Leila's Alphabet Journey

A Practical Guide to the Persian Alphabet

By Parastoo Danaee

Beginner Level

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To The Students

Welcome to Persian! *Leila's Alphabet Journey* represents the first in a series of textbooks aimed at teaching Persian to foreign students and is followed by *Leila Goes to Iran*. Leila, the leading character is a generation 1.5 young lady who grow up in Los Angeles in a home in which Persian language is spoken. Although she speaks Persian with her family, she does not know how to read and write in Persian and is unaware of the discrepancies between oral and written skills and academic discourse expectations and conventions and facts about Persian language. Come along and explore Persian Alphabet through Leila's Alphabet Journey.

The present textbook primarily intends to help you learn Persian letters and sounds and to begin reading and writing Persian in six weeks (18 hours). This book serves as a reference to guide you to the writing system of Persian. The textbook is accompanied by video clips and online activities on Talk Like a Persian website. (www.TalkLikeaPersian.com)

Book Components

This book consists of Facts about Persian Language, Features of Persian Language and reading and writing units. Facts about Persian language gives an overview of Persian Language history and basic facts. Features of the Persian Alphabet introduces Persian language writing system. The units present the alphabet in groups and through high frequency meaningful words that consist of acquired letters. Each unit contains a number of reading, writing and spelling exercises as well as authentic samples of Persian language from online newspapers and advertisements.

Learning Strategies

There are some language learning strategies that you can use for learning the Persian Alphabet. These strategies include:

a. Active participation in class.

b. Practice to identify the letters.

c.Read the letters and words out loud.

- d. Study with others.
- e. Get real world practice and speak the language .
- f. Make flash cards.

g. Use SRS (Spaced Repetition System) and mnemonic memory aids to quickly memorize the new words.
h. Don't just watch the movie. Study it.
i.Break things up into consumable, repeatable segments.
j.Engage with the materials. A movie clip is an open book on body language, accents, inflection, pronunciation and many other areas of language learning. Get involved in the story, act out parts, repeat lines and body movements and make the language come alive!
k. Listen to the songs and sing along.
l.Interact with other learners and with native speakers.

Course Components

This book is accompanied by videos and online activities on Talk Like a Persian website. These vary slightly in length, but in general, the sequences are approximately two minutes each. (www.TalkLikeaPersian.com)

Course Length

You can master Persian Alphabet and basic reading and writing in 18 hours of online instruction through short videos and online activities.

| Course Time | Course Duration | Weekly Classroom Time | Weekly Outside Classroom Time | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 18 hours | 6 weeks | 3 hours | 1 hours | |

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Introduction | Facts about Persian Language

1. Farsi or Persian?

The society for Iranian Studies states that the correct term for the language spoken by most Iranians is Persian. Farsi is a Persian word and has no basis in the history of the English language.

2. When Persia became Iran?

As a modern country, Iran was first known by Westerners as "Persia". Persian or Farsi is taken from the province of Fars in southern Iran. 2,500 years ago, when the present provinces of Iran were kingdoms known in the West as the Persian EmpireThis region is the cradle of the Persian language and civilization.

In 1935, Reza Shah Pahlavi requested countries with which it had diplomatic relations to call Persia by its native name "Iran"in formal correspondence. Since then, the name Irani or Iranian has come to refer to the civic identity of Iran as a country. Nowadays both terms are common; "Persia" mostly in historical and cultural contexts, "Iran" mostly in political contexts. The suggestion for the change is said to have come from the Iranian ambassador to Germany, who came under the influence of the Nazis. At the time Germany was in the grip of racial fever and cultivated good relations with nations of "Aryan" blood. It is said that some German friends of the ambassador persuaded him that, as with the advent of Reza Shah, Persia had turned a new leaf in its history and had freed itself from the pernicious influences of Britain and Russia, whose interventions in Persian affairs had practically crippled the country under the Qajars.

3. Where is Persian Spoken?

Persian, also known as Farsi, is primarily spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and it has a long history stretching back thousands of years with different stages along the way. It originated in Sought Western Persia. Today's Persia is known as Iran. Persian is the official language of Iran and it is also the official languages of Afghanistan and Tajikistan. In Afghanistan, Persian is referred to as "Dari" for political reason. In Tajikistan, Persian is referred to as "Tajik" by the Soviet Union conquerers. Historically, the areas where the language is spoken range from the Middle East to India, but today, Persian is understood in parts of Armenia, Azerbaijan, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey. There are large groups of Persians who migrated to the Europe, USA and specially Los Angeles. That is the reason that Los Angeles is often referred to as 'Tehrangeles'.

Persian, Dari, Tajik are varieties of the one single language. They are mutually intelligible among educated speakers and formal languages are very close. There are some differences in the casual language specially in the accent, vocabulary, spelling and loan words. In Iran, there are more French loan words. In Afghanistan, there are more English loan words and in Tajikistan there are more Russian loan words.

4. Persian as an Indo-European Language

Persian is in the Indo-European Language (IEL) family and it shares historical origins with most European languages including English as well as the languages of Northern India. IEL includes , the Romance languages (Spanish, French, Latin, etc.), the Slavic languages (Russian, Polish, etc.), the Germanic languages (English, German, Swedish, etc.), the Celtic languages, Baltic languages, Greek, Armenian, and Albanian. Persian belongs to the Iranian branch of the Indo-European family of language. Iranian branch includes Pashto, Kurdish, Baluchi,Taleshi, Asi. Persian and English are similar in word formation, syntax and phonological rules.

5. How hard is ti to learn Persian Language?

Persian language's level of difficulty can be measured by how long it takes an average learner to reach a certain degree of fluency compared to English. The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) has created a list to show the approximate time you need to learn a specific language as an English speaker.There are three levels of language difficulty and Persian falls in category II and is considered as a language with significant linguistic and cultural differences from English Learners. In order to reach the same level as English, Category I languages (French,Spanish) require learners 600 hours of instruction, category II languages (Persian, Russian) demand 1100 hours of instruction and category III languages (Arabic, Japanese) require 2200 class hours to reach to Reading and Speaking 3: General Professional Proficiency in Speaking and Reading.

Persian is a relatively simple language to grasp grammatically. Nouns have no gender and there are no articles. Persian is a very poetic, soft and songlike language. The stress is generally placed on the last syllable of a word. Persian is a gender free language and the same word is used to describe both 'he' and 'she' and it is often hard to distinguish whom a person is referring to. Questioning is fairly simple and is formed by a rise in intonation of the voice at the end of a sentence. The word order doesn't change.

6. History of Persian Language

Persian scripts have evolved over the last 3000 years, with three major historic stages of development.

Old Persian (525 BCE–300 BCE). The oldest record of old Persian are in inscriptions that dates back to the first Persian empire. These writings are in babylonian cuneiform script which is one of the oldest writing forms in the world. Old Persian was inscribed in the cuneiform script, on inscriptions, clay tables and seals of the Achaemenid era in ancient Persia. It was an Indo-European tongue with close affinities with Sanskrit and Avestan; the language of the Zoroastrian sacred texts.

Middle Persian (300 BCE- 800 CE). Middle Persian or Pahlavi (a name derived from Parthavi - that is, Parthian). Old Persian developed into Middle Persian after the fall of the Achaemenians in the province of Pars. Pahlavi was used throughout the Sassanian period. About a hundred Pahlavi texts survived, mostly on religion and all in prose. We can find Middle Persian in religious texts of the Zoroastrian religion from before the Islamic period. The language was referred to as "Parsik" or "Parsig" because it was the language of Parsa people. The Persian language entered a mysterious new stage with the Islamic conquest. The following 200 years was referred to as "Two Centuries of Silence" by Iranian scholars because there is very little literature available from that time period. Persian was affected by Arabic language a lot during this time.

