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**ABSTRACT**

This manual describes and illustrates the writing system of modern Persian. It is modelled after Frank A. Rice's "Classical Arabic: The Writing System." Five sections concerning the writing system are provided: (1) printed Persian, (2) typewritten Persian, (3) handwritten Persian, (4) the combination of words, and (5) punctuation. (RL)

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# THE WRITING SYSTEM OF MODERN PERSIAN

Herbert H. Paper  
and  
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EDUCATION & WELFARE  
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EDUCATION

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OF  
MODERN PERSIAN

Herbert H. Paper  
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Mohammad Ali Jazayeri

American Council of Learned Societies  
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## PREFACE

This manual, originally prepared by Professor Herbert H. Paper, of the University of Michigan, is closely modelled on Frank A. Rice's Classical Arabic: The Writing System (Foreign Service Institute, 1952). It has been revised to some extent by the following persons: Charles A. Ferguson, Carleton T. Hodge, Mohammad Meimandi-Nejad, and Mohammad Ali Jazayeri. The notes on typewritten Persian, handwritten Persian, the combination of words, and punctuation are Mr. Jazayeri's.

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## PRINTED PERSIAN

### GENERAL

0. Persian is customarily written and printed in an adapted form of the Arabic alphabet consisting of 32 letters and a number of signs. It differs from its Arabic original in that it has added four new letters to take care of Persian sounds which do not exist in Arabic. In general, all words of Arabic origin, as well as a number of Arabic phrases common in Persian, appear in their original Arabic orthography.

While the letters of the alphabet are basically the same in form whether written, printed, or typed, there are slight differences. For our purposes, three main types may be distinguished: printed, typed, and handwritten (which is sometimes, though not so frequently as in earlier times, used in lithography or photo-printing). In the present treatment we are mainly concerned with the printed variety of the Persian alphabet. However, a short note on handwritten Persian has been added to serve as an introductory guide to the reading of this style. The typewritten form is also briefly discussed.

1. Persian is written and printed from right to left.
2. All of the consonants, but only three of the six simple vowels, are indicated.
3. The manner of writing and printing is cursive, and most of the letters are connected to preceding and following letters within the same word.
4. There are no capital letters.
5. Most of the letters have four variant shapes, depending on whether or not they are connected to preceding and/or following letters. Later on the four shapes will be called initial, medial, final, and independent.
6. Some letters are identical in basic form and are distinguished from one another by the arrangement of one, two, or three dots placed above, below, or inside the basic form.

### THE ALPHABET

1. The following list shows the letters of the Persian alphabet in the shape they have when they stand alone (= independent), that is, not connected to a preceding or following letter. This is the conventional order of the alphabet according to which the dictionaries are arranged.



Letter	The Persian Alphabet Name	Transcribed by
—	'æléf	' , a (or no symbol)
ب	be	b
پ	pe	p
ت	te	t
ث	se	s
ج	jim	j
چ	ce	c
ح	he (hottf)	h
خ	xe	x
د	dal	d
ذ	zal	z
ر	re	r
ز	ze	z
ژ	že	ž
س	sin	s
ش	šin	š
ص	sad	s
ض	zad	z
ط	ta	t
ظ	za	z
ع	'eyn	' (or no symbol)
ق	qeyn	q
ف	fe	f
ک	qaf	q
گ	kaf	k
گ	gaf	g
ل	lam	l
م	mim	m
ن	nun	n
و	vav	v, u, o, ow
ه	he (hævvæz)	h, e
ی	ye	y, i

Notice that in a number of instances several letters represent the same sound in Persian. In these cases, only one of these letters ordinarily occurs in words of Persian origin, while all of them can be found in Arabic loan words. However, in a few cases, even words which are not Arabic borrowings are spelled with letters otherwise peculiar to Arabic. A number of Persian proper nouns (both place names and personal names) are spelled with typical Arabic letters by some people and with the ordinary letters by others. The present tendency is in favor of the latter type of spelling. The same situation exists in the case of words borrowed from languages other than Arabic (especially Greek and Turkish).

Persian Sound	Letters	
z	ز	ze
	ذ	zal
	ض	zad
	ظ	za
		} Chiefly in Arabic loan words
s	س	sin
	ث	se
	ص	sad
		} Chiefly in Arabic loan words
t	ت	te
	ط	ta
		Chiefly in Arabic loan words
h	ح	he hottf
	ه	he hævvéz
q	ق	qeyn
	ك	qaf
		Chiefly in Arabic loan words
'	ا	'æléf
	ع	'eyn
		Chiefly in Arabic loan words

2. The following shows the Persian letters in their alphabetical order and written from right to left. Note the placing of the letters relative to the line of writing.

ا ب پ ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز  
 س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك گ ل  
 م ن و ی

## VOWELS

3. Persian has six vowels: a, æ, e, i, o, u. Two of them, i and u, are regularly indicated in the writing by the letters ی (ye) and و (vav) re-

spectively. One, a, is regularly indicated by | ('æléf) in the middle or at the end of a word. At the beginning it is sometimes indicated by a special mark    over | ('æléf): |̄. The other three vowels are not usually represented in the writing. Four special signs, described in Section 18, may be used to indicate æ, e, and o, or absence of vowel, but these signs are rarely used in ordinary written or printed Persian. Occasionally o is indicated by ۛ (vav); and at the end of a word e is sometimes indicated by • (he hævvæz).

There is also a special sign to indicate double consonants (see Section 23). This sign is not ordinarily used.

## NON-CONNECTORS

4. The following letters are non-connectors. They do not have a curvilinear linking to a following letter, though they do connect to a preceding letter if the preceding letter is a connector.

- | 'æléf is characteristically a vertical stroke.
- د dal
- ذ zal is exactly like dal, but with one dot above it.
- ر re
- ز ze is exactly like re, but with one dot above it.
- ژ že is exactly like re, but with a dot triangle above it.
- و vav

At the beginning of a word, the letter | ('æléf) indicates 'a. A vowel naturally follows, as Persian has no words beginning with two consonants. 'u is represented by او, 'i by ای. 'a has a special symbol over the | ('æléf): |̄ (see Section 19.10). 'æ, 'o, and 'e are ordinarily written with | ('æléf) alone.

In the middle of a word, | ('æléf) most often represents the vowel a, but it may also represent 'i. At the end of a word, | ('æléf) nearly always indicates the vowel a (see Section 24).

The symbol |̄ (Section 19.11) for 'a is also used in the middle and at the end of words.

