

10400 The Adjective/Possessive particle का / के / की

A Reference Material

The ‘word’ का, के, की is used to change a noun into an adjective. The most common type of adjective made from a noun that we’ve had so far is the possessive adjective. Examples in English are such phrases as ‘the boy’s mother’, and ‘Steve’s wife’. Here ‘boy’ is a noun that is being used like an adjective to describe ‘mother’. The “’s” in “boy’s” is a ‘word ending’ that is very similar to Hindi’s का, के or की. Similarly, the words ‘her’ and ‘his’ are adjectives that describe the noun, as in ‘her sister’ and ‘her sari’.

का, के or की is written as a separate word, but it functions much like a word ‘ending’. In word order it comes right after the noun that is being turned into an adjective. Usually the word that is being described comes right after का, के or की.

Whether you choose का, के or की is dependent on whether the word being described is masculine (का), masculine plural (के) or feminine (की) used for both singular and plural). So if you are describing a balloon (गुब्बारा) which is masculine you might say नीला गुब्बारा *a blue balloon* or राज का गुब्बारा *Raj’s balloon*. Whereas if you are describing a chair (कुर्सी) which is feminine, you would say नीली कुर्सी *a blue chair* or अंजलि की कुर्सी *Anjali’s chair*. Notice that when you are describing the ‘masculine’ noun the adjective meaning ‘blue’ ends in the sound आ (ऍ) and when you are describing the ‘feminine’ noun the adjective meaning ‘blue’ ends in the sound ई (ऎ). Similarly, when you change a noun, like ‘Raj’ or ‘Anjali’ into an adjective by adding का, के or की and the noun you are describing is ‘masculine’ you choose का which ends in the sound आ (ऍ); राज का गुब्बारा *Raj’s balloon* अंजलि का गुब्बारा *Anjali’s balloon*. And when you

are describing the 'feminine' noun you choose **की** which ends in the sound ई (ी); राज की साड़ी, *Raj's sari* अंजलि की साड़ी *Anjali's sari*. **Notice that this has nothing whatsoever to do with whether the possessor is masculine or feminine!** It is all about whether the item being described or possessed is masculine or feminine.

If the noun you are describing is masculine and plural, as गुब्बारे *balloons* then the last sound in the adjective will be ए (ँ) thus नीले गुब्बारे, *blue balloons*, रंगबिरंगे गुब्बारे *colorful balloons*, and अंजलि के गुब्बारे *Anjali's balloons*.

If the noun you are describing is feminine and plural, as साड़ियां *saris*, then the last sound in the adjective will be ई (ी); thus नीली साड़ियां, *blue saris*, रंगबिरंगी साड़ियां *colorful saris*, and अंजलि की साड़ियां *Anjali's saris*.