Classical Persian has roots in Old Persian, Pahlavi and Avesta. The Persian language was in danger of being lost or being replaced with Arabic. The Shahnameh (the Book of kings) is a long epic poem written in classical Persian by Ferdowsi over thirty years at a time when Arabic was the favored language of literature. It was so influential on future of literature and cultural identity that Persian language today remains relatively uncharged from that time. This epic poem is considered as the pillar of the Persian language. Ferdowsi intensionally limited the number of Arabic loan words in his epic poem in order to help to preserve the integrity of the Persian language. Therefore, Ferdowsi is seen as a national Iranian hero who re-ignited pride in Iranian culture and literature, and who established the Persian language as a language of beauty and sophistication. Every country that the Arabs conquered lost its civilization, culture and language and adopted the Arabic language and way of life. Iran broke the trend and preserved its culture and language and even adopted their own version of Islam by creating Shiaism. During this Persian cultural resurgence, the Persian language and culture impacted a large geographic area and became the official language of Seljuq Empire and Ottoman Empire and spread to Indian subcontinent where it was widely spoken until the arrival of the British.

Modern Persian as spoken today consists of a lot of words of non-Iranian origin. Some modern technical terms, understandably, have been incorporated from English, French and German and are recognizable.

7. How similar are Persian and Arabic?

Persian and Arabic are not directly related but they have influenced each other. They belong to completely different language families and have separate origins. Arabic is a Semitic language that shares roots with Hebrew while Persian is an Indo-European language that shares the same root with the languages of Northern India as well as most of the languages in Europe such as English, French and German. Persian has simpler grammar compare to Arabic. Persian does not have any grammatical gender. Therefore, they have different grammar system. There are two similarities between the Persian and Arabic which are the script and the vocabulary. Tajik Persian is written in the Cyrillic script while other forms of Persian are written in a modified Arabic script. It is modified because there are four sounds that you cannot find in Arabic language and four new letters were created in Persian. Although during the Islamic conquest Arabic words were adopted but the structure of Arabic words is not adopted and words are not broken down into their roots and templates. The loan words have also adapted to the phonology of the Persian language.

8. What you already know about Persian?

Persian has left influences on different languages including a heavy influence on the vocabulary of Urdo and some influence on the vocabulary of Turkish. You can find words of Persian origin in languages such as the Malay language in Malaysia and English. Some of the words came directly into English but most of them came indirectly into English via a different language. Due to historical links with Britain, many Persian words have been borrowed and crop up in the English language, such as:

| بازار | سوپ | زعفران | اسفناج | يسته |
|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| [bāzār] | [soup] | [zaferān] | [esfenāj] | [peste] |
| bazzar | soup | saffron | spinach | pistachio |

French words relating to science and technology are commonly used in Persian. For example:

| شوفر | اتومبيل | اتوبوس | مربىيى | راديو |
|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| [shoufer] | [otomobile] | [otobus] | [merci] | [rādio] |
| chauffeur | automobile | bus | thank you | radio |

9. Will Persian help me with any other languages?

Persian, is an Iranian language within the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European languages. It has approximately 110 million speakers in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and other countries which historically came under Persian influence. Therefore, learning some Persian will give you access to a rich history of literature and culture that has a big impact on the world It will also assist you in learning Arabic, Kurdish, Urdu and Hindi. Similarities across the languages as a percentage are 90% of the facts, 40% of the words and 30% of the grammar.

10. Do's and don'ts of Persian language and culture

The Do's

Say سلام [salām] hello when you enter a place. Give tip because tipping is a big part of Persian culture. Wear a hijab (headscarf) on your head everywhere. Wear Manto, a longer jacket that reaches to the mid of your legs. Respect elderly people.

The Don'ts

Don't give the thumbs up. It is considered offensive in Iran. Although if someone gives you the thumbs up with a smile, it means they acknowledge your culture.

Don't try to give kiss or shake hands with opposite sex unless they initiate.

Don't be uncomfortable when you are treated to a meal by Iranians. Hospitality is part of the Persian culture and it is not an imposition. Don't engage in public displays of affection.

Don't turn your back on anyone and don't stretch your legs out in front of anyone but if you do, say ببخشيد , [bebakhsid] , excuse me.

11. What have Persians contributed to the humanity?

- a. The first Charter of Human Rights: One of the oldest texts, discovered in 6th century BC, is the clay Cyrus cylinder inscribed in Babylonian cuneiform script. The document has been hailed as the first charter of human rights, and in 1971 the United Nations was published translation of it in all the official U.N. languages. The cylinder is currently on display at the British museum.
- b. The first human civilization: The Persian Civilization (Eilam); was ahead of Egypt by 500 years, of India, by 1,000 years, and of China, by 2,000 years, of Greece by 3,000 years, and of Rome, by 4,000 years! According to Professor Arthur A. Pope, the famous Orientalist (A.H. Saidian, Iran: Land and the people, Tehran 2001 P. 358).
- c. Discovery of Alcohol: Zakariya Razi (865-925 AD), an Iranian pioneer scholar, discovered alcohol and sulfuric acid. He classified substances as plants, organic, and inorganic. The statue of Razi in United Nations Office in Vienna is part of the "Scholars Pavilion" donated by Iran.
- d. Influential Poets such as Rumi, Sa'adi and Hafez: Poetry plays a very important role for Persians and famous quotes and verses from their great poets are recited in everyday life. One of the great Poets is Sa'di (1184 – 1283) and one of his poems is inscribed in the Halls of the United Nations:

Human beings are members of a whole, in creation of one essence and soul. If one member is afflicted with pain, other members uneasy will remain. If you have no sympathy for human pain, The name of human you cannot retain.

[Bani âdam aazayé yek paykarand Keh dar âfarinesh ze yek goharand Cho ozvi be dard âvarad roozegâr Degar ozvhârâ namânad gharâr To kaz mehnaté degâran beghamé Nâshâyad ke nâmat Nahand âdamé] ببنی آدم اعضای یک پیکرند ککه در آفرینش ز یک گوهرند چچوعضوی به درد آورد روزگار ددگرعضوها را نماند قرار تتو کز محنت دیگران بی غمی نشاید که نامت نهند آدمی

12. How to be polite and show respect?

There are different ways of saying 'you':

For people you can be on first-name terms with[to]youFor plural and other cases[shomâ]

13. Iranian hospitality and Chai

Iran is one of those countries that likes to please its guests and one cannot overemphasize the extent of how hospitable Iranians are. It is amazing to arrive in a country and have almost everyone you meet greet you, welcome you and serve you with extravagant hospitality. In each meeting with Persians, Iranian tea, *chai*, is served in clear glasses. Most tea is served with small sugar cubes which you dip into the hot tea and then place in your mouth to dissolve as you sip the tea.

14. Etiquette and formalities

Târof, تعارف, is a specific form of Iranian etiquette or politeness to show respect for others. It is a verbal dance and is a must amongst Persians. It is a way of denying your will to please your counterpart, however the will is only denied because of the custom and not to please the counterpart. But there are situations where Târof persists upon a request to make the counterpart genuinely satisfied. Târof is about more than just offering and refusing things. It is about raising others and "self-lowering" oneself. No matter what twist and turns Târof might take, the goal is to be respectful. A guest is not supposed to pay for a meal or accept the first offer to eat something . Sometimes, it's also considered rude if someone pays for his elder, but it's also rude not to offer. Common phrases:

In a shop or taxi, when you ask "how much" the usual answer is: قابلی نداره [ghâbeli nadâre], It's not worthy of you and you reply خواهش می کنم [khâesh mikonam], If you please/ you are welcome, and this can be repeated many times until a payment is taken!

