

# LESSON I

## The Alphabet

### 1. The Alphabet

The Persian alphabet, a slightly modified form of the Arabic, consists of thirty-two letters,<sup>1</sup> all primarily used as consonants. Four of these have secondary uses as vowels (see paras. 5, 6, 9 and 21), and there are also three *vowel signs* (see paras. 5, 6, 9) placed over or under the letter that precedes them (but normally omitted in writing or print).

### 2. The Script

The Persian script is written from right to left, and is cursive, that is to say, the letters of a word are normally joined to one another, even in the printed form.

A few (seven out of the thirty-two) do not join the *following* letter, thus leaving a gap in the word.

There are fifteen basic letter forms, the full number of thirty-two being made up by the use of one or more distinguishing dots over or under the letter and forming an integral part of it.

The shape of each basic form may be further modified by (a) a preceding joining stroke, and (except in the case of the seven 'non-joining' letters) (b) a following joining stroke, or (when no other letter follows) (c) a final tail or flourish.

### 3. The Nasx Script

There are three styles of writing with which the student will need to become familiar:

the printed style (*nasx*).<sup>2</sup>

the copy-book style (*nasta'liq*). (See Appendix A.)

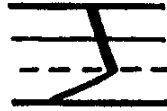
the handwritten style (*shikasté*). (See Appendix B.)

<sup>1</sup> For the alphabetical or 'dictionary' order, see para. 30.

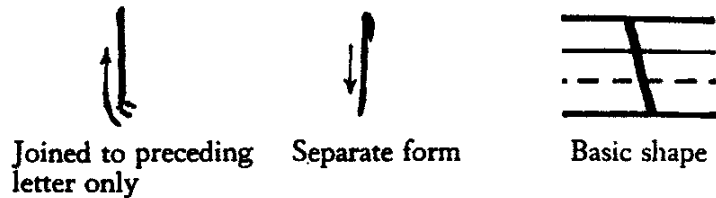
<sup>2</sup> For the pronunciation of the sound represented in transcription by the letter 'x', see para. 8; for 'š' see para. 13.

The style to be studied initially is the *nasx*. The other two are derived from this.

All *nasx* letters are tilted slightly forward (in the direction of writing). Four imaginary lines of writing should be visualized, the lowest being the main line of writing, on which the whole of any letter should stand.



#### 4. Group I (One Letter)

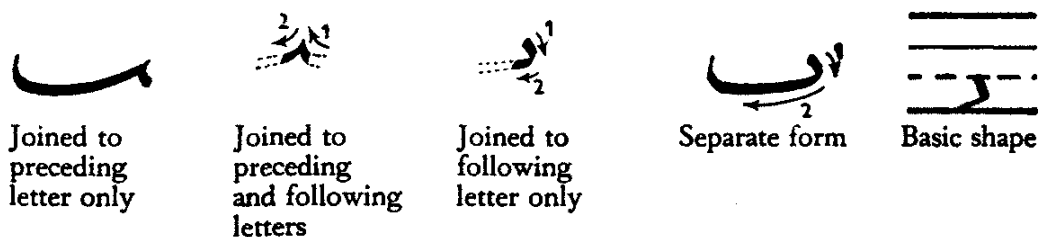


This letter is not joined to a following letter.

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Joined form</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
none	ا...	?	<i>alef</i>	

*Alef* stands for the glottal stop (very weak in Persian). It is assumed for the purposes of the Persian script that every word beginning with a vowel has an initial glottal stop, which is represented by *alef*. Thus the appearance of *alef* at the beginning of a word means in fact that it begins with one of the vowels. For dictionary purposes, all words beginning with *alef* are in the first group, regardless of the vowel.

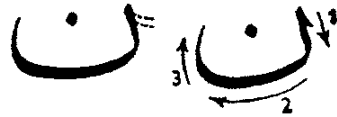
#### 5. Group II (Six Letters)



All letters in this group carry distinguishing dots.

Pronunciation	Transcription	Joined forms	Name	Separate form
as in English	b	ب...ب...ب	be	ب (1)
	p	پ...پ...پ	pe	پ (2)
	t	ت...ت...ت	te	ت (3)
	s	ث...ث...ث	se	ث (4)
	n	ن...ن...ن	nun	ن (5)
	y	ی...ی...ی	ye	ی (6)

The *final* and *separate* forms of *nun* differ from the standard.



The *separate* and *final* forms of *ye* differ from the standard, and are generally written without the two dots.



Letters preceding the final forms of *nun* and *ye* must be raised above the line in order to join at the correct point.



## 6. The Vowels

(i) a: slightly broader than the English vowel 'a' in 'cat'. This is represented by a short stroke . . . ˘ (fat-he or zabar) written over the

preceding letter. Thus a word beginning with the sound *a* . . . would in writing begin . . . **أ** ; *b-a* = **ب**, etc.

(ii) *α*: about halfway between 'a' in 'father' and 'a' in 'wash'. This is represented by the secondary use of *alef*. Thus **ا** . . . would indicate the sound of . . . *a*. A word beginning with the sound *a* . . . would require to be written . . . **اا** ; this is not considered very elegant, and so

the second *alef* is replaced by a long stroke written over the first, . . . **آ**  
(*madde*, not to be confused with the *fat-he* above). *b-a* = . . . **با**, etc.

### 7. The Vowels (*cont.*)

(iii) *e*: approximately 'e' as in 'net'. This is represented by a short stroke written below the preceding letter . . . **ِ** (*kasre* or *zir*). Thus a word beginning with the sound *e* . . . would in writing begin . . . **اِ**, *be* . . . would be written . . . **بِ**, etc.

