

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	<u>s</u>
ج	ج	ج	ج	j
چ	چ	چ	چ	ch
ح	ح	ح	ح	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh
د	د	د	د	d
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	<u>z</u>
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	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 (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 ، ه	ه ، ه	h (see Note 4)
ی	ی	ی	ی	y (see Note 3)

Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 5)

آ	A	آ ، اَ	ā (see Note 6)	اِي	ī
أ	U	اِي	á (see Note 7)	او	aw
إ	I	و	ū	اي	ay

Notes

1. For the use of ا (alif) to support ء (hamzah) and م (maddah), see rule 1(a). For the romanization of ء and م, 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 ك and گ (often written ك 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 اِي, see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rules 2, 3, and 7.
4. ٥ (dotted ٥) when used as an alternative to ٥ 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 م (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 ڤ is retained in romanization.

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| | khvāstan | خواستن |
| | khvud | خود |
| (b) | The long <i>ū</i> -vowel (and short <i>u</i> -vowel in some monosyllables) is romanized <i>ū</i> . | |
| | dūr | دور |
| | chūn | چون |
| | tū | تو |
| (c) | The diphthong romanized <i>aw</i> . | |
| | 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. **ی** is used to represent:

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| (a) | The consonant romanized <i>y</i> . | |
| | yār | یار |
| | siyāh | سیاه |
| | pāy | پای |
| (b) | The long vowel romanized <i>ī</i> . | |
| | Īrān | ایران |
| | qālī | قالی |
| (c) | The diphthong romanized <i>ay</i> . | |
| | ayvān | ایوان |
| | ray | ری |
| (d) | The final long vowel romanized <i>ā</i> . | |
| | Muṣṭafā | مصطفی |

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

ی in the medial forms **ی**, **ی**, 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. |

mu'assir	مؤثر
khulafā'	خلفاء
pā'in	پائین

- (c) When used as a mark of *izāfah*, ة is romanized -'i.
 astānah-'i dar استانۀ در
- (d) When used to mark the indefinite article, ة is romanized 'i.
 khānah'i خانۀ

5. ّ (maddah)

- (a) Initial ّ is romanized ā.
 āb آب
 Kullīyat al-Ādāb کلیة الآداب
- (b) Medial ّ, when it represents the phonetic combination 'ā, is so romanized.
 ma'āsir مآثر
 Daryā'ābādī دریابآبادی
- (c) ّ is otherwise not represented in romanization.
 girdāvarandah گردآورنده

6. *Tanvīn*, (written َ, ِ, ِ, ِ), 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	خرم
avval	اول
bachchah	بچه
Khayyām	خیام

Note the exceptional case where ّ is written over و and ی 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 در باغ

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| | qālī-i Īrān | قالی ایران |
| | khānah-i buzurg | خانه بزرگ |
| (b) | When the <i>muzāf</i> is marked by the addition of ء, it is followed by <i>-ī</i> . | |
| | qālī-ī Īrān | قالی ایران |
| | khānah-ī buzurg | خانه بزرگ |
| (c) | When the <i>muzāf</i> is marked by the addition of ی, it is followed by <i>-yi</i> . | |
| | rū-yi zamīn | روی زمین |
| | Daryā-yi Khazar | دریای خزر |
| | khānah-yi buzurg | خانهی بزرگ |
| (d) | <i>lżāfah</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
	khānahī	خانهای
	mī'ravam	میروم
<i>but</i>	mīravam	میروم
	bih'gū	بهگو
	bar'rasīhā	بررسیها
	Kāzīm'zādah	کاظمزاده
<i>but</i>	Kāzīmzādah	کاظمزاده

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

dār al-mu'allimīn	دار المعلمین
'Abd 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 ('). See also 12(b) below.

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

	Shāh'nāmāh	شاهنامه
<i>but</i>	Shāhnāmāh	شاهنامه

Note the treatment of compound personal names:

Ghulām 'Alī	غلام علی <i>or</i> غلامعلی
Shāh Jahān	شاه جهان <i>or</i> شاهجهان
Ibn Abī Ṭālib	ابن ابی طالب <i>or</i> ابن ابیطالب

Orthography of Persian in Romanization

11. Capitalization.

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

12. The single prime (') is used:

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

marz'hā	مرزها
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- 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	قایم مقامی
Bih'āzīn	به آذین

- 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. Muṭīn. *Farhang-i Fārsī-i mutavassit.*