अपढ	illiterate
अँ	yes	अपराध	crime, offence
अँग्रेज	English	अपठ्यारो	difficult, awkward
अँग्रेजी	English language	अफिस	office
अँध्यारो	dark, darkness	अब	now, from now
अकालै	untimely	अबेर	late, lateness
अक्षर	letter of alphabet	अभाव	lack, absence
अखबार	newspaper	अभ्यास गर्नु *	to practise
अग्लो	tall, high	अमेरिकन	American
अघि	ago, before	अम्बा	guava
अचार	pickle	अम्रीकन	American
अझ पनि	yet, still	अरब	Arabia; the Middle East
अञ्चल	administrative zone	अरु	other, more
अटाउनु	to fit into a space	अर्को	another, next
अढाई	two and a half	अर्थ	meaning
अथवा	or	अलपत्र	untidy
अदुवा	ginger	अलि	quite, rather
अधिकृत	official	अलिक	slightly
अधिराज्य	kingdom	अलिकति	a small amount of
अनि	and, then	अलिपछि	after a little while
अनिकाल	famine	अवधी	Awadhi (language)
अनुचित	inappropriate	अवश्य	certainly
अनुभव	experience	असफल	unsuccessful
अनुमति	permission	असल	of good character
अनुसार	according to	असाध्य	extremely, very
अनुहार	face	असार (आषाढ)	third month of the Nepali year
अनीठो	strange, odd	असुविधा	inconvenience
अन्तिम	final, last		

असोज (आश्विन)	sixth month of the Nepali year	आशा	hope
अस्ति	the day before yesterday; last week	इच्छा	wish, desire
अस्पताल	hospital	इतिहास	history
अहँ	no	इनार	well
अहिले	now	इमान	honour
अहिलेसम्म	yet	इस्लामी	Islamic
अह्माउनु *	to order, command	ईश्वर	the Lord; God
आ			
आँखा	eye	उकालो	uphill; steep
आँगन	courtyard	उकुस-मुकुस	feeling of suffocation
आँप	mango	उखान	proverb
आँसु	tear, tears	उचाइ	height
आइतवार	Sunday	उच्चारण	pronunciation
आइपुग्नु	to arrive	उठ्नु	to get up
आइमाई	woman	उड्नु	to fly
आउनु	to come	उता	there, over there
आकांक्षा	ambition	उत्तर	north
आकाश	sky	उदाहरण	example
आखिर	in the end, after all	उनी	s/he (Middle)
आगो	fire	उनीहरू	they (Middle)
आज	today	उपत्यका	valley
आजकाल	nowadays	उपन्यास	novel
आठ	eight	उपयोगी	useful
आठौँ	eighth	उपहार	gift
आत्मा	soul	उपाय	means
आदर गर्नु *	to respect	उभिनु	to be standing up
आधा	half	उमाल्नु *	to boil
आफु	oneself	उमेर	age
आफै	oneself (emphasized)	उम्लनु	to come to the boil
आफ्नो	one's own	उसरी	in that manner
आमा	mother	उसो	in that manner
आराम, आरामै	in good health	उहाँ	see वहाँ
आराम गर्नु *	to rest		
आलु	potato		
आलु-तामा	potatoes and bamboo shoots	ऊ	s/he (Low)
आवश्यक	necessary		

ए	hey, oh	करीब	approximately
एउटा	one, a	करोड	ten million
एक	one	कलकल	sound of running
एकदम	absolutely	कलम	water
एकनाले	single-barrelled	कलम	pen
एकमात्र	one and only	कलिलो	young, tender
एक्लै	alone	कलेज	college
		कल्पना गर्नु *	to imagine
ओ		कविता	poem, poetry
ओढ्ने	quilt	कसको	whose?
ओत	shelter from rain	कसरी	in what manner?
ओरालो	downhill; steep	कसो?	in what manner?
		कसो?	how?
औंला	finger, toe	कस्तो	like what? how?
औलो	malaria	कहाँ?	where?
औषधि	medicine	-कहाँ	at the home of
		कहिले?	when?
क		कहिले काहीं	sometimes
कक्षा	class	कहिल्यै पनि	ever
कण्डक्टर	conductor	कहीं	somewhere
कता	where? to where?	काँक्रो	cucumber
कता-न-कता	somewhere or other	काँटा	fork
कति	how many?	काँध	shoulder
	how much?	काउली	cauliflower
कतिजना	how many people?	काका	younger paternal
कतिवटा	how many things?		uncle
कतै	anywhere	कागत	paper
कत्रो	how big?	कागती	lime
कथा	story	काट्नु *	to cut, to kill
कप	cup	कार्तिक (कार्तिक)	seventh month of
कपडा	cloth		the Nepali year
कपाल	hair (of the head)	कान	ear
कफी	coffee	कान्छी	youngest girl
कम	rarely, less, few	कान्छो	youngest boy
कमलपित्त	jaundice	काम	work
कमिज	shirt	काम गर्नु *	to work
कम्तिमा	at least	कारण	reason
कम्मर	waist	कार्यक्रम	programme
कराउनु	to shout, make a	कालो	black
	loud noise		

काहिलो	fourth eldest
कि	or
किताब	book
किन	why?
किनभने	because
किनमेल	shopping
किन्नु *	to buy
किलो	kilogramme
किलोमिटर	kilometre
किल्ली	stick
किसान	farmer
किसिम	type, kind
कीरा	insect, worm
कुखुरा	chicken
कुन	which?
कुनचाहिं	which one?
कुनि	I don't know
कुरसी	chair
कुरा	thing, matter, talk
कुरा गर्नु *	to talk, converse
कुरवा	a measure of
	weight equal to
	two mānās
कुर्कुच्चा	heel
कुनु	to wait for
कुर्वा	well
कुहिनो	elbow
कृपा	kindness, favour
के	what?
केन्द्र	centre
केटा	boy
केटी	girl
केरा	banana
केही	some, something
केही-न-केही	something or other
को	who?
कोट	coat
कोठा	room
-को दाँजोमा	compared with
कोदो	millet

