Part One: How to read and write Persian

I. KEY TO THE PERSIAN SOUNDS

In this book the following symbols are used as the basis for a consistent transliteration and transcription system, leaving the question of the exact pronunciation to the instruction of a competent teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book symbols</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>IPA symbols</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A</td>
<td>as in 'bad', 'hat'</td>
<td>[æ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I</td>
<td>as in 'bed', 'ebb'</td>
<td>[ɛ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. U</td>
<td>as in 'toe', 'oh'</td>
<td>[o]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ā</td>
<td>as in 'father', 'guard'</td>
<td>[a→a]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ī</td>
<td>as in 'ooze', 'canoe'</td>
<td>[u]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Ī</td>
<td>as in 'beam', 'key'</td>
<td>[i]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. IY/AY</td>
<td>as in 'pay', 'rain'</td>
<td>[ei]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. UW (AW)</td>
<td>as in 'show'</td>
<td>[aːw]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to acquire the habit of correct pronunciation of the above mentioned vowels, practice pronouncing the following words, while contrasting A, I, U with Ā, Ī, Ī in different combinations of sounds: first syllable by syllable, then word by word in sentences:

Practice 1: ba rā dar i man bā mā dar am bih ī rān raft. (My brother went to Iran with my mother).
Practice 2: in sīb ri sī dih nīst. (This apple isn't ripe).
Practice 3: us tād i mā tū u tu(w) būs būd. (Our professor was in the bus).

1The above-mentioned symbols could be represented by A, E, O, A, U, I, EY, OW. We did not use these symbols because of the scholarly transliterations of the classical and modern Persian literature in which one may rarely find E and O.
II. THE NAMES OF THE LETTERS AND THEIR TRANSLITERATIONS

The thirty-two letters in the Persian alphabet are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>alif (see vowels)¹</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>23. fi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>bi</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>13. zi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>pi</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>14. zhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>ti</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>15. sin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>si</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>16. shiN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>jim</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>17. sad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>chi</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>18. zad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>hi (ḥuṭṭī)</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>19. tain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>khi</td>
<td>KH</td>
<td>20. zain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>dāl</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>21. ‘ain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>zāl</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>22. ghain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice that ‘ai’ in numbers 19-22 is pronounced as ‘ai’ in the English word ‘maid’. Thus according to our key sounds (see I,7) we read them as ʃiyn (tayn), ʒiyn (zayn), ‘iyn (‘ayn) and ʌhiyn (ghayn) respectively.

¹Since alif is a bearer for hamzih (see: VII; XV, and XVI) some grammarians consider hamzih as the second letter in the alphabet, and thus they increase the number of letters to thirty-three.
²Throughout this work ‘W’ represents a mute ‘V’ (see: XI)
III. **ALIF, HAMZIH, 'IYN, ('AYN/'AIN)**

1. **Alif** is the first letter of the alphabet. It may appear in three positions: initial, medial, and final. In the initial position, i.e. at the beginning of a word, *alif* receives its own vowels: a, i, u; as in *abr*, 'cloud'; *insân*, 'human being'; *ustâd*, 'professor'; otherwise it is used as a mere letter of prolongation, as in words like *âb*, 'water'; *âdâm*, 'human being, Adam'; *âzâdí*, 'freedom, liberty' (see: VII, XV, and XVI).

2. **Hamzih** is a writing sign which is represented by a backward small superscript "'" as in *mas'ul*, 'responsible'; *mas'alîh*, 'problem, puzzle'; *muw'mîn*, 'a pious man'. In all these cases *hamzih* is pronounced as a glottal stop, i.e. a pause (see: XVI).

3. **'Iyn** is the twenty-first letter of the alphabet. In transliteration it is represented by a small superscript "'" in a given word as in *'adat*, 'custom'; *ma'ni*, 'meaning'; *mâni*, 'obstacle' (see: XII). Like *hamzih*, *'iyn* is pronounced as a glottal stop.

--

Practice reading the following words and sentences:

1. *abr, insân, ustâd, âb, âdâm, âzâdî*
2. *mas'ül, mas'alîh, muw'mîn*
3. *'adat, ma'ni, mânî*
4. *îsm-i şhumâ chîyih? 'What is your name?'
5. *în ma'ni nadârîh. 'This has no meaning.'*
6. *înî aâzâdî nadârîm. 'We have no freedom here.'*
7. *bihîsh 'adat mîkûnîd. 'You get used to it.'*

---

1*Alif* may be called *hamzih* when it is voweled by the short vowels: a, i, u.
IV. PRONUNCIATION

With the exception of the following letters, all the letters in the Persian alphabet are pronounced almost the same as their English equivalents.

