



Pimsleur®

Farsi Persian 1

Reading Booklet

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Booklet Design: Maia Kennedy

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The Persian Language

Persian is the official language of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan. It belongs to the Indo-Iranian group of languages and is spoken worldwide by approximately seventy-five million people.

Persian has three major dialects: Farsi (spoken in Iran and taught in this course), Dari (spoken in Afghanistan), and Tajik (spoken in Tajikistan). Dari and Tajik are considered a purer form of Persian – that is, they show less Arab influence – but all three dialects are more or less mutually intelligible.

"Persian" was originally called "Parsi"; it was named after the Parsa, who ruled Iran between 550 and 330 B.C. The name "Farsi" is an Arabic form, reflecting the fact that Arabic has no letter "p." Modern Persian, as it is spoken today, evolved from Classical Persian, which became the lingua franca of the eastern Islamic nations during the ninth century. It was spoken from the borders of India to the Mediterranean, and from Russia to the Persian Gulf. At the same time, extensive contact with the Arab world led to a large influx of Arabic vocabulary. During the thirteenth century, the Ottoman kings continued to spread the language throughout Asia minor. In fact, prior to British colonization, Classical Persian was so widely used that it became the second language in the Indian subcontinent.

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Classical Persian is still preserved today through the writings of distinguished poets such as Rudaki, Ferdowsi, and Khayyam.

Classical Persian remained relatively unchanged until the end of the eighteenth century. From then on the dialect of Tehran rose in prominence and eventually became the basis of what is now called Contemporary Standard Persian. Although it still contains a large number of Arabic terms, most borrowings have been nativized, with a much lower percentage of Arabic words used in colloquial language.

Features of Persian Writing

Modern Persian uses a modified version of the Arabic alphabet, with thirty-two letters as opposed to twenty-eight in Arabic. Despite their shared alphabet, however, Persian and Arabic are entirely different languages. Persian does not have capital letters, but uses an adapted form of Western punctuation.

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Written Persian has the following characteristics:

- It is read from right to left – except for numbers, which go from left to right.
- Persian letters are distinguished by one, two, or three dots, which are placed above or below the letter – or, in some cases, by the lack of dots.
- As in English handwriting, most Persian letters connect to those that follow them. However, seven letters, called “non-connectors,” connect only to letters that precede them.
- When letters connect to a preceding letter, they often modify their shape, undergoing a reduction when the two are joined together.
- Some letters also modify their shape according to their position in a word – depending on whether they appear in initial, medial, or final position.
- In standard written Persian, the so-called “short vowels” are usually omitted. They may be represented by diacritical marks, as they are in these reading lessons. The three “long vowels,” however – often appearing in transliteration as “aa,” “oo,” and “ee” – are written.

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- The appearance of some letters may vary, depending on the choice of font.

A complete listing of the Persian diacriticals and the Persian alphabet follows. The alphabet is listed as a two-page spread. You should use this chart for reference only, as all the information you need to do the readings is contained on the audio.

Name in Transliteration	Diacritical Mark	Sound
fathe / zebar	ī	/ a / as in <i>hat</i>
kasre / zir	ı	/ e / as in <i>shell</i>
zame / pish	ū	/ o / as in <i>home</i>
mad	ā	/ aa / as in <i>father</i> or <i>awe</i>

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Four other diacritical marks exist as well, but they are much less common. They are:

1. *tashid* (ّ): Appears over a consonant, indicating that it should be doubled, or pronounced twice. Used primarily with words of Arabic origin.
2. *hamze* (ؤ): Written over a letter, indicating a glottal stop.
3. *tanvin* (ِ): Shown here with an *alef*. Rarely used; primarily appears over a final *alef*, in which case the *alef* is silent and the preceding letter adds an "n" sound.
4. *sokoon / saken* (°): Written above a consonant, indicating the absence of a vowel.

