Urdu Language & Culture



New York State Asian Languages Bilingual/ESL

Technical Assistance Center

(ALBETAC)



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URDU

Urdu is one of the official languages of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It shares official language status with English, which is used in most government ministries.

Pakistan is located in Southern Asia between India (east) and Afghanistan (west). The Arabian Sea lies at the southern border and China at the northern border.

Urdu is also one of the officially recognized state languages in India. According to the *CIA World Factbook*, Urdu is also spoken in the Middle Eastern countries of Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Please see the following chart for information on Pakistan.

FACTS ON PAKISTAN (from the CIA World Factbook https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/)			
Area	796,095 sq. km.		
Population 184,404, 791 (July 2010 est.)			
Capital Islamabad			
Administrative Divisions 4 provinces, 1 territory and 1 capital territory			
Chief of State Asif Ali Zardari, President			
Political System	Federal Republic		
Exchange Rate	85.27 Pakistani Rupees = 1 U.S. dollar (2010 est.)		
GDP* (per capita) \$2,400 (2010 est.)			
Flag			



Note to Teachers: In addition to the official languages, Urdu and English, the following languages are also spoken in Pakistan:

- Punjabi
- Sindhi
- Siraiki
- Pashtu
- Balochi
- Hindko
- Brahui
- Burshaski

^{*}Gross Domestic Product

EDUCATION

EDUCATION AND LITERACY RATES IN PAKISTAN					
Country	Years of Compulsory Schooling	(Age 15 and o	Literacy Rate 5 and over can read and write in these countries)		
Country		Total %	Male	Female	
Pakistan	5 years	49.9%	63.0%	36% (2005 est.)	

Sources:

- Statistics for the Literacy Rates are from the CIA's *The World Factbook*. https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2103.html
- Statistics for Compulsory Schooling are from the *Commonwealth of Nations* website. http://www.commonwealth-of-nations.org/Pakistan/Education

Note to Teachers: The formal education system in Pakistan is generally divided into five levels.				
Primary	Grades 1-5	Ages 5-9		
Middle	Grades 6-8	Ages 10-12		
High	Grades 9-10	Ages 13-14. Equivalent to the first 2 years of high school in USA. A Secondary School Certificate is awarded upon successful completion of studies.		
Intermediate	Grades 11-12	Ages 15-16. Equivalent to the last 2 years of high school in USA. A <u>Higher Secondary School Certificate</u> is awarded upon successful completion of studies.		
University		College and Advanced Degrees		

To learn more about education in Pakistan, you may visit the following websites: http://www.moe.gov.pk

Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan

DEMOGRAPHICS

Urdu Speaking Population in the USA, NYS and NYC

♣ Facts and Figures

URDU SPEAKING POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND NEW YORK STATE ¹			
Number of people (5 years and older) who speak Urdu at home			
United States	335,213		
New York State	62,840		

According to the 2008-2009 NYC BESIS*, there are 2,850 ELLs whose native language is Urdu. These students comprise 1.9% of New York City's total ELL population of 149,225 students.²

> *Bilingual Education Student Information Survey

Sources

1 U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey

2 The 2008-2009 Demographics of New York City's English Language Learners, The Chief Achievement Office-Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners, New York City Department of Education, Fall 2009

URDU LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Urdu belongs to the Indo-European family of languages. Urdu is very similar to Hindi. They are both standardized forms of Hindustani. The difference between the two languages is the source of vocabulary. Most of the vocabulary in Urdu comes from the Persian language, while Hindi takes most of its vocabulary from Sanskrit.

Some features of the Urdu language are:

- The Urdu alphabet consists of 38 letters.
- ➤ It is similar to the Arabic alphabet in both writing and pronunciation.
- ➤ The words of the language are written in horizontal lines from right to left.
- Numerals are written from left to right.
- > Each sound is represented by a letter.

Note to Teachers: The Urdu language does not use definite articles. In addition, Urdu nouns have gender and are designated as either masculine or feminine.

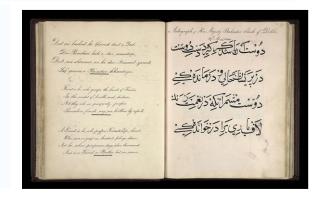
Please be aware that these linguistic differences may present some problems for your Urdu speaking ELLs learning English.

