Introduction

This grammar section is a limited, simple, contrastive grammar for beginning students of Persian. It is written to accompany Persian in Context online. It is not a comprehensive grammar of Persian.

The approach includes:

- Treatment of seven main groups of grammar terms, including:
  - Sentence word order, question order, word and sentence stress and intonation
  - Noun forms
  - Pronouns
  - Adjectives
  - Verbs
  - Adverbials
  - Miscellaneous

Features:

- Terms are defined and introduced with examples in English, so that learners with minimal grammar background in their native language can access them.

- Examples in Persian are identical or similar to those in the book so students will have a context for comprehension.

- Places in the course where the terms are introduced are noted so students can recover the context of their use

- The choice of items is not based on classical Persian grammar; rather it is based on the items which students will need in order to facilitate comprehension and communication in this online course.
Grammar Book
Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0 Word Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.1 Subject Object Verb Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.2 Yes/No Question Word Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.3 Wh-question Word Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4 Word and Sentence Stress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1.0 Noun Forms |
| 1.1 Definitions |
| 1.2 Singular and Plural |
| 1.3 Counting and Classifiers |
| 1.4 Objective Case and Noun Marking with |
| 1.5 Compounds |

| 2.0 Pronouns |
| 2.1 Definitions |
| 2.2 Subject Pronouns |
| 2.3 Pronouns Attached to Verbs |
| 2.4 Possessive Pronouns |
| 2.5 Pronouns as Objects |

| 3.0 Adjectives |
| 3.0 Definition and Formation |
| 3.1 Numbers |
| Cardinal |
| Ordinal |
| 3.2 Colors |
| 3.3 Form |
| 3.4 Comparative and Superlative |

| 4.0 Verbs |
| 4.0 Definition |
| 4.1 Infinitive |
| 4.2 Past Tense, Stem, Types |
| 4.3 Simple Past |
| 4.4 Past Progressive |
| 4.5 Present Perfect |
| 4.6 Past Perfect |
| 4.7 Subjunctive, b- form for imperative |
| 4.8 Present and Present Stem |
| 4.10 Simple Present and Present Progressive |
4.11 Future
Future with

4.12 Compound Verbs

4.13 Auxiliary Verbs (can, might, have to, want to)

4.14 Passive Voice
4.14.1 Definition
4.14.2 Past Tense Passive in Persian

5.0 Adverbials
5.1 Definitions
5.2 Types
5.3 Adjectives as Adverbs
5.4 Prepositional Phrases

6.0 E-ezafe
6.1 Definition
6.2 Noun-noun constructions
6.3 Noun-adjective constructions
6.4 Other

7.0 Miscellaneous
0.0 Direction and Word Order in Persian

0.1 Persian Word Order is different from English. In English we usually put the subject first, and then verb phrase, then the object or adverb phrase. This is called Subject-Verb-Object word order, and we say English is an SVO language.

Example:

\[
\begin{array}{lll}
    \text{The apple} & \text{is} & \text{in the basket.} \\
    \text{subject} & \text{verb} & \text{adverb phrase}
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{lll}
    \text{She} & \text{hit} & \text{her friend.} \\
    \text{subject} & \text{verb} & \text{object}
\end{array}
\]

In Persian, you will typically see sentences like this (read right to left):

\[
\begin{array}{lll}
    \text{اًس} & \text{در سد} & \text{دٍسُبَد} \\
    \text{verb} & \text{adverb phrase} & \text{subject}
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{lll}
    \text{زا} & \text{دواُسُتَش را} & \text{هوُن} \\
    \text{verb} & \text{object} & \text{subject}
\end{array}
\]

Thus, Persian is called an SOV language. Reading from right to left you will see Subject, then predicate, then verb.

[See Unit 2-M1-D3]

0.2 Question Word Order. Persian question word order is also different from that of English. In English, we often reverse the subject and verb to make a question. (\text{He is here—Is he here?}) Or we add “do support” (\text{Do you have a pencil?})

In Persian yes/no questions, the word order is often the same as in statements. Just a question intonation is used to differentiate. The voice intonation rises, rather than falls.

