

**SIMON & SCHUSTER'S**  
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# PASHTO

READING BOOKLET

.....  
: *Travelers should always check with their* :  
: *nation's State Department for current* :  
: *advisories on local conditions before* :  
: *traveling abroad.* :  
.....

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## PASHTO

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# PASHTO

## Introduction

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Pashto is an Iranian language of the Indo-European family. There are over 17 million speakers of Pashto, primarily in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Afghanistan, it is one of the two official languages and it is the native tongue of approximately 35% of the population. The other official language, Dari (Persian), is spoken by about 50%. Although Pashto is an official language of Afghanistan and is a required subject in middle school, Dari is used primarily in business and higher education. As a result, most Pashtuns also speak Dari. However, many Dari speakers do not have a good command of Pashto.

Pashto is spoken as a regional language by about 17 percent of the population of Pakistan. It is spoken in the North West Frontier Province (Pakhtoonkhwa), in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and in Balochistan. It is also spoken in some Pakistani cities like Karachi and Hyderabad. Pashto, however, is not an official language in Pakistan (Urdu is the official language) and it is not taught in schools.

# PASHTO

## Introduction (continued)

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Smaller communities of speakers can be found in Northeast Iran, Tajikistan, India, and the United Arab Emirates. The major Pashto-speaking cities are Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Peshawar, and Quetta.

Although Pashto has many dialects, the three primary ones are:

- Northern - as spoken in Kabul and Jalalabad (Afghanistan) and in the Northwest Frontier Province (Pakistan);
- Southern - as spoken in Kandahar (Afghanistan) and Balochistan (western Pakistan and eastern Iran);
- Central - as spoken in Waziristan (northern Pakistan).

These three dialects are mutually intelligible. This course teaches the northern dialect as spoken in Kabul, which will be understood through all Pashto-speaking regions. *Pashto* is also called *Pakhto*, *Pushto*, *Pukhto*, *Pashtu*, or *Pushtu*. The variation in spelling reflects the different pronunciations in different regions; speakers of the northern dialect say “**Pakhto**” and speakers of the southern dialect say,



# PASHTO

## Introduction (continued)

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“Pashto.” This demonstrates the primary difference between the southern dialect, which uses /sh/ and /zh/ sounds, and the northern dialect, which uses /kh/ and /gh/ sounds instead. The central dialect is more similar in pronunciation to the southern dialect; however, vocabulary differs somewhat.

Pashto uses a modified version of the Arabic alphabet, with forty-five letters, as opposed to twenty-eight in Arabic. The first written records of Pashto date to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and again in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the script was standardized to include additional letters representing sounds specific to Pashto. Pashto does not have capital letters, but uses an adapted form of Western punctuation. Written Pashto has the following characteristics:

- It is read from right to left, except for numbers, which go from left to right. Pashto letters are distinguished by one, two, or three dots, which are placed above or below the letter – or, in some cases, by the lack of dots.

# PASHTO

## Introduction (continued)

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- As in English handwriting, most Pashto letters connect to those that follow them. However, some letters, called “non-connectors,” connect only to letters that precede them.
- When letters connect to a preceding letter, they often modify their shape, undergoing a reduction when the two are joined together.
- Some letters also modify their shape according to their position in a word – depending on whether they appear in initial, medial, or final position.
- In standard written Pashto, the so-called “short vowels” are usually omitted. They may be represented by diacritical marks, as they are in these reading lessons. The three “long vowels,” however are separate letters and are always included.
- The appearance of some letters may vary, depending on the choice of font.

A complete listing of the Pashto alphabet and the diacriticals follows, starting on page 6. You should use this chart for reference only, as all the information you need to do the readings is contained on the audio.

# PASHTO

## Introduction (continued)

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There are twenty Pashto reading lessons recorded at the end of the program. You may choose to do the readings along with the units, starting with Unit 11, or all together after completing the rest of the course. Feel free to repeat the reading lessons as often as necessary for practice with the Pashto alphabet and the sounds the letters represent.

Some of the words and phrases you will read are taught in this course, but many are not, and --- especially in the early lessons --- a number of them are simply syllables rather than actual words. Actual words are used more and more as the number of letters introduced increases, and in the final lessons you will be understanding much of what you read.

