

- ۴ - پمپ بنزین _____ پارکینگه.
4 pomp-e benzin _____ pārkinge.
 The petrol station is next to the car park.
- ۵ - آپارتمانم _____ سینماست.
5 āpārtēmānam _____ sinemāst.
 My flat is opposite the cinema.
- ۶ - تلفن همگانی _____ منزل ماست.
6 telefon-e hamegāni _____ manzel-e māst.
 The public telephone is in front of our house.
- ۷ - خونه‌ی احمد _____ سینماست.
7 xune-ye ahmad _____ sinemāst.
 Ahmad's house is behind the cinema.
- ۸ - آپارتمان علی _____ مال ماست.
8 āpārtēmān-e ali _____ māl-e māst.
 Ali's flat is above ours.
- ۹ - شویژ پانجره است.
9 šofāğ _____ panjare ast.
 The [central heating] radiator is by the window.
- ۱۰ - تلفن _____ تلویزیونه.
10 telefon _____ televizione.
 The telephone is on the right side of the TV.

From cardinal to ordinal

Here is how we convert cardinal numbers (one, two, etc.) to ordinal numbers (first, second, etc.). For the first three, we say:

<i>Cardinal numbers</i>			<i>Ordinal numbers</i>		
یک	yek	one	اول	avval	first
دو	do	two	دوم	dovvom	second
سه	se	three	سوم	sevvom	third

For all the other numbers, we add the (stressed) suffix **-om** to the end of the cardinal number to get an ordinal number.

چهار	cahār	four	چهارم	cahārom	fourth
پنج	panj	five	پنجم	panjom	fifth
بیست و یک	bist o yek				twenty-one
بیست و یکم	bist o yekom				twenty-first



Exercise 2

Can you give the Persian equivalents of these ordinal numbers?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) first = _____ | (d) ninth = _____ |
| (b) second = _____ | (e) thirty-first = _____ |
| (c) third = _____ | (f) seventieth = _____ |

Postal address

A postal address normally begins with the largest unit, i.e. name of the country, city/town, and ends with the smallest, i.e. house/flat number, followed by the name of the recipient, e.g.

ایران، تهران، کد پستی ۲۱۸۶۰۳، خیابان آبان، پلاک ۹، منزل آقای
احمدی

**irān, tehrān, kod-e posti-e 218603, xiābān-e ābān,
pelāk-e 9, manzel-e āqā-ye ahmadi**

Iran, Tehran, Postcode 218603, Aban Street, No. 9, home of
Mr Ahmadi



Exercise 3

Imagine you are the British premier. You are inviting some Iranian friends to your home at No. 10 Downing Street, London SW1, England. Give your address in Persian.

Present simple tense

How to say 'I know', 'you know', etc.

Here is the formula:

Prefix می **mi-** + present stem of verb + personal ending

Reminder: Present stems are irregular. The present stem of each verb introduced is given in brackets. For personal endings, see pp. 13ff.

The verb we need here is: **دونستن (دون)** **dunestan (dun)** to know. Its present stem is **دون** **dun**.

Note: The prefix **می mi-** carries the word stress.

Listen to the audio. (CD1; 41)



من می دونم.	man midunam.	I know.
تو می دونی.	to miduni.	You (<i>inf</i>) know.
او می دونه.	u midune.	He/she knows.
ما می دونیم.	mā midunim.	We know.
شما می دونید.	šomā midunid.	You know.
اون‌ها می دونند.	unhā midunand.	They know.

To make the verb negative, we add the prefix **ن ne-**.

Note: The negative prefix normally carries the word stress.

Listen to the audio. (CD1; 41)



من نمی دونم.	man nemidunam.	I don't know.
شما نمی دونید.	šomā nemidunid.	You don't know.

In literary Persian, the personal ending for او **u** 'he/she' and آن **ān** 'it/that' is **-ad**.

Compare:

او می خوره	u mixore	'he/she eats' (<i>col</i>)
او می خورد	u mixorad	'he/she eats' (<i>I</i>)

The verb used is **خوردن (خور)** **xordan (xor)** 'to eat'.

The next example is a bit more challenging because the verb itself is colloquialised. (See U1D2 for colloquialisation of sounds **ān** to **un**.)

دونستن (دون)	dunestan (dun)	to know (<i>col</i>)
دانستن (دان)	dānestan (dān)	to know (<i>I</i>)
او می دونه	u midune	he/she knows (<i>col</i>)
او می داند	u midānad	he/she knows (<i>I</i>)



Exercise 4

Here is what different people do on different days of the week. Fill in the blanks with the help of the English translations and the verbs provided. Follow the example.

رفتن (ر)	raftan (r)	to go
خوردن (خور)	xordan (xor)	to eat; to drink
زدن (زن)	zadan (zan)	to play (musical instrument)
خوندن (خون)	xundan (xun)	to read
کردن (کن)	kardan (kon)	to do
چک کردن (کن)	cek kardan (kon)	to check
کار کردن (کن)	kār kardan (kon)	to work
شنا کردن (کن)	šenā kardan (kon)	to swim
تماشا کردن (کن)	tamāšā kardan (kon)	to watch

- 1 Saturday to Wednesday, I go to university.

شنبه تا چهارشنبه، به دانشگاه _____
šanbe tā cahār-šanbe, be dānešgāh _____

Example: شنبه تا چهارشنبه، به دانشگاه می‌رم.

šanbe tā cahār-šanbe, be dānešgāh miram.

- 2 On Fridays, we eat dinner in an Iranian restaurant.

جمعه‌ها، در رستوران ایرانی شام _____
jom`ehā, dar resturān-e irāni šām _____

- 3 On Mondays, Ali plays the piano.

دوشنبه‌ها، علی پیانو _____
do-šanbehā, ali piāno _____

- 4 On Tuesdays, we read books in the library.

سه‌شنبه‌ها، تو(ی) کتابخونه کتاب _____
se-šanbehā, tu(-ye) ketābxune ketāb _____

- 5 What do you (*inf*) do on Sundays?

یکشنبه‌ها چه کار _____؟
yek-šanbehā ce-kār _____?

- 6 I check my emails in the evening.

شب‌ها ایمیل‌هامو _____
šabhā imeilhām-o _____

7 On Thursdays, I work in a bank.

پنجشنبه‌ها، تو(ی) یک بانک _____
panj-šanbehā, tu(-ye) yek bānk _____

8 She swims for an hour in the morning.

صبح‌ها یک ساعت _____
sobhhā yek sā`at _____

9 On Wednesdays, they watch a TV serial.

چهارشنبه‌ها، یک سریال تلویزیونی _____
cahār-šanbehā, yek seriāl-e televizioni _____

Reading a telephone number

Telephone numbers are normally read in twos or threes. A zero in the middle is a good dividing point.

۲۸۶۰۵۳

دویست و هشتاد و شش، صفر، پنجاه و سه

devist o haštād o šeš, sefr, panjāh o se

286053

two hundred and eighty six, zero, fifty-three

۰۶۱-۷۴۱۹۰۰۷

صفر، شصت و یک - هفتاد و چهار، نوزده، دو
 صفر، هفت

**sefr, šast o yek - haftād o cahār, nuzdah,
 do sefr, haft**

061-7419007

zero, sixty one - seventy-four, nineteen,
 double zero, seven

Exercise 5

Can you give these phone numbers to your Persian-speaking friend?



1 7102683

2 3413509

3 4455002

4 7853412

5 7890635

6 5036797



Exercise 6

Can you say these in Persian?

- 1 What's Ahmad's address? No. 24, Hafez Street, Tehran 16372.
- 2 Do you have a lighter? Yes, but it's broken, I'm afraid.
- 3 Which floor is your flat on? Fourth floor.
- 4 Where's my sandwich? It's on the table, in the kitchen.
- 5 The post office is opposite the petrol station, next to the cinema.
- 6 Your pen is under the chair.
- 7 I saw him outside the cinema.
- 8 He doesn't know where we are.
- 9 Do they know we are here?
- 10 Do you know who she is?
- 11 Do you know what this is?
- 12 What do you do on Saturdays/Sundays?
- 13 I go shopping.



Dialogue 2



Asking about family (CD1; 42)

An Iranian (I) and a British tourist (T) met a while ago when they took their seats on an Iran Air flight from London to Tehran. Here is an extract from their conversation.

- شما هر سال تابستون می آید ایران؟
 راستش، سالی دو سه بار می آم.
 کارتون چیه؟
 اپراتور کامپیوتر هستم.
 کجا کار می کنید؟
 تو یک شرکت آمریکایی کار می کنم. شما چه کار می کنید؟
 معلم هستم.
 چی درس می دید؟
 ریاضی درس می دم. ...

- T: این آقا پسر تونند؟
 I: نه، برادرمه.
 T: از شما خیلی کوچکتراه!
 I: بله، کوچکترین عضو خانواده است. شما خواهر و برادر دارید؟
 T: نه، متأسفانه ندارم.
 I: بچه چطور؟
 T: نه هنوز. شما هر چند وقت یک بار می آید انگلستان؟
 I: سالی یک بار می آم برای دیدن خاله ام. تو لندن زندگی می کنه.
 T: برای خرید نمی آید؟!
 I: چرا، اما خاله ام نمی دونه!

- I: *šomā har sāl tābestun miāid irān?*
 T: *rāsteš, sālī do se bār miām.*
 I: *kāretun cie?*
 T: *operātor-e kāmputer hastam.*
 I: *kojā kār mikonid?*
 T: *tu yek šerkat-e āmrikāyi kār mikonam. šomā ce-kār mikonid?*
 I: *mo`allem hastam.*
 T: *ci dars midid?*
 I: *riāzi dars midam. . . .*
 T: *in āqā pesaretunand?*
 I: *na, barādaram.*
 T: *az šomā xeili kucektare!*
 I: *bale, kucektarin ozv-e xānevād(e)ast. šomā xāhar o barādar dārid?*
 T: *na, mota`assefāne nadāram.*
 I: *bacce ceto(u)r?*
 T: *na hanuz. šomā har cand vaqt yek bār miāid engelestān?*
 I: *sālī yek bār miām barāye didan-e xāl(e)am. tu landan zendegi mikone.*
 T: *barāye xarid nemiāid?!*
 I: *cerā, ammā xāl(e)am nemidune!*
- I: *Do you come to Iran every summer? (lit every year (in) the summer)*
 T: *Actually, I come two or three times a year.*

- I: *What's your job?*
 T: *I'm a computer operator.*
 I: *Where do you work?*
 T: *I work in/for an American company. What do you do?*
 I: *I'm a teacher.*
 T: *What do you teach?*
 I: *I teach maths . . .*
 T: *Is this gentleman your son?*
 I: *No, he's my brother.*
 T: *He's much younger than you!*
 I: *Yes, he's the youngest member of the family. Do you have brothers and sisters?*
 T: *No, unfortunately I haven't.*
 I: *How about children? (lit How about child?)*
 T: *Not yet. How often do you come to England?*
 I: *I come once a year to see my (maternal) aunt. She lives in London.*
 T: *Do you not come for shopping?!*
 I: *Yes, but my aunt doesn't know (this)!*



Vocabulary

هر	har	every
سال	sāl	year
تابستون	tābestun	summer
می آید	miāid	you come
راستش	rāsteš	actually, to be honest (<i>lit its truth</i>)
سالی	sāli	a year; each/per year
بار	bār	time(s)
می آم	miām	I come
اپراتور	operātor	operator
کامپیوتر	kāmpiuter	computer
کار کردن (کن)	kār kardan (kon)	to work
کار می کنم	kār mikonam	I work
شرکت	šerkat	company, firm

چه کار می کنید؟	ce-kār mikonid?	What do you do?
معلم	mo`allem	teacher
درس	dars	lesson
دادن (د)	dādan (d)	to give
درس دادن (د)	dars dādan (d)	to teach
درس می دید	dars midid	you teach
ریاضی	riāzi	maths
درس می دم	dars midam	I teach
از	az	than
کوچک	kucek	young; small
کوچک تر	kucektar	younger
کوچک ترین	kucektarin	youngest
عضو	ozv	member
خانواده	xānevāde	family
خواهر	xāhar	sister
برادر	barādar	brother
بچه	bacce	child
هنوز	hanuz	yet; still
وقت	vaqt	time
هر چند وقت یک بار	har cand vaqt yek bār	how often (<i>lit</i> once every how much time)
انگلستان	engelestān	England
برای	barāye	for (the purpose of)
دیدن (بین)	didan (bin)	to see; seeing
خاله	xāle	maternal aunt
برای دیدن خاله ام	barāye didan-e xāl(e)am	in order to see my aunt (<i>lit</i> for the seeing of my aunt)
لندن	landan	London
زندگی	zendegi	life
زندگی کردن (کن)	zendegi kardan (kon)	to live
خرید	xarid	shopping
چرا	cerā	'yes' to a negative question; why



Language and culture notes

How to say 'I come', 'you come', etc.

The verb is: اومدن (آ) **umadan (ā)** 'to come'

The tense is the 'Present simple' introduced in Dialogue 1 above. Here is a reminder of the formula:

Prefix می **mi-** + present stem of verb + personal ending

Verbs whose present stem ends with a vowel need a little more attention. This is because the personal endings which are added to it all begin with a vowel. Two vowels do not follow each other comfortably – in English, too: try saying 'a egg' instead of 'an egg'! Therefore, some adjustment is needed. The present stem of اومدن **umadan** 'to come' is a single vowel: آ **ā**. In literary Persian, this is resolved by adding a soft ی **y** sound as a 'buffer' between the two vowels. In colloquial forms, however, the tendency is to reduce rather than add sounds! Here is the result:



Listen to the audio. (CD1; 45)

<i>Literary (written)</i>	<i>Colloquial</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
می آیم mi+ā+yam	می آم miām	I come
می آیی mi+ā+yi	می آی miāi	you come (informal)
می آید mi+ā+yad	می آد miād	he/she/it comes
می آییم mi+ā+yim	می آییم miāim	we come
می آیید mi+ā+yid	می آید miāid	you come (formal/plural)
می آیند mi+ā+yand	می آند miānd	they come

To make the verb negative, we add the (stressed) prefix نمی **ne-**, e.g.



Listen to the audio. (CD1; 45)

نمی آم	nemiām	I don't come
نمی آی	nemiāi	you don't come (<i>inf</i>)
نمی آد	nemiād	he/she/it doesn't come

How to say 'every day; once a day; once every two days'

هر روز	har ruz	every day
روزی یک بار	ruzi yek bār	once a day
هر دو روز یک بار	har do ruz yek bār	once every two days

Note: Both of these are unstressed:

- هر **har** every
- the suffix ی **-i** meaning: a, per, each

Listen to the audio. (CD1; 46)



روز	ruz	day
روزی	ruzi	a/per/each day
هر روز	har ruz	every day
هفته	hafte	week
هفته‌ای	hafte-i	a/per/each week
هر هفته	har hafte	every week
ماه	māh	month
ماهی	māhi	a/per/each month
هر ماه	har māh	every month
سال	sāl	year
سالی	sāli	a/per/each year
هر سال	har sāl	every year

Exercise 7

With the help of the English translations, use the correct form of the verb **umadan (ā)** 'to come' in the blanks. Follow the example. (آ)



1 Do you come here every day?

شما هر روز به اینجا _____؟

šomā har ruz be injā _____?

Example:

شما هر روز به اینجا می‌آید؟

šomā har ruz be injā miāid?

- 2 I come here two or three times a week.
 من هفته‌ای دو یا سه بار به اینجا _____
man hafte-i do yā se bār be injā _____
- 3 Ahmad comes here once a month.
 احمد ماهی یک بار به اینجا _____
ahmad māhi yek bār be injā _____
- 4 We come to the Farsi class once a week.
 ما هفته‌ای یک بار به کلاس فارسی _____
mā hafte-i yek bār be kelās-e fārsi _____
- 5 They come to England every year.
 اون‌ها هر سال به انگلستان _____
unhā har sāl be engelestān _____
- 6 I come here every week.
 من هر هفته به اینجا _____
man har hafte be injā _____
- 7 They come to our home twice a year.
 اون‌ها سالی دو بار به منزل ما _____
unhā sāli do bār be manzel-e mā _____
- 8 Ahmad comes to the supermarket with me once every two weeks.
 احمد هر دو هفته یک بار با من به سوپرمارکت _____
ahmad har do hafte yek bār bā man be supermārkēt _____

Comparative adjective

How to say 'younger; more beautiful'

We add the (stressed) suffix **-tar** to the adjective.

Note: Word stress is shifted over to the suffix.



Listen to the audio. (CD1; 47)

کوچک	kucek	small, young
کوچک‌تر	kucektar	smaller, younger
زیبا	zibā	beautiful
زیباتر	zibātar	more beautiful
جالب	jāleb	interesting
جالب‌تر	jālebtar	more interesting

How to say 'X is younger than Y.'

X از Y کوچکتر است. **X az Y kuçektar ast. (I)**
 X از Y کوچکتره. **X az Y kuçektare. (col)**

Note this irregular form:

خوب **xub** good بهتر **behtar** better

Exercise 8

Provide the missing word. Follow the example.



۱- فورد از رولزرویس (smaller) _____ ه.
 1 **ford az rolz-rois (smaller) _____ e.**

A Ford [car] is smaller than a Rolls-Royce.

Example:

۱- فورد از رولزرویس کوچکتره.
 1 **ford az rolz-rois kuçektare.**

۲- رولزرویس (than) _____ فورد گرونتره.
 2 **rolz-rois (than) _____ ford geruntare.**

A Rolls-Royce is more expensive than a Ford.

۳- ایران از انگلستان (larger) _____ ه.
 3 **irān az engelestān (larger) _____ e.**

Iran is larger than England.

۴- اصفهان از تهران (more beautiful) _____ ه!
 4 **esfahān az tehrān (more beautiful) _____ e!**

Esfahan is more beautiful than Tehran!

۵- دستپخت مادرم از دستپخت دوستم (better) _____ ه.
 5 **dast-poxt-e mādaram az dast-poxt-e dustam (better) _____ e.**

My mother's cooking is better than my friend's cooking.

Superlative adjective

How to say 'smallest; youngest'

We add the (stressed) suffix **-tarin** to the adjective. Example:

کوچک	kucek	small, young
کوچک‌ترین	kucektarin	smallest, youngest

The word order is similar to English:



Listen to the audio. (CD1; 48)

کوچک‌ترین ماشین	kucektarin māšīn	smallest car
کوچک‌ترین عضو	kucektarin ozv	youngest member
بزرگ‌ترین شهر	bozorgtarin šahr	largest city
گرون‌ترین ماشین	geruntarin māšīn	most expensive car

Also note these irregular forms:

خوب **xub** good; بهتر **behtar** better; بهترین **behtarīn** best
 به نظر من، زیباترین شهر ایران مشهد [ببخشید!] اصفهان است.
be nazar-e man, zibātārīn šahr-e irān mašhad [bebaxšīd!]
esfahān ast.