[U2-M3-D3, U2-M1-D3, U2-M2-D3, U2-M2-D5, U2-M3-D6, U3-M2-D1]
0.3 **Wh-Questions.** When you use question words like *where, when, how,* etc. in Persian, the word order is different. The subject will be first, then the question word, then the verb, as in:

(reading right to left)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>است؟</th>
<th>چه</th>
<th>این است؟</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>is</td>
<td>what</td>
<td>this</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>است؟</th>
<th>کی</th>
<th>تولدت است؟</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>is</td>
<td>when</td>
<td>your birthday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>است؟</th>
<th>چند</th>
<th>این است؟</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>is</td>
<td>how much</td>
<td>this</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0.3.1 Questions about how you get somewhere, e.g., *How do you get to school?* use the construction corresponding to “*With what do you go?*”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>می رود؟</th>
<th>چه</th>
<th>با</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>you go</td>
<td>what</td>
<td>with</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0.4 **Word and Sentence Stress**  Words in Persian, with the exception of some verb forms, are almost always stressed on their last syllable. In a sentence, the last stressed syllable before an affirmative verb receives a primary sentence stress, or high rising pitch. The affirmative verb *to be* is never stressed, but its negative form takes a primary stress, and as in the affirmative case above, the stressed syllable preceding it receives a secondary sentence stress.
Noun Forms

1.1 Definitions
Nouns are names of persons, places, things, or ideas (hat, house, America, honesty, culture).

1.2 Singular and Plural.

In English we talk about more than one noun (plural) by adding –s or –es (hats, houses). Some nouns have irregular plurals such as person---people, ox---oxen, or no change in the plural form, as sheep---sheep.

Persian also has more than one plural form, but the rules do not correspond to English.

The most common form in Persian is: ها
Other forms, which come from Arabic, are جات، ان مردم.
There are some forms that only exist in plural form.

Examples:

کتاب‌ها، خانه‌ها، دختر‌ها، مردها
لبان، چشمان، ابروان، پرندگان
سیزجات، ترشیجات

1.3 Counting and Classifiers

1.3.1 When using numbers, you do not pluralize the noun in Persian. (You will notice that the number sometimes takes a special ending, described in the section on adjectives.)

دو خانه
بیست و پنج درخت

1.3.2 There are counting endings added to numbers when counting in colloquial Persian. For the number one, the ending is یک‌یک. For numbers from 2 up, the counter is تا: دو تا، سه تا.

Do not add a plural ending to the noun when using counters. Say, for example دو تا سیب.

[See U2-M2-D1, U3-M3-D5]

1.3.3 Persian has an expression for “a pair of...” like English (یک جفت), but it is not always used with the same nouns as in English. We can say یک جفت جوراب (a pair of...
socks), but not a pair of pants or a pair of glasses. The differences have to be memorized or learned in context.

[See U2-M1-D7]

1.3.4 There are other counters in Persian. For example, نفری is used to count people and some animals.
Examples:

دو نفر مسافر بودند.
چهار نفری رفتند.

Other counting words specific to certain nouns are دستگاه for cars and فرودن for helicopters, boats and aircraft. (English has this difference, too, as in a flock of sheep, a school of fish, etc., but the appropriate words do not translate one for one.)

[See U4-M2-D3]

1.4 Direct object marking

Whenever the noun is used as a direct object, را is used to mark the objective case (noun or pronoun used as an object) in sentences such as:

او من را زد.
فرودند میوه را فروخت.

2.0 Pronouns

2.1 Definition
A pronoun is a word that can replace a noun. In longer discourse the use of pronouns helps prevent the repetition of a noun. In terms of its function in a sentence, a pronoun can replace a noun in subject position (Jim is a teacher/He is a teacher), or a noun that is the direct object of a verb (I bit the apple/I bit it.). Additionally, there are possessive pronouns that can replace a proper noun that is the possessor of an object (Mary’s socks/Her socks.)
2.2 Subject Pronouns

Similar to English, there are six subject pronouns in Persian that vary in number and person. These are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>جمع</th>
<th>مفرد</th>
<th>شخص</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ما</td>
<td>من</td>
<td>اول شخص</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>شما</td>
<td>تو / شما</td>
<td>دوم شخص</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>او</td>
<td>آنها / ایشان</td>
<td>سوم شخص</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subject pronouns in Persian differ from subject pronouns in English in three ways.

First, in Persian, the use of subject pronouns is optional rather than mandatory since the person of a verb is marked at the end of verbs. For example, the م at the end of میروم clearly signals that the person carrying out the action is I, thereby making the use of the subject pronoun من redundant.