1. **ch** as 'ch' in the English word 'church'
2. **kh** as 'ch' in the German word 'döch' or Scottish 'loch'*
3. **zh** as 's' in the English word 'vision'
4. **gh** a guttural sound close to Parisian 'r' *
5. **q** the same as **gh**
6. **g** as 'g' in the English word 'get'
7. **j** as 'j' in the English word 'jam'
8. * a pause or the so called a "glottal stop" as in be'd, 'afterwards'
9. * a glottal stop like #6 as in mas'alih, problem
10. **r** as 'r' in the English word roll with a rapid succession of taps by the tip of the tongue on the teeth ridge.
11. **k** as 'c' in the English word 'car': palatalized before vowels a, i, i, ay.

Practice enunciating properly the following sentences repeatedly, and correct your pronunciation after each time:

1. **In chira**gh **khūbih**. 'This lamp is good.'
2. **gult abi**z-hur unja'st. 'She/he said the lampshade is there.'
3. **bifarmā'dal** 'Come in, help yourself, go ahead, May I help you?'.
4. **kamī bihtar shud.** 'She/he/it go: a little better.'
5. **khwāhish mīkunam ba'd az sā'at-i chahār tīlifun bifarmāy īd.**

'Please call after four o’clock.'

(For further practice see: VI, 1-23.)

* Although **kh** represents the so-called "unvoiced velar fricative with a scrape" and **gh** a "voiced velar fricative without a scrape", for the correct pronunciation, students are strongly advised to listen to native speakers.
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V. THE LETTERS WITH THE SAME SOUNDS

Letters which have the same sounds but are transliterated differently because of their shapes in Persian script are:

1. zi, zál, žain, žād which have the Z sound as in the English word zero, e.g. zabān, tongue, language; zarrīh, minute, particle; zārar, lose; žāhiran (žāhirā’), apparently.

2. si, sīn, sād which have the S sound as in the English word sea, e.g. sābit, ‘fixed, steady’; sifīd, ‘white’; subh, ‘morning’

3. ti and tāin which have the T sound as in the English word tea, e.g. tab, ‘fever’; tūl, ‘length’

4. hi (hūtī) and hi (havvaz) which have the H sound as in the English word ‘hat’, e.g. ḥālā, ‘now’; havā, ‘weather, air’

5. qāf and ghain which have a GH sound like the noise one makes when gargling as in qānūn, ‘law’; ghazā, ‘food, meal’

6. hamzīh and ‘īyn which indicate a glottal stop as in ma’khar, ‘basis’; mu’allim, teacher

VI. PERSIAN LETTERS IN TRANSCRIPTION

Persian alphabet has no capital letters. The letters, with respect to their sounds rather than to their names can be arranged and studied by the following transcription table. In this table which is arranged alphabetically only one symbol is used for all the letters with the same sound (see: V, 1-6). For the exact phonetic description of each letter students are strongly advised to listen to the pronunciation of professional instructors who are native Persian speakers.

By eliminating the repeated sounds for the letters H, S, T, Q, and Z the following chart illustrates one of the possible romanization systems in which the number of letters in the Persian alphabet will be reduced from 32 to 22 or 23 depending on whether or not we include ‘ ’ i.e. hamzīh and ‘īyn. These are silent in Persian except in medial position heard only as a pause (see: III, 2&3).
# First Year Persian

## LETTERS

| 1. " " | muw 'addab | polite | da'vat | invitation |
| 2. B | barādar | brother | sabad | basket |
| 3. CH | chap | left | hīch | nothing |
| 4. D | dar | door | midād | pencil |
| 5. F | fardā | tomorrow | raft | he/she went |
| 6. G | guft | he/she said | rang | color |
| 7. H, Ḥ | havā | weather | ṭarf | letter, talk |
| 9. J | javāb | answer | ṭīnā | hero |
| 9. K | kār | work | tārīk | dark |
| 10. KH | khūb | good | dukhtar | daughter, girl |
| 11. L | lālih | tulip | sāl | year |
| 12. M | mādar | mother | tamām | complete |
| 13. N | nān | bread | dāna | learned, wise |
| 14. P | pidar | father | pāpūsh | difficulty, slipper |
| 15. Q, GH | qalam | pen | chirāgh | lamp |
| 16. R | rūz | day | mard | man |
| 17. S, Š, Ş | sā'at | hour, clock | maṣraf | consumption, use |
| 18. SH | shumā | you² | mushkil | difficult |
| 19. T, Ĥ | tā | till, until | ṭuf | kindness |
| 20. V | vali | but | avval | first |
| 21. Y | yā | or | kiy | when |
| 22. Z, Ž, Ž | zan | woman | zuhr | noon |
| 23. ZH | zhāpun | Japan | muzhdih | good news, tidings |

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1 All Persian words are stressed on the last syllable, i.e. barādar, sabad, mādar, avval, etc. For further examples particularly on S, Z, and Ž, see V, 1-6.

