Handy Hindi Hints - 2.
Selected Hindi Prefixes and Other Word Formation Elements

First Draft. May 2013

Introduction

Hindi word formation is a wide and complex lexical and morphological field. The following two studies will cover some aspects of word formation of special interest and potential benefit for learners of Hindi as a Second Language. They are offered in Draft form, in the hope that those more knowledgeable will send me their corrections and suggestions in order to make this amateur compilation more accurate and useful for myself and for fellow intermediate students of Hindi.

* After four years of study, I remain deeply engaged in a time- and energy-sapping struggle with this fascinating but quite difficult foreign language. Some of my previous language-learning strategies have proved very useful in keeping me on a slowly productive learning curve but the extreme foreignness of Hindi script, vocabulary, morphology and grammar has presented a formidable linguistic Himalayan range to scale and here I am, still exploring the foothills. All these Handy Hindi Hints articles are therefore basically for my own benefit, but the considerable work involved makes the results potentially worth sharing with others on the same long trek.

One of the special difficulties for speakers of English (and many other languages) is that Hindi vocabulary does not offer any of the usual convenient and comforting ‘toeholds’ or mnemonics which are available to us in our attempts to speed up comprehension of the foreign languages we are most likely to learn: the European Romance Languages. A large quantity of words passed down from Latin are still easily and instantly comprehensible to us in these languages.

This applies most particularly to those words and word families containing familiar prefixes and suffixes, like con-, dis-, mis-, pre-, pro-, un- etc. and -ate, -ary, -ful, -ive, -ous, -tion, -sion, -tia, etc.

As a simple example of the practical value of this shared knowledge, take the word constitution with its prefix, con- and suffix, -tion. In many countries of Europe, and beyond, the corresponding term is instantly identified (especially in its written form): constitution (French), constitución, costituzione, constituição, constitució and constituție, etc. Equal similarities apply to most other words containing the affixes con- and -tion and, indeed, to many other cognate Latin (and other) prefixes and suffixes.

This is a valuable learning advantage that the second language learner probably takes for granted while wrestling with the many very real problems of the foreign language.

In learning Hindi, however, NONE of these basic similarities exist and as a consequence, most native Hindi words have to be individually committed to memory. This is such a huge task that the only way to make satisfactory progress is to find shortcuts.

One obvious strategy is to systematise one’s lexical acquisitions by studying the morphology of Hindi word formation in order to build up an appreciation of Hindi word families by memorising common prefixes, suffixes and any other frequently used word-compounding elements like those I shall be introducing in this academically unorthodox but (I hope) learner-friendly study.
So, this article and the following one will deal with detailed analyses of these two types of word formation in Hindi.

1. Words which consist of the addition of a particle (prefix) or an existing word to an existing word or ‘word base’ to form semantically related words.

2. Other selected word formations which consist of a suffix, or compounding word or element appended to an existing word. These words and compounds will be the subject of Handy Hindi Hints 3.

3. (July 2014)
My later annotated list of 100 Hindi Postpositions, which Google is ignoring, is also available on this website and may interest readers of the present study (which has had over 4,000 “hits” in just over one year).

http://www.briansteel.net/writings/india/bs_teelhindi5_postpositions.pdf

Notes
1. Because words with prefixes (and other preliminary elements) appear in dictionaries in alphabetical order, they can easily be looked up and studied. The ones offered below have been selected from my own extensive romanised Hindi-English glossary and romanised reference works like the ones acknowledged below.

In contrast, the detailed contents of my forthcoming second glossary dealing in a similar fashion with selected suffixes and other end-compound elements has had to be compiled more laboriously from study, reading and listening. The resulting word harvest may, therefore, be even more useful as a lexical shortcut for fellow learners of Hindi.

Where it may not be obvious, the meaning of the Hindi word base to which a prefix or COMPOUND has been added is listed in brackets following the compound.

Associating the pairs, as well as noting the effect of the prefix or compounding element, allows us to accelerate vocabulary comprehension.
(Approximately 800 of these are offered, here, together with their English translation and an indication of the meaning of the ‘base word’.)

3. Some Hindi prefixes are credited by lexicographers with a very wide range of semantic content. These choices sometimes present comprehension problems for learners of Hindi, as the reader will notice in this analysis.

For example, for the prefix anu- the following descriptors are offered in two of my favourite dictionaries: anu-, “after, afterwards, like, repeatedly, towards, etc.” (Allied’s H-E Dictionary) “towards, near, excellent” (B. Kapoor).

Also to be considered is the fact that many words beginning with anu- (for example) do not contain the prefix but the different syllable combinations: a-nu and an-u. This is helpfully indicated in Allied’s H-E dictionary and also in B. Kapoor’s recent dictionary, in their presentation of the romanised forms of the Devanagari words for our benefit.

Acknowledgements
(See Reference List at the end of this article for publishing details.)

In my study of the lexicon of written and spoken media Hindi, I have been especially aided by the authors of two excellent bilingual romanised dictionaries:

Hardev Bahri, Rajjpal Advanced Learner’s Hindi-English Dictionary, 2 vols., Delhi,
Rajpal Publishing, 2011. (In Vol. 2, there are Appendices on Prefixes (upsarg) on pp. 1767-1771 and on Suffixes (pratyay) on pp. 1772-1778.)

*Allied’s Hindi-English Dictionary*, edited by Henk Wagenaar and Sangeeta S. Parikh (New Delhi, Allied Publishers, 1996.)

For some months I have also had the luxury of referring to the bilingual Hindi and English Thesaurus by Arvind Kumar (both the online version and the printed one) and in the last three months, I have also benefitted from the recent research and romanised renderings offered in Dr. Badrinaath Kapoor’s *Advanced Hindi-English Dictionary* (New Delhi, Prabhaat Prakaashan, 2007).