-को लागि	for
कोशिश गर्नु *	to try
कोस	approximately
	two miles
कोसेली	gift
क्यामेरा	camera
क्यारे	I guess, I suppose
क्षमा	forgiveness
क्षमा गर्नु *	to forgive
क्षेत्र	area, region
ख	
खतम गर्नु *	to stop
खतम हुनु	to end
खतरा	danger
खपाखप खानु *	to gobble up
खबर	news
खबर गर्नु *	to inform
खबरदार	beware!
खराब	bad
खल्ती	pocket
खसाल्नु *	to drop, post
	(a letter)
खसी	gelded goat
खस्नु	to fall; die
खाइनु	to be eaten
खाक	ash
खाजा	snack, light meal
खाना	food
खानु *	to eat, drink,
	consume
खाने कुरा	food
खाली	empty, only
खास	special, particular
खिंच्नु *	to pull, take
	a photograph
खुकरी	kukri knife
खुट्टा	leg, foot
खुर्सानी	chilli pepper
खुल्नु	to open
खुवाउनु *	to feed

खुशी	happy, happiness	गुन्दुक
खब	very, thoroughly	
खेत	irrigable field	
खेती	farming, agriculture	गुरु
खेतीपाती	farming, agriculture	गुरुङ्ग
खेल	game	
खेल्लु *	to play	गोजी
खै	well! what about?	गोलभेंडा
खैरो	brown	गौचर
खोइ	well! what about?	
खोकी	cough	घटना
खोजी	search	घडी
खोज्नु *	to seek; try to	घण्टा
खोला	river, stream	घर
खोला-नाला	rivers and streams	घरपति
खोल्लु *	to open	घाँटी
	ग	घाट
गजब	wonder, amazement	घाँस
गट्टा खेल्लु *	to play a game with pebbles	घाम
गणित	mathematics	घिउ
गते	day of a month in the Bikram calendar	घुँडा
गफ गर्नु *	to chat, converse	घुमाउरो
गरीब	poor	घुम्नु
गर्नु *	to do	
गर्मी	heat	चकु
गहना	jewellery	चढ्नु
गह्रुंगो	heavy	चना
गाइड	guide	चन्द्रमा
गाइने	minstrel	चम्चा
गाउँ	village	चराउनु *
गाउनु *	to sing	चर्को
गाभी	water pitcher	चर्पी
गाडी	car, wheeled vehicle	चलाउनु *
गाली गर्नु *	to tell off	चल्लु
गाह्रो	difficult, hard	
गीत	song	चाँडे
गुनासो	complaint	

## घ

a traditional dish made from dried vegetables	
guru, teacher	
Gurung (an ethnic group)	
pocket	
tomato	
cow pasture	

incident, event	
watch, clock	
hour, bell	
house, home	
landlord	
throat, neck	
steps beside river	
grass	
sunshine	
ghee (clarified butter)	
knee	
indirect	
to turn, travel	

## च

knife	
to climb, mount	
chickpea	
moon	
spoon	
to take to graze	
hot, loud	
lavatory	
to cause to move, drive	
to move, go, function	
quickly, immediately, early	

चाँदी	silver
चानचुन	small change
चामल	uncooked rice
चार	four
चारौं	fourth
चाहनु *	to want to
चाहिनु	to be wanted, needed
चिउँडो	chin
चिउरा	parched beaten rice
चिठी	letter
चिनापर्ची	acquaintance
चिनियाँ	Chinese
चिनी	sugar
चिन्ता गर्नु *	to worry
चिन्नु *	to recognize, be acquainted with

चिप्लो	slippery
चिया	tea
चियापसल	teashop
चिया-सिया	tea and snacks
चिसो	cold, damp
चीन	China
चुरोट	cigarette
चूह्रो	stove, hearth
चैत (चैत्र)	twelfth month of the Nepali year
चोखो	pure, unsullied
चोटि	turn, time
चौकिदार	watchman, guard
चौथाई	one quarter
च्याउ	mushroom

## छ

छक्क पर्नु	to be surprised
छर्लङ्ग	clearly
छाड्नु *	to leave, quit
छाता	umbrella
छाती	breast, chest
छाम्नु *	to feel with the hand

छायौं	shade from the sun
छाला	skin
छिमेक	neighbourhood
छिमेकी	neighbour
छिटै	quickly
छिटो	quick, fast
छिन	moment
छुट्टिनु	to split, bifurcate
छुट्टी	time off work
छेउ	side
छैटौं	sixth
छोटो	short, brief
छोरा	son
छोराछोरी	sons and daughters
छोरी	daughter

## ज

जंगल	jungle; uninhabited land
जटिल	complicated, difficult
जताततै	everywhere
जति	approximately, as much as
जन-संख्या	population
जन्म	birth
जन्मनु	to be born
जन्मस्थल	birthplace
जमीन	land
जम्मा	all together, in total
जम्मा हुनु	to gather, assemble
जर्मन	German
जलाउनु *	to burn
जवाफ	reply, answer
जसरी	in a similar manner to
जसो	in a similar manner to
जस्तो	similar to
जाँच	examination
जाँच्नु *	to examine









