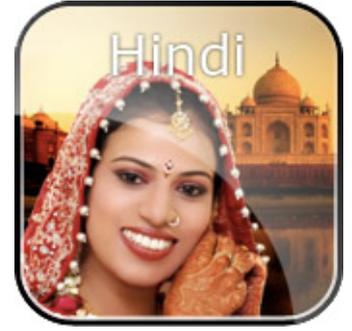




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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 1: How to Say Thank You in Hindi dhanyavaad

LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination may be, manners are a must! And in this respect, India is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be teaching you a simple phrase that is bound to come in handy throughout your trip to India. I can't stress this enough, a little a bit of language can go such a long way!

In Hindi, "Thank you" is dhanyavaad.

You can emphasize dhanyavaad by adding bahut, which literally means "very much." You could say bahut dhanyavaad, which would be equivalent to "Thank you very much," or "Thanks a lot."

In Hindi, there are other ways to express one's gratitude. dhanyavaad derives from Sanskrit, and it's felt as quite formal. That's why some people prefer to use Urdu expressions, which are felt as more colloquial.

A more colloquial expression for "Thank you" in Hindi is shukriyaa. Also, shukriyaa can be preceded by bauht, which means "very much."

PHRASES

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
धन्यवाद	dhanyavaad	Formal "Thank you."
बहुत धन्यवाद	bahut dhanyavaad	Formal "Thank you very much."
शुक्रिया	shukriyaa	Colloquial "Thank you."
बहुत शुक्रिया	bahut shukriyaa	Colloquial "Thank you very much."

VOCABULARY

Devan#gar#	Romanization	English
बहुत	bahut	very much

QUICK TIP

By far, shukriyaa and dhanyavaad are the most common ways to say "Thank you." Remember anyway that the Hindi language has different conventions. Thus, Hindi speakers mostly prefer to use dhanyavaad and other expressions of gratitude only when they really mean it and not as an ordinary form of politeness. This is because politeness is already expressed by the polite form of pronouns and verbs.

You can say shukriyaa or dhanyavaad when the waiter brings your food or drinks, when the clerk in the hotel takes your luggage to your room, or when somebody welcomes you or congratulates you. But not all people will do the same or answer you back. This does not mean they are impolite: they just have a different way to show it.

QUICK TIP 2

You will find that Hindi has many equivalent synonyms for a single word, just like shukriyaa and dhanyavaad, out of which one always sounds more colloquial. This is because in colloquial Hindi, speakers often prefer to use the Urdu vocabulary. In this case, for example, dhanyavaad derives from Sanskrit, while shukriyaa is an Arabic loanword used in Urdu. The first one sounds more formal, or "pure" as native speakers would say. The second one is more common in colloquial contexts or with Muslim people.