Persian

Letters of the Alphabet

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
ا	ـا	ـا	ا	omit (see Note 1)
بـ	ـبـ	ـب	ب	b
پـ	ـپـ	ـپ	پ	p
تـ	ـتـ	ـت	ت	t
ثـ	ـثـ	ـث	ث	s̲
جـ	ـجـ	ـج	ج	j
چـ	ـچـ	ـچ	چ	ch
حـ	ـحـ	ـح	ح	ḥ
خـ	ـخـ	ـخ	خ	kh
د	ـد	ـد	د	d
ذ	ـذ	ـذ	ذ	z̲
ر	ـر	ـر	ر	r
ز	ـز	ـز	ز	z
ژ	ـژ	ـژ	ژ	zh
سـ	ـسـ	ـس	س	s
شـ	ـشـ	ـش	ش	sh
صـ	ـصـ	ـص	ص	ṣ
ضـ	ـضـ	ـض	ض	ẓ
طـ	ـطـ	ـط	ط	ṭ
ظـ	ـظـ	ـظ	ظ	ẓ
عـ	ـعـ	ـع	ع	' (ayn)
غـ	ـغـ	ـغ	غ	gh
فـ	ـفـ	ـف	ف	f
قـ	ـقـ	ـق	ق	q
کـ	ـکـ	ـك	ك	k (see Note 2)
گـ	ـگـ	ـگ	گ	g (see Note 3)
لـ	ـلـ	ـل	ل	l
مـ	ـمـ	ـم	م	m
نـ	ـنـ	ـن	ن	n
وـ	ـوـ	ـو	و	v (see Note 3)
هـ	ـهـ	ـة ، ه	ة ، ه ،	h (see Note 4)
یـ	ـیـ	ـی	ی	y (see Note 3)

Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 5)

◌̄	a	آ ، آ◌	ā (see Note 6)	ى ◌ِ	ī
◌ُ	u	ى ◌َ	á (see Note 7)	و ◌َ	aw
◌ِ	i	و ◌ُ	ū	ى ◌َ	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 ك 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 ى, 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.   ی 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 ی (*y*) as a mark of *iẓāfah*, see rule 8(c).

ی in the medial forms ‍ﻰ, ‍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’a<u>ss</u>ir	مؤثر
khulafā’	خلفاء

<div dir="rtl">پائين</div>

pā'īn

(c) When used as a mark of *iẓāfah*, ء is romanized *-'i*.

<div dir="rtl">آستانهٔ در</div>

āstānah-'i dar

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

<div dir="rtl">خانهٔ</div>

khānah'i

5. Õ (*maddah*)

(a) Initial آ is romanized *ā*.

<div dir="rtl">آب</div>

āb

<div dir="rtl">كلية الآداب</div>

Kullīyat al-Ādāb

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

<div dir="rtl">مآثر</div>

ma'ā<u>s</u>ir

<div dir="rtl">درياآبادی</div>

Daryā'ābādī

(c) Õ is otherwise not represented in romanization.

<div dir="rtl">گردآورنده</div>

girdāvarandah

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

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

<div dir="rtl">خرّم</div>

khurram

<div dir="rtl">اوّل</div>

avval

<div dir="rtl">بچّه</div>

bachchah

<div dir="rtl">خيّام</div>

Khayyām

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

<div dir="rtl">نشريّات</div>

nashrīyāt

<div dir="rtl">قوّه</div>

qūvah

Grammatical Structure as It Affects Romanization

8. *Iẓāfah*. When two words are associated in the relation known as *iẓāfah*, the first (the *muẓāf*) is followed by an additional letter or syllable in romanization. This is added according to the following rules:

(a) When the *muẓāf* bears no special mark of *iẓāfah*, it is followed by *-i*.

<div dir="rtl">در باغ</div>

dar-i bāgh

<div dir="rtl">قالی ايران</div>

qālī-i Īrān

<div dir="rtl">خانه بزرگ</div>

khānah-i buzurg

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

qālī-'i Īrān	قالئ ايران
khānah-'i buzurg	خانۀ بزرگ

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

rū-yi zamīn	روی زمین
Daryā-yi Khazar	دریای خزر
khānah-yi buzurg	خانهی بزرگ

(d) *Iẓāfah* 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
	khānah′ī	خانهای
	mī′ravam	میروم
but	mīravam	میروم
	bih′gū	بهگو
	bar′rasīhā	بررسیها
	Kāẓim′zādah	کاظمزاده
but	Kāẓimzādah	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 (′). See also 12(b) below.

	marīẓ′khānah	مریضخانه
but	marīẓkhānah	مریضخانه
	Shāh′nāmah	شاهنامه
but	Shāhnāmah	شاهنامه

Note the treatment of compound personal names:

Ghulām ‘Alī	غلام على *or* غلامعلى
Shāh Jahān	شاه جهان *or* شاهجهان
Ibn Abī Ṭālib	ابن ابى طالب *or* ابن ابيطالب

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   قايم‌مقامى

        Bih′āẕīn   به‌آذين

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. Mu‘īn. *Farhang-i Fārsī-i mutavassit.*