The Transliteration System Used in Bahá’í Literature

The Bahá’í transliteration system was adopted by Shoghi Effendi for use generally in all languages which are written in the Roman alphabet. It is intended to enable all the Bahá’ís who use such languages to have a common and uniform spelling of names and terms in Arabic and Persian, and to prevent the confusion which could result from a multiplicity of transliteration systems. It is in many respects similar to some of the other principal academic systems. This transliteration system is uniquely designed to be used for both Arabic and Persian words, which greatly simplifies the matter for Bahá’í texts, in which the two languages are inextricably intertwined.

Unlike transcription, transliteration is not intended as a guide to the pronunciation of the words of one language in the phonetic system of a different language, but rather to provide a key to the spelling of the words in the original language. The symbols used in transliteration thus serve only as an approximate indication of pronunciation. As the symbols are a key to the spelling in the original language, their pronunciation is determined by the context: Arabic pronunciation in an Arabic context, and Persian in a Persian context, while Arabic terms embedded in a Persian text are subject to the rules of Persian. The [International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Phonetic_Alphabet) symbols representing the pronunciation of the letters in Persian and Arabic are provided next to each letter. To listen to the pronunciation of each symbol, please refer to <https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/IPAcharts/inter_chart_2018/IPA_2018.html>

GUIDE TO TRANSLITERATION AND PRONUNCIATION OF THE

ARABIC AND PERSIAN ALPHABETS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Letter | Transliteration | International Phonetic Alphabet symbol | |
|  |  | Arabic | Persian |
| ا | á | a: | ɒː |
| ب | b | b | |
| پ | p |  | p |
| ت | t | t | |
| ث | th | θ | s |
| ج | j | dʒ | |
| چ | ch |  | tʃ |
| ح | ḥ | ħ | h |
| خ | kh | x | |
| د | d | d | |
| ذ | dh | ð | z |
| ر | r | r | |
| ز | z | z | |
| ژ | zh |  | ʒ |
| س | s | s | |
| ش | sh | ʃ | |
| ص | ṣ | sˤ | s |
| ض | ḍ | dˤ | z |
| ط | ṭ | tˤ | [t](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharyngealization) |
| ظ | ẓ | ðˤ | z |
| ع | ‘ | ʕ | ʔ |
| غ | gh | ɣ | [q](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voiceless_uvular_plosive) |
| ف | f | f | |
| ق | q | q | |
| ک | k | k | |
| گ | g |  | g |
| ل | l | l | |
| م | m | m | |
| ن | n | n | |
| و | v, ú | w, u: | v, u: |
| ه | h | h | |
| ی | y, í | j, i: |  |
| ء | ’ | [ʔ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glottal_stop) | |
| َ | a | a | æ |
| ـَا آ ىٰ | á | a: | ɒː |
| ِ | i | i | e |
| ـِیـ ـِی | í | i: | |
| ُ | u | u | o |
| ـُو | ú | u: | |
| ــَـیْ ــِیْ | ay | aj | ej |
| ـُوْ ــَـوْ | aw | aw | ow |

**Transliteration of** **Some Arabic and Persian Words Used in Bahá’í Literature**

Ábádih

‘Abbás

‘Abdu’l-‘Azíz

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

‘Abdu’l-Ḥamíd

‘Abdu’l-Ḥusayn

‘Abdu’lláh

Abhá

Abjad

Abú, Abá, Abí

Abu’l-Faḍl

‘Adasíyyih

Aͯdh̲án

Áͯdh̲irbáyján

Adíb

‘Adl

Afnán

Ághá

Aͯgh̲ṣán

‘Ahd

Aḥmad

Aḥsá’í

Aḥsanu’l-Qiṣaṣ

Aḥzán

Akbar

‘Akká

A‘lá

‘Alá/‘Alá’

‘Alí

‘Alí-Muḥammad

Alif

Alláh

Alláh-u-Abhá

Alláh-u-Akbar

Alváḥ

‘Amá, ‘Amá’

Amatu’l-Bahá

Amatu’lláh

Amín

Amír

Amír-Niẓám

Amru’lláh

Ámul

Anís

Anísá

Áqá

Aqdas

Arḍ

Arḍ-i-Bá

‘Áshiq

Aͯsh̲raf

‘Áshúrá

Aṣl-i-Kullu’l-Khayr

Asmá’