بفرماييد **[befarmâyed]**, has different meanings in different contexts: **come on in, welcome to our house, after you, take a seat, help yourself,** etc.

دستتان درد نکنه **[dastetân dard nakone]**, **Your hands many not hurt** is used when you want to say **Thank you** or **Well done**.

چشمتان روشن [cheshmetân roshan], May there be light in your eyes, is usually used when there is a new baby in the family or a relative comeback from a journey.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the correct term for the language spoken by most Iranians?

2. When Persia became Iran?

3. Where is Persian spoken?

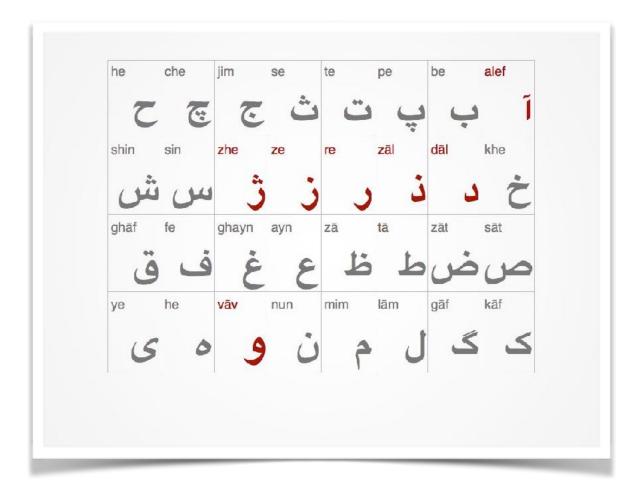
4. What type of language is Persian and in what category of language

difficulty it falls?

5. What are the three versions of Persian language?

6. What have Persians contributed to the humanity?

Unit 1 | Persian Alphabet



Letter Forms

The alphabets in their three forms of `initial', `medial' and `final' next to the independent one.

| Alone Fina | al Medial | Initial | Sound | Transliteration |
|------------|-----------|---------------|-------|-----------------|
| | l Ī | | /ā/ | alef |
| Ų | | ÷ | /b/ | be |
| ۑ | | ź | /p/ | ре |
| ت | | Ľ | /t/ | te |
| ث | | <u>د</u> د | /s/ | se |
| ت | - | ÷ | /j/ | jim |
| Ę | - | ÷ | /ch/ | che |
| ۲ | - | 2 | /h/ | he |
| Ċ | | | /kh/ | khe |
| | د | | /d/ | dāl |
| | ذ | | /z/ | zāl |
| | ر | | /r/ | re |
| j | | | /z/ | ze |
| | ۯ | | /zh/ | zhe |
| س | | LU | /s/ | sin |
| ش | | بْد | /sh/ | shin |

| Alone | Final | Medial | Initial | Sound | Transliteration | | |
|-------|---------|--------|---------|-------------|-----------------|--|-----|
| س | ص | | ۵ | /s/ | sāt | | |
| س | à | | à | /z/ | zāt | | |
| | | ط | | /t/ | tā | | |
| | | ظ | | /z/ | zā | | |
| ع | ځ | ٤ | ع | /'/ , /a/ | ayn | | |
| غ | غ | ف | غ | /gh/ | ghayn | | |
| | /٢/ ف ف | | /f/ | fe | | | |
| ق | ق ق | | ä | /gh/ | ghāf | | |
| ک | ک ک | | 2 | /k/ | kāf | | |
| گ | گ | | Ž | /gh/ | gāf | | |
| U | J | | t | /L/ | lām | | |
| م | | - | ٥ | /m/ | mim | | |
| Ċ | ن | | ć | /n/ | nun | | |
| | و | | و | | /v/, /o/ , /oo/ | | vāv |
| 5 | ٩ | \$ | هـ | /h/ , /e/ | he | | |
| ى | 5 | | | /y/ or /ee/ | уе | | |

Persian Vowel Forms

| Alone | Final | Medial | Initial | Vowel |
|----------|-------|-------------|---------|---------|
| | | | | symbols |
| <u>د</u> | | ~ | Î | а |
| 5 | ٩ | , | ļ | е |
| | 9 | <u>,</u> | 1 | 0 |
| | 1 | | Ī | ā |
| | و | | او | 00 |
| | S | | ا يـ | ee |
| | ۅۛ | | اُو | ow |
| | ې | 1 | اي | еу |

Practice 1

a.Practice reciting the Persian Alphabet and record yourself .

| 0 | | ne ac | | Janyn | ig Elig | , | Jour | 1001 | | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---------|---|------|--------|-------|---|---|------|-----|
| ژ | ز | ر | ذ | د | Ċ | 2 | Ş | 5 C | ڷ | ت | پ | ų | الف |
| | t | e | < | * | | 2 | ~ | t: | ta | | | . *. | |
| م | J | د | | ق | ف | 3 | 8 | ط | ط | ص | ص | س | س |
| | | | | | | | | | | ى | ٥ | و | ن |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | - | |

b. Write the accompanying English sounds.

c. Write the Persian letters that correspond to the following sounds.

| 1. /b/ | | |
|---------------------|------|------|
| 2. /p/ | | |
| 3. /d/ | | |
| 4. /t/ | | |
| 5. /k/ | | |
| 6. /g/ | | |
| 7. /q/ | | |
| 8. // | | |
| 9. /f/ | | |
| 10./v/ | | |
| 11./s/ 12./-/ | | |
| 12./z/ 13./sh/ | | |
| 13./sn/ 14./zh/ | | |
| 14./211/ 15./kh/ | | |
| 16./h/ | | |
| 17./ch/ | | |
| 18./j/ | | |
| 19./1/ | | |
| 20./r/ | | |
| 21./w/ | | |
| 22./y/ | | |
| 23./m/ | | |
| 24./n/ | | |
| 25./ee/ | | |
| 26./e/ | | |
| 27./a/ | | |
| 28./ā/ | | |
| 29./o/ | | |
| 30./00/ | | |

Unit 21 Basic Features of the Persian Alphabet



1. The Modern Persian alphabet is comprised of 32 letters. Four of these letters are exclusively Persian . (/ge/ 2 , /zhe/ z, /che/ z, /che/ z, /che/ z), /che/ z)

(پ/p/

- 2. There are three short vowels that are placed over and under the consonants and are not indicated in writing. There are three long vowels that are indicated in writing.
- 3. Words are written and read from right to left.
- 4. Numbers are written from left to right.
- 5. To write a word, the letters in the word need to be attached to one another, but some letters only attach on the right, and not on the left.

سلام, خداحافظ

6. The letters can be divided into two groups:

a. Seven non-connecting letters that do not connect forward to the next letter to the left :

آ، د ، ذ ، ر، ز، ژ، و

b. 25 connecting letters that connect on both sides:

- 7. There are some letters that are pronounced the same way:
 - are all pronounced /z/ . / . / .
 - b. Letters ت ط are all pronounced /t/.
 - c. Letters س- ص ث are all pronounced /s/.