(iv) *i*: approximately as 'ee' in 'sweet'. This is represented by the secondary use of *ye*, thus *i* . . . is written . . . **اي**, *bi* . . . as . . . **بي**, etc.

(v) *ei*: a diphthong similar to 'ai' in 'maid'. This is represented by *ye* preceded by the *fat-he*, thus *ei* . . . as . . . **ايه**, *bei* . . . as . . . **بيه**, etc.

*Note.* This combination only gives the diphthong when it is followed by a consonant or comes at the end of a word; followed by a vowel it

remains a *y* . . . , e.g. **بیت** verse—*beit*, **پی** track—*pei*; but

**بیان** explanation— *bayan*.

### 8. Group III (Four Letters)



Joined to  
preceding  
letter only



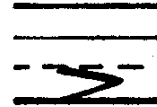
Joined to  
preceding  
and following  
letters



Joined to  
following  
letter only



Separate  
form



Basic  
shape

Letters preceding the last two forms above must be raised above the line, so as to join at the correct point.

نجا = نجا ; حح = حح

In the printed form the preceding join is usually made as follows:

ح... ..ح...

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as in English	<i>j</i>	ج...ج...ج	<i>jim</i>	ج (1)
as in English 'church'	<i>c</i>	چ...چ...چ	<i>cin, ce</i>	چ (2)
as in English	<i>h</i>	ح...ح...ح	<i>he hotti<sup>1</sup></i>	ح (3)

<sup>1</sup> See para. 89.

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
approximately as 'ch' in Scottish 'loch' or Welsh 'bach' <sup>1</sup>	x	خ...خ...خ	xa	خ (4)

The position of the dots in the various forms should be carefully observed.

### 9. Stress

The stress in Persian falls generally on the last syllable of the word. Suffixes, however, are not stressed unless they are regarded as forming an integral part of the word (see, for example, para. 28 *b*). Exceptions to the general rule are noted in paras. 49, 63.

### VOCABULARY

with	با	without	بی
foot	پا	blue	آبی
until	تا	pocket	جیب
or	یا	twist, corner, screw	پیچ
water	آب	this	این
gate	باب	that	آن
papa	بابا	place	جا

<sup>1</sup> The use of the letter 'x' does not of course imply any resemblance to the sound of that letter in English.

here اینجا

fever تَب

there آنجا

between بَيْن

nose بینی

desert بیابان

Haji, pilgrim حاجی

soul, life جان

verse بَیت

bread نان

track پی

body تَن

see! ببین

explanation بَيَان

## EXERCISES

A. Write as one word (reading from right to left) and translate:

- |                   |    |               |    |
|-------------------|----|---------------|----|
| پ + ی + چ         | 2. | ج + ی + ب     | 1. |
| ا + ی + ن + ج + ا | 4. | ب + ا + ب     | 3. |
| ح + ا + ج + ی     | 6. | ب + ی + ن + ی | 5. |
| ا + ا + ب         | 8. | ب + ی + ت     | 7. |
|                   |    | ب + ب + ی + ن | 9. |

B. Write as separate letters and translate:

1. آنجا 2. این 3. بابا  
4. آبی 5. بین 6. تب  
7. بین 8. بیابان

C. Read and translate:

1. این جیب 2. آن بیابان 3. با آب  
4. آب یا بیابان 5. بی جان 6. بی نان  
7. تن یا جان 8. پا یا بینی

## LESSON II

**The Alphabet (continued). Case and Gender. Simple Sentences**

### 10. Group IV (Two Letters)



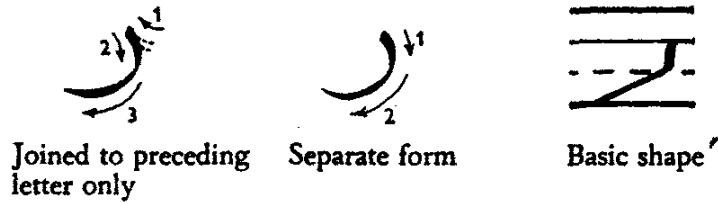


Joined to preceding letter only      Separate form      Basic shape

These letters are not joined to a following letter.

Pronunciation	Transcription	Joined form	Name	Separate form
as in English	d	د...	dal	د (1)
as in English	ḏ	ذ...	ḏal	ذ (2)

### 11. Group V (Three Letters)



Joined to preceding  
letter only

Separate form

Basic shape'

These letters are not joined to a following letter.

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined Form</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
trilled with the tip of the tongue	r	ر...	re	ر (1)
as in English	z	ز...	zein	ز (2)
as 's' in 'pleasure'	z̄	ژ...	ze	ژ (3)

The letter 'r' must always be sounded, e.g. *barf* (snow, not *bāf*).

Compare also:

#### 11a. Group VI (One Letter)



Joined to preceding  
letter only

Separate form

Basic shape

This letter is not joined to a following letter.

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined form</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as English 'v' with tendency towards 'w'	v	و...	vav	و (1)

Note that Group IV letters join on the level of the main line of writing, whereas Groups V and VI join on the secondary line, requiring that preceding letters be raised.

بد but بر جو

**12. The Vowels (cont.)**

(vi) o: A somewhat rounded version of 'u' as in 'put'. This is represented by the sign . . . ' (ʒamme or piš) written above the preceding letter.

Thus o . . . is written . . . اُ, do . . . as . . . دُ, zo . . . as

. . . زُ, etc.