2 Like Modern English 'you', 'shumā' is commonly used for both singular and plural.
### VII. VOWELS AND SYMBOLS

There are six vowels in the Persian language which are represented by the following symbols:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbols</th>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>Initial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>َ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. i</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>َ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. u</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>َ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. ā</td>
<td></td>
<td>َ</td>
<td>َ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ū</td>
<td>َ</td>
<td>َ</td>
<td>َ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Ī</td>
<td>َ</td>
<td>َ</td>
<td>َ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first three symbols, a, i, u are not usually represented in writing except at the beginning of the word in which case they are indicated by alif-hamzah\(^1\) e.g. آن/'ān, 'cloud'; انسان/ansān, 'human being'; and أستاذ/ustād, 'professor' in which a, i and u is understood. The other three signs, ā, ū, Ī, are indicated in writing by letters َ alif, و vav, and ی yi respectively, e.g. َاب/'āb, 'water'; َو/'ū, 'he/she'; َینجا/īnjā, 'here'.

### VIII. Writing styles of the Persian script

The Persian script is written from right to left. Although varieties of fonts are in common use for publishing books, journals, and newspapers, the model for good handwriting is خاتمی nastālīq, the cursive script whose basic forms are taught in schools as illustrated in the following table.

\(^1\)See sections X and XV.
IX. A TABLE FOR THE PERSIAN SCRIPT

The Persian script is written from right to left. The following table shows the letters of the alphabet in their distinct, basic forms. It is arranged according to the conventional order of the alphabet as taught in schools and as used in dictionaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>J</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>(see the vowels)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ğim</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ši</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>ti</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>KH</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>CH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ri</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>zāl</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>dāl</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>SH</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>ZH</td>
<td>Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zād</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>šād</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>shīn</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>GH</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>T</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qāf</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>fi</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>ghīyn</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V/W</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vāv</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>nūn</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>mim</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yi</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>hi(havvaẓ)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The letters 'īyn and ghīyn and hi(havvaẓ) have more than two basic forms (see: XIII. 21, 22, & 31)
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X. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN **HAMZIH AND ALIF**

The difference between *hamzih* and *alif* is that the former accepts vowels like َ 'a', َ 'i', and َ 'u', as in أَبْرَ 'abr, 'cloud'; أَيْسْمُ 'ism, 'name'; and أَرْدُنْ 'urdun, 'Jordan', whereas the latter remains as أَأْ 'ā in بَرَانِ 'bārān, 'rain'; بَدَامُ 'bādām, 'almond'; and بَلَكُ 'kālā, 'goods'. (see: VII)

XI. HOW TO USE V/W (**VĀV**)

Note that **vāv** can be:

1. a consonant as in وَلِيْ 'valī, 'but'; وَكِيلْ 'vakīl, 'lawyer'; وَسَلِيْ 'vasālih, 'means'  
2. a short vowel as in جُلْوُ 'jiluw, 'front, ahead'; دَوْ 'duw, 'two'  
3. a long vowel as in خُوَبُ 'khūb, 'good, fine'; شُورُ 'shūr, 'salty'; دُوْسَتُ 'dūst, 'friend'  
4. a mute 'vāv' after an initial كَحُ 'kh in some Persian words like خُوَبَ 'khwāb, 'sleep' خَوَاَسْتَ 'khwāstān, 'to want'; خَوَاَسُ 'khwāhar, 'sister'; خُوُ 'khuwād, 'self'; خُوُشْ 'khuwash, 'happy, pleasant, well, lucky'; خُوُشْ 'khuwash, 'relatives, kinsman, oneself'.

XII. THE FORMS AND POSITIONS OF THE LETTERS

1. Letters with No Change in All Positions

For the letters... the same forms can be used in all positions.

2. Letters with Changes in Every Position

The forms of the letters 'īyn and ḡiyin change in every position as follows: یَ for initial and medial connected from left side only, یٰ for medial connected from both sides, یٰ for connected final, یٓ for unconnected final. (see: XIII, 21 & 22)
3. ‘iyn in Its Initial Position

In initial position, ‘iyn functions like alif-hamzeh e.g. ajalih, 'hurry, haste';...ishq, 'love';...umr, 'life, lifetime' in which the words begin with the short vowels a, i, u or...āshiq, 'lover';...ūd, 'aloe-wood, a lute';...īsā, 'Jesus' in which the words begin with the long vowels ā, ū, ī

Thus in its initial position ‘iyn is pronounced like a, i, u, ā, ū, ī (see III and VII).