Of the Hindi grammars I have consulted, the most thorough treatment of prefixes and suffixes is in Professor Yamuna Kachru’s magisterial study, *Hindi* (John Benjamins, Amsterdam, 2006, Chapter 8, ‘Word Formation’, pp 111-129. This very densely packed chapter also deals with other characteristic forms of lexical compounding in Hindi which learner need to know

Also invaluable in my initial Hindi studies and as a constant reference point was R.S.McGregor’s enduring classic analysis, *Outline of Hindi Grammar*, OUP, 3rd. ed., 1995. His treatment of word formation affixes (pp 207-215) is a useful starting point on these topics.

I am also grateful to my tutor, Indramohan Singh, for timely answers to a series of last-minute queries.

*Abbreviations*

(Ar) Arabic
(H) Hindi
(P) Persian
(PA) Perso-Arabic
(S) Sanskrit
(U) Urdu

atr attribute

Allied: Allied’s Hindi-English Dictionary  
HB: Hardev Bahri  
BK: Badrinaath Kapoor  
YK: Yamuna Kachru  
McG: R.S. McGregor  
RS: Rupert Snell  
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Selected Hindi Prefixes and Other Initial Compounding Elements

Classification
(Definitions in inverted commas are from YK.)

1. Negatives, antonyms, opposition

a-, “not, without”
an-, ana-, “not, without”
ap-
badh-
be-
du/a/- : + dur-, dush- “bad, difficult”
gair
ku-, “bad, deficient”
laa-
naa-
ni-
ni-/nir-, nis-, nish-, “without”
par- other
prati- 1. against
vi-. 1. “different, opposite”
[vi-2, : See’Section 5.]

2. Positive

su-, good
sat-, sad-, true
dharm (COMPOUND)

3. Number, quantity, size

alp (COMPOUND), small
adh-, and ardh-, half
bahu- (C) multi-, poly-

ek-, one
du- (do-), two-
dvi-, two, twin
tri-, three-

4. References to place, position, order and time (similar to some English prepositions and prefixes)

(The brief introductory glosses given below are from Professor Yamuna Kachru, pp. 112-113. Those with square brackets are not listed in Kachru’s selection.)
aa-, “to, toward, up to”
abhi-, “toward, intensity”
adhi-, “additional, above”
[adho-, lower]
aNta/h, aNtar, “inter”
au-, “after”
ap-, “away, off, down”
at-, “excessive”
av-, “away, diminution”
door-, far, distant
[nav-, new(ly), neo-]

pari-, “around, whole”
[poorv-, (time): former, previous
(Place): east(ern)]
pra-, 1. before, pre-, forward
[pra-, 2. excellent. supreme. See Section 5.]
[punah and punar-, [re-]

up(a-), up(i)-, “subordinate”
ut, ud-, un-, “upward”
[sah-, with, co-]
[baa-, containing, with]
saN-, with, together
[san- / sam-, same, equal]

5. Intensity or degree

[poorn-, full(y)]
pra- 2. “forward, excess”
[vi- 2. completely]
[saarv-, sarv-, all-]

6. Similar COMPOUND elements indicating scale, rank and intensity

madhya-, (C) medium, middle-
madhyaam, (C) medium
mukhya- . chief, main
raaj-, royal
vishva (C), universal, world
7. Personal

aatma- (C), self-
sva(a)-, self, own
praan- (C), life-
yog (C), combination, joining, yoga
mano-, mental, psycho-

8. Selected productive compounding words

8.1 Elements

agni (C), fire
bhoo, (C) and bhoomi (C), land, soil
jal (C), water
vaayu (C) air

8.2 People

jan (C), people
lok (C), people
jeev (C), & jeevan (C)
jaat (C) & jaati (C)
arth, (C), money; meaning
raashtra, (C) nation

8.3 Action Compounds

kaarya (C), work, action
kriyaa (C) action
krit-, done
Hindi Prefixes and word formation
Compounds

1. Negatives, antonyms, opposition

a- (See also an-, ana-)
Semantic indicators: un-, not, opposite of X, without X.

abhaaghyaa bad luck (bhaaghyaa, luck)
abhaaarteey, non-Indian (Indian)
abhaav, m, deficiency, lack (bhaav, emotion; price)
abhautik, non-material (material)
abhay, fearless, secure (fear)
adarshan, invisible (darshan, seeing)
agyaan, m, ignorance (knowledge)
ahiNsaa, non-violence (violence)
ajeet, undefeated (victory)
akeerti, disgrace (fame)
akushal, unskilled (skilful)
anaitik, unethical (moral, ethical)
apraasaNgik, irrelevant (relevant)
apraapt, unachieved (received)
apoorn, incomplete (complete)
asahkaar, m, non-cooperation (non+ co- + work) (An example of a double prefix)
asthaayeey, temporary (permanent)
avijaayantik, unscientific (scientific)
avaaNchhneey, undesirable (desirable)

an- / ana- , un-, in-, etc.
Semantic indicators: un-, not, opposite of X, without X.

an-
anadaar, lack of respect, disrespect (respect)
anakraman, m, non-aggression
anankool, unsuitable (favourable)
ananya, identical, unique (other)
anapekshit, unexpected (required)
anapraadhee, innocent (criminal)
anchaahaa, unwanted (wanted)

anmol, invaluable (value)
anpar/h, illiterate (literate)
anunaa, unheard, ignored (heard)
anuchit, improper (proper)
anupasthit, absent (present)

ana-
anabhigya, ignorant (known)
anadekhaa, unseen (seen)
ap-

The definition offered by Allied’s H- E Dictionary fits within this broad negative category.
“away, off, base, down, deterioration or inferiority”.

