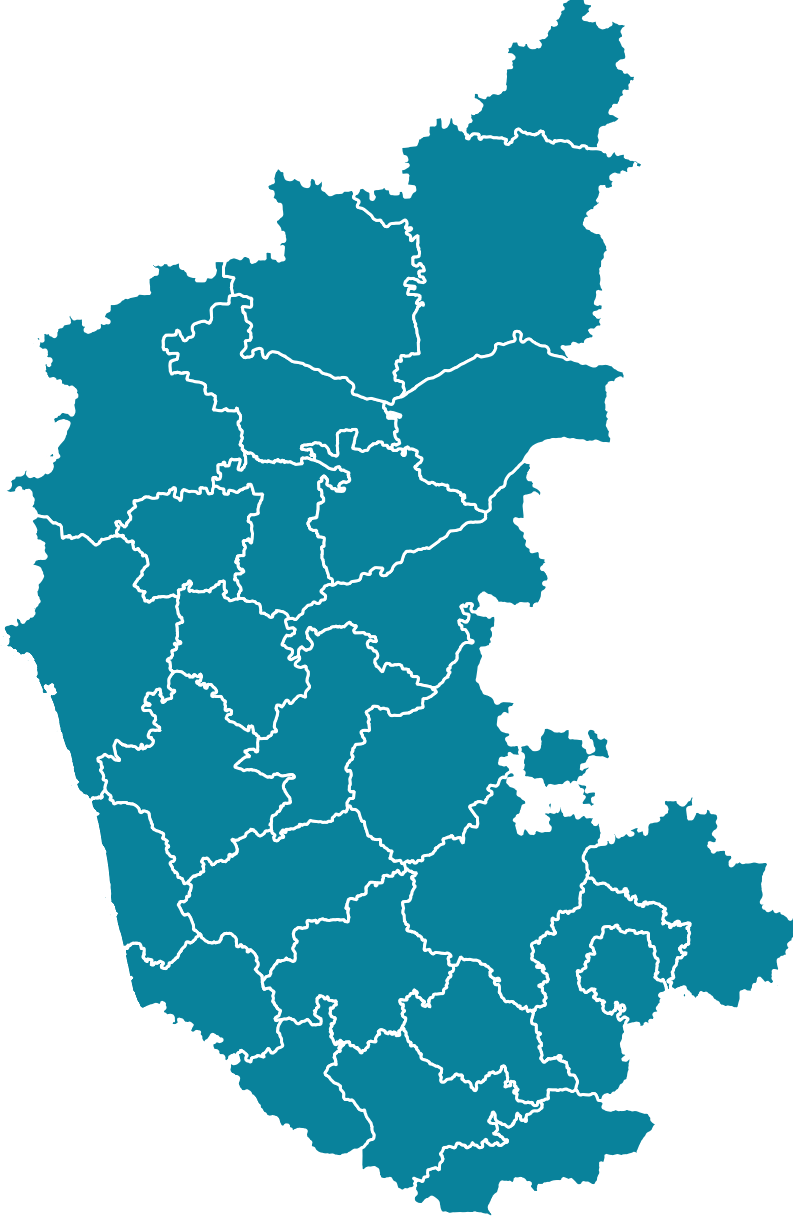


Spoken Kannada

Kannada Language School



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Contents

Lesson 0: Preliminary Notes	3
Lesson 1: 07 OCT 2017	4
1.1 Pronunciation	4
1.2 Already Known Words and Terms	5
1.3 Sentence Structure	7
1.4 Introduction to Passive Verbs	8
Lesson 2: 08 OCT 2017	9
2.1 Personal Introductions	9
2.2 Forming Open-Ended Questions	9
2.2.1 Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives in English	11
2.2.2 Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives in Kannada	13

Lesson 0: Preliminary Notes

- While Kannada has its own script, almost all lesson material was provided in the standard modern Latin script (the same one used for the English alphabet).
- Letters are capitalized in order to distinguish the pronunciation in different words. That is, standard rules of capitalization do not apply to the Kannada terms and phrases in this document.
- This class was arranged to improve the students Kannada communication in a non-academic setting. That is, slang and inter-language mixing was either allowed or fully encouraged. This document reflects that mentality.
- Material was frequently repeated from lesson to lesson. This document reflects that redundancy.
- Not all of those living in Bangalore speak Kannada. While a proficiency in this language makes life in the city easier, it is by no means a silver bullet for all communication issues.