The letter و (vav) at the beginning of a word represents the consonant v: elsewhere it may represent u, o, ow, or v.

از 'æz 'from'	در dær 'in'	داد dad 'he gave'
او 'u 'he'	دو do 'two'	درد dærd 'pain'
ارزش 'ærzš 'value'	دژ dez 'fortress'	دوا dævâ 'medicine'
		دود dud 'smoke'

اردو 'ordú 'Urdu'	روز ruz 'day'	ورم væræm 'swelling'
ادوار 'ædvár 'periods'	زد zæd 'he struck'	ورود vorúd 'arrival'
	زود zud 'quick'	
	زور zur 'strength'	
	زرد zærd 'yellow'	
دژ dež 'fortress'		
روز ruž 'rouge'		

## CONNECTORS

5. All other letters connect both to preceding letters (except when they are non-connectors) and to following letters. These may be arranged according to their basic forms.

6. b, n, y, t, p, s. These letters are all characterized by an upward stroke with one to three dots above or below. The medial forms are as follows:

⋮ b	⋮ y	⋮ p
⋮ n	⋮ t	⋮ s

In their final and independent forms, there is significant variation only in the basic forms of ن n and ی y.

6.10 b (be) has a single dot below.

6.11 b- has the initial shape: ب

باز baz 'open'

بد bæd 'bad'

ابرو 'æbrú 'eyebrow'

ابر 'æbr 'cloud'

6.12 -b- has the medial shape: بـ

ببر bæbr 'tiger'

تبر tæbær 'axe'

تبریز tæbríz 'Tabriz'

زیبا zibá 'beautiful'

6.13 -b has the final shape: ب

زيب zib 'ornament'

تب tæb 'fever'

اديب 'ædib 'man of letters'

اړيب 'orib 'slanting'

6.14 b has the independent shape: ب

تاب tab 'glow'

ناب nab 'pure'

باب bab 'gate'

ترب torób 'radish'

6.20 n (nun) has one dot above.

6.21 n- has the initial shape: نـ

نر nær 'male'

ناو nav 'ship'

نیز niz 'also'

نو now 'new'

6.22 -n- has the medial shape: ن

بنیاد bonyád 'foundation'

پنیر pænír 'cheese'

هنوز hənúz 'yet, still'

تند tond 'fast'

6.23 n has the final shape: ن

تن ten 'body'

بن bon 'root'

دین din 'religion'

زودترین zudtærín 'quickest'

6.24 n has the independent shape: ن

نان nan 'bread'

نادان nadán 'ignorant'

زدن zædén 'to strike'

دندان dændán 'tooth'

6.25 Written medial or final nb is pronounced mb:

زنبور zæmbúr 'wasp'

انبر 'æmbór 'pincers'

6.30 y (ye) has two dots below (when initial or medial).

The letter ی (ye) at the beginning of a word represents the consonant y; elsewhere it may represent i or y.

The sequence ای ('æléf-ye) at the beginning of a word often represents 'i, and sometimes it represents 'ey.

6.31 y- has the initial shape: ی

یا ya 'or'

ایران 'iran 'Iran'

یونان yunán 'Greece'

این 'in 'this'

6.32 -y- has the medial shape: ی

نیز niz 'also'

بیابان biabán 'desert'

پنیر pænír 'cheese'

بین beyn 'between'

6.33 Final ye is deeper than the final forms of the other letters treated in Section 6 (except n). It is also characterized by the curving connecting line. Notice that the two dots are ordinarily not written below the final and independent forms.

ایرانی 'iraní 'Iranian'

بی bi 'without'

یونانی yunaní 'Greek'

نادانی nadaní 'ignorance'

6.34 y has the independent shape: ی

روزی rúzi 'a day'

بازی bazí 'play, game'

زردی zærdí 'yellowness'

یاری yarí 'help'

6.35 At the end of certain Arabic loan words the letter ی represents the sound a. You will have to learn the words that are written with ی for a instead of ا ('æléf). (See Section 26).

6.40 t (te) has two dots above.

6.41 t- has the initial shape: ت

تابوت tabút 'coffin'

تبر tæbær 'axe'

6.42 -t- has the medial shape: ت

پتو pætu 'blanket'

دکتر doktór 'doctor'

6.43 -t has the final shape: ت

تربیت tærbiyæt 'education'

پوست pust 'skin'

6.44 t has the independent shape: ت

تابوت tabút 'coffin'

احساسات 'ehsasát 'feelings'

تب tæb 'fever'

تبریز tæbríz 'Tabriz'

متر metr 'meter'

کمتر kæmtær 'less'

بت bot 'idol'

بیست bist 'twenty'

عبارت 'ebaræt 'phrase'

لغات loqát 'words'

6.50 p (pe) has three dots arranged in a triangle below.

6.51 p- has the initial shape: پ

پا pa 'foot'

پر por 'full'

6.52 -p- has the medial shape: پ

تپید tæpíd 'palpitated'

بپر bæpær 'Fly!'

6.53 -p has the final shape: پ

پپ pip '(tobacco) pipe'

تیپ tip 'brigade'

6.54 p has the independent shape: پ

پاپ pap 'Pope'

توپ tup 'cannon'

پارو parú 'oar'

پر pær 'feather'

بپرد bæpæræd 'Let him fly.'

بپزد bæpæz 'Cook!'

چپ çep 'left'

جیپ jip 'jeep'

چاپ çap 'printing'

کرپ kerép 'crepe'

6.60 s (se) has three dots above.

6.61 s- has the initial shape: س

ثابت sabét 'proved; fixed'

ثروت særvæt 'wealth'

6.62 -s- has the medial shape: س

نثر næsr 'prose'

مثال mesál 'example'

ثبت sæbt 'registration'

ثلث sols 'a third'

تثنیه tæsniyé 'dual (gram.)'

مثبت mosbæt 'affirmative'

6.63 -s has the final shape: ث

عَبث 'ebebés 'futile'

مِثْلُث mosellés 'triangular'

ثالث salés 'third'

ثَلِثِث tæslís 'trinity'

6.64 s has the independent shape: ث

وارِث varés 'heir'

ورِاثِث vorrás 'heirs'

توارِثِث tævarós 'inheritance'

ارِثِث 'ers 'heritage'

7. j, c, x, h. These letters, like those of Section 6, have the same basic form but differ only in the arrangement of dots.

ج j

چ c

خ h

ح x

7.10 j (jim) is characterized by a dot placed below the basic form.