(A consensus by lexicographers labels this prefix as conveying the following content: un-, dis- away, down, opposite.)

apchakra, m, vicious circle (wheel)
apgaman, m, departure, disappearance (going)
apgati, f, misfortune, downfall (motion)
apjaat, degenerated (born)
apkarm, wrongdoing (deed)
apkeerti, defamation (keerti, fame)
apkrisht, bad, inferior (cultivated)
apmaan, insult, dishonour (honour, reputation)
apvaad, m, exception (cause)

bad-, bad, wicked (PA)

badboo, f, foul smell (smell, stink)
badmaash, m, hooligan, villain, rogue
badnaam, notorious (name)
badnaamee, f, notoriety (famous)
badqismat, ill-fated (destiny, fate)
badsoorat, ugly (face, looks)

be-, un-, dis-, -less, without, (P)

beadab, uncouth (respect)
bebuniyaad, unfounded (foundation)
beemaan, dishonest (honest)
beiNsaaf, unjust (just)
beginuaah, innocent (guilty)
beimaarat, unbuilt (built)
befikr, carefree (concern)
bematlab, meaningless (meaning)
berozgaar, unemployed (employed)
besharm, shameless (shame)

duh- [du:], negative, antonym, opposition

variants: dur-, dush-, English: mis-, dis-, mal-, bad

duh/saahas, m, audacity (courage)
duh/shaasan m, maladministration (administration)
duh/sheel, insolence (disposition)
duh/svapna, nightmare (dream)

dur-
duraachaa, misconduct (conduct)
durbhaagya, m, bad luck (luck)
durbhaashaa, f, bad language
durbhaav, m, malice (emotion)
durghaarna, f, accident (incident)
durlabh, rare, scarce, unique (available)
durupyog, m, improper use, misuse, abuse (use)
durvivaah, bad marriage (marriage)

dush-, bad, different
dush-praapya, difficult to get (available)
dush prabhaav, bad effect (influence)
dushcharit, depravity (character)
dushkarm, bad work, bad action (work)
dushprachaar, propaganda (publicity)

gair-, non-, un-, in-, il- (PA)

usually with Perso-Arabic derived words (RS, p. 26)

gair-angrezee, un-English; gair-amreekee, un-American
gairhaazir, absent (present)
gairiNsaan, inhuman (human)
gairqaanoonee, illegal (legal)
gair-sarkaaree, non-governmental, unofficial

gair-sarkaaree saNgathan, NGO (organisation)
gair-siyaasee, non-political (political)

ku-, deterioration; negative; bad, deficient (PA)

kubuddhi, vicious (wisdom)
kuchaal, misconduct (conduct)
kuchakr, conspiracy (circle)
kudaul, ill-formed (shape)
kudrishhti, f, evil eye (sight)
kujaat, low caste (caste)
kukarm, bad deeds; -ee, doer of bad deeds
kukkhyaat, notorious (renowned)
kumaarg, bad path (road)
kupath, immoral ways (way)
kuprathaa, bad tradition / practice (tradition)
kuputr, m, bad / unworthy son (son)
kuroop, ugly (form)

laa-, -less, without, negative (PA)

laailaaj, incurable (cure)
lajjavaab, speechless (reply)
laparvaah, careless (care)
laapataa, lost (address); missing person, of unknown whereabouts

naa-, un-, not; without (P)

Ar for No?

naabaalig, underage, immature (adult)
naabaaligee, f, immaturity

naaiNsaafi, f, injustice (justice)
nakkaam, unsuccessful, useless (work)
nakhush, unhappy, displeased, upset
naalayaq, unworthy (worthy)
naaqaabil, incapable (able, qualified)

ni-,

Of several meanings given in dictionaries, I have selected examples of its use to convey a negative or opposite meaning.

nidar, fearless (fear)
nibal, weak (strong)
nidhaarak, fearless (fear)
nikrishit, worthless (cultivated)
nikharche, with no charge (karch, expense)
nirog, healthy, disease-free (disease)
nivrittee, retirement (profession)

nih-, nir-, nis-, nish-, un-, -less, without

nih-
nihshaNk, unsuspecting [h =:] (fear, alarm)
nihshesh, no remainder, whole (remainder)
nihshulk, (baccheN n.), (children) free of charge; no fee (fee)
nihshvaas, m, exhalation (breath)

nir-

(NB. A very large number of other words beginning with nir- have positive meanings, especially those with ni-r… structure, e.g. ni-rog)
niraadar, m, disrespect (respect)
niraadhaar, unfounded, baseless (base)
niraashaa, f, despair, frustration (hope)
nirakshar, illiterate, uneducated (letter)
niraNdh, absolutely blind (blind)
nirpradaahhe, innocent (criminal); nirarth, senseless, stupid (meaning)
nirarthak, meaningless, useless (meaningful)
nirbhay, fearless (fear)
nirbheek, courageous (frightened)
nirbuddhi, senseless (wisdom)
nirday, merciless (mercy)
nirdhan, poor (money)
nirdosh, innocent; faultless (guilty)
nirgun, without qualities, absolute (quality)
nirjeev, dead (jeev, alive)
nirutsaah, unenthusiastic, pessimistic (enthusiasm)
nirvirodh, unopposed opposition)
niryogya, disabled (qualified, able)

nis-
nissaNdeh, undoubtedly (doubt)
nissaNkoch, without restraint (contraction)
nissaNtaan, childless (progeny, children)
nissvaarth, selfless(ness) (selfishness)

nish-
nishchal, motionless (moving)
nishkaaran, without reason, gratuitously (reason)
nishkalaNk, immaculate (blemish)
nishkraman, m, evacuation, withdrawal (stepping in, passing)
nishkriy, inactive, inert, passive
nishpaap, free of sin, innocent(ly) (sin)
nishpaksh, unbiased, neutral (side)
nishphal, ineffective (fruit)
nishpraan(a), lifeless (breath, life)

par-, opposite, alien, other, someone else
parbhoomi, f, foreign or enemy country
pardesh, foreign country (country)
pardeshee, foreigner, stranger
pardhan, m, someone else’s money (wealth)
pardharm, m, another’s religion; other religion (religion)
parjaati, f, another’s caste
parlaukik, cosmic, transcendental (worldly)
parlok, m, the other / next world
parpurush, m, anotyher person; stranger

prati-, praty-, against, counter-
[also used as an independent word, every: prati din / varsh every day / year]
pratikriyaa, f, reaction (action)
pratipaksh, m, opposition, rival camp (side)
pratiprachaar, counterpropaganda (publicity)
pratiroop, counterpart (form)
prativachan, retort, reply (word, speech)
pratiyog. m, opposition, resistance
Note: *praty(a)-* has the same function:

pratyabhiyog, m, counter-charge (charge)
pratyadesh, m, counter-command (order)
pratyaashaa, f, expectation, anticipation (hope)
pratyuttar, m, counter-reply