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## Pashto Alphabet Chart

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

Isolated	End	Middle	Beginning	Name	Spelling
ا, آ	ا	ا	ا	alef	الف
ب	ب	ب	ب	be	بې
پ	پ	پ	پ	pe	پې
ت	ت	ت	ت	te	تې
ټ	ټ	ټ	ټ	tte	ټې
ث	ث	ث	ث	Se	سې
ج	ج	ج	ج	jeem	جېم
ع	ع	ع	ع	zeem or Ze	ژېم
چ	چ	چ	چ	Che	چې
خ	خ	خ	خ	seem or se or ce	خېم
ح	ح	ح	ح	he	حې
ځ	ځ	ځ	ځ	khe	خې
د	د	د	د	dal	دال
ډ	ډ	ډ	ډ	ddal	ډال

# PASHTO

## Pashto Alphabet Chart (continued)

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

Isolated	End	Middle	Beginning	Name	Spelling
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	Zaal	ذال
ر	ر	ر	ر	re	رې
ړ	ړ	ړ	ړ	rhe	ړې
ز	ز	ز	ز	zhe	زی
ژ	ژ	ژ	ژ	zze	ژې
ګ	ګ	ګ	ګ	ge	ګې
س	س	س	س	seen	سین
ش	ش	ش	ش	sheen	شین
ښ	ښ	ښ	ښ	kheen	ښین
ص	ص	ص	ص	swat	صات
ض	ض	ض	ض	zwat	ضات
ط	ط	ط	ط	twe	طوې
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	zwe	ظوې
ع	ع	ع	ع	ain	عین

# PASHTO

## Pashto Alphabet Chart (continued)

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

Isolated	End	Middle	Beginning	Name	Spelling
غ	غ	غ	غ	ghain	غین
ف	ف	ف	ف	fe	فې
ق	ق	ق	ق	qaf	قاف
ک	ک	ک	ک	kaf	کاف
ګ	ګ	ګ	ګ	gaf	ګاف
ل	ل	ل	ل	lam	لام
م	م	م	م	meem or miim	میم
ن	ن	ن	ن	noon	نون
ڼ	ڼ	ڼ	ڼ	noorh	نونڼ
ه	ه	ه	ه	he or rounded he	هې
و	و	و	و	waw	واو
ي	ي	ي	ي	strong ye	سخته يی
ی	ی	ی	ی	ye	یی

# PASHTO

## Pashto Alphabet Chart (continued)

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

Isolated	End	Middle	Beginning	Name	Spelling
ې	ې	ې	ې	soft ye	پسته یی
ی	ی			feminine ye	بنځینه یی
ئ	ئ			verbal ye	رواله یی
ه	ه			he- hamza	هې حمزه
و	و	و	و	waw- hamza	واو حمزه

# PASHTO

## Diacritics

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

Diacritic	Name	Spelling
ˊ	zwar (above letter)	زور
ˋ	zer (below letter)	زیر
ء	pekh (above letter)	پښ
˘	mad (only above initial alef)	مَد
ء	hamza (only in combination with <i>waw</i> and <i>he</i> )	حمزه

There is a fourth diacritic, called *zwarakay*, which is rarely used in Pashto. It is shown as a horizontal line above a consonant and makes a *schwa* sound.

In Pashto there is a special letter combination, ځ, called *lam alef la*, which represents the letter *lam* followed by *alef*.



# PASHTO

## Lesson One

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| .11 زازا  | .1 ا    |
| .12 آد    | .2 دا   |
| .13 آز    | .3 داد  |
| .14 آدا   | .4 دادا |
| .15 آدان  | .5 زا   |
| .16 آزا   | .6 داز  |
| .17 آزاد  | .7 زاد  |
| .18 زدا   | .8 دازا |
| .19 آزدا  | .9 زادا |
| .20 دازدا | .10 زاز |

# PASHTO

## Lesson Two

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |            |          |
|------------|----------|
| 11. ساز    | 1. دازاد |
| 12. آسار   | 2. را    |
| 13. آدزار  | 3. راز   |
| 14. دازار  | 4. زارد  |
| 15. زاسا   | 5. راد   |
| 16. سادزار | 6. دار   |
| 17. سادا   | 7. زار   |
| 18. رازا   | 8. رازاد |
| 19. زارا   | 9. سا    |
| 20. رازدا  | 10. سارا |

# PASHTO

## Lesson Three

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 11. باد    | 1. ساراد       |
| 12. بادساز | 2. سازا        |
| 13. سَبز   | 3. شا          |
| 14. سَرشار | 4. شارد \ سارد |
| 15. سَرشَر | 5. زاشار       |
| 16. دَبرا  | 6. زَ          |
| 17. باب    | 7. زرد         |
| 18. آس     | 8. سَر         |
| 19. بَرش   | 9. دَرَس       |
| 20. زَرشاد | 10. سَز        |

# PASHTO

## Lesson Four

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 11. بازو   | 1. شارسار   |
| 12. اَسب   | 2. سَردار   |
| 13. سترتوب | 3. شاباش    |
| 14. تاسو   | 4. بَربر    |
| 15. دوست   | 5. بَرادر   |
| 16. اَرساب | 6. شو       |
| 17. توت    | 7. داروو    |
| 18. تر     | 8. تش       |
| 19. ستا    | 9. تَت      |
| 20. سَبا   | 10. شَرِبَت |

