

Urdu

TABLE 62.6 presents the Urdu script (Bright and Khan 1958).

(a) Since Urdu script is adapted from that of Persian (rather than directly from Arabic), many features of Persian script and pronunciation, as described above, also apply to Urdu.

(b) The retroflex phonemes use a small superscript ط (or 2–4 dots as variations) modifying the closest non-retroflex counterpart: ث *ṭ*, ڈ *ḍ*, and ژ *ṛ*. There are also three aspirated retroflexes ٹ *ṭh*, ڈھ *ḍh*, and ژھ *ṛh*. The latter two are allophones, however (Naim 1971: 134).

(c) Aspiration is marked with digraphs of the consonant and *h*, listed on page 746 (see Naim 1971: 132, and for criticisms of Naim's account, Daniels 1992, n. 25).

(d) All the nasalized vowels, which are phonemic, are written with ں, undotted *n*, finally. Elsewhere, they are written as ن *n*, e.g. اونچا *awnča* [ũtʃa] 'tall, high'.

(e) In words of Arabic origin, etymological *ṭ* is sometimes replaced by ت *t*.

(f) Final *ē* is generally written ے, e.g. لڑکے *ḷṛke* [ḷɔɾkɛ] 'boy(s)'. Final *i* is ی, e.g. لڑکی *ḷṛky* [ḷɔɾki] 'girl'.

TABLE 62.6: *The Urdu Abjad*

<i>LC Transliteration</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Isolated</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Medial</i>
–	/C_ [a]; [ə]	ا	آ	–	–
b	[b]	ب	ب	ب	ب
p	[p]	پ	پ	پ	پ
t	[t]	ت	ت	ت	ت
ṭ	[t̪]	ٹ	ٹ	ٹ	ٹ
s	[s]	س	س	س	س
j	[d͡ʒ]	ج	ج	ج	ج
c	[tʃ]	چ	چ	چ	چ
ḥ	[h]	ح	ح	ح	ح
<u>kh</u>	[x]	خ	خ	خ	خ
d	[d]	د	د	–	–
ḍ	[d̪]	ڈ	ڈ	–	–
z	[z]	ذ	ذ	–	–
r	[r]	ر	ر	–	–
ṛ	[ɾ]	ڑ	ڑ	–	–
z	[z]	ز	ز	–	–
zh	[ʒ]	ژ	ژ	–	–
s	[s]	س	س	س	س
sh	[ʃ]	ش	ش	ش	ش
ṣ	[s]	ص	ص	ص	ص
z	[z]	ض	ض	ض	ض
ṭ	[t̪]	ط	ط	ط	ط
z	[z]	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
‘	/C_ [a]; [Ø, ʔ, ə]	ع	ع	ع	ع
<u>gh</u>	[ɣ]	غ	غ	غ	غ
f	[f]	ف	ف	ف	ف
q	[q]	ق	ق	ق	ق
k	[k]	ک	ک	ک	ک
g	[g]	گ	گ	گ	گ
l	[l]	ل	ل	ل	ل
m	[m]	م	م	م	م
n	[n]; nasalization	ن	ن	ن	ن
<u>n</u>	nasalization	ں	ں	ں	ں
v	[v, u, ʊ, o, ow]	و	و	–	–
h	/_# [a]; [h, Ø]	ہ	ہ	ہ	ہ
t	[t] (Arabic feminine)	ة	ة	–	–
y	[j, i, e, ε]	ی	ی	ی	ی

(g) There are many irregularities (see Barry 1991: 204–8), including: (1) in some words of Arabic origin, a final ی y is pronounced [a]; (2) [a] is sometimes omitted in writing; (3) final ہ h is often not pronounced.

(j) The two variants of medial h used in Arabic have been assigned different functions in Urdu. As seen above, the “eyeglass” shape of h ہ marks the aspirated consonants (and is used in final position as well); whereas the pointed shape ھ represents consonantal h (with the Arabic-style final form ه). Typical of handwriting is an alternative initial form of h: ہ, thus ہندوستان or ہندوستان ہندwstan [hindusta:n] ‘India’.

SAMPLE OF URDU

←ہندوستان جنوبی ایشیا کا ایک بڑا ملک ہے۔ اس کی لمبائی
y'abml yk sa .eh klm aṛb kya ak ayshya ybvnj natsvdnh←

شمال میں کشمیر سے لیکر جنوب میں کیپ کمورن تک لگ بھگ
gbh gl kt nrvmk pyk nym bvnj rkyl es rymshk nym lamsh

دو ہزار میل ہے۔ ملک کے شمال میں ہملیہ پہاڑ ہیں جن پر
ṛp nj nyh ṛahp hylmh nym lamsh ek klm .eh lym razh vd

سال بھر برف رہتی ہے۔ ان پہاڑوں سے بہت سے ندیاں نکلتی ہیں
nyh ytkn naydn es thb es nṛṛahp na .eh ythr frb rbh las

اور شمالی میدان میں بہتی ہیں۔
.nyh ythb nym nadym ylamsh rwa

1. *Transliteration:* hndvstan jnvby ayshya ka ayk bṛa mlk hy. ṽs
2. *Normalization:* Hindustān janūbī Ēshīā kā ēk baṛā mulk hai. us
3. *Transcription:* hɪndustan dʒənubi eʃja ka ek bəṛɑ mulk he us
4. *Gloss:* India southern Asia of one big country is it

1. ky lmbaṽy shmṽl myn kshmyr sy lykr jnvb myn kyp
2. kī lambāṽī shimāl mē Kashmīr sē lēkar janūb mē Kēp
3. ki ləmbai ʃɪmɑl mē kaʃmir se lekər dʒənub mē kep
4. of length north in Kashmir from starting south in Cape

1. kmvrn tk lg bhg dv hzṽr myl hy mlk ky shmṽl myn
2. Kamorin tak lag bhag do hazār mīl hai mulk kī shimāl mē
3. kəmorɪn tək ləg bṽəg do həzɑr mil he mʊlk ki ʃɪmɑl mē
4. Comorin up.to approx. two thousand mile is country of north in

1. hmlyh phṽṛ hyṽn jn pr sṽl bhr brf rhty hy. ṽn
2. himāliyā pahār hē jin par sāl bhar barf rahtī hai. un
3. hɪmɑlijɑ pəhɑɾ hē dʒɪn pər sɑl bṽər bərf rəhti he un
4. Himalaya Mountain are which on year full snow stay is those

- | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|-------|--------|---------|---------|-----|-----|----------|
| 1. pharṽṇ | sy | bht | sy | ndyaṇ | nkly | hyṇ | awr | shmy |
| 2. pahārṓ | sē | bahut | sī | nadiyā | nikaltī | hē | awr | shimālī |
| 3. pəhaṛṓ | se | bəhot | si | nədiḷjā | nikəlti | hē | ər | ʃimali |
| 4. mountains | from | many | INTENS | rivers | emerge | are | and | northern |

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-------|------|
| 1. myd'n | myṇ | bhty | hyṇ. |
| 2. mēdān | mē | bahtī | hē. |
| 3. medan | mē | bəhti | hē |
| 4. plains | in | flow | are |

'India is a large country of South Asia. Its length from Kashmir in the north to Cape Comorin in the south is approximately two thousand miles. In the north of the country are the Himalaya Mountains on which snow stays year round. Many, many rivers emerge from those mountains and flow in the northern plains.'

—From Gumperz and Naim 1960: 123.

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