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Symbol in Transliteration	Final Un/Connected	Medial Position	Initial Position
aa*	ا ا ل	ل	ا
b	ب ا ب	ب	ب
p	پ ا پ	پ	پ
t	ت ا ت	ت	ت
s	ث ا ث	ث	ث
j	ج ا ج	ج	ج
ch	چ ا چ	چ	چ
h	ح ا ح	ح	ح
kh / x	خ ا خ	خ	خ
d	د ا د	د	د
z	ذ ا ز	ذ	ذ
r	ر ا ر	ر	ر
z	ز ا ز	ز	ز
zh	ژ ا ژ	ژ	ژ
s	س ا س	س	س
sh	ش ا ش	ش	ش

* After a consonant, *alef* sounds like *ah* or *awe*. In initial position, it has the sound of the accompanying diacritical mark.

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Name	Name in Translation	Letter
الف	alef	ا†
ب	be	ب
پ	pe	پ
ت	te	ت
ث	se	ث
جیم	jim	ج
چ	che	چ
ح (جیمی)	he (jimi)	ح
خ	khe	خ
دال	daal	د†
ذال	zaal	ذ†
ر	re	ر†
ز	ze	ز†
ژ	zhe	ژ†
سین	sin	س
شین	shin	ش

† indicates a non-connector - that is, a letter that does not connect to the one following it.

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Symbol in Transliteration	Final Un/Connected	Medial Position	Initial Position
s	صا ص	ص	ص
z	ضا ض	ض	ض
t	طا ط	ط	ط
z	ظا ظ	ظ	ظ
a	عا ع	ع	ع
gh / q	قا غ	ق	ق
f	فا ف	ف	ف
gh / q	قا ق	ق	ق
k	كا ك	ك	ك
g	گا گ	گ	گ
l	لا ل	ل	ل
m	ما م	م	م
n	نا ن	ن	ن
v / oo	وا و	و	و
h	ها ه	ه	ه
ye / i-ee	یا ی	ی	ی

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Name	Name in Translation	Letter
صاد	saad	ص
ضاد	zaad	ض
طا	taa	ط
ظا	zaa	ظ
عين	eyn / ayn	ع
غين	qeyn / qayn	غ
ف	fe	ف
قاف	qaaf	ق
كاف	kaaf	ك
گاف	gaaf	گ
لام	laam	ل
ميم	mim	م
نون	noon	ن
واو	vav	و
ه (دو چشم)	he (do cheshm)	ه
ی	ye	ی

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The Reading Lessons

There are eighteen Persian reading lessons recorded at the end of the program. You may choose to do the readings along with the lessons, after every other lesson or so, or all together after completing the rest of the course. Feel free to repeat the reading lessons as often as necessary for practice with the Persian alphabet and the sounds it represents.

Some of the words and phrases you will read are taught in this course, but most are not, and – especially in the early lessons – some may simply be syllables rather than actual words. Actual words, and familiar words, are used more and more as the number of letters introduced increases.

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Lesson One

آد 11.

ا 1.

آز 12.

دا 2.

آدا 13.

داد 3.

آداز 14.

دادا 4.

زا 5.

داز 6.

زاد 7.

دازا 8.

زادا 9.

زازا 10.

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Lesson Two

- | | | | |
|--------|-----|-------|-----|
| سارا | 11. | داز | 1. |
| ساز | 12. | زادا | 2. |
| آسار | 13. | آزاد | 3. |
| سادزار | 14. | را | 4. |
| | | راز | 5. |
| | | زا | 6. |
| | | راد | 7. |
| | | دار | 8. |
| | | رازاد | 9. |
| | | سا | 10. |

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Lesson Three

- | | | | |
|--------|-----|-------------|-----|
| باد | 11. | راد | 1. |
| بادساز | 12. | ساز | 2. |
| سَبَز | 13. | شاد | 3. |
| سَرشار | 14. | شارد سارد | 4. |
| سَرشَر | 15. | زاشار | 5. |
| دَبرا | 16. | زَ | 6. |
| | | دَر | 7. |
| | | زَرَد | 8. |
| | | سَرَد | 9. |
| | | سَنَز | 10. |

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Lesson Four

- | | | | |
|----------|-----|-------------|-----|
| دازشَبَذ | 11. | شارسار | 1. |
| اَ | 12. | سَردار | 2. |
| اَسب | 13. | زاداشا | 3. |
| اَسرار | 14. | بَربر | 4. |
| سَبَر | 15. | بَرادر | 5. |
| اَرساب | 16. | سَرداب | 6. |
| | | شَراب | 7. |
| | | ذار | 8. |
| | | زرد دَرَد | 9. |
| | | دار دار | 10. |