4. Position of hi (havvaz)

In the initial and medial position, hi (havvaz) appears as ٖ as in šahāvā, 'weather', štānha, 'alone'. In the final position it appears in two forms, either connected as in ٕkhānīh, 'house', or independent as in ٖchāh, 'a well'. However hi (havvaz) is sometimes written as ٖ for initial, ٖ for medial connected from both sides, ٖ for final connected and ٖ for final independent.

5. Common changes in handwriting forms for certain symbols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Form</th>
<th>Changes to</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>٢</td>
<td>٢</td>
<td>nimidānam, 'I don't know'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٢</td>
<td>٢</td>
<td>ānjā, 'there'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٣</td>
<td>٣</td>
<td>kaj, 'crooked'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٤</td>
<td>٤</td>
<td>lālīh, 'tulip'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٥</td>
<td>٥</td>
<td>shahr, 'city'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٦</td>
<td>٦</td>
<td>bahār, 'spring (season)'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٧</td>
<td>٧</td>
<td>sadīh, 'plain, simple'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٨</td>
<td>٨</td>
<td>shab, 'evening, night'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٩</td>
<td>٩</td>
<td>shām, 'dinner, supper'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٠</td>
<td>٠</td>
<td>tūt, 'berries'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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XIII. HOW TO CONNECT THE LETTERS

The letters of a word are joined to one another as illustrated in the following examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>لـ تـ حـ جـ هـ</td>
<td>لـ تـ حـ جـ هـ</td>
<td>لـ تـ حـ جـ هـ</td>
<td>See the vowels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>بـ لـ سـ بـ</td>
<td>بـ لـ سـ بـ</td>
<td>بـ لـ سـ بـ</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>بـ بـ بـ بـ</td>
<td>بـ بـ بـ بـ</td>
<td>بـ بـ بـ بـ</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>شـ تـ تـ تـ</td>
<td>شـ تـ تـ تـ</td>
<td>شـ تـ تـ تـ</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>شـ شـ شـ شـ</td>
<td>شـ شـ شـ شـ</td>
<td>شـ شـ شـ شـ</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>CH*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>H*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>KH*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>جـ جـ جـ هـ مـ جـ كـ</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For numbers 6-9, alternate forms for connected medial and final positions may be written as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connected Medial Positions</th>
<th>Connected Final Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>لـ تـ حـ جـ هـ</td>
<td>شـ تـ تـ تـ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:........majal, ‘chance’........gach, ‘chalk’........sahih, ‘correct’
........takht, ‘bed’.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Z</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>ZH</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>SH*</td>
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* For numbers 15 and 16, alternate forms for medial and final positions may be written as follows:
Examples: sabz, bashar, talash, pas
Part One: How to read and write Persian

Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Independent</th>
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21. غ ع غ غ ع غ غ ع غ غ غ غ غ
22. غ غ غ غ غ غ غ غ غ غ غ
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29. ن ن ن ن ن ن ن ن ن
30. د د د د د د د د د
31. ه ه ه ه ه ه ه ه ه
32. ي ي ي ي ي ي ي ي ي

Note that ٱ in its initial position appears as ی, such as یاریان, 'Iran' (see: VII, 6 and XV).
XIV. LETTERS CONNECTED FROM THE RIGHT SIDE ONLY

Unlike other letters which can be connected from both sides, left and right, the letters ی alif, ی dāl, ی zāl, ی ri, ی zi, ی zhi, and ی vāv can only be connected from the right side -- if and only if the preceding letter is a connector e.g. میز, 'table'; زرد, 'yellow'; مادر, 'mother'; پدر, 'father'; برادر, 'brother'; آدوار, 'periods'; زود, 'quickly, soon'; گذر, 'passage'; وازیه, 'word'; پونانی, یونانی, 'Greek'.

Practice writing the following words and sentences in the space provided:

1. پا, 'foot', 'leg'; دست, 'hand'; کاغذ, 'paper'; امروز, 'today'; امروز آزمیدم, 'I had a letter from my father today.'

2. نام این دختر زالی بود, 'The name of that girl was Zhalili.'

3. مادری یونانی بود, پدرش ایرانی, 'Her mother was Greek and her father Iranian.'

XV. THE INITIAL, MEDIAL AND LONG VOWELS

1. The initial vowels are either short or long.\(^1\) As illustrated in the examples on the following page, normally the vowel sign is not written for the short vowels. However, for beginners it is advisable to put these vowels over or under the preceding letters of the words until they become quite familiar with the spelling of the words. The long initial vowels i.e. ای, او, ع, and ای, ای are always written, e.g. پیر، پیپا، پیرامون،... 

