

Guyanese Hindi Dictionary

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Most of the Hindi words spoken in Guyana come from the Bhojpuri dialect of Eastern UP and Bihar but as Surendra Gambhir puts it, our language is a koine, a fusion of several languages. This is why in our Guyanese Hindi vocabulary, you will find words from Tamil, Bengali, Urdu and other Indian languages. Here is but a sample of words which come to memory. There are authors such as Dr. Mahabir of Trinidad and more recently Mr. Harry Hergash of Toronto who have published books on Indo-Caribbean words and phrases which may be informational.

aant ke saant	carelessly
aarti	worship during which a thari is circulated around the object of worship
abir	red powder used during Pagwah
abrak	powder
achar	condiment made with masala; pickle
agarbati	incense
agay	infront
agua/ agwah	matchmaker for arranged marriages
Aja/Ajee	Paternal grandfather/grandmother
aloo	potato
aloo roti	potato roti
arya samaj	Hindu reformation movement based on the Vedas
ashram	building where religious instruction is provided
atar	perfume mostly used in pujas
baansuri	flute specifically Krishna's flute
baap re baap	Oh God!
babu	Mister
bacha	child
bachain	children
badam lacha	a sweet treat similar to candy floss or soan papdi
bahu	daughter-in-law
baigan	eggplant
baigan chokha	roasted, seasoned and mashed eggplant
baiganees	sliced and fried eggplant
baito	sit
bajai	beat (drums)
bandhanias	cilantro
bansuri	flute
bara	savoury snack; moong beans pancake
bariat/ baraat	wedding procession
bartan	cooking utensils/vessels
behen	sister
behnoi (bunai)	sister's husband
belna	rolling pin
beta	son (or daughter)
beti	daughter

betiya	female child
belay	use rolling pin
bhai	brother
Bhaiya	Big brother
bhaji	spinach/ vegetables
bhandara	cooked food storage area
Bhauji	Brother's wife
bhojan	food
bhoog lagi	hungry
bhoongi	bump that results from hitting your head
bhunjal	a dry curry
bichowna	bed
bilimbi	small sour green fruit used to make achar
bina	without
bindi	decoration worn on the forehead
birha	songs of separation from a beloved (UP Ahir community)
bodhi	long beans (Trinidad)
bora	long beans (Guyana)
brigah	snobbish
bunbunai	
bundari	
camranga	carambola/ five-finger fruit
caraila	bitter melon
casa/ cacha	not yet ripe
catahar	jackfruit
Cha cha/ Cha Chee	Father's brother/ Father's brother's wife
chaanchi	remnants left over after the coconut fat has been fried to make oil
chaatay	lick
chadar	sheet
chalo	let's go
chamar	leather workers caste
chamkay	
chanchi	fried remnants left behind when making coconut oil
chand	moon
chandan	sandalwood
channa	chick peas
chappal	slipper
charhaway	make a religious offering
charpai	bed
cheeni	sugar
chela	student
chhalni	sieve
chimta	tongs
chokha	traditional dish of Bihar; generally a seasoned mashed/ground vegetable (aloo, cocor)
chotah	pancake
chowki	implement used in conjunction with the belna to roll rotis

chul chul	restless, bad behaved child
chulha	fireside
chunkay	seasoning foods with garlic and jeera fried in oil
churile	Spirit of a woman usually
churki	single lock of hair in the middle of the head which is kept when the entire head is sh:
chutka	junior relative
chutney	condiment
coolie	day wage labourer/ porter
corhee	lazy
custi	game of quickness, dexterity
dabit	brother in law
daboo	ladle
dada	big brother
dahi	yogurt
dakshina	offering to Brahmins
dal	split peas
dalpuri	bread filled with ground dal
dantal	musical instrument – music is created when a horseshoe shape metal comes in conta
dar	offering of milk
darpok	coward
daru	alcohol
datan/ datawan	twig toothbrush
dekho	look
dewar	husband's younger brother
dhania	cilantro/ coriander seasoning
dhaniyabad	thank you
dharm	duty
dhoop	pine wood used during a puja
dhoti	Indian men's wear loosely wrapped around the lower half of the body
Didi	older sister
din	day
diwali	Hindu festival
diya	earthen oil lamp
dogala/dugla	half-caste
dosti roti	two rotis rolled out and cooked together
dudh	milk
dudh pitti	porridge made from leftover roti and milk
dulahin	bride
dular	a spoiled child is said to have dular
dulhan/ dulaha	groom
e	it
eid	Muslim festival
gaff	chat
galihaar	necklace
gana	song
ganda	bad

