Urdū اردو / Urdu

romanization: UN 1972 + KNAB modifications

Urdu uses the Perso-Arabic script written from right to left. In the script vowel points are usually omitted. For the initial, medial and final forms of the principal characters in the romanization table below see the Arabic romanization.

I. Consonant characters

1	ا	a, i, u	11	د	d	21	ض	ẕ	31	م	m
2	ب	b	12	ڈ	ḍ	22	ط	ṭ	32	ن، ں	n, ṅ
3	پ	p	13	ذ	z̄	23	ظ	z̤	33	و	v, w[B]
4	ت	t	14	ر	r	24	ع	ʻ[A]	34	ه (ﮨ)	h, ḥ[C]
5	ٹ	ṭ	15	ڑ	ṙ	25	غ	gh	35	ھ	h[D]
6	ث	s̄	16	ز	z	26	ف	f	36	ی	y
7	ج	j	17	ژ	ẓ	27	ق	q	37	ے	e, ai[E]
8	چ	ch	18	س	s	28	ک	k			
9	ح	ḥ	19	ش	sh	29	گ	g			
10	خ	ḵh	20	ص	ṣ	30	ل	l			

[A] If preceded by short *a*, it is romanized *ʻā*, e.g. مَعمُل *Mʻāmul*.
[B] When و is imperceptible, e.g. in a few words of Persian origin when preceded by خ (ḵh).
[C] Word-finally after a short vowel (not used in KNAB).
[D] Marks aspiration of consonants.
[E] The character ے is used only word-finally.
Note. The Arabic ه has two distinct shapes in Urdu: ﮨ / ه and ﮭ / ھ. The latter denotes aspiration after consonants b, ch, d, ḍ, j, k, p, ṙ, t, ṭ.

II. Vowel characters and diacritical marks (ب stands for any consonant character)

1	بَ	a	6	بِ	i	11	بَی، ے	ai[A]	16	بّ	(C)
2	بَا	ā	7	بِی	ī	12	بُو	o			
3	یٰ	á	8	بُ	u	13	بَو	au			
4	ـٰے	á	9	بُو	ū	14	بْ	(B)			
5	آ	ā	10	بِیْ، ے	e[A]	15	ء	ʼ			

[A] The character ے is used word-finally.
[B] Not romanized; marks absence of the vowel.

Notes

1. Persian Genitive ending is marked in the original script if a word ends with *-e*, e.g. دریاے بناس *Daryā-e Banās*. In words ending with *ah* it is marked by the *hamzah*: بحیرۂ احمر *Baḥīrah-i Aḥmar.*
2. Arabic feminine endings romanized with *t*, are marked with *-a·t*, e.g. جمہوریہ *Jamhūrya·t.*
3. In Arabic words the article *al* is assimilated following the same rules as in Arabic. The article within a word is usually written together with the name, the vowel may also change, e.g. ہارونالرشید *Hārūn″ar·rashīd*, صلاحالدین *Şalāḥ″ud·dīn* (for other KNAB modifications to ensure reversibility see the Arabic document).

Pronunciation

ā, á, á̱	[aː]	ī	[iː]	ṙ	[ʈ]	ū	[uː]
ch	[tʃ]	j	[dʒ]	sh	[ʃ]	y	[j]
ḍ	[ɖ]	k̲h	[x]	ş, s̄	[s]	y̱	[ʒ]
g̲h	[ɣ]	ṅ	[ŋ]	ṭ	[ʈ]	z̄, z̲, z̦	[z]
ḥ	[h]	q	[q]	t̤	[t]		

Conversion into the UN-approved system (KNAB → UN)

á, á̱	→ ā	s̄	→ s	z̲	→ z
ḥ	→ h	ṭ	→ t	z̦	→ z
ş	→ s	z̄	→ z	'	→ -

Correspondence with the Hunterian system
(officially used in Pakistan, KNAB = Hunterian)

á, á̱	= a	ḥ	= h	ṙ	= r	v	= w, v[B]
-ah	= a	ḥ	= h	ş	= s	y̱	= zh
ā	= ā, a[A]	ī	= ī, i[A]	s̄	= s	z̄	= z
ḍ	= d	k̲h	= kh	ṭ	= t	z̲	= z
ḍh	= dh	ṅ	= n(g)	t̤	= t	z̦	= z
g̲h	= gh	ṇ	= n	th	= th	'	= -, (0)[C]

[A] Word-finally.
[B] Exceptionally, e.g. before *i*.
[C] In maps.