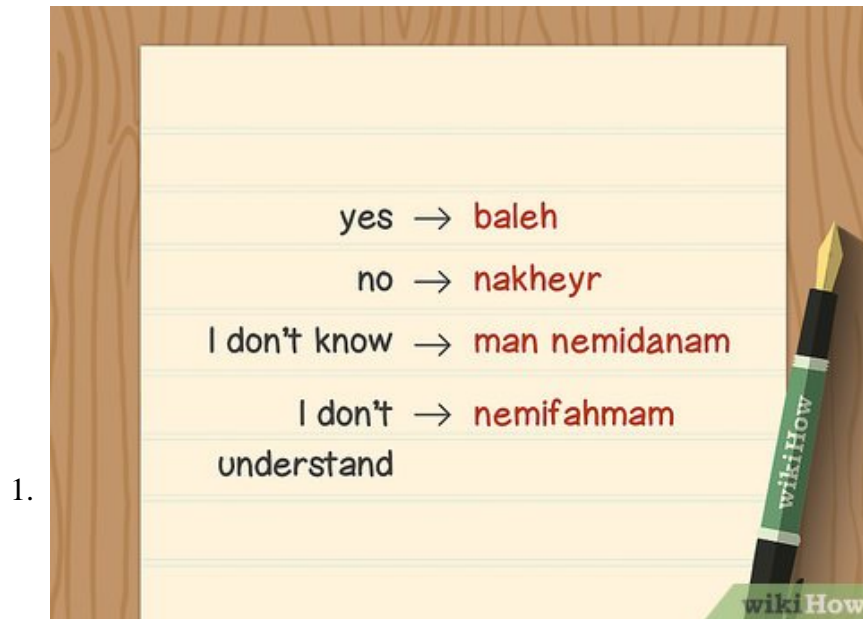


# How to Say Most Common Words in Farsi

Farsi, also known as Persian, is spoken by around 110 million people around the world and is the official language of Iran, Afghanistan (where it is known as Dari), and Tajikistan (where it is known as Tajiki). The language is also spoken...

Method 1 of 3:

## Adding Essential Vocabulary

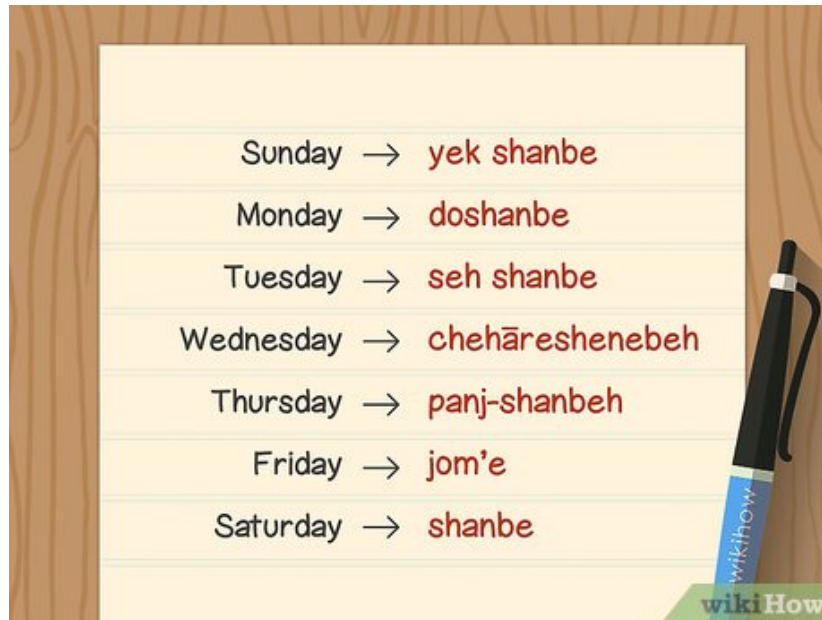


**Start with *baleh* and *nakheyr* for "yes" and "no."** These are 2 of the most basic words in any language, and essential if you're navigating in an area where Farsi is spoken. If someone offers you something, add "thank you" to the end by saying *nakheyr, mamn?nam*.<sup>[2]</sup>

1. Be careful using these words if you don't completely understand what the person said. You might try *man nemidânam* (I don't know) or *nemifahmam* (I don't understand).

**Tip:** When speaking casually to people you know or people your own age, you can shorten *nakheyr* to *na*.

2.