7.11 j- has the initial shape: ج

جَا ja 'place'

جِزْ joz 'except'

جَدِيدْ jædfíd 'new'

تَاجِرْ tajér 'merchant'

7.12 -j- has the medial shape: ج

بِجَانْ biján 'lifeless'

رَاجِذِثْ rænjidén 'to be offended'

زَاجِرْ zænjír 'chain'

إِنْجَا 'injá 'here'

7.13 -j has the final shape: ج

بِنَجْ pænj 'five'

بِرِنَجْ berénj 'rice'

رَنِجْ rænj 'suffering'

خَلِيجْ xælj 'gulf'

7.14 j has the independent shape: ج

تَاجْ taj 'crown'

بِرَجْ borj 'tower'

زَاجْ zaj 'vitriol'

خَرَجْ xærj 'expense'

7.20 x (xe) is characterized by a dot placed above the basic form.

7.21 x- has the initial shape: خ

خَارْ xar 'thorn'

خَرْ xær 'donkey'

خَانَ xan 'khan'

خَنْجَرْ xænjær 'dagger'

7.22 -x- has the medial shape: خ

بَخْتْ bæxt 'luck'

بَخْتِنْ poxtén 'to cook'

بَخَارِيْ boxarí 'stove'

نَخْوَدْ noxód 'peas'

7.23 -x has the final shape: خ

بِخْ bix 'root'

يَخْ yæx 'ice'

نَخْ næx 'thread'

زَنْخْ zænx 'chin' (literary)

7.24 x has the independent shape: خ

نرخ nerx 'rate'

چرخ cærx 'wheel'

رخ rox 'face'

کاخ kax 'palace'

7.25 The sequence xa is in certain words written خوا. The و (vav) here is an historical writing and has no sound value.

خواب xab 'sleep'

خواندن xandæn 'to read'

خوابیدن xabidæn 'to sleep'

خواهر xahær 'sister'

7.26 Note that the letter و (vav) after a خ (xe) sometimes represents the vowel o.

خود xod 'self'

نخود noxöd 'peas'

خورشید xoršfd 'the sun'

خورد xord 'he ate'

7.30 c (ce) is characterized by three dots placed below the basic form.

7.31 c- has the initial shape: چ

چاپ cap 'print(ing)'

چپ cæp 'left'

چای cay 'tea'

چرا cæra 'why'

7.32 -c- has the medial shape: چ

پیچیدن picidæn 'to twist'

بچرخ bécærx 'Turn!'

7.33 -c has the final shape: چ

پیچ pic 'twist, screw'

هیچ hic 'nothing'

7.34 c has the independent shape: چ

بوج puc 'vain, futile'

کوج kuc 'migration'

7.40 h (he hottf) has the same shape in all positions as j, c, and x except that it has no dots of any kind and is simply the basic form of this series.

7.41 h- has the initial shape: ه

حجاز hejáz 'Hejaz'

حیوان heyvân 'animal'

حزب hezb 'political party'

احتیاج 'ehtiyáj 'need'

7.42 -h- has the medial shape: ه

بهر bæhr 'sea'

تحریر tæhrír 'writing'

تحت tæht 'underneath'

ریحان reyhân 'sweet basil'

7.43 -h has the final shape: ه

ذبح zebh 'act of slaughtering'

شیبح šæbœh 'phantom'

7.44 h has the independent shape: ح

نوح nuh 'Noah'

شرح šærh 'explanation'

8. s and š (sin and šin) have the same basic form. The sin is dotless, and the šin has a triangle of dots above.

-s- has the initial shape: س



ساختن saxtén 'to build'  
استاد 'ostád 'professor'

اسب 'æsb 'horse'  
استخر 'estæxr 'pool'

8.11 -s- has the medial shape: س

نیست nist 'is not'  
بیست bist 'twenty'

جستن jostén 'to search'

بستن bæstén 'to tie'

8.12 -s has the final shape: س

بس bes 'enough'  
جنس jens 'species; sex'

سپس sepés 'then'

پس pes 'then'

8.13 s has the independent shape: س

اساس 'æsás 'basis'  
خروس xorús 'rooster'

ترس ters 'fear'

ياس yas 'jasmine'

8.20 š- has the initial shape: ش

شاید šáyed 'perhaps'  
شدن šodén 'to become'

شب šeb 'evening; night'

شستن šostén 'to wash'

8.21 -š- has the medial shape: ش

پشت pošt 'back'  
خشود xošnúd 'pleased'

جشن jeshn 'festival'

نشستن nešestén 'to sit'

8.22 -š has the final shape: ش

خویش xiš 'self'  
ریش riš 'beard'

خیش xiš 'plough'

زیش zæneš 'his wife'

8.23 š has the independent shape: ش

خوش xoš 'happy'  
ارزش 'ærzesh 'value'

دوش duš 'shower'

ورزش værzesh 'sport'

9. k and g (kaf and gaf) have the same basic form. Kaf has one oblique stroke in its initial and medial forms.

9.10 k- has the initial shape: ک

کتاب ketáb 'book'  
کارد kard 'knife'

کار kar 'work'

دکتر doktór 'doctor'

9.11 -k- has the medial shape: ک

شکار šekár 'hunting'  
تکرار tekrár 'repetition'

شکر šekér 'sugar'

تشکر tæsekkór 'thanks'

9.12 -k has the final shape: ک

یک yek 'one'  
اشک 'æšk 'tear'

خنک xonók 'cool'

بانک bank 'bank'

9.13 k has the independent shape: ك

پاك pak 'pure'

خاك xak 'soil; dust'

ترك tork 'Turk'

ترىاك teryák 'opium'

9.20 gaf differs from kaf only in having two parallel oblique strokes in all its forms.

9.21 g- has the initial shape: گ

گورگ gorg 'wolf'

گذشتن gozæštæn 'to pass'

گیج gjz 'dizzy'

گاو gav 'cow'

9.22 -g- has the medial shape: گ

جگر jegér 'liver'

تنگی tængí 'narrowness'

تگرگ tægérg 'hail'

سنگین sængín 'heavy'

9.23 -g has the final shape: گ

ریگ rig 'sand'

جنگ jæng 'war'

زنگ zæng 'bell'

سگ sæg 'dog'

9.24 g has the independent shape: گ

گورگ gorg 'wolf'

تگرگ tægérg 'hail'

بزرگ bozórg 'big'

برگ bærg 'leaf'

10. f and q (fe and qaf) differ only in the number of dots and in their final and independent forms, where qaf has a deeper loop than fe; the final form of fe is hollow, while that of qaf is not.

