

### Future tense

(Actions that shall/will be performed in the Future - future actions)

Decoding the Mystery of the Hindi Future tense:

In Hindi the **Future tense** is **usually** used to talk about **future plans and actions**, These are equivalent to the English, “**I will come**”, “**I will see**”, “**I will conquer**”.

**Formula:** The formula for conjugating (forming) the Future tense in Hindi is:

**Stem+ होना ‘sound’ corresponding to the respective pronoun^^+ गा/गे/गी/गो\*** (applying **Golden Rule I**)

[**Golden Rule I:** आ ending for **Masculine Singular (MS)**;

ए ending for **Masculine Plural (MP)**

ई (ईँ) ending for **Feminine Singular & Plural (FS/FP)**, where ई is **sometimes nasalized in the Plural**

ओ (ओं) ending for **Non-Binary Singular & Plural (NBS/NBP)\*** (see **detailed comment about this avant-garde proposal at the end of the document**), where ओ is **sometimes nasalized in the Plural**]

**होना “sound”:** By **होना “sound”** one means the **SOUND (not vowel)** associated a **particular pronoun in the simple present tense conjugation of the verb होना**.

So for example, since the present होना conjugation of the verb होना for the pronoun मैं is हूँ, **the होना sound for pronoun मैं is ऊँ**.

Similarly, for the pronoun तू, although the actual conjugation of the verb होना for the pronoun तू is है, since the pronunciation of the same is “हे”, **the होना sound associated with the pronoun तू is ए**.

Applying the above formula of **Stem + होना “sound” corresponding to the respective pronoun + गा/गे/गी/गो** (applying **Golden Rule I**), an example of the future tense conjugation of the verb **खाना** “to eat”, would be:

Binary Hindi as it currently exists MS: मैं **खाऊँगा**, तू **खाएगा**, यह/वह **खाएगा**

MP: हम **खाएँगे**, तुम **खाओगे**, आप **खाएँगे**, ये/वे **खाएँगे**

FS: मैं **खाऊँगी**, तू **खाएगी**, यह/वह **खाएगी**

FP: हम **खाएँगी**, तुम **खाओगी**, आप **खाएँगी**, ये/वे **खाएँगी**

Factoring in the non-binary\*

NBS: मैं **खाऊँगो**, तू **खाएगो**, यह/वह **खाएगो**

NBP: हम **खाएँगो**, तुम **खाओगो**, आप **खाएँगो**, ये/वे **खाएँगो**

and for the verb सुनना “to hear, to listen to”, it would be:

MS: मैं सुनूँगा, तू सुनेगा, यह/वह सुनेगा

MP: हम सुनेंगे, तुम सुनोगे, आप सुनेंगे, ये/वे सुनेंगे

FS: मैं सुनूँगी, तू सुनेगी, यह/वह सुनेगी

FP: हम सुनेंगी, तुम सुनोगी, आप सुनेंगी, ये/वे सुनेंगी

NBS: मैं सुनूँगे, तू सुनेगे, यह/वह सुनेगे

NBP: हम सुनेंगे, तुम सुनोगे, आप सुनेंगे, ये/वे सुनेंगे

Since the होना sound is already marked with nasalization in plural, the feminine and non-binary endings of गी and गो respectively, do not take on nasalization in the plural.

**Note:** (i) Verb stems of verbs like पीना “to drink” and छूना “to touch” that end in ई or ऊ, shorten the long vowels to इ and उ before adding the required गा/गे/गी/गो.

So for example, for the verb पीना, the future tense conjugation for the pronoun मैं would be पिऊँगा/पिऊँगी/पिऊँगे and for the verb छूना, छुऊँगा/छुऊँगी/छुऊँगे.

(ii) Also, for verb stems ending in ई, after shortening ई to इ, some speakers insert a य right after the verb stem. So for example, in such an instance, for the verb पीना, the future tense conjugation for the pronoun तू would be पियेगा/पियेगी/पियेगे, and for the pronoun तुम it would be पियोगे/पियोगी/पियोगे.

(iii) **Irregular conjugations:**

(a) The verbs लेना “to take” and देना “to give” deviate a little bit from the above given future tense formula. **Instead of** the “verb stems” ले and दे, they use only the first consonant of the verb infinitive. In other words, in the first part of the formula लेना uses “ल” instead of ले and देना uses “द” instead of दे.

