

**Malay Romanization Table  
2011 version**

Earlier versions: [1997](#)

**Malay (in Jawi-Arabic script)**

**Letters of the Alphabet**

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
ا	ا	ا	ا	omit (see Note 1)
ب	ب	ب	ب	b
ت	ت	ت	ت	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	*th, s (see Note 2)
ج	ج	ج	ج	j
چ	چ	چ	چ	c
ح	ح	ح	ح	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh
د	د	د	د	d
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	*dh, z (see Notes 2 and 3)
ر	ر	ر	ر	r
ز	ز	ز	ز	z (see Note 3)
س	س	س	س	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	sy (see Note 3)
ص	ص	ص	ص	*s, s (see Notes 2 and 3)
ض	ض	ض	ض	*d, d (see Notes 2 and 3)
ط	ط	ط	ط	*t, t (see Notes 2 and 3)
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	*z, l, z (see Notes 3 and 4)
ع	ع	ع	ع	omit (see Note 3)
غ	غ	غ	غ	gh (see Note 3)
ڠ	ڠ	ڠ	ڠ	ng
ف	ف	ف	ف	*f, p (see Notes 3 and 5)
ق	ق	ق	ق	*q, k (see Note 2)
ڤ	ڤ	ڤ	ڤ	p
ك	ك	ك	ك	k
گ	گ	گ	گ	g
ل	ل	ل	ل	l
م	م	م	م	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	n
ڤ	ڤ	ڤ	ڤ	ny
ه	ه	ه ، ا	ه ، ا	h

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و	و	و	و	w, u, o, au (see Note 6)
ي	ي	ي	ي	y, i, e, ai (see Note 7)

**Vowels and Diphthongs**

ا	ا	a
و	و	u
ي	ي	i
-	~	ě
ي	ي	e, ai
و	و	o, au

**Notes**

1. For the use of *alif* see rules 3-5.
2. Letters in the romanization column marked with an asterisk (\*) represent the romanized value of the equivalent Jawi letter when it occurs in Arabic words (not Arabic loan words). The letter not designated with an asterisk represents the proper romanization value for the letter when it occurs in Malay words. The boundary between words that are Arabic loans and those that are foreign Arabic terms used in Malay context is not always easy to draw. Common usage for the types of literature in which such words appear should always be followed.
3. Jawi letters typically found only in Arabic and Arabic loan words.
4. Some words of Arabic origin with the letter **ظ** have come into the language with the equivalent *l* (e.g., *lahir*), others with the equivalent *z* (e.g., *zalim*).
5. The letter **ف** is often used as a shorthand way of writing **ف**. When this is clearly the case, the letter **ف** should be romanized as *p*.
6. On **و** (*wau*), see rules 6 and 8b.
7. On **ي** (*yad*), see rules 7 and 8b.

**RULES OF APPLICATION**

1. Jawi orthography is far from standard, particularly in handwritten documents. Nevertheless, for the purposes of cataloging, it is essential to standardize the romanized form of every lexeme. Two widely accepted standards for writing Malay in the Latin script exist: the Indonesian and the Malaysian. In this table, the Indonesian standard, referred to as *Ejaan Bahasa Indonesia yang Disempurnakan*, has been employed.

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2. Arabic words (not Arabic loan words) appearing in a Malay text are analogous to French words and expressions in a Russian novel or Latin phrases in a Catholic theology text, and their distinctness should be preserved by transliterating them in accordance with the rules governing the romanization of the relevant language, Arabic or Malay. Malay words of Arabic origin whose orthography is the same as the Arabic might therefore be romanized differently at different points in the same text. Thus the word قدوس will be romanized *kudus* when it appears as a Malay word, but *qudūs* when it is used as an Arabic term or in an Arabic phrase.
3. ا (*alif*), و (*wau*), and ي (*yad*) are used to support ء (*hamzah*); when so used these letters are not represented in romanization. See rule 8b.
4. At the beginning of a word, alif represents an initial vowel or diphthong and is romanized accordingly as *a*, *e*, *i*, *u*, *o* (او), *au*, (او), *e*, (اي), or *ai* (اي). Following a consonant, alif represents the vowel romanized as *a*.
5. The optional *alif gantung* (for example, in the word تَبِيحُ ), when used, does not change the romanized form of the word.
6. The letter و (*wau*) is used: (a) to represent the consonant romanized as *w*, (b) to represent the vowels and diphthong romanized as *u*, *o*, and *au*, and (c) to support ء (*hamzah*) (see rule 8b).
7. The letter ي (*yad*) is used: (a) to represent the consonant romanized as *y*, (b) to represent the vowels and diphthong romanized as *i*, *e*, and *ai*, and (c) to support ء (*hamzah*) (see rule 8b).
8. ء (*hamzah*)
  - (a) In Arabic words, and most Arabic loans where it is found, hamzah is romanized according to the rules for Arabic (including use of the non-alphabetic mark ' (*alif*)).
  - (b) Hamzah used to separate contiguous vowels, supported by ا, or و or ي, is not represented in romanization (for example, *lain* لايُن, *laut* لاوْت, *permintaan* فُرمتان).
  - (c) Hamzah replacing initial alif in vowel-initial words to which the prefix *ke-* or *se-* has been attached is represented by the vowel value that it elided (*keenam* كَنَم, *seindah* سِنْدَه, *seorang* سَوْرَغ).
  - (d) A hamzah used after the reduplicating numeral 2 in vowel-final roots followed by the suffixes *-an* or *-i* is not represented in romanization.
  - (e) The occasional use of hamzah to represent a word-final glottal stop (for example, تيداء) is romanized as *k*.

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9. Words doubled with the number 2 should be written out in full (for example, *mata-mata* مات۲). When the root word ends in a consonant such that an appended *-an* or *-i* suffix must reduplicate the final consonant, the doubled consonant is not represented in the romanization (for example: *rumput-rumputan* رمڤت۲تن).
10. In cases where the postpositive *itu* or prepositive *yang* are joined to the preceding or following word, they should be romanized as separate words.
11. *Alif maqsūrah*, *waṣlah*, *maddah*, *shaddah*, and *tanwīn* are not commonly used in Jawi script except in Arabic words or phrases. If they do not appear as adornment on Malay words, they are not represented in the romanization. *Ta marbutah*, romanized as *t*, is not properly a Jawi script character either, but sometimes it may be found in Malay texts.