In my opinion, the most beautiful city in Iran is Mashad [sorry!]
 Esfahan.



Exercise 9

Fill in the blanks. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 **film-e bad** → **badtarīn film**
bad film → worst film
- 2 _____ ← ماشین گرون **māšīn-e gerun** → _____
expensive car → most expensive car
- 3 _____ ← آپارتمان ارزون **āpārtēmān-e arzun** → _____
cheap flat → cheapest flat
- 4 _____ ← شهر بزرگ **šahr-e bozorg** → _____
big city → biggest city
- 5 _____ ← زن جوون **zan-e javun** → _____
young woman → youngest woman

- 6 _____ ← مرد مسن **mard-e mosenn** → _____
old man → oldest man
- 7 _____ ← فیلم خوب **film-e xub** → _____
good film → best film
- 8 _____ ← غذای خوب **qazā-ye xub** → _____
good food → best food

Extended family

Compared to English, Persian uses more descriptive words to refer to members of the extended family. Perhaps the most notorious example concerns the word 'cousin' which has no fewer than eight equivalents in Persian:

عمو	amu	paternal uncle	دایی	dāyi	maternal uncle
عمّه	amme	paternal aunt	خاله	xāle	maternal aunt

To each of the above we add پسر **pesar** 'son', or دختر **doxtar** 'daughter', to produce the various meanings of 'cousin', e.g.

دختر عمو	doxtar(-e)-amu	paternal uncle's daughter (cousin)
پسر خاله	pesar(-e)-xāle	maternal aunt's son (cousin)

The linking sound **e** (**ezāfe**) is omitted for convenience.

Exercise 10



Can you say these in Persian?

- 1 Do you have a younger sister?
- 2 I'm three years older than my brother.
- 3 Are you the eldest member of the family?
- 4 My father is two years older than my aunt (his sister).
- 5 In my opinion, the best Iranian food is *chelo-kabab*.
- 6 Where is the nearest Iranian restaurant?
- 7 We come to this restaurant two or three times a month.
- 8 Do you (*formal*) come to this restaurant frequently?
- 9 This is the largest supermarket in this town.
- 10 I don't watch television.
- 11 I listen to the radio.
- 12 Do you (*formal*) come here every day?

- 13 They don't come to England every year.
- 14 They come here once every two years.
- 15 On Fridays, we come home late.
- 16 We don't come to the Farsi class in (the) summer.



Comprehension (CD1; 49)

The following is what your Iranian friend wrote in a recent email:

ما یک خانه در غرب شیراز داریم. آدرس ما این است:
شیراز، کد پستی ۱۸۲۴۸، خیابان سعدی، کوچه‌ی نرگس، پلاک ۱۵،
منزل حسینی.

روبه‌روی کوچه‌ی ما یک پمپ بنزین است. در طرف راست کوچه یک
پیتزا فروشی است. در طرف چپ کوچه نانوايي است. جلوی خانه‌ی ما یک
صندوق پست است. داخل کوچه، درب چهارم دست چپ منزل ما است.
خانه‌ی ما زیاد بزرگ نیست اما اتاق من بزرگ‌ترین اتاق در منزل ماست.
اتاق خواهرم از مال من کوچک‌تر، ولی قشنگ‌تر است. او در اتاقش عکس
و پوستر زیاد دارد. من در اتاقم فقط یک پوستر بزرگ از شجریان دارم. به
نظر من او بهترین خواننده‌ی ایران است.

من هر شب آوازهای او را گوش می‌کنم. او هر سه یا چهار سال یک بار
در شیراز کنسرت اجرا می‌کند. عمه و دایی‌ام در اصفهان زندگی می‌کنند.
آن‌ها برای دیدن شجریان و شنیدن صدای او به شیراز می‌آیند. پسردایی‌ام
در ارکستر او تار می‌زند. جای شما خالی، خیلی خوش می‌گذرد!

mā yek xāne dar qarb-e širāz dārim. ādres-e mā in ast:
širāz, kod-e posti-e 18248, xiābān-e sa'di, kuce-ye narges, pelāk-e
15, manzel-e hoseini.

ru-be-ru-ye kuce-ye mā yek pomp-e benzin ast. dar taraf-e rāst-e kuce yek pitzā foruši ast. dar taraf-e cap-e kuce nānvāyi ast. jelo-ye xāne-ye mā yek sanduq-e post ast. dāxel-e kuce, darb-e cahārom dast-e cap manzel-e mā ast.

xāne-ye mā ziād bozorg nist ammā otāq-e man bozorgtarin otāq dar manzel-e māst. otāq-e xāharam az māl-e man kucektar, vali qašangtar ast. u dar otāqaš aks va poster ziād dārad. man dar otāqam faqat yek poster-e bozorg az šajariān dāram. be nazar-e man u behtarin xānande-ye irān ast.

man har šab āvāzhā-ye u rā guš mikonam. u har se yā cahār sāl yek bār dar širāz konsert ejrā mikonad. amme va dāyiam dar esfahān zendegi mikonand. ānhā barāye didan-e šajariān va šenidan-e sedā-ye u be širāz miāyand. pesar-dāyiam dar orkestr-e u tār mizanad. jā-ye šomā xāli, xeili xoš mig(o)zarad!

-
- 1 In which part of Shiraz does she live?
 - 2 What type of accommodation do they (her family) have?
 - 3 What is her address?
 - 4 What is opposite their alleyway?
 - 5 Where is the pizza shop?
 - 6 What is on the left of the alleyway?
 - 7 Where is the post box?
 - 8 Which side of the alleyway is their home located?
 - 9 What comment does she make about the size of their home?
 - 10 Who has the largest room?
 - 11 What comparisons does she make about rooms?
 - 12 What are you likely to see in the rooms mentioned?
 - 13 What opinion does she express?
 - 14 What does she listen to every evening?
 - 15 What happens every three or four years?
 - 16 Why does she mention Esfahan?
 - 17 Who comes to Shiraz and why?
 - 18 Who in her family is a musician?
 - 19 Which instrument does s/he play?
 - 20 How do we know she is talking about a pleasant experience?

Unit Six

ورود به تهران

vorud be tehrān

Arriving in Tehran



In this unit we will look at how to:

- answer routine questions asked by immigration and customs officers
- wish someone a nice time and reciprocate
- suggest that you and others do something together
- talk about something you are doing now
- talk about something you will do in the future
- ask someone (not) to do something
- offer to do something for someone

گذرنامه
PASSPORT



Dialogue 1

**How long will you stay in Iran? (CD1; 50)**

An Australian tourist (T) has just arrived at Tehran airport.
The passport officer (O) begins the conversation.

- O: گذرنامه، لطفاً.
T: بفرمایید.
O: متشکرم. چند وقت تو ایران می‌مونی؟
T: حدود سه ماه.
O: هدفتون از این سفر چیه؟
T: والا، من زبان‌شناس هستم. دارم روی لهجه‌ی شیرین اصفهانی کار می‌کنم.
O: عالی‌اس! آدرس مشخصی دارید تو ایران؟
T: نه، می‌رم هتل.
O: در کدوم هتل اقامت می‌کنید؟
T: هتل امیر در تهران و هتل عباس در اصفهان.
O: بفرمایید. به ایران خوش اومدید.
T: خیلی ممنون. خدا حافظ.
O: خدا نگهدار.

- O: gozarnāme, lotfan.
T: befarmāyid.
O: mot(a)šakkeram. cand vaqt tu irān mimunid?
T: hodud-e se māh.
O: hadafetun az in safar cie?
T: vāllā, man zabān-šenās hastam. dāram ru-ye lahje-ye širin-e esfahāni kār mikonam.
O: āli es! ādres-e mošaxxasi dārid tu Irān?
T: na, miram hotel.
O: dar kodum hotel eqāmat mikonid?
T: hotel amir dar tehrān va hotel abbās dar esfahān.
O: befarmāyid. be irān xoš umadid.
T: xeili mamnun. xodā hāfez.
O: xodā negahdār.

- O: *(Your) passport, please.*
 T: *Here you are.*
 O: *Thank you. How long will you stay in Iran?*
 T: *About three months.*
 O: *What's the (lit your) purpose of this visit?*
 T: *Well, I'm a linguist. I'm working on the sweet Esfahani accent.*
 O: *That's excellent [with an Esfahani accent]! Do you have a known address in Iran?*
 T: *No, I'll go to a hotel.*
 O: *In which hotel will you be staying?*
 T: *Amir Hotel in Tehran and Abbas Hotel in Esfahan.*
 O: *Here you are. Welcome to Iran.*
 T: *Much obliged. Goodbye.*
 O: *Goodbye.*



Vocabulary

گذرنامه	gozarnāme	passport
لطفاً	lotfan	please
بفرمایید	befarmāyid	here you are
متشکر	mot(a)šakker	thankful; grateful
متشکرم	mot(a)šakkeram	I'm grateful; thanks
چند	cand	how much
وقت	vaqt	time
می‌مونید	mimunid	you (will) stay
موندن (مون)	mundan (mun)	to stay/remain
حدود	hodud-e	about, approximately
هدف	hadaf	purpose, aim
از	az	of; from
سفر	safar	visit, trip
واللا	vāllā	well [from Arabic والله wallāh by God]
زبان	zabān	language
زبان‌شناس	zabān-šenās	linguist
لهجه	lahje	accent

شیرین	širin	sweet
عالی	āli	excellent
اس	es	short for است ast 'is' [in Esfahani accent]
مشخص	mošaxxas	specific, known
کدوم	kodum	which
اقامت	eqāmat	residence
اقامت کردن (کن)	eqāmat kardan (kon)	to stay/reside
خوش	xoš	happy; pleasant
خوش اومدید	xoš umadid	welcome
ممنون	mamnun	grateful, obliged
خیلی ممنون	xeili mamnun	much obliged
نگهدار	negahdār	protector
خدا نگهدار	xodā negahdār	Goodbye [<i>lit</i> May God be your protector]

Language and culture notes



Future simple tense

The literary form of this tense is explained in the Reference grammar at the end of this book. In colloquial Persian, the present simple tense (see U5D1) is also used to refer to a future act or fact. Therefore, the sentence:

چند وقت تو ایران می‌مونی؟
cand vaqt tu irān mimunid?

can have any of these meanings:

- 'How long do you stay in Iran?' OR:
- 'How long will you stay in Iran?' OR even:
- 'How long will you be staying in Iran?'

To make the verb negative, we add the prefix **ne-** نـ:

زیاد نمی‌مونم. **ziād nemimunam.**
I won't stay long.

Here is another sentence from the above dialogue using a similar structure:

می‌رم هتل. **miram hotel.** I'll go to a hotel.

You will note that this is a reduced version of:

من به هتل می‌رم. **man be hotel miram.**

(See 'Reduction' in U4D1.)



Exercise 1

With the help of the English translations, fill in each blank with the appropriate form of a verb from the box below. The first one has been done for you.

کردن (کن)	kardan (kon)	to do
موندن (مون)	mundan (mun)	to stay (on); to remain
تماشا کردن (کن)	tamāshā kardan (kon)	to watch
رفتن (ر)	raftan	to go
سفر کردن (کن)	safar kardan (kon)	to travel
اقامت کردن (کن)	eqāmat kardan (kon)	to stay (reside)
برگشتن (گرد)	bar gaştan (gard)	to return

1 What are you (or: will you be) doing next weekend?

آخر هفته‌ی آینده چه کار _____؟
āxar-e hafte-ye āyande ce-kār _____?

Example:

آخر هفته‌ی آینده چه کار می‌کنید؟
āxar-e hafte-ye āyande ce-kār mikonid?

2 Nothing! I'll stay at home and watch TV.

هیچچی! تو خونه _____ و تلویزیون _____
hicci! tu xune _____ o television _____

3 I'll go to Paris for shopping.

برای خرید به پاریس _____
barāye xarid be pāris _____

4 How will you travel?

bā ci _____?

با چی _____؟

5 Who will you travel with?

bā ki _____?

با کی _____؟

6 Where will you stay in Paris?

dar pāris, kojā _____?

در پاریس، کجا _____؟

7 How long will you stay in Paris?

cand vaqt dar pāris _____?

چند وقت در پاریس _____؟

8 When will you return to London?

kei be landan _____?

کی به لندن _____؟

Exercise 2

More practice with the verb اومدن (آ) **umadan (ā)** 'to come'. Can you say the following to a Persian-speaker? See U5D2 for help with this verb.



- 1 Will you come with me?
- 2 I'll come with you.
- 3 She'll come with us.
- 4 We'll come with you.
- 5 They'll come with me.
- 6 I'll come to your office tomorrow.
- 7 Will you come to my party next weekend?

Present continuous

How to say 'I'm eating lunch.'

You will be delighted to know that colloquial Persian uses the same structure (i.e. the present simple tense, introduced in U5D1) to express all these forms:

I eat	=	present simple
I'll eat	=	future simple
I'm eating	=	present continuous

(Who said Persian was a difficult language?!)

The verb needed is my favourite one: خوردن (خور) **xordan** (xor) 'to eat'.

ناهار می خورم. **nāhār mixoram.** I'm eating lunch.

To emphasise the fact that we are in the middle of doing something, we add the verb داشتن (دار) **dāstan** (dār) 'to have' (see U3D2) purely as an auxiliary verb:

دارم ناهار می خورم. **dāram nāhār mixoram.**
I am (in the middle of) eating lunch.

Note: The object ناهار **nāhār** 'lunch' is sandwiched between the auxiliary verb دارم **dāram** and the main verb می خورم **mixoram**. This can happen with adverbs, too:

دارم بیدار می شم! **dāram bidār mišam!**
I'm waking up! [I'm beginning to wake up!]

دارم کم کم بیدار می شم! **dāram kam-kam bidār mišam!**
I'm gradually waking up!

More examples:

الآن دارید چه کار می کنید؟ **al'ān dārid ce-kār mikonid?**
What are you doing right now?

الآن دارم تلویزیون تماشا می کنم.
al'ān dāram television tamāšā mikonam.
I'm watching TV right now.

الآن دارم کار می کنم.
al'ān dāram kār mikonam.
I'm working right now.

دارم روی لهجه‌ی اصفهانی کار می کنم.
dāram ru-ye lahje-ye esfahāni kār mikonam.
I'm working on the Esfahani accent.

دارم روی لهجه‌ی شیرین اصفهانی کار می کنم.
dāram ru-ye lahje-ye širin-e esfahāni kār mikonam.
I'm working on the sweet Esfahani accent.

(This example appears in Dialogue 1 above.)

Exercise 3

With the help of the English translations, complete the following sentences by putting appropriate numbers and letters in the boxes. Each sentence needs one item from each of the columns below to become complete. The first one has been done for you.



Auxiliary verbs	Main verbs
(1) داره dāre	(a) بازی می کنند bāzi mikonand
(2) دارید dārid	(b) می کنی mikoni
(3) دارم dāram	(c) می کنه mikone
(4) دارند dārand	(d) می رم miram
(5) داریم dārim	(e) می خورید mixorid
(6) داری dāri	(f) تماشا می کنیم tamāšā mikonim
	(g) می آد miād

1 I'm going to the office.

3 d اداره.

3 d edāre.

5 We're watching a film.

فیلم .

film .

2 He/she's coming here.

اینجا.

injā.

6 Are you eating dinner?

شام ؟

šām ؟

3 What are you doing?

چه کار ؟

ce-kār ؟

7 They're playing tennis.

تنیس .

tenis .

4 He/she's swimming.

شنا .

šenā .



Exercise 4

Put these jumbled sentences in order, and then translate them into English.

- 1 می خورم - دارم - من - سوپ.
mixoram - dāram - man - sup.
- 2 بازی می کنیم - داریم - فوتبال - ما.
bāzi mikonim - dārim - futbāl - mā.
- 3 شنا می کنند - دارند - اون ها.
šenā mikonand - dārand - unhā.
- 4 به - گوش می کنم - رادیو - دارم.
be - guš mikonam - rādio - dāram.
- 5 درس می ده - داره - معلم - فارسی.
dars mide - dāre - mo`allem - fārsi.
- 6 داره - پیانو - کی - می زنه؟
dāre - piāno - ki - mizane?
- 7 درست می کنیم - داریم - شام.
dorost mikonim - dārim - šām.
- 8 ایمیل هاتونو - چک می کنید - دارید؟
emeilhātun-o - cek mikonid - dārid?
- 9 می شورم - ظرف ها رو - دارم.
mišuram - zarfhā-ro - dāram.
- 10 روزنامه - داره - خواهرم - می خونه.
ruznāme - dāre - xāharam - mixune.

Exercise 5

Can you say these in Persian?



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 How long will you stay here? | 9 Nothing. I'll stay at home. |
| 2 I'll stay here for a month. | 10 I'll go to Iran next year. |
| 3 Where will you stay? | 11 He/she's looking at you. |
| 4 I'll rent a flat. | 12 Are you writing a letter? |
| 5 What are you doing right now? | 13 They're dancing. |
| 6 I'm listening to the news. | 14 I'm buying a ticket/clothes. |
| 7 I'm reading a newspaper. | 15 I'm shopping for the New Year. |
| 8 What will you be doing this weekend? | 16 Mahnaz is taking her son to school. |

Dialogue 2



Going through customs (CD1; 53)



Participants: customs officer (O) + passenger (P).

- O: چمدونتونو بذارید رو میز، لطفاً.
 P: این ساک دستی رو هم بذارم؟
 O: بله، لطفاً.
 P: بفرمایید.
 O: چند نفرید؟
 P: دو نفر: من و خانمم.
 O: چی دارید؟
 P: چیز خاصی نداریم. بیشتر لباس و وسایل شخصیه. کمی هم سوغات.
 O: برای من؟
 P: قابلی نداره!
 O: خواهش می کنم. خب، لوازم برقی دارید؟
 P: فقط یک ریش تراش دارم.
 O: متشکرم. بفرمایید. خوش بگذره.

