

Proficiency Testing Project

Structural List (Pashto)

Novice 1

1. Pronouns:
demonstrative دا 'this', دغه 'this (particular)', هغه 'that'.
personal زه 'I', مونږ 'we', دوی 'they', etc.
interrogative کوم؟ 'where?', چیرې؟ 'what?', څه شی؟ / څه؟ 'who?', څوک؟ 'which one?', کوم یو؟ 'which?', etc.
2. Interrogative particle: آیا.
3. Copulative sentences: تاسې محصل یاست؟ 'Zalmay is a doctor' زلمی ډاکټر دی. 'Are you a student?'
4. Noun constructions: کوچنی صنف 'small classroom', ښکلې پیغله 'beautiful girl', نوې چمته 'new backpack'.
5. Plural form of nouns: کتابونه 'books', هلکان 'boys', کتابچې 'notebooks'.
6. Irregular plural of nouns: مور – مېنډې 'mother (mothers)', ورونه 'brother (brothers)', خور – خوښې 'sister (sisters)';
7. Numerals;
8. Numerical plurals: درې کتابه 'three books';
9. Cases: 'from' د امریکا څخه 'in the room', په کوټه کېنې 'Babrak', بیرکه! 'with a knife', په چاقو 'to Afghanistan', د کریم زوی 'Karim's son', افغانستان ته 'with a knife', etc.
10. Oblique form of nouns: سړی – سړې، پیغله - پیغلې.
11. Inflection of adjectives. busy; مصروف – مصروفه - مصدوفي.
12. Expressing availability: 'there is', 'available', 'there is no', 'not available.'
13. Basic tenses:
 - a. Imperative: 'Repeat (it) لطفاً تکرار کړئ!', 'Listen to me!' ماته غور ونیسئ! 'please!'
 - b. Present tense of the verb "to be": 'am', 'are', 'is', etc.; یم 'am', یو 'are', ئی 'is', etc.;
 - c. Present continuous (imperfective): 'I am reading' لولم، 'eats' خوري;
 - d. Present potential: 'He is able to go'. دی تللی شي.
14. Combining conjunction: او 'and';
15. Contrasting conjunction: خو 'but';
16. Temporal adverbs: 'today', نن، 'always', تل، 'now', اوس.

Common errors:

Errors in spelling;

Improper use of the second person pronoun in formal and informal registers:

تاسې، ته

Gender of nouns confused: 'doctors' (f) ډاکټرانې – 'doctors' (m) ډاکټران
'nurse' (f) نرسه – 'nurse' (m) نرس

Gender agreement of adjectives is broken: 'This room is small'.

Disagreement of the verb “to be” with a feminine subject: **‘I like apples’**; **منه زما خوین دئ.**

Cases omitted (mostly dative) or confused (usually dative and locative): **په**
‘I am going to the university’; **پوهنتون ته ځم. Instead of پوهنتون کښې ځم.**

Problems in perception and production of specific Pashto sounds, such as **خ** [x], **ر** [r], **غ** [g], **څ** [c], **ڼ** [ɳ], **ج** [j], distinguishing [u] from [o] which might impede meaning: **لور** ‘daughter’, ‘direction’.

Problems with word stress: learners’ assignment of word stress varies, usually on penultimate or word-initial positions (in Pashto stress is mobile and may locate on various positions depending on the word).

Word order confused.

Improper locating of adverbs of place and time.

Novice 2

1. Basic tenses:

- Future tense of the verb “to be”: **به وي, به يو, به يم, etc.**;
- Future continuous (imperfective): **‘We will be going’**; **مونږ به ځو.**
- Present subjunctive: **‘I must read’**, **که راشي, ‘if (she/he) does not come’**;
- Future definite (perfective): **‘I will read it’**; **زه به يې ولولم.**
- Future potential: **‘I will be able to go’**; **زه به تللی شم.**
- Past tense of the verb “to be”: **‘Yesterday (the weather) was hot’**; **پرون هوا گرمه وه.**
- Present perfect: **‘(He) has gone’**; **تल्ली دئ.**
- Past perfect: **‘(He) had gone’**; **تल्ली و.**

2. Reflexive pronoun: **خپل** ;

3. Pronouns **بل** ‘another’ and **نور** ‘others’.

4. Indefinite pronouns: **هر څوک**, **يو څوک**, **‘someone’**, **هر څوک**, **‘everyone’**; **څه**, **‘anything’**, **هر څه**, **‘everything’**;

5. Combination of prepositions and postpositions, prepositions and weak pronouns: **پکښې**, **‘in’**, **ترې**, **‘from him / her’**, **پرې**, **‘at him / her’**;