(vii) u: 'oo' as in 'root'. This is represented by the secondary use of *vav*. Thus u . . . is written as . . . او, ju . . . as . . . جو,

xu . . . as . . . خو, etc.

(viii) ou: approximately as 'ow' in 'bowl'. This is represented by *vav* preceded by the vowel sign *fat-he*, thus dou . . . دَو,

rou . . . رَو

*Note.* This combination only gives the diphthong when it is followed by a consonant or comes at the end of a word; followed by a vowel it

remains av . . ., e.g. نَو (new) = *nou*; نَوْرُوْز (new year,

lit. new day = *nouruz*), but جَوَاب (answer) = *javab*.

**13. Group VII (Two Letters)**

Joined to  
preceding  
letter only

Joined to  
preceding  
and following  
letters






Joined to  
following  
letters only

Separate form

Basic shape






<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as in English	s	س...س...س	sin	س (1)
as in English 'ship'	ʃ	ش...ش...ش	ʃin	ش (2)

**14. Group VIII (Two Letters)**

				
Joined to preceding letter only	Joined to preceding and following letters	Joined to following letter only	Separate form	Basic shape

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as in English	s	ص...ص...ص	sad	ص (1)
as in English	ʒ	ض...ض...ض	ʒad	ض (2)

**15. Group IX (Two Letters)**

				
Joined to preceding letter only	Joined to preceding and following letters	Joined to following letter only	Separate form	Basic shape

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as in English	t	ط...ط...ط	ta	ط (1)
as in English	ʒ	ظ...ظ...ظ	ʒa	ظ (2)

**16. Case**

There are no case inflections in Persian.

**17. Gender**

There is no distinction of gender, words which are naturally feminine being treated for grammatical purposes exactly as other nouns, e.g.

دُخْتَر daughter, girl.

**18. Sentence Structure**

The normal sentence order is: Subject, Predicate, Verb.

حَسَن حَاضِرِ اسْت Hasan is ready.

There is no definite article. The *a* of *است*, 'is' is usually elided after a word ending in a vowel. This is sometimes also indicated in writing by the omission of the *alef*.

دُخْتَرِ زِيَاست the girl is beautiful.

*Alef* may also be omitted after a consonant, and the *ست* written joined to the word, e.g.

سِيْب شِيْرِيْنَسْت the apple is sweet.

Although separate pronouns exist (see para. 40), they need not be used as the subject of a verb.

حَاضِرِ اسْت he is ready.

رَاضِيْسْت، رَاضِي اسْت she is pleased.

The intonation pattern of a simple sentence of this kind is a rise followed by a fall (in the following examples, and throughout the book, the horizontal strokes indicate pitch, and the vertical strokes stress). The verb *ast* is not stressed unless it is contracted with a previous word ending in a vowel (see above).

- -		- - -		- - ^		- ^ -
<i>hasan</i>		<i>hazer ast</i>		<i>in xabar</i>		<i>sahihast</i>
- ^		- ^		- - ^		- ^ -
<i>doxtar</i>		<i>zibast</i>		<i>baradar</i>		<i>javan ast</i>

### EXERCISES

A. Read aloud and translate into English:

- 1 بانو زیباست
- 2 باد تند است
- 3 این خبَر صحیح است
- 4 نخیر، صحیح نیست
- 5 پدر خوب است
- 6 آن سیب شیرین است
- 7 نخیر، این سیب ترش است
- 8 در سبز است
- 9 شب سرد است

زَن حاضِرِ است 10.  
 بَرادَرِ جَوان است 11.  
 اُستادِ راضِیست 12.

B. Translate into Persian:

1. The girl is young. 2. The answer is not correct. 3. This apple is red. 4. That boy is Hasan. 5. Gold is yellow. 6. The door is open. 7. That apple is sour. 8. Hosein is not ready. 9. This lesson is difficult. 10. Reza is not pleased. 11. The boy is ready. 12. It is well (good).

VOCABULARY

answer	جَوَاب	lady	بانو
ready, present	حاضِرِ	wind	باد
(he, she, it) is	اَسْت	swift	تُنْد
daughter, girl	دُخْتَر	news	خَبَر
beautiful	زِیبا	true, correct	صَحیح
apple	سِیْب	no	نَخیر، خیر
sweet	شیرین	is not	نیست
pleased, content	راضِی	father	پَدَر

