### Letters of the Alphabet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Alone</th>
<th>Romanization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>omit (see Note 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>j</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>h</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>kh</td>
</tr>
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<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
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<td>34</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>z</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
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<td>52</td>
<td>sh</td>
</tr>
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<td>55</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
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<td>d</td>
</tr>
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<td>61</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
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<td>66</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>(ayn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>gh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>f (see Note 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>q (see Note 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>87</td>
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<td>k</td>
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<td>l</td>
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<td>95</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>m</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>103</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>h (see Note 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vowels and Diphthongs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Romanization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>أ</td>
<td>a (see Rule 5)</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>ا</td>
<td>á (see Rule 6(a))</td>
<td>او</td>
<td>aw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>ii</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>ii</td>
<td>ay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ALA-LC Romanization Tables*
Letters Representing Non-Arabic Consonants

This list is not exhaustive. It should be noted that a letter in this group may have more than one phonetic value, depending on the country or area where it is used, and that the romanization will vary accordingly.

| Ⱏ | ɡ | ɡ | ch | ɡ | v |
|──|──|──|──|──|──|
| Ⱏ | ɡ | ɡ | zh | ɡ | v |
| ⰽ | p | ɡ | zh | ɡ | v |

Notes
1. For the use of alif to support hamzah, see rule 2. For the romanization of hamzah by the consonantal sign ّ (alif) see rule 8(a). For other orthographic uses of alif see rules 3-5.
2. The Maghrībi variations ین and ین are romanized f and q respectively.
3. ّ in a word in the construct state is romanized t. See rule 7(b).

RULES OF APPLICATION

Arabic Letters Romanized in Different Ways Depending on Their Context

1. As indicated in the table, ّ and ّ may represent:
   (a) The consonants romanized w and y, respectively
      waḍ‘
      ʿiwaḍ
      dalw
      yad
      ǧiḥal
      ṯahy

   (b) The long vowels romanized ā, ɻ, and ā respectively
       посколь
      ʃūrah
      dhū
      ɪmān
      jīl
      fī
      kitāb
      saḥāb
      jumān

See also rules 11(a) and 11(b1-2).
(c) The diphthongs romanized aw and ay, respectively

awj
nawm
law
aysar
shaykh
‘aynay

See also rules 11(a)(2) and 11(b)(3).

2. ٌ(alif), و and ى when used to support * (hamzah) are not represented in romanization. See rule 8(a).

3. ٌ(alif) when used to support ٍ (waslāh) and ِ (maddah) is not represented in romanization. See rules 9 and 10.

4. ٌ(alif) and و when used as orthographic signs without phonetic significance are not represented in romanization.

fa‘alū
ulā‘ika
‘ilman wa-‘amalan

See also rule 12 and examples cited in rules 23-26.

5. ٌ(alif) is used to represent the long vowel romanized ā, as indicated in the table.

fā‘il
riḍā

This ٌ, when medial, is sometimes omitted in Arabic; it is always indicated in romanization. See rule 19.

6. Final ى appears in the following special cases:

(a) As ََ (alif maqṣūrah) used in place of ِِ to represent the long vowel romanized ā.

ḥattá
maḍá
kubrá
Yaḥyá
musammá
Muṣṭafá

See also rule 12 and examples cited in rules 23-26.
(b) As ٰ in nouns and adjectives of the form fa‘l which are derived from defective roots. This ending is romanized ٰ, not ی, without regard to the presence of ـ (shaddah). See rule 11(b2).

Raḥī al-Dīn

Compare the fa‘l form of the same root [without shaddah] al-Raḥī.

(c) As ٰ in the relative adjective (nisbah). The ending, like (b) above, is romanized ٰ, not ی.

al-Mīṣrī

Compare al-Mīṣrīyah and see rule 11(b1).

7. ُ (tā’ marbūtah)

(a) When the noun or adjective ending in ُ is indefinite, or is preceded by the definite article, ُ is romanized ُ. The ُ in such positions is often replaced by ُ.

ṣalāh
al-Risālah al-bahiyyah
mirʿāb
Urjūzah fī al-ṭibb

(b) When the word ending in ُ is in the construct state, ُ is romanized ُ.

Wizārat al-Tarbiyāh
Mirʿāt al-zamān

(c) When the word ending in ُ is used adverbially, ُ (vocalized ُ) is romanized tan. See rule 12(b).

Romanization of Arabic Orthographic Symbols Other than Letters and Vowel Signs

The signs listed below are frequently omitted from unvocalized Arabic writing and printing; their presence or absence must then be inferred. They are represented in romanization according to the following rules:

8. ِ (hamzah)

(a) In initial position, whether at the beginning of a word, following a prefixed preposition or conjunction, or following the definite article, ِ is not represented in romanization. When medial or final, ِ is romanized as ً (alif).
(b) **, when replaced by the sign ُ (wasla) and then known as hamzat al-wasla, it is not represented in romanization. See rule 9 below.

9. ُ (wasla), like initial *, is not represented in romanization. See also rule 8(b) above. When the alif which supports wasla belongs to the article ً, the initial vowel of the article is romanized ã. See rule 17(b). In other words, beginning with hamzat al-wasla, the initial vowel is romanized i.

