### Kurdish

**Roman (Hawar)** | **Cyrillic** | **Arabic**
---|---|---
Vowels | | |
A | a | أ / آ
E | e | ء / ء
Ê | ê | ە / ە
I | i | ى / ى
Î | î | م / م
O | o | و / و
Ö | ö | و / و
Ü | ü | و / و
'E (E') | 'e (e') | ء / ء
Consonants | | |
B | b | ب
C | c | ج
Ç | ç | چ
Ç’ | ç’ | چ’
D | d | د
[D] | [d] | ض
'E (E') | 'e (e') | ع
F | f | ف
G | g | گ
H | h | ه
H | ̑ | ـ
| | | |
H (H') | h (h') | ح
| | | |
J | j | ز
K | k | ك
K’ | k’ | ك’
L | l | ل
Ł | ł | ل
M | m | م
N | n | ن

* Initial vowels begin with a *kursî hamza* (ı).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roman (Hawar)</th>
<th>Cyrillic</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
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<td>و [consonant]</td>
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</table>

Notes

1. In Sorani, the conjunction “and” (و) should be rendered ێ if the preceding word ends in a consonant, and ۆ following a vowel. In Kurmanji, it is spelled ū 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 kasra under the preceding consonant, although that kasra is rarely written. At the beginning of a word, the i is preceded by a kursî hamza (see note 3).

   kirin (“to do”)   کەرەن
   k’irîn (“to buy”) کەرەین
   int’în (“to sigh”) یەنێتە

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.

   agir (“fire”)     ەگەر
   o’ir (“luck”)     ۆگەر
   exte (“nag horse”) ەختو
In the Arabic orthography for Kurdish, the four forms of the Arabic letter ُّه (hā’) have been reinterpreted. Two forms (initial ُّه and medial ُّه) are the letter H, while two forms (final ُّه and independent ُّه) are the letter E. Final and independent H are both expressed by the initial form (ُّه). Hence, the full paradigm for H is: initial ُّه; medial ُّه; final ُّه; independent ُّه.

**Initial ُّه:**
- her (“each”) ُّهو
- hatin (“to come”) ُّهاتن
- lehî (“flood”) ُّلهي

**Medial ُّه:**
- bihîstin (“to hear”) ُّبهيستن

**Final ُّه:**
- cih (“place; bed”) ُّجه

**Independent ُّه:**
- meh (“month”) ُّمه

E (ُّه) behaves like the letters alif (ُّه), wāw (ُّه), dāl (ُّه), and rā (ُّه) 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 hamza (ُّه), yielding initial ُّه. Hence, the full paradigm for E is: initial ُّه; [medial ُّه]; final ُّه; independent ُّه.

**Initial ُّه:**
- enî (“forehead”) ُّهني
- esp (“horse” (Sorani)) ُّهسب

[medial : medial is replaced by final, as with alif, wāw, etc.]

**Final ُّه:**
- lehî (“flood”) ُّلهي
- ç’em (“river”) ُّجه
- ëme (“we” (Sorani)) ُّئم
- p’îne (“patch”) ُّپینه

**Independent ُّه:**
- dest (“hand”) ُّدست
- wek (“like, as”) ُّوک
5. The Arabic letter  \( \text{yā'} \) (ي) has two equivalents in the roman orthography: it can be the vowel \( \ddot{i} \) and the consonant \( y \). Likewise, the Arabic letter \( \text{wāw} \) (و) can be both the vowel \( u \) and the consonant \( w \). If preceded by a consonant, \( \text{yā'} \) (ي) and \( \text{wāw} \) (و) are the vowels \( \ddot{i} \) and \( u \) respectively.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ditî} & \quad \text{(`s/he saw'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{bibînîm} & \quad \text{(`if I see it'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{Soranî} & \quad \text{(`Sorani'')} \\
\text{K'urđ} & \quad \text{(`Kurd'')} \\
\text{tu} & \quad \text{(`thou, you'')} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Likewise, \( \text{yā'} \) (ي) and \( \text{wāw} \) (و) are the consonants \( y \) and \( w \) respectively:

\[
\begin{align*}
a) & \quad \text{at the beginning of a word:} \\
\text{yarmetî} & \quad \text{(`help'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{witin} & \quad \text{(`to say'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{wutin} & \quad \text{(`to say'' (Sorani))} \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
b) & \quad \text{if preceded by a vowel (including short i, which is not written):} \\
\text{şayan} & \quad \text{(`worthy'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{naybînim} & \quad \text{(`I don't see it'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{aw} & \quad \text{(`water'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{bedew} & \quad \text{(`beautiful'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{diwêre} & \quad \text{(`s/he dares'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{biyanî} & \quad \text{(`foreign'')} \\
\text{şiyan} & \quad \text{(`to be able'')} \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
c) & \quad \text{if preceded by a consonant and followed by a vowel:} \\
\text{birwa} & \quad \text{(`belief'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{xwarin} & \quad \text{(`to eat'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{dîtyan} & \quad \text{(`they saw'' (Sorani))} \\
\text{asyaw} & \quad \text{(`mill'' (Sorani))} \\
\end{align*}
\]

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.

† Also biyanî (бийани, بیانی).
7. 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 ‘ә (عا), ‘ә (عی), ‘ә (عک), ‘ә (عور). 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 (مەر), a dialectal variant of mar (“snake”). Since e’ could be identified either as a vowel or as a consonant, it has been added to both categories in the Kurdish orthographic table.

Standard reference dictionaries for Kurdish include:

**Kurmanji (northern dialects)**

**Sorani (central dialects)**