**Learn the days of the week.** If you're traveling, you'll need to know the days of the week so that you know when to be somewhere or when you need to check out of your lodging.<sup>[3]</sup>

1. Sunday: yek shanbe ??????
2. Monday: doshanbe ??????
3. Tuesday: seh shanbe ?? ????
4. Wednesday: cheh?reshenebeh ????????
5. Thursday: panj-shanbeh ??? ????
6. Friday: jom'e ????
7. Saturday: shanbe ????

3.



**Pick up other words to describe dates and times.** You're not always going to use the day of the week to tell someone when something happened or is going to happen. You might want to say *deeRooz* (yesterday), *emRooz* (today) or *farad* (tomorrow).<sup>[4]</sup>

1. The word for day is *Rooz* (???) If something happened in the morning, you would use the word *sobh* (??). The word for evening is *asr* (??), while the word for night is *shab* (??).
2. You might also use *h?l?* (????), which means "now," or *ba'dan* (?????), which means "later."



**Count to 10 in Farsi.** Counting to 10 is one of the first things you typically learn in any language. To count from 1 to 10 in Farsi, say *yek*, *do*, *se*, *chahaar*, *panj*, *shesh*, *haft*, *hasht*, *noh*, *dah*.<sup>[5]</sup>

1. Ordinals are also important, especially if people are talking about dates. *Nokhost* (????) means "first," *doovom* (???) means "second," and *sevom* (???) means "third."

Method 2 of 3:

## Making Basic Conversation



Use *Salam* (????) to say "hello" in most settings. The word "Salam" literally translates to "peace" and is used as a general greeting throughout the Muslim world. This greeting is appropriate to use with anyone, at any time of day.<sup>[6]</sup>

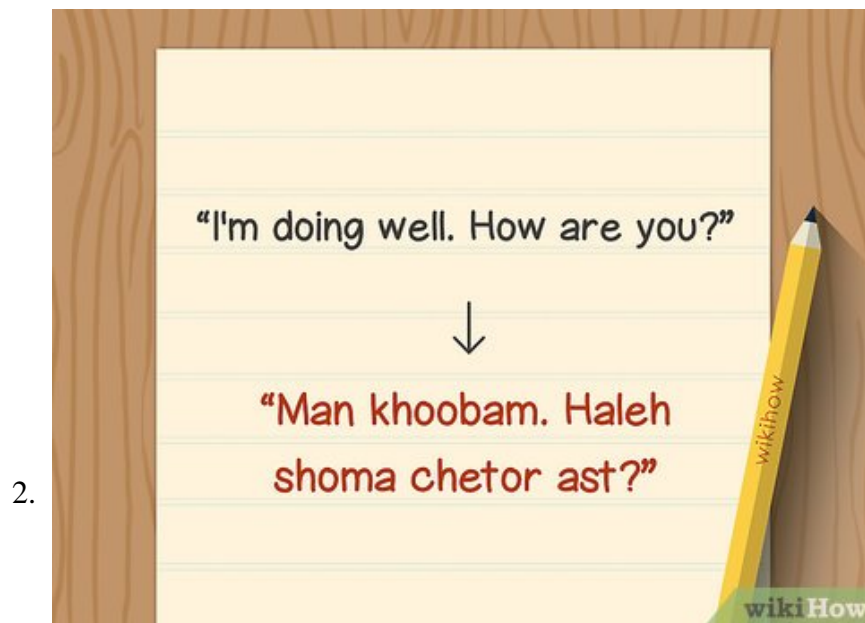
1. Another common greeting in Farsi is *dorood* (????). This is an older, more traditional greeting that means "hello."
2. If you're greeting someone who is entering your home, you might also say *Khosh amadid!* (???? ?????), which means "welcome."

### Greetings for Specific Times of Day:

Good morning: *Sobh bekheyr!* (???? ?????)

Good evening: *Asr bekheyr!* (???? ?????)