\(^1\)In Persian, words never begin with a consonant cluster beginning with 's' such as 'sk', 'st', and 'sp'. The 's' of the cluster is always preceded by 'i'. Thus words from other languages such as 'ski' and 'sport' from English and 'stakan' from Russian will be pronounced and spelled as iski, ispurt, and istakăn/istikăn.
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Short

\( \text{a} \) as in بر az, 'from'; اسب asb, 'horse'; عرض arz, 'foreign exchange'

\( \text{i} \) as in اسم ism, 'name'; مروف imrūz, 'today'; داره idārih, 'administration office'

\( \text{u} \) as in چاپ utāq, 'room'; استاد ustād, 'professor'; یارフトād, 'He/she fell'

Long

\( \text{a} \) as in آن ān, 'that'; آزادی azādi, 'freedom'; آشنا ashna, 'acquainted'

\( \text{u} \) as in او او ut, 'August'; عون ūn, 'he/she, that'

\( \text{i} \) as in این īn, 'this'; ایران īrān, 'Iran'; ایمان īmān, 'faith'

Practice writing from right to left just the Persian words introduced above.

1. az, asb, abr
2. ism, imrūz, idārih
3. utāq, ustād, uftād
4. ān, azādi, ashna
5. ū, ut, ūn
6. īn, īrān, īmān
2. The medial vowels are either short or long. The short vowels normally are not written. But when written they are indicated by \( \text{\textbullet a} \) and \( \text{\textbullet u} \) over and \( \text{\textbullet i} \) under a consonant:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{a} & \quad \text{as in} \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{bad,} \; \text{'bad'}; \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{dar,} \; \text{'door'} \\
\text{i} & \quad \text{as in} \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{dil,} \; \text{'heart, stomach'}; \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{zind\text{"a},} \; \text{'prison'} \\
\text{u} & \quad \text{as in} \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{rush\text{"a},} \; \text{'growth'}; \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{shum\text{"a},} \; \text{‘you’}
\end{align*}
\]

3. The long vowels \( \text{\textbullet a} \), \( \text{\textbullet u} \), \( \text{\textbullet i} \), in the medial and final positions are indicated by \( \text{\textbullet a} \), \( \text{\textbullet u} \), and \( \text{\textbullet i} \) as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{\textbullet a} & \quad \text{as in} \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{b\text{"a}r\text{"a},} \; \text{‘rain’}; \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{ma,} \; \text{‘we’} \\
\text{\textbullet u} & \quad \text{as in} \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{be\text{"u},} \; \text{‘was’}; \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{mu,} \; \text{‘hair’} \\
\text{\textbullet i} & \quad \text{as in} \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{si\text{"e},} \; \text{‘apple’}; \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{s\text{"i},} \; \text{‘thirty’}; \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{ab\text{"a}d\text{"i},} \; \text{‘inhabited place, village, flourishing condition’}
\end{align*}
\]

Look at the words above. Write them from right to left next to their sounds below:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{\textbullet a} & \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{\textbullet a} \\
\text{\textbullet u} & \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{\textbullet i} \\
\text{\textbullet i} & \quad \text{PR} \quad \text{\textbullet u}
\end{align*}
\]
XVI. OTHER WRITING SIGNS

1. 
\(\text{ذ} \) \text{Tashdīd} over a consonant doubles it. Thus َر َن > darrih, 'valley'; َس > sadd, 'dam'

2. 
\(\text{ـ} \) \text{Madd} over َل lengthens it. Thus َل َب > āb, 'water'; َت ت > tīātr, 'theater'

3. 
\(\hat{\text{}} \) \text{Jazm} over a consonant indicates the lack of a vowel. This sign is normally used only for words the writer thinks unfamiliar to the reader. Thus َق َث > raft, 'he, she went'; َب َر > burd, 'he, she took'

4. 
\(\check{} \) \text{Hamzīh} over a bearer َل or by itself indicates a glottal stop, as in َب م َر > bifarmā'id, 'come in'; َم َس > muw'min, 'a pious man'; َي > inshā', 'composition'.

5. 
\(\vec{\text{}} \) \text{Alīf-hamzīh} is usually written in the middle of the word and indicates that \(\text{alīf} \) does not have the 'a' sound. e.g. َت أخ > ta'khīr, 'delay'; َم َخ > ma'khaz, 'source' (see: III,VII)

6. 
\(\text{ال} \) \text{Hamzīh-yi vāṣī} is an elided \(\text{alīf} \) of the Arabic definite article -\(\text{al} \) which appears in some Persian words, particularly in proper names such as ِعَبَّدُ الْرَّضَاءُ .\text{Abd al-Riza}, ِأَبُو الْقَاسِمُ .\text{Abū al-Qāsim}, ...\text{Nāṣir al-Dīn} which read ِعَبْدُ الرَّضَاءِ .\text{Abdulrīza}, \text{Abulqāsim} and \text{Nāṣirīddin} respectively.

