

The Basic Word List

This list includes words from Swadesh's list (1955), and from Gudschinsky's (1956) list. The words are alphabetically arranged by Samarin (1967).

1. all	41. eye	82. I
2. and	42. fall	83. ice
3. animal	43. far	84. if
4. ashes	44. fat/grease	85. in
5. at	45. father	86. kill
6. back	46. fear	87. knee
7. bad	47. feather	88. know
8. bark	48. few	89. lake
9. because	49. fight	90. laugh
10. belly	50. fire	91. leaf
11. big	51. fish	92. leftside
12. bird	52. five	93. leg
13. bite	53. float	94. lie (i.e. be in lying position)
14. black	54. flow	95. live
15. blood	55. flower	96. liver
16. blow	56. fly	97. long
17. bone	57. fog	98. louse
18. breast	58. foot	99. man/male
19. breathe	59. four	100. many
20. burn	60. freeze	101. meat/flesh
21. child	61. fruit	102. moon
22. claw	62. full	103. mother
23. cloud	63. give	104. mountain
24. cold	64. good	105. mouth
25. come	65. grass	106. name
26. count	66. green	107. narrow
27. cut	67. guts	108. near
28. day	68. hair	109. neck
29. die	69. hand	110. new
30. dig	70. he	111. night
31. dirty	71. head	112. nose
32. dog	72. hear	113. not
33. drink	73. heart	114. old
34. dry	74. heavy	115. one
35. dull	75. here	116. other
36. dust	76. hit	117. person
37. ear	77. hold/take	118. play
38. earth	78. horn	119. pull
39. eat	79. how	120. push
40. egg	80. hunt	121. rain
	81. husband	

122. red
123. right/correct
124. right side
125. river
126. road
127. root
128. rope
129. rotten
130. round
131. rub
132. salt
133. sand
134. say
135. scratch
136. sea
137. see
138. seed
139. sew
140. sharp
141. short
142. sing
143. sit
144. skin
145. sky
146. sleep
147. small
148. smell
149. smoke
150. smooth
151. snake
152. snow
153. some
154. spit
155. split
156. squeeze
157. stab/pierce
158. stand
159. star
160. stick
161. stone
162. straight
163. suck
164. sun
165. swell
166. swim
167. tail

168. that
169. there
170. they
171. thick
172. thin
173. think
174. this
175. thou
176. three
177. throw
178. tie
179. tongue
180. tooth
181. tree
182. turn
183. two
184. vomit
185. walk
186. warm
187. wash
188. water
189. we
190. wet
191. what
192. when
193. where
194. white
195. who
196. wide
197. wife
198. wind
199. wing
200. wipe
201. with
202. woman
203. woods
204. worm
205. ye
206. year

***The following words
are added by
Gudschinsky (1956).***

207. brother
208. clothing

209. cook
210. dance
211. eight
212. hundred
213. seven
214. shoot
215. sister
216. spear
217. twenty
218. work

The Basic Sentences for Collecting Field Data

You might find some of these sentences funny or ungrammatical, however, when translated into the contact language and the target language they will appear all right. Please change the names of the subjects according to the religious and other cultural factors.

BSL 1. SIMPLE

1. Ram is eating a mango.
2. Sita is eating a ripe mango.
3. Ram cut the mango.
4. The children cut the mango with a knife.
5. Rizwan cut his fingers while cutting the mango.
6. Ruth ate the mango in the bus.
7. Salma ate the mango in the morning.

BSL 2. NEGATIVES

1. I don't go to school.
2. We will not go to Jaipur tomorrow.
3. I did not go to school yesterday.
4. The child did not hit his/her sister.
5. Because they did not study they failed in the exams.
6. Neither my mother came nor my sister.
7. The old elephant did not die.

Note: check the scope of negation.

BSL 3. IMPERATIVES

1. Come in.
2. Don't come in.
3. Please sit down.
4. Sit/sit down.

BSL 4. CONDITIONAL AND COORDINATION

1. If you don't give me the sweets, I will cry.
2. If you will hit me I will cry.
3. If he had come earlier he would have seen the letter.
4. If he asks me I will certainly tell the whole story.
5. If he can come then he should.
6. Ram and Sita both went to watch the movie.
7. Children ate and drank cold water.
8. Mary is beautiful but ill natured.
9. Sohail will help but not Reshma.

Note: Check the gapping.

BSL 5. INCLUSIVE/EXCLUSIVE

1. Yesterday we had gone to see the movie (-addressee)
2. Yesterday we had gone to see the movie (+addressee)
3. Let us go now (-addressee)
4. Let us go now (+addressee)
5. We got punishment, how bad! (-addressee)
6. We got punishment, how bad! (+addressee)

Note: check for the dual number also

BSL 6. INTERROGATIVES

1. What is your name?
2. Where do you stay?
3. How are you?
4. When are you going home?
5. Why are you going to Delhi?
6. Who is he/she?
7. How much did you get?
8. Have you eaten?
9. Shall I come tomorrow?
10. Did you see the papers today?
11. Will you be cooking today at home?
12. What do you think he was thinking?
13. Which one is your brother?

BSL 7. RELATIVIZATION, PARTICIPIALIZATION, ADJECTIVES

Some of the sentences will appear ungrammatical in English but are perfect in Dravidian and Tibeto-Burman languages.