garam masala	mix of spices
garee	car
geet	song
gehnda	marigold
ghar	house
ghat	bathing/washing area over a body of water
ghee	clarified butter
ghotay	repeat over and over
ghotni	swizzle stick normally used to cook dal
gobar	cowdung
graha	period of bad luck/ planetary alignments are unsuitable
gujiya	deep fried pastry stuffed with sweet shredded coconut
gunghroo	anklet of metallic bells
gurmusaha	a person who doesn't speak much
gymkhana	gymnasium
haat	hand
Habar dhabar	quickly
halaal	food and drink permitted by Islamic law
halwa	sweet dessert
haram	food and drink not permitted by Islamic law
harmonium	key based musical instrument frequently used with dholak
hathi	elephant
hawan kund	vessel in which fire offering to the Gods are made
jaata	stick
jai mala	garland of flowers used during Indian weddings
jamoon	purple fruit
janam	birth
janam janam	birth after birth (reincarnation)
janamasthmi	Lord Krishna's birthday
janamdin	birthday
jaray	Use of a pointer broom to ward off bad-eye
jhajh	ship
jhajhi bhai	ship brother
jhalka	welt caused by a burn
jhandi	flag
jhanjhat	troubles
jhankelar	
jhara	broom
jharay	to remove the evil eye using a pointer from a broom
jhingi	gourd vegetable
jhumka	type of earring with a bell shaped bottom
jigjhoray/jhakjhorna	to shake violently
jilebi	deep fried mixture of flour, sugar, milk
jira	cumin-masala
jora jama	pink or yellow men's wedding wear
jun jun nee	A cramp in your leg or arm from being in the same position too long

juta	shoes
jutha	food that had already been eaten/touched by someone else
kachori	savoury snack
kajal	eyeliner
kala	black
kalballai	
Kali	Dark-skinned female goddess character by her necklace of skulls
kangala	wretched
kangan/ kakkan	protection worn by bride/groom before marriage; it is removed on the day after the v (kakkan is Bhojpuri, kangan is Hindi)
kani	woman with a problematic eye
kanta	fake
kanyadan	bride
kapre	clothing
karahi	rounded cooking pot
karaila	bitter melon
karhi	pholorie cooked in sour yogurt gravy
karma	law of cause/effect
katahar	jackfruit
katha	story
keerah	white mouth
khaja	edible sweet white growth in an over mature dried coconut
kheer	sweet rice
kirtan	group of bhajan singers using the call and response format
kitab	book
kitchree	dish of rice and dal usually eaten on Saturdays
koobay	bellyful
korhee	lazy
kul	family
kulachan/ kulakshan	bothersome
kurta	Indian wear for the upper half of the body
LABAR labar karna (lablab)	anyhow/ carelessly
labara	liar
langra/langda	person who walks with a limp
lapsi	sweetmeat normally prepared at the bith of a child using a special masala
larka	boy
larki	girl
lathi	stick
lawa	puffed rice
lohra & sil	grinding implements used together to make seasoning pastes and chokha
lota	drinking vessel
lukhni	woman who accompanies bride to her husband's house after the wedding
lungayra	
majee	Muslim priest
makkhi chus	miser
mala	garland

