

# Introducing Some Hindi words

Hindi is the national language of India; but, it is one of several languages spoken in different parts of the sub-continent. 'National' should be understood as meaning the 'official' or 'link' language. The homeland of Hindi is in the North of India, but it is studied, taught, spoken and understood widely throughout the sub-continent, whether as mother tongue or as a second or a language. There are two features in Hindi characters that require special attention (as these do not occur in English): first is the contrast between aspirated and non-aspirated consonants, and the second is that between dental and retroflex consonants.

Aspirated consonants are those produced with an audible expulsion of breath and non-aspirated are pronounced with minimal breath. Hindi distinguishes unaspirated 'ka' and 'ta' from aspirated 'kha' and 'tha'.