7. 
\(\text{ـ} \) \text{The Mute Final H} appears in certain words when preceded by the vowel 'i' in َخ > khānīh, 'house'; َن > nāmīh, 'letter'; َتخت > takhtīh, 'board, plank'. 
8. Hamzih over a final h is pronounced yi as in ...ما ...خانه ...کهنه ...خانه ...ما، 'our house'. The same form ...ما ...may also be pronounced i such as ...ما ...خانه ...ما ...خانه ...ما, 'a house'. Nowadays hamzih is omitted and above words are written as ...ما ...خانه ...ما ...خانه ...ما and ...ما ...خانه ...ما respectively.

9. Tanvin is an ending of Arabic origin written above a final alif and is pronounced -an as in "فَعَّل" fi‘la', 'for now'; "تقريبًا" taqrība', 'almost'; "مثلًا" masala', 'for example' which are read fi‘lan, taqrīban, and masalan respectively.

10. Final yi with a short alif over it is sometimes pronounced as a final alif, e.g. حتی hattī, 'even though'; سکنی suknī, 'dwelling, residence'; موسی mūsī, 'Moses'. Most of these words which are of Arabic origin are written without short alif as follows: سکنی, سکنی, and موسی. However, in recent approaches, we see these words written as they are pronounced; i.e. سکنی, سکنی, and موسی.

11. yi and vav as diphthongs are written ...ـي (ay) and ...ـع (aw).

Since the signs for the short vowels are not indicated and uw (aw) is often pronounced as u and iy (ay) is pronounced as a combination of the short vowel i and the letter y the diphthong must be learned as such.

Study the following words: موج, wave, بیت, poetic couplet, کی, 'when?', طور, way, manner.
XVII. SUMMARY OF THE TRANSLITERATION TABLE

Consonants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(see vowels)</td>
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<td>ف</td>
<td>F</td>
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<td>ت</td>
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</table>

Vowels:

- Medial Initial
  - A as in 'bad'  
  - I as in 'bed'
  - U as in 'bored'

- Final Medial Initial
  - Ā as in 'bomb'
  - Ě as in 'boom'
  - Ī as in 'beam'

Diphthongs:

- UW (AW) approximating the vowel in 'know' and 'though', represented by ............
- IY (AY) approximating the vowel in 'maid' and 'pay', represented by ............

1 For the alternative forms of certain letters such as ب and ش see: XII, 5.
XXIII. FROM TRANSLITERATION TO PERSIAN SCRIPT

The following steps are helpful in proceeding from the sound of a word to its transliterated form and finally its writing in script. In order to be accurate in writing what you hear, the steps indicated below can be followed:

1. Write the word in transliterated form.

2. Write the word backwards.

3. Write the Persian symbols letter by letter appropriate for their positions in the word, i.e. initial, medial, and final.

4. Write the word, connecting the symbols written in step 3.¹

5. Transliterate from the symbols of step 4, and see if it matches the word of step 1 when its order is reversed.

Keeping the above procedure in mind, practice writing the following sentences in Persian script without reversing the order of the letters:

(a) "dīrūz mā tū khūnīh būdīm."We were at home yesterday.'

(b) "fardā bishumā tilifūn mīkunam."I will call (make a telephone call to) you tomorrow.'

(c) "bibakhshīd nīmīdūnām kuja hastand."Excuse me I don't know where they are.'

¹To connect letters remember that a non-connector never connects from the left side and that short vowels a and u are written above and i under a letter as signs e.g. "...isma man muzhīdī ast." 'My name is Muzhīdī'.

mīdūnām

manūdīm

mīdūnām
Part One: How to read and write Persian

XIX. FROM PERSIAN SCRIPT TO TRANSLITERATION

Following the process of transliteration from step five to step one (see: XVIII, 1-
5) transliterate the following words:

1. آرامت
2. باد
3. برود
4. بهار
5. دلیل
6. دوی
7. سپاه
8. ماه
9. مدیر
10. نام
11. نیم
12. نشست
13. پنجم
14. نیمی
15. میزان
16. شمار
17. سی
18. شیار
19. صبح
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XX. PRACTICE IN WRITING THE PERSIAN SCRIPT

The basic characters of the Persian script in different positions are shown below. Practice writing these basic characters, from right to left. Keep your writing in line horizontally on guide lines. Also keep your characters aligned vertically. Use a separate page for each model and find a word for each letter in initial, medial and final positions (see: VI, XIII & XIX).