Lesson 1: 07 OCT 2017

1.1 Pronunciation

I found the use of the standard Latin alphabet very helpful given my lack of familiarity with the Hindi script. However, this required us to take some extra time at the beginning of the course to “map” the various pronunciations in Kannada onto some of these letters. In order to make the script more flexible, it was established that these lowercase letters produce different sounds in general than their uppercase counterparts. These pronunciations were established as shown in table 1.

Letter	English Example	Kannada Example	Meaning of Kannada Example
t	<i>th</i> -ird	ko- <i>t</i> -i	monkey
d	<i>th</i> -e	<i>d</i> -oora	far
n	<i>n</i> -un	<i>n</i> -idhaana	slow
l	<i>l</i> -ove	hu- <i>l</i> -i	tiger
e	<i>e</i> -lephant	<i>e</i> -lli	where
T	<i>t</i> -all	ko- <i>T</i> -i	crore (10,000,000)
D	<i>d</i> -oll	maad- <i>D</i> -i	do
N	po- <i>N</i> -d	ha- <i>N</i> -a	fee
L	wor- <i>L</i> -d	ha- <i>LL</i> -i	village
E	<i>a</i> -te	d- <i>E</i> -sha	country

Table 1: Pronunciation mapping

Notes

- In Indian English, “third” is pronounced with a much harder “t” sound than in American English. Therefore, in this mapping system, lowercase “t” sounds more like “t” as in turtle, with very little emphasis placed on the first “t”.
- In Indian English, “pond” is pronounced with a very nasal “N”. Therefore, in this mapping system, uppercase “N” is pronounced with very little contact between the tongue and the roof of the mouth. This is as opposed to the lower case “n”, which has full tongue-roof contact, as in “nut” or “nun”.
- Similarly to “N” and “n”, uppercase “L” and lowercase “l” are distinguished mostly by the degree of contact between the tongue and the roof of the mouth. “l” is pronounced with full contact as in “log” or “like”, while “L” sounds closer to “R”.
- “e” is distinguished from “E” mostly by stress.
- There are countless examples in which this mapping system is not used strictly.

1.2 Already Known Words and Terms

On the first day, we were encouraged to explain which words we already knew from our time in Bangalore. By collecting samples from each student, we developed the list shown in tables 2 and 3.

Term	Meaning	Example Phrase	Phrase Meaning
namaskaara	hello	namaskaara!	Greetings!
illa	no	illa!	No!
nannu	I	nannu	
ondu	one		
eradu			
KannaDa	kannada		
gotilla			
hogo	go (command)		
hesaru	name		
elli	where		
ideera			
hege	how		
moovu			
elu			
ertu			
tagoli			
munde			
swalpa			
tumba			
haaki			
chooru			
bekaa			
beku			
heda			
howdu			
howdaa?			
bisi			
mane			
bega			

Table 2: First day vocabulary

Term	Meaning	Example Phrase	Phrase Meaning
sandra			
halli			
haLLi			
palya			
kaadu			
mavu			
wadi			
kere			
kallu			
mata			
pet			
gudi			
baani			
hog-barteeni			
sigtaa/sikktoa			
mugusi			
biDi			
maaDi	do (command)		
maaDisteeni			
oota			
tinDi			
neeru			
aayitaa		aayitaa?	
nillisi			
oLage			
iLi			
chappaLe			
taayi			
huli	tiger		
koti	monkey		
koTi	crore (10,000,000)		
hELi	tell/say		
ELi	get up		

Table 3: First day vocabulary (continued)

1.3 Sentence Structure

Kannada shares a basic default sentence structure with many languages associated with the Indian subcontinent. This structure places a subject at the beginning of any stand-alone phrase as well as the action verb at the end. A common exception to this rule is when the verb is dropped completely, as is the case when a tangible or concrete action is *not* taking place. This exception is discussed in further detail in section ??.