Rihlat Ibn Jubayr
al-istidrak
kutub iqtanat’hā
bi-ihtimām ‘Abd al-Majīd

10. ِ (maddah)

(a) Initial ِ is romanized ā

ālah
Kulliyat al-Adāb

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

ta’ālīf
ma’āthir

(c) ِ is otherwise not represented in romanization.

khulafā’

11. ُ (shaddah or tashdīd)

(a) Over ُ:

(1) ُُ, representing the combination of long vowel plus consonant, is romanized ūw.

‘adūw
qūwah

See also rule 1(b).
(2)  
\[\text{Shawwāl, representing the combination of diphthong plus consonant, is romanized aww.}\]
\[\text{Sha\textsuperscript{w}wāl} \quad \text{\textsuperscript{ش}و\textsuperscript{w}ال} \]
\[\text{ṣawwara} \quad \text{عور} \]
\[\text{jaww} \quad \text{جور} \]

See also rule 1(c).

(b) Over ی :

(1)  
\[\text{Medial ی, representing the combination of long vowel plus consonant, is romanized ی.}\]
\[\text{ال-م\textsuperscript{s}ر\textsuperscript{y}اه} \quad \text{مصر\textsuperscript{ي}ة} \]

See also rule 1(b)

(2)  
\[\text{Final ی is romanized ی. See rules 6(b) and 6(c).}\]

(3)  
\[\text{Medial and final ی, representing the combination of diphthong plus consonant, is romanized ayy.}\]
\[\text{أيام} \quad \text{أيام} \]
\[\text{sayyid} \quad \text{سيد} \]
\[\text{Qa\textsuperscript{s}ayy} \quad \text{قص\textsuperscript{s}ي} \]

See also rule 1(c)

(c) Over other letters, ی is represented in romanization by doubling the letter or digraph concerned.

\[\text{ال-غ\textsuperscript{h}از\textsuperscript{f}} \quad \text{الغز\textsuperscript{ه}ا} \]
\[\text{ال-ك\textsuperscript{h}اش\textsuperscript{f}} \quad \text{الك\textsuperscript{ه}اش\textsuperscript{ه}ي} \]

12.  
\[\text{Tanw\textsuperscript{ɪ}n may take the written form یّ, یّ (یّ), or یّ, romanized un, an, and in, respectively.}\]
\[\text{Tanw\textsuperscript{ɪ}n is normally disregarded in romanization, however. It is indicated in the following cases:}\]

(a) When it occurs in indefinite nouns derived from defective roots.
\[\text{ق\textsuperscript{а}دن} \quad \text{ق\textsuperscript{ا}دن} \]
\[\text{ma\textsuperscript{n}an} \quad \text{من\textsuperscript{n}ي} \]

(b) When it indicates the adverbial use of a noun or adjective.
\[\text{ت\textsuperscript{б}ان} \quad \text{ت\textsuperscript{ب}ان} \]
\[\text{ف\textsuperscript{ж}ط\textsuperscript{и}} \quad \text{ف\textsuperscript{ج}ط\textsuperscript{ي}} \]
\[\text{ال-م\textsuperscript{u}شي\textsuperscript{т}ر\textsuperscript{и}ك و\textsuperscript{д}اد\textsuperscript{и}ن wa-al-muftariq} \quad \text{الم\textsuperscript{ش}ت\textsuperscript{и}ر\textsuperscript{к} و\textsuperscript{д}ا\textsuperscript{и}ن والم\textsuperscript{ф}ت\textsuperscript{и}ر\textsuperscript{к}ي} \]
\[\text{suq\textsuperscript{ан} \quad \text{س\textsuperscript{у}\textsuperscript{к}ان}} \]
Grammatical Structure as It Affects Romanization

13. Final inflections of verbs are retained in romanization, except in pause.
   man waliya Miṣr
   maʾrifat mā yajibu la-hum
   ʿallā wa-ʿalayhi was-sallam
   al-Luʾluʾ al-maknūn fī ḥukm al-akhbār
   ʿammā sayakūn

14. Final inflections of nouns and adjectives:
   (a) Vocalic endings are not represented in romanization, except preceding pronominal suffixes,
       and except when the text being romanized is in verse.
       Maʿḥad Mawlaʾ al-Ḥasan
       uṣūluhā al-nafsiyyah wa-turuq
       tadrīṣīhā
       ʿilmā yawminā ḥādhā

   (b) ʿAin ṣīna (tāʾ marbūtah) is romanized ʾ or t as specified in rule 7.

   (c) For the romanization of the relative adjective (nisbah) see rule 6(c).