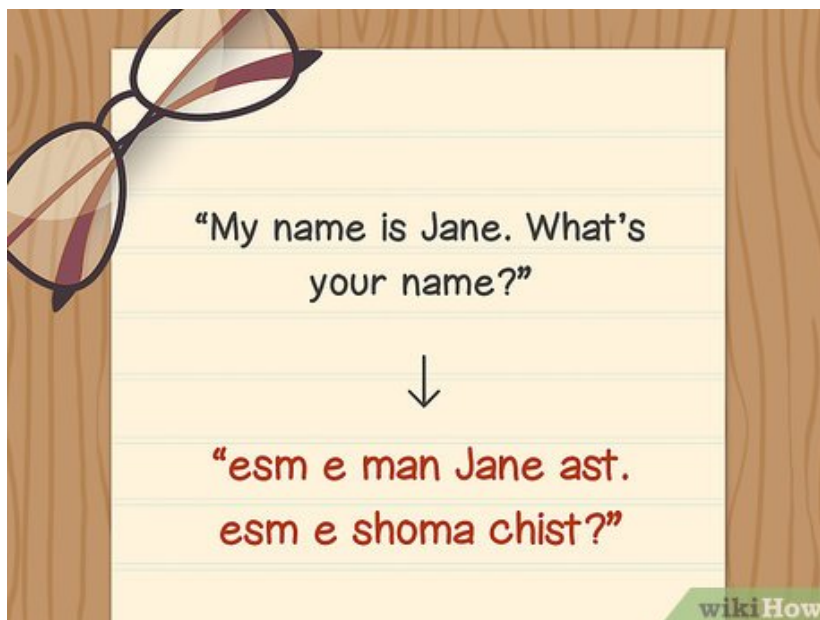
Good night: *Shab bekheyr!* (??? ?????)



Ask *Haleh shoma chetor ast?* (??? ??? ????? ?????) for "How are you?" After saying "hello," it's common in Persian cultures to ask after the other person's well-being. If the other person asks you first, you might reply *Man khoobam* (?? ?????), which means "I'm doing well."<sup>[7]</sup>

1. If you're talking to a close friend or someone your age or younger, you might try *Halet chetore?* (??????), which is a very informal, similar to saying "What's up?"

3.



**Introduce yourself by saying *Esme man... ast* (.??? ?? ???).** To tell the person your name, say "Esme man," then your name, followed by "ast." For example, if your name is Sarah, you would say "Esme man Sarah ast." To ask the other person's name, say *Esme shoma chist?*<sup>[8]</sup>

1. When the other person tells you their name, you might say *Az molaaghat e shoma khosh-bakhtam.* (. ?? ????? ?? ??????), which means "nice to meet you." You can also simply say "khoshbakhtam."

4.



**Explain that you only speak a little Farsi.** If you're just learning Farsi but still want to have a conversation, you might say *Farsim xub nist* (????? ?? ?????), which means "I can't speak Persian/Farsi well." You might also say *mishe ahesteh tar sohbat konid* or "please speak more slowly," if you're having trouble understanding the person.<sup>[9]</sup>

1. You could add *nemifahmam* (??? ???), which means "I don't understand."
2. If you would feel more comfortable talking in English, you might ask *Engelisi yâd dâri?* (?????? ?? ?????) or "Do you speak English?"

5.



**Express your gratitude by saying *mamnūnam* (?????) for "thank you."** This is a relatively formal way to say "thank you" in Persian. Persians also say *merci*, like the French. However, this is considered a more casual expression.<sup>[10]</sup>

1. If the person thanks you, reply *kharesh mikonam*(???? ?? ???), which means "you're welcome."
2. Other polite words in Farsi include *moteassefam* (sorry), *lotfan* (please), and *bebakhshid* (excuse me).

6.

