

**INTRODUCTORY EXERCISES
IN URDU PROSE
COMPOSITION WITH
NOTES AND TRANSLATIONS**

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Introductory Exercises in Urdu Prose Composition with Notes and Translations by G. Ranking
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BY

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P R E F A C E.

This work has been prepared in order to meet a want which many years' experience in India has shown to be very pressing.

Munshis are in many stations not to be had, while those who are available as teachers are too often imperfectly acquainted with English idiom.

There has hitherto been no book from which a student could learn to translate from English into Urdu.

It is hoped that the present work will render their task easier for those who are required to pass examinations of which Urdu Composition forms an important part.

Where reference is made in the following pages to *Guide*, the work referred to is my *Guide to Hindustani*, 3rd Edition, 1895.

CALCUTTA :)
November, 1895.)

GEORGE RANKING.

INTRODUCTION.

Urdu as spoken and written at the present time affords one of the best examples possible of a language originally somewhat limited in its vocabulary, though sufficing for the expression of the ideas and aspirations of a race living upon and tilling their own lands, and subsisting upon the produce of their fields, but which has, owing to additions made to it by successive foreign encroachments, become one of the richest and most comprehensive languages in the world. Containing as it does words introduced from the Persian and Arabic, and through these languages from the Greek and Latin tongues, aided also by a certain number of English words which have been adopted, some from choice, others from necessity owing to the absence of equivalents, there is no subject however scientific or technical which may not be satisfactorily presented in an Urdu translation.

It is not however within the scope of the present volume to deal with the wider possibilities of Urdu as a medium of communication of thought and expression, but to show how the more ordinary idioms of the English language may be suitably expressed in Urdu, so as to bear a semblance of originality.

The Urdu idiom differs widely in many ways from the English, forms of expression are used which find no counterpart in English, but which are essential to a satisfactory rendering of the English idiom.

There is a proverb in Urdu which is very apposite.

It runs :—

جیسا دیسی ویسا بھیس *Jaisá des waisá bhes.*

Every country has its own dress.

And so every language has its own form of expression. The object of a translation is to strictly preserve the sense of the original, and to clothe the ideas in the dress of the new language.

The Sentence.

The structure of the simple sentence in Urdu is a matter of no difficulty. Given a knowledge of the words and an acquaintance with the fundamental grammatical rules, the construction of a correct sentence is easy enough. The usual order of a sentence in Urdu is Subject—Object—Verb.

The Verb.

The verb in Urdu differs in position from the usage of English, and is also subject to inflectional changes for gender. These are the first points to be borne in mind.

Take for example the following sentence—

The Queen looked in my direction and smiled and remained silent.

The Urdu order is as follows :—

ملکہ میری طرف دیکھ کر مسکرائی اور چپ ہو رہی

Malika meri taraf dekhkar muskairi aur chup ho rahi.

The Queen in my direction having looked smiled, etc.

Thus we see that while in English the verb immediately follows its subject, in Urdu subordinate ideas qualifying the main idea must be first expressed, and the principal verb placed last of all.

Another example or two will make this still more clear.

The faqir repented of his conduct.

فقیر اپنی حرکت سے بہت نادم ہوا

Faqir apni harakat se bahut nadim hua.

The faqir of his conduct greatly repented.