Lesson 2

The Balochi nominal system
part 1
Noun forms

Direct case (no ending) is used

- as the subject of the sentence (but not always, exceptions will be presented later)

É ketáb grán ent. ‘This book is heavy/expensive/difficult.’

Á bachak wassh ent. ‘That boy is happy.’

Bálách edá ent. ‘Balach (a boy’s name) is here.’

Háni ódá ent. ‘Hani (a girl’s name) is there.’

Bálách o Háni brát o gohár ant. ‘Balach and Hani are siblings (sister and brother).’
Singular and plural

There is no difference between the noun in the singular and the plural. Only the verb shows if it is singular or plural.
É ketáb grán ent. ‘This book is heavy/expensive/difficult.’

Á bachak wassh ent. ‘That boy is happy.’

É ketáb grán ant. ‘These books are heavy/expensive/difficult.’

Á bachak wassh ant. ‘Those boys are happy.’
The suffix -á
Oblique case singular

When an -á is added to the noun we get a so-called oblique form of the noun in the singular which is used when the noun is a direct object of the sentence. The direct object is the person or thing which is affected by the verb action, e.g. we see YOU, they wrote A LETTER, Peter bought A BOOK

Examples on next slide.
Singular direct objects
with the suffix -á

É ketábá bwán! ‘Read this book!’

آ كتیبا بوان!

Á bachaká genday? ‘Do you see that boy?’

آ بچکا گندی؟

Maróchi Háni Bálabá gendit. ‘Today Hani sees/will see/will meet Balach.’

مررچی هانی بالاخا گندیت.

Bálách Hániá nagendit. ‘Balach does not see / will not see / will not meet Hani.’

بالاخ هانیا نگندیت.

When the direct object consists of several words, only the last word gets the -á:

Bálách o Hániá gendán. ‘I see Balach and Hani.’

بالاخ و هانیا گندان.
The verb ‘to see’

Note the forms of the verb ‘to see, to meet’ so that you can more easily understand the examples on the previous slide.

gendán ‘I see’
genday ‘you see’
gendit ‘he/she/it sees’
gendén ‘we see’
gendét ‘you see’
gendant ‘they see’

nagendán ‘I don’t see’
nagenday ‘you don’t see’
nagendit ‘he/she/it doesn’t see’
nagendén ‘we don’t see’
nagendét ‘you don’t see’
nagendant ‘they don’t see’

(For Arabic-Balochi, see next slide.)
gendag گندگ ‘to see’
The oblique case with -á after prepositions

The á case is also used after prepositions. Prepositions are words like ‘on, in, at, for, to, beside, against’. There are only a few prepositions in Balochi.

pa Báláchá په بالاچا ‘for Balach’
gón Hániá گون هانیا ‘with Hani’
cha é bachaká چه اے بچکا ‘from this boy’
mán é ketábá مان اے کتابا ‘in this book’

When the preposition is followed by several words, only the last word gets the -á suffix:

pa Bálách o Hániá په بالاچ و هانیا ‘for Balach and Hani’
The oblique case with -á to denote location or direction

Man shahrá rawán. ‘I go/will go to town.’

Taw shahrá ay? ‘Are you in town?’

Á lógá ent. ‘He/she is at home.’

Má eskulá/madrasahá én. ‘We are at school.’

Shomá Swidhaná/Suedá ét? ‘Are you in Sweden?’

(the words in red font are common in Iran, the ones in blue font in Pakistan)
When the noun ends in -á

When the noun ends in -á the ending is -yá

pa donyáyá په دنیا یا ‘for the world’

Man maróchi Issáyá nagendán. ‘I don’t see Issá (a boy’s name) today.’ or ‘I won’t see Issá today.’

من مروچی ایسایا نگندان.
The suffix -án
Oblique case plural

When an -án is added to the noun we get a so called oblique form of the noun in the plural which is used when the noun is a direct object of the sentence.

É ketábán bwán! ‘Read these books!’

Á bachakánə genday? ‘Do you see those boys?’

When the direct object consists of several words, only the last word gets the -án.
Á bachak o jenekánə genday? ‘Do you see those boys and girls?’

