STANDARD KURDISH ORTHOGRAPHY TABLE

Roman (Hawar)	Cyrillic	Arabic

VOWELS:

Roman (Hawar)	Cyrillic	Arabic
A a	A a	* ا / ئا
E e	Ə ə	* ه / ئه
Ê ê	E e	* ێ / ئێ
I i	Ь ь	* ‍ / ئ
Î î	И и	* ي [vowel] / ئی
O o	O o	* ۆ / ئۆ
U u	Ö ö	* و [vowel] / ئو
Û û	У у	* وو / ئوو
'E 'e (E') (e')	Ə' ə'	عه

CONSONANTS:

Roman (Hawar)	Cyrillic	Arabic
B b	Б б	ب
C c	Щ щ	ج
Ç ç	Ч ч	چ
Ç' ç'	Ч' ч'	چ
D d	Д д	د
[Ɖ] [ɖ]		ض
'E 'e (E') (e')	Ə' ə'	عه
F f	Ф ф	ف
G g	Г г	گ
H h	Һ һ	ه

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* Initial vowels begin with a hamzah kursi (ئ)

Roman (Hawar)		Cyrillic		Arabic
Ḧ (H')	ḧ (h')	Һ	һ	ح
J	j	Ж	ж	ژ
K	k	К	к	ك
K'	k'	К'	к'	ك
L	l	Л	л	ل
Ł	ł	Л̂	л̂	ڵ
M	m	М	м	م
N	n	Н	н	ن
P	p	П	п	پ
P'	p'	П'	п'	پ
Q	q	Q	q	ق
R	r	Р	р	ر
Ř	ř	Р̂	р̂	ڕ
S	s	С	с	س
Ş	ş	Ш	ш	ش
Ṣ	ṣ			ص
T	t	Т	т	ت
T'	t'	Т'	т'	ت
Ṭ	ṭ			ط
V	v	В	в	ڤ
W	w	W	w	و [consonant]
X	x	Х	х	خ
X̌	x̌	Г'	г'	غ
Y	y	Й	й	ي [consonant]

Roman (Hawar)	Cyrillic	Arabic
Z z	З з	ز
ʿ	ʼ	ع

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1. In Sorani, the conjunction 'and' (و) should be rendered **u** if the preceding word ends in a consonant, and **w** following a vowel. In Kurmanji, it is spelled **û** in Latin orthography and should be romanized that way as well.

2. In the Arabic orthography for Kurdish, all vowels are written out, with the exception of i (short i), which is expressed by a "kasrah" under the preceding consonant, although that "kasrah" is rarely written. At the beginning of a word, the i is preceded by a "kursî hamza" (see 3. below):

kirin "to do"	кьрьн	کرن
k'irîn "to buy"	к'ьṕин	کرین
int'în "to sigh"	ьнт'ин	ئنتین

3. In the Arabic orthography for Kurdish, when a vowel comes at the beginning of a word -- or when a vowel directly follows another vowel -- a "kursî hamza" precedes it, e.g.

agir "fire"	агьр	ئاگر
oẍir "luck"	оѓьр	ئۆغر
exte "nag horse"	эхтэ	ئەختە
naêm "I don't come"	наем	نائێم

4. In the Arabic orthography for Kurdish, the four forms of the Arabic letter hā' (ھ‍ھ‍ھہ) have been reinterpreted. Two forms (intial ھ and medial ھ‍) are the letter H, while two forms (final ‍ھ and independent ہ) are the letter E.

Final and independent H are both expressed by the initial form (ھ). Hence, the full paradigm for H is: intitial ھ; medial ﻬ; final ﺢ; independent ھ.

Examples:
initial ھ:

her "each"	həp	ھەر
hatin "to come"	haтьн	ھاتن
lehî "flood"	лəhи	لەھي

medial ﻬ:

bihîstin "to hear"	бьhистьн	بهیستن

final ﺢ:

cih "place; bed"	цьh	جھ

independent ھ:

meh "month"	мəh	ﻤ ھ ﻢ

E (ﻪ) behaves like the letters əlif ١, wāw ﻭ, dāl ﺩ, and rā ﺭ, in that it never joins to the following letter (i.e., it has no medial form). Consequently, the following letter must start over with the initial form (unless there is only one following letter, in which case it will be written in the independent form). As with other vowels, initial E (ﻪ) is preceded by the kursî hamzah (ﺉ), yielding initial ﺋە. Hence, the full paradigm for E is:

 intitial [beginning a word] ﺋە; [medial ﻪ]; final ﻪ; independent ﻩ.

