

# RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

## **M.Ed. In TESL Program Language Group Specific Informational Reports**

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program  
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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# Gujarati



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# History of Gujarati



- Ancestor is Vedic Sanskrit, which dates back to 600 BC.
- Gujarati is developed from Devanāgarī script.
- Earliest known Gujarati document dates back to 1592.
- Until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century it was used for writing letters and keeping accounts, while Devanāgarī was used formally in literature and academic writings.



# Map and List of Where Gujarati is Spoken (most heavily populated area is depicted on the map)

Gujarat, Maharashtra,  
Rajasthan, Karnataka  
and Madhya Pradesh,  
and also in Bangladesh,  
Fiji, Kenya, Pakistan,  
Singapore, South  
Africa, Tanzania,  
Uganda, United  
Kingdom, USA, Zambia  
and Zimbabwe.



[http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/IE\\_Satem\\_Gujarati.html](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/IE_Satem_Gujarati.html)



# Gujarati Letters

(Vowels pictured to the right)

-Syllabic alphabet.

-All consonants have an inherent vowel.

-Vowels can be written as separate letters, or by using diacritical marks (marked above, below, before or after the consonant they go with).

અ	આ	ઇ	ઈ	ઉ	ઊ	ૃ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	r
[ə]	[a]	[i]	[i]	[u]	[u]	[ru]
પ	પા	પિ	પી	પુ	પૂ	પૃ
pa	pā	pi	pī	pu	pū	pr
એ	ઐ	ઓ	ઔ	અં	અઃ	ઁ
e	ai	o	au	aṃ	aḥ	ā
[e, ɛ]	[əy]	[o, ɔ]	[əu]	[əŋ]	[əh]	[ā]
પે	પૈ	પો	પૌ	પં	પઃ	પ્
pe	pai	po	pau	paṃ	paḥ	pā

# Interesting Facts About Gujarati



- It is an Indo-Aryan (Indic) language.
- There are 46.1 million native speakers of Gujarati.
- Official language of Gujarat, which is the most prosperous state in India. (Also the official language of Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli in India).
- Over 60% of Indian population in North America is Gujarati.
- The average income of a Gujarati family is three times as much as the average American family.
- It is considered the “poor language of the rich people”, Babu Suther, because the grammar books for Gujarati are so poorly written.

# How-to-Video



**[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=INEHEU\\_YJAI&FEATURE=RELATED](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INEHEU_YJAI&feature=related)**

**ALTHOUGH THIS VIDEO SHOWS ENGLISH SPEAKING VIEWERS HOW TO SPEAK GUJARATI, INSTEAD OF SHOWING HOW TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR GUJARATI LEARNERS, THIS VIDEO MAY BE HELPFUL FOR THE EDUCATORS OF GUJARATI NATIVE SPEAKERS TO SEE HOW THEY PRONOUNCE THEIR LETTERS AND WORDS.**

# Gujarati Speakers as English Language Learners



- Most people India, particularly in Gujarat, are at minimum bilingual, most being multilingual.
- It is important people in their culture to learn a larger language for communication so they can excel in life.
- Learning English is in great demand currently in Gujarat.
- Many colleges in India are now offering courses in English.
- English is often used by upper class people, who like to show off their status.
- Many Gujarati speakers consider the English they speak more like British English than North American English.