- O: *came dunetun-o bezārid ru miz, lotfan.*
 P: *in sāk-dasti-ro ham bezāram?*
 O: *bale, lotfan.*
 P: *befarmāyid.*
 O: *cand nafarid?*
 P: *do nafar: man o xānomam.*
 O: *ci dārid?*
 P: *ciz-e xāssi nadārim. bištar lebās o vasāyel-e šaxsie. kami ham souqāt.*
 O: *barāye man?*
 P: *qābeli nadāre!*
 O: *xāheš mikonam. xob, lavāzem-e barqi dārid?*
 P: *faqat yek riš-tarāš dāram.*
 O: *mot(a)šakkeram. befarmāyid. xoš begzare.*
- O: *Put your suitcase on the table, please.*
 P: *Shall I put down this holdall as well?*
 O: *Yes, please.*
 P: *Here you are.*
 O: *How many of you are there (together)?*
 P: *Two people: My wife and I.*
 O: *What have you got (to declare)?*
 P: *We haven't got anything special. It's mostly clothes and personal belongings. Also a few souvenirs.*
 O: *For me?*
 P: *Be my guest (lit It's not worthy [of you].)*
 O: *No, thanks (lit please). OK, do you have any electric appliances?*
 P: *I only have a shaver.*
 O: *Thank you. Please go ahead. Have a nice time.*



Vocabulary

چمدون	came dun	suitcase
چمدونتون	came dunetun	your suitcase
بذارید	bezārid	(please) put
ساک دستی	sāk-dasti	holdall
بذارم	bezāram	shall I put

چند	cand	how many
نفر	nafar	person/people (when counting)
چیز	ciz	thing
خاص	xāss	special
بیشتر	bištar	mostly; more
لباس	lebās	clothes
وسایل	vasāyel	means; things
شخصی	šaxsi	personal
وسایل شخصی	vasāyel-e šaxsi	personal effects/belongings
کم	kam	little
کمی	kami	a little
سوغات	souqāt	souvenir
قابل	qābel	worth; worthy
قابلی	qābeli	a/any worth
خواهش	xāheš	request
خواهش می‌کنم	xāheš mikonam	I request (you not to say such things)
لوازم	lavāzem	appliances
برقی	barqi	electric(al)
فقط	faqat	only
ریش	riš	beard
ریش‌تراش	riš-tarāš	shaver
خوش بگذره.	xoš begzare.	Have a nice time.

Language and culture notes



Imperative

How to say 'Put it on the table, please.'

The verb we need is: گذاشتن (ذار) **gozāštan (zār)** 'to put'

Here is the formula:

Prefix **be-** + present stem of verb

Note: The **be-** prefix carries the word stress.

Here is the result:

بذار **bezār** Put . . .

This form is used when asking a close friend to do something. For a more formal request, we add the suffix **-id**:

بذارید **bezārid** Put . . .

Now a more complete picture of the sentence:

بذارید رو میز، لطفاً.
bezārid ru miz, lotfan.

Put (it) on the table, please.

Now the sentence used in the dialogue:

چمدونتونو بذارید رو میز، لطفاً.
camedunetun-o bezārid ru miz, lotfan.

Put your suitcase on the table, please.

To make the verb negative, we replace the **be-** prefix with **na-**.

Note: As always, the negative prefix carries the word stress.

چمدونتونو نذارید رو میز، لطفاً.
camedunetun-o nazārid ru miz, lotfan.
Don't put your suitcase on the table, please.

More examples:

نشستن (شین)	nešastan (šin)	to sit (down)
لطفاً اینجا بشینید.	lotfan injā bešinid.	Please sit here.
لطفاً اونجا نشینید.	lotfan unjā našinid.	Please don't sit there.
بستن (بند)	bastan (band)	to close
لطفاً درو ببندید.	lotfan dar-o bebandid.	Please close the door.
لطفاً درو نبندید.	lotfan dar-o nabandid.	Please don't close the door.
زدن (زن)	zadan (zan)	to play
لطفاً کمی پیانو بزنید.	lotfan kami piāno bezanid.	Please play the piano a little.

Special cases

It is all about the 'Present stem' (PS for short). Some PSEs are not colloquialised at all, while others are to varying degrees. Here are the verbs exemplified in the table on p. 96:

Note: PSEs normally appear in (. . .). Where there is a difference between the colloquial PS and the full literary PS, the latter is placed in [. . .].

- 1 بستن (بند) **bastan (band)** to close
- 2 دیدن (بین) **didan (bin)** to see
- 3 خوردن (خور) **xordan (xor)** to eat
- 4 گذاشتن (ذار) [گذار] **gozāştan (zār) [gozār]** to put
- 5 گفتن (گ) [گو] **goftan (g) [gu]** to tell/say
- 6 دادن (د) [ده] [ده] **dādan (d) [dah] [deh]** to give
- 7 رفتن (ر) [رو] [رو] **raftan (r) [rav] [rou]** to go
- 8 بلند شدن (ش) [شو] [شو] **boland šodan (š) [šav] [šou]** to get up
- 9 بودن (هست) (باش) **budan (hast) (bāš)** to be
- 10 داشتن (دار) (داشته باش) **dāştan (dār) (dāšte bāš)** to have

Verbs 1 and 2: Such verbs are the easiest to learn as their PSEs are not colloquialised.

Verb 3: The PS is not colloquialised, but the **be-** prefix is.

Verb 4: The PS loses its first syllable.

Verb 5: The PS loses its vowel.

Verb 6: Has two literary PSEs:

- (a) **dah** Generic: This is colloquialised as: **d**
- (b) **deh** Used with imperative informal 'you'. It is not colloquialised.

Verb 7: Has two literary PSEs:

- (a) **rav** Generic: This is colloquialised as: **r**
- (b) **rou** Used with imperative informal 'you'. It is not colloquialised, but note the vowel change in the prefix!

Verb 8: Has two literary PSEs:

- (a) **šav** Generic: This is colloquialised as: **š**

- (b) شو **šou** Used with imperative informal 'you'. It is not colloquialised.

Note: With compound verbs, the بـ **be-** prefix is often dropped. See below.

Verb 9: Has two stems:

- (a) هست **hast** (generic)
 (b) باش **bāš** (used with all imperative forms)

Verb 10: Has two stems:

- (a) دار **dār** (generic)
 (b) داشته باش **dāšte bāš** (used with all imperative forms)

No	Literary		Colloquial		Meaning
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	
1	ببندید bebandid	ببند beband	ببندید bebandid	ببند beband	Close!
2	ببینید bebinid	ببین bebin	ببینید bebinid	ببین bebin	See/Look!
3	بخورید bexorid	بخور bexor	بخورید boxorid	بخور boxor	Eat!
4	بگذارید begozārid	بگذار begozār	بذارید bezārid	بذار bezār	Put!
5	بگویید beguyid	بگو begu	بگید begid	بگو begu	Tell/Say!
6	بدهید bedahid	بده bedeh	بدید bedid	بده bedeh	Give!
7	بروید beravid	برو borou	برید berid	برو borou	Go!
8	بلند شوید boland šavid	بلند شو boland šou	بلند شید boland šid	بلند شو boland šou	Get up!
9	باشید bāšid	باش bāš	باشید bāšid	باش bāš	Be!
10	داشته باشید dāšte bāšid	داشته باش dāšte bāš	داشته باشید dāšte bāšid	داشته باش dāšte bāš	Have!

Examples for 9 and 10:

صبور باش / باشید!
صبر داشته باش / باشید!

sabur bās̄/bāsid!
sabr dāšte
bās̄/bāsid!

Be patient! (*inf/f*)
Have patience!
(*inf/f*)

For the negative, the prefix ن **na-** is used:

ن‌بند	naband	Don't close
ن‌خور	naxor	Don't eat
ن‌ذار	nazār	Don't put
ن‌گو	nagu	Don't tell/say
ن‌ده	nadeh	Don't give
ن‌رو	narou	Don't go (<i>inf</i>)
ن‌بند نشو	boland našou	Don't get up
ن‌گران نباش	negarān nabās̄	Don't worry (<i>lit</i> Don't be worried)

Note what happens to the ب **be-** prefix when the present stem of the verb begins with the vowel آ **ā**:

اومدن (آ) **umadan (ā)** to come
آوردن (آر) **āvordan (ār)** to bring

بیا	biā	Come (<i>inf</i>)	بیاید	biāid	Come (<i>f</i>)
بیار	biār	Bring (<i>inf</i>)	بیارید	biārid	Bring (<i>f</i>)

Also note the negative forms:

نیا	nayā	Don't come (<i>inf</i>)	نیاید	nayāid	Don't come (<i>f</i>)
نیار	nayār	Don't bring (<i>inf</i>)	نیارید	nayārid	Don't bring (<i>f</i>)

Some compound verbs find it more convenient to drop the ب **be-** prefix. Among them are برداشتن (دار) **bar dāštan (dār)** 'to pick up'; برگشتن (گرد) **bar gaštan (gard)** 'to return'; and those formed with the help of the verbs کردن (کن) **kardan (kon)** 'to do' and شدن (ش) **šodan (š)** 'to become':

لطفاً گوشی‌رو بردارید.

lotfan guši-ro
bar dārid.

Please pick up the
receiver/phone.

لطفاً برگردید.

lotfan bar gardid.

Please return.

لطفاً تلفن کنید.

lotfan telefon konid.

Please telephone.

لطفاً باز کنید.

lotfan bāz konid.

Please open.

لطفاً صبر کنید.

lotfan sabr konid.

Please wait.

لطفاً بلند شوید.

lotfan boland šid.

Please get up.

لطفاً بیدار شوید.

lotfan bidār šid.

Please wake up.

For the negative, we add the prefix **ن na-**:

لطفاً گوشی‌رو بردارید.	lotfan guši-ro bar nadārid.	Please don't pick up the receiver/phone.
لطفاً برنگردید.	lotfan bar nagardid.	Please don't return.
لطفاً تلفن نکنید.	lotfan telefon nakonid.	Please don't telephone.
لطفاً باز نکنید.	lotfan bāz nakonid.	Please don't open.
لطفاً بلند نشید.	lotfan boland našid.	Please don't get up.



Also note these interesting cases: **(CD1; 55)**

Informal/singular

سالادتو بخور. **sālādet-o boxor.** (Intonation: low fall)
Eat your salad. (Request/order)

سالادتو بخوری! **sālādet-o boxori!** (Intonation: high fall)
Eat your salad! (Don't forget! Make sure you do!)

درو باز نکن. **dar-o bāz nakon.** (Intonation: low fall)
Don't open the door. (Request/pleading)

درو باز نکنی! **dar-o bāz nakoni!** (Intonation: high fall)
Don't open the door! (Warning! Be careful not to!)

Formal/plural

سالادتونو بخورید. **sālādetun-o boxorid.** (Intonation: low fall)
Eat your salad. (Request/order)

سالادتونو بخورید! **sālādetun-o boxorid!** (Intonation: high fall)
Eat your salad! (Don't forget! Make sure you do!)

درو باز نکنید. **dar-o bāz nakonid.** (Intonation: low fall)
Don't open the door. (Request/pleading)

درو باز نکنید! **dar-o bāz nakonid!** (Intonation: high fall)
Don't open the door! (Warning! Be careful not to!)

As in English, when we are asking someone to do us a favour, it is perhaps more polite to use a question form (rather than the imperative). Compare:

- اون درو می بندید، لطفاً؟ **un dar-o mibandid, lotfan?** Will you close that door, please?
- اون درو ببندید، لطفاً. **un dar-o bebandid, lotfan.** Close that door, please.

Exercise 6

With the help of the English translations, fill in each blank with the correct verb form.



- 1 Please sit here. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً اینجا **lotfan injā** _____

Example:

_____ لطفاً اینجا بشینید. **lotfan injā bešinid.**

- 2 Please close the window. (*inf*)

_____ لطفاً پنجره رو **lotfan panjara-ro** _____

- 3 Please play the violin a little. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً کمی ویولن **lotfan kami violon** _____

- 4 Please tell (me) your name. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً اسمتونو **lotfan esmetun-o** _____

- 5 Please give (me) your telephone number. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً شماره تلفنتونو
lotfan šomāre telefonetun-o _____

- 6 Please go to Room 10. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً **lotfan** _____ **otāq-e dah.** اتاق ده.

- 7 Please go out! (*inf*)

_____ لطفاً **lotfan** _____ **birun!** بیرون!

- 8 Please get up. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً بلند **lotfan boland** _____

- 9 Please come here. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً **lotfan** _____ **injā.** اینجا.

- 10 Please bring some water. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً کمی آب **lotfan kami āb** _____

11 Please open the door. (*inf*)

_____ لطفاً درو **lotfan dar-o** _____

12 Please wait a moment. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً یک لحظه **lotfan yek lahze** _____



Exercise 7

Make the sentences in Exercise 6 negative. The first one has been done for you.

1 Please don't sit here. (*f*)

_____ لطفاً اینجا نشینید. **lotfan injā našinid.**



Exercise 8

Change the requests made in Exercise 6 into question forms. The new requests will be more polite! The first one has been done for you.

1 Will you sit here, please? (*f*)

_____ اینجا می‌شینید، لطفاً؟ **injā mišinid, lotfan?**

A polite 'go ahead' signal

The verb used is فرمودن (فرما) **farmudan (farmā)** which originally meant 'to command/order'. Put in the imperative form, this is how it looks: بفرمایید **befarmāyid**. In modern Persian, this conveys the meaning 'please go ahead' and is used in various situations including: when answering the phone, offering a seat or food to a guest, handing something to someone, asking someone to come in, or go in/out first, inviting others to say what they wish to say, etc. Naturally, this is often accompanied by an appropriate gesture.

How to say 'Let's go.'

The imperative form can be extended to first and third persons by adding the appropriate personal ending:

بریم.	berim.	Let's go.
برند خونه.	berand xune.	Let them go home.

چند دقیقه صبر کنند، زود برمی‌گردم.

cand daqiqe sabr konand, zud bar migardam.

Let them (or: ask them to) wait a few minutes, I'll return soon.

The same form can be used for consultation or suggestion:

بریم؟	berim?	Shall we go?
امشب بریم سینما؟	emšab berim sinemā?	Shall we go to the cinema tonight?
درو ببندم؟	dar-o bebandam?	Shall I close the door?
قهوه درست کنم؟	qahve dorost konam?	Shall I make (some) coffee?
میوه بیارم؟	mive biāram?	Shall I bring (you some) fruit?
چای بریزم؟	cāi berizam?	Shall I pour (you some) tea? (ریختن (ریز) rixtan (riz) to pour
یک چای دیگه بریزم؟	yek cāi-e dige berizam?	Shall I pour (you) another (cup of) tea?

Exercise 9



What proposals (or consultations) are being made?

Vocabulary you may need:

روشن / خاموش کردن (کن)	roušan/xāmuš kardan (kon)	to turn on/off
خوابیدن (خواب) حالا	xābidan (xāb) hālā	to (go to) sleep now

- 1 **šām boxorim?** شام بخوریم؟
- 2 **emšab berim resturān.** امشب بریم رستوران.
- 3 **kodum resturān berim?** کدام رستوران بریم؟
- 4 **television-o roušan konam?** تلویزیون روشن کنم؟
- 5 **bebinim television ci dāre.** ببینیم تلویزیون چی داره.
- 6 **hālā kami television tamāšā
konim.** حالا کمی تلویزیون تماشا کنیم.
- 7 **television-o xāmuš konam?** تلویزیون خاموش کنم؟
- 8 **hālā bešinim o bebinim
bābā bozorg ci migand.** حالا بشینیم و ببینیم بابا بزرگ چی می‌گند.
- 9 **hālā bexābim.** حالا بخوابیم.

How to say 'Have a nice time.'

Vocabulary needed:

خوش	xoš	pleasant(ly)
گذشتن (گذر)	gozaštan (gozar)	(for something, e.g. time) to pass

The pattern is: خوش بگذره! **xoš begzare!** reduced to **xoš begzare!**

It literally means: 'Let (or) may (the time) pass pleasantly (to you).'

Or simply: 'Have a nice time!' This can be used in various contexts such as:

تعطیلات خوش بگذره.	ta`tilāt xoš begzare.	Have a nice holiday.
آخر هفته خوش بگذره.	āxar-e hafte xoš begzare.	Have a nice weekend.
مهمونی / پارتی خوش بگذره.	mehmuni/pārti xoš begzare.	Have a nice (time at the) party.
ایران خوش بگذره.	irān xoš begzare.	Have a nice time in Iran.

A common reply is:

ممنون، شما هم همین طور.	mamnun, šomā ham hamintour.	Thanks, you too.
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Exercise 10

Ask a Persian speaking friend:

- 1 To eat (some) fruit.
- 2 To come and sit next to you.
- 3 To pass (*lit* give) the salad/salt.
- 4 To bring (you) some water.
- 5 To close/open the door/window.
- 6 To make (some) tea.
- 7 To turn on/off the light.
- 8 To pick up their book.
- 9 To put their pen in their pocket.
- 10 To (go to) sleep!
- 11 To wake up!

Sequencing

Note this sequencing difference between English and Persian:

من و پیتیر	man o piter	Peter and I (<i>lit</i> I and Peter)
من و دوستم	man o dustam	my friend and I (<i>lit</i> I and my friend)
من و شوهرم	man o šouharam	my husband and I (<i>lit</i> I and my husband)
من و خانمم	man o xānomam	my wife and I (<i>lit</i> I and my wife)

Be my guest!

When the customs officer jokingly asks if the souvenirs are for him, the passenger replies: **قَابِلِی نَدَارَه!** *qābeli nadāre!* Literally, this means 'it doesn't have any/much worth', but functionally, it conveys this message: 'You'd be more than welcome to have them as a gift, although they're not worthy of you.' This is a very common, almost socially/culturally expected, response to a comment made by others about one of our belongings. See the dialogue for a common reply to this.

Exercise 11



Can you say these in Persian?

- 1 Where shall I put your sandwich?
- 2 Bring (it) here, please!
- 3 Will you bring (me) some souvenirs from Iran?
- 4 Will you play the guitar at/in my birthday party?
- 5 Don't eat that apple – it's bad/rotten.
- 6 Will you pass (*lit* give) the mayonnaise, please?
- 7 What did you do last weekend? Tell (me)!
- 8 Don't go to his party.
- 9 What shall we eat for dinner?
- 10 Don't tell (say to) Ahmad (about it).
- 11 Don't listen to him.
- 12 Close/open your eyes.
- 13 Enjoy the party.

- 14 Have a nice weekend. Thanks, you too.
- 15 My father and I will go to Iran next summer. Have a nice time.
- 16 Shall we go to the supermarket this afternoon?
- 17 How many of you are there?
- 18 There are four of us: my wife and I and two children.
- 19 Please come to our house and bring your children, too.
- 20 Please don't worry (*lit* Don't be worried.)
- 21 Please wait a few moments, I'll return home soon.
- 22 Shall I bring your dinner?
- 23 Which film shall we watch/see?
- 24 Please don't come here again!