बाल्यकाल	childhood	बेंसी	valley floor
बास	lodging	बेचु * बेर	to sell time
बास बस्नु	to lodge for a night	बेला	time, occasion
बासी	stale	बेलायत	Britain, England
बाहिर	outside	बेलुका	evening
बाहुन	Brahmin	बेस	better, good
बाहेक	except for, apart from	बैंक	bank
बिगानु *	to spoil	बैसाख (वैसाख)	first month of the Nepali year
बिग्रनु	to be spoiled, go to the bad	बोकाजनु *	to cause to carry
बिचरा	unfortunate	बोकनु *	to carry
बिजी	busy	बोट	tree
बिजुली	electricity	बोतल	bottle
बिताउनु *	to spend (time)	बोलाउनु *	to call, invite
बिदा	holiday, time off work, leave	बोलिनु	to be spoken
बियर	beer	बोल्नु *	to speak
बिरलै	rarely, seldom	बौद्ध	Buddhist
बिरामी	sick, ill	ब्याटरी	battery
बिरालो	cat		
बिसन्चो	unwell	भ	
बिर्सनु *	to forget	भगवान	God
बिसिनु	to be forgotten	भटमास	soybean
बिस्कुट	biscuit	भट्टी पसल	inn
बिस्तारै	slowly, carefully	भदौ (भाद्र)	fifth month of the Nepali year
बिहा	wedding, marriage	भनाइ	statement, utterance
बिहा गर्नु *	to marry	भनिनु	to be said, be called
बिहान	morning	भन्ज्याङ्ग	pass, col
बिहिवार	Thursday	-भन्दा	than
बीच	between	-भन्दा अगाडि	before, in front of
बीचबाटोमा	on the way, en route	-भन्दा अघि	before
बुझिनु	to be understood	-भन्दा तल	below
बुझ्नु *	to understand	-भन्दा पर	beyond
बुधवार	Wednesday	-भन्दा पहिले	before
बुवा	father	-भन्दा माथि	above
बूढा	old man, husband	भन्नु *	to say, tell
बूढी	old woman, wife	भन्सार	Customs
बूढी आँला	thumb	भरखर, भरखरै	recently, just now
बूढो	old, aged	भरसक	as far as possible

-भरि	throughout, filling	भोक	hunger
भरिया	porter	भोको	hungry
भरे बेलुका	this evening	भौगोलिक	geographical
भर्ति	recruitment, enrolment	भोजपुरी	Bhojpuri (language)
भर्नु *	to fill	भोट	Tibet
भाँडा	pot, vessel	भोट-बर्मेली	Tibeto-Burman
भाइ	younger brother	भोटिया	Tibetan
भाइ टीका	a special day on which women and girls anoint their brothers	भोलि	tomorrow
	elder brother's wife	भ्रमण	tour
भाउज्यू	share, portion		
भाग	to run away, escape	म	
भाग्नु	cooked rice; a meal	म	
भात	kitchen	मकै	I maize, corn
भान्सा-कोठा	cook	मङ्गलवार	Tuesday
भान्से	India	मङ्सिर (मार्गशीर्ष)	eighth month of the Nepali year
भारत	Indian	मट्टीतेल	kerosene
भारतीय	load	मतलब	meaning
भारी	language	मदत गर्नु *	to help
भाषा	speech, lecture	मदेस	Tarai (region)
भाषण	to become wet	मध्यरात	midnight
भिज्नु	interior wall	मध्य	mid-midday
भित्ता	wall clock	मध्यान्न	among
भित्ते-घडी	within, inside	-मध्यै	heart, mind
भिन्न	to strap on	मन	to like
भिर्नु *	visa	मन पराउनु *	to be liked
भिसा	crowd	मन पर्नु	to want to
भीड	ground	मनाउनु *	to celebrate
भुईँ	geography	मन्त्रालय	ministry
भूगोल	Bhutan	मन्त्री	minister
भूटान	ghost	मन्दिर	temple
भूत	heaven on earth	मर्नु	to die
भूस्वर्ग	area, district	मर्मस्पर्शी	touching, moving
भेक	meeting, encounter	महंगो	expensive
भेट	to meet	महत्त्वपूर्ण	important
भेट्नु	to find, locate	महल	palace
भेटाउनु *		महाराजाधिराज	His Majesty the King
		महाविद्यालय	college
		महिना	month

-मा	in	मुख्य	main, principal
मा	mother	मुटु	heart
माइत	woman's natal home	मुठा	bunch
माइल	mile	मुरी	measure of weight or quantity equal to 20 pāthis
मागनु *	to ask for		difficult, difficulty
माघ	tenth month of the Nepali year	मुश्किल	fool
माछा	fish	मुर्ख	radish
माइनु *	to scrub, scour	मुला	mouse
मातृभाषा	mother tongue	मुसा	deer
मात्र, मात्रै	only	मृग	dead, deceased
माथि	above, up	मृत	person
माना	a measure: 0.7 litres or 20 ounces	मेच	chair
मानिस	person	मेरो	my, mine
मान्छे	person	मैथिली	Maithili (language)
मान्नु *	to agree, accept, believe	मैलो	dirty
माफ गर्नु *	to forgive	मोक्ष	salvation, deliverance
माफी दिनु *	to forgive	मोटर	motorcar
माया	love, affection	मोटो	fat
माया गर्नु *	to love	मोल	value, price
माया मार्नु *	to forget a friend	मोहर, मोहोर	a half-rupee
मासु	meat	मौसम	weather
मास्टर	schoolmaster		
माहिलो	second eldest	य	here, in this direction
मिटर	metre	यता	this much
मिठाई	sweets	यति	Yeti
मित्र	friend	यती	this time
मिनेट	minute	यसपालि	in this manner
मिरमिरे	very early in the morning	यसरी	in this manner
मिलाउनु *	to arrange, assemble, adjust, bring together, sort out	यसो	like this
		यस्तो	here
		यहाँ	right here
		यहीं	transport
मिल्नु	to come together, match, fit, get along	यातायात	traveller, pilgrim
मीठो	good-tasting	यात्री	memory
मुख	face, mouth	याद	s/he (Middle)
		यिनी	