good خوب

sour, bitter تَرش

door دَر

green سَبز

night شَب

cold سَرَد

woman زَن

brother بَرادَر

young جَوَان

master, teacher اُسْتاد

red سُرُخ

son, boy پِسر

Hasan حَسَن

gold زَر

yellow زَرَد

open باز

Hosein حُسَيْن

lesson دَرَس

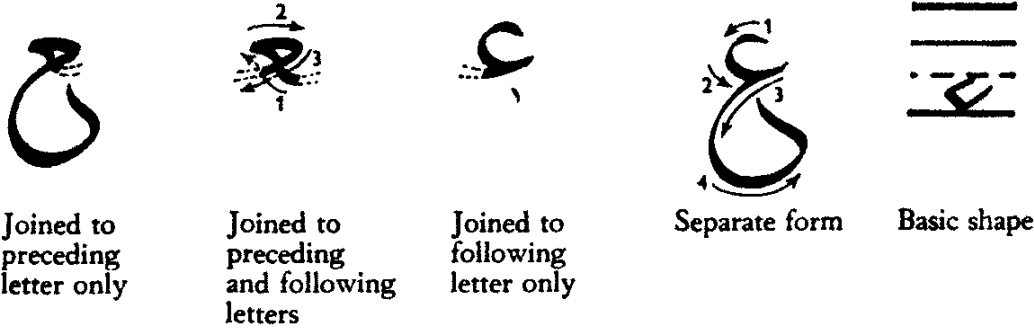
difficult سَخْت

Reza رِضا

## LESSON III

### The Alphabet (*continued*). Number

#### 19. Group X (Two Letters)



Joined to preceding letter only

Joined to preceding and following letters

Joined to following letter only

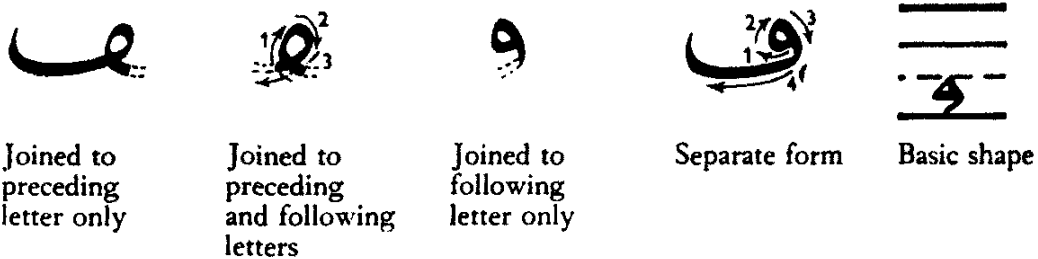
Separate form

Basic shape

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
not sounded	ʔ		<i>ein</i>	(1)
voiced equivalent of <i>x</i> ; similar to 'r' in French 'mer' or 'g' in German 'Wagen'	q		<i>qein</i>	(2)

For further notes on the use of *ein* see para. 26.

#### 20. Group XI (Two Letters)



Joined to preceding letter only

Joined to preceding and following letters

Joined to following letter only

Separate form

Basic shape

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as in English	<i>f</i>		<i>fe</i>	(1)
as in Group X	<i>q</i>		<i>qaf</i>	(2)

The separate and final forms of *qaf* differ from the standard:

ق ق

## 21. Group XII (Two Letters)



Joined to  
preceding  
letter only




Joined to  
preceding  
and following  
letters



Joined to  
following  
letter only



Separate form



Basic shape

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as in English <sup>1</sup>	<i>k</i>	ك...ك...ك	<i>kaf</i>	ك (1)
as in English <sup>1</sup> 'garden'	<i>g</i>	گ...گ...گ	<i>gaf</i>	گ (2)

The two final forms of *kaf* are often written (and always printed) with a small sign **ك** in the centre of the letter instead of the overhead stroke.

ك...ك

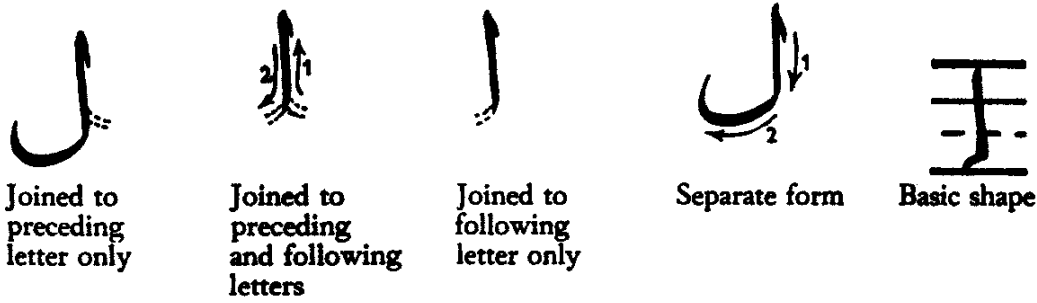
This sign may also be inserted in the *gaf*, but in this case the overhead strokes are retained. The second stroke of the *gaf* is sometimes replaced by three dots.

گ گ

<sup>1</sup>Before the 'front' vowels (*a, e, i, ei*) and at the end of a word, these sounds become palatalized, the effect being somewhat as though a brief 'y' sound were inserted between the consonant and its following vowel, e.g.

کتاب book, *k<sup>v</sup>etab*.

**22. Group XIII (One Letter)**

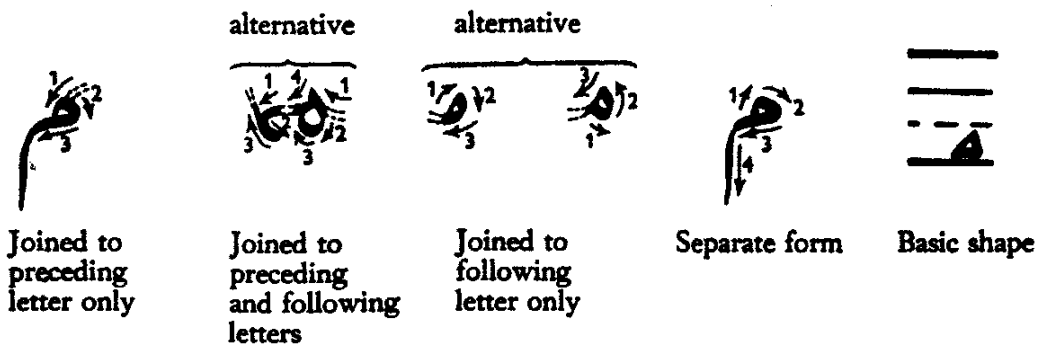


*Note* the level of the join preceding the final form.

