

## How to get familiar with the alphabet

1 Introduce the pupils to the differences between the Devanagari alphabet and the Western alphabet

अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ	ऋ		
a	aa	i	ii	u	uu	e	ai	o	au	R		
क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	च	छ	ज	झ	ञ	ट	ठ	
k	K	g	G	q	c	C	j	J	z	tw	Tw	
ड	ढ	ण	त	थ	द	ध	न	प	फ	ब	भ	म
dw	Dw	nw	t	T	d	D	n	p	P	b	B	m
य	र	ल	व	श	ष	स	ह					
y	r	l	v	x	sw	s	h					

<http://thepolyglotexperience.blogspot.be/>

Use the posters with the alphabet or download the alphabet from <http://pdf.mrprintables.com/mrpac04-lc-b.pdf> (lower case) and <http://pdf.mrprintables.com/mrpac03-basic-b.pdf> (upper case)

a	b	c	p	q	r
d	e	f	s	t	u
g	h	i	v	w	x
j	k	l	y	z	
m	n	o			

A	B	C	P	Q	R
D	E	F	S	T	U
G	H	I	V	W	X
J	K	L	Y	Z	
M	N	O			

The Western alphabet has two types of letters: upper case letters or capital letters (that is the same) and lower case letters or small letters.

The small letters are used much more often than the capital letters which are only used at the beginning of sentences or for proper nouns.

It is therefore most important to train the small letters.

The shape of letters can be different,

*The shape of letters can be different*

The shape of letters can be different depending on the font that is used.

The shape of letters can also change in handwriting, but most letters will be easily recognized after a while.

Give the pupils an alphabet printed on small cards.

Then ask them to put each letter on the corresponding letter on the poster.

If teachers / children know the alphabet, make them recite it or sing it.

Then you can ask the teachers / children to make words. They can use the alphabet cards and make additional cards themselves on small pieces of paper. There are certain letters that you will need many times, for example e, a or n.

## 2 Read it, make it, write it

Then you can ask the teachers / children to make words. They can use the alphabet cards and make additional cards themselves on small pieces of paper. There are certain letters that you will need many times, for example e, a or n. Make word cards with simple words, such as 'dog, goat, house'. Use the English school book for inspiration!

The teacher reads the words.

The teacher asks the pupils

- ☀ to read a word,
- ☀ to make it with the letter cards,
- ☀ to write it.

## 3 Tagging

Ask the pupils to name everything they see around them, make them write the words on cards, tag everything in the classroom!

Then use pictures, preferably quite large pictures (e.g. A 4)

Ask the pupils what they see on the picture: a flower, a man, a woman, a hat, yellow etc.

Make them write these words on small cards.

Ask them to put the cards with the words on the right places in the picture.

Start with one picture for each pupil.

Then let different pupils work together, for example in groups of two or four.

The words going with two pictures (or four pictures, depending on the size of the group) are mixed up.

Each pupil chooses a picture that (s)he has not tagged before and puts all the word cards in the right places.

## 4 Make booklets

Ask pupils to cut out pictures in magazines. Put the picture in a little booklet, together with its name.

These booklets can be put in a self-made library, for other children to enjoy.

Picture material is very rare in Nepal, it is also expensive but it must be possible to create your own little booklets that can be enjoyed by young children, and to do so at a very low cost.

## 5 Additional activities

It is interesting to 'write' letters in many ways. The following are good commands, but you will have to demonstrate how it is done:

- ☀ Walk a letter, for example o or m (Let's walk 'o' – do it together)

- ☀ Can you draw the letter in the air? (Let's draw 'o' in the air)
- ☀ Can you draw it in the air again, but smaller? (Let's make it smaller)
- ☀ How small can you get?
- ☀ Can you draw the letter on the blackboard, on the playground etc., with chalk? First draw it as large as you can, then make it smaller.
- ☀ Put a small bucket of water on the table. Ask the pupils to write letters with water.
- ☀ Paint letters with clay.
- ☀ Make letters with pebbles, with leaves etc. (let's write 'o' on the ground, with chalk, with water, with clay, with stones...)
- ☀ Write letters on small cards

Writing letters in many different ways makes it interesting for pupils. It is very difficult for children to write letters in a copybook because this requires fine motor skills. Writing letters is best trained using first the whole body to make large letters, then practise making the letters smaller and smaller until they can write them in a copybook.

Children learn best in a playful way, in a friendly environment. Children learn best when they are happy.

This activity is child-centred.

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