**vi- A major prefix**

1. **distinction, difference**
2. **intensity (See Section 5.)**

**vi-, 1.** distinction, difference

vibhaag, m, department, bureau (bhaag, part)
vibhaashaa, m, dialect (language)
vibhinn, diverse. various, (different)
videsh, m, foreign country (country)
vidharm, someone else’s religion
vikaar, m, deviation
viketNrit, decentralised
vikesh, bald (hair)
vikrit, deformed (made)
vimaataa, f, stepmother (mother)
vimarsh, m, consultation (?)
vimat, disagreement (opinion)
vipaksh, m, opposite side; opposition (side)
vipatti, f, hardship (?)
viphal, fruitless

**2. Positives**

**su-, good, well- ; very**

sucharitra, virtuous character (character)
sudarshan, good-looking (seeing)
sudaal, well-built (daul, shape)
sugaNdh, f , fragrance (smell)
sugyaan, wisdom (knowledge)
sukaal, m, time of prosperity (time, age)
sukarm, m, good deeds (deed)
sukrit, m, good deed (done)
sukumaar, tender, youthful, delicate
sulabh, easily available (available)
sulaabh, m, advantage (profit)
sunaam, celebrity, fame (name)
supatr, worthy recipient (recipient)
suputr, good son (son)
suputree, good daughter
susaNgati, good company (company)
susaNskrit, urbane, very refined (cultured)
sushaasan, m, good government (administration)
susheel, good-natured (disposition)
suvyavasthaa, orderliness (arrangement)

**2. su-, very**

sudoor, remote (far)
sudrishya, highly visible (visible)
sunirmal, very clear (clear)
sunishchay, m, firm resolve, determination
surakshaa, security (protection)
sushaaNt, very peaceful (peaceful)
sushikshit, well/ highly educated (educated)
sushrut, well known (heard)

**sat, m, truth; true, good**

COMPOUND

**sat-, sad-, good, true**

satdarshee, m, seer of truth
satkarm, m, good deed
satkarmee, virtuous
satkrit, welcomed, done well
satkriyaat, f, virtue, charity (action)
satpath, m, path of virtue
satpurush, m, virtuous person
satsaNg, m, meeting with other (good) people
satphal, m, excellent result (fruit)
satprayaaas, sincere effort (effort)
satputr, m, good son
satsaNgati, f, true friendship
satya, truth
satyanaND, m, true bliss

**sad-, good**

sadaanaND, m, perpetual happiness (bliss)
sadbhaav, m, goodwill (emotion)
sadgun, m, virtue, qualities
sadguru, m, good / true teacher
sadupdesh, m, good advice (sermon)
sadupyoog, m, proper use (use)
sadyukti, f, sound reasoning (?)

**dhar**, m, duty, faith, religion

COMPOUND

dharmaadhaarit, religion-based
dharmaaatmaa, pious (soul)
dharmaadesha, m, commandment (order)
dharmaadhiikaaraan, court of justice
dharmaanuraag, m, religious zeal (attachment)
dharmdoot, apostle (envoy)
dharmdarshan, m, theology (seeing, audience)
dharmdriishti, m, sense of justice (vision)
dharmee, religious virtues
dharmkaary, m, religious duty (work, action)
dharm-karma, m, religious acts or conduct
dharmgranth, religious book, holy scripture (also: dharmpustak)
dharmik, religious
dharmmaataa, godmother
dharmmandir, m, religious temple
dharmnirapeksh, secular (neutral)
dharmnischth, devout (follower of religious faith)
dharmprachaarik, m, missionary (promoter)
dharm-parivartak, m, convert (change)
dharmputr, m, godson
dharm-svaaataNtra, m, freedom of religion
dharmNtra, m, theocracy (system)
dharmtyaagee, m, apostate (relinquer)
dharmvidhaan, m, canon law (constitution)
dharmyuddh, m, crusade (war)
dharmyug, m, golden age (Satyug)

3. **Number, quantity, size**

**alp**, small, short (in time) COMPOUND

alp-, small, short, under-
alpjaantaNtra, m, oligarchy (democracy)
alpjeevee, short-lived (alive)
alpviraam, m, comma (break)

alpsaNkhyaa, f, minority (number)
alpkaalik, ephemeral (temporal, timely)
alpvikaasit, underdeveloped (developed)

**adh- & ardh-**, semi-, half, demi-

adhjal, half full of water
adhkachchaa, half-baked
adhkachraa, unripe, premature
adhkhulaa, half-open
adhnaNgaar, half-naked
adhparh, semi-literate

ardhchakr, semicircle (circle, wheel)
ardh-sarkaaree, semi-official (official)
ardh-viraam, comma (stop, break)
ardh-vritt, m, semicircle (circle)

**bahu-**, multi-; poly-, many-

bahuhaashee, multilingual
bahujaan, majority (people)
bahujaanak, prolific (producer, producing)
bahumat, majority (opinion)
bahurashtreeey, multinational (national)
bahusaNkhya, f, majority (number)
bahusaNskritik, multicultural (cultural)
bahuuiyogee, versatile (useful)
bahuuvaachan, plural number (number)

**ek-**, **eka-** one ...

ekmat, unanimous (opinion)
ekbaashik, monolingual (adj and n.) (language, adj and n.)
eklinNg, unisex (sexual)
kekroop, uniform (form)
kekoota, uniformity (form)
eksvar, monotonous (tone)
ekta, m, unity (-taa, noun suffix)
ekNtra, m, autocracy (system)

