

## LESSON 3

# The Sounds of Farsi II: gh · r · the Catch



Three last pieces and your sound kit is **complete**. After this lesson, every Farsi word for the next 97 lessons is pronounceable with sounds you own.

## AFTER THIS LESSON YOU CAN...

- Make the **gh** — a soft, voiced gargle (and finally say *âghâ* properly).
- Tap the Farsi **r** like the tt in American "butter."
- Hear and copy the **catch** — the tiny "uh-oh" stop inside words.
- Answer "Persian, Farsi, or Iranian?" like someone who knows.

## THE WORD MAP

Say each one out loud as you read — voice on for every gh.

### ghahve

coffee

*today's hero word — order one like Sam*

### ghashang

beautiful

*gh + your Lesson 2 "a" — compliments unlocked*

### bârun

rain

*street form of bârân — the ân → un move again*

### chetor

how

*the stem hiding inside chetori — tap that r*

### ba'd

after · then

*the ' is the catch — ba...(stop)...d*

### sa'at

hour · time

*two a's separated by the catch — sa...at*

## SOUND 1 — THE GH (VOICE ON)

### How to make it

Same neighborhood as **kh**, but with your voice **on**. Think of a very soft gargle, or the French *r* in "Paris."  
Test: put a hand on your throat — **kh** doesn't buzz, **gh** does.

Ladder: **ghhh** → **gha** → **ghahve**. Then the payoff from Lesson 2: **âghâ** — you can finally say its middle sound.

## SOUND 2 — THE TAPPED R

### How to make it

One single, quick tap of the tongue tip — exactly the *tt* in American "butter" or *dd* in "ladder." Never the long English "rrr." You've been doing it since **âre**.

Tap it in: **âre** · **bârûn** · **chetor** · **merci**.

## SOUND 3 — THE CATCH (')

### How to make it

Not a sound — a tiny **stop**. English has it in the middle of "uh-oh." In Farsi it lives inside words: **ba'd** = ba... (stop)...d, **sa'at** = sa...(stop)...at. Don't force it; a light hiccup of silence is perfect.

### THE BUZZ TEST

Hand on throat: say **khub** (no buzz on *kh*) then **ghahve** (buzz on *gh*). If both buzz or neither does, slow down and exaggerate — the contrast is the skill.

## STREET FARSI: BÂRÂN → BÂRUN

The ân → un shift from Lesson 2 keeps paying: **bârân** (books) → **bârun** (Tehran). Add it to your collection: nân→nun · khâne→khune · Tehrân→Tehrun · bârân→bârun.

## THE SCENE — SAM ORDERS A COFFEE

Leila's little coffee corner is open. The word starts with today's new sound. High-five earned.

| SPEAKER | FARSI               | ENGLISH                   |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Leila   | Salâm, Sam! Ghahve? | Hi Sam! Coffee?           |
| Sam     | Âre! Ghahve...      | Yeah! Coffee... (almost!) |
| Leila   | Dobâre!             | Again!                    |
| Sam     | Ghahve!             | Coffee!                   |
| Leila   | Âfarin!             | Well done! (high five)    |
| Sam     | Merci!              | Thanks!                   |

### NOTICE THE COACHING KIT AT WORK

**Dobâre!** and **Âfarin!** are Lesson 2 coach words — you understood a real correction loop in Farsi. That's the course working exactly as designed.

### Your sound kit — complete

â deep & calm · kh air, no voice · gh voice on, deeper · r one quick tap · ' the catch. From Lesson 4 on, we just build words.

## PERSIAN, FARSI, OR IRANIAN?

**Persian** = the language's English name (say this in English sentences: "I'm learning Persian"). **Fârsi** = the language's own name for itself. **Iranian** = a nationality — a person, not a language. Both "Persian" and "Farsi" are correct in everyday use; "I speak Iranian" is the one to avoid.

## EXERCISES — PART 1

### 1 • Match

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. ghahve   | a. rain         |
| 2. ghashang | b. hour · time  |
| 3. bârun    | c. coffee       |
| 4. chetor   | d. after · then |
| 5. ba'd     | e. beautiful    |
| 6. sa'at    | f. how          |

### 2 • kh or gh? (the buzz test)

Say each word with a hand on your throat, then circle which sound it uses:

ghahve (kh / gh)   khune (kh / gh)   âghâ (kh / gh)   khub (kh / gh)   ghashang (kh / gh)

### 3 • Find the catch

Circle the words that contain the tiny stop:

ba'd · bârun · sa'at · ghahve · âre

## EXERCISES — PART 2

## 4 • Street-ify (full collection)

bârân → \_\_\_\_\_ nân → \_\_\_\_\_ khâne → \_\_\_\_\_ Tehrân → \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 • You're Sam (order your coffee)

Leila: "Salâm, Sam! Ghahve?" → You: \_\_\_\_\_! \_\_\_\_\_!

Leila: "Dobâre!" → You (better): \_\_\_\_\_!

Leila: "Âfarin!" → You: \_\_\_\_\_!

## 6 • Tap check

Read out loud, tapping the r once (never rolling long): âre • bârun • chetor • merci • âfarin. If your tongue bounces exactly once per r — passed.

## 7 • True or false

- a) "Iranian" is the name of a language. (T / F)
- b) Fârsi is what the language calls itself. (T / F)
- c) Persian and Farsi are the same language. (T / F)

## 8 • The full ladder (out loud)

khkh → ghkh (feel the buzz switch on) → gha → ghahve → "Âre! Ghahve!" Then read the scene on page 3, both roles, twice — with the high-five.

## DAILY 5-MINUTE ROUTINE UNTIL LESSON 4

- 1) buzz test: khub / ghahve ×3
- 2) tap line: âre-bârun-chetor ×3
- 3) catch pair: ba'd, sa'at ×3
- 4) the scene, both roles
- 5) drill track on a walk.

## ANSWER KEY

- 1 • **Match:** 1-c · 2-e · 3-a · 4-f · 5-d · 6-b
- 2 • **kh or gh:** ghahve=gh · khune=kh · âghâ=gh · khub=kh · ghashang=gh
- 3 • **Catch words:** ba'd, sa'at
- 4 • **Street-ify:** bârun · nun · khune · Tehrun
- 5 • **You're Sam:** Âre! Ghahve! · Ghahve! · Merci!
- 7 • **T/F:** a) F — it's a nationality b) T c) T

## WORDS YOU OWN NOW

ghahve

ghashang

bârun

chetor

ba'd

sa'at

+ the full sound kit: â · kh · gh · r · '

## NEXT — LESSON 4: GREETINGS FOR EVERY OCCASION

Morning to midnight, friend to grandmother: the greeting for every moment, and the polite **shomâ** vs casual **to** — your first taste of Persian courtesy (ta'ârof comes later; bring snacks).