6. Present participle – attributive function, nominalization: **په لاره تلونکی هلک**, **‘a boy walking on the road’** (lit.: **‘walking on the road boy’**); **ښوونکی**, **‘teacher, instructor’**;

7. Verbal noun - use of an infinitive as a noun: **‘I like reading books’**; **کتاب لوستل زما خوین دي.**

8. Verb usage with the adverbs **نږدې** close and **ليږي** far: **‘close to ...’**; **... ته نږدې**; **‘far from ...’**; **څخه ليرې**

9. Present and past participles: **ښوونکی**, **‘teacher’**, **راتلونکی**, **‘upcoming’**, **تल्ली**, **‘gone’**;

10. Paired adverbs **وروسته** ‘slowly’ and **ژر ژر** ‘quickly’;

11. Use of pre-postpositions with deleted elements: نن سپورمی رخشانې سره سینما ته ځي. 'Today Spozhmey is going to the cinema with Rokhshana.'
12. Use of day words and words referring to the times of day with deleted pre-postpositions: مونږ د شنبې په ورځ کښې مېلې ته ځو. 'On Saturday we are going on a picnic'. دوی به یکشنبې سهار حرکت وکړي. 'They will take off on Sunday (in the morning)'.
13. Expression of possibility, necessity, obligation: modal verbs and phrases ('I want', 'must', 'maybe', 'must, should') + present perfective form of verbs;
14. Expression of comparative and superlative meanings: 'taller than me' تر ما جگ 'biggest' تر ټولو لوی
15. Relative subordinate clauses with conjunctions څې، هغه ... چې
16. Subordinate clauses of time: with conjunctions کله چې، هغه وخت... چې
17. Present conditional subordinate clauses ('if' clauses): 'If Spozhmey does not come, ...';
18. Weak pronouns in attributive constructions: کور دې، 'His / Her father' پلار یې 'Your house / home';
19. Frequently used denominative and compound verbs: پورې کول، 'to build', جوړول 'to close', etc.
20. Directional pronouns: وړ، را، در، functions;
21. Use of a number **one** as an indefinite article;
22. Double conjunctions: 'or ... or'; یا ... یا، 'neither ... nor' نه ... نه، 'as well' هم ... هم
23. Derivational suffix **-tun** [تون].

Common errors:

- Errors in spelling;
- Improper use of aspects: 'We want to go to a restaurant';
- Misuse of the words of times of a day with prepositions and postpositions: زه زه سهار ډوډۍ نه خورم. instead of په سهار کښې ډوډۍ نه خورم.
- Error in agreement of a verb and subject in ergative sentences: زه ډوډۍ وخورله.
- Improper use of the reflexive pronoun خپل ;
- Errors in creating the oblique form of nouns.

Intermediate I

1. Past imperfective and perfective participles: 'gone' تللی، 'built' جوړ شوی
2. Passive voice;
3. Tenses:
 - a. Past continuous (imperfective): 'Babrak was going home';
 - b. Past definite (perfective): 'Babrak went home';
 - c. Past habitual: 'Babrak used to spend every day in play.' به هره ورځ په لوبه تېروله.
 - d. Passive voice: 'has been beaten' ووهل شو

4. Weak pronoun as an agent: 'I ate' دودى مي وخورله.
5. Agreement of adjective modifiers with the nouns in oblique form: درنو 'Dear friends!' دوستانو!
6. Transitive and false transitive verbs;
7. Location of components (adverbs, direct and indirect objects, modifiers, etc.) in a sentence;
8. Order of location of perfective particle, future marker, weak pronoun in a sentence: 'I will see him' وبه يي گورم;
9. Combination of post positions with directional pronouns: 'with me' راسره 'from you' درڅخه 'to him / her' ورته;
10. Order of modifiers in noun phrases: 'Aligol's new car' د علي گل نوى موټر 'that white building' هغه سپينه ودانى;
11. Cohesive devices: 'in short' په لنډه توگه; 'on the other hand' بل خواته; 'in addition' علاوه پر دې; 'in reality' په حقيقت كينې; 'it should be mentioned' شي 'fortunately', له نېكه مرغه; 'unfortunately' له بده مرغه; 'generally' عمومي ډول 'besides' سربېره پر دې; 'happily';
12. Compound prepositions: 'before of ...' تر ... نه مخكې; 'about ...' د ... په هكله; 'as ..., similar to...' د ... څخه پرته; 'concerning ...' د ... په اړه; 'in spite of ...' له ... سره سره; 'besides, moreover';
13. Denominative perfective verbs' conjugation: سپرېرم - سپور شم.
14. Agreement of transitive verbs in the past tenses with a direct object;
15. Noun subordinate clauses;
16. Subordinate clauses of time;

Common errors:

Problems forming sentences with transitive verbs in the past tense;

Disagreement between adjectival modifiers and nouns in vocative case: گران گرانو هلکانو! instead of هلکانو!