**du-**, two (do-)

dugaanaa, m, duet (song)
dumaNzilaa, two-storeyed (storey)
duraNgaar, two-coloured (raNg, colour)
duvidhaa, uncertainty (in two minds)(form)
dobaaraa, twice
4. Place, position, order and time
(Similar in many cases to English prefixes and prepositions)

\textbf{aa-},
“to, toward, up to” (YK)
“up to, from, throughout, along with, etc.”
(Allied’s H-E Dictionary)

Yamuna Kachru examples:
aachaara, conduct
aagaman, arrival (going)
aajeewan, lifelong
aakarshan, attraction (karshan, m, pull)

From other dictionaries:
aakraman, attack (stepping, passing along)
aadaan, giving (donation)
aamaran, till death
aarakshaa, security (protection)
aavartan, m, recurrence (turning)
aavaas, m, residence (dwelling)

\textbf{abhi- “toward, intensity” (YK)}
As with some other Hindi prefixes, the semantic indicators offered by bilingual dictionaries cover a wide range, e.g. for \textit{abhi}, “towards, near, above, over, repeated, and excessive” (Allied’s H-E Dictionary). For that reason, fellow students of Hindi may find the following examples (and some others in this analysis) of limited use.

abhigyaan, realisation (knowledge)
abhijaat, noble (caste; born)
abhikriyaa, m, reaction (action)
abhilekh, m, transcript (article)
abhinyaas, m, layout (trust, deposit)
abhimaan, arrogance (dignity, value)
abhipreran, motivation (incentive)
abhisaNdhi, conspiracy (pact, union)
abhishlesan, m, agglutination (joining)
abhiyog, m, accusation (action)

\textbf{adhi-, additional, above, over}
adchicharm, m, epidermis (skin, cutis)
adhikaar, m, authority: right (work)
adhikaaree, official, officer, authority
adhikar, m, surtax, supertax (tax)
adhikarmee, m, foreman, superior (worker)
adhiyog, m, hierarchy (order)
adhiyog, m, authority (work)
adhiyog sootroN se, from official sources
adhiniyam, Act (rule)
adhisadasya, fellow (of official body)
(ad)member
adhisoochnaa(oN), schedule, regulations, (information)

\textbf{adho-, lower, under}
adhodhruveeye, sub-polar (Antarctic, polar)
adholikhit, undermentioned (written)
adhorsekhit, underlined (lined)
adhoastakaaksharee, the undersigned (signatory)
adhomoolyan, m, undervaluation (valuation)
adhekhit, underlined (lined)
adhivakttaa, m, advocate (speaker)

aNtaḥ- inter-, under-, within, internal inner, internal, interior, intro- endo-
aNtaḥaadesh, m, interim order (order)
aNtaḥkaal, m, transitional period (time, period)
aNtaḥkaleen, interim (temporal)
aNtaḥkaraṇ, inner self (senses)
aNtaḥpradeshik, interregional (regional)
aNtaḥpraṣṭa, interbred (bred)
aNtaḥpurush, m, inner man, God (man, person)
aNtaḥpravaah, m, influx, infusion (flow)
aNtaḥprekshā, introspection (observation)
aNtaḥshaashtreē, interdisciplinary (academic)
aNtaḥagraheey, interplanetary

and its variant sandhi forms:
aNta and aNtaś-
aNtaṛataama, inner self (soul, self)
aNtaṛdesheey, inland (adj) (domestic)
aNtaṛaśhtriyya, international (national)
aNtaṛgati, f, mental process (motion)
aNtaṛstaap, mental agony (heat)

anu-, after (some aanu-)
anugaman, m, following (going)
anukram, m, sequence (order)
anukramaṇa, m, succession (passing)
anukriyaa, f, response, reaction (action)
anulipi, f, transcript, duplicate (writing)
anumaan, m, estimate (value?)
anurekhān, m, tracing (line, drawing)
anushaasan, m, discipline (administration)
anuukramik, sequential, successive (orderly)

ati-, beyond, over, excessive
atichaar, transgression (YK)
atikaal, delay (time, period)

atikramaṇa, m, infringement, violation (stepping, passing along)
atilaghu, minute, tiny (very small)
atiimaatr, immoderate (size)
ativaad, extremism (cause)
ativishvaas, over-confidence (belief)

av-, down, below, de-, diminution,
avchay, m, defect ((heap)
avchetan, subconscious (the conscious mind)
avgun, vice, fault (quality)
avkaraṇ, m, reduction (making)
avkramaṇ, m, devolution (passing)
avmaan, m, contempt, humiliation (honour)
avmoolyan, devaluation (valuation)
avshesh, remnant (remaining)

door-, distant, far, tele-, remote
doordarshan, m, television (looking)
doordarshi, far-sighted
dooree, f, distance (noun suffix)
door poorv, m, the Far East
doorsaNchaar, m, telecommunication (communication)
dooraasēe, living far away, absentee-

nav, new(ly), novel; neo-, re-
navaachaar, m, innovation (conduct)
navavivaahita, newly-married
naveen, new, fresh, novel
naveekaraṇ, m, renewal, renovation (making)
naveentam, up-to-date, newest (-est)
naveentam prakaashan, latest publications
nav-galhit, newly founded (built)
najhaat, newborn (born)
navaarksvaad, m, neo-Marxism
navnirman, reconstruction (construction)
navi, vivaahit (yugal), newly married (couple)
pari-, around
paricharchaa, discussion (talk)
paridarsan, m, panoramic view (seeing)
paridrishya, m, landscape (scene)
paripath, circuit (path)
paripatr, circular, notification (newspaper)
parirekhaa, periphery (line)
parivahan (manTree), m, transport (carrying, vehicle)
parivardhan, m, development, growth (growing)

poorv-,  
1. pre-, ex-, previous  
2. eastern

poorv janma, m, previous birth  
poorv jeevan, previous life  
poorvabhyaas, rehearsal (training)  
oparivdaat, pre-paid  
oparvkaalik, ancient (temporal)  
oparvkalpit, preconceived (imagined)  
oparvkalpnaa, f, preconception (imagination)  
oparv-nishchit, premeditated (settled, definite)  
oparvvaayojit, pre-arranged (arranged)  
oparvsandhya, the eve (evening)  
oparvvritt, antecedent (account, circle)

[Place]  
poorvaa, east(ern); orient  
poorva deshi, oriental  
poorvee eshiyaaee, f, East Asia

pra-
Commonly offered semantic indicators are:  
1. before, pre-, pro-, forward  
(2. excellent or supreme. See Section 5.)

