

## Chapter 3

فارسی

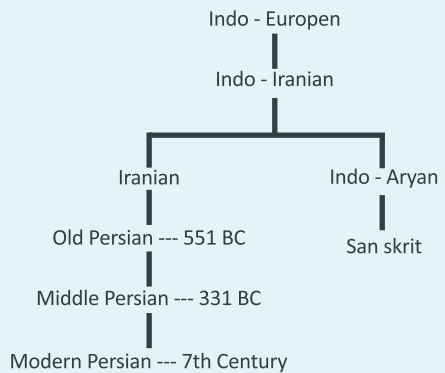
## Farsi Learning Guide

Persian (/pɜːrziən/ or /pɜːrziːn/), also known by its endonym Farsi (فارسی fārsī [fɜːrsiː]), is one of the Western Iranian languages within the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European language family. It is primarily spoken in Iran, Afghanistan (officially known as Dari since 1958), and Tajikistan (officially known as Tajiki since the Soviet era), and some other regions which historically were Persianate societies and considered part of Greater Iran. It is written in the Persian alphabet, a modified variant of the Arabic script, which itself evolved from the Aramaic alphabet.

The Persian language is classified as a continuation of Middle Persian, the official religious and literary language of the Sasanian Empire, itself a continuation of Old Persian, the language of the Achaemenid Empire. Its grammar is similar to that of many contemporary European languages. A Persian-speaking person may be referred to as Persophone.

There are approximately 110 million Persian speakers worldwide, with the language holding official status in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan. For centuries, Persian has also been a prestigious cultural language in other regions of Western Asia, Central Asia, and South Asia by the various empires based in the regions. Persian has had a considerable (mainly lexical) influence

on neighboring languages, particularly the Turkic languages in Central Asia, Caucasus, and Anatolia, neighboring Iranian languages, as well as Armenian, Georgian, and Indo-Aryan languages, especially Urdu (a register of Hindustani). It also exerted some influence on Arabic, particularly Bahri Arabic, while borrowing much vocabulary from it after the Arab conquest of Iran. With a long history of literature in the form of Middle Persian before Islam, Persian was the first language in the Muslim world to break through Arabic's monopoly on writing, and the writing of poetry in Persian was established as a court tradition in many eastern courts. Some of the famous works of Persian literature are the *Shahnameh* of Ferdowsi, the works of Rumi, the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam, the *Panji Ganj* of Nizami Ganjavi, the *Divān* of Hafez and the two miscellanea of prose and verse by Saadi Shirazi, the *Gulistan* and the *Bustan*.



### The 1<sup>st</sup> Human Rights Charter in the World

*I relieved their weariness and freed them from their bonds, as for the population of Babylon who as if without divine intention had endured a yoke not decreed for them. Marduk, the great lord, rejoiced at [my good] deeds, and he pronounced a sweet blessing over me, Cyrus, the king who fears him, and over Cambyses, the son [my] issue, [and over] my all my troops, that we might proceed further at his exalted command. I returned the images of the gods, who had resided there to their places and I let them dwell in eternal abodes. I gathered all their inhabitants and returned to them their dwellings.*

