

Dzongkha / ལྷོངཀམ་ Dzongkha

transliteration: Turrell Wylie 1959, romanization: national system 1997

I. Consonant characters

	Trlit	Rom								
			11	ད	d	da	22	ཟ	z	za
1	ཀ	k		ན	n	na	23	འ	'	a
2	ཁ	kh		པ	p	pa	24	ཡ	y	ya ^B
3	ག	g		ཕ	ph	pha	25	ར	r	ra ^C
4	ང	ng		བ	b	ba, wa	26	ལ	l	la
5	ཅ	c		མ	m	ma	27	ཤ	sh	sha
6	ཆ	ch		ཚ	ts	tsa	28	ས	s	sa
7	ཇ	j		ཛ	tsh	tsha	29	ཧ	h	ha
8	ཉ	ny		ཎ	dz	dza	30	ཨ	a	a
9	ཏ	t		ཞ	w	wa ^A				
10	ཐ	th		ཟ	zh	zha				

^A Subscript variant of the character ཎ is not romanized: ཀྭ kwa ka, ནྭ dwa da, ཛྭ tshwa tsha.

^B Subscript variant of the character is ཡི, e.g. ཀྱ kya; for romanizations see Table II.

^C Superscript variant of the character ར is not romanized: ཀྲ rka ka, རྲ rda da, ཎྲ rdza dza.

Subscript variant of the character is རི, e.g. ཀྲི kra; for romanizations see Table II.

II. Syllable-initial consonant combinations

The list is not complete. Mainly those romanized differently from general rules are given. See also notes to the main table and note 1 at the end.

1	ཀྱ	kya	cha, ka ^A	5	ཕྱ	phya	chha, pchha
2	ཁྱ	khya	chha, kha ^A	6	བྱ	bya	ja, bja
3	གྱ	gya	ja, gya ^A	7	དྱ	dbya	ya
4	ཉྱ	pya	cha, pcha	8	མྱ	mya	nya

9	ཀ	kra	tra	17	བ	bra	dra
10	ཁ	khra	thra	18	ཤ	shra	shra
11	ག	gra	dra	19	ས	sra	sa
12	ཅ	tra	tra	20	ཨ	hra	hra
13	ཇ	thra	thra	21	དབ	dba	wa ^B
14	ཉ	dra	dra	22	ཟླ	zla	da
15	ལ	pra	tra	23	ལྷ	lha	lha
16	ཕ	phra	thra				

^A Palatal variants *ch*, *chh*, *j* are generally used before *a*, *o* and *u*.

^B Not romanized if followed by any other vowel than *a*.

III. Vowel characters (ཀ stands for any consonant character)

1	ཀ	a	<i>a</i> , <i>e/ay</i> ^A	3	ཀ	u	<i>u</i> , <i>ue/u</i> ^B	5	ཀ	o	<i>o</i> , <i>oe/o</i> ^C
2	ཀ	i	<i>i</i>	4	ཀ	e	<i>e</i>				

^A Romanized *e* or *ay* if followed by a suffix དེལ་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ sras-phu *Sephu*, ཡེ་མི་རལ་ e-mi-ras *Emiray*.

^B Romanized *ue* or *u* if followed by a suffix ལྷུན་རུ་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ lhun-rtse *Lhuentse*, ལྷུན་ཏལ་ sun-ta-le *Suntale*.

^C Romanized *oe* or *o* if followed by a suffix ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ sros *Soe*, དོས་སྟེང་ dos-steng *Doteng*.

IV. Syllable endings (suffixes)

1	ཀ	g	<i>g</i> , <i>k</i> , or not romanized
2	ང	ng	<i>ng</i> , or not romanized
3	ད	d	not romanized, except <i>thed</i>
4	ན	n	<i>n</i> , or not romanized
5	བ	b	<i>b</i> , <i>p</i>
6	མ	m	<i>m</i>

7	འ	'	not romanized
8	ར	r	r, or not romanized
9	ལ	l	l, or not romanized
10	ས	s	not romanized

Notes

1. Dzongkha words are divided into syllables, separated by a special symbol, e.g. ཐིམ་ཕུ thim-phu *Thimphu*. A graphical syllable may be composed of several elements, including prefixed, superscript and subscript consonant characters that are used syllable-initially, and suffixed consonant characters (one or more) used syllable-finally. This may result in consonants being stacked up on top of the other, e.g. སྐྱ (transliterated *skya*). As a rule, prefixed consonants are not romanized: གདུང་ནག་ gdung-nag *Dungna*, མག་སམ་ mgar-sa *Gasa*. Superscript consonants are not romanized, with the exception of ལྷ་ lha *lha*: རང་སྐོར་ nang-skor *Nangkor*, སྟང་སི་སྟེ་སྟེ་ stang-si-sbyis *Tangsibji*. Suffixed consonants are romanized or not romanized based on local pronunciation, e.g. རྩུང་ཁག་ drung-khag *Drungkhag* (subdivision), དབང་ཕྱུག་ dbang-phyug *Wangchhuk* (personal name), སྟག་ stag *Ta* (tiger), etc. Secondary suffixed consonants are not romanized, although there are some exceptions: བར་མཚོ་མམ་ bar-mtshams *Bartsham*, དྲུང་ཅུ་ dwangs-chu *Dangchhu*, but གཞལ་མ་གླུང་ gzhalam-sgang *Zhemgang*.
2. Additional characters that are found mainly in words of Indic provenance, are romanized as follows: རྩྭ་ ṭ tra, འྩྭ་ tḥ thra, རྩྭ་ ḍ dra, རྩྭ་ ṅ na, རྩྭ་ śh kha, རྩྭ་ kṣh chha.
3. Pronunciation of Dzongkha names may vary according to local usage and there are several exceptions to the present romanization guidelines.
4. For special transliteration rules see Note 3 under Tibetan.