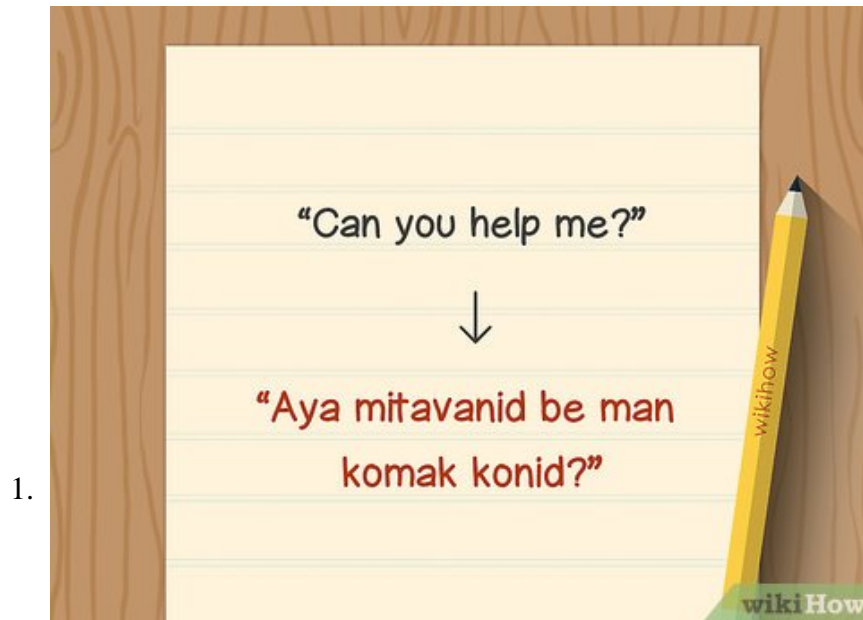


**End a conversation with *bedrood* (?????) for "goodbye."** When you're ready to part ways, this is a basic way to say "goodbye." You could also say *khoda hafez* (??? ???), which also means "goodbye."<sup>[11]</sup>

1. In the morning, you might also say *Rooze khoobi dashteh bashid!* which means "Have a nice day!"<sup>[12]</sup>
2. If the person continues to talk to you, you might say *man bayad beravam*, which means "I have to go."<sup>[13]</sup>

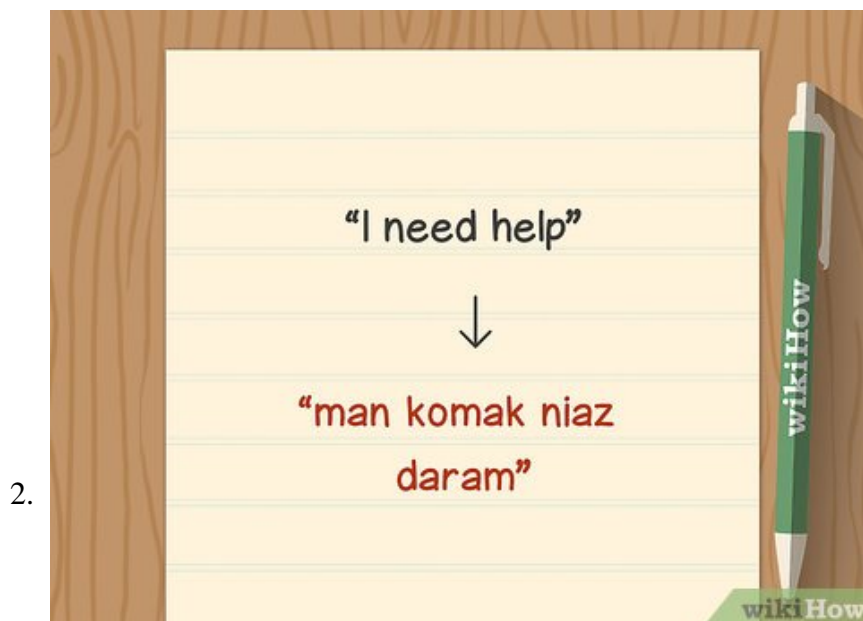
Method 3 of 3:

## Asking for Help



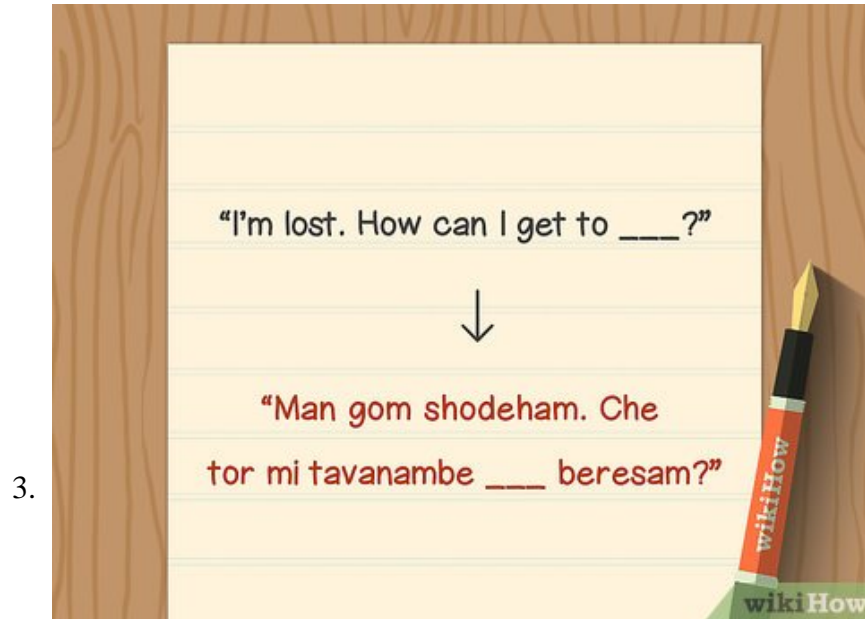
**Start with *Bebagshid* to get someone's attention.** This word means "excuse me," and is the polite way to get someone's attention before asking them a question. Then you might say *Aya mitavanid be man komak konid?*, which means "Can you help me?"<sup>[14]</sup>