<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as in English	l		lam	ل (I)

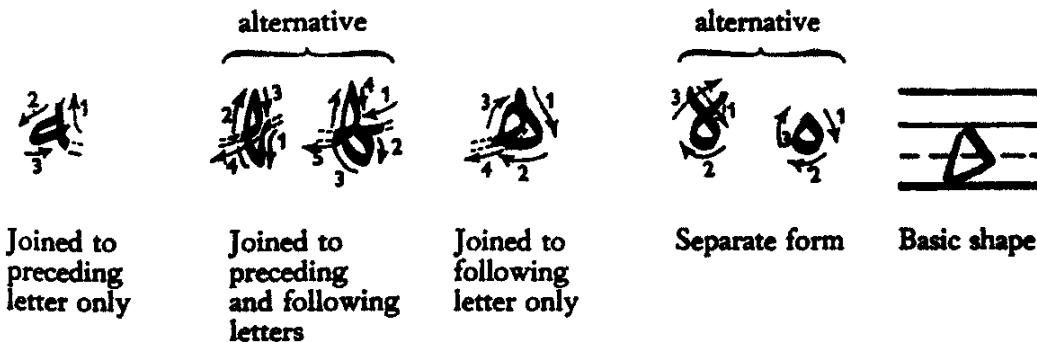
This sound must always be pronounced clearly, as in 'leaf', even when it falls at the end of a word. The English tendency to swallow it ('hall, bowl, real') must be avoided.

**23. Group XIV (One Letter)**



<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Joined forms</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as in English	m		mim	م (I)

**24. Group XV (One Letter)**



<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Transcription</i>	<u><i>Joined forms</i></u>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Separate form</i>
as in English	<i>h</i>	ا...ر...ف...ه	<i>he harveẓ<sup>1</sup></i>	ه (I)

This letter must always be sounded, e.g. شهر, town, *šahr*.

*Secondary use of he.* The final vowel of words that end in vowels must always be represented by a *letter*, even when elsewhere it would be represented by one of the *vowel signs*.

In the case of *a, i, u, ei, ou* no problem arises, since these are already represented by letters (ا و ی). Of the three remaining vowels, *a, e, o*, the sounds *a* and *o* are only found at the end of words in one or two isolated cases. The sound *e* in this position is represented by *he*.

خانه house, *xane*.

The final sound *a* is also represented by *he* in one word:

نه (not, no!), *na*.

The final sound *o* is represented by *vav* in two words:

تو (thou), *to*.

دو (two), *do*.

It is important to note that, since *he* in this particular use is not a consonant but a symbol representing a final vowel, it may only be so used at the end of a word, and may not be joined to a following letter, e.g. to the first letter of a suffix. When a suffix has to be added to a word ending in

<sup>1</sup> See para. 89.

4. . . ., two alternatives are possible; either the *he* is dropped and the vowel written in the usual way, or the suffix is written separately, e.g.

houses خانها or خانهها (see para. 28 b).

The second alternative is preferred, as being less ambiguous. These rules do not of course apply to *he* in its normal use as a consonant.

## 25. Writing Signs

A doubled letter is only written once, the doubling being indicated by the sign . . . " (*tašdid* or *šadde*) written over the letter. This sign is usually omitted in print and writing.

بچه child, *bacce*.

Doubled consonants must always be pronounced doubled; cf. English 'book-case'.

When necessary to avoid ambiguity, a consonant that does not carry a following vowel may be marked with the sign . . . ° (*sokun* or *jazm*).

دست hand, *dast*.

## 26. The Glottal Stop

Reference has already been made (para. 4) to the use of *alef* to represent a theoretical glottal stop at the beginning of a word. In fact the sound is really represented by the sign ء (*hamze*) written over the *alef*, but generally omitted. This sound may also be found in the middle of a word and (rarely) at the end; in such cases the *hamze* is generally written over a *ye* without dots (occasionally also over *alef* or *vav*).

In certain cases (see para. 39) it may also be written over final *he*, when this represents the vowel sound . . . e.

پائین below, down, *paʔin*.

مَسْئُولٌ responsible, *masʔul*.

مُؤْمِنٌ believer, *moʔmen*.

مَأْمُورٌ official, *maʔmur*.

The glottal stop, whether represented by *hamze* or by *ein* (see para. 19) is very weak in Persian. Between two vowels it is little more than a glide from one to the other. Between a consonant and a vowel it indicates a slight hesitation, between a vowel and a consonant a slight slurring of the vowel. When it follows a consonant at the end of a word, it has the effect of lengthening the preceding syllable without changing the quality of the vowel (this effect occurs in any word ending in two consonants).

رُبْعٌ quarter, *ro:bʔ*.

cf. سَخَتْ difficult, *sa:xt*.

It may be noted that no Persian word can begin with two consonants. When foreign words of this type are incorporated into the language, a vowel is usually inserted, e.g.

اِسْتُوْدِيُو studio, *estudyu*.

فِرَانْسَه France, *feranse*.

### 27. The Silent *vav*

The letter *xa* at the beginning of a word is frequently followed by a silent *vav*. This *vav* has no phonetic or other value, and the word must be read as though it were not there.

خَوَاهِر sister, *xahar*; but contrast: خُون blood, *xun*.

خواب	sleep, <i>xab</i>	but:	خوب	good, <i>xub</i> .
خود	self, <i>xod</i> .			
خویش	self, <i>xiš</i> .			

### 28. Number

(a) There is no article, either definite or indefinite.

Indefiniteness, in the sense of a single unspecified unit of a general class, is indicated by the suffix **ی...**

کتاب	book, the book.	کتابی	a book .
------	-----------------	-------	----------

This suffix is not an integral part of the word, and is therefore not stressed. It may qualify more than one word, e.g.