Model I

initial.................................................................
medial...............................................................final...............................................................

Model II:

initial.................................................................
medial...............................................................final...............................................................

Model III:

initial.................................................................
medial...............................................................final...............................................................

Model IV:

initial.................................................................
medial...............................................................final...............................................................final connected...........................................

Model V:

initial.................................................................
medial...............................................................medial connected from both sides...............................final connected.............................................final independent............................................
XXI. SENTENCE STRUCTURE: S(SUBJECT)—O(OBJECT)—V(VERB)

If we follow the normal Persian word order S(SUBJECT)—O(OBJECT)—V(VERB), Persian syntax is not difficult and is sometimes not much different from English. There are two basic parts of each sentence: the subject and the predicate.

1. The Subject is a word or group of words:
   (a) which signifies the one performing action or serves as the starting point of the action\(^1\)
   (b) which can be a noun, pronoun, or other words functioning as nouns or pronouns.

2. The Predicate is a word or group of words which say something about the subject:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREDICATE</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>Reading from right to left</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(\text{āmād})</td>
<td>Kāvīh</td>
<td>(\leftarrow) (\leftarrow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\text{in uṣtād})</td>
<td>(\text{-kitāb miniwāz})</td>
<td>(\leftarrow) (\leftarrow)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sentence (a) is one of the shortest forms of a declarative sentence in which each part of the sentence has only one word. We can use a pronoun subject and say: \(\text{ū \text{āmād}}\), 'he came', or we can simply say: \(\text{āmād}`came'\) in which 'he, she, it' is understood.

\(^1\)Except in a passive construction, in which case something about the object is said.

\(\text{āmād gurum shud} `\text{my key was lost}'\)
3. In the case of using certain verbs such as بُدَن, 'to be' and شُدَن, 'to become' which tell something about the subject, we usually need more detail in the predicate, i.e. an adjective or an adverb:

SENTENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREDICATE</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VERB</td>
<td>ADJECTIVE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) اَسْتَ 'is' خُوبَ 'good' کَوْه کَاویه

(b) گُفت 'said (it)' خُوبَ 'well' ُجَرْنَه 'ustād, professor'

4. A sentence may also require a part which is called 'object'. Objects are either direct or indirect. The indirect object (receiver of the action) answers the question 'to whom?' or 'for whom?' The direct object answers the question 'what?' or 'who?' The object can be either a noun or a pronoun.

5. Sometimes a sentence has some other words such as 'adverbs of time and place', 'direct and indirect objects' and so on. In that case we need a kind of word order in the sentence which, reading from right to left, usually goes as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERB</th>
<th>ADV.</th>
<th>IND. OBJ.</th>
<th>DIR. OBJ.(^3)</th>
<th>SUBJ.</th>
<th>ADVERBS OF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PLACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>explained</td>
<td>well</td>
<td>ُشْرِح ُعَرَاب</td>
<td></td>
<td>ُمِسْتَنْسَن ُرَا</td>
<td>ُكاویه</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ُشْرِح ُدَاد</td>
<td>ُخُوب</td>
<td>ُمِسْتَنْسَن ُرَا</td>
<td>ُدَارِش ُرَا</td>
<td>ُکَاویه</td>
<td>ُدَار ُکِلَاس</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ُشْرِح</td>
<td>ُحَوْص</td>
<td>ُمِسْتَنْسَن ُرَا</td>
<td>ُرُوا ُسْتَن</td>
<td>ُکَاویه</td>
<td>ُرُوا ُسْتَن</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Note: In Persian, the verb is always at the end of the sentence or clause

\(^2\)To say 'The professor said:' ُخُوب', we write ُعَسْتَن ُغُفْت: ُخُوب'.

\(^3\)In formal Persian, the direct object is formed by adding ُرَا to the noun or pronoun, whether singular or plural. If the object is indirect, the ُرَا is omitted. In colloquial Persian, the ُرَا is pronounced ُرَوْع, after words ending with vowels, and it is pronounced ُعَو, after words ending with consonants.
Part One: How to read and write Persian

6. In general the verb comes last in the sentence: nouns, pronouns, relative pronouns, interrogative pronouns and prepositions precede it. In speaking and sometimes in poetic expression, we may note that on some occasions emphasis is put on verbs, and the verbs come first: ...bārūw dam-i dar, 'go to the door!' ...raft khūnīh, 'he/she went home.'

dād ma'shūqīh bih 'āshīq pīyghām, 'Gave (sent) the beloved to the lover a message'.

But as a general rule we see the verb at the end of the sentence as follows:.