(The a in the red font will be explained in the next lesson.)
The oblique case with -án after prepositions

gón é sangatán گون اه سنگتان ‘with these friends’
cha á bachakán چه آ بچکان ‘from those boys’

When the preposition is followed by several words, only the last word gets the -án suffix:

pa brát o gohárán ‘for the brothers and sisters’
The oblique case with -án to denote location or direction

É kerr o gwarán áp nést. ‘There is no water in this region.’
Unmarked direct objects

When a direct object is generic (i.e. denotes any member of a class) it does not get the -á suffix:

Man ketába gerán. ‘I buy books (or possibly even only one book, but not a specific book).’

من كتابَ گران.

cf.
Man é ketábá gerán. ‘I buy this book.’

من اَه كتابا گران.

Man é ketábána gerán. ‘I buy these books.’

من اَه كتابانَ گران.
The individuation clitic =é

To denote a singular, often specific entity the clitic =é is added to the noun. A noun with the clitic =é can function as subject (and also as direct object, see below).

Ketábé beger! ‘Buy a book!’

Bachaké kayt. ‘Á (certain) boy comes.’

Jeneké rawt. ‘Á (certain) girl goes.’

Mardé átk. ‘A (certain) man came.’

كتابِي بگیر!

بچکی کتبت.

جنکی رئوت.

مردے آتک.
é+á

A combination of é and á is used to denote a singular specific direct object, particularly when it denotes a human being.

Mardéá gendán. ‘I see a (particular) man.’

It can also denote a specific direction or location

Dega molkéá rawt. ‘He/she goes to another (specific) country.’
Direct objects with =é but without -á

There are specific direct objects with =é but without -á, often denoting non-human beings:

چیزے گندانے؟ 'Do you see anything?'
Kuchaké gendán. ‘I see a dog.’
Pesshié (gorbagé) gendán. ‘I see a cat.’
Pasé gendán. ‘I see a sheep/goat.’
Méshé gendán. ‘I see a sheep.’
Bozé gendán. ‘I see a goat.’
Góké gendán. ‘I see a cow.’
Oshteré gendán. ‘I see a camel.’
To be

To express ‘to be’, Balochi needs a verb in all persons except the 3rd person singular. The individuation clitic =é is enough in the 3rd person singular. Ex.

Janéné án. ‘I am a woman.’ 
Mardé ay. ‘You are a man.’
Bachaké. (no verb) ‘It is a boy.’
Jenék én. ‘We are girls.’
Ostád ét. ‘You are teachers.’
Dhákthar (doktor) ant. ‘They are doctors.’
Wordlist

ketáb كتاب ‘book’
grán گران ‘heavy, expensive, difficult’
bachak بچک ‘boy’
jenek جنگ ‘girl’
wassh وش ‘happy’
edá إدا ‘here’
ódá اودا ‘there’
brát برات ‘brother’
gohár گهار ‘sister’
bwán بوان ‘read’ (imperative)
genday گندئ ‘(do) you see’
maróchi مرآچی ‘today’
gendit گندیت ‘he/she/it sees’
bale بله ‘but’
nagendit نْگْندیت ‘he/she/it doesn’t see’

gendán گندان ‘I see’

pa په ‘for’

gón گون ‘with’

cha چه ‘from’

shahr شهر ‘town’

lóg لُگ ‘house, home’

eskul اسکول (madrasa مدرسه ‘school’

Swidhan سوئد (Sued سوئد ‘Sweden’

donья دنیا ‘world’

sangat سنگت ‘friend’

brát برات ‘brother’

gohár گھار ‘sister’

kerr o gwar کر و گور ‘direction, area’

gerán گران ‘I buy’

mard مرد ‘man’

kayt کنیت ‘he/she/it comes’

rawt رئوت ‘he/she/it goes’

átk آتک ‘he/she/it came’
chiz ‘thing’
kuchak ‘dog’
pesshi ‘cat’
gorbag ‘cat’
pas ‘sheep’
boz ‘goat’
gók ‘cow’
oshter ‘camel’
janén ‘woman’
ostád ‘teacher’
dhakhtar ‘doctor’