Errors in locating adverbs of time and place: زلمى سبق لولي په پوهنتون كينې instead of زلمى په پوهنتون كينې سبق لولي

Errors in conjugation of denominative verbs in a perfective form: وسپرېرم instead of سپور شم

Errors in the word order when different cases are combined: د بنار په بلومينگتن كينې instead of د بلومينگتن په بنار كينې

Intermediate II

1. Direct and indirect speech;
2. Tenses:
 - a. Past conditional: 'If Babrak had told'; که بېرک ويلي وای.
 - b. Past potential conditional: 'if Babrak was able to do'; که بېرک کولى شوى
 - c. Present perfect with perfective and imperfective past participles;
 - d. Past perfect with perfective and imperfective past participles.

2. Prepositional phrases: په 'in a good manner', په لنډه توګه 'in short', په په بڼه ډول 'for a suitable price', په تېره بیا 'especially';
3. Verbal phrases: په پای ته رسول 'to finish', په پام کې نیول 'to keep in mind, to take into account', په ډاګه کول 'to make clear, to say openly';
4. Agreement between components of transitive verbal phrases in the past tense: احترام کاوه 'respected';
5. Sentences with unreal conditions:
6. Subject oriented subordinate clauses: ... هر چا چې دغه سړی لیدلی وي ... 'anyone who might have seen this man ...';
7. Subordinate clauses of place;
8. Derivation of compound verbs;

Common errors:

Problems in forming sentences with transitive verbs;
 Errors in agreement between components of transitive verbal phrases in the past tense: سورګل د لویانو احترام کاوه **instead of** سورګل د لویانو احترام کول;
 Errors in forming conditional and potential conditional sentences in the past tense;
 Confusing different types of past participles: لېږلی - ولېږلی ، جوړېدلی - جوړ شوی;

Advanced I

1. Tenses:
 - a. Past conjectural: تاسو اورېدلي به وي 'maybe you have heard',
 - b. Future tense of doubt: '... may come'؛ ښايي راشي
2. Reported speech;
3. Object oriented subordinate clauses: ... ما اورېدلي دي چې ... 'I have heard that ...'
4. Extended use of compound verbs;
5. Verb form in blessing phrases: خدای مو جوړ وساته! 'May God keep you healthy!'
6. Questions of uncertainty: 'he might have gone home?' کورته تللی اوسي؟
7. Pragmatic competence in usage of formal style in the second and third person;
8. Expressions 'the best (best among goods)', د بدو بد 'the worst (the worst among bads)', د ښکلو ښکلی 'the prettiest (the prettiest among pretties)';
9. Demunitive affectionate form of nouns: خورکی 'town' ښارګوټی 'kid, sister';
10. Paired words: 'household' لوی واړه 'sitting together, association' کره وړه 'manners, deeds',

Common errors:

Confusion in usage of direct and reported speech;
 Errors in agreement between a transitive verb and a direct object in the past tense;
 Confusion of the past conjectural and future perfect;
 Errors in forming of sentences with modal verbs and phrases.

Advanced II

1. Future perfect: 'You will have gone' ته به تللی ټی. 'He will have gone' دی به تللی وي. 'Babrak will not have built a house.' بیرک به کور نه وي جوړ کړی.
2. Intensive commands: 'Eat it, it is getting (becoming) cold.' خوره چې سرپړي.
3. Expressing obligation: 'The boy must go home.' هلک دي کورته ولاړ شي.
4. Use of some verbs with particular prepositions and postpositions:
5. پر ... باندي تور. 'love ...' له ... سره مينه لرل، 'exit from' له ... څخه وتل، 'go to...' ته تلل، 'to face with ...' له ... سره مخ کېدل، 'to blame ...' لگول
6. Compatibility of nouns with certain verbs: باد - لگېدل، غوړ - نیول، ساز - غږول، واکسين - لگول، سوچ - وهل، تلفات - اوبنتل، دندې ته - گمارل
7. Synonymy: تېره - کانی - ډبره، مرکېدل - له دنيا تلل - له دنيا سترگې پټول
8. Use of idioms: 'to insult' په سپکه سترگه کتل، 'to be annoyed' په تنگ کېدل، 'to become united' کېدل
9. Onomatopoeic words: شرنګ، چونهار، دبهار
10. Complex idiomatic phrases: 'to submit, accept' ته غاړه کېښېښودل، 'to commit' په غاړه اخیستل، 'to work in cooperation', etc. اوږه په اوږه کار کول

Common errors:

- Still some mistakes in sentence structure;
- Errors in agreement between various parts of speech;
- Lack of pragmatic competency;
- Errors in usage of prepositional, verbal, and noun phrases;
- Improper use of idioms;