کتاب و قلمی	a book and a pen.
-------------	-------------------

یک (usually pronounced *yek*) 'one' (see para. 88) is often used in the sense of 'a, an' either in place of or together with the indefinite suffix.

یک کتابی، یک کتاب	a book.
-------------------	---------

(b) The normal plural ending is **ها...**

کتابها	books, the books.
--------	-------------------

Rational beings, and certain other nouns, may alternatively take the plural ending **ان...**

**زَنان** or **زَنها** women.

This usage is commoner in the written than in the spoken language.

Both these suffixes are regarded as an integral part of the word, and therefore take the final syllable stress (see para. 9).

A few words have special plural endings, e.g.

**مَرَد** man.

**مَرَدان** or **مَردها** men (as opposed to 'women').

**مَرْدُم** people.

With the exception of rational beings, plural nouns take a singular verb. Adjectives (see also Lesson V), including demonstrative adjectives (see para. 43), qualifying plural nouns of any class remain in the singular, but when used as nouns or pronouns they take the plural endings, e.g.

**بِزُرگان** great men.

**آنها، آنان** those (men, things, etc.).

But

**این مَرْدُم** these people.

*Note.* (i) Words of Arabic origin may frequently be found with one of the Arabic plural endings

**...ات** or **...ین**

مأمور	official.	مأمورین	officials.
دستور	instruction.	دستورات	instructions.

(ii) Many words of Arabic origin form the Arabic 'broken' plural, which consists in an internal change in the form of the word (see para. 105).

کتاب	book.	کُتُب	books.
سِرّ	secret.	أسرار	secrets.
شَرَط	condition.	شَرَائِط	conditions.

The Persian plural endings **ان... or ها...** may generally be used in place of these Arabic forms.

(c) In addition to the *Indefinite*, *Definite* and *Plural* uses of the noun, a *General* use is also possible, in which neither indefinite nor plural ending is used (see also para. 54. The General use is normally limited to the complement or object of a verb).

این چیز کتابی است	this thing is a book (Indef.).
کتاب آنجا است	the book is there (Def.).
کتابها آنجا است	the books are there (Plural Def.).
اینها کتاب است	these are books (General).

این مرد کارگر است      this man is a workman  
(General).

این مردم کارگر آند      these men are workmen  
(General).

### 29. Questions

No change of order is required to express a question. In speech the interrogative sense is indicated by the intonation; in the written style, when there is no interrogative word such as 'what?', 'why?', 'where?',

etc., the question may be introduced by the particle **آیا**, e.g.

آیا حسن حاضر است؟      Is Hasan ready?

آیا دختر زیباست؟      Is the girl beautiful?

Another similar particle, **مگر**, has a contradictory sense, expecting

the answer 'no' to a question in the positive form, and 'yes' to a question in the negative form, e.g.

مگر دختر زیباست؟

Is the girl [really] beautiful? (Surely she isn't.)

مگر حسن حاضر نیست؟

Isn't Hasan ready [yet]? (Surely he is . . . .)

The intonation pattern in questions follows a generally rising line:

$\begin{array}{c} - \quad + \quad - \quad + \\ (aya) \text{ hasan} \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{c} - \quad + \quad - \\ \text{hazer ast} \end{array}$

$\begin{array}{c} - \quad + \quad - \quad + \\ (aya) \text{ doxtar} \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{c} - \quad + \\ \text{zibast} \end{array}$

The pattern is slightly different for the contradictory type of question.

- - - ^		- ^
<i>magar doxtar</i>		<i>zibast</i>
- - - ^		- - ^
<i>magar hasan</i>		<i>hazer nist</i>

### EXERCISES

A. Translate into English:

1. این پسر و آن دختر خوب آند
2. اصفهان شهری است
3. این خانه بزرگ است
4. قاشق و چنگال و کارد  
حاضر است
5. حسین پسر است و پروین  
دختر
6. آیا این شرایط سخت نیست؟
7. بلی، این شرایط سخت است
8. راه دراز است

9. این و وطن عزیز است  
 10. مگر اینجا آب نیست؟  
 11. نخیر اینجا آب نیست  
 12. این پسر بلند است و آن  
 دختر کوتاه

B. Translate into Persian:

1. These books are green. 2. Sleep is comfortable. 3. Persia is a country. 4. That child is small. 5. This knife is sharp. 6. That town is large. 7. The painter is ready. 8. The apple is red but the tree is green. 9. That book is wonderful and strange. 10. The mother is dear. 11. Is that house comfortable? 12. These instructions are easy.

VOCABULARY

and	وَ	fork	چنگال
(they) are	آند	knife	کارد
town	شهر	Parvin (female name)	پروین
house	خانه	road (consonantal <i>he</i> )	راه
spoon	قاشق	long (distance)	دراز

fatherland وَطَن  
 big, large بزرگ  
 Isfahan اصفهان  
 dear عزیز  
 long, tall بلند  
 short کوتاه  
 comfortable راحت  
 Iran, Persia ایران  
 country مملکت  
 child بچه  
 sleep خواب  
 book کتاب

condition  
 شرط (شرایط pl.)  
 yes بلی  
 small کوچک  
 sharp تیز  
 painter نقاش  
 but ولی  
 tree درخت  
 wonderful عجیب  
 strange غریب  
 mother مادر  
 instruction دستور  
 (دستورات pl.)  
 easy آسان