Comprehension (CD1; 56)

Listen to the conversation between James (J) and a taxi driver (D) and answer the questions in English.

- J: این چمدونو کجا بذارم؟
 D: بذارید تو صندوق عقب. ... خوب، کجا می‌رید؟
 J: هتل فردوسی، لطفاً. می‌دونید کجاست؟
 D: بله. ... اهل کجایید؟
 J: استرالیا.
 D: چند وقت تو ایران می‌مونید؟
 J: دو هفته. ... لطفاً همین جا جلوی سوپرمارکت نگه دارید.
 D: چشم، بفرمایید.
 J: خیلی ممنون. چند شد؟
 D: هزار تومن.
 J: بفرمایید.
 D: مرسی. خوش بگذره.

- J: in camedun-o kojā bezāram?
 D: bezārid tu sanduq(ə) aqab . . . xob, kojā mirid?
 J: hotel ferdousi, lotfan. midunid kojāst?
 D: bale . . . ahl-e kojāyid?
 J: osterāliā.
 D: cand vaqt tu irān mimunid?

- J: do hafte. . . . lotfan hamin-jā jelo-ye supermārkēt negah dārid.
D: cašm, befarmāyid.
J: xeili mamnun. cand šod?
D: hezār toman.
J: befarmāyid.
D: mersi. xoš begzare.

- 1 What advice does J seek and get?
- 2 Why doesn't J give D the address of his destination?
- 3 Where is J from?
- 4 How long does he intend to stay in Iran?
- 5 Where does he want to get off?
- 6 How much does he pay for his fare?
- 7 What does the driver say at the end of the dialogue?

Unit Seven

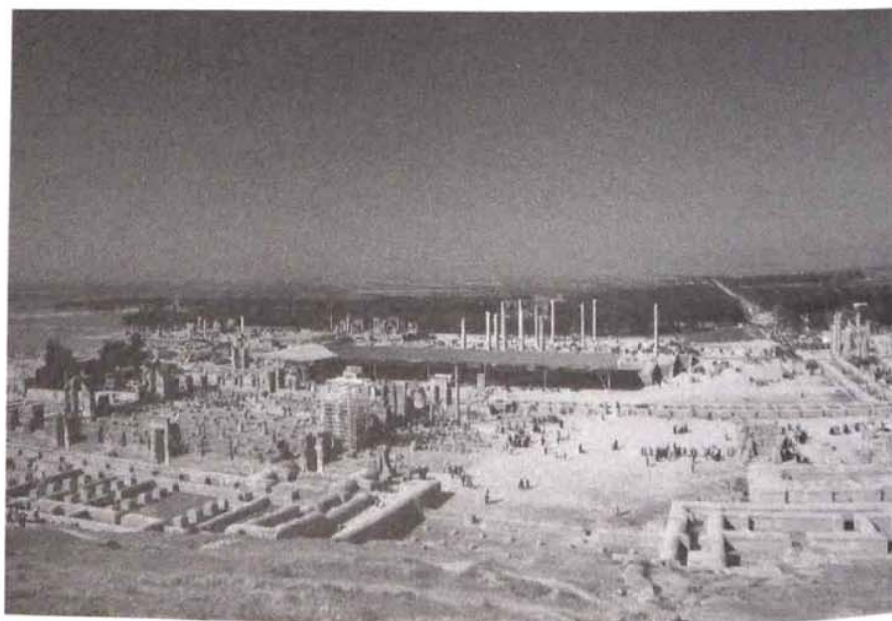
در ایران **dar irān**

In Iran



In this unit we will look at how to:

- get a taxi to your destination
- talk about what might/may/can/should/must happen
- ask someone if he/she wants you to do something for him/her
- book and check into a hotel
- complain about the standard of a hotel



Persepolis, Shiraz. Photograph by Donal O'Leary.

Dialogue 1



Getting a taxi (CD1; 57)



Getting (hunting for!) a taxi in Tehran is an art! In the unlikely event of finding a completely empty taxi, here is a potential conversation a passenger (P) may hold with the driver (D).

- P: تا شمرون چند؟
 D: پنج هزار تومن.
 P: سه هزار تومن می برید؟
 D: چهار (هزار) و پونصد آخرش.
 P: باشه. این چمدون خیلی سنگینه. می تونید بذارید تو صندوق عقب، لطفاً؟
 D: خواهش می کنم. ...
 P: همین جاها پیاده می شم، خیلی ممنون. بفرمایید، چهار هزار و پونصد تومن.

- P: tā šemrun cand?
 D: panj hezār toman.
 P: se hezār toman mibarid?
 D: cār (hezār) o punsad āxareš.
 P: bāše. in camedun xeili sangine. mitunid bezārid tu sanduq(e) aqab, lotfan?
 D: xāheš mikonam . . .
 P: haminjāhā piāde mišam, xeili mamnun. befarmāyid, cār hezār o punsad toman.
 P: *How much to Shemrun (Shemran)?*
 D: *5,000 tumans.*
 P: *Will you take (me there for) 3,000 tumans?*
 D: *4,500 (tumans is) the last (price).*
 P: *OK. This suitcase is very heavy. Can you put (it) in the boot, please?*
 D: *By all means . . .*
 P: *I'll get out somewhere here, thank you. Here you are, 4,500 tumans.*



Vocabulary

تا	tā	up to
شمرون	šemrun	col for شمیران Shemiran (a place)
تومن	toman	tuman Iranian currency = 10 rials
می‌برید	mibarid	will you take/carry
بردن (بر)	bordan (bar)	to take/carry
آخر	āxar	last, end
آخرش	āxareš	the final (price)
باشه	bāše	OK (<i>lit</i> let it be; so be it)
سنگین	sangin	heavy
می‌تونید	mitunid	can you
تونستن (تون)	tunestan (tun)	to be able
بذارید	bezārid	(for you to) put
صندوق عقب	sandūq(-e) aqab	car boot
خواهش می‌کنم	xāheš mikonam	by all means
همین جا	hamin-jā	right here
همین جاها	hamin-jāhā	somewhere here
پیاده می‌شم	piāde mišam	I'll get off/out
پیاده شدن (شد)	piāde šodan (š)	to get off/out

Language and culture notes

Simple subjunctive

How to say 'Can you put it . . . ?'

The **می mi-** prefix (introduced in U5D1, also used in U6D1) suggests that the act or fact expressed by the verb is definite, as in:

امشب می‌ریم سینما. **emšab mirim sinemā.**

We'll go (or: we're going) to the cinema tonight.

Verb used: رفتن (ر) **raftan (r)** to go

When the 'definiteness' of the act or fact expressed by the verb is somehow affected by a preceding verb, the second verb takes a **be-** prefix, as in:

امشب می‌تونیم بریم سینما. **emšab mitunim berim sinemā.**
We can go to the cinema tonight.

Additional verb used: **tunestan (tun)** (تونستن) to be able

Thus, when two verbs follow each other, the second verb takes a **be-** prefix.

Verb 1: تونستن (تون)	tunestan (tun)	to be able
Verb 2: گذاشتن (ذار)	gozāştan (zār)	to put

می‌تونید	mitunid	you can
می‌ذارید	mizārid	you put
می‌تونید بذارید	mitunid bezārid	you can put

می‌تونید بذارید تو صندوق عقب؟
mitunid bezārid tu sanduq aqab?
Can you put (it) in the boot?

For ease of reference, the form taken by the second verb will be referred to as the 'subjunctive'. (Compare with the imperative, U6D2.)

Note: With some compound verbs, the **be-** prefix is dropped:

می‌تونم پنجره‌رو باز کنم؟
mitunam panjara-ro bāz konam?
Can I open the window?

How to say: 'I want to go.'

Here, again, we have two verbs to deal with:

Verb 1: خواستن (خوا)	xāstan (xā) [xāh]	to want
Verb 2: رفتن (ر)	raftan (r) [rav]	to go

The formula is similar to the above. However, since the reduced colloquial/spoken form of Verb 1 is slightly different from its full literary/written form, first let us familiarise ourselves with both in the following table.

<i>Literary (written)</i>	<i>Colloquial (spoken)</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
می خواهم mi+xāh+am	می خوام mixām	I want
می خواهی mi+xāh+i	می خوای mixāi	you want (informal)
می خواهد mi+xāh+ad	می خواد mixād	he/she/it wants
می خواهیم mi+xāh+im	می خوایم mixāim	we want
می خواهید mi+xāh+id	می خواید mixāid	you want (formal/plural)
می خواهند mi+xāh+and	می خواند mixānd	they want

من می خوام برم. تو می خوای بری.	man mixām beram. to mixāi beri.	I want to go. You (<i>inf</i>) want to go.
او می خواد بره.	u mixād bere.	He/she wants to go.*
ما می خوایم بریم. شما می خواید برید. اون ها می خواند برند.	mā mixāim berim. šomā mixāid berid. unhā mixānd berand.	We want to go. You want to go. They want to go.

* You will have noticed that different personal endings have been used for the two verbs. Here is an explanation. When the present stem of Verb 1 is colloquialised, it loses the letter **h**, leaving a present stem which ends in a vowel. In such instances, colloquial Persian uses the literary ending **-ad** with the initial vowel dropped. (Compare with the verb **اومدن (ā)** **umadan (ā)** 'to come' in U5D2.)

To make the above sentences negative, we add **ne-** before **می mi-**:

من نمی خوام برم.	man nemixām beram.	I don't want to go.
------------------	---------------------------	---------------------

Compare these literary forms with their colloquial counterparts above:

من می خواهم بروم. تو می خواهی بروی.	man mixāham beravam. to mixāhi beravi.	I want to go. You want to go. (<i>inf</i>)
او می خواهد برود.	u mixāhad beravad.	He/she wants to go.

Note the following examples where the subject of the second verb is a different person:

می‌خواید برم؟ **mixāid beram?**
Do you want me to go?

می‌خواید پنجره‌رو ببندم؟ **mixāid panjara-ro bebandam?**
Do you want me to close the window?

Important: The verbs بودن **budan** 'to be' and داشتن **dāštan** 'to have', have their own special subjunctive stems, باش **bāš** and داشته باش **dāšte bāš** respectively.

می‌خوام نوروز در ایران باشم.
mixām nouruz dar irān bāšam.
I want to be in Iran (on) New Year's Day.

می‌خواه دو تا ماشین داشته باشه.
mixād do tā māšin dāšte bāše.
He/she wants to have two cars.

A verb occurring after these special verbs and verb forms normally takes the subjunctive form. Also note their negative forms.

Vocabulary used: باید **bāyad** must, should; شاید **šāyad** maybe, perhaps, might; ممکن **momken** possible; ممکنه **momkene** it's possible, may; بهتر **behtar** better; بهتره **behtare** it's better.

باید برم.	bāyad beram.	I must/should go.
نباید برم.	nabāyad beram.	I mustn't/shouldn't go.
شاید برم.	šāyad beram.	I might go.
شاید نرم.	šāyad naram.	I might not go.
ممکنه برم.	momkene beram.	I may go.
ممکنه نرم.	momkene naram.	I may not go.
بهتره برم.	behtare beram.	I'd better go.
بهتره نرم.	behtare naram.	I'd better not go.

More examples:

شاید خونه باشند.	šāyad xune bāšand.	They might be (at) home.
شاید خونه نباشند.	šāyad xune nabāšand.	They might not be (at) home.
ممکنه ماشین داشته باشه.	momkene māšin dāšte bāše.	He/she may have a car.
ممکنه ماشین نداشته باشه.	momkene māšin nadāšte bāše.	He/she may not have a car.



Exercise 1

Write the correct form of the verb in the blanks.

1 Do you want to go?

می خواهید _____؟ رفتن (ر)
mixāid _____? raftan (r)

Example: می خواهید برید؟
mixāid berid?

2 Can we go to a restaurant tonight?

امشب می تونیم _____ رستوران؟ رفتن (ر)
emšab mitunim _____ resturān? raftan (r)

3 I must sit down.

باید _____ نشستن (شین)
bāyad _____ . nešastan (šin)

4 I'd better close the window.

بهتره پنجره رو _____ بستن (بند)
behtare panjara-ro _____ . bastan (band)

5 Do you want me to open the window?

می خواهید پنجره رو _____ باز کردن (کن)
mixāid panjara-ro _____? bāz kardan (kon)

6 Can you be here early morning tomorrow?

می تونید فردا صبح زود اینجا _____ بودن (باش)
mitunid fardā sobh-e zud injā _____? budan (bāš)

7 He might know her name.

شاید اسمشو _____ دونستن (دون)
šāyad esmeš-o _____ . dunestan (dun)

8 Do you want to see a film?

می خوای یک فیلم _____ دیدن (بین)
mixāi yek film _____? didan (bin)

9 I might have his phone number.

شاید شماره تلفنشو _____ داشتن (داشته باش)
šāyad šomāre telefoneš-o _____ . dāštan (dāšte bāš)

10 He may not have time.

ممکنه وقت _____ داشتن (داشته باش)
momkene vaqt _____ . dāštan (dāšte bāš)

- 11 He may be tired.
ممکنه خسته _____ بودن (باش)
momkene xaste _____ . budan (bāš)
- 12 He may not be at home.
ممکنه خونه _____ بودن (باش)
momkene xune _____ . budan (bāš)

Exercise 2

Use one of these words in each sentence and make the necessary changes. Follow the example.



باید	bāyad	must/should	نباید	nabāyad	mustn't/ shouldn't
شاید	šāyad	might			
بهتره	behtare	it's better	ممکنه	momkene	may

- ۱- امروز احمدو می بینم. ← امروز باید احمدو ببینم.
1 **emruz ahmad-o mibinam.** → **emruz bāyad ahmad-o bebinam.**
I will see Ahmad today. → I must see Ahmad today.
- ۲- امشب شام نمی خورم. ← _____
2 **emšab šām nemixoram.** → _____
I won't eat dinner tonight. → I'd better not eat dinner tonight.
- ۳- تلفن داره. ← _____
3 **telefon dāre.** → _____
He/she has a telephone. → He/she must have a telephone.
- ۴- ماشین ندارند. ← _____
4 **māšin nadārand.** → _____
They don't have a car. → They may not have a car.
- ۵- پول خرد دارم. ← _____
5 **pul-e xord dāram.** → _____
I have (some) small change. → I might have (some) small change.
- ۶- آدرسشو دارم. ← _____
6 **ādreseš-o dāram.** → _____
I have his address. → I may have his address.

- ۷- شما نگران هستید. ← _____
 7 **šomā negarān hastid.** → _____
 You are worried. → You mustn't be worried.
- ۸- اون‌ها در منزل نیستند. ← _____
 8 **unhā dar manzel nistand.** → _____
 They are not at home. → They may not be at home.
- ۹- فردا هوا بهتر می‌شه. ← _____
 9 **fardā havā behtar miše.** → _____
 Tomorrow the weather will become better. → Tomorrow the weather might become better.

How to say 'I, you, etc, want to come.'

It has already been mentioned that verbs whose present stem ends in a vowel need more attention. We have met two such verbs so far: (آ) اومدن **umadan (ā)** 'to come' and (خوا) خواستن **xāstan (xā)** 'to want'. They are now brought together in the box below. Please pay particular attention to the way in which the **be-** prefix is slightly modified when it is connected to the present stem of the verb 'to come'.

من می‌خوام بیام.	man mixām biām.	I want to come.
تو می‌خوای بیای.	to mixāi biāi.	You want to come.
او می‌خواد بیاد.	u mixād biād.	(inf) He/she wants to come.
ما می‌خواهیم بیایم.	mā mixāim biāim.	We want to come.
شما می‌خواهید بیاید.	šomā mixāid biāid.	You want to come.
اون‌ها می‌خواند بیاند.	unhā mixānd biānd.	They want to come.

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of (آ) اومدن **umadan (ā)** 'to come'. Follow the example.



1 **man mixām bā to** _____. **من می خواهم با تو** _____.
I want to come with you.

Example:

man mixām bā to biām. **من می خواهم با تو بیام.**

2 **mixāid bā man** _____? **می خواهید با من** _____?
Do you want to come with me?

3 **u mixād bā mā** _____. **او می خواهد با ما** _____.
She wants to come with us.

4 **mā mixāim bā šomā** _____. **ما می خواهیم با شما** _____.
We want to come with you.

5 **unhā mixānd bā man** _____. **اون ها می خوانند با من** _____.
They want to come with me.

Exercise 4

Can you say these in Persian?



- 1 Can I see the news? By all means.
- 2 Must you see this film right now? No, I can see (it) tomorrow.
- 3 We'd better not sit here.
- 4 I might have his phone number/address.
- 5 You must/should have patience.
- 6 You must be very happy.



Dialogue 2



Checking into a hotel (CD1; 60)

Mr Gowhari (G) booked a room when he telephoned the hotel last week. He has just arrived at the hotel where he is greeted by the receptionist (R). The porter is Parviz (P).

G: سلام خانم.

R: سلام آقا.

G: خسته نباشید.

R: سلامت باشید. بفرمایید.

G: من گوهری هستم. هفته‌ی پیش به دفترتون تلفن کردم و یک اتاق برای پنج روز رزرو کردم.

R: اجازه بدید دفترو نگاه کنم. بله، درسته قربان. شماره‌ی اتاقتون سی و هشته.

- G: متشکرم. ببخشید، ممکنه لطفاً بگید این چمدون هارو بیارند بالا؟
 R: بله قربان. پرویز جان، لطفاً چمدون‌های آقارو ببر اتاق ۳۸.
 P: بفرمایید آقا، از این طرف لطفاً. ... این هم شماره‌ی ۳۸. اتاق خوبیه.
 رو به پارکه. منظره‌اش خیلی قشنگه.
 G: چمدون‌ها سنگین بود. دست شما درد نکنه.
 P: سر شما درد نکنه.
 G: بفرمایید، این قابل شما نیست.
 P: خیلی ممنون.

