

Urdu

اردو

Spoken in: India, Pakistan and 19 other countries.

Total speakers: 104 Million

Genetic Classification: Indo-European Indo-Iranian Indo-Aryan Central Zone Western Hindi Hindustani Urdu

Official language of: India, Pakistan

Urdu is an Indo-European language that originated in India; there are about 104 million speakers, including those who speak it as a second language. It is the national language of Pakistan and is closely related to Hindi, though a lot of Urdu vocabulary comes from Persian and Arabic, which is not the case for Hindi.

Urdu is also spoken in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, India, Malawi, Mauritius, Nepal, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, the UAE, the UK and Zambia.

Urdu has a vocabulary rich in words with Indian and Middle Eastern origins. The Urdu language is dominated by words from Hindi, Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian. There are also a number of borrowings from Turkish, Portuguese and English.

Urdu has been written with a version of the Perso-Arabic script since the 12th century.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 4 Urdu sessional interpreters

Urdu alphabet

چ	جھ	ج	ث	ٹھ	ٹ	تھ	ت	پھ	پ	بھ	ب	ا
چے	جھے	جیم	ٹھے	ٹھے	ٹے	تھے	تے	پھے	پے	بھے	بے	آلف
ce	jhe	jīm	se	the	ṭe	the	te	phe	pe	bhe	be	alif
c	jh	j	s	th	ṭ	th	t	ph	p	bh	b	-
[tʃ]	[dʒʰ]	[dʒ]	[s]	[tʰ]	[t]	[tʰ]	[t]	[pʰ]	[p]	[bʰ]	[b]	[ɑ/a]

ڑ	ز	ڑھ	ڑ	ر	ذ	ڈھ	ڈ	دھ	د	خ	ح	چھ
ڑے	زے	ڑھے	ڑے	رے	ذال	ڈھال	ڈال	دھال	دال	نے	بڑی	چھے
že	ze	rhe	re	re	zāl	dhāl	dāl	dhāl	dāl	xe	barī he	che
ž	z	rhe	r	r	z	dhāl	d	dh	d	x	h	ch
[ʒ]	[z]	[rʰ]	[r]	[r]	[z]	[dʰ]	[d]	[dʰ]	[d]	[x]	[h]	[tʃʰ]

گ	کھ	ک	ق	ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش	س
گاف	کھے	کاف	قاف	فے	غین	عین	ظاے	طاے	ضا	صا	شین	سین
gāf	khe	kāf	qāf	fe	ġain	ʿain	zoe	toe	zvād	svād	šīn	sīn
g	kh	k	q	f	ġ	ʿ	z	t	z	s	š	s
[g]	[kʰ]	[k]	[q]	[f]	[ɣ]	C_[ɑ]; [Ø/ʔ/a]	[z]	[t]	[z]	[s]	[ʃ]	[s]

گھ	ل	م	ن	و	ہ	ھ	ی	ے	ء
گھے	لام	میم	نون	واو	چوٹی بے	دو چشمی بے	چوٹی بے	تری بے	حجرہ
ghe	lām	mīm	nūn	vāū	choṭī he	do chashmī he	choṭī he	barī ye	hamzah
gh	l	m	n	v	/_#	indicates	/_#	vowel	separator
[gʰ]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[v/u/v o/ow]	[h, Ø]	[j/i/e/ɛ]	[j/i/e/ɛ]	[j/i/e/ɛ]	[j/i/e/ɛ]