The Urdu Alphabet					
ث	ٹ	ت	پ	ب	1
ڈ	د	خ	ح	چ	ج
س	ژ	ز	ڑ	ر	ذ
ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش
J	گ	ک	ق	ف	غ
s	ھ	٥	و	ن	م
				_	ى

Source:

http://users.skynet.be/fa006481/newurdu/newurdu.html Hugo's Urdu Alphabet Pages

Autograph of His Majesty Bahadur, Shah of Delhi, last of the Mughal Emperors and a noted Urdu poet, 29th April 1844



The following chart provides some useful phrases in Urdu that will help create a welcoming and supportive environment for your Urdu speaking English language learners.

USEFUL PHRASES FOR THE CLASSROOM					
English	Pronunciation	Urdu (Writing)			
Hello!	Salaam Alakum	السلام و عليكم			
My name is	Mera naam	ميرا نام			
What is your name?	Aap ka kya naam hai?	آپ کا کیا نام ہے؟			
How are you?	Aap kaisy hain?	آپ کیسے ہیں؟			
Fine. (answer to "How are you?")	Mai theek hoon.	میں ٹھیک ہوں۔			
Thank you.	Shukrīā.	شكريه-			
Welcome.	Khush Amadaid.	خوش آمدید-			
You are welcome.	Aap Tashreef Laaiye.	آپ تشریف لائیے۔			
Good-bye.	Khudā hāfiz.	خدا حافظ-			
Please sit down.	Barai meherbani tashreef rakhain.	برائے مہربانی تشریف رکھیں۔			
Please stand up.	Barai meherbani khray ho jain	برائے مہربانی کھڑے ہو جائیں			
Let's begin.	Shroo karain.	شروع كرين-			
Good.	Achaa Hai.	اچھا ہے۔			
Very good.	Bohat achaa hai.	بہت اچھا ہے۔			
Try again.	Dobarah koshish karain.	بہت اچھا ہے۔ دوبارہ کوشیش کریں۔			
This is the homework.	Yeh ghar ka kaam hai.	یہ گھر کا کام ہے۔			
Please open your book.	Barai meherbani kitab ko kholain.	برائے مہربانی کتاب کو کھولیں۔			
Do you understand?	Aap ki samaj may aya?	آپ کی سمجھ میں آیا؟			

For more information on the Urdu language, you may visit the following website:

http://www.omniglot.com/writing/urdu.htm

Omniglot: Writing Systems and Languages of the World

http://taj.chass.ncsu.edu/urdu/alphabet/index.html

Darvazah: A Door into Hindu by Afroz Taj and John Caldwell University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill North Carolina State University

http://languages.iloveindia.com/urdu.html

iloveindia.com

THE CULTURE

Diverse linguistic and cultural groups exist in Pakistan today. Although each group is unique in its cultural and linguistic identity, with its own customs, beliefs and traditions, they are united through their belief in Islam.

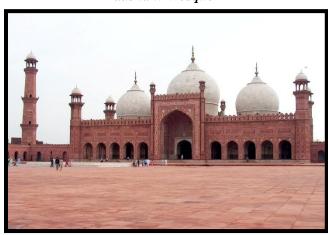
Religion

Islam is practiced by 95% of the people in Pakistan. Sunni Muslims comprise 75% of the population, while the remaining 20% are Shia Muslims. Other religions, including the Christian and Hindu religions, are followed by 5% of the Pakistani population.

Here are some interesting facts about the Muslim religion:

- ➤ The Muslim religion was brought to the Indus Valley (present-day Pakistan) by Arab Muslims, who invaded the area in 711 A.D.
- ➤ The prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam, was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, in 570 A.D.
- All Muslims throughout the world follow the Holy Book, the *Qur'an*, which is written in Arabic.
- ➤ The Badshahi Mosque, located in Lahore, is the second largest mosque in Pakistan and the fifth largest in the world.

Badshahi Mosque



Author: Pale blue dot at

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Note to Teachers:

- In the Muslim world, Friday is the day of rest and the holy day of the week.
- A Muslim must pray five times every day: at Dawn, Noon, Afternoon, Sunset and Evening.
- Alcohol and pork consumption are forbidden by Islam

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To learn more about religion in Pakistan, you may visit the following site: http://countrystudies.us/pakistan/38.htm *Country Studies*

Family

Family life in Pakistan is based on the concepts of patriarchal rule and the extended family. Men are expected to work, take care of their families and make the decisions. The role of the Pakistani woman involves caring for the children and the home.

The concept of the extended family includes not only the nuclear family but distant relatives as well. The expectation is that the family members, close or distant, will help one another whenever needed.

For more information on the Pakistani family, please visit the following website: http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/pakistan.html

Kwintessential

http://countrystudies.us/pakistan/30.htm

Pakistan: A Country Study

Customs and Manners

It is important to note that Pakistani customs and manners are derived from Islamic beliefs and customs.