*Cyrus the Great Cylinder*



## Persian Alphabet

| #  | Name                 | Name in Persian Script | DIN 31635 [1]                           | IPA  | Contextual forms |        |         |          |
|----|----------------------|------------------------|---|--|------------------|--------|---------|----------|
|    |                      |                        |   |  | Final            | Medial | Initial | Isolated |
| 0  | hamzeh               | همزه                   | '                                       | [ʔ]  | ء                | ئ      | ه       | أ        |
| 1  | 'alef                | الف                    | ā                                       | [ɑ]  | ا                |        | ا / آ   |          |
| 2  | be                   | ب                      | b                                       | [b]  | ب                | ب      | ب       | ب        |
| 3  | pe                   | پ                      | p                                       | [p]  | پ                | پ      | پ       | پ        |
| 4  | te                   | ت                      | t                                       | [t]  | ت                | ت      | ت       | ت        |
| 5  | se                   | ث                      | s                                       | [s]  | ث                | ث      | ث       | ث        |
| 6  | jim                  | جیم                    | j                                       | [d͡ʒ]  | ج                | ج      | ج       | ج        |
| 7  | che                  | چ                      | č                                       | [t͡ʃ]  | چ                | چ      | چ       | چ        |
| 8  | he(-ye jimi)         | ح                      | ḥ                                       | [h]  | ح                | ح      | ح       | ح        |
| 9  | khe                  | خ                      | x                                       | [x]  | خ                | خ      | خ       | خ        |
| 10 | dāl                  | دال                    | d                                       | [d]  | د                |        | د       |          |
| 11 | zāl                  | ذال                    | z                                       | [z]  | ذ                |        | ذ       |          |
| 12 | re                   | ر                      | r                                       | [r]  | ر                |        | ر       |          |
| 13 | ze                   | ز                      | z                                       | [z]  | ز                |        | ز       |          |
| 14 | že                   | ژ                      | ž                                       | [ʒ]  | ژ                |        | ژ       |          |
| 15 | sin                  | سین                    | s                                       | [s]  | س                | س      | س       | س        |
| 16 | šin                  | شین                    | š                                       | [ʃ]  | ش                | ش      | ش       | ش        |
| 17 | šād                  | صاد                    | š                                       | [s]  | ص                | ص      | ص       | ص        |
| 18 | zād                  | ضاد                    | z                                       | [z]  | ض                | ض      | ض       | ض        |
| 19 | tā, toy<br>(in Dari) | ط                      | t                                       | [t]  | ط                | ط      | ط       | ط        |
| 20 | zā, zoy<br>(in Dari) | ظ                      | z                                       | [z]  | ظ                | ظ      | ظ       | ظ        |
| 21 | 'eyn                 | عین                    | '                                       | [ʔ]  | ع                | ع      | ع       | ع        |
| 22 | ğeyn                 | غین                    | ğ                                       | [ɣ]  | غ                | غ      | غ       | غ        |
| 23 | fe                   | ف                      | f                                       | [f]  | ف                | ف      | ف       | ف        |
| 24 | qāf                  | قلف                    | q                                       | [q]  | ق                | ق      | ق       | ق        |
| 25 | kāf                  | کاف                    | k                                       | [k]  | ک                | ک      | ک       | ک        |
| 26 | gāf                  | گاف                    | g                                       | [g]  | گ                | گ      | گ       | گ        |
| 27 | lām                  | لام                    | l                                       | [l]  | ل                | ل      | ل       | ل        |
| 28 | mim                  | میم                    | m                                       | [m]  | م                | م      | م       | م        |
| 29 | nun                  | نون                    | n                                       | [n]  | ن                | ن      | ن       | ن        |
| 30 | vāv                  | واو                    | v / ū / ow /<br>(w / aw / ō in<br>Dari) | [v] / [u:] / [o]<br>/ [ow] / ([w] /<br>[aw] / [o:] in<br>Dari) | و                |        | و       |          |
| 31 | he (-ye do-<br>češm) | ه                      | h                                       | [h]  | ه                | ه      | ه       | ه        |
| 32 | ye                   | ی                      | y / ī / á / (ay<br>/ ē in Dari)         | [j] / [i] / [ɤ:] /<br>([aj] / [e:] in<br>Dari)                 | ی                | ی      | ی       | ی        |

**Footnote:** DIN 31635 is a Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN) standard for the transliteration

# Survival Guide Persian to English

## Basics

| English   | Persian Pronunciation   | Persian Equivalent |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Hi  | Salaam                  | سلام               |
| How are you?  | Haaletoun chetoreh?     | حالتون چطوره؟      |
| I am fine   | Man khoubam             | من خوبم            |
| Bad   | Bad                     | بد                 |
| And you?  | Shomaa chetor?          | و شما؟             |
| Iran is beautiful                                     | Iraan zibaast           | ایران زیباست       |
| Thank you   | Mamnoun                 | ممنون              |
| You are welcome                                       | Qaabeli Nadaareh        | قابلی نداره        |
| Enjoy your meal                                       | Az qazaa lezzat bebarid | از غذا لذت ببرید   |
| Expression you say after eating                       | Noush-e jaan            | نوش جان            |
| Expression you say to somebody who just took a shower | Aafiat baashe           | عافیت باشه         |
| The answer to that expression                         | Salaamat baashi         | سلامت باشی         |
| Sorry   | Sharmandeh              | شرمنده             |
| Please  | Lotfan                  | لطفا               |
| Excuse me   | Bebakhshid              | بیخشید             |
| No problem  | Moshkeli nist           | مشکلی نیست         |