Secondly, Persian provides with two options when referring to the second person singular and the third person singular. The pronouns تو and ایشان are the informal forms of addressing You and They, whereas شما and ایشان are the formal forms of the same pronouns.

Finally, Persian only has one pronoun form (او) that corresponds to he, she and it in English. In other words, Persian has no grammatical gender distinction, in nouns, pronouns, or adjectives.

See also: [U2-M3-D2]

2.3 Person(al) endings

As mentioned, the presence of the subject pronouns in Persian is optional. In fact, what makes the existence of the subject pronouns redundant is the existence of endings such as م in میروم at the end of Persian verbs that specifically signal to which person the verb is referring. The personal endings mentioned appear at the end of present and most past tense verbs. The only exception being that, in the present tense, the third person singular form of a verb ends in the letter د (e.g. میرود), but in the simple past tense there is no personal ending (e.g. رفت).

This is a chart of the verb to go in Persian, indicating the person endings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>رفت +</th>
<th>I went</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>رفت</td>
<td>s/he went</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>رفت</td>
<td>you went</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>رفت</td>
<td>They went</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>رفت</td>
<td>we went</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notice that the pronouns are omitted, as they sometimes are in speech, because they are optional.

2.4 Possessive Pronouns

In English pronouns such as my, your, his, and her help show possession. In Farsi, too, possession can be marked with the help of pronouns. In Persian, these endings attach to the end of the nouns as in کتابی که وی کتابش کتاب کتابش where ش signals that the book belongs to a third person singular (i.e. him or her). This is a chart of the possessive pronouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>جمع</th>
<th>مفرد</th>
<th>شخص</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>مان</td>
<td>مَ</td>
<td>اول شخص</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تان</td>
<td>ت</td>
<td>دوم شخص</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>شان</td>
<td>ش</td>
<td>سوم شخص</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In some contexts the same relationship can be signaled by replacing these pronouns by the subject pronouns and adding an *ezafe* marker to the preceding noun (see page 29 for *e-* ezafe). For example their house may appear as خانه آنها / ایشان خانه شان or خانه آنها / ایشان خانه شان.

See also: [U3-M1-D5]

2.5 Pronouns as Direct Objects

The subject pronouns introduced earlier can also replace a noun that has the function of a direct object in a sentence. (e.g., He hit Ahmad.—He hit him.) For example, in the sentence حسن حسن علی را به مدرسه برد whereas علی is the receiver of the action. In contexts where the receiver of the action is known to both the speaker and listener علی may be replaced by the pronoun او in the same sentence as in حسن او را به مدرسه برد.

Notice that when the pronoun is acting as the object of the verb, as with nouns, را is added to mark the objective case.
3.0 Adjectives

3.1 Definition and formation

Adjectives provide description about a noun or a pronoun by using descriptive, identifying, or quantifying words. Adjectives or adjectival phrases can answer questions like: What kind is it? Or which one is it? And how many are there? In English, adjectives precede the noun they modify.

Examples:

The *white* car is mine.
The *most reliable* person is absent.
There are *a lot of* mistakes here.

Adjectives in Persian work similarly to adjectives in English, except that they follow the noun they modify.

Examples:

قدْرَمْزَ کتابِ کتَاب قرْمز.
مال على استِخانِه بَزُرگ قهوه قهوه اي.

Adjectives in Persian are invariable: they do not agree with nouns they modify in number and always remain singular.

Some of the Persian words for colors are derived from an object of that same color. For example by adding *ین* to آب (water) this noun becomes the adjective آبی: blue.

آنِجا بود آبی ماهِن.

See also: [U3-M1-D5, U2-M1-D4]

3.2 Comparative and Superlative

To make a comparison, you need comparative and superlative adjectives. If you are describing two people or two things you use comparatives. (In English you use “-er” for this purpose.) To compare three or more people or things you use superlatives. (In English you use “-est” for superlatives.)

Examples:

*She is taller than her sister.*
*The tallest woman in the class is my best friend.*
In Persian, comparatives are formed by adding تر to the end of an adjective. The Persian suffix تر functions exactly like the -er suffix in English. If you want to get the superlative form of an adjective, you add ین to the comparative form.

