

Alphabet and Phonetics

The table below shows the Sim-Arabic characters. Each character of this alphabet corresponds to a character, or other orthographic mark, in the Arabic (or Persian) alphabet. Moreover, for those characters that have multiple pronunciations in Arabic (such as the semi-vowels), separate Sim-Arabic characters are used to represent this. The phonetic pronunciations (in both Arabic and Persian) using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) are also shown.

| Sim-Arabic | Arabic/ Persian | IPA (Arabic) | IPA (Persian) |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| A | ا | a:/ɑ: | ɒ: |
| * | ء | ʔ | ʔ |
| b | ب | b | b |
| t | ت | t | t |
| x | ث | θ | s |
| j | ج | dʒ | dʒ |
| H | ح | ħ | h |
| K | خ | x | x |
| d | د | d | d |
| X | ذ | ð | z |
| r | ر | r | ɾ |
| z | ز | z | z |
| s | س | s | s |
| c | ش | ʃ | ʃ |
| S | ص | s ^ʕ | s |
| D | ض | d ^ʕ | z |
| T | ط | t ^ʕ | t |
| Z | ظ | ð ^ʕ | z |
| ^ | ع | ʕ | ʔ |
| R | غ | ɣ | ɣ |
| f | ف | f | f |
| q | ق | q | ɢ |

| Sim-Arabic | Arabic/ Persian | IPA (Arabic) | IPA (Persian) |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| k | ك | k | k |
| l | ل | l | l |
| m | م | m | m |
| n | ن | n | n/ŋ |
| h | ه | h | h |
| w | و | w | |
| W | و | w | |
| U | و | u: | o |
| v | و | | v |
| y | ي | j | j |
| I | ي | i: | i: |
| Y | ى | a:/ɑ: | i:/ɒ: |
| e | ة | a/at | |
| a | فتحة | a/æ | æ |
| i | كسرة | i | e |
| u | ضمة | u | o |
| N | تنوين | n | n |
| p | پ | | p |
| C | چ | | tʃ |
| J | ژ | | ʒ |
| g | گ | | g |

The Sim-Arabic alphabet is a transliteration scheme, not a transphonation scheme.

Its purpose is to provide an accurate rendering of the original Arabic text, not the manner in which it would be vocalized.

Notes:

- The prefix *al-* (which means *the*) is **always** written in the same way, regardless of whether it precedes a “sun letter” or a “moon letter.” Doubled (or “geminate”) letters are written with two letters in Sim-Arabic; there is no symbol for the *shadda*.
- The *ta'-marbutah* (ة) in Arabic functions as a syntactical feminine suffix. When followed by a vowel, in Arabic, it is written as a *ta'* (ت). In Sim-Arabic, though, this character is **always** written as *e*.
- **Every** Sim-Arabic word starts with a consonant, with one exception, the prefix *al-* (*the*). There is no representation in Sim-Arabic for the *hamzatu'l-wasl* (or silent *hamza*), including for those verbs which start with an *alif* (ا) in Arabic.

For comparison purposes, other Romanization schemes in common use for the Arabic alphabet are shown in the table below. Note that none of the Sim-Arabic characters require digraphs or diacritical marks (which makes them easy to use for email or texting).

| Sim-Arabic | Baha'i | DIN 31635 | Bikdash |
|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| A | á | ā | A |
| * | ' | ' | e |
| b | b | b | b |
| t | t | t | t |
| x | <u>th</u> | <u>t</u> | c |
| j | j | ǧ | j |
| H | ḥ | ḥ | H |
| K | <u>kh</u> | ḫ | K |
| d | d | d | d |
| X | <u>dh</u> | <u>d</u> | z' |
| r | r | r | r |
| z | z | z | z |
| s | s | s | s |
| c | <u>sh</u> | š | x |
| S | ş | ş | S |
| D | <u>d</u> | <u>d</u> | D |
| T | ṭ | ṭ | T |
| Z | ẓ | ẓ | Z |
| ^ | ˆ | ˆ | E |
| R | <u>gh</u> | ġ | g |
| f | f | f | f |

| Sim-Arabic | Baha'i | DIN 31635 | Bikdash |
|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| q | q | q | q |
| k | k | k | k |
| l | l | l | l |
| m | m | m | m |
| n | n | n | n |
| h | h | h | h |
| w/W | w | w | w |
| U | ú | ū | w |
| v | v | | |
| Y | y | y | y |
| I | í | ī | y |
| Y | á | ā | aaa |
| e | at | h/t | t' |
| a | a | a | a |
| i | i | i | i |
| u | u | u | u |
| N | | | N |
| p | p | | |
| C | <u>ch</u> | | |
| J | j | | |
| g | g | | |

The “names” of the letters of the Sim-Arabic are given in the table below:

| | |
|---|-------|
| A | *alif |
| * | hamze |
| b | bA* |
| t | tA* |
| x | xA* |
| j | jIm |
| H | HA* |
| K | KA* |
| d | dAl |
| X | XAl |
| r | rA* |
| z | zA* |
| s | sIn |
| c | cIn |
| S | SAd |

| | |
|---|------|
| D | DAd |
| T | TA* |
| Z | ZA* |
| ^ | ^ain |
| R | Rain |
| f | fA* |
| q | qAf |
| k | kAf |
| l | lAm |
| m | mIm |
| n | nUn |
| h | hA* |
| w | wAu |
| W | wA* |
| U | U |

| | |
|---|---------|
| v | vAv |
| y | yA* |
| I | I |
| Y | maqSUrE |
| e | marbUTe |
| a | fatHe |
| i | kasre |
| u | Damme |
| N | tanwIn |
| p | pai |
| C | Cai |
| J | Jai |
| g | gAf |