10.10 f- has the initial shape: ف

فرزند færzænd 'child'

افتادن oftadæn 'to fall'

فکر fekr 'thought'

افسر 'æfsær 'officer'

10.11 -f- has the medial shape: ف

سفید sæffid 'white'

جفت joft 'pair'

نفت næft 'oil'

تفنگ tofæng 'rifle'

10.12 -f has the final shape: ف

شریف šærif 'noble'

کشف kæšf 'discovery'

کیف kæsf 'dirty'

کیف kif 'purse, bag'

10.13 f has the independent shape: ف

برف bærf 'snow'

حرف hærf 'letter of the alphabet'

شگرف šegérf 'wonderful'

ناف naf 'navel'

10.20 qaf differs from fe in having two dots placed above instead of one.

10.21 q- has the initial shape: ق

قانون qanún 'law'

قەدري qædri 'some'

10.22 -q- has the medial shape: ق

نقاش næqqáǵ 'painter'

قەد næqqd 'cash'

10.23 -q has the final shape: ق

دەليق dæqǵǵ 'minute (adj.);  
careful'

زەنبق zæmbæq 'iris'

10.24 q has the independent shape: ق

بەرق bærq 'electricity, lightning'

قەچاق qacáq 'contraband;  
smuggler'

قەبر qæbr 'grave'

قەرن qærn 'century'

سەقا sæqqá 'water-carrier'

مەنقار menqár 'beak'

رەفيق ræfǵǵ 'friend'

تەفریق tæfrǵǵ 'subtraction'

شەرق šærq 'east'

ئەتەق 'ettefáq 'incident'

11. l (lam) is characteristically a vertical stroke. It differs from | ('æléf) chiefly by connecting to a following letter.

11.10 l- has the initial shape: ل

لەندن lændæn 'London'

لەخت loxt 'naked'

لەگد lægæd 'kick (noun)'

لەباس lebas 'clothes'

11.11 -l- has the medial shape: ل

جەلد jeld 'skin, hide'

جەلو jelów 'front'

تەلخ tælx 'bitter'

گەلو gælu 'throat'

11.12 -l has the final shape: ل

گول gol 'rose'

پول pol 'bridge'

نیل nil 'Nile'

بەلبەل bolból 'nightingale'

11.13 l has the independent shape: ل

دەل del 'heart'

دەول dovæl 'governments'

پول pul 'money'

دەنبال dombál 'rear'

12. m (mim) is characteristically a small circle, often merely a dot on a downward break in the line.

12.10 m- has the initial shape: م

مە ma 'we'

مەرد mærd 'man'

مەدەر madær 'mother'

میز miz 'table'

12.11 -m- has the medial shape: م

مەھەممەد mohæmmæd 'Mohammed'

سەمت sæmt 'direction'

بیمار bimár 'sick'

شیمی šimí 'chemistry'

12.12 -m has the final shape: م

نیم nim 'half'  
کتاب ketábem 'my book'

سیم sim 'wire'  
رفتم raftem 'I went.'

12.13 m has the independent shape: م

تمام tæmám 'whole'  
سوم sevvóm 'third'

سلام sælám 'hello'  
مردم mærdóm 'people'

13. h (he hævvæz) does not have any one characteristic form.

13.10 h- has the initial shape: هـ

هر hæ'r 'each, every'  
هشت hæšt 'eight'

هفت hæft 'seven'  
دهان dæhán 'mouth'

13.11 -h- has the medial shape: هـ

بهتر behtær 'better'  
بهشت behéšt 'paradise'

بهار bæhár 'spring'  
چهل çehl 'forty'

13.12 -h has the final shape: هـ. The final h ( هـ ) often indicates the vowel e.

سه se 'three'  
ترنجه torobcé 'radish'

رفته rafté 'gone'  
تخته tæxté 'board, plank'

13.13 h has the independent shape: هـ. The independent h ( هـ ), too, often indicates the vowel e.

راه rah 'path, road'  
پیاده piadé 'on foot'

اجازه 'ejazé 'permission'  
ده deh 'village'

14. s and z (sad and zad) have the same basic form. The sad is dot-less; the zad has one dot above.

14.10 s- has the initial shape: صـ

صابون sabún 'soap'  
صحیح sæhîh 'correct'

صبح sobh 'morning'  
صد sæd 'hundred'

14.11 -s- has the medial shape: صـ

تصمیم tæsmím 'decision'  
مصر me'sr 'Egypt'

بصره bæsré 'Basra'  
سیصد sisæd 'three hundred'

14.12 -s has the final shape: سـ

نقص næqs 'defect'  
شخص šæxs 'person'

ناقص naqés 'defective'  
مردم مخم moræxxæs 'permitted to leave'

14.13 s has the independent shape: سـ

- مخصوص mæxsús 'special'  
 رقص ræqqás 'dancer'
- 14.20 z- has the initial shape: ض  
 ضرر zærrér 'loss'  
 اضافة 'ezafé 'addition'
- 14.21 -z- has the medial shape: ا  
 هضم hæzm 'digestion'  
 قضاوت qezavét 'judgment'
- 14.22 -z has the final shape: ض  
 نقض næqz 'violation'  
 نبض næbz 'pulse'
- 14.23 z has the independent shape: ض  
 رياض riáz 'Riyadh'  
 مرض mærréz 'disease'
15. t and z (ta and za) have the same basic form. The ta is dotless; the za has one dot above.
- 15.10 t- has the initial shape: ط  
 طبيب tæbíb 'physician'  
 طوطى tutf 'parrot'
- 15.11 -t- has the medial shape: ط  
 سطل sætl 'pail'  
 نقطه noqté 'point'
- 15.12 -t has the final shape: ط  
 ربط ræbt 'connection'  
 خط xætt 'line'
- 15.13 t has the independent shape: ط  
 احتياط 'ehtiyát 'caution'  
 ارتباط 'ertebát 'communication'
- 15.20 z- has the initial shape: ظ  
 ظرف zærf 'vase'  
 ظاهر zahér 'apparent'
- 15.21 -z- has the medial shape: ظ  
 نظارت nezarræt 'supervision'  
 انتظار 'entezár 'expectation'
- خُلوص xolús 'sincerity'  
 خاص xass 'particular'
- ضيافات ziyafæt 'banquet'  
 واضح vazéh 'clear, plain'
- انقضا 'enqezá 'expiration'  
 مضر mozér 'harmful'
- فقط mæhze 'only for'  
 مريض mærfíz 'sick'
- قرض qærz 'debt'  
 مقروض mæqrúz 'indebted'
- طلا telá 'gold'  
 اتاق 'otáq 'room'
- مطر metr 'meter'  
 ارسطو 'ærræstú 'Aristotle'
- وسط væsæt 'middle'  
 رابط rabét 'liaison'
- اختلاط 'extelát 'mixture'  
 سقراط soqrát 'Socrates'
- ظهر zohr 'noon'  
 وظيفه væzifé 'duty'
- نظر næzzér 'view'  
 منظور mænzúr 'purpose'

15.22 -z has the final shape: ذ

خدا حافظ xodahaféz 'Good-bye!'