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Lesson Five

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| 11. راز \ راژ | 1. آزاد |
| 12. رِژاش | 2. باب |
| 13. اِسرار | 3. آبشار |
| 14. اِبراز | 4. راش |
| 15. سَراس | 5. بَراش |
| 16. بَس \ بَش | 6. شاباش |
| 17. آژا | 7. دِ |
| 18. اِزدا | 8. دِزا |
| | 9. زِبر |
| | 10. ژاسا |

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Lesson Six

- | | | | |
|-----|----------|-----|----------------|
| 11. | آسَدَاش | 1. | سِیْژَا |
| 12. | آزْدَاړژ | 2. | رِشْدَاش |
| 13. | آشَاذ | 3. | آدَار |
| 14. | اِرْطَاب | 4. | اِشَا |
| 15. | بِژَار | 5. | ظَرْد |
| 16. | بَرَاش | 6. | آظَر\ آذر\ آزر |
| | | 7. | اِبْرَاط |
| | | 8. | رِیَاس |
| | | 9. | آژَاب |
| | | 10. | شَبْرَاط |

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Lesson Seven

- | | | | |
|-----|----------|-----|-----------|
| 11. | تُزاجِزْ | 1. | آسَبَدْ |
| 12. | بُجُزْ | 2. | آذازاظْ |
| 13. | آتراژُبْ | 3. | تَرْ |
| 14. | دُرَاجْ | 4. | بَرَتَرْ |
| 15. | بُرَجْ | 5. | رَتْ |
| 16. | اَترْ | 6. | دُ |
| 17. | تَشْتْ | 7. | سُربْ |
| 18. | جُداْ | 8. | تُرْشْ |
| | | 9. | آبْظُرْبْ |
| | | 10. | جَاْ |

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Lesson Eight

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----|---------------|
| 11. | سُرب صُرب | 1. | جُز |
| 12. | جُردَن | 2. | شِدَت |
| 13. | آسان | 3. | تَراز |
| 14. | صُرات | 4. | نَزد |
| 15. | نَص | 5. | نَبَرَد |
| 16. | اَساَص | 6. | زَرَد نَرَد |
| 17. | سااان | 7. | سانس |
| 18. | سُص | 8. | شارج |
| | | 9. | سات |
| | | 10. | صَند |

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Lesson Nine

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 11. قا | 1. دَرَج |
| 12. قَرَن | 2. ژانَت |
| 13. قُرَّان | 3. صاد |
| 14. شِيَك | 4. يـ |
| 15. ذاق | 5. جيب |
| 16. بَرَق | 6. اينجا |
| 17. قَنَد | 7. ايشان |
| 18. ايش | 8. كِتاب |
| | 9. كَران |
| | 10. بِيگَران |

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Lesson Ten

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 11. میرم | 1. دَرَبند |
| 12. داریم | 2. قیر |
| 13. باید | 3. تاك |
| 14. شایان | 4. مُشت |
| 15. یانکی | 5. ماش صاش |
| 16. کمی | 6. سَمَت |
| 17. مین | 7. ایران |
| 18. شاید | 8. مَرسی |
| 19. یم | 9. کَرَمی |
| 20. مَنَم میام. | 10. ایرانی |

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Lesson Eleven

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 11. زَاغ | 1. آمَرِیکا |
| 12. باغ | 2. تاکسی |
| 13. بَرغ بَرَق | 3. قاجار |
| 14. بَلغ | 4. شام |
| 15. فَرار | 5. یَک |
| 16. فَاِغ | 6. بَرای مَن |
| 17. غُرِبان | 7. آقاي مَرَدانی |
| 18. بَرَف | 8. غاز |
| 19. غَرَف | 9. غَرِیق |
| 20. ظَفَر | 10. غَنَد قَنَد |