Examples:

این کتاب تو است. یک بزرگتر
کتاب کتابخانه است بزرگتر

3.3 The Suffix "زده"

In unit 6 (module 2 day 5) you come across words such as:

The suffix "زده" mainly makes an adjective to describe people or things, usually meaning afflicted. So if you see a word such as سرماژده you can translate it as afflicted by cold (frozen).

Afflicted by war (war torn, war ravaged): جنگژده
Afflicted by flood (flooded, ravaged by flood): سیلژده

3.4 Cardinal and Ordinal Numbers

3.4.1 Cardinals

The original counting form of numbers (1,2,3, etc.) represented in Persian by یک، دو، سه، ... for example, is called a cardinal number.

The cardinals are always used with the noun in the singular. We say درختها (trees), but with a number it is singular, thus: چهار درخت is four trees.

3.4.2 Ordinals

In English, ordinal numbers are those used to describe order or rank (first, second, third).

Persian has a similar designation for this purpose. In Persian apart from اول (first), which is taken from Arabic, number (om), م’ is added to a cardinal number in order to change it to ordinal, for example، دوم، سوم، ...

The ordinals are adjectives, and are joined to the noun they qualify, by the eh-ezafeh (see discussion, page 29.) The words are then pronounced kelas-e-dovom and xiabun-e- charom.

کلاس دوم Second grade
خیابان چهارم Fourth street
4.0 Verbs

4.1 Definition

A verb may express an action or refer to a state of being such as I study Persian, or Ali is Ahmad’s brother. A sentence without a verb is always an incomplete sentence. There are two important elements in any conjugated form of a verb:

1. the person performing the action and
2. the time of the action, or “tense” of the verb.

Most people agree that there are three major tenses in English (and Persian), present, past and future. Present is the dividing line between past and future. Thus, any action happening before the present is in the past and any action happening after the present is in the future. (Of course, it is not really that simple)

Looking at the verb system in the Persian language, we notice two important elements in any conjugated form of a verb 1) person performing the action and 2) the time of action or the tense of the verb.

4.2. Infinitive

There is one exception to the rule about verbs having tenses or time: the infinitive. The infinitive is a timeless form of the verb. It is sometimes called the name of the verb. In English it is expressed with “to” as in: to go, to eat, to be,

In Persian, infinitives can be recognized in verb forms such as خوردن – ایستادن – نشستن - شنیدن that end in the letter ن. By dropping the ن from an infinitive you have the past tense stem.

4.3 Past Tense: Stems and Formation

In the Persian language, each verb has two stems; the past stem and the present stem. All forms of verbs pertaining to the past tense are derived from the past stem, and all forms of verbs pertaining to the present are derived from the present stem.

The four types of past tenses seen in this book are; the simple past tense, the past progressive, the present perfect, and the past perfect tense. In Persian, the names of the verbs and tenses may be similar to English, but the boundaries of usage are not always the same.

Here are some sample past stems in Persian that you may recognize:

داشت- رفت- خورد – بود- خرید
4.4 Simple past tense

4.4.1 The simple past tense refers to an action completed at a specific time in the past. In English, examples are: *I went, I ate, I looked* and so on. Persian *سلام بیش به پاریس رفتم* translates as *I went to Paris last year*. As has been seen throughout the lessons to conjugate a verb in the simple past tense in Persian all that needs to be done is to add a personal ending to the past stem of the verb in question. The only exception to this is the 3rd person singular that has no personal ending and is the past tense stem alone.

What you see in the box below is called a “conjugation”. This is a list of all the forms a verb can take in the different “persons” in a given tense, or time. The box shows the verb, *to go* in the past tense.

| نرفتیم | we went |
| نرفتی | you went |
| نرفتی | you went |
| نرفتند | They went |
| نرفت | s/he went |

[U3-M3-D2, U3-M2-D2, U3-M3-D3, U3-M3-D2, U3-M2-D5]

4.4.2 Negative form:
The negative form can be made by adding *ن* to the beginning of any past form. (pronounced na-)

Example:

| نرفتیم | نرفتی | نرفتی/رفتیدت | نرفتند |
| نرفت | نرفت | نرفت/رفتیدت | نرفت |

4.5 Past Progressive

4.5.1 The past progressive form of a verb, on the other hand, refers to an action that continued in the past for sometime. In English, we use this form *was/were…..ing* (He *was eating*, They *were being* very foolish, etc.) It indicates that the action continued for some time in the past but is no longer continuing at the present time. It can also be used to indicate a comparison in the past between something that is going on when it is interrupted by something else. Notice that the verb that expresses the briefer interruption is in the simple past tense. For example, “I *was watching* the show when someone *yelled* fire.”

