

Some useful phrases

Learning a few of the basics is really opens up a country to the traveler, visitor, tourist... 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...

Basic Greetings and Pleasantries

Namaste	Hello, Greetings, I bless the divine in you
Namaskar	The more respectful version of Namaste
Hajur me?	All purpose term meaning yes? Pardon, Excuse me?
(Tapailai) Kasto Cha?	How are you?
(Malai) Thik Cha	I am fine
Khana khannu bhaiyo? (greeting)	Have you eaten? (used often as informal greeting)
Dhanybhad	Thank you
Tapaiiko naam ke ho?	What is your name?
Mero naam Ann-Marie ho	My name is Ann-Marie
Maaph garnuhos	Excuse me/ pardon me/ sorry
Maile bhujhina	I don't understand
Maile bhujhe	I understand
Pheri bhetaunla	I hope we meet again

Addressing People / things

Ann-Marie-ji name	Formal way to address someone using their name
Aama / Buwa men/women roughly in your parents generation	Mother / Father, but also friendly term
Didi / Bahini to refer to other women roughly in your generation	Older / Younger sister, but also friendly term used
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.

E.G. Aunus / Basnus / Khannus - Please come / Please eat

Add 'na' at the beginning to make it negative

E.G. 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

E.G. 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

E.G. aunu bhaiyo / khannu bhaiyo - came / ate

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

E.G. 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'

E.G. 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.

E.G. 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

Kasari

Kasto

Food adjectives

Mitho / namitho

Bhuteko

Umaaleko

Noonilo

Gooliyo

Amilo

Tito

Piro

Food Items

Tarkari / Vegetables

Kaulee / Cauliflower

Alu / Potato

Saag / Spinach

Parsi / Pumpkin

Lasun / Garlic

Simee / Beans

Adhuwa / Ginger

Golbheraa / Tomato

Bhadam / Peanut

Mohar / Honey

Dudh / Milk

Pauroti / Bread (Loaf)

Tel / Oil

Chinni / Sugar

Syaau / Apple

Nariwal / Coconut

Kagati / Lemon

Suntalaa / Orange

Masu / Meat

Macha / Fish

Kasi / Goat

Kalo chiya / Black tea

Dudh chiya / Milk tea

Kalo coffee / Black coffee

Pani / water

Which

How

How (of quality)

Tasty / Not tasty

Fried

Boiled

Salty

Sweet

Sour

Bitter

Spicy

Gajur / Carrots

Bandakobi / Cabbage

Makai / Corn

Kerau / Peas

Pyaaaj / Onion

Kaankro / Cucumber

Coursani / Chili

Bhatamas / Soybean

Dhal / Lentil

Kaju / Cashew

Bhat / Rice

Daihee / Yogurt

Chapati / Bread (flat round)

Noon / Salt

Keraa / Banana

Angur / Grapes

Aanp / Mango

Mewaa / Papaya

Andaa / Egg

Kukhura / Chicken

Sungur / Pork

Kagatiko chiya / Lemon tea

Adhuwa chiya / Ginger tea

Dudh chiya / Milk tea

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

Dionso / Afternoon

Beluka / Evening

Raatri / Night

Subha raatri

Good night

Kati bhajyo?

What time is it?

Ek 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

Idiomatic use of Bhaiyo

If someone asks is something was done, to indicate it was, simply answer 'bhaiyo'

If someone is serving you food, to indicate enough, answer 'bhaiyo'

Ke bhaiyo

Abera bhaiyo

What happened?

It's late

Different ways to say Yes / No

1. Cha / Chainna

ex. Chiya Cha?

To Locate something on you, to have something

ex. Chiya Cha?

2. Ho / Hoina

ex. Yo Thamel ho?

To state facts, truths, to define, to be or not to be

Is this Thamel (tourist area of Kathmandu)?

3. Huncha / Hunna

ex. Momo khamne? Huncha.

To agree to do/not do something, some action

Shall we eat momos (dumplings)? Yes, let's eat.

Cha / Chainna & Ho / Hoina are also the active verb form for 'to be' conjugated as 'I am / You are / He is. You can add 'ho' or 'cha' to make simple sentences.

Simple sample sentences

Thamel, kahaang ho?

Where is Thamel?

Kahaang jane?

Where are you going?

Esko kati parcha?

How much does this cost? (useful in stores)

Kati ho?

How much? (useful for asking taxi drivers)

Kahile jane? / kahile khamne?

When are we going? When are we eating?

Tapaiiko ghar kahaang ho?

Where is your home?

Mero ghar America-ma ho

My home is in America

Ma ali-ali Nepali bolchu

I only speak a little Nepali

Bistaari bhannus

Please speak slowly

Tapaiiko bihe bhaiyo?

Are you married? (your marriage happened?)

Mero bihe bhaiyo / bhayeko chaina? (happened)

I am married / not married. (My marriage

Ma American hun

I am American

Jomsom jane baato kun ho? (road)

Which is the road to Jomsom? (Jomsom going

Ali sastoma dinus

Please give it a little cheaper

Dherai mahango bhaiyo

It's very (too) expensive

Yo / tyo ke ho?

What is this / that?

Ek raatiko kati ho?

How much for one night?

Feelings and Emotions

Ma _____ lagyo / lagena.

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 _____ चाहिन्छ।

I need _____ .

Malai _____ चाहिंदैन।

I don't need _____ .

Tapailai kasto chha?

How are you (fomal)

Sanchai chhu

I'm fine

Tapaille nam ke ho?

What is your name?

Mero nam John ho

My name is John

Kati barsha pughubayo?

How old are you?

Bis barsha pugun

I am 20 years old

Dinu-has

Give me

I don't know

Thaha chhaina

Good/pretty/nice

Ramro

I don't need it

Malai chhaina

I don't have it

Masanga chhaina

Wait a minute

ek chin parkhanos

Help!

Guhar

Where is there a toilet?

Shauchhalaya kahar chha

I don't feel well

malai sancho chhaina

Medicine

ausadhi

I have diarrhea

dishaa lagyo

I have altitude sickness

lekh lagyo

I have a fever

joro ayo

I have...

malaai lagyo

- asthma

damko byatha

- diabetes

madhumeha

- epilepsy

chare rog