1.  
pragati, f, progress (motion)  
prajanak, progenitor (creator)  
prajanam, m, procreation, reproduction  
prakalpnaa, f, presumption, hypothesis (imagination)

prakaran, m, subject, prologue (making)  
prakrit, natural, spontaneous (made)  
prakathan, preface, foreword (story)  
prakriyaa, f, process (action)  
pravaktaa, spokesperson (speaker)

punah / punar,

punah-, again, re-, anew

punahanukooolan, m, readaptation (adaptation)  
punakekeekaran, reunification (unification)  
punakhray, m, repurchase (purchase)  
punah pravesh, re-entry (entry)  
punah sthaapit, reinstated (established)

punar-, again, re-

punaraaraMbh, m, resumption, fresh begg.  
punarapi, once more (also)  
punargathan, reorganisation (structure)  
punarjanm, reincarnation, rebirth (birth)  
punarniyukti, reappointment (appointment)  
punarsrijan, re-creation (creation)  
punarutpaadan, m, regeneration (production)  
punaruttar, m, retort (reply)  
punarutthaan, m, resurrection, rebirth (rising)  
punarvaas, rehabilitation, resettlement  
punarvichaar, reconsideration (thought)  
punarvilokan, review (sight, studying)

up(a)-, upi-, sub-, under, subordinate, pro-, vice- subsidiary

upadhyaaksh, m, Vice President, Vice-Chair(man) (president, etc.)

upbhaashaa, f, dialect (language)  
up-chunaav, by-election  
updaan, m, gratuity; subsidy (donation)  
uphaas, derision, ridicule (laughter)  
upjaati, f, sub-caste (caste)  
upkathaa, f, sub-plot (story)  
upmahaadveep, subcontinent  
upnaam, m, alias, pen name, nickname
upnagar, suburb (town)  upnetaa, deputy leader  upnideshak, deputy director  upnireekshak, sub inspector  upniyam, by-law (rule)  upraashtrapati, m, Vice- President  upsagar, m, bay, gulf (sea)  upsamiti, sub-committee  upsaNchaalak, m, deputy director  upsheershak, subtitles, sub-heading(s) (headline)  uptaNtra, m, sub-system (system)  upvan, park (forest)

**ut-, ud- and un-**

Professor Kachru defines the main meaning of the prefix forms *ut*, *ud*, and *un* as ‘upward’.

utkaNthaa, f, curiosity, (stretching neck upward: BK)

utkarsh, m, upward movement; eminence (BK) (pulling)

utkhanan, m, excavation (mining)

utkram, m, reversal, ascent (order)

utkriNshth, outstanding (cultivated)

utkshepan, m, ejection, throwing upward (BK)

utpaadan, m, production (?paad, m, produce)

udbhav, m, origin (existence)

udgam, m, rising (?going)

unmoolan, m, uprooting (mool, root)

unmukh, with upturned face (BK)

**sah-, with, co-, fellow-, together** (pron seh-, or saih)

sah-apraadhee, m, accomplice (criminal)

sahastrittva, co-existence (existence)

sahbaagee, co-partner, accomplice

sahcharya, life together, married life (routine)

sahgaan, m, chorus (singing)

sahgaman, m, self-immolation (of widow at cremation) (going)

sahjaat, born together, twins (born)

sahjeevan, m, symbiosis (life)

sahkaar, m, co-operation; co-op business (work, maker)

sahkarmee, fellow worker, colleague (worker)

sahkriya, f, synergism (action)

sahmat, agreed (opinion)

sahmatee, m, agreement

sah-shikshaa, f, coeducation

sahvaas, m, cohabitation (dwelling)

sahyaatree, fellow traveller

sahhyog, cooperation (action)

**baa-, with, having, containing (PA)**

baa-abroo, with honour (honour)

baa-adaab, with respect (respect)

baa-asar, effective (effect)

baa-izzat, respectfully (respect)

**saN-, with, together**

saNgeet, music (song)

saNgrah, m, collection (collection)

saNgharshaa, m, struggle (friction)

saNkeertan, m, collective song meeting (devotional singing)

saNkeNdraan, m, concentration (centring)

**sam, same, equal, even, whole**

samaaNtar, parallel, (difference)

sambhaar, of equal weight

sambhoomi, f, level ground

samdrishti, f, impartiality (sight)

samkaalik, contemporary (temporal)

samkaksh, m, equal, equivalent (side)

sammelan, m, conference (meeting)

samroop, identical, similar (form)

samsamaayik, contemporary (time)

samsthiti, f, constancy (condition)

samtal, level (surface)

samvedanaa, f, condolence (pain)

samvritti, analogous (circle)
5. Intensity or degree

poorn-, full, complete [and suffix: -poorn, -ful, full]

poorn nivojan, m, full employment
poorn viraam, full stop (stop, break)
poornaa, complete, full
poornahooti, f, final oblation
poornavaa, m, full avatar
poornakaaalik, full time
poornaroop, fully
poornimaa, f, night of full moon
poornntaa, f, perfection, wholeness (suffix: -ness)
poornyog, m, full sum, total (sum)

vi-, 2. complete, intensifier
(See also Section 1.)