تلفظ teššéfóz 'pronunciation'

حفظ hefz 'protection'

حافظ haféz 'Hafez'

15.23 z has the independent shape: ظ

مأخوذ məhžúz 'pleased'

مأخوذ məššéfúz 'pronounced'

نقطة leház 'point of view'

الكلمات 'aššéfáz 'words'

16. The following basic shape ('eyn) represents ' (that is, either a glottal stop or stricture, or a lengthening of the preceding vowel). Initially it functions much like 'aššéf, but occurs only in words of Arabic origin. 'eyn and qeyn are alike in their basic form, but qeyn has one dot above.

16.10 ' has the initial shape: ع

عاقِل 'aqél 'wise'

عجيب 'eššéjb 'strange'

عبارت 'ebaráét 'phrase'

اجتماعي 'ejtemá'í 'social'

16.11 ' has the medial shape: ء

سعى šé'y 'attempt'

فعل fe'l 'verb'

بعد bæ'd 'after'

مؤروف məššerúf 'famous'

16.12 ' has the final shape: ع

ربع rob' 'quarter'

جمع jæm' 'plural'

قلع qæl' 'tin'

مايع mayé' 'liquid'

16.13 ' has the independent shape: ع

مضارع mozaré' 'present (tense)'

دفاع defá' 'defense'

اجتماع 'ejtemá' 'gathering; society'

شجاع šojá' 'brave'

16.20 q- has the initial shape: ق

غاز qaz 'goose'

زيتون rowqæn 'oil, fat'

غذا qæzá 'food'

كاغذ kaqæz 'paper'

16.21 -q- has the medial shape: ق

مخبر məqz 'brain, marrow'

تغيير teqyír 'change'

بئق bæqæí 'armpit'

مشغول məššéqúl 'busy'

16.22 -q has the final shape: ق

مبغ miq 'cloud, mist' (literary)

تبع tiq 'blade'

16.23 q has the independent shape: ق

دروغ dorúq 'lie, false'

يوق yuq 'yoke'

دماغ dəməq 'nose'

استفراغ 'estefráq 'vomiting'

## LIGATURES

17. Ligatures are a combination of two letters into a specialized form which is not a part of the regular Persian alphabet. They are limited to the following combinations: lam-'æléf, kaf-'æléf, gaf-'æléf, kaf-lám, and gaf-lám. When the sequences kaf-lam-'æléf and gaf-lam-'æléf appear, only two of the letters may be combined into a ligature. The remaining letter is printed in its usual form.

17.10 The combination lam-'æléf, when in isolated position, is printed:

لاستیک lastík 'rubber'

لاک lak 'sealing wax'

لاشخور lašxór 'vulture'

اولاد 'owlád 'child'

17.11 When in final position, the combination lam-'æléf has this shape:

خلال xelál 'interval'  
(literary)

اختلاف 'exteláf 'difference'

فلاحت faelahæt 'agriculture'

طلا telá 'gold'

17.20 The combinations kaf-'æléf and gaf-'æléf, when in isolated position, are printed ك and گ. When in final position, they are printed ك and گ respectively.

کاغذ kaqæz 'paper'

انکار 'enkár 'denial'

گام gam 'step'

نگاه negáh 'glance'

17.30 The combinations kaf-lám and gaf-lám are written ك and گ initially, ك and گ medially, ك and گ finally, and ك and گ when independent.

کلم kælém 'cabbage'

گلو gælú 'throat'

الکلی 'ælkolí 'alcoholic'

انگ 'ængæi 'parasite'

شکل šekl 'shape'

انگلیسی 'engelisi 'English'

توکل tævækkól 'trust (e.g., in God)'

گل gol 'flower'

17.40 The combinations kaf-lam-'æléf and gaf-lam-'æléf are more commonly printed كلا, گلا; گلا, گلا than گلا, گلا; گلا, گلا.

کلاغ = کاغذ kæláq 'crow'

بکلاهش = بکلاهش bekoláhæš 'to his hat'

گلابی = گلابی golabí 'pear'

بگلابی = بگلابی begolabí 'to the pear'

## SPECIAL SIGNS

In Sections 3 and 4 some of the means for indicating vowels and diphthongs were mentioned. In the following nine sections, examples and combinations will be discussed.

18. The vowels æ, e, and o may be represented by the following signs:

æ (placed above the preceding consonant):

تَر tær 'soak'                      نَر nær 'male'

e (placed under the preceding consonant):

کِرم kerm 'worm'                      شِکل šekl 'shape'

o (placed above the preceding consonant):

پُور por 'full'                      تُوْرب torób 'radish'

Absence of vowel may be indicated by the sign <sup>^</sup> placed above the consonant to which it belongs:

پَدَْز pedær 'father'                      اَكْْر 'æger 'if'

These four signs are, however, hardly ever used in printed (or written) Persian. These signs are sometimes called 'vowel points'.

19. 'ælef mæddí. The form  $\bar{A}$ , called 'ælef mæddí (essentially an 'ælef drawn horizontally above a conventional 'ælef) expresses the sound a when in independent or final position. In alphabetical listing, 'ælef mæddí counts as 'ælef plus 'ælef.

19.10 'ælef mæddí in independent position:  $\bar{A}$

آب 'ab 'water'

آرد 'ard 'flour'

آزاد 'azád 'free'

آسیا 'asiyá 'Asia'

19.11 'ælef mæddí in final position:  $\bar{A}$

ماَنر ma'asér 'memorable  
deeds' (literary)

تاَتر teátr 'theater'

20. Initial 'ælef plus vav expresses 'u, 'ow, or 'v: او

اوردك 'owræng 'throne'  
(literary)

او 'u 'he, she'

اولاد 'owlád 'children'

اول 'ævvæl 'first'

21. Initial 'ælef plus ye expresses 'i, 'y, or (with a vowel, of course) 'ey or 'æy: ای

ایران 'irán 'Iran'

ایوان 'eyván 'palace'

اینجا 'injá 'here'

ایشان 'išan 'they'

22. hæmzé. The symbol <sup>^</sup>, called hæmzé, is sometimes used over ا, و, ی, and ه, as described in the following sections:

22.10 A glottal stop in the middle of a word is sometimes indicated by the small sign <sup>^</sup> (hæmzé) above و, ا, ی (without dots), and ه.

