

**Azerbaijani Romanization Table**  
2017 version

Earlier versions: [2011](#), [1997](#)

**Perso-Arabic Script**

**Letters of the Alphabet**

<i>Initial</i>	<i>Medial</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>Alone</i>	<i>Romanization</i> (see Vowels and Digraphs and Note 1)
ا	ا	ا	ا	b
پ	پ	پ	پ	p
ت	ت	ت	ت	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	s
ج	ج	ج	ج	c
چ	چ	چ	چ	ç
ح	ح	ح	ح	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	x
د	د	د	د	d
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	z
ر	ر	ر	ر	r
ز	ز	ز	ز	z
ژ	ژ	ژ	ژ	j
س	س	س	س	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	ş
ص	ص	ص	ص	ṣ
ض	ض	ض	ض	ẓ
ط	ط	ط	ط	ṭ
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẓ
ع	ع	ع	ع	' (ayn)
غ	غ	غ	غ	ğ
ف	ف	ف	ف	f
ق	ق	ق	ق	q
ک	ک	ک	ک	k
گ	گ	گ	گ	g
ل	ل	ل	ل	l
م	م	م	م	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	n
و	و	و	و	v

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b	f	a	o	h
ı	ş	ı	ı	y

**Vowels and Digraphs**

	<i>Value</i>		<i>Examples</i>
a	ā	barakat	برکت
i	ī	sāhil	ساحل
ı	ı̄	bādımcān	بادمجان
u	ū	qudrat	قدرت
ā	ā̄	qārdāş	قارداش
ā	ā̄	ārām	آرام
ū	ū̄	būğā	بوغا
ü	ū̄	üzüm	أوزوم
o	ū̄	son	سون
ö	ū̄	söz	سؤز
e	ē	tel	تل
ī	ī̄	dalīl	دلیل
ı	ı̄	qārānııı	قارانلیق
ey	ē̄	eyvān	ایوان
aw	ū̄	dawlat	دولت

**Notes to the Tables**

1. In initial position, vowels are preceded by an alif. This alif is not represented in romanization:

avval	اَوَّل
īş	ايش
on	اُون

2. As seen in the examples above, vowel harmony, which is found in Modern Turkish, applies to Azerbaijani as well.

When romanizing vowels represented by  $\bar{\text{ı}}$  or  $\bar{\text{ı̄}}$ ,  $\bar{\text{ı}}$  is used rather than  $\bar{\text{i}}$  or  $\bar{\text{ī}}$  when required by vowel harmony.

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However, vowels represented by  $\ddot{u}$  alone without a following  $u$  are always romanized as  $u$ .

3. The letter  $\ddot{u}$  in final position may represent the long vowel romanized  $\acute{a}$ , in addition to the vowels romanized  $\bar{i}$  and  $\bar{u}$ . This occurs in Arabic names, such as:

Muṣṭafá	مصطفى
al-Muṣanná	المثنى

4. Vowel points are used sparingly in Azerbaijani publications, and additional diacritics used to differentiate between some vowels may vary or be omitted. For romanization, they must be supplied from a dictionary.

## RULES OF APPLICATION

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

1.  $\text{ع}$  (*hamzah*)

(a) When initial,  $\text{ع}$  is not represented in romanization.

üzdah	أوزده
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(b) When medial or final in words of Perso-Arabic origin,  $\text{ع}$  is romanized as ' (alif), except when it represents the phonetic sound *e* (as in *men*), in which case it is romanized by *e*.

	mas'alah	مسئله
<i>but</i>	gecah	گنجه
	neçah	نچه

2. [not available by itself] (*maddah*)

(a) Initial  $\bar{ā}$  is romanized  $\bar{a}$ .

ādām	آدام
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(b) Medial  $\bar{ā}$ , when it represents the phonetic combination 'ā, is so romanized.