1. You might also say *Man ahle inja nistam* if you want to tell the person "I'm not from here."



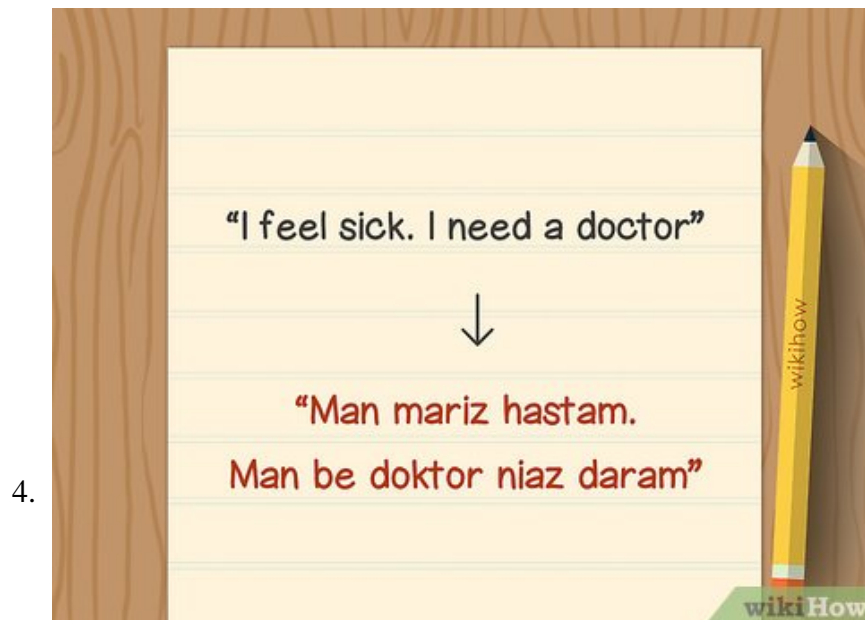
**Use *man komak niaz daram* to ask pointedly for help.** This phrase literally means "I need help," so if you have a problem, saying this will alert them. However, you should probably be prepared to explain your problem in Farsi. Otherwise, ask *Aya shame Engilisi?* or "Do you speak English?"<sup>[15]</sup>

1. You might also say *Komakam kon!* which means "Help me!" Save this for times when something more serious is going on – not for times when you just need to ask directions or find the restroom.



**Get directions if you're lost.** It can be hard to get around in an unfamiliar place, especially when all the signs are in a language you're just starting to learn. Say *Man gom shodeham* to tell someone that you are lost. Then show the person where you want to go. Having a written name, map, or photo can help.<sup>[16]</sup>

1. If the place you're looking for is nearby, you might say *Aya mitavanid be man neshan dahid?* which means "Can you show me?"
2. If you just want to know where the nearest bathroom is, ask *dashtshuee kojast?* It's generally best to ask someone who is the same gender as you.



**Say *man mariz hastam* (?? ???? ????) if you feel sick.** This phrase lets those around you know that you're not feeling well. If you're really bad off, you might also say *Man be doktor niaz daram*, which means "I need a doctor."<sup>[17]</sup>

1. In an emergency situation, you might say *Doktor ra seda konid!* (Call a doctor!) or *Ambulance ra seda konid!* (Call an ambulance!).

**Tip:** If you're in an emergency situation and don't feel comfortable describing your needs in Farsi, say *Injâ kasi Engelisi midânad?* which means "Is there someone here who speaks English?"

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