Examples:
initial ﺋە :

enî "forehead"	əни	ﺋەني
esp "horse" (Sorani)	əсп	ﺋەسپ

[medial ﻪ: medial is replaced by final, as with əlif , wāw etc,]

final ﻪ:

lehî "flood"	лəhи	لەھي
ç'em "river"	ч'əм	چەم

ême "we" (Sorani)	ема	ئێمه
p'îne "patch"	п'инә	پێینه

independent ه:

dest "hand"	дәст	دهست
wek "like, as"	wәк	وهك

5. The Arabic letter yā' ي has two equivalents in the Roman orthography: it can be the vowel **î** and the consonant **y**. Likewise, the Arabic letter wāw و can be both the vowel **u** and the consonant **w**. If preceded by a consonant, yā' ي and wāw و are the vowels **î** and **u** respectively, e.g.,

dîtî "s/he saw" (Sorani)	[дити]	دیتي
bîbînim "If I see it" (Sorani)	[бибиньм]	بیبینم
Soranî "Sorani"	Сорани	سۆراني
K'urd "Kurd"	К'öрд	کورد
tu "thou, you"	Tö	تو

Likewise, yā' ي and wāw و are the consonants **y** and **w** respectively:

a) at the beginning of a word, e.g.,

yarmetî "help" (Sorani)	[йармәти]	یارمهتي
witin "to say" (Sorani)	[wьтьн]	وتن

or

wutin "to say" (Sorani)	[wöтьн]	ووتن

b) if preceded by a vowel (including short i, which is not written), e.g.,

şayan "worthy" (Sorani)	[шайан]	شایان
naybînim "I don't see it" (Sor.)	[найбиньм]	نایبینم
aw "water" (Sorani)	[aw]	ئاو
bedew "beautiful"	бәдәw	بهدهو
diwêre "s/he dares"	дьwepә	دویێره
biyanî** "foreign"	бьйани	بیاني

**Also: bîyanî   бийани   بییاني

şiyan "to be able" шьйан شیان

c) if preceded by a consonant and followed by a vowel, e.g.,

birwa "belief" (Sorani) [бьрwа] بروا

xwarin "to eat" хwарьн خوارن

dîtyan "they saw" (Sorani) [дитйан] دیتیان

asyaw "mill" (Sorani) [асйаw] ئاسیاو

6. In the Cyrillic orthography for Kurdish, the distinction between aspirated stops (ç', k', p', t') and unaspirated stops (ç, k, p, t) is always written, and Soviet scholars also preserve this distinction in the roman orthography. Elsewhere it is generally ignored, and consequently this distinction does not exist in the Arabic orthography for Kurdish.

7. The Soviet scholars created the **e'** (Cyrillic ә'), which represents two different sounds: when the sound is ['ayin] + e, as at the beginning of a word (in Arabic script written عه), a preferable spelling is **'e**, placing the apostrophe

before the vowel. By analogy, one also finds 'a (عا), 'î (عی), 'o (عۆ), 'û (عوو). The

original **e'** [with the apostrophe *after* the vowel] is reserved for cases where the vowel [e] is followed by the ['ayin], as in the word **me'r** (مەعر), a dialectal

variant of **mar** [snake]. Since **e'** could be identified either as a vowel or a consonant, it has been added to both categories in the Kurdish orthographic table.

Standard reference dictionaries for Kurdish include:
for Kurmanji (northern dialects)
Michael L. Chyet. Kurdish-English Dictionary = Ferhenga Kurmancî-Inglîzî
    (New Haven and London : Yale University Press, 2003)
Ferdîdon Çelebî and Danko Sipka. Kurmanji Kurdish-English Glossary
    (Springfield, VA : Dunwoody, 2002)
for Sorani (central dialects)
Shafiq Qazzaz. The Sharezoor : Kurdish-English Dictionary (Erbil : Aras, 2000)