(a)...dīrūz Kāvīh īnja būd. 'yesterday Kavih here was' i.e. Kavih was here yesterday.
(b)...bih Mitra tīlīfūn kārd. 'to Mitra telephone he made i.e. He made a telephone call to Mitra.'
(c)...Mitra āmād, 'Mitra came.'
(d)...bā mā shām khuwrīd. 'With us dinner she ate i.e. She ate dinner with us.'
(e)...tā sā'at-i nuh mānd. 'She stayed until nine o'clock.'

7. The pronouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>man</th>
<th>l, me, mine</th>
<th>mā</th>
<th>we, us, our</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tūw</td>
<td>tuw</td>
<td>you, yours</td>
<td>shumā</td>
<td>you, yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ē</td>
<td>ē</td>
<td>he/she, his/hers</td>
<td>ānha</td>
<td>they, their</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

follow the noun with an ‘i’ or ‘yi’ in between:

(a)...qāhvīh-yi man bād nīst

'Coffee of mine bad is not' i.e. 'My coffee is not bad'.

(d)...dārī. khānīh-yi ānha bih rū-yi hamīh bāzīh.

'The door of the house of theirs to everyone open is.' i.e. The door of their house is open to everyone.'

---

1The pronoun 'tūw' is only used in intimate conversation, otherwise, 'shumā' is preferred to be used for all occasions.
8. Personal pronouns are frequently omitted; since the ending of the verb denotes the person, the personal pronoun as subject is not always necessarily required:

(a) میراوام 'I go' instead of مان میراوام
(b) میراود 'you go' instead of شما میراود
(c) میراود 'he/she/it goes' instead of او میراود
(d) میراوم 'we go' instead of ما میراوم
(e) میراوند 'they go' instead of آنها میراوند

9. Definite and Indefinite Articles

There are no definite and indefinite articles in Persian. Thus a word like میوه 'apple' can be translated as 'the apple' or 'an apple', depending on the context.

10. Gender

There is no masculine 'he' or feminine 'she' in Persian. Thus مین 'it' stands both for 'he' and 'she'. The demonstrative pronoun این is used to mean both 'that' and 'it'. Thus این sag ast. stands for 'It is a dog.' and 'That is a dog.' 'It' is sometimes embedded in a verb like یخه ast. 'It is good' or translated as such e.g...باران میبارد. 'It is raining.'

\footnote{For the second person singular, میرا is used and it becomes میرا in informal, intimate conversations (see footnote on p. 25).}
### Part One: How to read and write Persian

#### XVII. THE CARDINAL AND ORDINAL NUMBERS

1. The cardinal numbers

Like English the Persian figures are combined from left to right as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>şifr</td>
<td>yik</td>
<td>duw</td>
<td>sih</td>
<td>chahār</td>
<td>panj</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>shish</td>
<td>haft</td>
<td>hasht</td>
<td>nuh</td>
<td>dah</td>
<td>yāzdah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>davāzdah</td>
<td>sīzdah</td>
<td>chahārdah</td>
<td>pānzdah</td>
<td>shānzdah</td>
<td>hīfdah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>21</th>
<th>22</th>
<th>23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hijdah</td>
<td>nuzdah</td>
<td>bist</td>
<td>bistuwyik</td>
<td>bist-uw-duw</td>
<td>bist-uw-si unh...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30</th>
<th>31</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sī</td>
<td>sī-y-uw-yik...</td>
<td>chihil</td>
<td>pānjah</td>
<td>ṣḥast</td>
<td>haftād</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>80</th>
<th>90</th>
<th>100</th>
<th>101</th>
<th>200</th>
<th>300</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hashtād</td>
<td>navad</td>
<td>ṣad</td>
<td>ṣad-uw-yik</td>
<td>divist</td>
<td>sisad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>400</th>
<th>500</th>
<th>600</th>
<th>700</th>
<th>800</th>
<th>900</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chahāršad</td>
<td>pānšad</td>
<td>shīshšad</td>
<td>haftšad</td>
<td>hashtšad</td>
<td>nuḥšad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1000</th>
<th>1001</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>2222</th>
<th>1,000,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hīzar</td>
<td>hīzar-uw yik</td>
<td>duwhīzar</td>
<td>hīzar-uw nuḥšad-uw bist-uw haft</td>
<td>duwhīzar-uw divist-uw- bist-uw duw</td>
<td>yik milyūn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The ordinal numbers

The ordinal numbers are formed by adding ‘um’ to the cardinals as follows:

yikum, duvum, sivum, chaharum, etc. ‘The first’, ‘the second’ and ‘the third’ are also heard as ‘avval’, ‘duvum’ and ‘sivum’ respectively.