- G: salām xānom.
 R: salām āqā.
 G: xaste nabāšid.
 R: salāmat bāšid. befarmāyid.
 G: man gouhari hastam. hafte-ye piš be daftaretun telefon kardam
 va yek otāq barāye panj ruz rezerv kardam.
 R: ejāze bedid daftar-o negā(h) konam. bale, doroste qorbān.
 šomāre-ye otāqetun si o hašte.
 G: mot(a)šakkeram. bebaxšid, momkene lotfan begid in
 camedunhā-ro biārand bālā?
 R: bale qorbān. parviz jān, lotfan camedunhā-ye āqā-ro bebar
 otāq-e si o hašt.
 P: befarmāyid āqā, az in taraf lotfan. . . . in ham šomāre-ye si o
 hašt. otāq-e xubie. ru be pārke. manzaraš xeili qašange.
 G: camedunhā sangin bud. dast-e šomā dard nakone.
 P: sar-e šomā dard nakone.
 G: befarmāyid, in qābel-e šomā nist.
 P: xeili mamnun.

- G: Hello madam.
 R: Hello sir.
 G: [lit] May you not be tired [Small talk].
 R: [lit] May you be in health [Small talk]. What can I do
 for you?
 G: I'm Gowhari. Last week I telephoned your office and booked a
 room for five days.
 R: Allow me to have a look in the book. Yes, that's right sir.
 Your room number is 38.

- G: *Thank you. Excuse me, could you please ask someone to bring the suitcases upstairs?*
- R: *Yes sir. Dear Parviz, please take the gentleman's suitcases to room 38.*
- P: *Let's go sir, this way please. . . . Here's number 38. It's a good room. It's facing the park. It has a very nice view.*
- G: *The suitcases were heavy. Thank you.*
- P: *You're welcome.*
- G: *Here you are, this (tip) is not worthy of you.*
- P: *Much obliged.*



Vocabulary

خسته	xaste	tired
نباشید	nabāšid	may you not be
سلامت	salāmat	health
باشید	bāšid	may you be
هفته	hafte	week
پیش	piš	last, ago
دفتر	daftar	office; book
تلفن کردن (کن)	telefon kardan (kon)	to telephone
اتاق	otāq	room
رزرو کردن (کن)	rezerv kardan (kon)	to book/reserve
اجازه	ejāze	permission
اجازه دادن (د)	ejāze dādan (d)	to allow (lit to give permission)
نگاه کردن (کن)	negāh kardan (kon)	to look
درست	dorost	correct, right
قربان	qorbān	Sir (used by a junior in rank addressing a senior)
ممکن	momken	possible
ممکنه	momkene	is it possible
بگید	begid	(for you to) tell/ask
بیارند	biārand	(for them to) bring
آوردن (آر)	āvordan (ār)	to bring
بالا	bālā	up, upstairs

بیر	bebar	take/carry
بردن (بر)	bordan (bar)	to take/carry
این هم	in ham	here's (<i>lit</i> this also)
رو به	ru be	facing
منظره	manzare	view
منظره‌اش	manzaraš	its view
دست شما درد نکه.	dast-e šomā dard nakone.	Thank you.
سر شما درد نکه.	sar-e šomā dard nakone.	You're welcome.
قابل	qābel	worthy

Language and culture notes



Small talk

A: خسته نباشید. **xaste nabāšid.** May you not be tired.

B: سلامت باشید. **salāmat bāšid.** May you be in health.

This is one of the most common mini dialogues used by Persian speakers in various social as well as work situations. A's sentence is an expression of appreciation of B's hard work – in the office, or in the kitchen preparing delicious meals for guests. Something functionally similar is used in English when a guest says to his host:

'You must be exhausted going to all this trouble (preparing all this food for us)!'

So there is a shared reference to 'fatigue' in both cases, as a mark of appreciation.

Structured infinitive

How to say 'to telephone someone'

A structured infinitive (SI for short) is a verb pattern that gives all the structural elements needed to construct a sentence, with each element

shown in its appropriate place. For instance 'to telephone someone' is an SI in English, on which basis you can make a sentence like: 'I telephoned Peter.' If we have the Persian equivalent of this SI, we should be able to make a similar sentence in Persian, with equal ease! Here it is:

به 'someone' تلفن کردن (کن)
be 'someone' telefon kardan (kon)
 to telephone 'someone'

Based on the above Persian SI, let us make a sentence.

به پیتر تلفن کردم.
be piter telefon kardam.
 I telephoned Peter.

You will note that the above Persian SI needs a preposition, به **be** 'to', while its English equivalent does not. This is what makes the notion of SI all the more important, since bilingual dictionaries often provide little structural help on what other elements, if any, are needed, and where to put them. They may give an equivalent for the word 'happy' in Persian, but that is where the learner is 'abandoned'. If the learner wanted to say, for example, 'I'm happy with my car/flat/job, etc.', he would have no idea as to what preposition is used in Persian, if any, and where to put it. However, if we have the Persian equivalent of 'to be happy with X', we should have little difficulty in producing the above sentence in Persian. This and two further examples are given below.

از 'X' راضی بودن (هست)
az 'X' rāzi budan (hast) to be happy with 'X'

از 'X' عصبانی بودن (هست)
az 'X' asabāni budan (hast) to be angry with 'X'

(یک سؤال) از 'someone' پرسیدن (پرس)
(yek so'āl) az 'someone' porsidan (pors) to ask 'someone'
 (a question)

Examples:

(a) من از ماشین راضی هستم. **man az māšīn rāzi hastam.**
 I'm happy with the car.

- (b) شما از من عصبانی هستید؟ **šomā az man asabāni hastid?**
Are you angry with me?
- (c) من یک سؤال از احمد پرسیدم. **man yek so`āl az ahmad porsidam.**
I asked Ahmad a question.

You will note that in all the Persian examples above, the preposition از **az** is used, which is a dictionary equivalent for the English word 'from'. In (a) and (b), English uses the preposition 'with', and in (c), none. A dictionary equivalent for 'with' in Persian is با **bā**. A typical mistake made by English speakers learning Persian is when they use با **bā** instead of از **az** in (a) and (b) above. If it is any consolation, Iranian learners of English make a similar mistake when they say: 'I'm satisfied from [instead of *with*] my job!' Obviously, both are influenced by their respective mother tongues.

Here is another useful SI:

منتظر ... بودن (هست)	montazer-e ... budan (hast)	to be waiting for ...
منتظر کی هستی؟	montazer-e ki hasti?	Who are you waiting for?
منتظر احمدم.	montazer-e ahmadam.	I'm waiting for Ahmad.
منتظر چی هستی؟	montazer-e ci hasti?	What are you waiting for?
منتظر اخبارم.	montazer-e axbāram.	I'm waiting for the news.

Exercise 5

Fill in each blank with a preposition from the list below.
Warning: Please do not be influenced by English structure!

از **az** from با **bā** with به **be** to

- 1- امروز صبح خانمم تلفن کردم. **emruz sobh xānomam telefon kardam.**
This morning I phoned my wife.



- ۲- او _____ کارش راضی نیست.
 2 u _____ **kāreš rāzi nist.**
 She is not happy with her job.
- ۳- چند سؤال _____ او پرسیدم.
 3 **cand so`āl _____ u porsidam.**
 I asked her some questions.
- ۴- او _____ من عصبانی بود.
 4 u _____ **man asabāni bud.**
 She was angry with me.
- ۵- من _____ خانمم _____ سینما رفتم.
 5 **man _____ xānomam _____ sinemā raftam.**
 I went to the cinema with my wife.

An idiom for 'thank you'

The expression **dast-e šomā dard nakone** 'thank you' (*lit* May your hand not ache!) is used to thank someone for something they have done for us, particularly with the use of their hands – e.g. handing something to us, or cooking a delicious meal for us, etc. An echo reply is normally **sar-e šomā dard nakone** 'you're welcome' (*lit* May your head not ache!) Other versions of this exchange would be:

دستتون درد نکنه.	dastetun dard nakone.	Thank you.
سرتون درد نکنه.	saretun dard nakone.	You're welcome.
دستت درد نکنه.	dastet dard nakone.	Thank you. (<i>inf</i>)
سرت درد نکنه.	saret dard nakone.	You're welcome. (<i>inf</i>)



Exercise 6

At the dinner table, an Iranian friend has passed you the salt.

- 1 How do you thank them?
- 2 How would they respond?

Expressions used to book a hotel (CD2: 1)



هتل پنج ستاره	hotel-e panj setāre	five-star hotel
اتاق یک نفره دارید؟	otāq-e yek-nafare dārid?	Do you have a single room?
اتاق دو نفره	otāq-e do-nafare	a double room
اتاق دو تخته	otāq-e do-taxte	a twin room
شبی چنده؟	šabi cande?	How much is it for each night?
برای هر نفر	barāye har nafar	for each person

چک / کارت اعتباری قبول می کنید؟
cek/kārt-e e'tebāri qabul mikonid?
 Do you accept cheques/credit cards?

اتاق با دوش / حمام / توالت / تلفن می خوام.
otāq-e bā duš/hammām/tuālet/telefon mixām.
 I want a room with a shower/bathroom/toilet/telephone.

قیمت شامل صبحانه / ناهار / شام می شه؟
qimat šāmel-e sobhāne/nāhār/šām miše?
 Does the price include breakfast/lunch/dinner?

پنج نفریم: دو تا بزرگسال و سه تا بچه.
panj nafarim: do tā bozorg-sāl va se tā bacce.
 We're five: two adults and three children.

Exercise 7



Can you translate the following sentences into English?

- ۱- می خوام یک اتاق دو نفره با دوش رزرو کنم، لطفاً.
1 mixām yek otāq-e do-nafare bā duš rezerv konam, lotfan.
- ۲- هتل چهار ستاره می خوام.
2 hotel-e cār-setāre mixāim.
- ۳- ترجیحاً تو مرکز شهر باشه.
3 tarjihan tu markaz-e šahr bāše.
- ۴- این اتاق شبی چنده؟
4 in otāq šabi cande?
- ۵- این قیمت شامل ناهار هم می شه؟
5 in qimat šāmel-e nāhār ham miše?



Expressions used to complain about a hotel

(CD2; 2)

ببخشید، می‌تونم با مدیر هتل صحبت کنم؟

bebaxšid, mitunam bā modir-e hotel sohbat konam?

Excuse me, can I speak with the hotel manager?

ملافه‌ها کثیفه. **malāfehā kasife.** The sheets are dirty.

تلفن کار نمی‌کنه. **telefon kār nemikone.** The telephone is not working.

کامپیوتر / تلویزیون / دوش / شیر آب / پریش ریش تراش خرابه.
kāmpiuter/televizion/duš/šir-e āb/periz-e riš-tarāš xarābe.

The computer/television/shower/water tap/shaver socket is out of order.



Exercise 8

Can you say these in Persian?

- 1 I want a single room with a shower for two weeks.
- 2 Does the price include dinner, too? No, that's separate.
- 3 I'd like to book two seats for Mashhad.
- 4 May I ask you a question? Go ahead.
- 5 May I have a word with the manager?
- 6 The lights in the bathroom are not working/broken.
- 7 The shower has no water.
- 8 I'll phone you tomorrow.
- 9 Who/what are you waiting for?
- 10 I'm waiting for the news.
- 11 I'm waiting for my friend.
- 12 Are you angry with me?
- 13 Are you happy with your income?
- 14 Yes, but I'm not happy with my boss!

Comprehension (CD2: 3)



Listen to this conversation between a guest (G) and the hotel manager (M).

- G: آقا من از این هتل اصلاً راضی نیستم.
 M: مشکل چیه قربان؟
 G: من یک اتاق دو نفره‌ی بزرگ رزرو کردم، اما شما یک اتاق یک نفره به ما دادید با یک تخت اضافه. من اتاق با حمام و وان خواستم، شما اتاق با دوش دادید. تلفن اتاق هم کار نمی‌کنه.
 M: جداً معذرت می‌خوام. واقعاً شرمنده‌ام. امشب یک اتاق دونفره‌ی بزرگ خالی می‌شه. می‌تونم اون اتاقو به شما بدم.
 G: راستش قصد داشتیم سه هفته بمونیم، اما با این وضع یک هفته هم شاید نمونیم. در ضمن، ممکنه به این مهمون‌های اتاق پهلویی بگید شب‌ها یک کم ساکت‌تر باشند؟
 M: حتماً. میل دارید با من بیاید اتاقو ببینید؟
 G: الان منتظر تلفن از انگلستانم. یک ساعت دیگه می‌آم دفترتون.
 M: باشه، منتظرم.

G: āqā man az in hotel aslan rāzi nistam.

M: moškel cie qorbān?

G: man yek otāq-e do-nafare-ye bozorg rezerv kardam, ammā šomā yek otāq-e yek-nafare be mā dādid bā yek taxt-e ezāfe. man otāq-e bā hammām o vān xāstam, šomā otāq-e bā duš dādid. telefon-e otāq ham kār nemikone.

M: jeddan ma`zerat mixām. vāqe`an šarmand(e)am. emšab yek otāq-e do-nafare-ye bozorg xāli miše. mitunam un otāq-o be šomā bedam.

G: rāsteš qasd dāštīm se hafte bemunim, ammā bā in vaz` yek hafte ham šāyad namunim. dar zemn, momkene be in mehmunhā-ye otāq-e pahluyi begid šabhā yek kam sākettar bāšand?

M: hatman. meil dārid bā man biāid otāq-o bebinid?

G: al(`)ān montazer-e telefon az engelestānam. yek sā`at-e dige miām daftaretun.

M: bāše, montazeram.

- 1 What three complaints does the guest make in his initial outburst?
- 2 How does the manager respond to this?
- 3 What remedy does the manager propose?
- 4 What change of plan is the guest considering and why?
- 5 What is the guest's fourth complaint?
- 6 What does the manager offer towards the end?
- 7 Why does the guest decline the offer at the time?

Unit Eight

گفت‌و‌گوی خیابانی

goft-o-gu-ye xiābāni

Street talk

In this unit we will look at how to:

- ask and tell the time
- ask for and give directions
- ask a Persian speaker to speak more slowly and clearly
- describe location with reference to the points of compass
- talk about journey time and distance
- enquire about the availability of facilities in the area



Dialogue 1



Asking directions (CD2: 4)



Julie (J) is looking for the home address of an Iranian friend in Tehran. She has difficulty reading the address. She asks a passer-by (P) for help.

J: آقا ببخشید، ساعت چنده؟

P: هشت و نیم.

J: متشکرم. ببخشید، می‌تونم یک زحمت دیگه به‌تون بدم؟

P: خواهش می‌کنم، بفرمایید.

- J: این آدرس دوستمه. متأسفانه نمی‌تونم بخونمش. برام می‌خونیدش، لطفاً؟
- P: سعی می‌کنم. خیابان سینا، پلاک هشتاد.
- J: خیابون سینا می‌دونید کجاست؟
- P: مستقیم برید تا یک چهارراه بزرگ. اونجا، بپیچید دست چپ. خیابون سوم دست راست خیابون سیناست.
- J: ببخشید، فارسیم زیاد خوب نیست. ممکنه لطفاً یک کم آهسته‌تر و شمرده‌تر صحبت کنید؟
- P: یعنی از اول همه‌شو دوباره بگم؟
- J: آگه ممکنه.
- P: بله، مستقیم برید تا ...

J: āqā bebaxšid, sā`at cande?

P: hašt o nim.

J: mot(a)šakkeram. bebaxšid, mitunam yek zahmat-e dige be(h)etun bedam?

P: xāheš mikonam, befarmāyid.

J: in ādres-e dustame. mota`assefāne nemitunam bexunameš. barām mixunideš, lotfan?

P: sa`y mikonam. xiābān-e sinā, pelāk-e haštād.

J: xiābun-e sinā midunid kojāst?

P: mostaqim berid tā yek cār-rāh-e bozorg. unjā, bepicid dast-e cap. xiābun-e sevvom dast-e rāst xiābun-e sināst.

J: bebaxšid, fārsim ziād xub nist. momkene lotfan yek kam āhestetar va šomordetar sohbat konid?

P: ya`ni az avval hamaš-o dobāre begam?

J: age momkene.

P: bale, mostaqim berid tā . . .

J: *Excuse me sir, what time is it?*

P: *Half past eight.*

J: *Thank you. Sorry, can I give you one more trouble?*

P: *By all means, go ahead.*

J: *This is my friend's address. Unfortunately I can't read it. Will you read it for me, please?*

P: *I'll try. Sina Street, no. 80.*

- J: *Do you know where Sina Street is?*
 P: *Go straight up to a big cross-roads. There, turn left. The third road on the right is Sina Street.*
 J: *I'm sorry, my Persian isn't that good. Would you please speak a bit more slowly and clearly?*
 P: *You mean I should say all of it again?*
 J: *If possible.*
 P: *Yes, go straight up to . . .*

Vocabulary



ساعت	sā`at	time, hour, clock
چند	cand	how much
ساعت چنده؟	sā`at cande?	What time is it?
نیم	nim	half
دیگه	dige	other; more
به تون	be(h)etun	to you
خوندن (خون)	xundan (xun)	to read
بخونم	bexunam	(for me to) read
بخونمش	bexunameš	(for me to) read it
برام	barām	short for barāyam برایم for me
می خونیدش	mixunideš	will you read it
سعی کردن (کن)	sa`y kardan (kon)	to try
خیابان	xiābān	street (literary/reading style)
خیابون	xiābun col for خیابان xiābān	street
مستقیم	mostaqim	straight
تا	tā	up to; as far as
چهارراه	cār-rāh	cross-roads; intersection
اونجا	unjā	there
بپیچید	bepicid	turn
دست	dast	hand
چپ	cap	left
راست	rāst	right

زیاد	ziād	much; many
آهسته	āheste	slow(ly)
شمرده	šomorde	clear(ly)
صحبت کردن (کن)	sohbat kardan (kon)	to speak
یعنی	ya`ni	i.e.; you mean
همه	hame	all
همه‌ش	hamaš	all of it
همه‌شو	hamaš-o	all of it (plus <i>rā</i>)
دوباره	dobāre	again
بگم	begam	(for me to) say
اگه	age	if

Language and culture notes

Object endings

The possessive endings (introduced in U2D2) can also be used as objects after verbs, prepositions or **ezāfe** (see U2D2). Examples:

After a verb:

- (a) ساندویچو خوردم. **sāndevic-o xordam**. I ate the sandwich.
 (b) اونو خوردم. **un-o xordam**. I ate it.
 (c) خوردمش. **xordameš**. I ate it.

Note: Comparing (b) and (c) you will note two changes in (c):

- 1 The object ending is placed *after* the verb.
- 2 The object marker (*rā*, or its colloquial form **-ro/-o**) is omitted.

Object endings are often sandwiched *between* the two elements of a compound verb (see U4D2):

- (a) کامپیوترو روشن کردم. **kāmpiuter-o roušan kardam**. I turned on the computer.
 (b) اونو روشن کردم. **un-o roušan kardam**. I turned it on.
 (c) روشنش کردم. **roušaneš kardam**. I turned it on.