लेना:	देना:
MS: मैं लूँगा, तू लेगा, यह/वह लेगा	MS: मैं दूँगा, तू देगा, यह/वह देगा
MP: हम लेंगे, तुम लोगे, आप लेंगे, ये/वे लेंगे	MP: हम देंगे, तुम दोगे, आप देंगे, ये/वे देंगे
FS: मैं लूँगी, तू लेगी, यह/वह लेगी	FS: मैं दूँगी, तू देगी, यह/वह देगी,
FP: हम लेंगी, तुम लोगी, आप लेंगी, ये/वे लेंगी	FP: हम देंगी, तुम दोगी, आप देंगी, ये/वे देंगी
NBS: मैं लूँगे, तू लेगे, यह/वह लेगे	NBS: मैं दूँगे, तू देगे, यह/वह देगे
NBP: हम लेंगे, तुम लोगे, आप लेंगे, ये/वे लेंगे	NBP: हम देंगे, तुम दोगे, आप देंगे, ये/वे देंगे

(b) The verb **होना** “to be, to occur, to happen, to exist” itself also deviates from the “regular” future tense formula. For the pronoun **मैं**, **होना** is conjugated either following the “regular” formula given above (= **होऊँगा/होऊँगी/होऊँगे**), or by combining **हूँ+गा/गी/गो** (= **हूँगा/हूँगी/गो**). For all other singular pronouns the formula for conjugating **होना** in the future tense is **हो+गा/गी/गो** (= **होगा/होगी/होगो**). In the plural, all pronouns **except तुम** are conjugated with **हों+गे/गी** (= **होंगे/होंगी/होंगे**). The future tense conjugation of **होना** for the pronoun **तुम**, is a non-nasalized **हो+गे/गी/गो** (= **होगे/होगी/होगो**).

MS: मैं **होऊँगा/हूँगा**, तू **होगा**, यह/वह **होगा**  
 MP: हम **होंगे**, तुम **होगे**, आप **होंगे**, ये/वे **होंगे**  
 FS: मैं **होऊँगी/हूँगी**, तू **होगी**, यह/वह **होगी**  
 FP: हम **होंगी**, तुम **होगी**, आप **होंगी**, ये/वे **होंगे**  
 NBS: मैं **होऊँगे/हूँगे**, तू **होगो**, यह/वह **होगो**  
 NBP: हम **होंगे**, तुम **होगो**, आप **होंगे**, ये/वे **होंगे**

^^Complete **होना** “sound” chart:

Personal Pronoun	Simple Present होना (M + F)	होना “sound”
<b>मैं</b>	<b>हूँ</b>	<b>ऊँ</b>
<b>तू</b>	<b>है</b>	<b>ए</b> (although the vowel on <b>है</b> is <b>ऐ</b> , the pronunciation of <b>है</b> has been normalized to ‘हे’, hence the होना “sound” associated with <b>तू/यह/वह</b> is <b>ए</b> )
<b>यह</b>	<b>है</b>	<b>ए</b>
<b>वह</b>	<b>है</b>	<b>ए</b>
<b>हम</b>	<b>हैं</b>	<b>एँ</b> (although the vowel on <b>हैं</b> is <b>ऐँ</b> , the pronunciation of <b>हैं</b> has been normalized to ‘हैं’, hence the होना “sound” associated with <b>हम/आप/ये/वे</b> is <b>एँ</b> )
<b>तुम</b>	<b>हो</b>	<b>ओ</b>
<b>आप</b>	<b>हैं</b>	<b>एँ</b>
<b>ये</b>	<b>हैं</b>	<b>एँ</b>
<b>वे</b>	<b>हैं</b>	<b>एँ</b>

**\*Why factor in a *non-binary voice* in Hindi verb conjugations?**

Until 2014, in India, the parent culture of Hindi, only 2 genders, viz. male and female were legally recognized. Transgender, non-binary, transexual, genderqueer and gender-questioning people were forced to identify themselves within a binary gender classification. Hindi being a gendered language, we see this traditional binary gender classification in verb conjugations and in a certain class of nouns and adjectives. Personal pronouns on the other hand are gender neutral in Hindi.

In April 2014, in a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court of India formally recognized the rights of transgender, non-binary, transexual, genderqueer and gender-questioning people to determine their gender as neither male nor female, thereby affirming the existence of a third gender, and ending traditional binary gender classifications.

Although this ruling has had a tremendous impact on gender identification, as far as the Hindi language is concerned, other than being able to choose a “third box” which is neither male nor female on official forms, gender expression in Hindi is still binary. While the masculine plural form is often used across genders in some parts of India and hence could conceivably be used as a “gender neutral” expression, it is still problematic for many as it could be perceived masculine. Like many other gendered languages, Hindi has yet to catch up with realities of identity.

Proposing a *non-binary conjugation*, is an avant-garde attempt to address the limitations posed by the gendered nature of verb conjugations in Hindi. It is not (yet :-)) part of the Hindi language.

At the very least, such an attempt will hopefully start the much needed conversation about the gendered nature of Hindi and realities of identity.