1. The boy who had fever died yesterday.
2. Call the boy who broke the glass.
3. Call the boy who broke the glass day before yesterday.
4. Throw away the broken branch.
5. The tail cut monkey was a nuisance.
6. The cap which was hung on the nail, fell.
7. The fevered boy died.
8. Call the glass-breaker boy.
9. Call the tea-drinker boy.
10. The hung cup fell down.
11. The innocent child.
12. The child is innocent.

BSL 8. CAUSATIVES, PASSIVES/ INCAPABILITATIVES

Incapabilitatives are found with negation and ECV construction with a V2 'go' in most of the Indian languages.

1. Mother fed the baby.
2. Mother made the *ayaa* [nurse] feed the baby.
3. Father got all the papers thrown away by the servant.
4. Shila asked Ratna to make Sita rise/get up.
5. The forest officer is making the wood-cutter cut the trees.
6. Trees were cut.
7. The sister is making the little brother sleep.
8. Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a bomb.
9. If he had made him study computers he would have got the job by now.
10. Alas, my parents had made me study science!
11. The bottle broke (by me).
12. Rice is eaten in the Southern India.
13. A girl was raped last night.
14. I was beaten furiously by the goondas/hooligans.
15. The food will not be eaten fast by the child. (Hindi: *bacce se k^hana jaldi nahī k^haya jayega*)
16. Because of cold, writing cannot be done by me. (Hindi: *lik^haa nahī jata*)

BSL 9. CASES, AGREEMENT, COINDEXING

1. The boy is playing.
2. The boy is playing with a ball.
3. The boy ate a banana.
4. The boy played well.
5. The girl had eaten the meals.
6. Mother will cook now.
7. I am sad.
8. Ram is hungry/thirsty/in pain.
9. Pick up the book and keep it on the table.
10. Give the horse the feed.
11. Wash the clothes please.
12. Ram wrote a letter to his mother yesterday.
13. Curd is made from milk.
14. Ravan fought with Ram.
15. Hanuman burnt Lanka with his tail.
16. The leaves fall from trees in autumn.
17. Give me some money for my daughter.
18. Nobody is at home.
19. I bought everything in ten rupees.
20. Flowers are blooming in the garden.
21. The book is on the table.
22. Clothes are kept on the top of the box.
23. Books are kept at the bottom of the box.

24. There is a garden behind my house.
25. There is a mango tree in front of my house.
26. Sister will go shopping only with her friends.
27. Ram's sister's wedding is tomorrow.
28. Ram's cap is blue.
29. Buy twenty-five rupees' sugar [i.e. for 25 Rupees.].
30. Don't turn the book's pages.
31. Before I went to her house I changed my clothes.
32. After coming back from the movie I went to sleep.

BSL 10. COMPARATIVE/CONTRASTIVE

1. River water is cleaner than lake water.
- 1 The Ganga water is the cleanest.
3. Bombay weather is wet but Delhi weather is dry.
4. India is corrupt but Japan is not.
5. My uniform is whiter than his uniform.

BSL 11. ECHO-FORMATIONS

English examples are should be turned into sentences with echo word in the contact language otherwise the consultant may give equivalent of 'etc.'

1. Please have some tea, etc.
2. He has gone to buy some stationary, etc.
3. He got some chairs, etc. on his marriage.
4. Sit, etc. (imperative) [*try this with formal, informal and intimate forms.*]
5. I cannot walk, etc. (*Hindi: muj^h se cāla vāla nāhī jata*)
6. Why do you get angry, etc.?
7. Children go to study carrying bag, etc.
8. The throat does not go bad by singing, etc.

BSL 12. CLASSIFIERS

1. Two books were stolen.
2. Longish bamboo was lying there.
3. Round moon.
4. One girl/boy.

BSL 13. REDUPLICATION

Some of these are ungrammatical sentences in English, but as soon as you elicit them in any Indian language they will appear fine.

1. He was walking slowly slowly.
2. He came again and again.

3. What all did he eat?
4. Who all came to the party?
5. When when (how often) will you go to Ranchi?
6. Where all Ram found Sita's ornaments?
7. He got tired (of) sitting sitting.
8. I got bored writing letters.
9. She spoke while eating.
10. The child fell down while walking on the footpath.
11. While/As he was watching, the thieves ran away with the cash.
12. Give me hot hot coffee.
13. Red red apples are juicy.
14. Bring sweet sweet mangoes.
15. How are you going to jump over these high high hedges?
16. Give me little little of every variety of sweets.
17. Don't come after me (Hindi: *pic^{he} pic^{he}*)
18. Sometime or the other (Hindi: *kəb^{hi}-na-kəb^{hi}*) he will come back to me.

BSL 14. COMPOUND VERBS (Explicator Compound verbs)

Try to get these sentences with two verbs at the end.

1. The old elephant died.
2. By the time papa came home his friend had left.
3. Give me the letter.
4. Get out!
5. Please knit a sweater [for me].
6. Please knit a sweater [for yourself].
7. See Lakshmi sing!
8. He sat down.

BSL 15. CONJUNCT VERBS/ CONVERBS

1. Having eaten his meal papa went out for a stroll.
2. Read the letter loud (Hindi: *pəɽ^h kər sunao*).
3. See the house properly (Hindi: *g^{hum} kər*).
4. He did not do well having cheated his own brother.
5. Go and see (Hindi: *ja kər dek^{ho}*).
6. He hit me and ran away.

BSL 16. INFINITIVES, COMPLEMENTS

1. I don't like your coming here.
2. Who does not like to eat well?
3. Because of his coming back his mother could survive.
4. He told me that he was leaving the town soon.
5. She said that she likes to cook.
6. My sister told me that it rained heavily last night.

Total number of sentences 160