यी	they, these	रुचि	appetite
युवती	young woman	रुनु	to cry
युवा	young man	रुपियाँ	rupee
युरोप	Europe	रूख	tree
यो	this	रूमाल	handkerchief
योजना	plan	रे	particle indicating that the information imparted by the speaker comes from another source
			radio
र	and	रेडियो	train
रँग	colour	रेल	restaurant
रक्सी	liquor	रेष्टुराँ	silk
रगत	blood	रेसम	to stop
रमाइलो	pleasant, enjoyable	रोक्नु *	bread
रमाइलो गर्नु *	to enjoy oneself	रोटी	the planting of a crop
रहर	strong desire	रोपाई	to plant
राई	Rai (ethnic group)	रोप्नु *	
राख्नु *	to put, keep		ल
राङ्गो	a male buffalo		there!
राजधानी	capital	लखतरान	exhausted
राजनैतिक	political	लगाउनु *	to put on
राजमार्ग	national highway	लज	lodge
राजा	king	लसून	garlic
राज्य	kingdom	लाइन	line, queue
राणा	Rana	-लाई	to, for, at
राति	at night	लाउनु *	to wear
रातो	red	लाख	one hundred thousand
रानी	queen	लाखाँ	hundreds of thousands
रामतोरियाँ	okra	लाग्नु	to be felt, affect, seem, apply, begin, cost, take time, be imposed, head for, set in
राम्रो	good, nice		
रायो	mustard		
राष्ट्र	nation		
राष्ट्रपति	president		
राहदानी	passport		
रिक्शा	rickshaw		
रिजर्वेशन	reservation		
रिन	debt		
रिसाउनु	to be angry		
रुक्नु	to stop		
रुघा	head cold		
रुघा-खोकी	cold and cough		

लाज	embarrassment, shame	विभाग	department
लाटो	stupid	विमान	flight
लानु *	to take away	विमानस्थल	airport
लामो	long	विरह	loneliness
लिनु *	to take	विशेष	special, particular
लिम्बू	Limbu (ethnic group)	विश्व-युद्ध	world war
लुगा	clothing, clothes	विश्वविद्यालय	university
लुगा-फाटा	clothes	विश्वास गर्नु *	to believe, trust
-ले	by, because of, due to	व्यवसाय	occupation
लेख्नु *	to write	व्यवहार	behaviour
लोग्ने	husband	व्याकरण	grammar
लोग्ने-मान्छे	man	व्यापार	trade
लोटा	metal water pot	व्यापारी	trader
लौ	there! you see!		
ल्याउनु *	to bring	श	
	व	शताब्दी	century
वन	forest	शनिवार	Saturday
वर्ष	year	शब्द	word
वर्षाति	monsoon rain	शरीर	body
वहाँ	s/he (High)	शहर	city, town
वहीं	right there	शाकाहारी	vegetarian
वाक्य	sentence	शान्त	peaceful
वातावरण	atmosphere, environment	शान्ति	peace
वार	day of the week	शायद	perhaps
वालेट	wallet	शासन	rule, regime
वास्तवमा	really, actually	शिक्षक	teacher
विचार	opinion	शिक्षा	education
विचार गर्नु *	to consider, think about	शिखर	mountain peak
विज्ञान	science	शिवरात्री	Shivarati festival
विदेश	abroad, a foreign country	शिवालय	Shiva temple
विदेशिनु	to go abroad	शील्ड	shield
विदेशी	foreign, foreigner	शुक्रवार	Friday
विद्यार्थी	student	शुभकामना	good wishes
विद्यालय	school	शुभनाम	given name
		शुरु गर्नु *	to start
		शुरु हुनु	to begin
		शेर्पा	Sherpa (ethnic group)
		श्रीमती	wife
		श्रीमान	husband

-सँग	with	सल्काउनु *	to set light to
सँग-सँगै	together	सल्लाह	advice
सँगीत	music	सवा	plus one quarter
संरक्षण	conservation	ससुराली	wife's parents' home
संवत	calendrical era	सस्तो	cheap
सँसार	world	सस्तोमा	cheaply
सकिनु	to finish	सहयोग गर्नु *	to help
सक्नु	to be able to	साँचो	true
सगरमाथा	Mount Everest	साँचो	key
सघाउनु *	to help, to assist	साँझ	dusk
सजिलो	easy	साँस्कृतिक	cultural
सडक	street, road	साइकल	bicycle
सधैं	always	साउन (श्रावण)	fourth month of the Nepali year
सन्चो	in good health	साग	greens
सन्तान	offspring	साट्नु *	to exchange (money)
सपना	dream	साढे	plus one half
सफल	successful	सात	seven
सफा	clean	सातौं	seventh
सफा गर्नु *	to clean	साथी	friend, companion
सब	all	सानो	small
समतल	level, flat	साबुन	soap
समस्या	problem	सामान	luggage
समाचार	news	सारङ्गी	Nepali violin
समाचार पत्र	newspaper	सारी	sari; a woman's dress
समाप्त	finished	साल	year
सम्झना	memory	साली	wife's younger sister
सम्झनु *	to remember	साहिलो	third eldest
सम्झाउनु *	to remind, counsel	साहित्य	literature
	editor	साहू	merchant; business proprietor
सम्पादक	possibility	साहेब	term used to address a professional
सम्भावना	up to, as far as, until		
-सम्म	honour, respect		
सम्मान	hundred		
सय	government	साह्रै	extremely
सरकार	governmental	सिकाउनु *	to teach
सरकारी	Saraswati (goddess)	सिकिस्त	gravely
सरस्वती	disaster	सिक्किम	Sikkim
सर्वनाश			

सिक्नु *	to learn
-सित	with
सिद्धिनु	to end
सिद्ध्याउनु *	to finish
सिनेमा-घर	cinema
सिपाही	soldier
सिमसिमे पानी	light rain
सिमाना	border
सिमी	bean
सिलसिला	series, sequence
सीट	seat
सीधै	directly, straight
सुँगुर	pig
सुँघुनु *	to sniff, smell
सुई-सुई	the sound of the wind
सुका	a quarter rupee
सुखी	happy
सुझाव	suggestion
सुत्नु	to sleep; lie down
सुत्ने कोठा	bedroom
सुदूर	remote, very distant
सुनाउनु *	to relate, tell
सुन्दर	beautiful
सुन्दरी	beautiful (woman)
सुनिनु	to be heard, be audible
सुन्तला	orange
सुनुनु *	to hear, listen
सुरक्षित	secure, protected
सुविधा	convenience
सेतो	white
सेलाउनु	to cool down
सोच्नु *	to think
सोध्नु *	to ask
सोफा	sofa
सोमवार	Monday
स्कूल	school
स्थापना	establishment
स्थिति	situation, circumstances

