

Persian Romanization Table

1997 version

Persian

Persian

Letters of the Alphabet

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
ا	ل	ل	ا	omit (see Note 1)
ب	ت	ت	ب	b
پ	ت	ت	پ	p
ت	ت	ت	ت	t
س	ج	ج	س	s
ج	چ	چ	ج	ch
ه	ه	ه	ه	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh
د	ز	ز	د	d
ز	ز	ز	ز	z
ژ	ژ	ژ	ژ	zh
ش	ش	ش	ش	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	sh
س	س	س	س	š
ز	ز	ز	ز	z
ت	ت	ت	ت	t̪
غ	غ	غ	غ	‘ (ayn)
ف	ف	ف	ف	gh
ق	ق	ق	ق	f
ک	ک	ک	ک	q
گ	گ	گ	گ	k (see Note 2)
ل	ل	ل	ل	g (see Note 3)
م	م	م	م	l
ن	ن	ن	ن	m
و	و	و	و	n
و	و	و	و	v (see Note 3)
ه	ه	ه	ه	h (see Note 4)
ي	ي	ي	ي	y (see Note 3)

Persian Romanization Table

Persian

1997 version

Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 5)

۰	a	ت, ۱۰	â (see Note 6)	چ	î
۹	u	چ۹	á (see Note 7)	ژ۹	aw
۵	i	ژ۵	û	گ۵	ay

Notes

- For the use of ۱ (alif) to support ۰ (hamzah) and ۹ (maddah) see rule 1(a). For the romanization of ۰ and ۹ see rules 4 and 5 respectively. For the use of ۱ to represent the long vowel romanized â see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rule 1(b).
- Final ۹ and ۵ (often written ۹ and ۵) may have the form ۹, without the distinguishing upper stroke or strokes. The two letters are always distinguished in romanization.
- For other values of ۹ and ۵ see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rules 2, 3, and 7.
- ۸ (dotted ۹) when used as an alternative to ۹ is romanized t.
- Vowel points are not printed on Library of Congress cards.
- See rules 1(b) and 5.
- See rule 3(d).

RULES OF APPLICATION

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

- ۱ (alif) is used:
 - As a support for ۰ (hamzah) and ۹ (maddah). In these cases it is not represented in romanization. See rules 4 and 5.
 - To indicate the long vowel romanized â. For the use of ۱ in *tāvīn* see rule 6.
دَانَة
- ۹ is used to represent:

- The consonant romanized v.

varzish

ورزش

davā

دوا

sarv

سر

Persian Romanization Table

1997 version

Persian

Silent و following ؎ is retained in romanization.

khvāstan	خواستن
khvud	خود

(b) The long *u*-vowel (and short *u*-vowel in some monosyllables) is romanized ӯ.

dür	دور
chūn	چون
tū	تو

(c) The diphthong romanized *aw*.

Firdawsī	فردوسی
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When the diphthong precedes a consonantal و, the combination is romanized *avv*. See rule 7.

و may be used as a support for ؎ (*hamzah*); in this case it is not represented in romanization. See rule 4.

3. ئ is used to represent:

(a) The consonant romanized *y*.

yār	یار
siyāh	سیاه
pāy	پای

(b) The long vowel romanized ӣ.

Īrān	ایران
qālī	قالی

(c) The diphthong romanized *ay*.

ayvān	ایوان
ray	ری

(d) The final long vowel romanized ǟ.

Muṣṭafā	مصطفی
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For the use of ئ as a mark of *iżāfah* see rule 8(c).

ئ in the medial forms -، -، without dots, may be used as a support for ؎ (*hamzah*); in this case ئ is not represented in romanization. See rule 4 below.

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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. ؎ (hamzah)

- (a) When initial, ؎ is not represented in romanization.
- (b) When medial or final, ؎ is romanized ' (alif) except as noted in (c) and (d) below.

mu'assir	مؤثر
khulafā'	خلفاء
pā'iñ	پائين
- (c) When used as a mark of *iżāfah*, ؎ is romanized -i.

astānah-i dar	استانه در
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- (d) When used to mark the indefinite article, ؎ is romanized 'i.

khānah-i	خانه
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5. ڻ (maddah)

- (a) Initial ڻ is romanized ā

āb	آب
Kulliyat al-Ādāb	كلية الآداب
- (b) Medial ڻ, when it represents the phonetic combination 'ā, is so romanized.

ma'āşir	ماڻير
Daryā'ābādī	دریا آبادی
- (c) ڻ is otherwise not represented in romanization.

gardāvārandah	گردآورنده
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6. *Tanvin* (written ئ, ؔ, ؕ, ؔ), which occurs chiefly in Arabic words, is romanized *un*, *in*, *an*, and *an*, respectively.

7. ڻ (shaddah or tashdiid) is represented by doubling the letter or digraph concerned.

khurram	خرّم
avval	اول
bachchah	بچه
Khayyām	خیام

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

nashrīyāt
qīvah

نشریات
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 Irān	قالی ایران
khānah-i buzurg	خانه بزرگ

- (b) When the *muzāf* is marked by the addition of *ِ*, it is followed by *-i'*.

qālī'-i Irān	قالی ایران
khānah'-i buzurg	خانه بزرگ

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

rū-yi zamīn	روي زمين
Daryā-yi Khazar	دریای خزر
khānah-yi buzurg	خانه بزرگ

- (d) *Izāfah* is represented in romanization of personal names only when expressly indicated 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
khānah/ī	خانه‌ای
mi/ravam	مي روم
but	but
miravam	ميروم
bih/gū	به‌گو
bar/rasīhā	بررسیها
Kāzīm/zādah	کاظم زاده
but	but
Kāzīmzādah	کاظمزاده

Persian Romanization Table

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1997 version

- (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	مریض خانه
but	marīzkhānah	مریضخانه
	Shāh/nāmah	شاه نامه
but	Shāhnāmah	شاهنامه

Note the treatment of compound personal names:

Ghulām 'Alī	غلام علی or غلامعلی
Shāh Jahān	شاه جهان or شاهجهان
Ibn Abī Tālib	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 lower cased in all positions.
- (b) Diacritics are used with both capital and lower case 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
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- (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	راها
Qāyim'maqāmī	قایم مقامی
Bih'āzin	به آذین

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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 principle dictionary consulted is:

M. Mu'īn. *Farhang-i Fārsi-i mutavassit*.

SPECIAL CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER MODIFIERS IN ROMANIZATION

<i>Special Characters</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>USMARC hexadecimal code</i>
'	soft sign (prime)	A7
,	alif	AE
'	ayn	B0
<i>Character Modifiers</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>USMARC hexadecimal code</i>
ˊ	acute	E2
ˉ	macron	E5
˘	dot below	F2
˘	double dot below	F3
܂	underscore	F6