vimoksha, total liberation (release)
vimukt, acquitted, released (released)
vimukti, f, complete release (liberation)
vinaash, m, total devastation (devastation)
vinaamrita, total modesty (modesty)
vishuddh, very pure (pure)
vikhyaat, renowned (famous)
vijay, triumph (victory)

6. COMPOUNDS: scale, rank and intensity

madhyaa, m, middle, mid-, average,
mean, middle, centre, medium
COMPOUND

madhyaakaal, m, medieval period; middle age(s)
madhyaakaaleen, medieval (period, age, -eval)
madhyaalok, the (middle) earth
madhyaavadhi chunaav, mid-term elections (period)
madhyaaavarg, m, middle class, bourgeois
madhyavargeeyataa, f, characteristics of middle class, bourgeois (suffixes)
madhyaa yug, m, middle ages
madhyayugeen, medieval (age)

madhyam, medium COMPOUND

madhyam varn, middle class
madhyamik, intermediate

mukhya, principal, chief, supreme,
major COMPOUND

mukhyaalay, m, headquarters, HQ (suffix)
mukhyataa, mainly (adverbial suffix)
mukhyadhaaraa, mainstream (stream)
mukhya kaaryakram, m, highlights (programme)
mukhya maarg, m, trunk road
mukhya maNtree, Chief Minister of a State
mukhya shaher, chief / capital city
mukhya sheershak, main headline

raaj, m, king, state, royal, rule, reign, excellence
COMPOUND

raaj parivaar, royal family
raajbhavan, governor’s house, palace (residence)
raajdhanee, f, capital (city)
raajdoot, ambassador (envoy)
raajdroh, m, sedition, treason (rebellion)
raajendra, emperor
raajkara, state tax, revenue (tax)
raajkumaar, prince (unmarried man)
raajkumaaree, princess (unmarried woman)
raajmaarg, National Highway (6, etc.) (road)
raajmaata, Queen Mother,
raajmahal, royal palace
raajpad, m, government position (post)
raajpath, highway (way)
raajpati, President (father)
raajtaNtra, m, monarchy (system)
raajvaNsh, m, dynasty

vishva, m, world, cosmos, universe
COMPOUND

vishva- universal, world (attribute), all, whole

vishvabhar, worldwide (fully)
vishva darshan, world tour (seeing)
vishvakosh, encyclopedia (dictionary)
Vishvanaath, Shiva (Lord)
vishvapoojit, universally worshipped
vishvaroop, universal, omnipresent, (Vishnu)
vishvavid, omniscient (knowing)
vishvavidyaalay, m, university (suffix)
vishvavikhyaat, world-renowned (famous)
vishvavayaapee, omnipresent (pervasive)
vishvavijay, world conquest (victory)

7. COMPOUNDS with personal connotations

aatma-, self-, auto-, aatmaa, f, soul, self)

aatmaabhmaaan, self-respect (pride)
aatmakathaa, f, autobiography (story)
aatmakNdit, self-centred
aatmaninyaNtran, self-control
aatmaasadvedan, m, selfconsciousness (feeling, sensation)
aatmashaakti, f, will-power
aatmatyaaga, self-sacrifice (sacrifice)

sva-, svaa- (less frequent)
self-, own, free

svaabhimaan, self-respect
svaadhyaay, private study
svaagat, welcome

svabhaashee, f, native language
svabhaav, m, temperament (emotion)
svachhaalit, automatic (door); automated
svadesh, one’s own country; native land
svadeshee, native, indigenous, local
svadeshpreemee, m, patriot (lover)
svaghoshit, self-proclaimed
svajaati, f, one’s own caste, race
svaroop, m, own shape, form, nature
svataNtra, free, independent, freelance (system)
svayaM, oneself, by oneself, etc.

praaN, f, life, vital breath, soul
COMPOUND

praaN-daNd, capital punishment, death sentence (punishment, penalty)
praanaayaaam, m, breath control (regulation; dimension)
praanghaat, m, assassination (killing)
praanheen, lifeless (suffix: without)
praanvaayu, f, oxygen (air)
praanvigyaan, m, zoology (science)
praanvyay, m, loss of life, death (cost, destruction)
yog, m, “total, sum total, recipe, combination, addition, joining, mixture, contribution, yoga (meditation and exercises)” (Allied’s H-E Dictionary)

“total, combination, connection, yoga” (B. Kapoor) COMPOUND

yogaasan, m, yoga posture (posture)
yogabhyaas, m, the practice of yoga
yogdaan, m, contribution (donation)
yogee, m, yogeenee, f, yoga practitioner
yogiraaj, m, ascetic (rule)
yogitaa, f, competition
yogphal, m, total, sum (fruit)
yogvid, m, one proficient in yoga (knowing)
yogya, qualified, capable
yogyataa, f, ability, qualification (knowing)

mano-, mental (man, m, mind)

manobhaav, emotion
manobhaNg, m, depression (split)
manoraaq, m, affection (emotion)
manoraNg, m, depression (split)
manorog, m, psychosis (illness)
manorogee, psychopath (patient)
manovigyaan, m, psychology (science)
manovishleshan, psychoanalysis (analysis)
manovritti, f, mentality (circle)
manovyaadhi, f, psychosis (sickness)
manoyog, m, concentration, single-mindedness (exercise)