15. Pronouns, pronominal suffixes, and demonstratives:
   (a) Vocalic endings are retained in romanization.
       anā wa-anta
       ḥādhihi al-ḥāl
       muʿallaftahuwa-shurūḥuḥā

   (b) At the close of a phrase or sentence, the ending is romanized in its pausal form.
       ʿayatuḥu wa-ʿašruḥ
       Tawfiq al-Ḥakīm,
       afkūruh, ʿāthāruh

16. Prepositions and conjunctions:
   (a) Final vowels of separable prepositions and conjunctions are retained in romanization.
       anā
       annahu
       bayna yadayhu

   Note the special cases: مما mimmā, ممن mimman.
(b) Inseparable prepositions, conjunctions, and other prefixes are connected with what follows by a hyphen.

\begin{itemize}
  \item bi-hi
  \item wa-ma'ahu
  \item lâ-silkī
\end{itemize}

17. The definite article:

(a) The romanized form al is connected with the following word by a hyphen.

\begin{itemize}
  \item al-kitāb al-thānī
  \item al-ittihād
  \item al-ašl
  \item al-āthār
\end{itemize}

(b) When \(\text{ال} \) is initial in the word, and when it follows an inseparable preposition or conjunction, it is always romanized \( al \) regardless of whether the preceding word, as romanized, ends in a vowel or a consonant.

\begin{itemize}
  \item ilá al-ān
  \item Abū al-Wafā'
  \item Maktabat al-Nahdah al-Misrīyah
  \item bi-al-tamām wa-al-kamāl
\end{itemize}

Note the exceptional treatment of the preposition \( ل \) followed by the article:

\begin{itemize}
  \item lil-Shirbīnī
\end{itemize}

See also rule 23.

(c) The \( \text{ال} \) of the article is always romanized \( l \), whether it is followed by a "sun letter" or not, i.e., regardless of whether or not it is assimilated in pronunciation to the initial consonant of the word to which it is attached.

\begin{itemize}
  \item al-ḥurūf al-abjadiyyah
  \item Abū al-Layth al-Samarqandi
\end{itemize}

Orthography of Arabic in Romanization

18. Capitalization:

(a) Rules for the capitalization of English are followed, except that the definite article \( al \) is given in lower case in all positions.

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

\begin{itemize}
  \item al-\text{fīr}
  \item al-\text{Ālūsī}
\end{itemize}
19. The macron or the acute accent, as appropriate, is used to indicate all long vowels, including those which in Arabic script are written defectively. The macron or the acute accent, as the case may be, is retained over final long vowels which are shortened in pronunciation before hamzat al-wasāl.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Romanization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ʼIbrāhīm</td>
<td>ابراهيم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dā’ūd</td>
<td>داود</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abū al-Ḥasan</td>
<td>أبو الحسن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ruʿūs</td>
<td>رؤس</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dhālika</td>
<td>ذلك</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʿalā al-ʿayn</td>
<td>على العين</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. The hyphen is used:

(a) To connect the definite article al with the word to which it is attached. See rule 17(a).

(b) Between an inseparable prefix and what follows. See rules 16(b) and 17(b) above.

(c) Between bin and the following element in personal names when they are written in Arabic as a single word. See rule 25.

21. The prime (′) is used:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Romanization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adʿham</td>
<td>ادهم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>akramatʿhā</td>
<td>اكرمتها</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) To mark the use of a letter in its final form when it occurs in the middle of a word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Romanization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qalʿahʿjī</td>
<td>قلةجة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaykhʿzādah</td>
<td>شيخزاده</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22. As in the case of romanization from other languages, foreign words which occur in an Arabic context and are written in Arabic letters are romanized according to the rules for romanizing Arabic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Romanization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jārmānūs</td>
<td>جارمانوس</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lūrd Ghrānfīl</td>
<td>لورد غرانفيل</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʾĪsāhūjī</td>
<td>ايساغوجي</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For short vowels not indicated in the Arabic, the Arabic vowel nearest to the original pronunciation is supplied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Romanization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gharsiyā Khayin</td>
<td>غرسيا خين</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ALA-LC Romanization Tables*
Examples of Irregular Arabic Orthography

23. Note the romanization of الله, alone and in combination.

الله
ب זאת
لله
بسم الله
المستنصر بذا
Allâh
billâh
lîlâh
bîsmîllâh
al-Mustanîr billâh

24. Note the romanization of the following personal names.

طه
ب ، يس
عمرو
بهجة
Tâhâ
Yâsîn
‘Amr
Bahjat

25. ابن and ابن are both romanized ibn in all positions.

أحمد بن محمد بن أبي الربيع
Sharîh Ibn ‘Aqîl ‘alâ Alîyyat
Ibn Mâlik

Exception is made in the case of modern names, typically North African, in which the element بن is pronounced bin.

بن خده
بن عبد الله
Bin Khiddah
Bin ‘Abd Allâh

26. Note the anomalous spelling مائة, romanized mi’ah.

SPECIAL CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER MODIFIERS IN ROMANIZATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Characters</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>USMARC hexadecimal code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘</td>
<td>soft sign (prime)</td>
<td>A7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘</td>
<td>alif (hamzah)</td>
<td>AE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘</td>
<td>ayn</td>
<td>B0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Modifiers</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>USMARC hexadecimal code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>́</td>
<td>acute</td>
<td>E2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>́̄</td>
<td>macron</td>
<td>E5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>́̀</td>
<td>dot below</td>
<td>F2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALA-LC Romanization Tables