

Nepali Language Primer

Learning a few of the basics really opens up a country to the traveller. Just a little of the language will help you to get around, to meet people and to really deepen your experience of a culture. It shows the locals that you want to learn about them and care about their country and culture.

So, start with these basics...

note: Underlined words are shown as samples only, you should substitute as necessary

Basic Greetings and Pleasantries

Nepali

Namaste

Namaskar

Hajur

(Tapaiilai) Kasto Cha?

(Malai) Thik Cha

Khana khannu bhaiyo?

Dhanybhad

Tapaiiko naam ke ho?

Mero naam Ann-Marie ho

Maaph garnuhos

Maile bhujhina

Maile bhujhe

Pheri bhetaunla

English

Hello, Greetings, I bless the divine in you

The more respectful version of Namaste

Useful term meaning yes? Pardon, Excuse me?

How are you?

I am fine

Have you eaten? (used often as informal greeting)

Thank you

What is your name?

My name is Ann-Marie

Excuse me/ pardon me/ sorry

I don't understand

I understand

I hope we meet again

Addressing People / things

Ann-Marie-ji

Formal way to address someone using their name

Aama / Buwa

Mother / Father, but also friendly term men/women roughly in your parents' generation

Didi / Bahini

Older / Younger sister, but also friendly term used to refer to other women roughly in your generation

Dhai / Bhai

Older / Younger brother, same as above

Nanu / Babu

Young girl / boy child

Ma / Hami

I / We

Tapaii

You

Yo / Tyo

This / That

Verb bases (infinitive form) & Verb Conjugation

Janu	To go	Bolnu	To speak
Aunu	To come	Roknu	To stop
Basnu	To sit	Hidnu	To walk
Khannu	To eat	Khelnu	To play
Rakhnu	To put	Sutnu	To sleep
Garnu	To do	Hernu	To see
Dinu	To give	Pewnu	To drink
Linu	To take	Oothnu	rise/wake up
Kinnu	To buy		

Note: the order of sentences is reversed in Nepali. The conjugated verb is always last.

To politely ask someone to do something, add a 's' to the verb base.

Ex. Aunus / Basnus / Khannus - Please come / Please eat

Add 'na' at the beginning to make it negative

Ex. Chinni narakhnus - Please don't put sugar in (ex. the tea)

For first person action, drop the 'u' and add 'choo' and add ma (I) at the beginning

Ex. Ma janchoo/ aunchoo/ baschoo - I am going / coming / sitting. It can also be understood for future action. I will go / come / sit.

For respectful past tense but not first person (I) just add bhaiyo to the verb base

Ex. aunu bhaiyo / khannu bhaiyo - came / ate

For informal way of asking someone if they want to do something, drop 'u' and add 'e'

ex. momo khanne? / Thamel jane? - Want to eat momos? / Want to go to Thamel?

Informal way of asking someone to join you in doing something, drop 'nu' and add 'am'

Ex. Jaam / Basaam / Khaam - Let's go / let's sit / let's eat

To combine two verbs, drop 'u' & add 'a' to first, and drop 'u' & add 'chu' to second.

Ex. Ma auna sakchu - I can come

Useful Adjectives

Mahango / Sasto	Expensive / Cheap
Ramro / Naramro	Good / Bad
Sapha / Phohar	Clean / Dirty
Thulo / Sano	Big / Small
Sajilo / Gahro	Easy / Hard
Thada / Najik	Far / Close

Chito / Dhilo	Fast / Slow
Tato / Cheeso	Hot / Cold (for food)
Garmi / Jaado	Hot / Cold (for weather)
Naya / Purano	New / Old
Dhani / Garib	Rich / Poor
Add 'dherai' to show 'very'	
Ex. Trekking dherai gahro cha	Trekking is very hard

Question Words

Ke	What
Kahaang	Where
Kati	How much
Kina / kinabhane	Why / because
Kasko	Whose
Kahile	When
Kun	Which
Kasari	How
Kasto	How (of quality)

Food adjectives

Mitho / namitho	Tasty / Not tasty
Bhuteko	Fried
Umaaleko	Boiled
Noonilo	Salty
Gooliyo	Sweet
Amilo	Sour
Tito	Bitter
Piro	Spicy