8. Other productive compounding words

8.1 Elements

agni, f, fire COMPOUND

agnipiNNd, m, fireball (globe, body)
agnipoojah, m, fire worshipping
agni-pratishtha, f, fire-lighting ceremony
agnipravesh, m, immolation (entry)
agnisNskaar, m, cremation (rites)
agnishaamak, m, fire extinguisher (sedative)
agnishuddhi, f, purification by fire (purity)
agnyaastr, m, firearm (weapon, missile)

bhoo, f, earth, land, soil, world COMPOUND

bhooool, m, geography
bhookamp, m, earthquake (tremor)
bhookampvigyaan, m, seismology (science)
bhoomadhya-saagar, m, the Mediterranean sea (land-middle-sea)
bhoo raajasva, m, land revenue
bhooaigaanik, geologist (scientist)
bhoomaNikal, m, the globe (circle)
bhoomi, f, earth. land
bhoomidaar, m, land owner (suffix)
bhoomigaat, subterranean (gone)
bhoomi saMrakshan, soil conservation
bhoomikaa, f, background; preface
bhoomiyaa, m, landlord
bhoovigyaan, geology (science)

jal, m, water, hydro-, aqua- COMPOUND

jal aapoorti, water supply
jaldhaaraa, f, stream, current
jalkshetr, catchment area
jalpath, waterways (way)
jalprapaat, cascade, waterfall (waterfall)
jalsah, waterproof
jal senaa, f, navy
jalvaayu, m, climate (air)
jalvaayuparivartan, m, climate change
jalvaayuvigyaan, m, climatology (science); 
~ee, climate scientist
jal-vidyaa, f, hydrology (knowledge) 
jal-vidyuti, hydroelectricity (electricity)

vaayu, m, air COMPOUND

vaayu-, air
vaayudaab, air pressure
vaayugatik, aerodynamic (dynamic)
vaayumaNdal, m, atmosphere (circle)
vaayupath, air route, airways
vaayupati, air vice-marshal (father)
vaayusenaa, f, Air Force (army)

8.2 People & Society

jan, m, people, public, masses,
(Very productive in COMPOUNDS)

janaandolan, m, mass movement
(movement)
jan(a)taa, f, public, masses
janhit, public welfare/ interest (interest)
janlokpaal, People’s Protector
(Ombudsman, Protector)
janmat, public opinion (opinion)
janmat saNgrah, referendum (collection)
jannaash, m, hoocaust (destruction)
janpath, people’s (high)way (way)
janpreey, popular; -ataa, f, popularity
(loved)
janrakshaa, public safety
jan-roochi, f, public interest
jansabha, rally (assembly)
jan samooth, m, public group (group)
jansaMpark, m, public relations
(communication)
jansaNkhya, population (number)
jansevak, m, public servant (servant)
jantaNtra, m, democracy (system)

jannaash, m, holocaust (destruction)
janpath, people’s (high)way (way)
janpreey, popular; -ataa, f, popularity
(loved)
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jan-roochi, f, public interest
jansabha, rally (assembly)
jan samooth, m, public group (group)
jansaMpark, m, public relations
(communication)
jansaNkhya, population (number)
jansevak, m, public servant (servant)
jantaNtra, m, democracy (system)
jeevan-yaapan, m, spending one’s life

**jaat jaati** COMPOUND

jaat, f, nation, race, caste
jaat, born; -jaat (suffix), -born
jaat-bhaaee, caste brother
jaat-bhed, m, racial discrimination (difference)
jaat-prathaa, f, caste system (usage)
jaateey samudaay, ethnic community

jaati, f, community, race
jaati-karm, m, hereditary trade
jaatigat, racial, communal
jaati-ghrinya, f, racial hatred

**arth, m, money; meaning** COMPOUND

arthhaagam, m, proceeds (arrival, source)
arthkhar, profitable (making)
arthmaNtree, Finance Minister
arthshaastr, m, economics (science)
arthshaastrtree, economist
arthvyavasthaa, f, economy, economic system (system)

arththeen, meaningless (suffix)
arthvikaar, m, semantic change
arthviggyaan, m, semantics (science)
arthvyukt, meaningful, significant (combined, giving)

**raashtra, m, nation, race** COMPOUND

raashtra-, national
raashtrabhoomi, homeland, nation (land)
raashtrabhaashaa, f, national language
raashtrabhaakti, patriotism (devotion)
raashtradhvaaj, m, national flag
raashntrageet, National Anthem (song)
raashtramaNdal, m, Commonwealth (circle)
raashtrapati, President (husband)
raashtrapitaa, father of the nation (Mahatma Gandhi)
raashtratatva, m, nationhood
raashtravaad, nationalism; -ee, -ist (cause)

**8.3 Action COMPOUNDS**

kaarya, m, action, job. task. work, affairs, deed (karnaa) COMPOUND

kaar- (-kaar), doer, maker
kaarbhar, workload (full)
kaartaa, worker
kaarkhaana, m, factory, workshop (house)
kaarvaatee, f, action, operation

kaary, m, action, work, etc.
kaaryaalay, m, office (suffix -aalay, abode, building)
kaaryabhar, responsibility, workload (full)
kaaryakaal, duration, period, stint
kaary-kaaran, cause and effect (reason)
kaaryakaarinee, f, executive committee
kaaryakartaa, worker, activist (doer)
kaary-kram, m, programme, schedule (order)
kaaryakraman, m, programming (ordering)
kaaryakshamtaa, work capacity (capacity)
kaaryakshetra, work area or territory
kaaryapaalika, f, functionary (maintainer)
kaaryasoochee, f, agenda (list)
kaaryavaatee, f, proceedings, action
kaary-yojnaa, f, plan of action (plan)

kriyaa, f, action, act; verb COMPOUND

kriyaa-karm, m, last rites, funeral rites
kriyaanvayan, m, implementation
kriyaapad, m, verb (term)
kriyaa-pratikriyaa, f, action and reaction
kriyaavaachak, verbal
kriyaavaad, m, activism (cause)
kriyaavishesh, m, adverb (adjective)

**krit, done, accomplished** COMPOUND
(Also as suffix: -krit, done: X krit, done by X)

kritee, competent
kriti, f, creative work, oeuvre
kritkaaryataa, f, fulfilment
krit karm, m, work done
kritisNkalp, determined, resolute
(determination)

(The companion article on selected Hindi suffixes will follow in the near future.)

For more on the Handy Hindi Hints series, see here.

http://www.briansteel.net/writings/india/index.html

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