After a preposition, (see U5D1)

Note the changes between (b) and (c) in each set below:

(a) زیر میز **zir-e miz** under the table

(b) زیر اون **zir-e un** under it

(c) زیرش **zireš** under it

(a) بین احمد و علی **bein-e ahmad o ali** between Ahmad and Ali

(b) بین اون‌ها **bein-e unhā** between them

(c) بینشون **beinešun** between them

(a) روی کاناپه **ru-ye kânāpe** on the sofa

(b) روی اون **ru-ye un** on it

(c) روش **ruš** on it

(a) برای احمد **barāye ahmad** for Ahmad

(b) برای او **bārāye u** for him

(c) برایش **barāš** for him

Sometimes a 'linking' or 'intrusive' ه **h** comes between the preposition and the suffix:

(a) به احمد گفتم **be ahmad goftam** I said to Ahmad (or: I told Ahmad)

(b) به او گفتم **be u goftam** I said to him

(c) بهش گفتم **be(h)eš goftam** I said to him

(a) با احمد رفتم سینما. **bā ahmad raftam sinemā.** I went to the cinema with Ahmad.

(b) با او رفتم سینما. **bā u raftam sinemā.** I went to the cinema with him.

(c) باهاش رفتم سینما. / باهش **bāheš/bāhāš raftam sinemā.** I went to the cinema with him.

In casual speech

بام	bām	with me
بات	bāt	with you (<i>inf</i>)
باش	bāš	with him/her/it
بامون	bāmun	with us
باتون	bātun	with you
باشون	bāšun	with them

After **ezāfe**: (see U2D2)

- (a) نصف سیب **nesf-e sib** half of (an/the) apple
 (b) نصف اُون **nesf-e un** half of it
 (c) نصفش **nesfeš** half of it

- (a) همه‌ی خربزه **hame-ye xarboze** all (*or*: the whole) of the melon
 (b) همه‌ی اُون **hame-ye un** all of it
 (c) همهش **hamaš** all of it

In the light of the above explanations, the following sentences from Dialogue 1 above should now be slightly easier to decipher!

نمی‌تونم بخونمش. **nemitunam bexunamēš.**
 I can't read it.

برام می‌خونیدش؟ **barām mixunideš?**
 Will you read it for me?

می‌تونم یک زحمت دیگه به‌تون بدم؟
mitunam yek zahmat-e dige be(h)etun bedam?
 Can I give you one more trouble?

More examples:

منتظرم.	montazeram.	I'm waiting.
منتظر تو هستم.	montazer-e to hastam.	I am waiting for you.
منتظرت هستم.	montazeret hastam.	I am waiting for you.
منتظرتم.	montazeretam.	I'm waiting for you.
شمارو دیدم.	šomā-ro didam.	I saw you.
دیدمتون.	didametun.	I saw you.



Exercise 1

Can you provide the shorter version of each of these sentences? Follow the example.

- 1 انارو خوردم. **anār-o xordam.** I ate the pomegranate.
 Can you say: I ate it.

Example:

خوردمش. **xordameš.** I ate it.

- 2 احمدو دیدم. **ahmad-o didam.** I saw Ahmad.
 Can you say: I saw him.

- 3 تلویزیونو خاموش کردم. **television-o xāmuš kardam.**
I turned off the TV.
Can you say: I turned it off.
- 4 چراغو خاموش کنم؟ **cerāq-o xāmuš konam?**
Shall I turn off the light?
Can you say: Shall I turn it off?
- 5 کارتو تموم کن. **kāret-o tamum kon.** Finish your work.
Can you say: Finish it.
- 6 قلمت رو میزه؟ **qalamet ru mize?** Is your pen on the desk?
Can you say: No, it's under it!
- 7 به بچه‌ها گفتم. **be baccehā goftam.** I told the children.
Can you say: I told them.
- 8 می‌تونم با مدیر هتل صحبت کنم؟
mitunam bā modir-e hotel sohbat konam?
Can I speak with the hotel manager?
Can you say: Can I speak with him? (*f*)
- 9 همه‌ی بستنی رو نمی‌تونم بخورم.
hame-ye bastani-ro nemitunam boxoram.
I can't eat all of the ice cream.
Can you say: I can't eat all of it. I'll eat half of it.

How to ask: 'What's the matter (or: wrong) with ...?'

Here's the formula:

چه **ce** what + object ending + **e** is

چمه؟	ceme?	What's the matter with me?
چته؟	cete?	What's the matter with you? (<i>inf</i>)
چشه؟	ceše?	What's the matter with him/her/it?
چمونه؟	cemune?	What's the matter with us?
چتونه؟	cetune?	What's the matter with you?
چشونه؟	cešune?	What's the matter with them?
هیچیم نیست.	hiccim nist.	Nothing's wrong with me.

(See double negative in U9D1.)



Exercise 2

Match a number with a letter. The first one has been done for you.

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------------|-------|
| 1 | می دونم چتونه. | midunam cetune. | [e] |
| 2 | می دونم چشه. | midunam ceše. | [] |
| 3 | می دونم چمونه. | midunam cemune. | [] |
| 4 | می دونم چمه. | midunam ceme. | [] |
| 5 | می دونم چشونه. | midunam cešune. | [] |
| 6 | می دونم چته. | midunam cete. | [] |

- (a) I know what's wrong with me.
 (b) I know what's wrong with you. (*inf*)
 (c) I know what's wrong with him/her/it.
 (d) I know what's wrong with us.
 (e) I know what's wrong with you. (*f/pl*)
 (f) I know what's wrong with them.



Exercise 3

A Persian-speaking relative (R) has received a postcard from his Australian friend, but can't read the handwriting. Can you translate this dialogue into Persian?

- R: Excuse me, can you read this postcard for me, please.
 You: Certainly. Who is it from?
 R: From my Australian friend.
 [after you have read the postcard]
 R: Thank you very much.
 You: Pleasure.



Asking and telling the time (CD2; 5)

- ساعت چنده؟ **sā`at cande?**
 What time is it? (*lit* How much is the hour?)
 ساعت هشته. **sā`at hašte.**
 It's 8 o'clock. (*lit* The hour is eight.)

Here are some other expressions of time:

ساعت هشت **sā`at-e hašt**
(at) 8 o'clock (*lit* the hour of eight)

هشت و نیم **hašt o nim**
half past 8 (*lit* eight and half)

هشت و ربع **hašt o rob`**
a quarter past 8 (*lit* eight and quarter)

هشت و پنج دقیقه **hašt o panj da(q)iqe**
5 past 8 (*lit* 8 and 5 minutes)

یک ربع به هشت **ye(k) rob` be hašt**
a quarter to eight

More 'streetwise' expressions

ببخشید، ساعت دارید؟ **bebaxšid, sā`at dārid?**
Excuse me, have you got the time (*lit* a watch)?

ببخشید، فرودگاه از کدام طرف باید برم؟
bebaxšid, forudgāh az kodum taraf bāyad beram?
Excuse me, which way do I go to the airport?

می‌دونید از اینجا تا فرودگاه چقدر راه است؟
midunid az injā tā forudgāh ceqadr rāh ast (col rāst)?
Do you know how far it is from here to the airport?

با ماشین / اتوبوس / مترو چقدر طول می‌کشد؟
bā māšīn/otobus/metro ceqadr tul mikeše?
How long will it take by car/bus/metro?

طول کشیدن (کش) **tul kešidan (keš)** to take (time)

پیاده یک ساعت؛ با ماشین ده دقیقه.
piāde ye(k) sā`at; bā māšīn dah da(q)iqe.
One hour on foot; ten minutes by car.

بلیت اتوبوس از کجا باید بگیرم؟
belit-e otobus az kojā bāyad begiram?
(*lit*) From where should I get a bus ticket?

شمال	šomāl	north
جنوب	jonub	south
شرق	šarq	east
غرب	qarb	west
شمال شرق	šomāl-e šarq	north-east
جنوب غرب	jonub-e qarb	south-west
سر نبش	sar-e nabš	on the corner

سر نبش شمال غرب چهارراه

sar-e nabš-e šomāl-e qarb-e cār-rāh

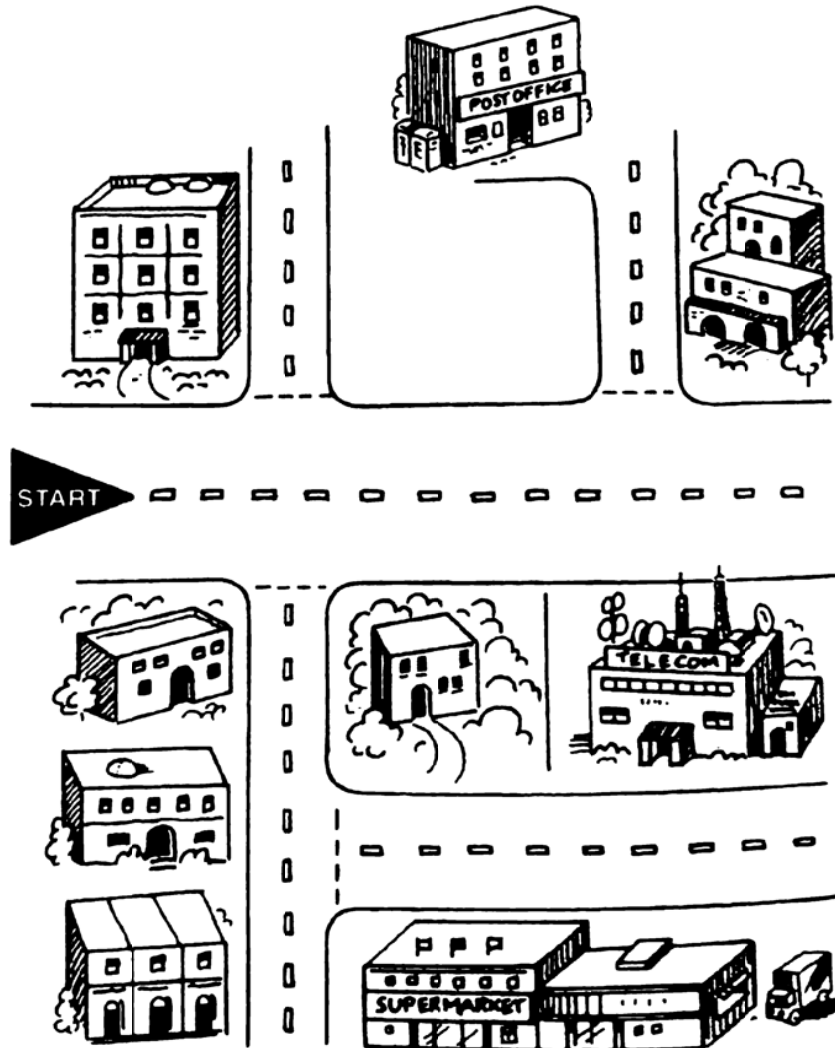
on the north-west corner of the cross-roads/intersection



Exercise 4

Look at the following local map. Can you give directions to:

[A] the post office; [B] the telecom centre; [C] the supermarket



Exercise 5



Can you say these in Persian?

- 1 Where's my cake? I ate it!
- 2 The light's off. Turn it on, please.
- 3 Shall I sit next to you? No, sit opposite me.
- 4 Shall I tell him (about it)? No, please don't tell him.
- 5 I bought this for you.
- 6 Can I come with you?
- 7 Do you know what's wrong with him?
- 8 Can you read this email for me, please?
- 9 What time is it, please?
- 10 Half past six.
- 11 A quarter to three.
- 12 A quarter past one.
- 13 Five minutes to twelve.
- 14 Five past eleven.
- 15 Sorry, I haven't got a watch.
- 16 Excuse me, where's the post office?
- 17 How far is it from here to the station?
- 18 How long will it take on foot?
- 19 It's half an hour's walk.
- 20 It's five minutes' drive.

Dialogue 2



Is there a public phone around here? (CD2: 7)



Julie (J) is now looking for a public telephone. She asks a passer-by (P) for help.

- J: ببخشید، این اطراف تلفن عمومی هست؟
 P: تو اون پستخونه چند تا هست.
 J: ببخشید زحمت می‌دم، ۱۰ تومن پول خرد دارید، لطفاً؟ برای تلفن می‌خوام.
 P: شاید داشته باشم. ... بفرمایید، یک پنج‌تومنی و پنج تا یک‌تومنی.
 خوبه؟

- J: خوبه، یک دنیا ممنون. ببخشید، خیلی زحمت دادم.
 P: چه زحمتی. شما خارجی هستید؟
 J: بله، چطور مگه؟
 P: فکر کردم شاید با تلفن‌های عمومی ایران آشنا نباشید.
 J: درست حدس زدید.
 P: فرق زیادی ندارند. فقط یادتون باشه بعداز اینکه پولو انداختید، بوق آزادو می‌شنوید.
 J: از راهنماییتون خیلی متشکرم.
 P: خواهش می‌کنم. موفق باشید.

- J: bebaxšid, in atrāf telefon-e omumi hast?
 P: tu un postxune cand tā hast.
 J: bebaxšid zahmat midam, dah toman pul-e xord dārid, lotfan? barāye telefon mixām.
 P: šāyad dāšte bāšam. . . . befarmāyid, yek panj-tomani o panj tā yek-tomani. xube?
 J: xube, yek donyā mamnun. bebaxšid, xeili zahmat dādam.
 P: ce zahmati. šomā xāreji hastid?
 J: bale, ceto(u)r mage?
 P: fekr kardam šāyad bā telefonhā-ye omumi-e irān āš(e)nā nabāšid.
 J: dorost hads zadid.
 P: farq-e ziādi nadārand. faqat yādetun bāše ba`d-az inke pul-o andāxtid, buq-e āzād-o miš(e)navid.
 J: az rāhnamāyitun xeili mot(a)šakkeram.
 P: xāheš mikonam. mo(v)affaq bāšid.
- J: *Excuse me, is there a public telephone around here?*
 P: *There are a few (of them) in that post office.*
 J: *Sorry to bother you, can you change (this) 10-tuman note, please? I want (it) for the telephone.*
 P: *I might have (some). Here you are, one five-tuman piece and five one-tuman pieces (coins). Is that (any) good?*
 J: *That's fine, thanks a million. I'm sorry I gave (you) a lot of trouble.*
 P: *No trouble. Are you from overseas?*
 J: *Yes, but why?*
 P: *I thought you might not be familiar with public telephones in Iran.*

- J: *You're right. (lit You guessed correctly.)*
 P: *They're not much different. Only remember (that) after you've put the money in, you'll hear the dialling tone.*
 J: *Thank you very much for your advice.*
 P: *You're welcome. Good luck.*

Vocabulary



این اطراف	in atrāf	around here (<i>lit</i> these quarters/sides)
عمومی	omumi	public
پستخونه	postxune	post office
چند تا	cand tā	a few (of them)
زحمت	zahmat	trouble
دادن (د)	dādan (d)	to give
زحمت دادن (د)	zahmat dādan (d)	to trouble/bother
پول	pul	money
خرد	xord	small
می‌خوام	mixām	I want
پنج‌تومنی	panj-tomani	(a) five-tuman piece
دنیا	donyā	world
خارجی	xāreji	from overseas, foreigner
فکر	fekr	thought
فکر کردن (کن)	fekr kardan (kon)	to think
با	bā	with
آشنا	āš(e)nā	familiar
درست	dorost	correct(ly)
حدس زدن (زن)	hads zadan (zan)	to guess
فرق	farq	difference
یاد	yād	memory
یادتون باشه	yādetun bāše	remember (<i>lit</i> let it be in your memory)
انداختن (انداز)	andāxtan (andāz)	to put/throw (in)
بوق آزاد	buq-e āzād	dialling tone
شنیدن (شنو)	šenidan (šenav)	to hear

راهنمایی	rāhnamāyi	advice, guidance
موفق	mo(v)affaq	successful
موفق باشید	mo(v)affaq bāšid	good luck (<i>lit</i> may you be successful)

Language and culture notes

How to say: 'there is/are', 'there was/were'

hast and **bud** (from the verb بودن **budan** 'to be') are used for the present and the past, respectively, often regardless of number (singular or plural):



(CD2; 9)

تو یخچال میوه هست؟ **tu yaxcāl mive hast?**

Is there (any) fruit in the fridge?

بله، چند تا سیب و پرتقال هست.

bale, cand tā sib o porteqāl hast.

Yes, there are a few apples and oranges.

روی میز کارد و چنگال هست؟ **ru-ye miz kārd o cangāl hast?**

Are there (any) knives and forks on the table? (*lit* knife and fork)

تو کلاس شما چند تا پسر هست؟

tu kelās-e šomā cand tā pesar hast?

How many boys are there in your class?

تو کلاس من هشت تا پسر هست.

tu kelās-e man hašt tā pesar hast.

There are eight boys in my class.

پارسال، تو کلاس فقط سه تا پسر بود.

pārsāl, tu kelāsam faqat se tā pesar bud.

Last year, there were only three boys in my class.

اما دختر زیاد بود. **ammā doxtar ziād bud.**

But there were many girls.

تو جشن تولدم ده تا مهمون خارجی بود.

tu jašn-e tavallodam dah tā mehmun-e xāreji bud.

In/at my birthday party there were ten foreign guests.

For the negative, **nist** نیست and **nabud** نبود are used for the present and the past, respectively:

(CD2; 9)



tu yaxcāl mive nist.

There is no fruit in the fridge.

pārsāl, tu kelāsam irāni nabud.

Last year, there were no Iranians in my class.

Exercise 6



Can you translate these sentences into English?

- ۱- تو کلاستون تلویزیون هست؟
1 **tu kelāsetun televizion hast?**
- ۲- تو شهر شما ایرانی هست؟
2 **tu šahr-e šomā irāni hast?**
- ۳- تو محله‌ی شما رستوران ایرانی هست؟
3 **tu mahalle-ye šomā resturān-e irāni hast?**
- ۴- تو پارتی پنج تا مهمون انگلیسی بود.
4 **tu pārti panj tā mehmun-e engelisi bud.**
- ۵- تو فریزر بستنی هست؟
5 **tu ferizer bastani hast?**
- ۶- بود ولی من خوردم!
6 **bud vali man xordam!**

More 'streetwise' expressions (CD2; 10)



ببخشید، این اطراف پستخونه هست؟

bebaxšid, in atrāf postxune hast?

Excuse me, is there a post office around here?

ببخشید، این نزدیکی‌ها «کافی‌نت» هست؟

bebaxšid, in nazdikihā 'kāfi-net' hast?