स्नान गर्नु *	to bathe
स्याउ	apple
स्वर	voice
स्वर्ग	heaven
स्वस्थ	healthy
स्वाद	taste, flavour
स्वादिलो	tasty
स्वास्थ्य	health
स्वास्ती	wife
स्वास्ती-मानिस	woman

ह	हगि	right?, isn't that so?
	हजार	thousand
	हजारौं	thousands of
	हजुर	sir, yes
	हजुर?	pardon?
	हजुरजामा	grandmother
	हजुरबा	grandfather
	हडताल	strike
	हतपत	hurry
	हतार	hurry
	हप्ता	week
	हराउनु	to be lost
	हरियो	green
	हरेक	every
	हवाई जहाज	aeroplane
	हाँक्नु *	to drive (a vehicle)
	हाँस्नु	to smile, laugh
	हाकिम	boss
	हाड	bone
	हात	hand, arm
	हातमुख	hands and face
	हानीकारक	harmful
	हामी, हामीहरू	we
	हाम्रो	our, ours
	हालखबर	news
	हावा	wind, air
	हिउँ	snow
	हिजो	yesterday
	हिडेर जानु	to go on foot

हिँड्नु	to walk, set out
हितैषी	well-wisher
हिन्दी	Hindi
हिन्दीभाषी	Hindi-speaker
हिन्दुस्तानी	Indian
हिन्दू	Hindu
हिमाल	the Himalayas
हिमाली	Himalayan
हिलो	mud
हिसाब गर्नु *	to add up

हीरा	diamond
हुलाक घर	post office
हुनु	to be
हेर्नु *	to look
होचो	short-statured
होटल	hotel
होश गर्नु *	to be careful
है	do you hear?, OK?
हैजा	cholera

about (time)	-तिर	<b>-tira</b>	bad	खराब, नराम्रो	<b>kharāb,</b>
about (quantity)	करीब	<b>karīb</b>			<b>narāmro</b>
abroad	विदेश	<b>videś</b>	bag	झोला	<b>jholā</b>
acquire	पाउनु	<b>pāunu</b>	bangle	चूरा	<b>cūrā</b>
advice	सल्लाह	<b>sallāh</b>	bank	बैंक	<b>baik</b>
advise	सल्लाह दिनु	<b>sallāh</b>	become	बन्नु	<b>bannu</b>
		<b>dinu</b>	before	-भन्दा अघि	<b>-bhandā</b>
after	-पछि	<b>-pachi</b>			<b>aghi</b>
afternoon	दिउँसो	<b>diūso</b>	begin	शुरु गर्नु,	<b>śuru</b>
age	उमेर	<b>umer</b>			<b>garnu,</b>
ago	अघि, पहिले	<b>aghi,</b>		शुरु हुनु	<b>śuru</b>
		<b>pahile</b>			<b>hunu</b>
airport	विमानस्थल	<b>vimānsthāl</b>		लाग्नु, थाल्नु	<b>lāgnu,</b>
alcohol	रक्सी	<b>raksi</b>			<b>thālnu</b>
all	सब, सबै	<b>sab, sabai</b>	belief	विश्वास	<b>viśvās</b>
allow	दिनु	<b>dinu</b>	below	तल	<b>tala</b>
always	सधैं	<b>sadhai</b>	big	ठूलो	<b>thūlo</b>
angry, to be	रिसाउनु	<b>risāunu</b>	black	कालो	<b>kālo</b>
anyone	कोही	<b>kohi</b>	blue	नीलो	<b>nīlo</b>
apple	स्याउ	<b>syāu</b>	board (vb)	चढ्नु	<b>caḍhnu</b>
arrive	पुग्नु, आइपुग्नु	<b>pugnu,</b>	boil (vb)	उम्लनु	<b>umlanu</b>
		<b>āipugnu</b>	book	किताब	<b>kitāb</b>
ask	सोध्नु	<b>sodhnu</b>	born, to be	जन्मनु	<b>janmanu</b>
at home	घरै, घरमा	<b>gharai,</b>	boy	केटा	<b>keṭā</b>
		<b>gharmā</b>	Brahmin	बाहुन	<b>bāhun</b>
			break	फोड्नु	<b>phoḍnu</b>

