

Persian Romanization Table
2011 version

Persian

Letters of the Alphabet

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
ل	ل	ل	ل	omit (see Note 1)
ب	ب	ب	ب	b
پ	پ	پ	پ	p
ت	ت	ت	ت	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	s
ج	ج	ج	ج	j
چ	چ	چ	چ	ch
ه	ه	ه	ه	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh
د	د	د	د	d
ز	ز	ز	ز	z
ر	ر	ر	ر	r
ز	ز	ز	ز	zh
س	س	س	س	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	sh
ص	ص	ص	ص	š
ض	ض	ض	ض	z
ط	ط	ط	ط	t̪
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	z̪
ع	ع	ع	ع	' (ayn)
غ	غ	غ	غ	gh
ف	ف	ف	ف	f
ق	ق	ق	ق	q
ک	ک	ک	ک	k (see Note 2)
گ	گ	گ	گ	g (see Note 3)
ل	ل	ل	ل	l
م	م	م	م	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	n
و	و	و	و	v (see Note 3)
ه	ه	ه، ۀ	ه، ۀ	h (see Note 4)
ی	ی	ی	ی	y (see Note 3)

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Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 5)

ā	A	ā, ā̄	ā (see Note 6)	ā	ā
á	U	á	á (see Note 7)	á	aw
ü	I	ü	ü	ü	ay

Notes

RULES OF APPLICATION

Letters Which May Be Romanized in Different Ways Depending on Their Context

1. | (*alif*) is used:

- (a) As a support for Ə (*hamzah*) and ܲ (*maddah*). In these cases it is not represented in romanization. See rules 4 and 5.
- (b) To indicate the long vowel romanized ā. For the use of | in *tanvīn*, see rule 6.

dānā دانا

2. **9** is used to represent:

(a) The consonant romanized *v*.

varzish ورزش

davā دوا

سرو sarv

سرو

Silent گ following ڙ is retained in romanization.

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khvāstan	خواستن
khvud	خود

(b) The long *ū*-vowel (and short *u*-vowel in some monosyllables) is romanized *ū*.

dūr	دور
chūn	چون
tū	تو

(c) The diphthong romanized *aw*.

Firdawsī	فردوسی
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When the diphthong precedes a consonantal *و*, the combination is romanized *aww*. See rule 7.

و may be used as a support for *ء* (*hamzah*); in this case it is not represented in romanization. See rule 4.

3. *ی* is used to represent:

(a) The consonant romanized *y*.

yār	یار
siyāh	سیاه
pāy	پای

(b) The long vowel romanized *ī*.

īrān	ایران
qālī	قالی

(c) The diphthong romanized *ay*.

ayvān	ایوان
ray	ری

(d) The final long vowel romanized *á*.

Muṣṭafá	مصطفی
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For the use of *ی* (*y*) as a mark of *izāfah*, see rule 8(c).

ی in the medial forms *ر*, *ء*, without dots, may be used as a support for *ء* (*hamzah*); in this case *ی* is not represented in romanization. See rule 4 below.

Orthographic Symbols Other than Letters and Vowel Signs

The signs listed below are frequently omitted in Persian writing and printing; their presence must then be inferred. They are represented in romanization according to the following rules:

4. *ء* (*hamzah*)

(a) When initial, *ء* is not represented in romanization.

(b) When medial or final, *ء* is romanized ' (alif) except as noted in (c) and (d) below.

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mu'assir مؤشر
 khulafā' خلفاء
 pā̄īn پائين

(c) When used as a mark of *izāfah*, ء is romanized -'ī.
 astānah-'ī dar استانه در
 (d) When used to mark the indefinite article, ء is romanized 'ī.
 khānah'ī خانه

5. ڻ (*maddah*)

(a) Initial ڻ is romanized ā.
 āb آب
 Kulliyat al-Ādāb كلية الآداب

(b) Medial ڻ, when it represents the phonetic combination 'ā, is so romanized.
 ma'āsīr ماض
 Daryā'ābādī دریآبادی

(c) ڻ is otherwise not represented in romanization.
 girdāvarandah گردآورنده

6. *Tanvīn*, (written ڻ, ڻ, ڻ, ڻ), which occurs chiefly in Arabic words, is romanized *un*, *in*, *an*, and *an*, respectively.

