

LESSON 7



Numbers 0–20 & Phone Numbers

Twenty numbers, one catchy pattern, one gift of a grammar rule — and the most loving way to answer a phone on planet Earth.

AFTER THIS LESSON YOU CAN...

- Count 0–20, Tehran-style: **shish**, **punzdah**, **shunzdah**, **hivdah**.
- Ask **chand tâ?** — how many? — and order **do tâ ghahve**.
- Give and take a phone number digit by digit.
- Answer the phone two ways: **âlo?** and **jânam?**

THE COUNTING BOARD

0 sefr 1 yek 2 do 3 se 4 chahâr 5 panj

6 shish* 7 haft 8 hasht 9 noh 10 dah

11 yâzdah 12 davâzdah 13 sizdah 14

16 shunzdah* 17 hivdah* 18 hejdah 19 nuzdah

chahârdah 15 punzdah*

20 bist

** street forms — books write shesh, pânzdah, shânzdah, hefdah; Tehran says these.*

THE -DAH PATTERN

Every teen ends in **-dah** — the "ten" hiding inside, exactly like English four-TEEN. Hear yâz-dah, davâz-dah, siz-dah... and the teens are already yours.

THE GIFT RULE: NUMBER + SINGULAR

After any number, the noun stays **singular**: **do tâ ghahve** — two coffee, never coffees. **Panj tâ nun** — five bread. The little **tâ** is the all-purpose counter; sprinkle it after numbers when counting things.

CHAND TÂ? & SHOMÂRE

Chand tâ? = how many? — the question that runs every market. **Shomâre** = number (phone number included). **Shomâre-t chande?** = what's your number? (the -t = your, casual — the -am family's cousin.)

CULTURE: ANSWERING WITH LOVE

Strangers and unknown numbers: **âlo?** — hello? But family and close friends answer **jânam?** — literally "my soul?" Yes: Iranians answer the phone with love. When someone you know calls — jânam? Watch them melt.

THE SCENE — EXCHANGING NUMBERS

SPEAKER	FARSI	ENGLISH
Amir	Shomâre-t chande?	What's your number?
Sam	Sefr — panj — shish — do — se!	0 5 6 2 3!
Amir	Âfarin! ...Alo?	Got it! (calls instantly) Hello?
Sam	Jânam?	My soul? (nailed it)
Amir	Ghahve?	Coffee?
Sam	Âre! Do tâ ghahve!	Yeah! Two coffees!

THE WORLD'S FASTEST PHONE TEST

Amir calls Sam from across the room just to hear him answer. Sam answers **jânam?** — friendship level: unlocked. Note the grammar flex at the end: **do tâ ghahve**, noun singular.

EXERCISES — PART 1

1 • Fill the gaps

4 = _____ 6 = _____ 9 = _____ 12 = _____ 15 = _____
_____ 17 = _____ 20 = _____

2 • Street or book?

Circle the Tehran forms: shesh / shish · punzdah / pânzdah · shânzdah / shunzdah · hivdah / hefdah

3 • The singular rule

Two coffees = do tâ _____ · five breads = panj tâ _____ · three houses = se tâ _____

4 • Say your digits

Write your own phone number in Farsi words (street forms welcome):

EXERCISES — PART 2

5 • Backwards!

Count 10 → 0 out loud. Then the teens 20 → 11. (This is where the -dah pattern proves it stuck.)

6 • Who's calling?

Your best friend calls: answer _____ · Unknown number: answer _____

7 • Math, out loud

do + se = _____ · shish + haft = _____ · bist – yek = _____

8 • The exchange (out loud)

Play the scene both ways with your real number. End by ordering do tâ ghahve — you've earned them.

DAILY 5-MINUTE ROUTINE UNTIL LESSON 8

1) count 0–20 up and down 2) your phone number ×3, faster each time 3) jânam? to every (family) call today 4) drill track.

ANSWER KEY

- 1: chahâr · shish · noh · davâzdah · punzdah · hivdah · bist
- 2: shish · punzdah · shunzdah · hivdah
- 3: ghahve · nun · khune (all singular!)
- 6: jânam? · âlo?
- 7: panj · sizdah · nuzdah

YOU OWN NOW

sefr → bist

shish · punzdah · hivdah

chand tâ?

do tâ ghahve

shomâre

âlo? · jânam?

NEXT — LESSON 8: NUMBERS TO 1,000 & YOUR AGE

The -o- linker (bist-o-panj), asking age like a local (chand sâlete?) — and the age-guessing game at the mehmuni where everyone lies, charmingly.