Excuse me, is there an 'Internet café' nearby?

ببخشید، این نزدیکی‌ها دسترسی به «اینترنت» هست؟
bebaxšid in nazdikihā dastrasi be 'internet' hast?
 Excuse me, is there access to the Internet nearby?

می‌خوام ایمیل‌هامو چک کنم.
mixām imeilhām-o cek konam.
 I want to check my emails.

می‌خوام چند تا ایمیل بفرستم.
mixām cand tā imeil bef(e)restam.
 I want to send a few emails.

فرستادن (فرست) **ferestādan (ferest)** to send

هزینه‌ی استفاده از اینترنت چقدره؟
hazine-ye estefāde az internet ceqadre?
 How much is the cost of using the Internet?

ساعتی هزار و دویست تومن.
sā`ati hezār o devist toman.
 1,200 tumans per hour.

می‌تونم از این کامپیوتر استفاده کنم؟
mitunam az in kāmputer estefāde konam?
 Can/may I use this computer?

از ... استفاده کردن (کن) **az ... estefāde kardan (kon)**
 to use ...

ببخشید، از کجا می‌تونم تلفن همراه کرایه کنم؟
bebaxšid, az kojā mitunam telefon-e hamrāh kerāye konam?
 Excuse me, (*lit* from) where can I hire a mobile phone?

ببخشید، ساعت دارید؟ **bebaxšid, sā`at dārid?**
 Excuse me, have you got the time? *lit* Have you got a watch?

ببخشید، ساعت خدمتتون هست؟
bebaxšid, sā`at xedmatetun hast?
 Excuse me, have you got the time? (*pol/f*) *lit* Is there a watch
 (at) your service?



Exercise 7 (CD2; 11)



Can you play your part in the following dialogue with a passerby (P) and then with the Internet café assistant (A) in Tehran?

You: Excuse me, have you got the time, please?

P: بله، خواهش می‌کنم. پنج و ربع.
bale, xāheš mikonam. panj o rob`.

Yes, by all means. (It's a) quarter past five.

You: Is there an Internet café around here? I want to check my emails.

P: بله، یک کم پایین‌تر، روبه‌روی سینما.
bale, yek kam pāyintar, ru-be-ru-ye sinemā.

Yes, a little further down, opposite the cinema.

[At the Internet café]

You: How much is the cost of using the Internet?

A: ساعتی هزار و دویست تومان.
sā`ati hezār o devist toman.

1,200 tumans per hour.

You: Can I use it for half an hour?

A: بله، خواهش می‌کنم. می‌شه ششصد تومان.
bale, xāheš mikonam. miše šešsad toman.

Yes, by all means. It comes to 600 tumans.

You: Can I use this computer?

A: بله، بفرمایید. **bale, befarmāyid.** Yes, please go ahead.

'After lunch' v. 'After I ate (or) I have eaten lunch'

(a) بعداز **ba`d-az** after

(b) بعداز اینکه **ba`d-az inke** after

We use (a) before a noun, and (b) before a sentence. Examples:

بعداز ناهار **ba`d-az nāhār** after lunch

بعداز اینکه ناهار خوردم **ba`d-az inke nāhār xordam**
(lit) after I ate lunch

Note: The verb in the sentence following (b) is normally expressed in the past simple tense (see U4D1) regardless of the actual time of happening. This is unlike English, where the tense changes depending on the time of occurrence of the main action (past or future). Compare the underlined bits:

بعداز اینکه ناهار خوردم، رفتم سینما.
ba`d-az inke nāhār xordam, raftam sinemā.

After I ate lunch, I went to the cinema. (past)

بعداز اینکه ناهار خوردم، می‌رم سینما.
ba`d-az inke nāhār xordam, miram sinemā.

After I have eaten lunch, I will go to the cinema. (future)

Here is a sentence from Dialogue 2:

بعداز اینکه پولو انداختید، بوق آزادو می‌شنوید.
ba`d-az inke pul-o andāxtid, buq-e āzād-o miš(e)navid.

After you have put the money in, you will hear the dialling tone.

Note: A literary alternative for بعداز (اینکه) **ba`d-az (inke)** is: پس‌از (اینکه) **pas-az (inke)**:

پس‌از شام **pas-az šām** after dinner

پس‌از اینکه شام خوردم، خوابیدم.
pas-az inke šām xordam, xābidam.

After I had dinner, I slept.

Note: A common alternative for اینکه **inke** is اونکه **unke**:

بعداز اونکه شام خوردیم، خوابیدیم.
ba`d-az unke šām xordim, xābidim.

After we ate dinner, we slept (went to bed).



Exercise 8

Write the longer version for each sentence using the appropriate form of the verb in brackets. Follow the example.

1 بعداز شام، می‌رم خونه. [خوردن (خور)]
ba`d-az šām, miram xune. [xordan (xor)]

After dinner, I'll go home. [to eat]

How do you say: After I have eaten dinner, I'll go home.

Example:

بعداز اینکه شام خوردم، می‌رم خونه.
ba`d-az inke šām xordam, miram xune.

After I have eaten dinner, I'll go home.

- 2 بعداز شام، رفتم خونه. [خوردن (خور)]
ba`d-az šām, raftam xune. [xordan (xor)]
 After dinner, I went home. [to eat]
 How do you say: After I ate dinner, I went home.
- 3 بعداز کلاس، می‌ریم رستوران. [تموم شدن (ش)]
ba`d-az kelās, mirim resturān. [tamum šodan (š)]
 After class, we'll go to a restaurant. [to finish]
 How do you say: After class has/is finished, we'll go to a restaurant.
- 4 بعداز کلاس، رفتیم رستوران. [تموم شدن (ش)]
ba`d-az kelās, raftim resturān. [tamum šodan (š)]
 After class, we went to a restaurant. [to finish]
 How do you say: After class finished, we went to a restaurant.
- 5 بعداز دوش، صبحونه می‌خورم. [گرفتن (گیر)]
ba`d-az duš, sobhune mixoram. [gereftan (gir)]
 After a shower, I'll eat breakfast. [to take]
 How do you say: After I've taken a shower, I'll eat breakfast.
- 6 بعداز دوش، صبحونه خوردم. [گرفتن (گیر)]
ba`d-az duš, sobhune xordam. [gereftan (gir)]
 After a shower, I ate breakfast. [to take]
 How do you say: After I took a shower, I ate breakfast.
- 7 بعداز صبحونه، ایمیل‌هامو چک می‌کنم. [خوردن (خور)]
ba`d-az sobhune, emeihām-o cek mikonam. [xordan (xor)]
 After breakfast, I'll check my emails. [to eat]
 How do you say: After I've eaten breakfast, I'll check my emails.
- 8 بعداز صبحونه، ایمیل‌هامو چک کردم. [خوردن (خور)]
ba`d-az sobhune, emeihām-o cek kardam. [xordan (xor)]
 After breakfast, I checked my emails. [to eat]
 How do you say: After I ate breakfast, I checked my emails.

'Before lunch' v. 'Before I ate (or) eat lunch'

- (a) قبل از **qabl-az** before
 (b) قبل از اینکه **qabl-az inke** before

We use (a) before a noun, and (b) before a sentence. Examples:

قبل از ناهار **qabl-az nāhār** before lunch

قبل از اینکه ناهار بخورم **qabl-az inke nāhār boxoram**
(lit) before I eat lunch

Note: The verb in the sentence following (b) is normally expressed in the subjunctive (see U7D1) regardless of the actual time of happening. This is unlike English where the tense changes depending on the time of occurrence of the main action (past or future). Compare the underlined bits:

قبل از اینکه ناهار بخورم، رفتم سینما.
qabl-az inke nāhār boxoram, raftam sinemā.
Before I ate lunch, I went to the cinema. (past)

قبل از اینکه ناهار بخورم، می‌رم سینما.
qabl-az inke nāhār boxoram, miram sinemā.
Before I eat lunch, I'll go to the cinema. (future)

Note: A common alternative for قبل از (اینکه) **qabl-az (inke)** is: پیش از (اینکه) **piš-az (inke)**:

پیش از ناهار، به دوستم تلفن کردم.
piš-az nāhār, be dustam telefon kardam.
Before lunch, I telephoned my friend.

پیش از اینکه ناهار بخورم، به دوستم تلفن کردم.
piš-az inke nāhār boxoram, be dustam telefon kardam.
Before I ate lunch, I telephoned my friend.



Exercise 9

Write the longer version for each sentence using the appropriate form of the verb in brackets. Follow the example.

1 قبل از سینما، شام می‌خوریم. [رفتن (r)]
qabl-az sinemā, šām mixorim. [raftan (r)]

Before the cinema, we will eat dinner. [to go]

Can you say: Before we go to the cinema, we will eat dinner.

Example: قبل از اینکه بریم سینما، شام می‌خوریم.
qabl-az inke berim sinemā, šām mixorim.

Before we go to the cinema, we will eat dinner.

- 2 قبل از سینما، شام خوردیم. [رفتن (ر)]
qabl-az sinemā, šām xordim. [raftan (r)]
 Before the cinema, we ate dinner. [to go]
 Can you say: Before we went to the cinema, we ate dinner.
- 3 قبل از شام، یک فیلم می بینم. [خوردن (خور)]
qabl-az šām, yek film mibinam.
 Before dinner, I will see/watch a film. [to eat]
 Can you say: Before I eat dinner, I will see/watch a film.
- 4 قبل از شام، یک فیلم دیدم. [خوردن (خور)]
qabl-az šām, yek film didam.
 Before dinner, I saw/watched a film. [to eat]
 Can you say: Before I ate dinner, I saw/watched a film.
- 5 قبل از فیلم، دوش می گیرم. [دیدن (بین)]
qabl-az film, duš migiram. [didan (bin)]
 Before the film, I will take a shower. [to see]
 Can you say: Before I see/watch the film, I will take a shower.
- 6 قبل از فیلم، دوش گرفتم. [دیدن (بین)]
qabl-az film, duš gereftam. [didan (bin)]
 Before the film, I took a shower. [to see]
 Can you say: Before I saw the film, I took a shower.
- 7 قبل از دوش، به دوستم تلفن می کنم. [گرفتن (گیر)]
qabl-az duš, be dustam telefon mikonam.
 Before the shower, I will telephone my friend. [to take]
 Can you say: Before I take a shower, I will telephone my friend.
- 8 قبل از دوش، به دوستم تلفن کردم. [گرفتن (گیر)]
qabl-az duš, be dustam telefon kardam.
 Before the shower, I telephoned my friend. [to take]
 Can you say: Before I took a shower, I telephoned my friend.
- 9 امشب قبل از خواب، به ایران تلفن می کنم. [خوابیدن (خواب)]
emšab qabl-az xāb, be irān telefon mikonam. [xābīdan (xāb)]
 Tonight before sleep (sleeping), I will telephone Iran. [to sleep]
 Can you say: Tonight before I sleep (go to bed), I will telephone Iran.

- 10 دیشب قبل از خواب، به ایران تلفن کردم. [خوابیدن (خواب)]
dišab qabl-az xāb, be irān telefon kardam. [xābīdan (xāb)]
 Last night before sleep (sleeping), I telephoned Iran. [to sleep]
 Can you say: Last night before I slept (went to bed), I telephoned
 Iran.

Gerund (verbal noun): 'to eat' v. 'eating'

Both the above often have the same form in Persian:

خوردن	xordan	'to eat' as well as 'eating'
رفتن	raftan	'to go' as well as 'going'
دیدن	didan	'to see' as well as 'seeing'
تماشا کردن	tamāšā kardan	'to watch' as well as 'watching'

Examples:

سرگرمی‌های من این‌هاست: **sargarmihā-ye man inhāst:**

My hobbies are these:

رفتن به سینما **raftan be sinemā** going to the cinema

خواندن کتاب **xundan-e ketāb**
 reading books (*lit* reading of book)

Also note these forms:

بعد از خوردن شام **ba`d-az xordan-e šām** after eating dinner

قبل از رفتن به سینما **qabl-az raftan be sinemā**
 before going to the cinema

Exercise 10



Using the vocabulary provided in Exercise 8, can you translate these into Persian? Follow the example.

- 1 After eating dinner, I'll go home.

Example: بعداز خوردن شام، می‌رم خونه.

ba`d-az xordan-e šām, miram xune.

- 2 After eating dinner, I went home.
- 3 After taking a shower, I'll eat breakfast.
- 4 After taking a shower, I ate breakfast.
- 5 After eating breakfast, I'll check my emails.
- 6 After eating breakfast, I checked my emails.

Exercise 11



Using the vocabulary provided in Exercise 9, can you translate these into Persian? Follow the example.

- 1 Before going to the cinema, we'll eat dinner.

Example: قبل از رفتن به سینما، شام می‌خوریم.

qabl-az raftan be sinemā, šām mixorim.

- 2 Before going to the cinema, we ate dinner.
- 3 Before eating dinner, I'll see/watch a film.
- 4 Before eating dinner, I saw/watched a film.
- 5 Before seeing a film, I'll take a shower.
- 6 Before seeing a film, I took a shower.
- 7 Before taking a shower, I'll phone my friend.
- 8 Before taking a shower, I phoned my friend.

Exercise 12



Can you say these in Persian?

- 1 Excuse me, is there a post office/police station/library/supermarket/Internet café around here?
- 2 Is there any milk in the fridge?
- 3 Are there any Iranians in your area?
- 4 Last year there were five Iranians in my class/office.
- 5 Before you go out, turn off the lights please.
- 6 I phoned Ahmad before I left the office.

- 7 We'll have dinner after all the guests have come/arrived.
- 8 Last night before I slept (went to bed), I checked my emails.
- 9 Before eating breakfast, I took a shower.
- 10 After taking a shower, I had a cold drink.



Comprehension (CD2: 12)

Yesterday, you got this message on your answering machine.

سلام. جلال هستم. از هتل اطلس تلفن می‌کنم. از هتل راضی هستم، فقط صدای ترافیک یک کم زیاده. راستی، امشب من و خانمم، بعد از اینکه گردشمون تموم شد، می‌خوایم بریم سینما. دوست داریم تو هم با ما بیای. فیلم ساعت ۷ شب شروع می‌شه. پس بهتره ساعت ۶ همدیگه رو ببینیم تا وقت برای صحبت هم داشته باشیم. قبل از اینکه بریم سینما، باهم شام می‌خوریم. قراره بریم سینما حافظ. روبه‌روی سینما یک رستوران هست. ساعت ۶ تو رستوران منتظر تیم. فعلاً خدا حافظ.

salām. jalāl hastam. az hotel atlas telefon mikonam. az hotel rāzi hastam, faqat sedā-ye terāfik yek kam ziāde. rāsti, emšab man o xānomam, ba`d-az inke gardešemun tamum šod, mixāim berim sinemā. dust dārim to ham bā mā biāi. film sā`at-e haft-e šab šoru` miše. pas behtare sā`at-e šeš hamdiga-ro bebinim tā vaqt barāye sohbat ham dāšte bāšim. qabl-az inke berim sinemā, bā-ham šām mixorim. qarāre berim sinemā hāfez. ru-be-ru-ye sinemā yek resturān hast. sā`at-e šeš tu resturān montazeretim. fe`lan xodā hāfez.

- 1 Who is calling?
- 2 Where is he phoning from?
- 3 How does he feel about the place?
- 4 Where is the caller going tonight and with whom?
- 5 What time does the event begin?
- 6 What does he intend to do before the event?
- 7 What has the caller been doing during the day?
- 8 What time does he want to see you and why?
- 9 Where will you be seeing him?

Unit Nine

گرسنه اید؟ **gorosneid?**

Are you hungry?

In this unit we will look at how to:

- talk about food, drinks and your diet
- order a meal, complain about it, pay the bill
- enquire about various dishes
- seek and give permission to do something
- apologise for interrupting
- talk about how frequently you do things
- ask someone if he/she has ever done something



Dialogue 1



At the Dinner Table (CD2: 13)



Sara (S) is entertaining her mother-in-law (M).

S: یک کم دیگه مرغ بذارم براتون؟

M: نه، متشکرم. سیر شدم.

S: هیچتی نخوردید.

M: چرا، خیلی خوردم.

S: خواهش می‌کنم تعارف نکنید.

M: اصلاً تعارف نمی‌کنم.

- S: مرغ دوست ندارید؟
 M: چرا، خیلی خوشمزه است. اما، راستش، شبها هیچ وقت شام نمی خورم - به اصطلاح رژیم دارم!
 S: حالا، خونه‌ی ما، رژیمو بذارید کنار، لطفاً.
 M: پس، فقط یک تگه‌ی کوچک بذار، لطفاً.
 S: بفرمایید.
 M: دستت درد نکنه.
 S: سرتون درد نکنه.
 M: خیلی خوشمزه بود.
 S: نوش جان.

- S: yek kam(-e) dige morq bezāram barātun?
 M: na, mot(a)šakkeram. sir šodam.
 S: hicci naxordid.
 M: cerā, xeili xordam.
 S: xāheš mikonam t(a)ārof nakonid.
 M: aslan t(a)ārof nemikonam.
 S: morq dust nadārid?
 M: cerā, xeili xošmaz(e) ast. ammā, rāsteš, šabhā hic-vaqt šām nemixoram - be estelāh reġim dāram!
 S: hālā, xune-ye mā, reġim-o bezārid kenār, lotfan.
 M: pas, faqat yek tekke-ye kucek bezār, lotfan.
 S: befarmāyid.
 M: dastet dard nakone.
 S: saretun dard nakone.
 M: xeili xošmaze bud.
 S: nuš-e jān.

- S: *Shall I serve (lit put) a little more chicken for you?*
 M: *No, thanks. I'm full. (lit I became full.)*
 S: *You didn't eat anything.*
 M: *Oh yes, I ate a lot.*
 S: *Please don't stand on ceremony (or: stop being polite.)*
 M: *I'm not being polite at all.*
 S: *Do you not like chicken?*
 M: *Oh yes, it's very tasty. But, to be honest, I never eat dinner at night - supposedly I'm on a diet!*

S: Now, in our house, set aside (or: forget about) the diet, please.

M: Then, put only a small piece, please.

S: Here you are.

M: Thank you. (lit May your hand not ache!)

S: You're welcome. (lit May your head not ache!)

M: It was very tasty (or: really delicious).

