

FARSI / PERSIAN / DARI

Farsi, the official language spoken in Iran, is also called Persian, and its eastern variety, spoken as the official language in Afghanistan, is known as Dari. Farsi is spoken in Pakistan as well. All told, there are over 61-71 million native speakers of Farsi. Like English, Farsi is an Indo-European language, though it is closer to Hindi and Urdu than to English, and it makes use of the Arabic rather than the Latin script. Note, however, that Arabic and Farsi belong to different language families. Arabic is an Afro-Asiatic language.

Grammar

- Farsi adheres mainly to Subject-Object-Verb word order. However, case endings (e.g. for subject, object, etc.) expressed via suffixes may allow users to vary word order. Verbs agree with the subject in person and number.
- Almost 50% of Farsi words come from Arabic, but it has also borrowed words from English, French, and Turkic languages.
- Pluralization in Farsi is produced via suffixes.
- Farsi nouns do not indicate gender via grammar.
- In Farsi the question word *aya*, which indicates the posing of a yes/no question, appears at the beginning of a sentence.
- Adjectives generally follow the nouns they modify.
- Verbs in Farsi have two basic stems—one present and one past—and tend to be regular.
- Pronouns are not essential in a Farsi sentence, as verb endings provide information about the subject. *Goes home* would be an acceptable utterance in Farsi.
- The verb system in Farsi allows for subtle meanings to be expressed through prefixes and suffixes rather than through modals.

Pronunciation

- Farsi has six vowel sounds and 23 consonant sounds. The writing system, however, does not necessarily reveal the sounds of vowels. In other words, the vowel sound may be contained within a letter, so that the name *Mohamed* may be represented in English somewhat like *Mhmd*. Consonants which appear at the beginning versus the middle or the end of a word will usually take on a different shape.

- Most syllables in Farsi are made up of a Consonant-Vowel-Consonant order.
- Farsi does not allow for two vowels to be placed adjacent to each other. They must be separated by glottal stop (the sound between syllables in *uh-oh*) or *y* as in *mi-gu-?i* or *mi-gu-yi* (*you are saying*).
- Stress falls on either the derivational suffix or the base word as in *dast* (hand) to *dast-é* (handle) or on the plural marker (*ketab* or *book* to *ketabhá* or books)
- The last syllable of a word in Farsi usually receives the stress.

English Expression	Farsi Equivalent	Farsi Pronunciation
yes	بلی	bā' lā
no	نه	nā
please	خواهش می‌کنم	khā-hēsh' mē-kō'-nām
thank you	متشکرم	mō-thā'-shā-kēr'-ām
you're welcome	خواهش می‌کدم	khā-hāsh' mē kō'-nām
hello	سلام	sā-lām'
good-bye	خداحافظ	khō'-dā hā'-fēz
do you understand	می‌فهمی؟	mē fāh'-mē
I don't understand	من نمی‌فهمم	mān nā-mē-fāh'-mām
how are you	حال شما چطور است	hā lā-tān' chā-tōr' āst
sit down	بنشین	bē'-shēn
listen	گوش بده	gūsh bē'-dē
are you okay	خوبی؟	khū'-bē
good	خوب	<u>khūb</u>
correct	صحیح	sā-hē'
homework	مشق	māshgh
teacher	معلم	mō-ā-lēm'
happy birthday	تولدت مبارک	tā'-vā-lō-dāt mō-bā-rāk'
excuse me	ببخشید مرا	bā-bākh'-shēd mā-rō'
I'm sorry	مغذرت می‌خواهم	mā-zē-rāt' mē'-khā-hēm
what is your name	اسم شما چیست؟	ās'-mē shō'-mā chēst
Farsi	فارسی	fār-sē'
Dari	□ □□	dā'-rē
English	انگلیسی	ān-glē-sē'