## LESSON IV

The Alphabet (*continued*) Writing Notes. Adjectives

## 30. The Complete Alphabet

<sup>1</sup> ا..... — —	ا ʾ <i>alef</i>
ب.....ب.....ب	ب b <i>be</i>
پ.....پ.....پ	پ p <i>pe</i>
ت.....ت.....ت	ت t <i>te.</i>
ث.....ث.....ث	ث s <i>se</i>
ج.....ج.....ج	ج j <i>jim</i>
چ.....چ.....چ	چ c <i>cin</i>
ح.....ح.....ح	ح h <i>he hotti</i>
خ.....خ.....خ	خ x <i>xa</i>
<sup>1</sup> د.... — —	د d <i>dal</i>
<sup>1</sup> ذ.... — —	ذ z <i>zal</i>
<sup>1</sup> ر.... — —	ر r <i>re</i>
<sup>1</sup> ز.... — —	ز z <i>zein</i>
<sup>1</sup> ژ.... — —	ژ ž <i>že</i>
س.....س.....س	س s <i>sin</i>

<sup>1</sup> These letters do not join a following letter.

ش.....ش.....ش	ش š šin
ص.....ص.....ص	ص s sad
ض.....ض.....ض	ض z zad
ط.....ط.....ط	ط t ta
ظ.....ظ.....ظ	ظ z za
ع.....ع.....ع	ع ʔ ein
غ.....غ.....غ	غ q qein
ف.....ف.....ف	ف f fe
ق.....ق.....ق	ق q qaf
ك.....ك.....ك	ك k kaf
گ.....گ.....گ	گ g gaf
ل.....ل.....ل	ل l lam
م.....م.....م	م m mim
ن.....ن.....ن	ن n nun
<sup>1</sup> .....و.....و	و v vav
ه.....ه.....ه	ه h he havvez
ی.....ی.....ی	ی y ye

<sup>1</sup>These letters do not join a following letter.

The above is the alphabetical or dictionary order. For the numerical order and values of the letters see para. 89.

### 31. Summary of Consonants and Vowels

#### Consonants

##### (a) Phonetic

k	ک	c	چ	p	پ
g	گ	j	ج	b	ب
x	خ	š	ش	f	ف
q	ق غ	ž	ژ	v	و
t	ط ت	m	م	h	ح ه
d	د	n	ن	ʔ	ع
s	ص س ث	r	ر	y	ی
z	ظ ض ز ذ	l	ل		

The duplication of sounds in the above list is due to the fact that certain letters (ق ع ظ ط ض ص ح ث) are found for the most part only in words of Arabic origin, in which language they have distinctive sounds. While in Persian the original spelling has been retained, the difficult Arabic sounds have been converted into sounds more acceptable to, and already existing in, Persian speech. The same applies to the letter ذ, though this is also found in a number of Persian words, and formerly stood for the sound 'th' as in 'this', no longer used in Persian.

## (b) Writing

ا	ح درس ص ط ع	ک ل م و ه	No dots
ب	ج		One dot under
ن	خ ذ ز	ض ظ غ ف	One dot over
ی			Two dots under
ت		ق	Two dots over
پ	چ		Three dots under
ث	ژ ش	ث	Three dots over
		گ	Stroke over

## Vowels

End	Middle	Initial	
does not occur (except in نَه written	...	... ا	a
ا... as ... e)			
ا...	... ا...	... آ	ā
ا...	...	... ا	e
ا...	... ا...	... آ	ei
ا...	... ا...	... آ	i

End	Middle	Initial	
only occurs in تو and دو, written و . . . as . . . u	...	...أ	o
و...	...و...	...أو	ou
و...	...و...	...أ	u

### 32. Summary of Writing Signs

used with following <i>ye</i> for <i>ei</i> , with <i>vav</i> for <i>ou</i> (may also be found with <i>alef</i> for <i>a</i> , and with final <i>he</i> for final <i>e</i> ).	a	<i>fathe, zabar</i>	...
(may be found with <i>ye</i> for <i>i</i> , and with final <i>he</i> for final <i>e</i> ).	e	<i>kasre, zir</i>	...
(may be found with <i>vav</i> for <i>u</i> ).	o	<i>zamme, piš</i>	...
used over <i>alef</i> for initial <i>a</i> .	a	<i>madde</i>	...
used over <i>alef</i> , <i>vav</i> , <i>ye</i> (without dots), or without supporter, to represent glottal stop.	ʔ	<i>hamze</i>	...
indicates that there is no vowel immediately following.	—	<i>sokun, jazm</i>	...
sign of doubling.	—	<i>šadde, tašdid</i>	...

Certain other writing signs will be mentioned in due course (see paras. 57, 108).

**33. Punctuation**

Older Persian books and manuscripts use little or no punctuation. Modern printed books use any or all of the following, but their employment is not yet standardized.

full stop	.
colon	:
semi-colon	;
comma	,
dash	—
exclamation mark	!
question mark	?
quotation marks	(( )) or ( )

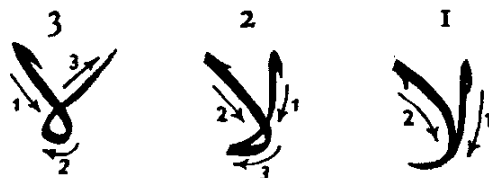
Quotation marks are often omitted.

**34. Handwriting Notes**

(i) The following combinations of letters are used to avoid inelegant forms

(a) *lam* followed by *alef*.

This is used to avoid the form **U**. The following variants are found.



Joined form

لا...