The use of past progressive verbs in Persian is similar to English.

Their form consists of three parts: *می* which signals continuation of an activity, the past stem of the verb which signals that the action happened in the past, and the personal
ending that identifies the person performing the act. Needless to say, می and the past stem of the verb combined signal the tense in this particular case.

Examples:

(داستن) تلویزیون می دیدم که علی در زد. (داستن) غذا می خوردم که تلفن زنگ زد.

4.5.2 Negative of the past progressive tense

The past progressive tense can be made negative by adding ن to any of the forms, for example:

نمي كردم - نمي خوردم – نمي رفتتم

Notice that when the form begins with می, you pronounce the negative marker as ne- instead of na-.

Note that the verb داشتن and بودن do not take می.

4.6 Present Perfect

4.6.1 Definition

In English, the present perfect is the form indicating an action or state in the past that was at an indefinite time or continues up to the present.

Example:

I have seen that film. (at an indefinite time in the past)
Note that we can’t say: **I have seen that film at 9 o’clock last night.

Also: I have worked at Bilco for ten years. (continuing in the present)
This cannot be used if you don’t work there any more.

4.6.2 Structure:

In Persian, the present perfect form is made up of three parts: the past stem of the verb and است. (which creates the past participle), and then the personal ending.
The chart below shows the conjugation of the verb *to read* in the present perfect tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>خواندن</th>
<th>مصدر</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>جمع مفرد</td>
<td>شماره</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>اول شخص</td>
<td>خوانده ام</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دوم شخص</td>
<td>خوانده ای</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>سوم شخص</td>
<td>خوانده است</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.6.3 Negative
The negative of the present perfect is made by adding ن to the beginning of the verb. Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>خواندن</th>
<th>مصدر</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>جمع مفرد</td>
<td>شماره</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>اول شخص</td>
<td>نخوانده ام</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دوم شخص</td>
<td>نخوانده ای</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>سوم شخص</td>
<td>نخوانده است</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.6.4 Pronunciation note:
In reading the main stress is placed on the last syllable of the past participle, this together with the /ast/ that follows it requires a consonant to break up the vowel cluster.
Therefore a strongly audible glottal stop is inserted:

\[\ldots \text{boode-}^\text{ast}\ldots\]
\[\ldots\text{paydaa shode-}^\text{ast}\ldots\]

In speaking, the emphasis (stress) is somewhat reduced as no glottal stop is required, however the vowel is lengthened to a noticeable degree:

\[/\text{boode}/\]
\[/\text{payda shode}/\]

---

1Persian language has a phonetic rule which does not allow two vowels to be next to each other in uninterrupted speech, this rule is shown by (*VV).
4.6.4 Usage:

The present perfect is similar in Persian, but it is not used exactly the same way. Present Perfect is called “ماضی نقلی” in Persian. Grammarians have also used the term Past Narrative, which is the literal translation of the Persian term. This tense is used for any action or state that was accomplished in the past and whose effects are still valid or somehow relevant in the present. In Persian—differently from the Present Perfect in English—this tense is used for relating historical truths that are felt to be universally accepted. (Note that some of the following examples are translated by the simple past in English, indicating that the use of this verb is not the same.)

Examples:
The following sentences are some instances of this tense as presented in U5-M3-D6:

- هﺎبودهتمدنی اهر،
  It was a civilization called the Arat civilization.
- پل ارتباطی بوده بین تمدنهای ...  
  It was a communication bridge between civilizations
- آثار نقوشی که در سفالهای انجا پیدا شده ...
  The pottery designs found here

These are all examples of the Present Perfect Tense in its colloquial form. In the written form, است always follows this verb:

- تمدنی بوده است بنام تمدن آرات ها.
- پل ارتباطی بوده است بین تمدنهای ...
- آثار نقوشی که در سفالهای انجا پیدا شده است ...

This tense shows that an action has been performed in the past and that the statement about the action still holds true today.