ساَنل sa'él 'beggar'

رُؤسا ro'æsá 'chiefs'

مسئول mæ'súl 'responsible'

امریکائی 'emrika'í 'American'



There is a tendency to omit the hæmzê and use a **ى** (ye) instead everywhere except in words of Arabic origin.

22.20 'ælef hæmzê. There are also cases where, in the middle of a word, hæmzê is written above an 'ælef (though its omission in print is frequent) to express the sequence æ'. Note that 'ælef here does not express the sound a.

تأخير	tæ'xír	'delay'	تأديب	tæ'díb	'chastisement'
تأني	tæ'nní	'slowness, hesitation'	مأخذ	mæ'xæz	'source, origin'

22.30 hæmzê is also used over a final h (ه) (though omission in printing is frequent) to indicate connecting e ('ezafê) in the case of final written but unpronounced h (see Section 3). The hæmzê in this case has the pronunciation ye.

خانه بزرگ	xanéye bozörg	'the big house'
دسته کاغذ	dæstéye kaqæz	'the bunch of paper'

Final connected ه may have ' (hæmzê) to represent indefinite -i: ه 'i. This is increasingly being written ای 'i.

خانه	xané'i	'a house'	دسته	dæsté'i	'a bunch'
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23. tæšdíd. The doubling of consonants, in the middle or at the end of a word, may be indicated by the small sign " (tæšdíd) written above the letter to be doubled; but it, too, is often omitted.

اول	'ævvæl	'first'	مخفف	moxæffæf	'contraction'
معلم	mo'ællém	'teacher'	تلفظ	tælfæf	'pronunciation'

24. tænvín. An ending -æn (of Arabic origin) of certain adverbs is indicated by the following sign " (tænvín), written usually above a final 'ælef. Like hæmzê and tæšdíd, it, too, is often omitted. Note that in this case, final 'ælef does not have the value a.

مثلاً	mæssælén	'for example'	أولاً	'ævvælén	'firstly'
تقریباً	tæqribæn	'almost, approximately'	قبلاً	qæblæn	'beforehand, earlier, before'

25. In older printed material, the final and independent h, ه and ه, appear, at the end of some words, with two dots above them. These words are invariably of Arabic origin. In modern writings these forms are very rarely found. In words where the dotted h is pronounced t, the symbol ت or ت is used.

اصالت	'esalæt	'genuineness'	زیارت	ziyaræt	'pilgrimage'
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In words where an originally dotted h is retained without dots, as ه, it represents the vowel e:

اجازه 'ejazê 'permission'

26. Mention was made in Section 6.35 of the fact that final y is sometimes pronounced as if it were final 'ælef, and is pronounced a.

حتى hætta 'even though'  
 ماوی mæ'vá 'dwelling, abode'

اعلی 'æ'lá 'higher, highest'  
 سكنی sokná 'dwelling'

But note:

مبنی | mæbná 'basis,  
 مبنا | foundation'

مبنی mæbnf 'based,  
 founded'

However, when these words are followed by the syllable -ye (another form of -e, the 'ezafé sign), the letter ye is replaced by 'ælf. This 'ælf represents the sound a (which is the same sound as was indicated by the ye), and the letter ye indicates (as it does in other instances) the y of the 'ezafé ending -ye.

اعلی 'æ'lá  
 ماوی mæ'vá  
 سكنی sokná

اعلی 'æ'láye  
 ماوی mæ'váye  
 سكنی soknáye

## NUMBERS

27. In Persian the numerals are written and printed from left to right. They have the following shapes:

يك yek 'one' ۱  
 دو do 'two' ۲  
 سه se 'three' ۳  
 چهار, cæhár 'four' ۴  
 پنج pænj 'five' ۵

شش šeš 'six' ۶  
 هفت hæft 'seven' ۷  
 هشت hæšt 'eight' ۸  
 نه noh 'nine' ۹  
 صفر sefr 'zero' ۰

What has been described in the preceding pages is the Persian writing system as it appears in newspapers, periodicals, books, and other material printed on the present-day presses of Irán. In order to acquaint the reader with typewritten Persian, and to give him a general idea about handwritten Persian, a short note on each follows.

The statements made in the notes on combination of words and on punctuation apply to all three forms of the Persian writing system described in the present paper.

## TYPEWRITING IN PERSIAN

0. The main difference between printed Persian and typewritten Persian consists in the number of the forms of each letter.

1. All the non-connectors, that is, 'eléf, dal, zal, re, ze, že, and vay, each of which has two forms in printed Persian (Section 4), and two of the connectors, ta and za, each of which has four printed forms (Section 15), have only one form each on the typewriter keyboard:

ا د ر ز ؛ ط ظ و

2. The letters be, pe, te, se, nun (Section 6); jim, ce, he (hottf), xe (Section 7); sin, šin (Section 8); sad, zad (Section 14); fe, qaf (Section 10); kaf, gaf (Section 9); lam (Section 11); and mim (Section 12), which have four forms each in printing, have only two forms each on the typewriter, an initial-medial form and a final-independent form:

**Initial-medial:**

b	p	t	s	n	j	c	h	đ	s	š	s	z	f	q	k	g
ب	پ	ت	س	ن	ج	چ	ح	خ	ص	ش	س	ز	ف	ق	ک	گ

**Final-independent:**

b	p	t	s	n	j	c	h	x	s	š	s	z	f	q	k	g
ب	پ	ت	س	ن	ج	چ	ح	خ	ص	ش	س	ز	ف	ق	ک	گ

3. The letter he (hævvæz) (Section 13), which is a connector, has three forms in typewritten Persian: initial, ه; medial, ه; and independent-final, ه.

4. The letter ye (Section 6.30) has three forms: initial-medial, ی; final, ی; and independent, ی.

5. Two letters, 'eyn and qeyn (Section 16) have four forms each (just as they do in printed Persian): initial, ع; medial, ع; final, ع; and independent, ع.

6. Of the ligatures (Section 17), the typewriter has only lam-'eléf: ل.

7. There is a hæmzé (Section 22) which can be placed above 'eléf, vay, or ye. There is also an initial-medial ه.

8. The mæddí sign (Section 19), which in printed Persian is part of the type ۱, is a separate (dead) key on the typewriter.
9. There is a dotted he hævvééz on the typewriter.