# PASHTO

## Lesson Five

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 11. پاپ    | 1. تَبَر   |
| 12. پوی    | 2. تَشَناب |
| 13. اِسرار | 3. اَبشار  |
| 14. اِبراز | 4. دید     |
| 15. پِیشو  | 5. تَرْتیب |
| 16. توپ    | 6. سیر     |
| 17. اَزدا  | 7. دیرش    |
| 18. پور    | 8. تیز     |
| 19. تَپوس  | 9. دی      |
| 20. پاتا   | 10. پاس    |

# PASHTO

## Lesson Six

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| 11. باز      | 1. باتور  |
| 12. حاسد     | 2. ستوری  |
| 13. احباب    | 3. بریت   |
| 14. ستاسو    | 4. بیزو   |
| 15. احسان    | 5. نادان  |
| 16. یا       | 6. نون    |
| 17. زَبَح    | 7. اَنَا  |
| 18. تَسْبِيح | 8. پَر    |
| 19. نادر     | 9. تَن    |
| 20. رَا حَت  | 10. تیزاب |

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## Lesson Seven

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| 11. لو       | 1. سپور  |
| 12. لار      | 2. پيدا  |
| 13. پلن      | 3. آپرين |
| 14. تلوار    | 4. بند   |
| 15. استول    | 5. آوار  |
| 16. بلبل     | 6. اتوار |
| 17. تل راتل  | 7. دنيا  |
| 18. حلال     | 8. بت    |
| 19. يار      | 9. بنير  |
| 20. او تاسو؟ | 10. لباس |

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 11. كَلَك         | 1. سِيرِينَا |
| 12. كَالِج        | 2. شِين      |
| 13. صَابُون       | 3. بَايْد    |
| 14. حِصَار        | 4. جَبْر     |
| 15. حَرَص         | 5. جَدَل     |
| 16. صَنْدَل       | 6. وَجَل     |
| 17. صَا حِبْ كَار | 7. تَا ج     |
| 18. دِيوَال       | 8. كَابُل    |
| 19. حَا جَت       | 9. كَالْبُوت |
| 20. پَرَنْجِيدَل  | 10. اِنكَار  |



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## Lesson Nine

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 11. شَم             | 1. بازار    |
| 12. امان            | 2. لَرَل    |
| 13. کله؟ اُس؟       | 3. صاد      |
| 14. شَک             | 4. هاها     |
| 15. دیارلس          | 5. هَر      |
| 16. هلته دی؟        | 6. بَجَه    |
| 17. مَننه.          | 7. زَره     |
| 18. ما سره          | 8. سَهَر    |
| 19. لَرَم           | 9. ميم      |
| 20. نه، لس زَره نه. | 10. زه هَم. |

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

1. بَسِ بِيَا / بَسِ بِيَا .11 يور
2. اَتْلَس سَوَه .12 لِيك
3. اَسْلَام .13 كَوِي
4. امريكايي .14 روپي
5. يِي .15 رَسِي
6. شِي .16 سِيند
7. نَسواري .17 دي
8. بَجِي .18 يُوِيشت
9. يُونان .19 پريوتل
10. صَحِي .20 زِياتي

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 11. وخت             | 1. نن، نه.     |
| 12. شوخ             | 2. په نهه بجې. |
| 13. ژبه             | 3. غرمې        |
| 14. وژل             | 4. غم          |
| 15. ژمی             | 5. داغ         |
| 16. سخت             | 6. باغ         |
| 17. نیم کیلو        | 7. باغوان      |
| 18. خبره            | 8. خوشه        |
| 19. مړباني          | 9. خورې        |
| 20. زه امریکایي یم. | 10. تخت        |

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

1. په جهاز کې .11 ټیټ
2. زه باید .12 چاکلټ
3. زه باید کار وکړم. .13 هوټل
4. چا .14 زه به هم.
5. چیرته .15 ولې نه.
6. پرچم .16 تایمېني
7. چاپي .17 په تایمېني سرک
8. چمچ .18 په سیرینا هوټل کې.
9. ټول .19 په ټکسي کې.
10. وات .20 دا واخلي.

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

1. سَبَايِي لې پِه خِير 11. اگاهي
2. سَوْدَا 12. اِنكليسِي
3. رُوَسْتِه 13. باره كې
4. فَاَل 14. فُرُوَشگاه سَرَكَ
5. فَاَنِي 15. لَر
6. اَفغان 16. لَرِه لَرِه
7. زِه اَفغان يَم. 17. كِيرِي
8. هَدَف 18. بِيرِه
9. اَفغانِي خَوْرَاك 19. هَر كَلِه
10. گام 20. هَر كَلِه راشِيء.