Ḥeydar'ābād	حیدرآباد
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3.  $\ddot{u}$  (*shaddah* or *tashdīd*) is represented by doubling the letter or digraph concerned.

sāqqāl	ساقال
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Note the exceptional case where  $\ddot{u}$  is written over  $\text{و}$  and  $\text{ى}$  to represent the combination of long vowel plus consonants.

madanīyat	مدنیت
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4. *Tanvīn*, (written َ, ِ, ِ̄, ِ̄̄), which occurs chiefly in Arabic words, is romanized *un, in, an,* and *an*, respectively.
5. The consonant letter *ö* at the end of Arabic words in the genitive construction (*izāfah*) is romanized by *t*.

takmilat al-axbār                      تکملة الاخبار

**Grammatical Structure as It Affects Romanization**

6. *Izāfah*. When two Persian words are used in an Azerbaijani context in a relationship known as *izāfah*, the first word (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 *izāfah*, it is followed by *-i*.

Sāzmān-i Tablīgāt-i Islāmī                      سازمان تبلیغات اسلامی

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

Nābiḡah-’i dahr                      نابغه دهر

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

daryā-yi nūr                      دریای نور

- (d) *Izāfah* is represented in romanization of personal names when implied in the Perso-Arabic script.

Mucīr-i Beylaqānī                      مجیر بیلقانی  
Maktabī-i Şīrāzī                      مکتبی شیرازی

**Affixes and Compounds**

7. Affixes.

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

gecah’lar	گنجه لر
‘ālim’lar	عالم لر
Nacaf’zādah	نجف زاده
Vahābzādah’nīn	وهابزاده نین
yāziçı’īdī	یازچی ایدی
o ādāmlār’īdīlār	او آداملار ایدیلار
ḡayaṭdah’kī	حیطده کی

- (b) The Arabic article *a/* is separated by a hyphen, in romanization, from the word to which it is prefixed.

maqbarat al-şu’arā                      مقبرة الشعرا

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'Abd al-Karīm

عبد الكريم

8. Compounds. When the elements of a compound (except a compound personal name) are written separately in Azerbaijani, they are separated in romanization by a single prime ( ' ).

	Islām'şinās	اسلام شناس
<i>but</i>	Naqd 'Alī	نقد علی
	'Avaz 'Alī	عوضعلی

**Orthography of Azerbaijani in Romanization**

9. Capitalization.
- (a) Rules for the capitalization of English are followed, except that the Arabic article *a/* is lowercased in all positions.
- (b) Diacritics are used with both upper and lower case letters in romanization.
10. Foreign words. Foreign words in an Azerbaijani context, including Persian and Arabic words, are romanized according to the rules for Azerbaijani. For short vowels not indicated in the script, the Azerbaijani vowels nearest the original pronunciation of the word are supplied in romanization.

safīnat al-nacāt  
şāhanşāhī  
kāpītālāsyon

سفينة النجات  
شاهنشاهی  
کاپیتالاسیون

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**Cyrillic script**

<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>	<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>
<i>Upper case letters</i>		<i>Lower case letters</i>	
А	A	а	a
Б	B	б	b
В	V	в	v
Г	G	г	g
Ғ	Gh	ғ	gh
Д	D	д	d
Е	E	е	e
Ё	Ë	ё	ë
Ә	Ă	ә	ă
Ж	Zh	ж	zh
З	Z	з	z
И	I	и	i
Й	Ĭ	й	ĭ
Ј	Ĵ	ј	ĵ
К	K	к	k
Қ	Ĝ	қ (қ̣)	ĝ
Л	L	л	l
М	M	м	m
Н	N	н	n
О	O	о	o
Ө	Ö	ө	ö
П	P	п	p
Р	R	р	r
С	S	с	s
Т	T	т	t
У	U	у	u
Ү	U	ү	ü
Ф	F	ф	f
Х	Kh	х	kh
Һ	Ḣ	һ	ḣ
Ц	TS	ц	ṡs
Ч	Ch	ч	ch
Ҷ	J	ҷ	j

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Ш	Sh	ш	sh
Щ	Shch	щ	shch
Ъ	" (hard sign)	ъ	" (hard sign)
Ы	Y	ы	y
Ь	' (soft sign)	ь	' (soft sign)
Э	Ě	э	ě
Ю	Ů	ю	ů
Я	ŦA	я	ŧa
'	' (apostrophe)	'	' (apostrophe)

The letters J, j replaced Й, й in 1959.

**Roman script**

When transcribing roman-script Azerbaijani, the letter ə is represented by ä.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Per LC-PCC PS 1.4