That is, a sentence often takes the form

$$\frac{\text{subject}}{\text{subject}} + \frac{\text{stuff in between}}{\text{stuff in between}} + \frac{\text{verb}}{\text{verb}}.$$

For example, considering the sentence “I eat an apple.” in English, the form is

$$\frac{\text{I}}{\text{subject}} + \frac{\text{eat}}{\text{verb}} + \frac{\text{an}}{\text{article}} + \frac{\text{apple}}{\text{object}}.$$

The translations

I	→	nannu
eat	→	tinde
one	→	ondu
apple	→	sEbu

yield the direct translation

$$\frac{\text{nannu}}{\text{subject}} + \frac{\text{tinde}}{\text{verb}} + \frac{\text{ondu}}{\text{article}} + \frac{\text{sEbu}}{\text{object}}.$$

However, considering that

- the sentence in Kannada starts with the subject;
- the sentence in Kannada ends with the verb;
- Kannada, as well as many Indian languages, often don’t use articles,

the sentence is correctly translated as

$$\frac{\text{nannu}}{\text{subject}} + \frac{\text{sEbu}}{\text{object}} + \frac{\text{tinde}}{\text{verb}}.$$

1.4 Introduction to Passive Verbs

In the previous example, the verb “to eat” is an active verb. That is, it depicts an action that someone or something carries out in the physical, tangible world. Other verbs such as “to know” or “to like” are passive, given that they depict an internal, intangible phenomenon. The verb “to be” is complicated by this distinction in Kannada. It is often the case that a sentence indicating what “is” someone’s name, native location or job can be stated without a verb at all. For example, considering the sentence “My name is Chris.” in English, the form is

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{My} & + & \text{name} & + & \text{is} & + & \text{Chris} \\ \text{possessive adjective} & & \text{subject} & & \text{verb (to be)} & & \text{object} \end{array}.$$

The translations

My	→	nanna
name	→	hesaru
is	→	ide
Chris	→	chris

yield the direct translation

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{nanna} & + & \text{hesaru} & + & \text{ide} & + & \text{chris} \\ \text{possessive adjective} & & \text{subject} & & \text{verb (to be)} & & \text{object} \end{array}.$$

However, as discussed before, this is only grammatically correct if the verb is at the end, as in

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{nanna} & + & \text{hesaru} & + & \text{chris} & + & \text{ide} \\ \text{possessive adjective} & & \text{subject} & & \text{object} & & \text{verb (to be)} \end{array}.$$

Since “ide” or “to be” is in a passive form in this case, the verb can be dropped completely. Thus, it is often considered an acceptable, stand-alone phrase if one says

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{nanna} & + & \text{hesaru} & + & \text{chris} \\ \text{possessive adjective} & & \text{subject} & & \text{object} \end{array}.$$

Lesson 2: 08 OCT 2017

2.1 Personal Introductions

As discussed in section 1.4, the verb “to be” is passive with any of the introductions detailed in table 4.

Term	Meaning	Example Phrase	Phrase Meaning
hesaru	name	nanna hesaru chris.	My name is Chris.
dEsha	country	nanna dEsha USA.	My home country is the USA.
raajya	state	nanna raajya california.	My home state is California.
jille	district/county	nanna jille alameda.	My home country is Alameda.
ooru	city	nanna ooru aakland.	My home city is Oakland.
kelasa	work	nanna kelasa engineering.	My work is engineering.
bhaashe	language	nanna bhaashe english.	My language is English.

Table 4: Introductory information

2.2 Forming Open-Ended Questions

As opposed to questions whose responses are most naturally “yes” or “no”, open-ended questions have a variety of appropriate responses. For example, a close-ended question could be something like, “Will it rain today?”. The answer could be yes or no. On the other hand, an open-ended question like “What is your name?” could have much more than two appropriate answers.

Even among open-ended questions, there are a variety of distinctions. Open ended questions could have a limited set of appropriate answers. For example, the response to “Which day of the week is it?” can only have seven appropriate answers (at least in many western cultures). In this document, these will be referred to as “limited, open-ended questions”. On the other hand, the response to “what is your favorite book?”, can take many, many forms. These types of questions will be referred to as “unlimited, open-ended questions”. The distinction between all three of these question types is detailed in table 5.

Type	Answer Quantity	Example
Closed	2	Do you like the movie <i>A Scanner Darkly</i> ?
Limited, open-ended	above 2, below ∞	Which is your favorite <i>Philip K. Dick</i> movie?
Unlimited, open-ended	∞	What is your favorite movie?