bridge	पुल	<b>pul</b>	cry	रुनु	<b>runu</b>
bring	ल्याउनु	<b>lyāunu</b>	cup	कप	<b>kap</b>
brother, elder	दाइ	<b>dāi</b>			
brother, younger	भाइ	<b>bhāi</b>	daughter	छोरी	<b>chori</b>
buffalo	भैंसी	<b>bhaiśi</b>	day	दिन	<b>din</b>
bus	बस	<b>bas</b>	day before		
bus station	बस बिसौनी	<b>bas</b>	yesterday	अस्ति	<b>asti</b>
		<b>bisauni</b>	decide	निधो गर्नु	<b>nidho</b>
buy	किन्नु	<b>kinnu</b>			<b>garnu</b>
capital	राजधानी	<b>rājdhāni</b>	deity	देवता	<b>devatā</b>
cards	ताश	<b>tās</b>	Delhi	दिल्ली	<b>dilli</b>
central	मध्य	<b>madhya</b>	diarrhoea	दिसा	<b>disā</b>
chair	मेच	<b>mec</b>	difficult	गाह्रो,	<b>gāhro,</b>
cheap	सस्तो	<b>sasto</b>		अपठचारो	<b>apṭhāro</b>
children	बच्चाहरू	<b>baccāharū</b>	dirty	मैलो	<b>mailo</b>
Chinese	चिनियाँ	<b>ciniyā</b>	distant	टाढा	<b>ṭāḍhā</b>
cholera	हैजा	<b>haijā</b>	door	ढोका	<b>ḍhokā</b>
cigarette	चुरोट	<b>curoṭ</b>	downhill	ओरालो	<b>orālo</b>
city	शहर	<b>śahar</b>	drink	खानु, पिउनु	<b>khānu,</b>
class	कक्षा	<b>kakṣā</b>			<b>piunu</b>
clean	सफा	<b>saphā</b>	driver	डाइभर	<b>ḍrāibhar</b>
clever	चलाक	<b>calāk</b>	dry (vb)	सुकाउनु	<b>sukāunu</b>
climb (vb)	चढ्नु	<b>caḍhnu</b>			
close	बन्द गर्नु	<b>banda</b>	each	हरेक	<b>harek</b>
		<b>garnu</b>	easily	सजिलोसँग	<b>sajilosāga</b>
cloth	कपडा	<b>kapaḍā</b>	east	पूर्व	<b>pūrva</b>
clothes	लुगा	<b>luḡā</b>	easy	सजिलो	<b>sajilo</b>
cold	चिसो	<b>ciso</b>	eat	खानु	<b>khānu</b>
coldness	जाडो	<b>jāḍo</b>	embarrassment	लाज	<b>lāj</b>
colour	रँग	<b>rāḡ</b>	empty	रित्तो	<b>ritto</b>
come	आउनु	<b>āunu</b>	English	अँग्रेज	<b>āḡrej</b>
cook (n)	भान्से	<b>bhānse</b>	evening	बेलुका	<b>belukā</b>
cook (vb)	पकाउनु	<b>pakāunu</b>	Everest	सगरमाथा	<b>sagarmāthā</b>
corner	कुना	<b>kunā</b>	exam	जाँच	<b>jāc</b>
cough	खोकी	<b>khoki</b>	expensive	महँगो	<b>mahāḡo</b>
country	देश	<b>deś</b>	eye	आँखा	<b>ākḥā</b>
cow	गाई	<b>gāi</b>			

face	मुख, अनुहार	<b>mukh,</b> <b>anuhār</b>	green guest	हरियो पाहुना	<b>hariyo</b> <b>pāhūnā</b>
family	परिवार	<b>parivār</b>			
family name	थर	<b>thar</b>	half	आधा	<b>ādhā</b>
farmer	किसान	<b>kisān</b>	happiness	खुशी	<b>khuśī</b>
fat	मोटो	<b>moṭo</b>	he (High)	वहाँ	<b>vahā</b>
father	बुवा, बा	<b>buvā, bā</b>	he (Low)	ऊ	<b>ū</b>
fear	डर	<b>ḍar</b>	he (Middle)	उनी	<b>unī</b>
field	खेत, बारी	<b>khet, bārī</b>	head	टाउको	<b>ṭāuko</b>
find	पाउनु	<b>pāunu</b>	head cold	रुघा	<b>rughā</b>
finish	सिद्धचाउनु	<b>siddhāunu</b>	heard, to be	सुनिनु	<b>suninu</b>
first	पहिलो	<b>pahilo</b>	heat	गर्मी	<b>garmī</b>
flight	विमान	<b>vimān</b>	help	मदत गर्नु	<b>madat</b>
food	खाना, भात	<b>khānā,</b> <b>bhāt</b>	here	यहाँ	<b>yahā</b>
foreigner	विदेशी	<b>videśī</b>	Himalaya	हिमालय	<b>himālaya</b>
forget	बिर्सनु	<b>birsanu</b>	holiday	बिदा, छुट्टी	<b>bidā,</b> <b>chuṭṭī</b>
Friday	शुक्रवार	<b>śukravār</b>			
friend	साथी	<b>sāthī</b>	home	घर	<b>ghar</b>
from	-देखि, -बाट	<b>-dekhi,</b> <b>-bāṭa</b>	hope	आशा	<b>āsā</b>
			hot	गर्म, तातो	<b>garm,</b> <b>tāto</b>
fruit	फलफूल	<b>phalphūl</b>			
Ganesh	गणेश	<b>gapeś</b>	hotel	होटेल	<b>hoṭel</b>
German	जर्मन	<b>jarman</b>	hour	घण्टा	<b>ghaṇṭā</b>
get	पाउनु	<b>pāunu</b>	house	घर	<b>ghar</b>
ghee	घिउ	<b>ghiu</b>	how much?	कति ?	<b>kati?</b>
gift	उपहार, कोसेली	<b>upahār,</b> <b>koselī</b>	how, like what?	कस्तो ?	<b>kasto</b>
			how, in what		
girl	केटी	<b>keṭī</b>	manner?	कसरी ?	<b>kasarī</b>
give	दिनु	<b>dinu</b>	hunger	भोक	<b>bhok</b>
go	जानु	<b>jānu</b>	hurt	दुख्नु	<b>dukhnu</b>
god	देवता	<b>devatā</b>	husband	श्रीमान, लोग्ने	<b>śrīmān,</b> <b>logne</b>
good	राम्रो	<b>rāmro</b>			
granddaughter	नातिनी	<b>nātinī</b>			
grandfather	हजुरबा	<b>hajurbā</b>	I	म	<b>ma</b>
grandmother	हजुरआमा	<b>hajurāmā</b>	in	-मा	<b>-mā</b>
grandson	नाति	<b>nāti</b>	India	भारत	<b>bhārat</b>