- **d.** Letters \circ τ both have the gliding sound of /h/.
- e. Letters خ ق roughly are equal to /q/ in English and basically appears in Arabic and some Turkish words as adapted in Persian.
- f. Letters *と* [|] are pronounced /?/.
- 9. Some letters are distinguished by the number of dots:

ب، پ، ت، ث ج، چ، ح، خ د، ذ ر، ز، ژ س، ش ص، ض ط، ظ ع، غ

10.Since the script is cursive, the appearance of a letter changes depending on its position. Persian letters have one to four forms depending they appear as 'initial', 'medial' or 'final' of a word.

Initial : a. when the letter is the first letter of the word and followed by another letter. (با ، آب، تاب)

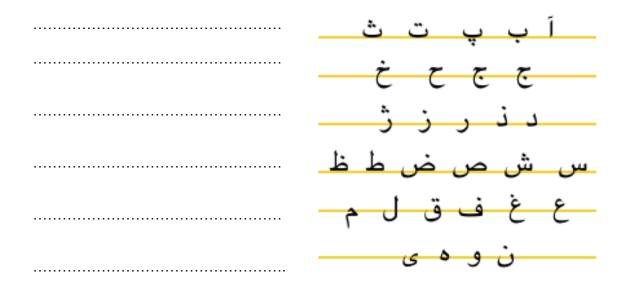
b. when the letter is proceeded by a non-connecting letter. ((j, , , , , , , , , , , ,)

- **Medial:** when the letter is both proceeded and followed by connecting letters.(پنجره، دختر، پسر)
- **Final:** when it is the last letter in a word and is preceded by a connecting letter. (اسم، ثابت، ربغ)
- Alone: when it is the last letter in the word and preceded by a nonconnecting letter. (نوه، چراغ، راه)

Practice 2

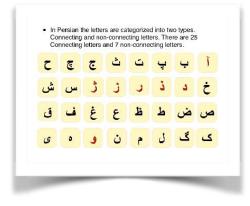
a. Practice reciting the Persian Alphabet and record yourself.

b. Persian letters either sit on the base line completely or part of them hang off beneath the line like English letters. When you are writing the letters, move your hands from top to bottom and from right to left. Use lined paper when learning to write the letters of the Persian alphabet. As a general rule , first write the basic shapes and then add the dots or strokes. Now, first trace the letters and then copy them.



Unit 3 | Letter Forms

Non-Connecting Letter Forms

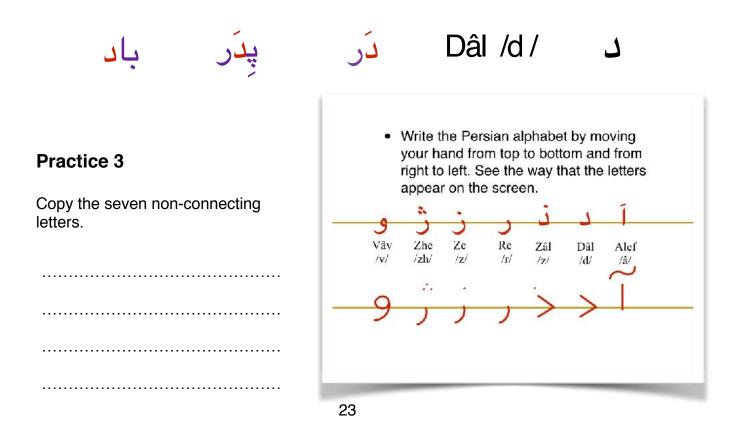


1. There are seven non-connecting letters.

آ، د، ذ، ر، ز، ژ، و

2. Non-connecting letters do not connect forward to the next letter to the left.

3. Non-connecting letters have one form.



Letter Forms

The alphabets in their three forms of `initial', `medial' and `final' next to the independent one.

| Alone Fina | l Medial | Initial | Sound | Transliteration |
|------------|----------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| 1 | | Ĩ | /ā/ | alef |
| ب | | ÷ | /b/ | be |
| پ | | ź | /p/ | ре |
| ت | | Ĕ | /t/ | te |
| ث | | د | /s/ | se |
| ح | - | ÷ | /j/ | jim |
| Ş | - | Ż. | /ch/ | che |
| ۲ | ζ. | | /h/ | he |
| Ċ | - | ż | /kh/ | khe |
| | د | | /d/ | dāl |
| | ذ | | /z/ | zāl |
| | ر | | /r/ | re |
| | j | | | ze |
| | Ĵ | | /zh/ | zhe |
| س | _ | ш | /s/ | sin |

| Alone | Final | Medial | Initial | Sound | Transliteration | |
|--------|----------|--------|---------|-------------|-----------------|-----|
| ئى | ت | 4 | لد ، | /sh/ | shin | |
| س | _ | ىد | ۵ | /s/ | sāt | |
| س | à | ىد | à | /z/ | zāt | |
| | | ط | | /t/ | tā | |
| | | ظ | | /z/ | zā | |
| 3 | ځ | ٤ | ع | /'/ , /a/ | ayn | |
| 3 j | غ | ف | غ | /gh/ | ghayn | |
| | ė | /f/ ف | | fe | | |
| ق | | 2 | à | /gh/ | ghāf | |
| ک | ک | | 2 | /k/ | kāf | |
| گ | گ | | 2 | /gh/ | gāf | |
| Ĺ | J | | t | /L/ | lām | |
| م | م م | | 2 | /m/ | mim | |
| ن | /n/ ذ ن | | ذ | | nun | |
| | و | | و | | /v/, /o/ , /oo/ | vāv |
| ۵ | ٩ | \$ | ھ | /h/ , /e/ | he | |
| ى | يـ ى | | | /y/ or /ee/ | уе | |

Persian Vowel Forms

| Alone | Final | Medial | Initial | Vowel | |
|-------|-------|-------------|---------|---------|--|
| | | | | symbols | |
| 5 | | ~ | Î | а | |
| 5 | ٩ | / | ļ | е | |
| | 9 | × | 1 | 0 | |
| | 1 | | Ī | ā | |
| و | | | او | 00 | |
| | S | | ا يـ | ee | |
| | ۅۛ | ۅۛ | اُو | ow | |
| | ې | 1: | الد | еу | |

Practice 3

Write the Persian letters that correspond to the following sounds.

| 1. /b/ | | |
|---------|------|------|
| 2. /p/ | | |
| 3. /d/ | | |
| 4. /t/ | | |
| 5. /k/ | | |
| 6. /g/ | | |
| 7. /q/ | | |
| 8. /'/ | | |
| 9. /f/ | | |
| 10./v/ | | |
| 11./s/ | | |
| 12./z/ | | |
| 13./sh/ | | |
| 14./zh/ | | |
| 15./kh/ | | |
| 16./h/ | | |
| 17./ch/ | | |
| 18./j/ | | |
| 19./1/ | | |
| 20./r/ | | |
| 21./w/ | | |
| 22./y/ | | |
| 23./m/ | | |
| 24./n/ | | |
| 25./ee/ | | |
| 26./e/ | | |
| 27./a/ | | |
| 28./ā/ | | |
| 29./o/ | | |
| 30./00/ | | |
| 29./o/ | | |

c. Answer the questions.

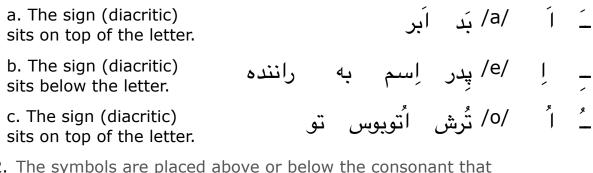
1. How many letters are there in the Persian alphabet? 2. Do Persians read words from left to right or right to left? 3. How are the Persian numbers written ? 4. How many forms does a connecting letter have? 5. What are the seven non-connecting letters? 6.What does a non-connecting letter mean? _____ 7.What does a connecting letter mean? 8. When do we use the final form of the letter?