Food Items

Tarkari / Vegetables	Gajur / Carrots
Kaulee / Cauliflower	Bandakobi / Cabbage
Alu / Potato	Makai / Corn
Saag / Spinach	Kerau / Peas
Parsi / Pumpkin	Pyaaaj / Onion

Lasun / Garlic	Kaankro / Cucumber
Simee / Beans	Coursani / Chilli
Adhuwa / Ginger	Bhatamas / Soybean
Golbheraa / Tomato	Dhal / Lentil
Bhadam / Peanut	Kaju / Cashew
Mohar / Honey	Bhat / Rice
Dudh / Milk	Daihee / Yogurt
Pauroti / Bread (Loaf)	Chapati / Bread (flat round)
Tel / Oil	Noon / Salt
Chinni / Sugar	

Syaau / Apple	Keraa / Banana
Nariwal / Coconut	Angur / Grapes
Kagati / Lemon	Aanp / Mango
Suntalaa / Orange	Mewaa / Papaya

Masu / Meat	Andaa / Egg
Macha / Fish	Kukhura / Chicken
Kasi / Goat	Sungur / Pork

Kalo chiya / Black tea	Kagatiko chiya / Lemon tea
Dudh chiya / Milk tea	Adhuwa chiya / Ginger tea
Kalo coffee / Black coffee	Dudh chiya / Milk tea
Pani / water	Umaleko pani / Boiled water
Raksi / Alcohol	Toomba / Millet beer
Chyang / Rice beer	Ras / Juice

Useful nouns

Bato / Road	Pul / Bridge	Des / Country	Bajar / Market
Kotha / Room	Gau / Village	Khola / River	Pasal / Shop
Khanna / Food	Ghar / House	Mithai / Sweets	Koseli / Gift
Topee / Hat	Jhola / Bag, pack	Git / Song	Kitaab / Book
Manche / Person	Mancheharu / People	Chorachori / Children	Bideshi / Foreigner
Pariwar / Family	Dharma / Religion		

Numbers

1 / ek	6 / cha	15 / pandhra	50 / pachaase
2 / dui	7 / saat	20 / beece	60 / sathi
3 / tin	8 / aath	25 / pacheece	70 / sattari
4 / char	9 / nau	30 / teece	80 / assi
5 / panchs	10 / das	40 / chaleece	90 / nabbe
100 / ek saye	200 / dui saye	1000 ek hazar	

Expressions of Time

Aaja / Today	Hijo / Yesterday	Bholi / Tomorrow	Ghanta / Hour
Din / Day	Haptaa / Week	Mahina / Month	Barsa / Year
Bihaana / Morning	Diunso / Afternoon	Beluka / Evening	Raatri / Night

Subha <u>raatri</u>	Good <u>night</u>		
Kati bhajyo?	What time is it?	<u>Ek</u> bhajyo	One o' clock

Possession

Add 'ko' to a formal name, pronoun to show possession

Tapaiiko / Ann-Marie-ko / Didi-ko - Your / Ann-Marie's / Didi's (older sister's)

Some pronouns have special forms

Ma – Mero / Hami – Hamro - I – mine / We - Ours

Prepositions

_____maa / At, in, on

ex. Kathmandumaa / in Kathmandu

_____baata / From

ex. Kathmandubaata / from Kathmandu

_____sanga / With

ex. Ann-Mariesanga / with Ann-Marie

Baahira / Bhitra

Outside / Inside

pachhi

After

Conjunctions

ra / and

ani / and then

kinabhane / because

tara / but

Feelings and Emotions

Ma _____ lagyo / lagna.	I feel / don't feel _____.
Birami / sick	Bhok / hungry
Raksi / drunk	Thirkaa / thirsty
Khushee / happy	Dukha / sad
Thakai / tired	Alchee / lazy
Dar / scared	Nindra / sleepy
Jaado / cold	Garmi / hot

Other simple sentences

Tapailai _____ man parcha?	Do you like _____?
Malai _____ man parcha.	I like _____.
ex. Malai Nepali khanna man parcha.	I like Nepali food.

To express that you like to do something, use a verb, drop the 'u' and add 'a'

ex. Malai aath ghanta sutna man
parcha. I like to sleep eight hours.

To express that you can do something, use a verb, drop the 'u' add 'a' and sakchu

Ex. Ma kotha herna sakchu. Can I see a room?

Malai _____ chahincha.	I need _____ .
Malai _____ chahindaina	I don't need _____ .