## Grammatical Persons

|           |             |         |              |        |      |
|-----------|-------------|---------|--------------|--------|------|
| I         | Man         | من      | We           | Maa    | ما   |
| You       | To          | تو      | You (plural) | Shomaa | شما  |
| He/She/It | Oou/Oou/Aan | او/اوآن | They         | Aanhaa | آنها |

## Introducing Yourself

|                     |                          |                   |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| What is your name?  | Esme shomaa chiyeh?      | اسم شما چیه؟      |
| My name is Jordi    | Esme man Jordi hast      | اسم من جوردی هست  |
| How old are you?    | Chand saletoune?         | چند سالتونه؟      |
| I am 30 years old   | Man si saal daaram       | من سی سال دارم    |
| Where are you from? | Az kojaa oomadi?         | از کجا اومدی؟     |
| I am from Barcelona | Az Baarcelonaa oomadadam | از بارسلونا اومدم |

### Hitchhiking

|                     |                               |                        |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Where do you go?    | Kojaa daari miri?             | کجا داری میری؟         |
| I go to Tehran      | Man be Tehraan miram          | من به تهران میرم       |
| We go to Tehran     | Maa be Tehraan mirim          | ما به تهران میریم      |
| Me too              | Manam hamin-tor               | منم همینطور            |
| Us too              | Maa ham hamin-tor             | ما هم همینطور          |
| Can we go with you? | Mitounim baa shomaa biaayeem? | میتونیم با شما بیاییم؟ |
| Center of the town  | Markaz-e shahr                | مرکز شهر               |
| Here                | Injaa                         | اینجا                  |
| There               | Aanjaa                        | آنجا                   |
| Let's go            | Biaa berim                    | بیا بریم               |

### Eating

|                 |             |           |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Food            | Qazaa       | غذا       |
| Big             | Bozorg      | بزرگ      |
| Small           | Koochak     | کوچک      |
| Bread           | Naan        | نان       |
| Chicken         | Morq        | مرغ       |
| Tomato          | Gojeh       | گوجه      |
| Mushrooms       | Qaarch      | قارچ      |
| Rice            | Berenj      | برنج      |
| Beans           | Loubiaa     | لوبیا     |
| Potatoes        | Sib zamini  | سیب زمینی |
| How much is it? | In chandeh? | این چنده؟ |

### Drinking

|               |                 |           |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Water         | Aab             | آب        |
| Milk          | Sheer           | شیر       |
| Coffee        | Qahveh          | قهوه      |
| Juice         | Aab-miveh       | آبمیوه    |
| Tea           | Chaay           | چای       |
| Hot           | Daaq            | داغ       |
| Cold          | Sard            | سرد       |
| With sugar    | Baa shekar      | با شکر    |
| Without sugar | Bedoon-e shekar | بدون شکر  |
| Cheers        | Be salaamati    | به سلامتی |

### Wild Camping

|                          |                                     |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tent                     | Chaador                             | چادر                          |
| Can I camp here tonight? | Mitounam emshab injaa otraaq konam? | میتونم امشب اینجا اتراق کنیم؟ |
| Where can I camp?        | Kojaa mitounam chaador bezanam?     | کجا میتونم چادر بزنم؟         |
| Where can we camp?       | Kojaa mitounim chaador bezanim?     | کجا میتونیم چادر بزنیم؟       |

### Days of the week

|           |                 |          |
|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| Monday    | Do shanbeh      | دوشنبه   |
| Tuesday   | Se shanbeh      | سه شنبه  |
| Wednesday | Chahaar shanbeh | چهارشنبه |
| Thursday  | Panj shanbeh    | پنجشنبه  |
| Friday    | Jom'e           | جمعه     |
| Saturday  | Shanbeh         | شنبه     |
| Sunday    | Yek shanbeh     | یکشنبه   |