Unit 4I Features of the Persian Vowels

Short Vowels



1. There are three short vowels in Persian (/a/-/e/-/o/).



- 2. The symbols are placed above or below the consonant that carries them.
- The symbols are not normally indicated in writing except for beginning readers. Thus, the pronunciation and meaning of various words is determined by context.
- 4. At the beginning of a word, short vowels are carried either by /l/ or by /ɛ/, e.g.:

- 5. Short vowels in final position are represented as follows:
 - a. If a word ends in /a/, then it will end in /s/, which is often silent, e.g. :
 - تو دو b. If a word ends in /o/, then it will end in /₀/, e.g.:
 - c. If a word ends in /e/, the short vowel is carried by a /s/, which is often silent, e.g.:

Long Vowels



- 1. Every language in the world has these three long vowels. Even monkeys have these three vowels.
- 2. At the beginning of a word, the long vowel is carried by /I/, e.g.:
- 3. Long vowels in final position are represented by ///, /e.g.: کو تا
- 4. Unlike English which has a rather complex system of vowels, Persian has only three long vowels:

آ آب – خانه- بابا **او** او -توپ – بود **ای** این - شیر- سی

آن این او

کی

Diphthongs

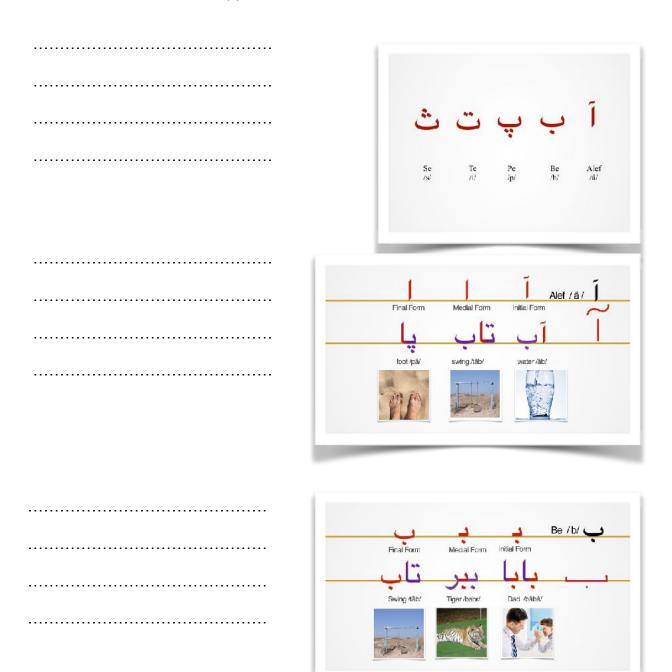
There are two diphthongs in Persian. A diphthong is a complex speech sound or glide that begins with one vowel and gradually changes to another vowel within the same syllable. Basically, we have two vowels together.

Practice 4

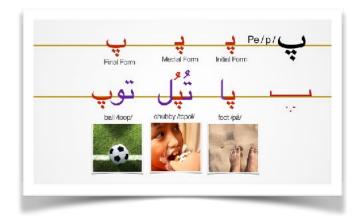
| 1. What are the three short vowels? |
|---|
| 2. Where do the short vowels sit? |
| 3. Are short vowels indicated in real life writings? |
| 4.What are the three long vowels? |
| 5.What are all the vowels accompanied by in the initial position? |
| |

Unit 51 Persian Letters Alef, Be, Pe, Te, Se

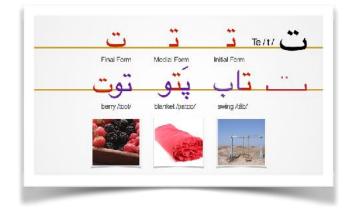
Watch the video files and copy the letters and words.

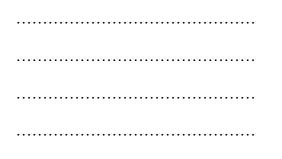














Practice 5

a.Match the Persian letters with the sound values.

| /b/ | Ĩ | . \ |
|-----|---|-----|
| /ā/ | ب | . ۲ |
| /t/ | پ | ۳. |
| /s/ | ت | ۴. |
| /p/ | | |
| | ث | . ۵ |

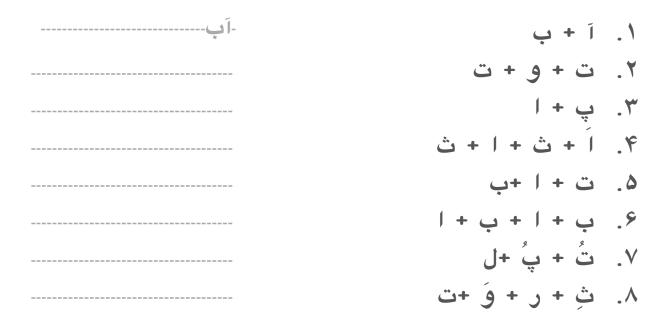
b. Match the initial form of the letters with the independent form of the letters.



c.Match the missing letters on the right with the appropriate letters on the left.

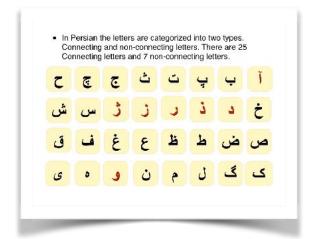
| Ĩ | ث | ١ | - | Ĩ | . 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| ų | | ب | - | ت | . ۲ |
| ث | I | - | I | ب | ۳. |
| Ļ | | J | - | ق | ۴. |

d.Connect the letters to form words. Sound the words out.

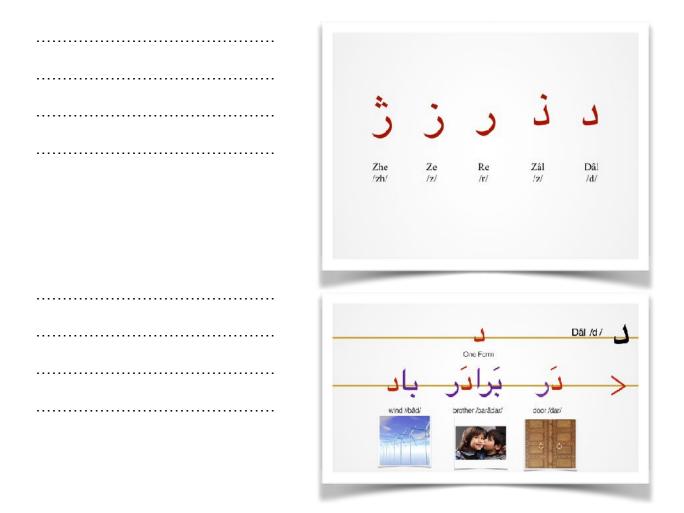


e.Circle the following letters on the advertisements.

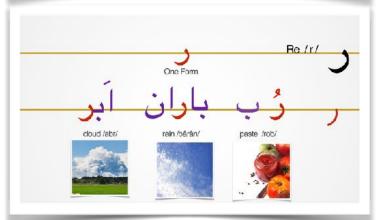
| پ ت ث | آ ب |
|-----------|-------|
| و کفش | کيف |
| ک زنانه | پوشا |
| ، بچگانه | لباس |
| ک آقایان | پوشا |
| بانوان | مانتو |
| لگاه لباس | فروش |



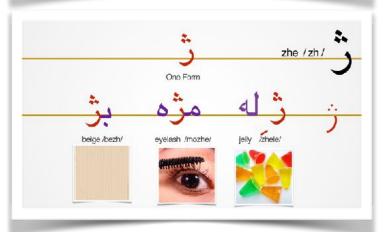
Watch the video files and copy the letters and words.