Table 5: Question Types

Thus, the translations

what → Enu
which → yaavudu

Become relevant to forming open-ended questions.

Of course, in reality, even unlimited, open ended questions have a finite pool of responses. While there are many, many movies from which to chose as one's favorite, there is not a truly *infinite* quantity. For example, most would agree that both of the following questions are grammatically correct.

- What is your home state?
- Which state is home for you?

That is, in English and Kannada alike, the rules for choosing limited and unlimited open-ended questions are slightly ambiguous. Thus is the folly of any machine borne of man. Therefore, it is best to memorize the following introduction terms as they're commonly bounded as shown in table 6.

Term	Meaning	Open-Ended Type	Quest. Word (Eng.)	Quest. Word (Kan.)
hesaru	name	unlimited	what	Enu
dEsha	country	limited	which	yaavudu
raajya	state	limited	which	yaavudu
jille	district/county	limited	which	yaavudu
ooru	city	limited	which	yaavudu
kelasa	work	unlimited	what	Enu
bhaashe	language	unlimited	what	Enu

Table 6: Bounds on introduction terms

The general trend is that all geography-based open-ended questions are limited, while all those related to non-spatial properties (name, work, language) are unlimited. Also, just as when a statement of personal introduction needs no verb, as discussed in section 2.1, neither does a question requesting such information. For example, each of the questions and answers shown in table 7 are grammatically correct.

Question (Kannada/English)	Answer (Kannada/English)
nimma hesaru Enu? What is your name?	nanna hesaru sam. My name is Sam.
nimma dEsha yaavudu? Which is your country?	nanna dEsha bharata. My country is India.
nimma raajya yaavudu? Which us your state?	nanna raajya karnataka. My state is Karnataka.
nimma jille yaavudu? Which is your home district/county?	nanna jille urban bangalore. My district is Urban Bangalore.
nimma ooruu yaavudu? Which is your city?	nanna ooruu bangalore. My city is Bangalore.
nimma kelasa Enu? What is your job?	nanna kelasa managing. My job is managing.
nimma bhaashe Enu? What is your language?	nanna bhaashe telegu. My language is telegu.

Table 7: Introductory questions and answers

2.2.1 Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives in English

In many formal language courses, the distinction is made between the “first”, “second” and “third” person. A first person statement or question occurs when a speaking party speaks to a listener about one’s self. This is as opposed to the second person statement, question or demand, in which the speaking party speaks about the listener *to* the listener. Finally, a the third person statement or question occurs when the speaking party discusses (to the listener) an entity separate from both the speaker and the listener.

Among these three groups, there is a further distinction made between “singular” and “plural” groups. While singular phrases refer to a party of one individual, plural phrases refer to a group of multiple individuals. The “singular” group is best understood by imaging three people: Agatha, Barris and Childan. Imagine Agatha and Barris are alone in a room, and Agatha is speaking to Barris. Childan, a friend, is outside the room at the time of the discussion.

Type	Example
1 st person singular	<i>Agatha says to Barris, “I like oranges.”</i>
2 nd person singular	<i>Agatha says to Barris, “You like apples.”</i>
3 rd person singular	<i>Agatha says to Barris, “Childan, he likes pears.”</i>

Table 8: Singular first, second and third person examples

The “plural” group is best understood by imaging three more people in addition to the previous three: Deckard, Eldon and Ferris. In a new scenario, Agatha, Barris, Childan and Deckard are inside a room, while Eldon and Ferris are outside.

Type	Example
1 st person plural	<i>Agatha & Barris say to Childan & Deckard, “We eat carrots.”</i>
2 nd person plural	<i>Agatha & Barris say to Childan & Deckard, “You (all) eat asparagus.”</i>
3 rd person plural	<i>Agatha & Barris say to Childan & Deckard, “Eldon and Ferris, they eat peas.”</i>

Table 9: Plural first, second and third person examples in English

As shown in table 10, these six different types can appear in many different forms. The most intuitive of these forms is subject pronouns, which take the place of subjects in the most simple indicative sentences.