‘Aṭṭár

Ayyám

Ayyám-i-Há

‘Ayn

Azal

A‘ẓam

‘Aẓamat

‘Aẓím

‘Azíz

Bá

Báb

Bábí

Bábu’l-Báb

Badasht

Badí‘

Badí‘u’lláh

Baͯgh̲dádí

Bagum

Bahá

Bahá’í

Bahá’u’lláh

Bahíyyih

Bahjí

Bákú

Balúͯch̲istán

Bandar-‘Abbás

Baní-Háshim

Baqá

Báqir

Baqíyyatu’lláh

Bárfurúͯsh̲

Bayán

Bayt

Baytu’l-‘Adl-i-A‘ẓam

Big

Biͯsh̲árát

Bismi’lláh

Bismi’lláhi’r-Raḥmáni’r-Raḥím

Buͯkh̲árá

Burhán

Burújird

Búͯsh̲ihr

Buͯsh̲rú’í

Buͯsh̲rúyih

ͯCh̲ihríq

Dahají

Dalá’il-i-Sab‘ih

Damm

Darvísh

Dawlat-Ábád

Dawlih

Dayyán

Dhabíḥ

Dhi’b

Dhikr

Dhi’l-Ḥijjih, Dhu’l-Ḥijjih

Dhi’l-Qa‘dih, Dhu’l-Qa‘dih

Ḍíyá’íyyih

Ḍíyá’u’lláh

Dunyá

Faḍl

Fatḥ

Fará’id

Farmán

Farráͯsh̲, Farráͯsh̲-Báͯsh̲í

Fárs

Farsaͯkh̲

Fatḥ-‘Alí

Fáṭimih

Fatvá

Firdaws

Firdawsí

Fu’ád

Ganjíh

Ghulám

Ghulámu’l-Khuld

Ghuṣn

Ghuṣn-i-Aṭhar

Ghuṣn-i-A‘ẓam

Gílán

Gul

Gulistán

Gurgín

Há

Ḥabíb

Hádí

Ḥadíͯth̲

Ḥaḍrat

Ḥaḍrat-i-A‘lá

Ḥáfiẓ

Haft Pursish

Ḥájí

Ḥájí Mírzá Áqásí

Ḥajj

Hamadán

Ḥaqq

Ḥaram

Ḥaram-i-Aqdas

Ḥasan

Hawdaj

Ḥaydar-‘Alí

Haykal

Ḥaẓíratu’l-Quds

Ḥikmat

Ḥijáz

Hijrat

Ḥujjat

Ḥuqúqu’lláh

Ḥúr-i-‘Ujáb

Ḥúrí

Ḥúríyyih

Ḥurúfát

Ḥusayn

Ḥusayníyyih

‘Ibád

Ibn

Ibráhím

Iláhí

‘Ilm

Imám

Imám-Jum‘ih

Imám-Zádih

Inshá’alláh

Íqán

‘Iráqí

‘Iráq-i-‘Ajam

Iṣfahán

‘Iͯsh̲qábád

Iͯsh̲ráqát

Iͯsh̲tihárd

Islám

Ism

Ism-i-A‘ẓam

Ismá‘ílíyyih

Ismu’lláh

Ismu’lláhu’l-Aṣdaq

Ismu’lláhu’l-Muníb

Isráfíl

‘Izrá’íl

‘Izzat

Jabal

Jabal-i-Básiṭ

Jabal-i-Shadíd

Jáhilíyyih

Jalál

Jamádíyu’l-Avval

Jamádíyu’th-Thání

Jamál

Jamál-i-Mubárak

Jamál-i-Qidam

Javád

Javáhiru’l-Asrár

Jazíriy-i-Khaḍrá’

Jináb

Kabír

Kad-ͯKh̲udá

Káf

Kalántar

Kalím

Kalimát

Kalímát-i-Firdawsíyyih

Kamál

Karbilá

Karbilá’í

Karím

Karmil

Káͯsh̲án

Kaͯsh̲kúl

Kawͯth̲ar

Káẓim

Káẓimayn

Khadíjih

Khádim

Khádimu’lláh

Khalífih

Khalíl

Khán

Khániqayn

Khánum

Khiḍr

Khuṭbih

Khurásán

Khuy

Kirmán

Kirmánͯsh̲áh

Kitáb

Kitáb-i-‘Ahd

Kitáb-i-Aqdas

Kitáb-i-Asmá’, Kitábu’l-Asmá’

Kitáb-i-Badí‘

Kitáb-i-Íqán

Kuláh

Kull-i-Shay’