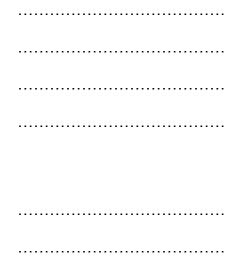












.....





a.Match the Persian letters with the sound values.

| /d/ | د | . \ |
|------|---|-----|
| /z/ | ن | . ۲ |
| /r/ | ر | . ٣ |
| /z/ | ز | .۴ |
| /zh/ | | • 1 |
| | ر | . ۵ |

b.*Match* the initial form of the letters with the independent form of the letters.

| د | ذرت | . \ |
|---|-----|-----|
| ڌ | ژله | . ۲ |
| ر | زرد | ۳. |
| j | در | ۴. |
| Ĉ | رب | .0 |

c.Match the missing letters on the right with the appropriate letters on the left.

| د | با-ار | . \ |
|---|----------|-----|
| Ĺ | ب ا - ان | ۲. |
| J | 4 - 0 | ۳. |
| 3 | برا-ر | ۴. |
| Ĵ | غ - ا | . ۵ |

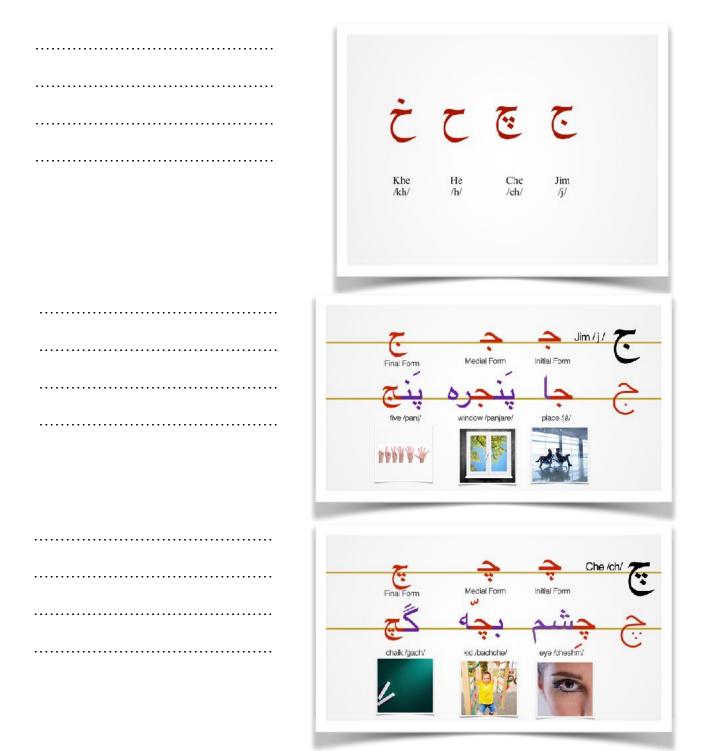
| بَ + ر +ا +دَ + ر | . 1 |
|-----------------------|-----|
| ب+ ا+ ر+ ا+ن | ۲. |
| غ + i +l | ۳. |
| ر + و + ز | ۴. |
| | . ۵ |
| ب + ا+ ز +ا+ ر | ۶. |
| مُ + ڗْ+ ٥ | .٧ |
| وُ+ ر+ و + د | ۸. |

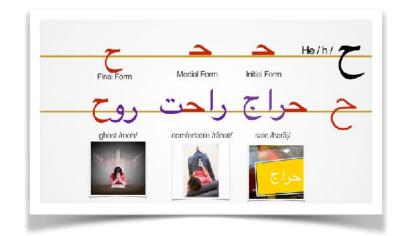
e.Circle the following letters on the advertisement.

آ د **ذ ر ز ژ و**

Unit 71 Persian Letters Jim, Che, He, Khe

Watch the video files and copy the letters and words.







.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

a.Match the Persian letters with the sound values.

| /ch/ | 5 | . 1 |
|------|----------|-----|
| /kh/ | E | ۲. |
| /j/ | 2 | ۳. |
| /h/ | Ĵ | ۴. |

b.*Match* the initial form of the letters with the independent form of the letters.



c.Match the missing letters on the right with the appropriate letters on the left.

| ε | د – ت ر | . \ |
|---|---------|-----|
| T | پن-ره | ۲. |
| 7 | ب - ه | ۳. |
| Ċ | را - ت | ۴. |

| 5 + 1 | . ١ |
|------------------------|-----|
| پَ + ن + جَ + ر+ ه | ۲. |
| ت+ ا+ ج | ۳. |
| حَ + ر+ ا+ ج | ۴. |
| بَ + چ+ ه | . ۵ |
| دُ +خ + تَ + ر | |
| خَ + ر+ ا+ ب | .V |
| چ + پ | ٨. |

e.Circle the following letters and vowel on the advertisements.

| - | | | | - 4 |
|---|---|-----|---|-----|
| Ż | | ē | 5 | |
| 1 | ~ | 1.0 | 1 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | 1 |

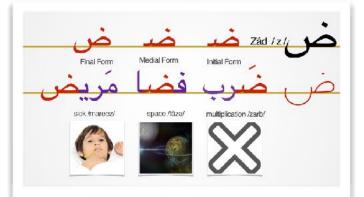
داروخانه مرکز خرید پستخانه کتابخانه کتابفروشی کتابفروشی دانشگاه مدرسه پسرانه دبیرستان دخترانه دستشویی زنانه دستشویی مردانه

Unit 81 Persian Letters Sin, Shin, Sât, Zât, Tâ, Zâ

Watch the video files and copy the letters and words.









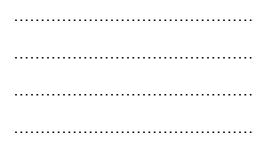




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.....





a.Match the Persian letters with the sound values.

| /s/ | س- ص | . 1 |
|------|-------|-----|
| /sh/ | ش | . ۲ |
| /z/ | ض - ظ | ۳. |
| /t/ | ط | .۴ |

b.*Match* the initial form of the letters with the independent form of the letters.

| ш и | شبب | . \ |
|--------|------|-----|
| ش | سىبن | . ۲ |
| ص | ظهر | ۳. |
| ض | طلا | ۴. |
| ط | صبح | . ۵ |
| ظ | ضرب | . ۶ |

c.Match the missing letters on the right with the appropriate letters on the left.