Compare the following:

There was a civilization called the Aaraats.
- تمدنی بوده بنام تمدن آرات ها.
There was a civilization called the Aaraats.
- تمدنی بوده بنام تمدن آرات ها.

Even though many Persian speakers may prefer to use “has been” for the first sentence, instead of “was”, in English both are to be rendered with was. English does not distinguish between these two Persian tenses in the same way.

This verb tense has many complexities and cannot be fully handled in a simplified grammar. It will be treated later in the program.
4.7 Past Perfect

4.7.1 Definition

The past perfect, also called the pluperfect, of the verb in English is used to express an action that happened before another action in the past. The adverb “already” is often used to emphasize the "previousness" of the first action.

Examples: He **had already eaten** when she **brought** the pizza.

In Persian, the past perfect is made up of the past participle of the verb (past stem + و), plus the past tense of “to be” with its person ending.

For example:

\[
\text{بود} \rightarrow \text{خریده بود.} \\
\text{پخته بود.}
\]

In the box below, you see a full conjugation of the verb “to buy” in the past perfect tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Perfect</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>خریده بودم</td>
<td>had bought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>خریده بودی</td>
<td>had bought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>خریده بودد</td>
<td>had bought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>خریده بودند</td>
<td>had bought</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Persian, the main use of this verb is in dealing with a remote action in the past. It is not required for a great amount of time to have elapsed between the action of the verb and the narration.

例句:

\[
\text{امیر تعداد زیادی ترقص و فشقن کرده و خریده بودد و بچه ها کلی کیف کردن.}
\]

**Amir had bought** a lot of firecrackers, rockets, and fire works, and the kids **had** a **lot of fun.** (He bought them before they had fun.)

Negative: Add the ن to the main (first) verb in the construction. Examples:

\[
\text{نخریده بودم - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
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\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخریده بود - نخریده بودی - نخریده بودند} \\
\text{نخ...
4.8 Imperative

4.8.1 Definition:

The imperative is a form used to give orders or commands, such as *Sit down!, Get out!, or Eat your dinner!*

In Persian, it is used for similar purposes. The imperative in Persian is made by adding *be*- before the present stem of the verb and then adding the second person (you) ending after the present stem. (See the next section on the present stem.) Unfortunately, the present stem is not derived from other forms you are studying, so it may be easier to memorize the commands (which are common in speech and in this course) and then derive the present stem from them by removing the (second) person ending from the verb.

Remember that, while English only has one “you” form, Persian has several, to indicate the formal and informal, singular or plural.

Some examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural/Formal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ﺑﻨﺸﻴﻨﺪ</td>
<td>ﺑﻨﺸﻴﻦ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ﺑﺨﻮﺭﻳﺪ</td>
<td>ﺑﺨﻮﺭ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ﺑﺨﻮاﺑﻴﺪ</td>
<td>ﺑﺨﻮاﺑ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The negative imperative is made by dropping the *be*- prefix and adding *na*- to the present stem.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>نخور</th>
<th>نخورﻳﺪ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>نخواب</td>
<td>نخوابﻳﺪ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[U2-M2-D4, U4-M2-D1]

4.9 Present stem of verbs in Persian

Unlike the past tense stem that can be derived by simply dropping the ﱪ from the infinitive, the present stem has very little or no resemblance to the infinitive form of the verb and needs to therefore be learned through repeated exposure to the print. However, one thing that could be helpful in finding the present stem of verbs in Persian is to know their imperative form. In fact, if you know the imperative form of a verb, simply delete ﺑ to find the present stem of that verb. For example by looking at the infinitive form of the verb “to go” in Persian ﺭﻔﺘﻦ, it is impossible to guess its present stem ﺭﻮ. However, if
you know that the imperative form of رفتن is برو, then finding the present stem of the verb is simple.

4.10 Present tense

In English, the present tense of verbs has two forms, the habitual present, meaning things that one does regularly (I go, I eat, I work) and present progressive that indicates an action happening right at the time of the utterance (I am going, I am eating, I am working).

Persian has these forms, but doesn’t use them in exactly the same way as English.