## HANDWRITTEN PERSIAN

0. As is natural, Persian letters, which have basically the same form in printing, typing, and handwriting, are somewhat different and less easily recognizable in handwriting. This is partly due to the differences among individual writers, but there are also generally accepted written forms of the letters and combinations of letters which are quite different from the printed shapes.

What follows is a description of some of the major differences between a variety of handwritten Persian, which is more or less typical, on the one hand, and printed (and typewritten) Persian, on the other. No attempt will be made to discuss calligraphy or any of a number of other types of handwritten Persian.

1. The three pointed strokes of *sin* and *šin* can, in all their forms, be replaced by a slightly curved straight line:

س *sær* 'head'

ش *beešér* 'mankind'

However, when there are two successive *sins*, or *šins*, or one of each, it is preferred that only one of them be written in the above manner.

2. The final curved stroke of the final and independent *sin*, *šin*, *sad*, and *ye* may be replaced by a stroke slanting downward to the left and ending in an upward turn to the left. The entire stroke may be angular or slightly curved:

ياس *yas* 'jasmine'

خاص *xas* 'particular'

رو *rúye* 'on'

کیش *kiš* 'religion'

بیش *mærfæ* 'ill'

بی *bi* 'without'

3. The curved stroke of the final or independent *nun* may be replaced by a stroke slanting downward to the left, as in 2 above, but ending in a turn to the right:


آن *'an* 'that'


من *mæn* 'I'


4. A preceding connector joins *jim*, *ce*, *he* (*hott*), and *xe* from the top, not from the side, as in typewritten and most printed forms:

بچه *bæccé* 'child'

نخ *næx* 'thread'


5. A medial be, pe, te, se, nun, and ye before final nun, and sometimes before re, ze, and že, has the shape , coming up from the preceding letter and joining the next by a short straight line:

 beyn 'between'

 pir 'old'

6. When followed by final re, ze, že, or one of the final forms described in 1, 2, and 3 above, the pointed stroke of a medial be, pe, te, se, nun, and ye is replaced by a curve:


 pir 'old'

 næbí 'prophet'

 šir 'milk'


 cin 'China'


7. Care must be taken not to form a curve such as described in 6 above when joining an initial to a final letter, since the curve may be taken for a letter itself. Compare, for example,

 pir 'old'


and  por 'full'


In joining an initial letter to one of the final forms described in 1, 2, and 3 above, the angle between the letters should be rather sharp. Otherwise, any resulting curve may be taken for a letter. Compare, for example,

 koš 'Kill!'


and  keští 'ship'

8. Initial he (hævvæz) may be written like a mim with a comma-like addition below it:

 (for هنر) honær 'art'

This 'comma' stroke is written from the bottom up: 



9. Final he (hævvæz) is a simple curve downward, the central part of which is only slightly (if at all) raised:

 že 'What?'

10. If necessary, any medial letter and, less frequently, an initial letter, may be stretched, usually to fill in the line:

 ketáb 'book'


 zahér 'apparent'



It is not very common to stretch two successive letters in the same word; nor is it considered permissible to stretch a letter when it is likely to cause ambiguity, as in the case of  por 'full', where, if the pe is stretched, the stretching line may be taken for a medial sin (see above), thus resulting in the word  pesér 'boy'.

11. All forms of kaf have one oblique bar. This bar is added after the word is written, like the crossing of a t in English. (See also 14 below.) The ' which appears inside the final and independent forms of printed kaf and gaf does not appear in handwriting.

12. The ligature lam-'æléf is written  finally and  independently:

 telá 'gold'

 balá 'above'

Sometimes lam-'æléf is written  or 

طلأ telá 'gold'

بالأ balá 'above'

13. The following observations may be made concerning dots:

(a) Two dots belonging to the same letter can be replaced by a straight line:

يا ya 'or'

تا ta 'to, till'

(b) Three dots belonging to the same letter can be replaced by a line with a dot above or below it (depending on whether the dots are placed above or below the letter):

پدر پدر 'father'

ثابت ثابت 'fixed'

Three dots may also be replaced by a small circle, thus: ثابت, پدر.

(c) The dots are frequently not placed exactly above or below the letter to which they belong:

استخار 'estexár 'pride, honor'

بخاری boxarí 'stove, heater'

In cases where there is ambiguity, the context usually helps. Compare

بخاری, boxarí 'stove' and

نجاری næjjarí 'carpentry'

both of which can be written نجاری.

(d) Not infrequently, dots are left out altogether. In such cases, the context usually helps in the reading.

14. The dots, hæmzés, and all the special signs are added after the whole word, or any part of a word ending in a non-connector, is written.

15. The numerals ٤ and ٦ are written ٤ and ٦.

## COMBINATION OF WORDS

0. Compound words are ordinarily, but not necessarily, written as one word (unless the first word ends in a non-connector). Certain other words are treated as compounds in writing, that is, they are joined together. A few of the commoner cases are listed below:

1. این 'this' is sometimes joined to a following short word:

اینگونه اینکتاب ایندرس اینوقت

This does not happen when the following word begins with a letter of the group پ پ ت ژ ز پ ز .

The above statement is true, though much less frequently, of آن 'that':

آنکتاب آنوقت آنکه آنروز

2. What was said above of این is true of يك 'one', too.  
3. The combinations با این , بان , بدین and بدان may join a following short word:

بااینوسیله بدینوسیله بدانوسیله

4. If این follows a preposition ending in a consonant, it may lose its 'æléf', in which case the two words will be combined:

بر این (for این برین)                      از این (for این ازین)

This is true of آن , too; only here it is the mæddk (which, the reader will remember, was an 'æléf' originally) which is omitted:

بر آن (for آن بران)                      از آن (for آن ازان)

5. Some writers drop one of the two h's (he hævvæz) when they add the plural suffix to a word ending in an h (he hævvæz) that represents the vowel e (see Section 13.12):

خانها (for خانها)

However, even these writers preserve both the h's if dropping one of them may cause confusion, as in the case of



نامها 'names'	and	نامها 'letters'
نشانها 'medals'	and	نشانها 'signs'
خانها 'khans'	and	خانهها 'houses'

6. When می joins a verb form beginning with an ا ('æléf) or a ی (ye), the 'æléf or ye of the verb root may be dropped:

می افتد (for التد می)                      می یابد (for یابد می)

The dropping of 'æléf may be considered as indicating the fact that the glottal stop represented by ا ('æléf) is omitted, though even when the 'æléf is preserved, it may quite often be ignored in pronunciation.