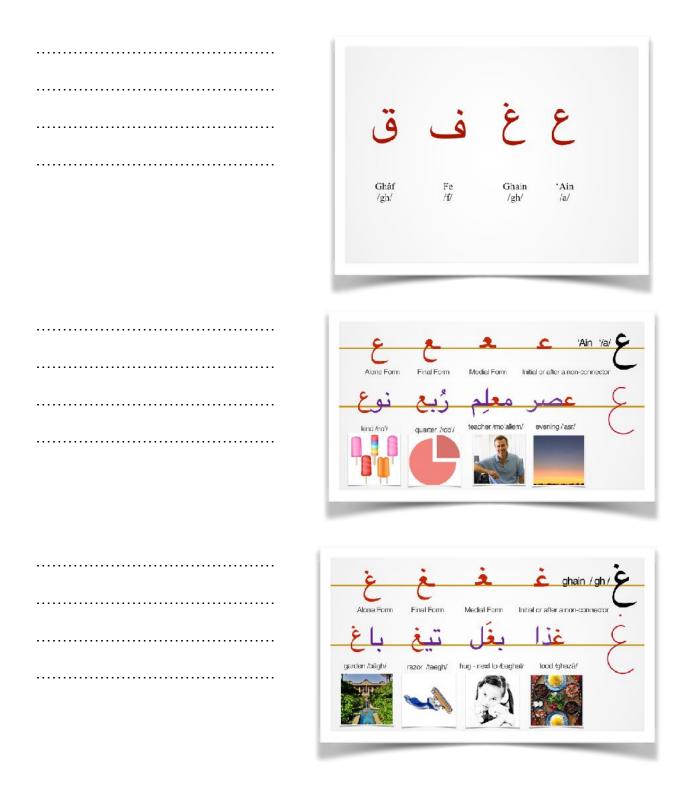
| س | ز - ت | .1 |
|---|-----------|----|
| ش | ط و - ى | ۲. |
| ص | م ن - م | ۳. |
| ض | ف - ا | ۴. |
| ط | د و - ت | ۵. |
| ظ | پ ا ن - د | ۶. |

| سَ + ب+ ز | . ١ |
|------------------------------|-----|
| د+ و+ س+ ت | ۲. |
| دَ + ر +س | ۳. |
| ش + ب | ۴. |
| پ + ا+ ن + ص ً+ د | . ۵ |
| ض + ر+ ب | ۶. |
| ط+ و + ط+ ی | .٧ |
| ظُ+ ہ+ ر | .٨ |
| خُ + د + ا + ح+ ا+ فِ+ ظ | ٩. |

e.Circle the following letters on the advertisements.

Unit 91 Persian Letters 'Ain, Ghain, Fe, Ghāf

Watch the video files and copy the letters and words.











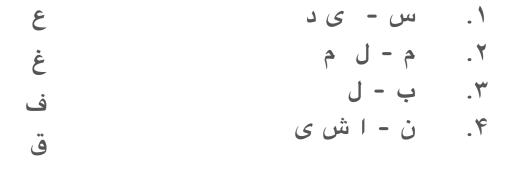
a.Match the Persian letters with the sound values.

| ſ`/ | 3 | . ١ |
|------|------|-----|
| /gh/ | غ -ق | ۲. |
| /f/ | ف | ۳. |

b.*Match* the initial form of the letters with the independent form of the letters.



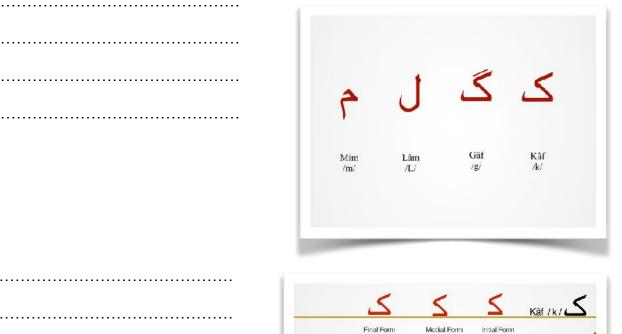
c.Match the missing letters on the right with the appropriate letters on the left.



| عَ+ ص + ر | . 1 |
|-------------------|-------|
| | . ۲ |
| رُ + ب+ ع | ۳. |
| بَ + غ + ل | ۴. |
| فَ + ر + ش | . ۵ |
| سِ + ف+ی + د | .۶ |
| ک+ ی + ف | . V |
| چ + ط + و + ر | . ^ |
| ع+ ا + شِ+ ق | . ٩ |
| ق + ر + م + ز | . 1 • |

e.Circle the following letters on the advertisements.

Unit 101 Persian Letters Kāf, Ghāf, Lām, Mim

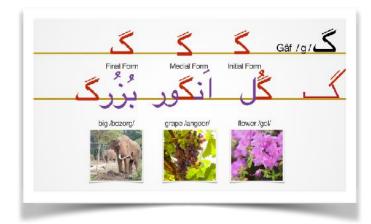


cake /kevk/



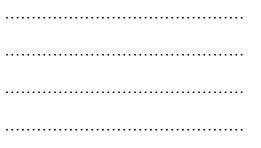
. . .

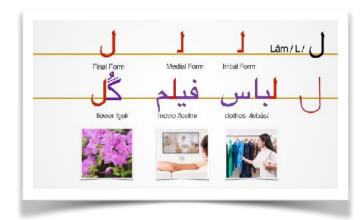
.



sugar /shekar/

book /ketâb/









.....

.....

a.Match the Persian letters with the sound values.

| /g/ | ک | . 1 |
|-----|---|-----|
| /1/ | گ | . ۲ |
| /m/ | J | ۳. |
| /k/ | 4 | ۴. |

b. Match the initial form of the letters with the independent form of the letters.



c.Match the missing letters on the right with the appropriate letters on the left.

| ک | ان - و ر | . 1 |
|---|----------|-----|
| گ | ش – ر | . ۲ |
| ل | ش – ا | ۳. |
| 4 | ف ی - م | ۴. |

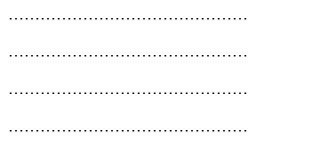
| ک + ت+ ا+ ب | . 1 |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| گ+ ی+ ک | . ۲ |
| گُ +ل | ۳. |
| بُ+ زُ +ر +گ | .4 |
| ا [َ] + ن + گ + و + ر | . ۵ |
| ل +ا + ل+ ه | . ۶ |
| ف+ ی +ل + م | . V |
| م +ا + دَ+ ر | . ^ |
| اً + س + م | ٩. |
| ش+ م + ا | . 1 • |

e.Circle the following letters on the advertisements.

Unit 111 Persian Letters Nun, Vāv, He, Ye

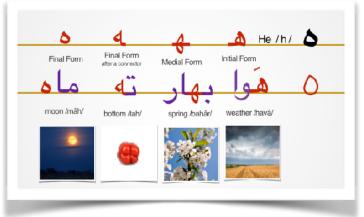
Watch the video files and copy the letters and words.

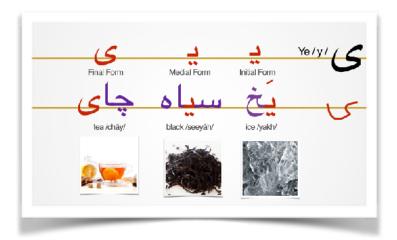




.....

.....







a.Match the Persian letters with the sound values.

| /n/ | Ũ | .1 |
|---------|---|-----|
| /v/ | و | . ۲ |
| /h/ | ٥ | ۳. |
| /ee- y/ | ى | .4 |

b.*Match* the initial form of the letters with the independent form of the letters.



c.Match the missing letters on the right with the appropriate letters on the left.