In Persian, the present tense of all verbs consists of three parts. The present stem preceded by ﻣﯽ and followed by the appropriate personal ending. The chart below shows the conjugation of the verb raftan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>رفتن</th>
<th>مصدر</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>حال / آنده</td>
<td>زمان</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>جمع</td>
<td>مفرد</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>اول شخص</td>
<td>ﻣﯽ روم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دوم شخص</td>
<td>ﻣﯽ روید</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>سوم شخص</td>
<td>ﻣﯽ رود</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The present tense in Persian is used to express the meaning denoted by both the present habitual tense and the present progressive tense in English. This means that میروم could mean I go or I am going, depending on the context. In other words, then, the present tense is usually limited to one form in Persian and this one form is used to convey two different kinds of meaning, in general, or right now. The only exceptions are the verbs بودن and داشتن that have a non-می form. These verbs are conjugated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>بودن</th>
<th>مصدر</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>حال / آنده</td>
<td>زمان</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>جمع</td>
<td>مفرد</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>اول شخص</td>
<td>ﻫﺴﺘﻢ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دوم شخص</td>
<td>ﻫﺴﺘﺪ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>سوم شخص</td>
<td>ﻫﺴﺖ / است</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20
Negative:
The negative of the present tense is made by adding ن to the beginning of the verb, pronounced as na-, or ne- with مي verbs.
Examples:

Note: داند and هستن are exceptions.

N.B.: As mentioned above, there is a way to express emphasis on the ongoing nature of a present action: داشتن + verb, both marked with the personal ending. This means something like to be in the process of _____-ing. It is used only in the spoken language, not in the written language. The conjugation of to be [in the process of] reading is seen below:
4.11 Future tense

In English, the present form of verbs, depending on the context, could also refer to an action taking place in the future. For example, if you are asked where you are going (to go) this weekend, you might say *I’m going to LA* (present form, future meaning).

4.11.1 In Persian, too, the present form can be used for future meaning. That is, *می‌خواهم* could mean *I go/I am going, or I will go.*

4.11.2 In Persian, the future tense can be expressed by a second form. This type of future tense has two parts to it; the verb *می‌خواستند* is followed by the past stem of the main verb. In conjugating this second type of future tense the main verb (here *رفت* in this case) remains the same for all persons and the verb *می‌خواستند* takes on the different personal endings as seen in the conjugation of *رفت* below:
You will often hear this form on radio broadcasts and in more formal speech, but it can also be found in discussion of serious topics among friends.

To make the negative form of the compound future tense, add ن (na-) to the beginning of the present stem of خواستن.

4.12 Compound Verbs

Many of the verbs in Persian are compound verbs. A compound verb is composed of two parts; a noun element and a verbal element. You have seen examples using the verb کردن and شدن. Verbs such as گردن and کردن fit the description provided and are classified as compound verbs in Persian. In conjugating compound verbs it is the verbal element that gets conjugated in all tenses. As a result, the verb to work is conjugated as:
Here are some more compound verbs you have seen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>رفتن</th>
<th>مصدر</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>حال/أينده</td>
<td>زمان</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>جمع</td>
<td>مفرد</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>اول شخص</td>
<td>كار می کنم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دوم شخص</td>
<td>كار می کنی</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>سوم شخص</td>
<td>كار می کند</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.13 Auxiliary verbs

There are many auxiliary constructions in English in and in Persian. In English, these verbs are sometimes called helping verbs since they carry the tense or number for a main verb. One group of such words are the modal auxiliaries, including *can, could, should, may, might, have to, want to*, etc. In English notice that the main verb (here, go) remains in the same for in past and present, and the modal takes the time marking, as in *I can go*.

Yesterday *I couldn’t go*.

In Persian, the auxiliaries behave somewhat differently. Two of the ones you know, *توانستن* (can) and *خواستن* (want to) are conjugated by using the regular person endings of the auxiliary, and the main verb takes the b- form (subjunctive) with the same personal ending. Charts below for a conjugation of the verb *to want to go*.
There are two of them, however, *baayad* (must/have to) and *shaayad* (may/might) that are considered “impersonal” forms. That is the auxiliaries are invariable, and do not take the personal endings. The main verb still takes the person endings. In the chart below, you see this fact illustrated for the verb *shaayad*:

### 4.14 Passive Voice

#### 4.14.1 Definition

Passive voice is used when the subject is either unknown or de-emphasized. Examples:

Active: *Ahmad broke the glass.*
Passive: *The glass was broken.* (by someone unknown or we don’t really care who did it.)