S: I'm glad you liked it. (lit (May it be) enjoyed by (your) life/soull)

Vocabulary



دیگه	diqe	other; more
مرغ	morq	chicken
براتون	barātun	for you
سیر	sir	full (fully fed)
هیچی	hicci	nothing
چرا	cerā	'yes' to a negative question/ suggestion
خواهش کردن (کن)	xāheš kardan (kon)	to request
تعارف کردن (کن)	ta`ārof kardan (kon)	to stand on ceremony
دوست داشتن (دار)	dust dāštan (dār)	to like
خوشمزه	xošmāze	tasty, delicious
هیچوقت	hic-vaqt	never; at any time
به اصطلاح	be estelāh	supposedly
رژیم	reġim	diet
رژیم دارم	reġim dāram	I'm on a diet (<i>lit</i> I have diet)
کنار گذاشتن (ذار)	kenār gozāštan (zār)	to put/set aside
بذارید کنار	bezārid kenār	set aside
پس	pas	then, so, in that case
تکه	tekke	piece
نوش جان	nuš-e jān	bon appetit; (<i>lit</i> (May it be) enjoyed by (your) life/soull)



Language and culture notes

Ta`ārof (colloquially pronounced tārof)

This is a politeness ritual or formula, a 'verbal wrestling' match between a host and a guest, and more generally between: (a) the person offering something, and (b) the person being offered something. **ta`ārof** is used by the host to make his guest feel welcome, and by the guest to minimise imposition upon, or inconvenience to the host. This is often realised in the form of the host's insistence that the guest must eat (more) food, fruit, etc., and resistance on the part of the guest. This ritual is repeated a few times until one side submits to the will of the other. A 'diluted' form of **ta`ārof** does occur in English but often stops after the first or second exchange:

- Would you like some fruit?
- No, thanks.
- Are you sure?
- Positive.

This difference may account for the stories often told about English guests being 'force-fed' to the point of indisposition in Iranian homes; while Iranian guests, upon leaving their English friend's home, plunge into the nearest restaurant – pardon the exaggeration! This is not to say that English hosts are any less hospitable than their Iranian counterparts; they follow different sets of politeness rules, each with equally valid justification.

Here is a sentence often exchanged between a guest and a host:

تعارف نمی‌کنم. **ta`ārof nemikonam.**
I'm not **ta`ārofing** (I'm not using **ta`ārof**).

When used by a guest, it conveys this message:

My declining is genuine; I'm not resisting in the expectation of further insistence on your part; I'm not standing on ceremony.

When used by a host, it conveys this message:

My offer is genuine; I mean what I say.

In either case, a functional equivalent in English might be:

I'm not just being polite.

Also look at these other variants:

تعارف می‌کنید؟ **ta`ārof mikonid?** Are you being polite?

لطفاً تعارف نکنید. **lotfan ta`ārof nakonid.**

Please stop being polite. (or: Please don't stand on ceremony.)

If you compliment an Iranian on one of his belongings, he may say to you: پیشکش **piškeš** 'gift' (meaning: 'you can have it as a gift'.) This is often a **ta`ārof** never to be taken seriously by the person being offered the thing in question. A 'no-thank-you' reply would be sufficient. If the offer is serious, and not just a politeness ritual, the offerer insists several times.

Adverbs of frequency (CD2; 14)



همیشه	hamiše	always
معمولاً	ma`mulan	usually, normally
اغلب	aqlab	often
بعضی وقت‌ها	ba`zi-vaqthā	sometimes
گاهی	gāhi	occasionally
به ندرت	be-nodrat	rarely
هیچ وقت	hic-vaqt	never

The above adverbs normally follow the subject:

من همیشه تو خونه شام می‌خورم.
man hamiše tu xune šām mixoram.
I always eat dinner at home.

ما معمولاً غذای ایرانی می‌خوریم.
mā ma`mulan qazā-ye irāni mixorim.
We usually eat Iranian food.

سیروس و سیمین اغلب شام نمی‌خورند.
sirus o simin aqlab šām nemixorand.
Sirus and Simin often don't eat dinner.

سیروس بعضی وقتها یک کم سوپ می خوره.
sirus ba`zi-vaqthā yek kam sup mixore.
 Sirus sometimes eats a little soup.

سیمین گاهی سالاد می خوره.
simin gāhi sālād mixore.
 Simin occasionally eats (some) salad.

اونها به ندرت گوشت می خورند.
unhā be-nodrat gušt mixorand.
 They rarely eat meat.



Exercise 1

The word(s) missing from the sentences below can be found in the box above. Can you find them and fit them in?

1 ما _____ به رستوران ایرانی می ریم.
mā _____ be resturān-e irāni mirim.
 We occasionally go to an Iranian restaurant.

Example: ما گاهی به رستوران ایرانی می ریم.
mā gāhi be resturān-e irāni mirim.

2 خانمم _____ با ماشین به اداره می ره.
xānomam _____ bā māshin be edāre mire.
 My wife always goes to the office by car.

3 من _____ با قطار می رم.
man _____ bā qatār miram.
 I usually go by train.

4 ما _____ باهم به سینما می ریم.
mā _____ bā-ham be sinemā mirim.
 We rarely go to the cinema together.

5 شوهرم _____ فیلم پلیسی تماشا می کنه.
shouharam _____ film-e polisi tamāshā mikone.
 My husband sometimes watches detective films.

6 من _____ جلوی تلویزیون می خوابم!
man _____ jelo-ye television mixābam!
 I often fall asleep (*lit* sleep) in front of the TV! [She doesn't like detective films!]

Double negative

How to say 'I never eat dinner.'

هیچ وقت **hic-vaqt** is a dictionary equivalent for 'ever' and 'never':

شما هیچ وقت شام می خورید؟ **šomā hic-vaqt šām mixorid?**
Do you ever eat dinner?

من هیچ وقت شام نمی خورم. **man hic-vaqt šām nemixoram.**
I never eat dinner. (*lit* I never don't eat dinner, or I don't ever eat dinner.)

Thus, when used in a positive question, **هیچ وقت hic-vaqt** means 'ever'. When we use **هیچ وقت hic-vaqt** to mean 'never', we put the verb in the negative. All Persian words beginning with the negative prefix **هیچ hic-** (roughly meaning 'not any') fall in the same category. Here are some of the more common ones:

هیچ جا hic-jā	nowhere, not anywhere
هیچ چیز hic-ciz = هیچی hicci (col)	nothing, not anything
هیچ کار hic-kār	nothing (no activity)
هیچ کدوم hic-kodum	neither or none (of them)
هیچ کس hic-kas	nobody, not anyone

Examples:

هیچ جا نرفتیم. hic-jā naraftim.	We didn't go anywhere (<i>lit</i> nowhere).
هیچی نگفت. hicci nagoft.	He didn't say anything (<i>lit</i> nothing).
هیچ کار نکردم. hic-kār nakardam.	I didn't do anything (<i>lit</i> nothing).
هیچ کدومو نمی خوام. hic-kodum-o nemixām.	I don't want either (<i>lit</i> neither) (of them).
هیچ کس تلفن نکرد. hic-kas telefon nakard.	Nobody phoned (<i>lit</i> didn't phone).



Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word. Follow the example.

- 1 من _____ تنها به رستوران نمی‌رم.
man _____ tanhā be resturān nemiram.
 I never go to a restaurant alone.

Example: من هیچ وقت تنها به رستوران نمی‌رم.
man hic-vaqt tanhā be resturān nemiram.

- 2 من _____ نخوردم. **man _____ naxordam.**
 I didn't eat anything.
- 3 من _____ نرفتم. **man _____ naraftam.**
 I didn't go anywhere.
- 4 ما _____ نکردیم. **mā _____ nakardim.**
 We didn't do anything.
- 5 من به _____ تلفن نکردم. **man be _____ telefon nakardam.**
 I didn't phone anyone.
- 6 خوب نیست. _____ **xub nist.** Neither is good.



Exercise 3

Write in the blanks the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 - آخر هفته‌ی گذشته، هیچ جا _____ (رفتن).
āxar-e hafte-ye gozašte, hic-jā _____ (raftan)
 Last weekend, I didn't go anywhere.
- Example: **āxar-e hafte-ye gozašte, hic-jā naraftam.**
 آخر هفته‌ی گذشته، هیچ جا نرفتم.
- 2 - آخر هفته‌ی گذشته، هیچ کار _____ (کردن).
āxar-e hafte-ye gozašte, hic-kār _____ (kardan)
 Last weekend, I didn't do anything.
- 3 - دیروز، هیچ کس به خونه‌ی ما _____ (اومدن).
diruz, hic-kas be xune-ye mā _____ (umadan)
 Yesterday, no one came to our house.
- 4 - هیچ کس هیچی _____ (گفتن).
hic-kas hicci _____ (goftan)
 Nobody said anything.

- ۵- اون‌ها هیچ‌وقت تو خونه _____ [بودن (هست/نیست)]
 5 **unhā hic-vaqt tu xune _____.** [budan (hast/nist)]
 They are never at home.
- ۶- هیچ‌کدوم از شما برای این کار مناسب _____ [بودن (هست/نیست)]
 6 **hic-kodum az šomā barāye in kār monāseb _____.** [budan (hast/nist)]
 Neither of you are suitable for this job.
- ۷- هیچ‌تی درباره‌ی او _____ [دونستن (دون)]
 7 **hicci dar-bāre-ye u _____.** [dunestan (dun)]
 I don't know anything about him/her.
- ۸- هیچ‌کس _____ من کجا هستم. [دونستن (دون)]
 8 **hic-kas _____ man kojā hastam.**
 Nobody knows where I am.

Exercise 4 (CD2; 15)

Listen to the dialogue between Ali (A) and Parvaneh (P) and put the appropriate letter in the box, true [T] or false [F].



- A: معمولاً صبحونه چی می‌خوری؟
 P: هیچ‌وقت صبحونه نمی‌خورم.
 A: من هم همین‌طور. تو چرا نمی‌خوری؟ رژیم داری؟
 P: نه بابا، رژیم چیه؟
 A: پس چرا نمی‌خوری؟
 P: چون تنبلم. تو چرا نمی‌خوری؟
 A: من هم همین‌طور.

- A: ma'mulan sobhune ci mixori?
 P: hic-vaqt sobhune nemixoram.
 A: man (h)am hamin-to(u)r. to cerā nemixori? reġim dāri?
 P: na bābā, reġim cie?
 A: pas cerā nemixori?
 P: con tanbalam. to cerā nemixori?
 A: man (h)am hamin-to(u)r.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1 The relationship between Ali and Parvaneh is formal. | [F] |
| 2 Parvaneh never has breakfast because she is on a diet. | [] |
| 3 Ali never has breakfast because he is lazy. | [] |
| 4 Their reason for not having breakfast is the same. | [] |



Exercise 5

Can you say these in Persian?

- 1 What do you usually do at the weekend?
- 2 I never stay at home.
- 3 Do you ever go out?
- 4 We rarely go out on Saturdays.
- 5 I always go to the supermarket on Saturdays.
- 6 I don't do anything on Sundays.
- 7 I don't go anywhere in the evening.
- 8 I usually stay at home and watch TV.
- 9 I didn't talk to anyone at the party.
- 10 What do you normally have for lunch?
- 11 I don't eat anything.
- 12 What did you do last weekend?
- 13 I didn't do anything.
- 14 I went shopping.
- 15 I didn't buy anything.
- 16 I never have coffee at night.
- 17 Do you ever go to Iranian restaurants? Yes, sometimes.
- 18 She often comes here with her children.
- 19 I occasionally go swimming with my friends.

به رستوران بهار خوش آمدید
be resturān-e bahār xoš āmadid

Welcome to Bahar Restaurant

plé-qazāhā Starters

1	māst o mosir Yoghurt & wild garlic	15000 riāl 15,000 rials
2	māst o xiār Yoghurt and cucumber	14500 riāl 14,500 rials
3	sālād-e faal Season's salad	16000 riāl 16,000 rials
4	sālād-e olivie Olivie (chicken & potato) salad	16500 riāl 16,500 rials
5	kašk o bādenjān Evaporated yoghurt on aubergines	17000 riāl 17,000 rials
6	nān o panir o sabzi Bread & cheese & fresh herbs	14000 riāl 14,000 rials
7	torāi Pickles	10000 riāl 10,000 rials

پیش‌غذاها

۱- ماست و موسیر	۱۵۰۰۰ ریال
۲- ماست و خیار	۱۴۵۰۰ ریال
۳- سالاد فصل	۱۶۰۰۰ ریال
۴- سالاد الیویه	۱۶۵۰۰ ریال
۵- کشک و بادنجان	۱۷۰۰۰ ریال
۶- نان و پنیر و سبزی	۱۴۰۰۰ ریال
۷- ترشی	۱۰۰۰۰ ریال

qazāhā-ye aslī Main Dishes

8	celo-kabāb-e barg Rice & thin steak kebab	200000 riāl 200,000 rials
9	celo-kabāb-e kubide Rice & minced meat kebab	135000 riāl 135,000 rials
10	juje-kabāb Spring chicken kebab	145000 riāl 145,000 rials
11	bāq(e)lā polo bā morq Rice & barberries with chicken	145000 riāl 145,000 rials
12	celo-xoreš-e qorme-sabzi Rice with meat & herb sauce	100000 riāl 100,000 rials
13	celo-xoreš-e fesenjān Rice with walnuts & pomegranate sauce	120000 riāl 120,000 rials
14	celo-xoreš-e qeime bādenjān Rice with meat & aubergines sauce	100000 riāl 100,000 rials

غذاهای اصلی

۸- چلوکباب برگ	۲۰۰۰۰۰ ریال
۹- چلوکباب کوبیده	۱۳۵۰۰۰ ریال
۱۰- جوجه کباب	۱۴۵۰۰۰ ریال
۱۱- باقلا پلو با مرغ	۱۴۵۰۰۰ ریال
۱۲- چلو خورش قرمه‌سبزی	۱۰۰۰۰۰ ریال
۱۳- چلو خورش فسنجان	۱۲۰۰۰۰ ریال
۱۴- چلو خورش قیمه بادنجان	۱۰۰۰۰۰ ریال

āšāmīdanīhā va deserhā Drinks and desserts

15	duq Yoghurt drink	20000 riāl 20,000 rials
16	kokākolā / zamzam Coca-Cola / Zamzam (local drink)	10000 riāl 10,000 rials
17	āb(-e) porteqāl Orange juice	20000 riāl 20,000 rials
18	cāi Tea	5000 riāl 5,000 rials
19	bestani Ice cream	12000 riāl 12,000 rials
20	pālude-ye širāzi Shirazi sorbet	10000 riāl 10,000 rials

آشامیدنی‌ها و دسرها

۱۵- دوغ	۲۰۰۰۰ ریال
۱۶- کوکاکولا / زمزم	۱۰۰۰۰ ریال
۱۷- آب پرتقال	۲۰۰۰۰ ریال
۱۸- چای	۵۰۰۰ ریال
۱۹- بستنی	۱۲۰۰۰ ریال
۲۰- پالوده‌ی شیرازی	۱۰۰۰۰ ریال



Dialogue 2



Is this seat taken? (CD2; 16)

The restaurant is full. Two friends have to share a table with two strangers. The waiter (w) then takes their order.

- A: ببخشید، اینجا جای کسیه؟
 B: بله، رفته دستشویی.
 A: ببخشید آقا، می‌تونیم اینجا بشینیم؟
 C: خواهش می‌کنم. بفرمایید.
 W: ببخشید حرفتونو قطع می‌کنم. غذا سفارش داده‌اید؟
 A: نه هنوز.
 W: حاضرید سفارش بدید؟
 A: بله، برای من لطفاً چلو کباب بیارید.
 D: برای من لطفاً جوجه کباب بیارید.
 W: پیش‌غذا چی میل دارید؟
 A: پنیر و سبزی با نون، لطفاً.

- D: برای من سالاد بیارید، لطفاً.
 W: نوشیدنی چی بیارم؟
 A: دوغ، لطفاً.
 D: پپسی، لطفاً
 W: دسر؟
 D: بستنی، لطفاً
 A: هنوز تصمیم نگرفته‌ام. بعداً می‌گم.

- A: bebaxšid, injā jā-ye kasie?
 B: bale, rafte das(t)šuyi.
 A: bebaxšid āqā, mitunim injā bešinim?
 C: xāheš mikonam. befarmāyid.
 W: bebaxšid harfetun-o qat(‘) mikonam. qazā sefāreš dād(e)id?
 A: na hanuz.
 W: hāzerid sefāreš bedid?
 A: bale, barāye man lotfan celo(u)-kabāb biārid.
 D: barāye man lotfan juje-kabāb biārid.
 W: piš-qazā ci meil dārid?
 A: panir o sabzi bā nun, lotfan.
 D: barāye man sālād biārid, lotfan.
 W: nušidani ci biāram?
 A: duq, lotfan.
 D: pepsi, lotfan.
 W: deser?
 D: bastani, lotfan.
 A: hanuz tasmim nagereft(e)am. ba(‘)dan migam.
- A: *Excuse me, is this seat taken? (lit Is this place someone (else)'s seat?)*
 B: *Yes, he's gone to the toilet.*
 A: *Excuse me sir, can we sit here?*
 C: *By all means. Please go ahead.*
 W: *Sorry to interrupt you. Have you ordered a meal?*
 A: *Not yet.*
 W: *Are you ready to order?*
 A: *Yes, for me, please (lit bring) the chelo-kebab.*
 D: *For me, please (lit bring) the chicken kebab.*

- W: *What would you like as a starter?*
 A: *Cheese and (fresh) herbs with bread, please.*
 D: *(lit Bring) salad for me, please.*
 W: *What drink would you like? (lit shall I bring?)*
 A: *Yoghurt drink, please.*
 D: *Pepsi, please.*
 W: *Dessert?*
 D: *Ice cream, please.*
 A: *I haven't decided yet. I'll tell (you) later.*



Vocabulary

جا	jā	place, seat
اینجا	injā	this place
کسی	kasi	someone
رفته	rafte	has gone
دستشویی	dastšuyi	toilet
بشینیم	bešinim	(for us) to sit
حرف	harf	speech, conversation
قطع کردن (کن)	qat` kardan (kon)	to interrupt
سفارش	sefāreš	order
دادن (د)	dādan (d)	to give
سفارش دادن (د)	sefāreš dādan (d)	to order
هنوز	hanuz	yet, still
حاضر	hāzer	ready
چلوکباب	celou-kabāb	rice with kebab
بیارید	biārid	bring
جوجه کباب	Juje-kabāb	spring chicken kebab
پیش غذا	piš-qazā	starter
میل	mell	Inclination
میل دارید	meil dārid	would you like
پنیر	panir	cheese
سبزی	sabzi	fresh herbs
نون	nun col for نان nān	bread