## Lesson Fourteen

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 11. ذَبَح        | 1. ناوخته          |
| 12. ذره بين      | 2. دا ستاسود پاره. |
| 13. كاغذ         | 3. ظالم            |
| 14. عادت         | 4. حظ              |
| 15. معلومات      | 5. حى              |
| 16. دعا          | 6. پينه            |
| 17. تعداد        | 7. برمنخ           |
| 18. دا ټيك ده.   | 8. ظرف             |
| 19. استاد        | 9. گل              |
| 20. زه استاد يم. | 10. ذات            |

## Lesson Fifteen

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

1. کالدارې 11. رَمضان

2. اَسَلامَ عَلَیْکُمْ. 12. حَوْض

3. بنین 13. مَضمُون

4. بِنَحَّه 14. امضا

5. پښتو 15. ډیر

6. پوښ 16. ډول / دال

7. ضد 17. ډوډی

8. زما / ضرر 18. ډنډ

9. ښار 19. تاسو مونږ سره ---

10. بَغض 20. ډوډی خوری؟

## Lesson Sixteen

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

1. پیره بڼه ده. 11. اثبات \ افتاب
2. د خدای په امان. 12. بحث
3. قیمت 13. خومره؟
4. قرض 14. څنگه
5. قلم 15. تاسو چایې څکئ؟
6. شفقت 16. پڅ
7. قاچاق 17. پاڅیدل
8. ضرر 18. پیره مننه.
9. ثاني 19. سبا جمعه ده.
10. اثاث 20. څه خبره نه ده.



# PASHTO

## Lesson Seventeen

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

- |                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 11. بار                     | 1. مُحْتَرَم |
| 12. بانږه                   | 2. خَلور     |
| 13. ډالرو                   | 3. گُلابي    |
| 14. او په ډالرو کې؟         | 4. طوفان     |
| 15. غواړو                   | 5. خَط       |
| 16. بېننه غواړم، مُحْتَرَم. | 6. خَطاط     |
| 17. لس بَجې دي.             | 7. خَطَرناک  |
| 18. سبا شپې ته به څنگه وي؟  | 8. رومبى     |
| 19. کهوه                    | 9. پړانگ     |
| 20. نن زه کهوه غواړم.       | 10. شپاړس    |

## Lesson Eighteen

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

1. په اڅر کې

2. د ټولو نه اول

3. هر چيرته

4. كله كله

5. اته

6. وانبه

7. واده

8. پسه

9. کن

10. وایل

# PASHTO

## Lesson Eighteen (continued)

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

11. وَّئِنه

12. مَلْكَرو

13. واؤ

14. وَّزْكَار

15. ستاسو نُوم خه دى؟

16. زما نُوم امان دى.

17. خوشاله

18. ستاسو په ليدو —

19. ستاسو په ليدو ډير خوشاله شوم.

20. مربياني، ستاسو ډيره مننه.

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

1. تاسو د کوم ځای یی؟
2. پښتونستان
3. زه د پښتونستان یم.
4. او تاسو؟
5. زه په بوسټن —
6. زه په بوسټن کې اوسیرم.
7. تاسو دلته څه کوئ؟ / تاسو دلته څه کوئ؟
8. زه تلل غواړم
9. پښور
10. زه پښور ته تلل غواړم.

## PASHTO

### Lesson Nineteen (continued)

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

11. دا څومره لږې دي؟
12. دوه سوه کلوميټره؟
13. زه په جهاز کې ځم.
14. زه سوده ته تلل غواړم.
15. تاسو ډیره بڼه پښتو وايئ.
16. مریباني، شکریا.
17. ستاسو زمونږ وطن —
18. خوښ شو؟
19. ستاسو زمونږ وطن خوښ شو؟
20. او، زه دلته ډیر خوشاله یم.

## Lesson Twenty

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

1. آ سلامُ عليکم.
2. وعلیکم اسلام.
3. دا لار هوتل —
4. تلي ده؟
5. او. سيده لار شیء.
6. ډير لري نه دی.
7. خومره لري دی؟
8. خو کومپتره؟
9. زه معلومات نه لرم —
10. یو، دوه کومپتره؟

Lesson Twenty (continued)

← — — (Read from right to left.) — —

11. سیده سپین بلښنگ

12. ته لار شىء.

13. تاسو امریکایي یی؟

14. او، زه امریکایي یم.

15. خو په پښتو ژبه

16. لږ لږ پوهیږم.

17. تاسو یې ښه وایلاى شىء.

18. ډیره مننه.

19. نه، رښتیا وائم.

20. د خدای په امان.

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