

Continuous (Progressive) Aspect (Actions that are ongoing/progressive in nature — a continuous action)

Continuous/Progressive Aspect at a glance (detailed explanation below after chart)

Table 1: The binary continuous or progressive aspect conjugation **as exists currently**. M=Male, F=Female

Formula:	Stem—> followed	by रहा/रहे/रही —> (Golden Rule I)	followed by होना	present or past					
Example	with verb: खाना								
Pronoun	M Present	M Past	F Present	F Past					
Singular	Stem —> रहा/रहे —> होना present	Stem —> रहा/रहे —> होना past	Stem —> रही —> होना present	Stem —> रही —> होना past					
मैं	खा रहा हूँ	खा रहा था	खा रही हूँ	खा रही थी					
तू	खा रहा है	खारहा था	खा रही है	खा रही थी					
यह	खारहा है	खा रहा था	खा रही है	खा रही थी					
वह	खा रहा है	खा रहा था	खा रही है	खा रही थी					
Plural									
हम	खारहे हैं	खा रहे थे	खा रही हैं	खा रही थीं					
तुम	खा रहे हो	खा रहे थे	खा रही हो	खा रही थीं					
आप	खारहे हैं	खा रहे थे	खा रही हैं	खा रही थीं					
ये	खा रहे हैं	खा रहे थे	खा रही हैं	खा रही थीं					
वे	खा रहे हैं	खा रहे थे	खा रही हैं	खा रही थीं					



Table 2: Factoring in a non-binary conjugation.

[M = male, F = female, Proposed NB = non-binary** (In 2014 the Supreme Court of India acknowledged that gender is not binary "male" or "female" only, but to date there is no way to express oneself in a non-binary voice in Hindi. **See detailed comment at the end of the document)]

Formula:	Stem>	followed by	रहा/रहे/रही/रहो (Golden Rule I)	-> followed	by होना	present or past
Example	with verb	खाना				
Pronoun	M Present	M Past	F Present	F Past	NB Present	NB Past
Singular	Stem → रहा/रहे → होना present	Stem -> रहा/रहे -> होना past	Stem -> रही -> होना present	Stem -> रही -> होना past	Stem -> ररहो -> होना present	Stem -> ररहो -> होना past
मैं	खारहा हूँ	खा रहा था	खा रही हूँ	खा रही थी	खा रहो हूँ	खा रहो थो
तू	खारहा है	खारहा था	खा रही है	खा रही थी	खा रहो है	खा रहो थो
यह	खारहा है	खा रहा था	खा रही है	खा रही थी	खा रहो है	खा रहो थो
वह	खारहा है	खा रहा था	खा रही है	खा रही थी	खा रहो है	खा रहो थो
Plural						
हम	खारहे हैं	खा रहे थे	खा रही हैं	खा रही थीं	खा रहो हैं	खा रहो थों
तुम	खा रहे हो	खा रहे थे	खा रही हो	खा रही थीं	खा रहो हो	खा रहो थों
आप	खारहे हैं	खा रहे थे	खा रही हैं	खा रही थीं	खा रहो हैं	खा रहो थों
ये	खारहे हैं	खा रहे थे	खा रही हैं	खा रही थीं	खारहो हैं	खा रहो थों
वे	खारहे हैं	खा रहे थे	खा रही हैं	खा रही थीं	खा रहो हैं	खा रहो थों



Decoding the Mystery of Hindi Continuous or Progressive aspectual conjugations:

In Hindi, the Continuous or Progressive aspect is usually used to talk about on-going actions, whether present or past. These are equivalent to the English, "I am coming", "I am seeing", "I am conquering", "I was coming", "I was seeing", "I was conquering".

Formula: The formula for conjugating (forming) the Continuous (Progressive) aspect in Hindi is:

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Stem followed by रहा/रहो/रहो (applying Golden Rule I*) followed by होना present or past
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*[Golden Rule I factoring in a non-binary identification:

आ ending for Masculine Singular (MS)

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

gending for Feminine Singular & Plural (FS/FP)

ओ ending for Non-binary Singular & Plural (NBS/NBP)**

So, for example, in the Continuous/Progressive aspect conjugation of the verb खाना "to eat", would be conjugated as:

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MS-Present: मैं खारहा हूँ MS-Past: मैं खारहा था
MPL-Present: हम खारहे हैं MPL-Past: हम खारहे थे
FS-Present: मैं खारही हूँ FS-Past: मैं खारही थी
FPL-Present: हम खारही हूँ FS-Past: हम खारही थीं
NBS-Present: मैं खारहो हूँ FS-Past: मैं खारहो थीं
FPL-Present: हम खारहो हूँ FS-Past: मैं खारहो थों
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and for the verb सोना "to sleep", it would be:

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MS-Present: मैं सो रहा हूँ MS-Past: मैं सो रहा था
MPL-Present: हम सो रहे हैं MPL-Past हम सो रहे थे
FS-Present: मैं सो रही हूँ FS-Past: मैं सो रही थी
FPL-Present: हम सो रही हैं FPL-Past: हम सो रही थीं
NBS-Present: मैं सो रहो हूँ FS-Past: मैं सो रहो थों
FPL-Present: हम सो रहो हैं FPL-Past: हम सो रहो थों
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Note: (i) It is important to remember that the **Continuous/Progressive** aspectual conjugation is made up of three distinct words: (i) the word stem (ii) followed by "continuous element" (रहा/रहे/रहो/रहो), followed by (iii) होना present or past. The "continuous" ending is never joined to the verb stem.

(ii) The Continuous/Progressive aspect is often used for "future" actions. When applied for "future actions", the most common usage is for actions of motions.

**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 genderquestioning 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.