Indian	भारतीय	<b>bhāratīya</b>	Monday	सोमवार	<b>somvār</b>
inside	-भित्र	<b>-bhitra</b>	money	पैसा	<b>paisā</b>
interesting	चाखलाग्दो	<b>cākhlagdo</b>	month	महिना	<b>mahinā</b>
			morning	बिहान	<b>bihāna</b>
Japanese	जापानी	<b>jāpānī</b>	mother	आमा, मा	<b>āmā, mā</b>
job	जागिर	<b>jāgir</b>	motorcar	मोटर	<b>moṭar</b>
journey	यात्रा	<b>yātrā</b>	my	मेरो	<b>mero</b>
Kathmandu	काठमाडौं	<b>kāṭhmadāu</b>	name	नाम	<b>nām</b>
key	साँचो	<b>sāco</b>	nearby	नजिक	<b>najik</b>
kilogramme	किलो	<b>kilo</b>	never	कहिल्यै पनि	<b>kahilyai</b>
king	राजा	<b>rājā</b>			<b>pani</b>
knowledge	थाहा	<b>thāhā</b>	new	नयाँ	<b>nayā</b>
			newspaper	अखबार	<b>akhbār</b>
language	भाषा	<b>bhāṣā</b>	next day	भोलिपल्ट	<b>bholipalṭa</b>
last (previous			nice	राम्रो	<b>rāmro</b>
week)	अस्ति	<b>asti</b>	night	राति	<b>rāti</b>
last (year)	पोहोर	<b>pohor</b>	north	उत्तर	<b>uttar</b>
last (final)	अन्तिम	<b>antim</b>	novel	उपन्यास	<b>upanyās</b>
late	ढिलो	<b>ḍhilo</b>	now	अहिले, अब	<b>ahile, aba</b>
lateness	अबेर	<b>aber</b>	nowadays	हिजोआज	<b>hijoāja</b>
letter	चिठी	<b>ciṭhī</b>			
liquor	रक्सी	<b>raksi</b>	o'clock	बजे	<b>baje</b>
live	बस्नु	<b>basnu</b>	office	अफिस	<b>aphis</b>
lodge	लज	<b>laj</b>	official	अधिकारी	<b>adhikārī</b>
London	लण्डन	<b>laṇḍan</b>	old	पुरानो	<b>purāno</b>
lose	हराउनु	<b>harāunu</b>	open (adj)	खुला	<b>khulā</b>
			open (vb)	खोल्नु	<b>kholnu</b>
man	लोग्ने-मान्छे	<b>logne-</b> <b>mānche</b>	opinion	विचार	<b>vicār</b>
			orange	सुन्तला	<b>suntalā</b>
many	धेरै	<b>dherai</b>	order	अह्राउनु	<b>ahrāunu</b>
market	बजार	<b>bajār</b>	our	हाम्रो	<b>hāmro</b>
marry	बिहा गर्नु	<b>bihā</b>	outside	बाहिर	<b>bāhira</b>
			own	आफ्नो	<b>āphno</b>
meat	मासु	<b>māsu</b>			
meet	भेट्नु	<b>bheṭnu</b>	packet	बट्टा	<b>baṭṭā</b>
mile	माइल	<b>māil</b>	passport	पासपोर्ट	<b>pāsport</b>

pen	कलम	<b>kalam</b>	rice (cooked)	भात	<b>bhāt</b>
people	मान्छेहरू	<b>mānche-</b> <b>harū</b>	rice (uncooked)	चामल,	<b>cāmāl</b>
			rich	धनी	<b>dhanī</b>
person	मान्छे	<b>mānche</b>	river	खोला, नदी	<b>kholā,</b>
phone	फोन	<b>phon</b>			<b>nadī</b>
pick up	उठाउनु	<b>uṭhāunu</b>	road	बाटो	<b>bāṭo</b>
place	ठाउँ	<b>ṭhāū</b>	room	कोठा	<b>koṭhā</b>
plane	हवाई जहाज	<b>havāi</b> <b>jahāj</b>	rupee	रुपियाँ	<b>rupiyā</b>
play	खेलनु	<b>khelnu</b>	sadness	दुःख	<b>duḥkha</b>
Pokhara	पोखरा	<b>pokharā</b>	said, to be	भनिनु	<b>bhaninu</b>
police	प्रहरी	<b>praharī</b>	Saturday	शनिवार	<b>śanivār</b>
police station	प्रहरी थाना	<b>praharī</b>	say	भन्नु	<b>bhannu</b>
			school	स्कूल	<b>skūl</b>
poor	गरीब	<b>garīb</b>	search	खोज्नु	<b>khojnu</b>
post office	हुलाक घर	<b>hulāk</b>	see	देख्नु	<b>dekhnu</b>
			seen, to be	देखिनु	<b>dekhinu</b>
potato	आलु	<b>ālu</b>	send	पठाउनु	<b>paṭhāunu</b>
pound	पाउण्ड	<b>pāuṇḍ</b>	she (High)	वहाँ	<b>vahā</b>
present	उपहार,	<b>upahār,</b>	she (Low)	ऊ	<b>ū</b>
	कोसेली	<b>koselī</b>	she (Middle)	उनी	<b>unī</b>
problem	समस्या	<b>samasyā</b>	Shiva	शिव	<b>śiva</b>
purple	प्याजी	<b>pyājī</b>	shoes	जुत्ता	<b>juttā</b>
			shop	पसल	<b>pasal</b>
question	प्रश्न	<b>praśna</b>	since	-देखि	<b>-dekhi</b>
quit	छाड्नु	<b>chāḍnu</b>	sing	गाउनु	<b>gāunu</b>
quite	अलि	<b>ali</b>	sister, elder	दिदी	<b>didī</b>
			sister, younger	बहिनी	<b>bahinī</b>
rain	पानी	<b>pānī</b>	sister-in-law	भाउजू, बुहारी	<b>bhāuju,</b>
reached, to be	पुगिनु	<b>puginu</b>			<b>buhārī</b>
read	पढ्नु	<b>paḍnu</b>	sleep	निद्रा	<b>nidrā</b>
receive	पाउनु	<b>pāunu</b>	sleep	सुत्नु	<b>sutnu</b>
recently	भरखर	<b>bharkhar</b>	slowly	बिस्तारै	<b>bistārai</b>
rest	आराम गर्नु	<b>ārām</b> <b>garnu</b>	smoke	चुरोट खानु	<b>curoṭ</b>
					<b>khānu</b>
restaurant	रेष्टुराँ	<b>reṣṭurā</b>	soaked, to be	भिज्नु	<b>bhijnu</b>
return	फर्किनु	<b>pharkinu</b>	some (people)	कोही	<b>kohī</b>

