

## Pushto

### Letters of the Alphabet (see Note 1)

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
ټ	ټ	ټ	ټ	ṭ
ث	ث	ث	ث	s
ج	ج	ج	ج	j
چ	چ	چ	چ	ch
ح	ح	ح	ح	ḥ
ځ	ځ	ځ	ځ	ś
خ	خ	خ	خ	ẖ
د	د	د	د	kh
ډ	ډ	ډ	ډ	d
ن	ن	ن	ن	ḍ
ر	ر	ر	ر	z
ړ	ړ	ړ	ړ	r
ز	ز	ز	ز	ṛ
ژ	ژ	ژ	ژ	z
ښ	ښ	ښ	ښ	zh
س	س	س	س	zḥ
ش	ش	ش	ش	s
ښ	ښ	ښ	ښ	sh
ص	ص	ص	ص	ṣḥ
ض	ض	ض	ض	ṣ
ط	ط	ط	ط	z
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẗ
ع	ع	ع	ع	ẗ
غ	غ	غ	غ	z
ف	ف	ف	ف	' (ayn)
ق	ق	ق	ق	gh
ک	ک	ک	ک	f
				q
				k

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
گ	گ	گ	گ	g
ک	ک	ک	ک	g
ل	ل	ل	ل	l
م	م	م	م	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	n
ڼ	ڼ	ڼ	ڼ	ṅ
ڼر	ڼر	ڼر	ڼر	ṅ
و	و	و	و	w (see Note 2)
ه	ه	ه، ة	ه، ة	h
ي	ي	ي، ى	ي، ى	y (see Note 3)

#### Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 4)

Romanization	Initial	Medial	Final
a (see Note 5)	ا	-	-
u	أ	و	و
i	إ	ي	ي
ā	آ	آ	آ
á	-	-	آ (see Note 6)
ū	أو	و	و
ī	إي	ي	ي، ى
o	آو	و	و
e	إي، اې	ي، ې	ي، ى، ې، ى
aw	آو	و	و
ay	آي	ي	ي، ى
ay	-	-	ي، ى، ى

#### Notes

1. For the use of ا (*aliif*) see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rules 1-4.
2. For other uses of و see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rule 5.
3. For other forms and uses of ى see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rules 6 and 7.
4. Vowel points are rarely found in Pushto writing and printing. Vowels not indicated in the script are supplied in romanization.

5. In addition to the three short vowels recognized by the orthography of all languages using Arabic script, Pushto possesses a short, central vowel for which the sign ˘ (differentiated from ˆ) has sometimes been used. Both signs, whether written or inferred, may be romanized *a*. When this central vowel is indicated by ʾ (*hamzah*), the vowel is romanized *a*, the *hamzah* in this case is not represented in romanization. See rule 8(c) and (d). When it is desired for any reason to show the presence of a central vowel in a particular word, the romanization *ȧ* may be used.
6. See rule 7(a).
7. See rule 7(b).

## RULES OF APPLICATION

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

1. ʾ (*alif*) is used:
- (a) To indicate the presence of any of the short vowels *a*, *u*, *i*.
- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| aṭah  | اتۀ   |
| ūlas  | اولس  |
| in‘ām | انعام |
- (b) To represent the long vowel romanized *ā*. When so used, ʾ is usually written with ̄ (*maddah*).
- |      |     |
|------|-----|
| ādam | آدم |
|------|-----|
- (c) To represent, in combination with و or ی :
- (1) The long vowels romanized *ū* and *ī* respectively.
- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| ūṣh  | اوبس  |
| Īrān | ايران |
- (2) The long vowels romanized *o* and *e* respectively.
- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| os    | اوس   |
| eṣhal | اينسل |
- (3) The diphthongs romanized *aw* and *ay* respectively.
- |       |      |
|-------|------|
| awwal | اول  |
| ayyām | ايام |
2. ʾ (*alif*), when medial or final, is used to represent the long vowel romanized *ā*.
- |      |      |
|------|------|
| bābā | بابا |
|------|------|
3. ʾ (*alif*), when final, sometimes represents the combination romanized *an*. This value is confined to a few words of Arabic origin. See rule 10.





(c) When the *muzāf* is marked by the addition of ی, it is followed by *-yi*.

khānah-yi buzurg خانہ ی بزرگ

### Affixes and Compounds

#### 13. Affixes.

When the affix and the word with which it is connected grammatically are written separately in Pushto, the two are separated in romanization by a single prime ( ' ).

nā'ashnā نااشنا  
war'astawī وراستوی

Note 1: The particle د (*da*), meaning "of," is always written as a separate word in romanization.

da dāh د ده

Note 2: The Arabic article *a/* is separated from what follows by a hyphen. The / of the article is retained in romanization, regardless of whether or not this / is assimilated in pronunciation to the sound of the following letter.

'Abd al-Rashīd عبد الرشید  
Faḏl al-Ḥaqq فضل الحق  
Nizām al-Dīn نظام الدین

#### 14. Compounds.

The elements of a compound (except a compound personal name) are separated in romanization by a single prime ( ' ).

kitāb'khānah کتابخانه  
*but* marīẓkhānah مریضخانه

### Orthography of Pushto in Romanization

#### 15. Capitalization.

(a) Rules for the capitalization of English are followed, except that the Arabic article *a/* is lower cased in all positions.

(b) Diacritics are used with both capital and lower case letters.

16. Foreign words in a Pushto context, including Arabic, Persian, and Urdu words, are romanized according to the rules for Pushto. For vowels not indicated in the script, the Pushto vowels nearest those in the original pronunciation of the word are supplied in romanization.

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