

# Urdu Romanization Table 1997 version

Urdu

## Urdu (in Arabic Script)

### Letters of the Alphabet

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
ا	ل	ل	ا	omit (see Note 1)
ب	ب	ب	ب	b
پ	پ	پ	پ	p
ت	ت	ت	ت	t
ٹ	ٹ	ٹ	ٹ	ṭ
ث	ث	ث	ث	ṯ
ج	ج	ج	ج	j
چ	چ	چ	چ	c
ح	ح	ح	ح	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh
د	د	د	د	d
ڈ	ڈ	ڈ	ڈ	ḍ
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	ḏ
ر	ر	ر	ر	r
ڑ	ڑ	ڑ	ڑ	ṛ
ز	ز	ز	ز	z
ژ	ژ	ژ	ژ	zh
س	س	س	س	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	sh
ص	ص	ص	ص	ṣ
ض	ض	ض	ض	ẓ
ط	ط	ط	ط	ṭ
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẓ
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
گ	گ	گ	گ	g
ل	ل	ل	ل	l
م	م	م	م	m

# Urdu Romanization Table 1997 version

Urdu

ن	ن	ن	ن	n
ر	ر	ر	ر	n (see Note 2)
و	و	و	و	v
ه	ه	ه	ه	h
-	-	ة	ة	t (see Rule 10)
ی	ی (ے ، ی)	ی (ے ، ی)	ی (ے ، ی)	y (see Note 3)

## Digraphs Representing Urdu Aspirates (see Note 4)

Value

bh	بھ
ph	پھ
th	تھ
ṭh	ٹھ
jh	جھ
ch	چھ
dh	دھ
ḡh	گھ
ṛh	رھ
kh	کھ
gh	گھ

## Urdu Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 5)

Value

a	ا
u	و
i	ی
ā	آ
á	اِ ، اَ
ū	وِ ، وُ
ī	یِ ، یُ
o	و
e	اِ ، اَ
au	اِو ، اَو
ai	اِی ، اَی

## Notes to the Tables

1. For the use of <sup>l</sup> (alif) to support ء (hamzah) and م (maddah) see rules 1 and 2, respectively. For the romanization of ء by ' (alif) see rule 12. For other orthographic uses of <sup>l</sup> see rules 3-4.
2. For the distinction between ن and ر see rule 6.
3. For the distinction between ی and ے see rule 11(c) and (e).
4. For the form of the letter ء in these digraphs, see rule 9.
5. Vowel points are used sparingly, and for romanization must be supplied from a dictionary.

# Urdu Romanization Table

## 1997 version

Urdu

### RULES OF APPLICATION

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

1. *l* (*alif*), و and ی are used to support • (*hamzah*); see rule 12. When so used, these letters are not represented in romanization.
2. *l* (*alif*) is used to support ّ (*maddah*); see rule 13. When so used, it is not represented in romanization.
3. *l* (*alif*) is used after a consonant to indicate the long vowel romanized *ā*.

rāj  
karnā

راج  
کرنا

In some words of Arabic origin this *alif* appears as a superscript letter over ی representing the *alif maqṣūrah*.

da‘vā

دعویٰ

The *alif* is sometimes omitted in writing. It is always represented in romanization.

‘Abdurrahmān عبد الرحمن ، عبد الرحمان

When the long vowel *ā* is initial, it is written *ī*. See rule 13(a).

4. *l* (*alif*) may be used as an orthographic sign without phonetic significance. In these cases it is not represented in romanization. See rule 16.

‘ilman

علما

5. ط appears as a superscript letter over ت, د, and ر when the latter represent the cerebral sounds romanized *t*, *d*, and *r*, respectively.
6. Regardless of pronunciation, undotted forms of the letter ں are romanized *n* and dotted forms are romanized *ṇ*.

jahān

جہاں

7. و is used:

(a) To represent the consonant sound romanized *v*.

dev  
vujūd

دیو  
وجود

In some words of Persian origin this consonant, though written, has ceased to be pronounced. It is retained in romanization.

khvish

خویش

# Urdu Romanization Table

## 1997 version

Urdu

- (b) To represent the long vowel romanized ū.

ūkh  
Urdū

اوخ  
اردو

- (c) To represent the long vowel romanized o.

os  
dost

اوس  
دوست

For the romanization of the conjunction و as o see rule 19.

- (d) To represent the diphthong romanized au.

aur  
qaumī

اور  
قومی

- (e) To support ء (hamzah). See rule 12.

For the use of ّ (shaddah) with و see rule 14.

8. ھ is used to represent the consonantal sound romanized h.

ham  
gāh

هم  
گاہ

Final ھ, though often not pronounced, is normally retained in romanization.

kih  
guldestah

کہ  
گلدستہ

Exception is made in the case of words whose final syllable ends in an aspirated consonant. When final ھ is added to the letter ھ in this position, it is not represented in romanization.

mukh

مکھہ

9. ھ (usually written in the form ھ) is used to represent the aspirated element of the sounds romanized bh, ph, th, ṭh, jh, ch, dh, ḡh, ṛh, kh, gh.

phūl  
acchā

پھول  
اچھا

For the writing and romanization of words ending in an aspirated consonant, see rule 8.

10. ٓ and ت, which are sometimes used interchangeably, are both romanized t.