7. Some of the cardinal numerals one to ten may join certain words following them (mostly the words سال 'year' and ماه 'month'):

یکسال (for يك سال) 'one year'  
 پنجساله (for پنج ساله) 'five-year-old'  
 ششماهه (for شش ماهه) 'six-month-old'

These numerals may or may not join to صد '100', هزار '1,000', and, occasionally, میلیون '1,000,000'.

8. The word است has two written forms: است and ست (or ست). Used after a consonant, the latter represents æst combined with the preceding word:

خوبست xúbæst 'It is good.'

After a vowel, ست represents st:

کتابست ketábist 'It is a book.'

However, even if the ا ('æléf) is retained in such cases, it usually has no sound value; thus, کتابی است is pronounced exactly like کتابست.

## PUNCTUATION

0. The following punctuation marks are used in Persian:

.	period
?	question mark
!	exclamation point
:	colon
;	semi-colon
,	comma
—	dash
{ }	quotation marks
( )	parentheses
[ ]	brackets
—	hyphen

These marks are not consistently used in Persian. There is variation among different writers, and inconsistency may occur in the work of a single writer. When they are used, they generally follow Western, often French, usage. The following notes are meant as a guide, not a description of all possible uses.

1. The PERIOD (.) is used at the end of a declarative or imperative sentence, and sometimes after an interrogative one:

برادرم را دیدم. 'I saw my brother.'

بنشینید. 'Sit down.'

کجا میروید. 'Where are you going?'

Several periods indicate an omission:

آقای . . . اینجا نیست. 'Mr. ... is not here.'

2. The QUESTION MARK (?) is used, as in English, after questions:

اسمتان چیست؟ 'What is your name?'

It may also be used after an indirect quotation which is a question itself or of which the original was a question:

ازو پرسیدم مرا میشناسد یا نه؟ 'I asked him whether he knew me or not.'

3. The EXCLAMATION POINT (!) is used, as in English, after sentences expressing surprise, astonishment, emphasis, etc.:

این اصفهانی نیست! 'This Isphahani is not an Isphahani!'  
فراموش نکنی! 'Be sure not to forget!'

It is also used after imperatives:

برخیز! 'Stand up!'

4. The COLON (:) is used

(a) before a list, when this list is at the end of the sentence:

... این کتابها را خریدم: 'I bought these books:...'

(b) before a quotation, direct or indirect:

دوستم گفت: «کجا میروید؟» 'My friend said: "Where are you going?"'  
دوستم گفت: کجا میروید؟

دوستم از من پرسید: کجا میروید؟ 'My friend asked me where I was going.'

(Note that quotation marks are optional.)

(c) before an explanatory note referring to the preceding sentence:

همه جا را جستجو کردم، ولی او را پیدا نکردم: از شهر خارج شده بود.  
'I looked everywhere but I didn't find him: he had left the city.'

5. The SEMI-COLON (;) may be used instead of the colon before an explanatory note (see 4c above):

همه جا را جستجو کردم، ولی او را پیدا نکردم؛ از اینجا رفته بود.  
'I looked everywhere but I didn't find him; he had left here.'

6. The COMMA (,) is used to separate phrases, clauses, or words in a list (usually equivalent to single bar juncture, |):

کتابها، مدادها، قلمها  
بخانه رفتیم، شام خوردیم، بعد خوابیدیم.  
'We went home, had supper, and went to bed.'

It may indicate a parenthetical phrase or clause:

Ahmad, my brother, is here.

Sometimes this indication of the phrasing (juncture) is necessary to avoid ambiguity, as:

این تخته سیاهست. 'This board is black.'

این، تخته سیاهست. 'This is the blackboard.'

In cases like the following, the comma is used to avoid ambiguity caused by two successive identical words:

این اصفهانی نیست! 'This Isphahani is not an Isphahani!'

7. The DASH (—) is used like the comma (see 6 above). It is also used in dialogue to mark the beginning of a speaker's remarks:

- کتابها، قلمها، مدادها 'the books, the pens, the pencils'  
 این تخته سیاهست. 'This board is black.'  
 این — تخته سیاهست. 'This is the blackboard.'  
 این اصفهانی — اصفهانی نیست. 'This Isphahanti is not an Isphahanti.'  
 احمد — برادرم — اینجاست. 'Ahmad — my brother — is here.'  
 شما کجایی هستی؟ — 'Where are you from?'  
 فرانسوی. — 'France.'

A dash may also be used to indicate an omission, instead of several periods (see 1 above):

آقای — اینجا نیست. 'Mr. — is not here.'

8. QUOTATION MARKS (« ») may be used

(a) to mark a direct quotation:

« پدرم گفت: « کتاب را بمن بدهید. »  
 'My father said, "Give me the book, please."'

(b) to indicate a foreign word, or for emphasis (as in English):

میدانید « chair » یعنی چه؟  
 'Do you know what "chair" means?'

(c) to set off a parenthetical phrase or sentence:

احمد « برادرم » شام میخورد.  
 'Ahmad, my brother, is having his supper.'

9. PARENTHESES (( )) may be used instead of quotation marks:

پدرم گفت ( کتاب را بمن بدهید. )  
 'My father said, "Give me the book, please."'

میدانید ( chair ) یعنی چه؟  
 'Do you know what "chair" means?'

احمد ( برادرم ) شام میخورد.  
 'Ahmad, my brother, is having his supper.'

10. BRACKETS ([ ]) are generally restricted to scholarly works, where they are used as in English:

« شکسپیر از مولفین بزرگ قرن چهاردهم [ کذا فی الاصل ] بود. »

'Shakespeare was one of the great writers of the 14th [sic] century.'

11. The HYPHEN (—) is not commonly used, but occurs occasionally to indicate the division of a word at the end of a line:

اگر از رمان خوشتان میاید میتوانید این کتاب —  
 these books home with you. هارا با خود بمنزل ببرید.

However, words are almost never divided at the end of a line in handwriting and rarely in print. When such a division does occur, it is usually done between a root and an affix, or between affixes, providing the break occurs after a non-connector (see Section 4) and the affix to begin the next line starts with a consonant:

در سالهای اخیر خیلی از شعر  
'I have read many of his poems in  
های او را خوانده‌ام. recent years.'

You may not, for example, divide خریدم into خرید- and م-əm,  
as the latter begins with a vowel.

Compound words, the members of which occur also as separate  
words, may be divided between the two parts of the compound:

'hotel' = مهمانخانه