## Common Mistakes Gujarati Learners Make

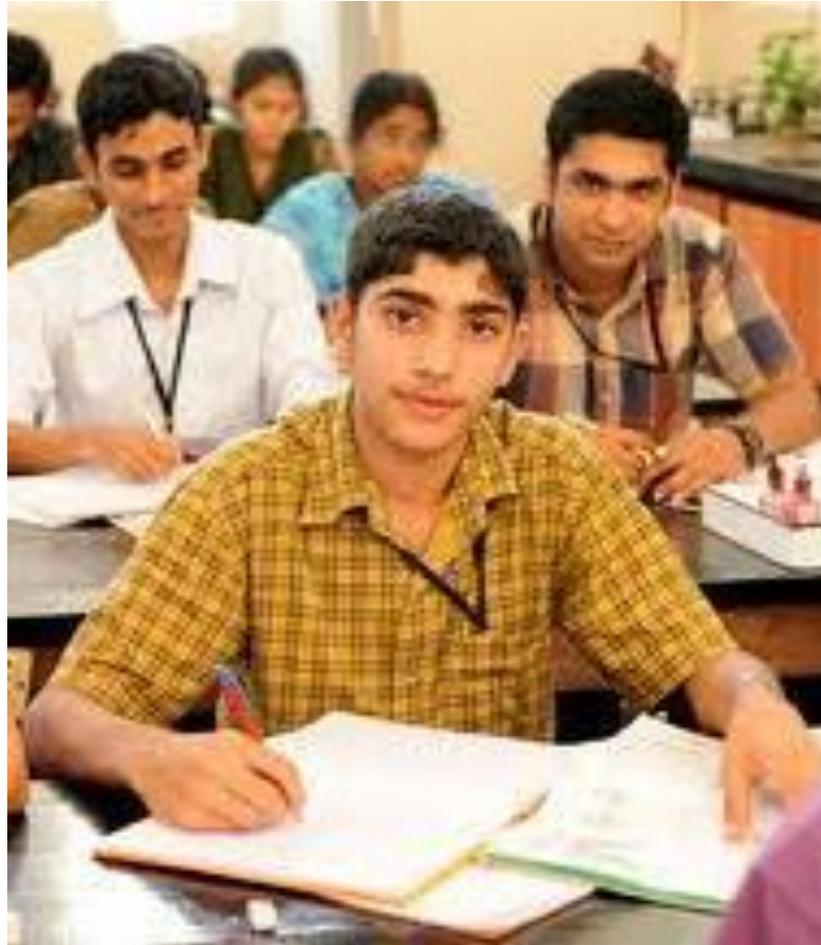
-They often shorten words.

Ex: “enthusiasm” might become “enthu”.

-Sometimes have problems with pluralization.

Ex: “One of my relative”.

-Comfortable with compound-formation.



<http://www2.rps205.com/Pages/Home.aspx>

## More Common Mistakes Gujarati Learners Make With English (Morphological Features)



- Poor pronunciation of English with much interference of the Native Language.
- Several sounds are pronounced in a tangential way:
  - Doll: dole, tall: tole, wrap: rape, thanks: thenks.
- Gujarati speakers have a hard time saying the English syllable “sh”.
- Often drop “ed” after “t” or “k”.
  - Example: walked becomes walk, when it should be the first.
- Sometimes forget to use “an” before a word beginning with a vowel.
  - They often use “a” in front of a word beginning with a vowel.

# English vs. Gujarati



- There are three genders in Gujarati.
- Adjectives always precede nouns.
- Direct objects come before verbs.
- There are not any definite or indefinite articles.
- Word order patterns include:
  - Adjective + Noun
  - Verb + Auxiliary
  - Subject + Predicate
- English speakers often drop vowels when speaking, whereas Gujarati speakers often articulate the vowels when speaking English.
- When doing Math, two into four would mean “ $2 \times 4$ ” to a Gujarati speaker, or six by three would be “6 3”.

# Gujarati Communication Style



- Arms length is a good distance between you and the person you are speaking too.
- Women will not shake hands with a man, because touch between the sexes is inappropriate.
- It is not acceptable to touch someone during conversation if you do not know them well.
- At larger gatherings, men and women tend to separate by gender.
- At smaller gatherings, such as a family get together, genders will interact with one another.



## Communication Style: Business

Business: Gujarati people often find it hard to say no. so they often say “yes” or “I’ll try”.

Since they are so highly family oriented, business meetings will often begin with questions about how one’s family is doing.



<http://cdn3.wn.com/o25/ar/i/31/d6aca297c425b7.jpg>

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