

Introduction

The purpose of this exercise is to help you to pray in Dari. There are a few phrases that you can learn and re-use to good effect; it's important to have these at hand when they are needed. There are a number of situation prompts listed below. If it is awkward to "fake pray" for the sake of language practice, you can say actual prayers for people that you know.

Important as grammar and vocabulary are, focus on fluency in this exercise. Even when people pray in their native language, there is usually more fluency than coherence!

Process

Take turns praying with your partner or in a group.

1. Look at the prompt
2. Check the back page for any new words or phrases you need
3. Hold up your hands and look your partner in the eye—this is not always part of praying in Dari, but it's something you should practice for when it does happen.
4. Pray as fluently as you can

Situations

For each of these situations, imagine the spiritual condition of the people hearing your prayer, and what phrases or words would be more or less appropriate.

- At the end of a meeting you want to make a general prayer for your host and his/her family.
- You have the opportunity to offer the prayer after a meal.
- Your friend is sick in the hospital and is facing an uncertain recovery.
- You and some colleagues are about to take a trip someplace.
- A friend comes to you and asks for help in making a decision.
- You meet someone who has an injury and it seems appropriate to pray over him/her.
- You are meeting with a believer who is dealing with fear over persecution.
- The primary breadwinner of a family has lost his job.
- A father/mother is concerned about his/her son, who has gone to another country to find work.
- A family has a child with a physical or mental disability.
- You're meeting with office staff about local opposition to a project.
- A friend (or a friend's wife) is unable to become pregnant.
- A family has taken a relative to a neighboring country for medical help.

Openings

aj padar-ε ασmani-je ma

aj xudawanda

aj xuda-je muta?al

aj xuda-je muqadas

aj nedzat-dehenda-je ma

aj safal-dehenda-je ma

aj xuda-je ibrahim, ismael wa ishaq

Our heavenly Father

Oh God

Oh almighty God

Oh holy God

Oh our Saviour

Oh our Healer

Oh God of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac

Praises

tu ra ebdat mekunem

tu ra setajef mekunem

We worship you

We praise you

Thanksgiving

tu ra bare ... fukur mekunem

...bare zendagi-je abadi ...

...bare fazl o taufiq ...

...bare rabeta-je faxsi amra ε tu ...

...bare i nan ...

We give you thanks for ...

...for eternal life

...for grace and mercy

...for a personal relationship with you

...for this food

tu ra fukur mekunem ke ...

fukurguzar astem ke ...

...ke ma ra nedzat dadi

...ke tu zendagi-je xod-a bare ma fedai kadi

...ke tu ma ra az guna pak kadi

...ke tu muhabat asti

...ke tu muqadas/xub/razeq asti

...ke tu ma ra ba muhabat mibini

...ke tu delsozi dari

...ke tu dua-je ma-ra mefnawi

...ke tu rahm dari

We give you thanks for ...

We are thankful ...

...that you gave us salvation

...that you sacrificed your life for us

...that you have my sins clean

...that you are love

...that you are holy/good/provider

...that you look at us with love

...that you have sympathy/compassion

...that you hear our prayers

...that you have mercy

Requests

dua mekunem...

...ke tu i xana ra barakat beti

...ke tu i mariza safal beti

...ke tu i kakal-dzan-ra/xala-dzan-a safal beti

...ke tu dust-ε ma ra sefa beti

...ke tu taklif-ε dustem hal besazi

...ke tu dardεf aram besazi

...ke tu delef aram besazi

...ke tu ura komak kuni

...ke tu safar-ε ma ra barakat beti

...ke tu u-ra barakat/tasali beti

...ke tu u-ra sulh/arami/salatmati beti

...ke tu ma-ra/u-ra hedajat beti

...ke tu ma-ra/una-ra rahmani kuni

We pray that ...

...that you bless this house

...that you heal this sick (person)

...that you heal this older man/women

...that you heal my friend

...that you solve my friends problems

...that you soothe his pain

...that you make his heart peaceful

...that you help him

...that you bless our journey

...that you give him blessing/comfort

...that you give him peace

...that you give us/him guidance

...that you give us/them guidance

Closings

ba name isa-je Masih (metalabem)

ma ba nam-ε isa-je masih dua mekunem

In the name of Jesus (we ask)

We pray in the name of Jesus

Note that, under “Requests,” all of the requests are in the form of ‘We pray that you...’ In this form the second person singular subjunctive of the verb is appropriate (i.e., [beti], [besazi], [kuni]). If you wish to use the simple command form, you need to use that form of the verb instead (respectively: [bedε], [besaz], [ko]). For instance, instead of [dua mekunem ke tu i xana ra barakat beti] ‘We pray that you bless this house,’ you would say [i xana ra barakat betε] ‘Bless this house!’