mali	flowers in a woman's hair (Tamil)
Mamoo/ Mamee	Mother's brother/ Mother's brother's wife
mandir	Hindu temple
mangeena	item used to wash dishes; often made of coconut husk
Mangrela	fenugreek-masala
manjay bartan	wash dishes
mantra	words of prayer believed to have special powers when recited
maro	nuptial canopy (Hindi-mandap)
masala	mix of spices
masjid	mosque
maticor	Prayers to Mother Earth(matti-Earth, kor-dig)
matya	
mausa	father's sister's husband
mausi	father's sister
mela	fair
milao	meet
mithai	sweets
mohanbhog	prasadam; food offering to the Gods
mowr/ maura	dulhan's headdress
muran	one of the Hindu samskars performed a few months after a baby is born
murgatani	mulligatani; hot soup of meat and vegetables
murti	image or representation of a God
na	no
naara	stomach pain
nagin	snake
Nana/Nani	Maternal grandfather/grandmother
nauta	wedding invitation
navraatri	nine night Hindu festival ddedicated to the Goddesses
neechay	down
neem	tree the leaves of which has various medicinal qualities
nenwah	gourd vegetable
oh fo	uh-oh
orhni	head scarf
ouchay	a ritual using garlic and prayer to remove the evil-eye/bad eye
paag	the syrupy mixture of sugar and water used to coat mithai
pagla/pagli	crazy
pagri	man's headwear/ turban
paise	money
pakkan	
pani	water
parahar	loose/non sticky (as in perfectly cooked rice)
paratha	roti
patchowni	organs and intestines of a goat/sheep finely cut and bunjal
patkay (pahat ke)/ paat diya	beat brutally
peechay	behind
peerha	stool

pera (peda)	Indian sweet made of milk and sugar
phaguva/Phagwah	Holi
phool	flower
pilaf/ pelau	rice dish containing beans and spices
pitri paksh	time dedicated to worship of ancestors
polouri	deep fried snack made of dal flour
poohar	careless/ sloppy
poojari	priest
pookni	a hollow pipe used to blow air to start a fire
pranaam	greeting
prasad	food that is first offered to God
puja	Hindu religious ceremony
pundit	Hindu priest
Puphu (Phuwa)/Pupha	Father's sister/ Father's sister's husband
puri	fried bread
raat	night
rakhee (from the fire side)	ash used to mangay pots
raksha bandhan	celebration of the bond between siblings; raksha-sacred thread, bandan-bond
ram ram	Hindu greeting in praise of Ram
roat	A fried bread offered to Hanuman during puja
roti	Indian bread
rumal	headwear (madrass)
saanay	mix and eat food with hands
sabhund	soap
sada roti	plain roti
saheli	female friend
saiballa/sarballa	From the days of arranged child marriages a brother or cousin of the bridegroom would travel over far distances in case something happened to the groom he would then be culture changed and couples got married at a more mature age the tradition was still groom was accompanied by a saiballa,a little boy dressed similar to the groom.
saijan	drumsticks (vegetable)
sakchul	
sal sev	chicken foot; fried snack made of ground dal dough thinly sliced and fried
samdhi	father in law of a person's daughter/son
samdhin	mother in law of a person's daughter/son
sanatan dharm	The duty of Hindus to uphold their culture
sanay	mix food (dhal and rice) eat with your hands
sangeet	song
sapi	long cloth potholder
sapna	dream
sarangi	musical instrument like flute
sari	women's wear consisting of yards of cloth elegantly wrapped around the body
saro bhai	brother in law (Hindi Equivalent sala can be an insult)
sasur/ sasural	in laws
seeri	step
seime	running bean

shabash	very good
shalwar	women's wear consisting of loose trousers and a long tunic
shivraatri	Night of Shiva; Hindus celebrate Lord Shiva's birthday
sindoor	red powder applied to the mang and forehead of a woman to signify she's married
sirni	sweetmeat similar to mohanbhog, primarily made by Muslims
suhar	pig
suno	listen
suraj	sun
surwah	gravy from the curry
suskay	cry
susu	urinate
taan	music
tabeej	talisman to protect against evil
tabla	drums
tari (thali)	brass plate
tarkari	vegetables (same as bhagi)
taru	roof of the mouth
tassa	kind of drum
tawa	circular utensil on which roti is cooked
theatar	stubborn
tikka	dot placed to ward off the evil eye
tirat/kartik	Hindu festival where worship is done at sea
tulsi	plant from the basil family; has religious significance to Hindus
turmeric	haldi/dye
upar	up
utho	get up
yaha	here
yajna	sacrifice/sacrificial ritual