

## EASY NEPALI

This guide is to help volunteers get a kick-start into speaking Nepali. I am not fluent. These notes will not be grammatically correct and they are no substitute for taking lessons. They will I hope give you confidence to start speaking and communicating which will enhance your in country experience and build relationships in your work. Remember in the villages Nepali may not be the hosts' first language so a simplified form may be the answer.

### Meet & Greet

Most common is **Namaste**, used everywhere for hello and goodbye.

**Namascar** is used when being very respectful.

**Hajur** is also useful it is polite can be used to say yes, I beg your pardon after being addressed, agreed or hello anyone there

**Sanchhai chha?** Are you well?

Reply would be **sanchaai chha, tapaaailaai ni?** I am well and you?

For cheeky kids ask **ke chha?** How's it going? Answer normally Tik chha: fine

**Hunchha** – another way to say 'okay' instead of **Tik chha**

**Pheri bethola** – See you again.

Frequent questions:

**Tappaiko desh/ghar kahuna ho?** Where are you from/which country are you from.

Answer: **Mero ghar England maa ho.** I am from England.

**Kati mahina/barsa Nepalmaa basnuhunchha** How long are you staying in Nepal?

Answer: Ma xx mahina (months) Nepalmaa basne.

**Khaane khaanubhayo?** Have you eaten? Answer **Khaeko chhu** I have eaten

**Dhanyabaad** Thank you – (note Nepalese do not say thank you unless very very grateful. Just being polite is the norm)

### Verb Forms

Forget the infinitive

Use <b>.ne</b> for present and immediate future	e.g. <b>dinne</b>	give
Use <b>na...</b> for negative	<b>nadinne</b>	do not give
Use <b>.....eko</b> for past	<b>dinneko</b>	gave
Use <b>.... nos</b> for polite request	<b>dinos</b>	please give

### Useful verbs:

<b>linne</b>	take	
<b>khanne</b>	eat	
<b>umaalne</b>	boil	<b>umaaleko paani</b> = boiled water
<b>jaanne</b>	go	past is <b>gaeko</b>
<b>aaune</b>	come	
<b>basne</b>	sit/stay	
<b>kaTne</b>	cut	

<b>raakhne</b>	put
<b>bolne</b>	speak
<b>painchha</b>	available (..... painchha – is.....available)
<b>kaam garnu</b>	work ( <b>ma NGO sanga kamma garne</b> – I work with an NGO)

**Pronouns** (place at the front of a sentence to show who are referring to e.g. **Ma khanne** – I eat/  
Tapaai khanne – you eat)

I	<b>ma (mero – mine)</b>
You	<b>tapaai (plural – tapaaiharuru)</b>
He She	<b>wahaa</b>
We	<b>hami</b>

### Positions/Adjectives

big	<b>Thulo</b>
small	<b>saano</b>
long	<b>laamo</b>
tall	<b>aglo</b>
here	<b>yahaa</b>
there	<b>tyahaa</b>
above/up	<b>maathi</b>
To/in/on	<b>...maa (Pokharamaa – in Pokhara/ to Pokhara)</b>
To (a person)	<b>....laai (e.g. tapaailai/malaai)</b>
Of	<b>....ko (e.g. tapaaiko – yours, ek sisi cokeko- one bottle of coke)</b>
low/down	<b>tallo</b>
equal/level	<b>saama</b>
on	<b>maathi</b>
all	<b>sabai</b>
straight	<b>sojho</b>
dry	<b>seko</b>
good	<b>ramro</b>
bad	<b>naramro</b>

### Questions

<b>ke</b>	what
<b>ko</b>	who
<b>kahile</b>	when
<b>kati</b>	how much
<b>kati parchha</b>	how much does it cost
<b>kati bhayo</b>	how much altogether.
<b>kahaa</b>	where

### Family

<b>baa</b>	father	<b>aama</b>	mother
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<b>daai</b>	elder brother (also respectful)	<b>bhai</b>	younger brother (use for kids)
<b>didi</b>	elder sister (also respectful)	<b>bahini</b>	younger sister
<b>keTa</b>	boy	<b>keTi</b>	girl

### A Few Numbers

<b>ek</b>	1	<b>paach</b>	5
<b>das</b>	10	<b>pandhara</b>	15
<b>bis</b>	20	<b>pachchis</b>	25
<b>pachaas</b>	25	<b>sae, saya</b>	100
<b>hajaar</b>	1000	<b>lakh</b>	100,000
<b>aade</b>	half (a kilo)	<b>saade ek</b>	1 kilo and a half

### Other Useful

<b>chha</b>	there is	<b>chhaina</b>	is not
<b>chaahinchha</b>	needed	<b>chaahidaina</b>	isn't needed
<b>bhae saakyo</b>	finished		
<b>malaai</b> .....	<b>laagyo</b>	I am feeling something eg.g. tired/thirsty/ etc	
<b>...bhayo</b>		is useful meaning its gone/finished/happened	
<b>pugyo</b>	enough (useful before another load of rice is put on your plate)		
<b>aaja</b>	today		
<b>boli</b>	tomorrow		
<b>parsi</b>	day after tomorrow		
<b>boli parsi</b>	sometime in the future		

### Food

<b>chiyaa</b>	tea (kaalo – black; dudko – with milk)
<b>aalu</b>	potato
<b>kaauli</b>	cauliflower
<b>Taarkari</b>	vegetables (cooked)
<b>masaau</b>	meat ( <b>ma masaau nakhanne</b> – I don't eat meat)
<b>bhaat or khaana</b>	cooked rice
<b>roti</b>	bread (like chaapati; <b>paauroroti</b> – sliced bread)
<b>saag</b>	spinach
<b>phul</b>	egg
<b>phalpul</b>	fruit
<b>keraa</b>	banana
<b>syaau</b>	apple
<b>suntalaa</b>	orange
<b>agur</b>	grapes
<b>Dudh</b>	milk
<b>Dahi</b>	yoghurt
<b>mahango</b>	expensive

**sasto** cheap (... **chha** – it is...)  
**miTo chha** it is pleasantly tasty (**ekdam** – very)  
**piro** spicy  
**malaai...man parchha** I like...

### Building Vocabulary

<b>inchi</b>	inch	<b>boraa</b>	sack
<b>rebar</b>	reinforcement	<b>tar</b>	wire
<b>maaTo</b>	soil	<b>baluwa</b>	sand
<b>gritti</b>	aggregate(stones)	<b>kodaalo</b>	spade
<b>mitri</b>	tradesman	<b>rakne</b>	put
<b>phitne</b>	stir /mix	<b>banne</b>	to be made
<b>phutne</b>	hit/tamp	<b>sol</b>	layer/course
<b>jhyaal</b>	window	<b>Dhokaa</b>	door
<b>samma parne</b>	make level	<b>roDaa</b>	concrete
<b>bhui tala</b>	ground floor	<b>chaano</b>	roof

Anything else – go for it or drop in the English word.