Interrogative Pronoun in Hindi Study Notes

प्रश्नवाचक सर्वनाम · Types, forms, grammar rules and practice

Interrogative pronouns replace unknown nouns in questions. Their role and form depend on context.

Meaning and definition

An interrogative pronoun in Hindi is called प्रश्नवाचक सर्वनाम. It asks about the identity of an unknown person, object, owner or choice.

Main forms

कौन — who · क्या — what · किसे / किसको — whom · किसका / किसकी / किसके — whose · कौन-सा / कौन-सी / कौन-से — which one.

Grammar rules

Use कौन for identity, क्या for objects, किसने for the agent in appropriate perfective transitive clauses, and किसे/किसको for objects and recipients. किसका/किसकी/किसके agree with the possessed noun. कौन-सा before a noun is a determiner; independently, it functions as a pronoun.

Pronouns versus other question words

कहाँ (where), कब (when), and क्यों (why) are generally interrogative adverbs. क्या in क्या तुम आओगे? introduces a yes/no question rather than substituting for a noun.

Example sentences

कौन आया? — Who came?

क्या हुआ? — What happened?

किसने किताब उठाई? — Who picked up the book?

तुमने किसे बुलाया? — Whom did you call?

यह किताब किसकी है? — Whose book is this?

कौन-सा तुम्हारा है? — Which one is yours?

Common mistakes

Incorrect: कौन ने लिखा? Correct: किसने लिखा?

Incorrect: किसका किताब? Correct: किसकी किताब?

Incorrect: कौन-सा कुर्सी? Correct: कौन-सी कुर्सी?