Persian Romanization Table
2012 version

Earlier versions: 2011, 1997

Persian

Letters of the Alphabet

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
ا	ا	ا	ا	omit (see Note 1)
ب	ب	ب	ب	b
پ	پ	پ	پ	p
ت	ت	ت	ت	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	s̲
ج	ج	ج	ج	j
چ	چ	چ	چ	ch
ح	ح	ح	ح	ḥ
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh
د	د	د	د	d
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	z̲
ر	ر	ر	ر	r
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	z̤
ط	ط	ط	ط	ṭ
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	z̧
ع	ع	ع	ع	' (ayn)
غ	غ	غ	غ	gh
ف	ف	ف	ف	f
ق	ق	ق	ق	q
ک	ک	ك	ك	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	ة ، ه	ة ، ه	h (see Note 4)

Persian Romanization Table
2012 version

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
یـ	ـیـ	ـی	ی	y (see Note 3)

Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 5)

◌ٰ	a	آ ، آ◌	ā (see Note 6)	◌ِ ی		ī
◌ُ	u	ی◌ٰ	á (see Note 7)	◌َ و ْ		aw
◌ِ	i	و ◌ُ	ū	◌َ ی ْ		ay

Notes

1. For the use of ا (*alif*) to support ء (*hamzah*) and ◌ٓ (*maddah*), see rule 1(a). For the romanization of ء and ◌ٓ, see rules 4 and 5 respectively. For the use of ا (*alif*) to represent the long vowel romanized *ā*, see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rule 1(b).

2. Final ک and گ (often written ک and گ) may have the form ك, without the distinguishing upper stroke or strokes. The two letters are always distinguished in romanization.

3. For other values of و and ی, see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rules 2, 3, and 7.

4. ة (dotted ه) when used as an alternative to ت is romanized *t*.

5. Vowel points are not printed on Library of Congress cards.

6. See rules 1(b) and 5.

7. See rule 3(d).

RULES OF APPLICATION

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

1. ا *(alif)* is used:

    (a) As a support for ء (*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 ا in *tanvīn*, see rule 6.

    dānā   دانا

2. و is used to represent:

    (a) The consonant romanized *v*.

varzish	ورزش
davā	دوا
sarv	سرو

    Silent و following خ is retained in romanization.

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

When the diphthong precedes a consonantal و, the combination is romanized *avv*. 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.   ى 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	مصطفىَ

For the use of ى (*y*) as a mark of *iẓāfah*, see rule 8(c).

ى in the medial forms ـ, ـ, without dots, may be used as a support for ء (*hamzah*); in this case ى 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.

mu'a<u>ss</u>ir	مؤثر
khulafā'	خلفاء
pā'īn	پائين

(c)   When used as a mark of *i<u>z</u>āfah*, ء is romanized *-'i*.

āstānah-'i dar	آستانهٔ در

(d)   When used to mark the indefinite article, ء is romanized *'i*.

khānah'i	خانهٔ

5. $\tilde{\Box}$ (*maddah*)

    (a)   Initial آ is romanized *ā*.

āb	آب
Kullīyat al-Ādāb	كلية الآداب

    (b)   Medial آ, when it represents the phonetic combination *'ā*, is so romanized.

ma'āsir	مآثر
Daryā'ābādī	درياآبادی

    (c) $\tilde{\Box}$ is otherwise not represented in romanization.

girdāvarandah	گردآورنده

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

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

khurram	خرّم
avval	اوّل
bachchah	بچّه
Khayyām	خيّام

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

nashrīyāt	نشريّات
qūvah	قوّه

Grammatical Structure as It Affects Romanization

8.   *I<u>z</u>āfah*. When two words are associated in the relation known as *i<u>z</u>āfah*, the first (the *mu<u>z</u>āf*) is followed by an additional letter or syllable in romanization. This is added according to the following rules:

    (a)   When the *mu<u>z</u>āf* bears no special mark of *i<u>z</u>āfah*, it is followed by *-i*.

dar-i bāgh	در باغ

qālī-i Īrān	قالی ایران
khānah-i buzurg	خانه بزرگ

(b)   When the *muẕāf* is marked by the addition of ء, it is followed by *-ʾi*.

qālī-ʾi Īrān	قالئ ایران
khānah-ʾi buzurg	خانۀ بزرگ

(c)   When the *muẕāf* 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	خانهی بزرگ

(d)   *Iẕāfah* 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 (ʹ). See also 12(b) below.

	khānahʹhā	خانهها
	khānahʹam	خانهام
	khānahʹī	خانهای
	mīʹravam	میروم
but	mīravam	میروم
	bihʹgū	بهگو
	barʹrasīhā	بررسیها
	Kāẓimʹzādah	کاظمزاده
but	Kāẕimzādah	کاظمزاده

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

dār al-muʿallimīn	دار المعلمین
ʿAbd al-Ḥusayn	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 (ʹ). See also 12(b) below.

	marīẕʹkhānah	مریضخانه
but	marīẕkhānah	مریضخانه
	Shāhʹnāmah	شاهنامه

but	Shāhnāmah	شاهنامه

Note the treatment of compound personal names:

Ghulām ʻAlī	غلام علی *or* غلامعلی
Shāh Jahān	شاه جهان *or* شاهجهان
Ibn Abī Ṭālib	ابن ابی طالب *or* ابن ابیطالب

Orthography of Persian in Romanization

11. Capitalization.

  (a) Rules for the capitalization of English are followed, except that the Arabic article *al* 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	مرزها

  (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.

rāh′hā	راهها
Qāyim′maqāmī	قایممقامی
Bih′āẕīn	بهآذین

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. Muʻīn. *Farhang-i Fārsī-i mutavassit.*