It is frequently used in news reports where the action is the real news, not the actor OR Where there has already been ample mention of the cause and it does not need to be restated.

Examples:

*Twenty-three soldiers were killed.* (by the Iraqis; article is about the Iran-Iraq war.)

*Hundreds of homes were destroyed.* (by an earthquake that is the topic of the article.)

4.14.2

In Persian, the past tense of the passive voice (the one you are seeing in news articles in this book) is constructed from the past stem of the verb, plus ﻫ, plus the past form of either ﻣ or ﻫ

Examples:

*Twenty-three soldiers were killed.*

*All the glasses were broken.*

Note that passive voice is usually seen in 3rd person in Persian.

Examples:
5.0 Adverbials

5.1 Definition
Adverbials can modify a verb, an adjective, another adverb, a phrase, or a clause. They can be a single word or a phrase. Adverbials indicate manner, time, place, cause, or degree and answers questions such as “how” (manner), “when” (time) “where” (place).

In English many adverbs, but not all, can be identified by their characteristic “-ly” suffix.

Examples:
He was dancing beautifully. (how)
He quickly threw the packet away.
He arrived at exactly midnight. (when)

5.2 In Persian, adverbs also express time, manner and place. They sometimes end in ﻻ, /lan/ and sometimes don’t.

Examples: معمولاً، کاملًا، خوب، تند

Adverb of time. (when something happens)
examples:
usually معمولاً
sometimes بعضی وقتها

Adverb of manner. (how something happens)
examples:
quickly تند
well خوب

Adverbials of Place (where something happens)

على اينجا نشسته بود.
پدرم انجا نبود.
5.3 Adjectives as Adverbs

In Persian, sometimes adjective forms can also function as adverbs.

I know him well.

I went to the hotel quickly.

Note that, in colloquial English, we sometimes use adjectives as adverbs in phrases such as, *He did it real quick* or *She danced good*. These forms are not considered correct in writing or in formal speech.

5.4 Prepositions.

5.4.1 Definition

Prepositions are words that introduce adverbial phrases. They often indicate time or place (*at, on, in*, etc.), often before a noun phrase, e.g., *on the bus*. Prepositions in English are words like: *under, to, of, with*, etc.

Examples:
- Paul hit the ball *over the fence*. (where)
- Jim shot a cannonball *into the fort* (where) *at exactly nine*. (when)

5.4.2 Persian has many prepositions.

Although many of them correspond to an English preposition in one use, there may also be other meanings that do not correspond to English. You will also note that, although many English prepositions are found at the end of a sentence, many in Persian begin the sentence or phrase.

The Persian prepositions you have learned in this course are: *از, را, تا, که, به, با, پی, در*. Here are some examples in context. Note the mismatch in use of the different prepositions between English and Persian.

a) تا  *until, till* (showing the stretch of time or distance)

Goodbye until tomorrow.

I ran from home to school
Look at the examples below and learn the appropriate preposition:

- از تهران تا آمریکا
  - بهتر از من

C) با with, by the means of
- با مداد
- با هم
- با اتوبوس

D) بدون without
- بدون شک

E) در in, inside
- در خانه
- در تلویزیون
- در تابستان

F) به to, in
- به تهران
- به فارسی

- به هتل می رود.
- به هتل دار حرف میزند.
- کلیدش را می گیرد.
- از باربر کمک می گیرد.
- به اطاقش می رود. در اطاقش استراحت می کند.
6.0 e-ezafe

6.1 Definition.
e-ezafe is a little connecting vowel that links two words in speech. It is used for certain word combinations as seen below:

6.2 Noun-noun or noun-pronoun

When two nouns (or a noun/pronoun) are connected by /-e-/ , it is often the equivalent of of, (a possessive relationship).

- My book
- The door of the classroom

6.3 Noun-Adjective

In Persian the adjective follows the noun. When connecting the adjective to the noun, you need to add an ezafe /-e-/ to the end of the noun. This connects the adjective to the preceding noun as modifying it or qualifying it.

6.4 Other Constructions with e-ezafe

There are several other constructions that take an e-ezafe, such as:

- Names of streets and squares: خیابان آزادی
- Dates: دوازده نوامبر
- Days of the week: روز دوشنبه
- Times of the day: ساعت پنج
- Names with titles: خانم بهرامی