Lám

Lawḥ

Laylí

Madínih

Madrisih

Maḥbúbu’sh̲-ͯSh̲uhadá

Mahd-i-‘Ulyá

Máh-Kú

Maḥmúd

Majnún

Man-Yuẓhiruhu’lláh

Mánikchí Ṣáḥib

Maqám

Maqṣúd

Maráͯgh̲ih

Marḥabá

Marv

Maryam

Masá’il

Maͯsh̲had

Maͯsh̲hadí

Maͯsh̲íyyat

Maͯsh̲riqu’l-Aͯdh̲kár

Ma‘shúq

Masjid

Maͯth̲naví

Mawlúd

Maydán

Mázindarán

Mihdí, Mahdí

Miḥráb

Mílán

Mím

Mír

Mi‘ráj

Mírzá

Miͯsh̲kín-Qalam

Mu’adhdhin

Mubárak

Mufávaḍát

Muftí

Muḥammad

Muḥammad-‘Alí

Muḥarram

Mujtahid

Mulk

Mulúk

Mullá

Munírih

Muṣṭafá

Mustaͯgh̲áth̲

Mutaṣarrif

Muẓaffari’d-Dín

Nabíl

Nabíl-i-Akbar

Nabíl-i-A‘ẓam

Najaf

Najaf-Ábád

Náqiḍín

Náqús

Naṣír

Náṣiri’d-Dín

Navváb

Naw-Rúz

Nayríz

Nidá

Nuqṭih

Nuqṭiy-i-Úlá

Nún

Núr

Nuṣḥ

Pahlaván

Pahlaví

Párán

Páshá

Qáḍí

Qádíyán

Qá’im

Qalam

Qalam-i-A‘lá

Qájár

Qaṣídih

Qaṣídiy-i-Varqá’íyyih

Qazvín

Qawl

Qayyúm

Qayyúm-i-Asmá’, Qayyúmu’l-Asmá’

Qiblih

Quddús

Qudrat

Quds

Qum

Qur’án

Qurbán

Qurratu’l-‘Ayn

Rabí‘u’l-Avval

Rabí‘u’th-Thání

Raḥím

Raḥmán

Raḥmat

Ra’ís

Rajab

Ramaḍán

Raqͯsh̲á

Raͯsh̲ḥ-i-‘Amá

Raͯsh̲t

Rasúl

Rawḥání, Rúḥání

Riḍá

Riḍván

Risálih

Risáliy-i-Madaníyyih

Risáliy-i-Síyásíyyih

Rúḥ

Rúḥíyyih

Rúḥu’lláh

Ru’yá

Ṣabr

Sabzivár

Sa‘dí

Ṣád

Sadratu’l-Muntahá

Ṣadr-i-A‘ẓam

Sadrih, Sidrih

Ṣafar

Ṣáḥib

Ṣáḥibu’z-Zamán

Ṣaḥífatu’l-Ḥaramayn

Ṣaḥífih

Ṣaḥífiy-i-ͯSh̲aṭṭíyyih

Sa‘íd

Salám

Ṣalát

Ṣalát-i-Mayyit

Salmán

Salsabíl

Samandar

Samarqand

Sanandaj

Sangsar

Sáqí

Sarkár-Áqá

Sárí

Saysán

Sayyáḥ

Sha‘bán

Sháh

ͯSh̲áh-Bahrám

Shahíd

ͯShahmírzád

Shams

Shams-i-Tabríz

Sharaf

Sharí‘ah, Sharí‘at

ͯShavvál

Shaykh

Shaykhí

Shaykh-Ṭabarsí

Shaykhu’l-Islám

Shí‘ah, Shí‘ih

Shí‘í

Shíráz

Shúshtar

Simnán

Ṣiráṭ

Sirr

Sirru’lláh

Sístán

Síyáh-ͯCh̲ál

Siyyid

Siyyidu’sh-Shuhadá

Ṣúfí

Sulaymán

Sulaymáníyyih

Sulṭán

Sulṭán-Ábád

Sulṭánu’ͯsh̲-ͯSh̲uhadá

Sunnat, Sunnah

Sunní

Súrih

Súriy-i-Haykal, Súratu’l-Haykal

Ṭá

Ṭabarsí

Tabríz

Tafsír

Ṭáhirih

Táj

Tajallíyát

Tákur

Takyih

Taqí

Ṭarázát

Tarbíyat

Tawḥíd

ͯTh̲urayyá

Ṭibb

Ṭihrán

Túmán

Turkistán

‘Ulamá

Umm

Urúmíyyih

‘Urvatu’l-Vuthqá

Ustád

‘Uͯth̲mán

Vafá

Vaḥíd

Váḥid

Vakíl

Vakílu’d-Dawlih

Valí

Valí-‘Ahd

Valíyy-i-Amru’lláh

Varaqatu’l-Firdaws

Varaqih

Varaqiy-i-‘Ulyá

Varqá

Váv

Vazír, Vizír

Viláyat

Yá

Yá Bahá’u’l-Abhá

Yá Ṣáḥibu’z-Zamán

Yaḥyá

Yazd

Yúsuf

Zá

Zádih

Zamzam

Zanján

Zarand

Zarrín-Táj

Zawrá’

Zaynab

Zaynu’l-Muqarrabín

Zíyárat

Ẓuhúr

The words Islam, Shah, and Sultan are now spelled without diacritics when they occur alone but are transliterated when part of a Persian or Arabic phrase, title, or name (e.g., Muḥammad Sháh).