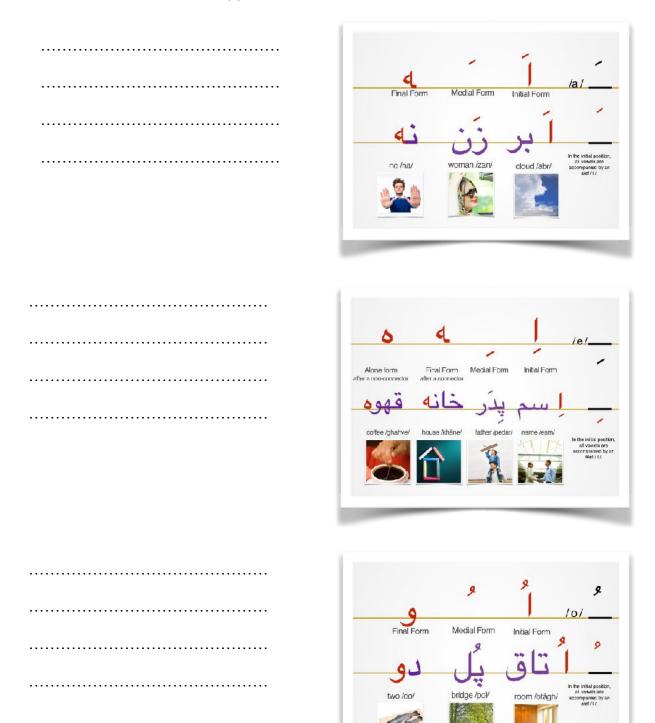
| Ũ | ع – ن ک | .1 |
|---|---------|-----|
| و | ت - ل د | . ۲ |
| ٥ | س – ۱ ه | ۳. |
| ى | ب - ا ر | .۴ |

| ن + ا+ ن | . 1 |
|---------------------|-------|
| م+ ا + ش+ ی + ن | . ۲ |
| وَ+ ر + زِ+ ش | ۳. |
| ک + ش + وَ+ ر | ۴. |
| ة + e + ۱ | . ۵ |
| بَ + ه+ ا+ ر | ۶. |
| 4+ ++ه | . V |
| ى + خ | .^ |
| س+ ی + ا+ ہ | ٩. |
| چ + ا + ی | . 1 • |

e.Circle the following letters in the announcements.

Unit 121 Short Vowels

Watch the video files and copy the short vowels and words.



a.Match the Persian vowels with the sound values.

| /0/ | . 1 |
|-----|---------|
| /a/ | . ۲ |
| /e/ | \$ |
| | ۳. |

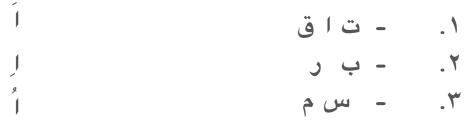
b. Match the Persian vowels with their names.

| <u>پیش</u> | | . 1 |
|-------------|---|-----|
| زبکر | | . ۲ |
| زی ر | × | ۳. |

c. Match the missing initial short vowels on the right with the appropriate signs on the left.



d.Match the missing initial short vowels on the right with the appropriate signs on the left.

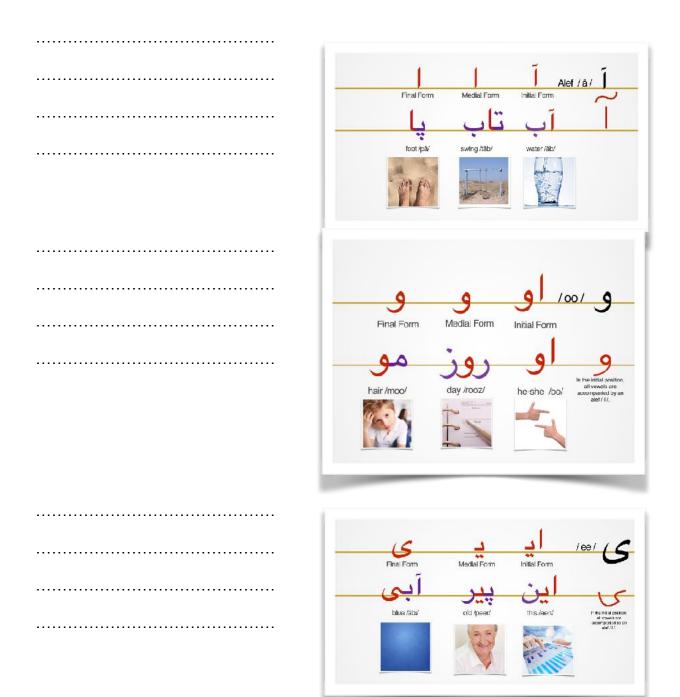


| اً + ب + ر | . ١ |
|--------------------|-----|
| زَ + ن | ۲. |
| ن + ه | ۳. |
| ا + س+ م | ۴. |
| ق + ه + و + ه | . ۵ |
| پُ + ل | ۶ |
| د + و | .V |
| اُ + ت + ا + ق | ۰. |
| پ + دَ + ر | ٩. |
| | |

f.Circle the following final form of the short vowels on the advertisements.

Unit 13 | Long Vowels

Watch the video files and copy the long vowels and words.



a.Match the Persian vowels with the sound values.

| /00/ | Ĩ | . 1 |
|------|----|-----|
| /e/ | او | . ۲ |
| /â/ | ای | ۳. |

b. Match the Persian words with the the right transliteration.

| /tâp/ | توپ | . ١ |
|--------|-----|-----|
| /toop/ | ثيب | . ۲ |
| /teep/ | تاپ | ۳. |

c.Connect the letters to form words. Sound the words out.

| ا+ و | . 1 |
|---------------|-----|
| ر + و + ز | .۲ |
| ا + ی + ن | ۳. |
| آ + ب + ی | ۴. |
| پ + ی + ر | . ۵ |
| م + و | .9 |
| | |

d.Circle the following long vowels on the advertisements.

آ او ای نان سنگگ نان بربری برنچ شمال ماهی سفید شمال فرش تبریز

Unit 14 | Additional Signs

Watch the video file and copy the signs and words.

| لن Addiiional Signs |
|--|
| Harrow / Tarvensor Tarveds/ dutting sign |
| signature /emzä*/ sure /haitman/ kie /bachate/ |
| |

- Mad /i/ is the hat that goes over alef and appears at the beginning of a word.
- 2. **Saken /^/** refers to absence of a vowel after a consonant.
- 3. Tashdid / / is placed above a letter that is doubled in a word. Only one letter is written and tashdid goes over it. The doubling that results from compounding is not indicated by tashdid but by writing both consonants, as in por-ru, pak-kon (پررو- پاک کن).
- 4. Hamze / ۶/ is a glottal stop like /۶/ . Like "bottle" in English.
 - a. In initial position, it is pronounced like short vowels /a/, /e/, /o/, based on the vowel , it carries. e.g.:
 - b. The medial hamze is carried by a long vowel and it is pronounced like letter ε .

عُلوم

معلم

عَسَل

- c. In final position, hamze is written by itself and pronounced as /./٤
- 5. **Tanvin** / 1 / is another symbol which is used mostly for adverbs and it is placed on alef / 1 / . It is pronounced /an/.

تقريباً معمولاً

Practice 14

a.Match the Persian vowels and signs with the sound values.

| | Ĩ | . ١ |
|------|------|-----|
| /00/ | او | . ۲ |
| /an/ | ای | ~ |
| /e/ | اً گ | . 1 |
| /â/ | | ۴. |
| /`/ | ç | . ۵ |
| | | |

b. Match the Persian signs with their names.

| همزه | ç | |
|-------|-----|-----|
| تشديد | | . ۲ |
| تنوين | ىنى | ۳. |

c. Match the missing sings on the right with the appropriate signs on the left.

| Ĩ | ٩٣٢ | . 1 |
|----|------|-----|
| ç | | . ۲ |
| ىن | امضا | ۳. |

| ب + چ + " + ٥ | . 1 |
|------------------------------|-----|
| ا + م + ض + ا + ء | . ۲ |
| ح + ت + م + أ | |

e.Circle the following signs on the advertisements and announcements.

خیابان معلّم نقشه ء مجموعه توقف مطلقاً ممنوع استخر سر پوشیدہ ء بانوان

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۶