some (thing)	केही	<b>kehī</b>	tenth	दसौं	<b>dasau</b>
somebody	कोही	<b>kohī</b>	that	त्यो	<b>tyo</b>
sometimes	कहिले काहीं	<b>kahile</b>	there	त्यहाँ	<b>tyahā</b>
			they	उनीहरू	<b>uniharū</b>
son	छोरा	<b>chorā</b>	thirst	तिर्खा	<b>tīrkhā</b>
song	गीत	<b>gīt</b>	this	यो	<b>yo</b>
south	दक्षिण	<b>dakṣiṇ</b>	thousands	हजारौं	<b>hajārau</b>
speak	बोल्नु	<b>bolnu</b>	Thursday	बिहिवार	<b>bihivār</b>
spoken, to be	बोलिनु	<b>bolinu</b>	Tibet	भोट	<b>bhoṭ</b>
stay	बस्नु	<b>basnu</b>	ticket	टिकट	<b>ṭikaṭ</b>
straight	सीधा	<b>sīdhā</b>	time	बेला, समय	<b>belā,</b>
strange	अनौठो	<b>anauṭho</b>			<b>samay</b>
street	सडक	<b>saḍak</b>	tiredness	थकाइ	<b>thakāi</b>
student	विद्यार्थी	<b>vidyārthī</b>	today	आज	<b>āja</b>
student hostel	छात्रावास	<b>chātrāvās</b>	tomorrow	भोलि	<b>bholi</b>
study	पढ्नु	<b>paḍnu</b>	tourist	पर्यटक	<b>paryaṭak</b>
successful	सफल	<b>saphal</b>	towards	-तिर	<b>-tira</b>
suddenly	अकस्मात	<b>akasmāt</b>	Tuesday	मङ्गलवार	<b>maṅgalvār</b>
summer	गर्मी	<b>garmī</b>	TV	टी•भी•	<b>ṭi. bhī.</b>
Sunday	आइतवार	<b>āitavār</b>	twice	दुई पटक	<b>dui paṭak</b>
sweet-sounding	मीठो	<b>mīṭho</b>			
sweets	मिठाई	<b>mīṭhāi</b>	umbrella	छाता	<b>chātā</b>
swim	पौडी खेल्नु	<b>pauḍī</b>	understand	बुझ्नु	<b>bujhnu</b>
			understood, to be	बुझिनु	<b>bujhinu</b>
			university	विश्वविद्यालय	<b>viśvavid-</b>
					<b>yālaya</b>
table	टेबुल	<b>ṭebul</b>			
take	लिनु	<b>linu</b>	until	-सम्म	<b>-samma</b>
take off	फुकाल्नु	<b>phukālnu</b>	up to	-सम्म	<b>-samma</b>
tall	अग्लो	<b>aglo</b>	uphill	उकालो	<b>ukālo</b>
tasty	मीठो	<b>mīṭho</b>	usually	धेरै जसो	<b>dherai</b>
taxi	ट्याक्सी	<b>ṭyākṣī</b>			<b>jaso</b>
tea	चिया	<b>ciyā</b>			
teacher	शिक्षक	<b>śikṣak</b>	valley	उपत्यका	<b>upatyakā</b>
tell	भन्नु	<b>bhannu</b>	vegetables	तरकारी	<b>tarkārī</b>
tell off	गाली गर्नु	<b>gālī</b>	very	धेरै	<b>dherai</b>
			village	गाउँ	<b>gāū</b>
temple	मन्दिर	<b>mandir</b>	violin	सारङ्गी	<b>sāraṅgī</b>



visit	जानु	<b>jānu</b>	whose?	कसको	<b>kasko?</b>
voice	स्वर	<b>svar</b>	wife	श्रीमती,	<b>śrīmatī,</b>
				स्वास्नी	<b>svāsni</b>
wait	पखनु	<b>parkhanu</b>	window	झ्याल	<b>jhyāl</b>
wash	धुनु	<b>dhunu</b>	witch	बोक्सी	<b>boksi</b>
washerwoman	धोबी	<b>dhobi</b>	woman	आइमाई	<b>āimāi</b>
watch	घडी	<b>ghaḍī</b>	work	काम	<b>kām</b>
water	पानी	<b>pāni</b>	work	काम गर्नु	<b>kām</b>
we	हामी	<b>hāmī</b>			<b>garnu</b>
wear	लाउनु	<b>lāunu</b>	worry	चिन्ता गर्नु	<b>cintā</b>
weather	मौसम	<b>mausam</b>			<b>garnu</b>
Wednesday	बुधवार	<b>budhavār</b>	worship	पूजा	<b>pūjā</b>
week	हप्ता	<b>haptā</b>	write	लेख्नु	<b>lekhnu</b>
well	राम्ररी	<b>rāmrari</b>			
west	पश्चिम	<b>paścim</b>	year	साल, वर्ष	<b>sāl, varṣa</b>
wet	भिजेको	<b>bhijeko</b>	yellow	पहेलो	<b>pahēlo</b>
what?	के ?	<b>ke?</b>	yesterday	हिजो	<b>hijo</b>
when?	कहिले ?	<b>kahile?</b>	yet	अहिलेसम्म	<b>ahile-</b>
where?	कहाँ ?	<b>kahā?</b>			<b>samma</b>
white	सेतो	<b>seto</b>	you (High)	तपाईं	<b>tapāi</b>
whole	पूरा, पूरै	<b>pūrā,</b>	you (Low)	तैं	<b>tā</b>
		<b>pūrai</b>	you (Middle)	तिमी	<b>timī</b>