- The customary greeting is *sallam alaykum*, peace be upon you. The reply is *walaykum salaam*, peace be upon you, too. The greeting is followed by a handshake.
- Men shake hands with men. They cannot shake hands with women.
- Cross-gender relationships and dating are not acceptable.
- ➤ Marriages are usually arranged by the families. The festivities usually last for a few days and have their own set of customs and traditions.

• Cultural Dos and Don'ts

♣ Do...

- > ...show respect for elders by greeting them first.
- > ...dress conservatively and modestly.
- > ...accept the offer of a gift and show appreciation for the giver's good intentions because it is impolite to refuse.
- > ...respect the customs and traditions of other people.
- > ...eat only with the right hand because left hand is considered unclean and reserved for hygiene.

Don't...

- > ...point with the index finger at another person.
- Let use the subject of women, religion, income and other personal issues.
- > ...hug or shake hands with a member of the opposite sex.

- Leave the control of the control of
- > ...serve alcohol or give it as a gift.

To learn more about Pakistani customs, manners and cultural dos and don'ts, please visit the following website:

http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/pakistan.html *Kwintessential*

Islamic Calendar

- ➤ The first year of the Islamic calendar began on July 16, 622.
- ➤ The Islamic calendar's inception point is the Hijra (Muhammad's flight from Mecca to Medina), and thus, each year is designated H or AH (Anno Hegirae "in the year of the Hegira" *Latin*).
- The Islamic calendar consists of 12 lunar months (based on the phases of the moon) and about 354 days in a year. A new month begins when the crescent moon is first seen.

Islamic Holidays

Muslim holidays begin at sundown the day before they are listed in the calendar.

	HOLIDAY	DATE		
	HOLIDAT	2010	2011	
Muharram	The Muslim New Year	Dec. 8, 2009	Dec. 7, 2010	
Mawlid al Nabi	The prophet Muhammad's birthday	February 26	February 15	
Ramadan	The month of fasting	August 11	August 1	
Eid al-Fitr	Ramadan ends	September 10	August 30	
Eid al Adha	The Festival of Sacrifice	November 15	November 6	

Source: Infoplease - http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0760942.html

Note: The above dates may vary slightly because the Islamic calendar is based on direct observation of the moon.

Urdu Surnames

The following are some of the more common Urdu surnames.

COMMON URDU SURNAMES				
Abdul	Farouqi	Mansoor	Qureishi	
Ahmad	Hasan	Mirza	Rafiq	
Ali	Hussein	Mohammad	Rahman	
Aziz	Iqbal	Musa	Rizwi	
Bhatti	Khan	Nafees	Sultan	
Chaudry	Mahmud	Pervaiz	Zaidi	
Faisal	Malik	Qasim		

Note to Teachers:
Pakistani names often
include a name that
denotes a person's
class, tribe or other
status indicator.

To learn more about Pakistani names, please visit the following website:

Scroll down the page and click on Pakistani CMYK.

• Pakistani Cuisine

Although the cuisine of Pakistan varies according to region, there are commonalities.

- ➤ The cuisine tends to be spicy, ranging from mild to hot. Some spices used include chili powder, cumin, black pepper and turmeric.
- ➤ Meat dishes feature lamb, beef and goat as pork is forbidden for religious reasons. Chicken is popular as well.



Karahi Beef*



- Seasonal vegetables and a variety of breads or rice dishes are an important part of the daily diet.
- Desserts can be assorted fresh fruits or sweets. An
- example of a traditional dessert is kheer, which is made from rice, milk sugar, dried fruit and nuts and seasoned with. cardamom.

Peshawari Roti**

*Author: Jess Lander

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Permission: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en

**Author: Umair Moshin (http://flickr.com/people/97409368@N00) Permission: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en

**Author: Stu Spivak

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For more information on Pakistani cuisine, you may visit the following websites:

http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Le-Pa/Pakistani-Americans.html

Countries and Their Cultures: Pakistani Americans

http://www.foodbycountry.com/Kazakhstan-to-South-Africa/Pakistan.html

Food in Every Country: Pakistan

FACTS OF INTEREST

- Did you know that...
- A Cambridge University student, Rahmat Ali, coined the name "Pakistan"



Kheer***



and launched a movement for its realization on January 28, 1933. His demand for Pakistan, the Pakistan Declaration entitled "Now or Never", Rahmat Ali

led to the Lahore (Pakistan) Resolution seven years later, and to the "creation" of Pakistan on August 14, 1947.