ḥikmat

حکمت ، حکمت

11. ی (often written ے) is used:

- (a) To represent the consonant romanized y.

siyāsāt  
dayā

سیاست  
دیا

# Urdu Romanization Table

## 1997 version

Urdu

- (b) To represent the long vowel romanized *ī*.

taṣvīr  
īshvār

تصویر  
ایشوار

- (c) To represent the long vowel romanized *e*.

sher  
nevā

شیر  
نیوا

When ی with this value is final, the form ع generally replaces ی.

se  
laṛke

سے  
لڑکے

- (d) To represent the long vowel romanized *ā*. See rule 3.

da'vā  
'uqbā

دعوی  
عقبی

- (e) To represent the diphthong romanized *ai*.

maidān  
bail

میدان  
بیل

When ی with this value is final, it is sometimes written ع .

hai

ہے

- (f) To support ء (*hamzah*). In this position ی is usually undotted. See rule 12.

For the use of ّ (*shaddah*) with ی see rule 14.

For the use of ی in a *muḏāf* see rule 17.

### Romanization of Orthographic Symbols Other Than Letters and Vowel Signs

Although vowel signs are frequently omitted in printed texts, they are always taken into consideration in romanization. The rules for other symbols vary.

#### 12. ء (*hamzah*)

- (a) In initial position ء is not represented in romanization.

- (b) In medial and final position, when ء represents a consonant, it is romanized ' (*alif*).

mu'min  
li'e  
bhā'ī

مؤمن  
لئے  
بہائی

# Urdu Romanization Table

## 1997 version

Urdu

- (c) When ة represents the connective syllable joining a *muẓāf* to what follows, it is romanized -yi.  
See rule 17.

malikah-yi Inglīstān      ملکہ انگلستان

13. َ (maddah)

- (a) At the beginning of a word, or following the Arabic article ال, َ is romanized ā.  
āb      آب

- (b) At the beginning of a syllable within a word, َ is romanized 'ā.  
mir'āt      مرآت  
Qur'ān      قرآن

- (c) َ is otherwise omitted in romanization.

14. ّ (shaddah or tashdīd) indicates the doubling in pronunciation of the letter over which it is written. It is represented in romanization by doubling the letter or digraph concerned.

caccā      چچا  
khaṭṭā      کھٹا  
makkhī      مکھی

When ّ occurs over و and ی, these letters are regarded as representing consonants. They are romanized vv and yy, respectively.

quvvat      قوت  
sayyid      سید  
Zakariyyā      زکریا

15. ̣ (sukūn or jazm) indicates the absence of a vowel following the letter over which it is written. It is not represented in romanization.

16. Tanvīn (written ِ, َ, ُ (اِ)) is romanized un, in, an, respectively, when it occurs in a word or expression borrowed from Arabic. Otherwise it is not represented in romanization.  
fauran      فوراً

### Romanization as Affected by Grammatical Structure

17. Iẓāfat.

- (a) When the *muẓāf*, the first of two words in the grammatical relationship known as *iẓāfat*, ends in a consonant, -i is added to it in the romanization.

tārīkh-i Hindūstān      تاریخ ہندوستان

# Urdu Romanization Table

## 1997 version

Urdu

- (b) When the *muẓāf* ends in a vowel or in silent ء, -yi is added.

daryā-yi shor

zabān-i Urdū-yi mu'allā

malikah-yi Inglīstān

دریای شور

زبان اردو معلی

ملکہ انگلستان

For the use of ء (*hamzah*) to indicate the *muẓāf*, see rule 12(c).

18. The Arabic article ال is romanized differently depending on the letters and context with which it is associated.

- (a) When it is prefixed to a word beginning with a "moon letter" ( م ، و ، ہ ، ی ، ا ، ب ، ج ، ح ) ( خ ، ع ، غ ، ف ، ق ، ک ) it is romanized *al*.

al-Qur'ān

القرآن

- (b) When it is prefixed to a word beginning with a "sun letter" ( ط ، ل ، ن ، ت ، ث ، د ، ذ ، ر ) ( ز ، س ، ش ، ص ، ض ، ط ) the *l* of the article is replaced in romanization by the same letter, or digraph, as that which begins the following word.

as-sijill

السجل

- (c) When it occurs before the second element in a name, the vowel of the article is replaced by the final vowel of the preceding word.

'Abdul'azīz

'Abdurrashīd

Abūlfazl

Zūlqarnain

Faḡlullāh

عبد العزیز

عبد الرشید

ابو الفضل

ذو القرنین

فضل اللہ

19. The conjunction و, when used to join two closely associated members of a phrase, is romanized *o*.

māl o asbāb

مال و اسباب

Otherwise و is romanized *va*.

20. Rules for the capitalization of English are followed, except that the Arabic article *al* is lowercased in all positions.

21. The macron is used with both capital and lowercase letters.

22. The hyphen is used:

- (a) To connect a *muẓāf* with the following vowel or syllable. See rule 17.

- (b) To connect the Arabic article *al* with the following word. See rule 18.

# Urdu Romanization Table

## 1997 version

Urdu

23. Foreign words in an Urdu context, including Arabic and Persian words, are romanized according to the rules for Urdu.

جناب ہیڈ ماسٹر صاحب گورنمنٹ ہائی اسکول  
Janāb-i Heḍ Māsṭar ṣāhib-i Gavarnmanṭ Hā'ī Iskūl

For short vowels not indicated in the script, the Urdu vowels nearest the original pronunciation of the word concerned are supplied in romanization.

24. A quotation in another language using the Arabic script is romanized according to the rules for the language concerned.

### SPECIAL CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER MODIFIERS IN ROMANIZATION

<i>Special Characters</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>USMARC hexadecimal code</i>
'	alif	AE
‘	ayn	B0
<i>Character Modifiers</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>USMARC hexadecimal code</i>
ٱ	acute	E2
Ɑ	macron	E5
◌̣	dot below	F2
◌̣̣	double dot below	F3
◌̣̣̣	underscore	F6