7. ڻ (*shaddah* or *tashdīd*) is represented by doubling the letter or digraph concerned.

khurram	خرم
avval	اول
bachchah	بچه
Khayyām	خیام

Note the exceptional case where ڻ is written over ڻ and ڻ to represent the combination of long vowel plus consonant.

nashrīyāt	نشریات
qūvah	قوه

Grammatical Structure as It Affects Romanization

8. *Izāfah*. When two words are associated in the relation known as *izāfah*, the first (the *muzāf*) is followed by an additional letter or syllable in romanization. This is added according to the following rules:

(a) When the *muzāf* bears no special mark of *izāfah*, it is followed by *-i*.

dar-i bāgh	dr	باغ
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	qālī-i īrān	قالی ایران
	khānah-i buzurg	خانه بزرگ
(b)	When the <i>muzāfi</i> is marked by the addition of ء, it is followed by -'i.	
	qālī-'i īrān	قالی ایران
	khānah-'i buzurg	خانه بزرگ
(c)	When the <i>muzāfi</i> is marked by the addition of ی, it is followed by -yi.	
	rū-yi zamīn	روی زمین
	Daryā-yi Khazar	دریای خزر
	khānah-yi buzurg	خانه بزرگ
(d)	<i>Izāfah</i> is represented in romanization of personal names only when expressly identified in the Persian script.	

Affixes and Compounds

9. Affixes.

(a) When the affix and the word with which it is connected grammatically are written separately in Persian, the two are separated in romanization by a single prime ('). See also 12(b) below.

	khānah'hā	خانه‌ها
	khānah'am	خانه‌ام
	khānah'ī	خانه‌ای
	mī'ravam	می‌روم
<i>but</i>	mīravam	می‌روم
	bih'gū	به‌گو
	bar'rāsīhā	بررسیها
	Kāzīm'zādah	کاظم‌زاده
<i>but</i>	Kāzīmzādah	کاظم‌زاده

(b) The Arabic article *a/* is separated by a hyphen, in romanization, from the word to which it is prefixed.

	dār al-mu'allimīn	دار المعلمین
	'Abd al-Husayn	عبد الحسین

10. Compounds. When the elements of a compound (except a compound personal name) are written separately in Persian, they are separated in romanization by a single prime ('). See also 12(b) below.

	marīz'khānah	مریض‌خانه
<i>but</i>	marīzkhānah	مریض‌خانه

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	Shāh'nāmah	شاهنامه
<i>but</i>	Shāhnāmah	شاهنامه
The treatment of compound personal names:		
	Ghulām 'Alī	غلام على or غلام على
	Shāh Jahān	شاه جهان or شاه جهان
	Ibn Abī Tālib	ابن ابی طالب or ابن ابی طالب

Orthography of Persian in Romanization

11. Capitalization.

- (a) Rules for the capitalization of English are followed, except that the Arabic article *a*/is lowercased in all positions.
- (b) Diacritics are used with both capital and lowercase letters.

12. The single prime (') is used:

- (a) To separate two letters representing two distinct consonantal sounds, when the combination might otherwise be read as a digraph.

marz'hā	مزه
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- (b) To mark the use of a letter in its final form when it occurs in the middle of a word.

See also rules 9(a) and 10 above.	راهه
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rāh'hā	راهه
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Qāyim'maqāmī	قایم مقامی
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Bih'āzīn	به آذین
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13. Foreign words in a Persian context, including Arabic words, are romanized according to the rules for Persian. For short vowels not indicated in the script, the Persian vowels nearest the original pronunciation of the word are supplied in romanization.

14. Dictionaries.

In romanizing Persian, the Library of Congress has found it necessary to consult dictionaries as an appendage to the romanization tables, primarily for the purpose of supplying vowels. For Persian, the principal dictionary consulted is:

M. Mu'in. *Farhang-i Fārsī-i mutavassit.*