Type	Subject Pronoun	Example
1 st person singular	I	I have dreams.
2 nd person singular	you	You cannot afford a real goat.
3 rd person singular	he	He loses the gamble.
	she	She can show the way.
	it	It is beyond the door.
1 st person plural	we	We win the war.
2 nd person plural	you (all)	You all are beautiful.
3 rd person plural	they	They sleep forever.

Table 10: Subject pronouns in English

It should be noted that there is no explicit distinction between the singular and plural forms of the second person. Such statements can only be fully understood from context. For example “You need water.” is a statement that could be made to a single person or a group of people. Sometimes, the word “all” is added, lending to less ambiguous statement. That is, “You need water” is known, even as a stand-alone phrase, to have a different meaning from “You all need water.” Thus, the term “y’all”, said commonly throughout the southern United States, is just one example of that region’s linguistic superiority.

It should also be noted that while there is a distinction between the masculine, feminine and neutral third person singular pronoun (he, she and it), there is only one third person plural pronoun (they). This is also the case with object pronouns as shown in table 11. Object pronouns are used when something is happening to the entity that would otherwise be a subject. This is as opposed subject pronouns, which are used when the entity is doing something directly.

Type	Object Pronoun	Example
1 st person singular	me	She calls me.
2 nd person singular	you	He respects you.
3 rd person singular, masculine	him	The bees avoid him.
3 rd person singular, feminine	her	The laser passes her.
3 rd person singular, neutral	it	The rain wrinkles it.
1 st person plural	us	That disturbs us.
2 nd person plural	you (all)	The dog likes you.
3 rd person plural	them	The wind blesses them.

Table 11: Object pronouns in English

An easy way to remember the difference between subject and an object pronouns is to think of the word “to”. Any pronoun that comes after “to” will be of the object variety. One can never follow the word “to” with a subject pronoun while speaking in a grammatically correct manner. The negative of this rule does not apply however. A pronoun without a preceding “to” is not guaranteed to be either of the subject or object type.

Finally, when something is described in reference to another entity, a possessive adjective is used. Just like any adjective, a possessive adjective describes a noun. In this case however, the adjective describes a noun as a possession or association of something else. As shown in table 12, these adjectives come in many forms.

Type	Possessive Adjective	Example
1 st person singular	my	This is my life.
2 nd person singular	your	I like your song.
3 rd person singular, masculine	his	He pets his dog.
3 rd person singular, feminine	her	She leaves her blanket.
3 rd person singular, neutral	its	I find its cap.
1 st person plural	our	We draw our map.
2 nd person plural	your (all)	This is your country.
3 rd person plural	their	They take off their shoes.

Table 12: Possessive adjectives in English

Finally, there are possessive pronouns in English like mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours and theirs. However, their translations in Kannada have yet to be covered. So their description will be delayed until necessary.

2.2.2 Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives in Kannada

Having these terms in English covered, the corresponding terms in Kannada are shown in table 13. However, given the slight difference in Kannada, this table is best preceded by the following notes:

- The plural form of the second and third person is often used as a sign of respect when addressing or referring to a single individual. Therefore, while all forms are provided, it is best to use the plural forms for all but the first person in conversation. The exceptions are when discussing a close friend, relative or child or when the speaker wishes present intentional disrespect.
- The third person is divided between near and far references. This is similar to “this...” and “that...” in English. This division applies to subject/object pronouns as well as possessive adjectives.

Ord.	Quan.	Subject Pronoun		Object Pronoun		Possessive Adjective	
1 st	Singular	naanu I		nanage to me		nanna my	
	Plural	naavu we		namage to us		namma our	
2 nd	Singular	neenu you		ninage to you		ninna your	
	Plural	neevu you (all)		nimage to you (all)		nimma your (all)	
3 rd		<i>near</i>	<i>far</i>	<i>near</i>	<i>far</i>	<i>near</i>	<i>far</i>
	S, m	ivanu this he	avanu that he	ivanige to this him	avanige to that him	ivana this his	avaana that his
	S, f	ivaLu this she	avaLu that she	ivaLige to this her	avaLige to that her	ivaLa this her	avaLa that her
	S, n	idu this it	adu that it	idakke to this it	adakke to that it	idara this its	adara that its
	Plural	ivaru this they	avaru that they	ivarige to this them	avarige to that them	ivara this their	avara that their

Table 13: Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives in Kannada and English