

Pakistani English (PE) is a distinct variety of English spoken in Pakistan that has evolved since the country's independence from British colonial rule. It shares many characteristics with other forms of South Asian English, particularly Indian English, but also has its own unique features influenced by the country's native languages, most notably Urdu.

Role and Status

English holds a significant position in Pakistan as one of the two official languages, alongside Urdu. It is a language of power and prestige, widely used in various domains, including:

- **Administration and Government:** All official correspondence and legal proceedings are conducted in English.
- **Education:** It is the primary medium of instruction in many elite schools and higher education institutions, and its proficiency is essential for academic and professional advancement.
- **Business and Commerce:** It is the main language for international business and trade.

The ability to speak and write English fluently is often seen as a marker of social and economic mobility.

Linguistic Features

PE's unique identity stems from its phonology, grammar, and vocabulary, which are shaped by contact with local languages.

- **Vocabulary:** PE has borrowed a significant number of words from Urdu and other regional languages. These words often refer to local cultural concepts, food, and social norms. For example, "biradarism" for favoring one's clan or "telemoot" for a television meeting.
- **Grammar:** There are several grammatical variations from Standard British English, such as:
 - Using a single question tag like "isn't it?" for various questions.
 - Omission of the auxiliary verb "do," as in "How you got there?" instead of "How did you get there?"
 - Use of the present perfect tense with a past-time adverb, for example, "I have seen him yesterday."
- **Phonology:** The pronunciation is heavily influenced by native Pakistani languages. For instance, the sounds /p, t, k/ are often not aspirated, and there may be a lack of distinction between /v/ and /w/ sound