➤ Pakistan became independent from India, primarily, because of religion.



- Pakistan has the world's second highest mountain, K 2, surpassed only by India's Mount Everest. K2, also known as Mount Austen Goodwin, is located in the Karakoram Mountain Range on the Pakistani-Chinese border. It is 8,611 meters (28,251 feet) high.
- Pakistan's has all kinds of climates and temperatures, ranging from very hot, to moderate, to all year round snow covered mountains.

K2*

The issue of Kashmir as a disputed territory was created in 1947 when the British left the subcontinent. This has caused much conflict in the area. India. Pakistan and China all claim parts of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.



Disputed Jammu and Kashmir Territory**

Pakistan 's city of Lahore is fantastically rich in history because of Badshahi Mosque, Shalimar Gardens, Moghul tombs and other Moghul historic sites.



Shalimar Gardens, Lahore

Lahore Fort***

*Author: Svy123

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**Author: w:user:Planemad

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***Author: M. Umair

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

Urdu Literature in Translation

- The Oxford India Anthology of Modern Urdu Literature, Volume One: Poetry and Prose Miscellany, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007 (This anthology includes a variety of genres and was written and edited by Mehr Afshan Farooqi.)
- ➤ An Anthology of Modern Urdu Poetry: In English Translation with Urdu Text, New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2003
- ➤ The Oxford Book of Urdu Short Stories, USA: Oxford University Press, 2010 (This work includes 22 Urdu short stories written by a variety of renowned authors ranging from early to contemporary times. The stories were selected and translated by Amina Azfar.)

Pakistani Proverbs and Sayings

- ➤ What you do to others, the same will be done to you.
- ➤ Give and forget.
- ➤ If wealth is lost nothing is lost, if health is lost something is lost and if character is lost everything is lost.
- What is said is more important than who said it.
- > Be generous in giving without being asked.
- > Greedy is always cheated by Liar.
- A rich house makes its foolish.
- ➤ One man standing is always alone, but two are equivalent to eleven.
- ➤ Good homes are detected even by their dogs.
- Mother beats but does not allow others to beat.
- > Tell your daughter and teach your daughter-in-law.
- An unwilling runner blames his knees.
- > Children are never free yet have no particular work to do.
- ➤ If you see someone riding a horse and don't have the money to buy one, don't get a donkey for yourself.
- A wise llama never counts his teeth
- You can dress a monkey in a suit, but it is still a monkey.

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Famous Quotes

- ➤ A good deed is one that brings a smile of joy to the face of another. ~The Holy Prophet Mohammad
- ➤ Hatred is never ended by hatred but love. ~ Hindu Prince Guatama Siddharta, (Founder of Buddhism)
- Think one hundred times before you take a decision; but once that decision is taken, stand by it as one man. ~Muhammad Ali Jinnah
- ➤ Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without. ~Hindu Prince Guatama Siddharta, (Founder of Buddhism)
- ➤ Moderation is part of faith, so those who accuse Muslim schools of fostering fanaticism should learn a bit more about Islam. ~Yusuf Islam quotes
- ➤ Is this the way of life that Islam teaches us? That we fight among ourselves and feel scared of fellow Muslims. ~Pervez Musharraf

Famous Pakistani Americans

- ➤ Saqib Ali former member of the Maryland House of Delegates.
- ➤ Michael Chowdry (1955-2001) Forbes 400 businessman and founder of the air cargo company Atlas Air.
- ➤ Akbar S. Ahmed former Pakistani Ambassador to the United Kingdom; Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies; and, Professor of International Service at American University in Washington, D.C.
- ➤ Samina Quraeshi artist, author and designer/planner; senior partner of SQ Design Associates; and, former Director of the Design Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in Washington, D.C.
- ➤ Saleem H. Ali accomplished environmental researcher and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Natural Resources.
- ➤ Shahzia Sikander Pakistan-born American artist specializing in Indian and Persian miniature painting and the 2006 recipient of the MacArthur Fellows Program Grant Award.
- Robert Ashgur writer and political commentator.
- ➤ Bapsi Sidwha Pakistani novelist and playwright; Deepa Mehta's film *Earth* (1998) was based on her novel, *Cracking India*.
- ➤ Kamran Pasha Hollywood screenwriter and director.

To learn more about the famous Pakistani Americans listed above, press control + click on their name.

To read about other famous Pakistani Americans, please visit the following website:

http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Le-Pa/Pakistani-Americans.html

Countries and Their Cultures: Pakistani Americans