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Lesson Twelve

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| جُرم | 1. | خُدا | 11. |
| شَرغی | 2. | رُخ | 12. |
| زاف | 3. | سیخ | 13. |
| غَذایِ ایرانی | 4. | باخ | 14. |
| ضَرَب | 5. | قَرَض | 15. |
| آضری آذری | 6. | مَریض | 16. |
| آقایِ آذری | 7. | بَرایِ شُما | 17. |
| شیراض | 8. | خَرید | 18. |
| خام | 9. | | |
| خَم جَم | 10. | | |

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Lesson Thirteen

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 11. بُرو | 1. بَبَخْشید |
| 12. پاپا | 2. ضاب |
| 13. پَر بَر | 3. وَفَا |
| 14. پَنیر | 4. وَقْت |
| 15. پَسَر | 5. آوا |
| 16. رَپ | 6. نانوا |
| 17. پاپ | 7. نِدا |
| 18. خُون - وَاَدَم خُونِوَاَدَم | 8. خُوب |
| 19. پَرِوان | 9. دود |
| 20. خُوب نِیست. | 10. رُوز |

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Lesson Fourteen

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 11. لیوان | 1. خیابون |
| 12. آلو | 2. جَوید |
| 13. لاش | 3. پیام |
| 14. دُلاَر | 4. چَپ |
| 15. آلان | 5. چپ جیپ |
| 16. سَلام | 6. چِرا |
| 17. دال | 7. پیچ |
| 18. پول | 8. راج |
| 19. تَخْتِ جَمَشید | 9. چایی |
| 20. خِلی مُتَشکِرَم. | 10. لوس |

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Lesson Fifteen

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-----|---------------|
| 11. | مَلِيح | 1. | پامچال |
| 12. | صُبْح | 2. | لا لا |
| 13. | تَعْجُب | 3. | چَقْدَر |
| 14. | بَعْد | 4. | حال |
| 15. | تَعْجِيل | 5. | حَالِتُون |
| 16. | بَلَع | 6. | حَرْف |
| 17. | بِيع | 7. | عَد |
| 18. | فَرَع | 8. | عُر عَر |
| 19. | حَمَام | 9. | عَرَب اَرَب |
| 20. | سَاعَتِ يَك؟ | 10. | فَرَح |

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Lesson Sixteen

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 11. خاٹ | 1. تَعْمِير |
| 12. طِب | 2. زَحْمَت |
| 13. طاب ظاب | 3. غایب |
| 14. لِيَطِر | 4. تَرْجِيح |
| 15. بَط | 5. مَرْتَع |
| 16. شَطْط | 6. ثُم |
| 17. طَرِيق | 7. ثاب تاب |
| 18. ثابِت | 8. ثام سام صام |
| 19. لِبَاث | 9. كَثِيف |
| 20. خُدا حافِظ. | 10. پاٹ |

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Lesson Seventeen

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 11. شوهر | 1. ثَبَر |
| 12. خوبه | 2. عَدَت |
| 13. گِرَونه | 3. رابط |
| 14. هُتِل لاله | 4. هَاها |
| 15. بزرگ | 5. هُدا |
| 16. چى گُفتيد؟ | 6. نُهَصَد |
| 17. بچه داريد؟ | 7. بَهار |
| 18. چَند ميشه؟ | 8. گِرون |
| 19. کجاست؟ | 9. گوش |
| 20. غذای ایرانی خوبه. | 10. سیگار |

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Lesson Eighteen

1. سلام.
2. حالتون چگونه؟
3. خوبم، مرسی.
4. ببخشید. ساعت چنده؟
5. ساعت پنجه.
6. چایی میل دارید؟
7. زحمت نکشید.
8. بفرمایید، اینم برای شما.
9. خیلی متشکرم.
10. خدا حافظ.

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Lesson Eighteen (with diacritical marks)

1. سَلام.
2. حَالَتُون چَطَوْرَه؟
3. خَوْبَم، مِرْسِی.
4. بَبَخْشِید. سَاعَت چَنْدِه؟
5. سَاعَت پَنْجِه.
6. چایِ مِیل دارید؟
7. زَحْمَت نَکَشِید.
8. بَفَرْمایید، اینَم بَرایِ شُما.
9. خِیلی مُتَشْکِرَم.
10. خُدا حَافِظ.

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