Separate form

لا

In some old grammar books this combined form is listed as a separate letter. It must always be used, the first variant being the commonest.

(b) *kaf* or *gaf* followed by *alef* or *lam*.

كا = ا... + ...ك

كا... = ا... + ...ك...

كل = ل... + ...ك

...كل = ...ل... + ...ك

كل... = ل... + ...ك...

كلا = ا... + ...ل... + ...ك

(c) Where several letters of Group II occur in succession it is usual to vary the height of alternate letters so as to avoid confusion.

تَنْبَل or تَنْبَل lazy.

(ii) It has already been pointed out that the *preceding* point of joining for a number of letter forms

ع... و... ل... ق... ص... س... ي... ن... ر...

falls on one of the secondary lines above the main line of writing whereas the *following* point of joining or the base of a final letter is invariably on the main line. To overcome this difficulty, the letter preceding one of these forms may be modified, or alternatively the whole of the initial part of the word may be raised above the line. These rules are not always observed in printed type and typewriter lettering, where modifications are introduced into the joined forms of certain letters.

(a) letters followed by Group V:

ر... = ر... + ...

سر... = سر... + ... or ...

صر... = و... + ... or ...

All other letters prefixed to Group V must be raised above the line.

(b) letters followed by final *nun*:

ن... = ن... + ...

سن... = سن... + ...

صن... = و... + ...

All other letters prefixed to final *nun* must be raised above the line.

(c) Letters preceding final *ye*:

عی... = عی... + ...

کی... = کی... + ...

لی... = لی... + ...

فی... = فی... + ...

می... = می... + ...

نی... = نی... + ...

ی... = ی... + ...

سی... = سی... + ...

ص...، ص...+...=ص...، ص...، ص...

ح...+...=ح...

ط...، ط...+...=ط...، ط...

It will have been noticed that the *preceding* letter forms that undergo the most marked modification are:

...ص...، ...ص...، ...ص...، ...ص...، ...ص...، ...ص...

In other cases it is rather the relative position of the letters that is important.

Great care must be taken to avoid duplication of the elements in these combined forms, for instance, ...ص followed by ...ص must be

written ص، and not صص، which would be read as though a letter of Group II with the dots missing were inserted in the middle.

(d) The following letter forms have the effect of raising the whole of the preceding part of the word above the line, without other modification:

final ...ع، ...و، ...ل، ...ق، ...ص، ...س

(e) Similar effects arise from the use of the handwritten forms of the letters in Groups III, XIV and XV, but these are not usually found in the printed form. Examples are:

Printed: ...ح، ...ن، ...ن، ...ك، ...ن

Handwritten: ح ص ح ح ح

In printed texts the rules of calligraphy are not always carefully observed, but they are worth cultivating in handwriting, since they enter largely into the shape and style of the two handwritten scripts, *nasta'liq* and *sekaste*, in which most manuscripts and letters (modern as well as mediaeval) are written.

**35. Adjectives**

Adjectives may be intensified by a preceding adverb,  
as **خیلی** or **بسیار**, 'very', e.g. very big **خیلی بزرگ**;  
very good **بسیار خوب**

These words may also be used as adjectives in the sense of 'much',  
'many'.

**آست**, 'is', is used when a complement or attribute is expressed.

**دَر سَبَزَآست** the door is green.

**این عِمَارَت پُستخانَه آست** this building is the post-office.

**هَسْت**, 'there is, exists', is used when there is no complement.

**اینجا مَغازه هَسْت** there are shops here.

**EXERCISES**

A. Translate into English:

1. این مَنزِل بَسِیَار کُوجِکِکِ آست و لی  
زیباست

2. این اَطاقِ خَیْلِ کُوجِکِکِ نِیست

3. این زَمینِ آست و آن سَقَفِ آست

4. زَمینِ پائینِ آست و سَقَفِ بالا

5. این دیوارِ بُلندِ آست

6. اینجا پَنجَرَه هَسْت و آنجا دَر

7. آیا آنجا باغی هست؟
8. بلی خیلی نزدیک است
9. این باغ سبز است
10. این گُل سُرخ است ولی آن گُلها زرد است
11. آب لازم است ولی اینجا خراب است
12. این خیابان خیلی پهن است ولی آن کوچه تنگ است
13. بلی آقا خیابان بسیار زیباست
14. این مغازه بسیار مفید است

B. Translate into Persian:

1. Is the bazaar far? 2. No sir, it is not far, it is near. 3. This bazaar is very beautiful. 4. There is fruit here. 5. Is this fruit fresh? 6. Yes sir, it is very fresh. 7. Is not this meat very expensive? 8. No madam, it is very cheap. 9. Is there [a] bank here?<sup>1</sup> 10. Yes sir, there is; it is there. 11. Is the manager here (present)? 12. Here is [a] table and chair and paper and pen and ink. 13. Is this building the post office? 14. No sir, it is there, but it is not open.

VOCABULARY

house	مَنْزِل	much, many, very	خِیَلی
much, many, very	بِسیار	ground, floor	زَمین
room	اُطَاق	below	پائین

<sup>1</sup> Square brackets [ ] indicate words found in English, but omitted in Persian; round brackets ( ) indicate words required in Persian, whether additional or as alternatives.

ceiling سَقْف

above بالا

wall دیوار

window پَنجره

there is هست

garden باغ

flower, rose گل

necessary لازم

bad (things) خَراب

street خیابان

wide پهن

side-street کوچه

narrow تنگ

shop مغازه

useful مفید

bazaar بازار

far دور

sir, Mr آقا

near نزدیک

fruit میوه

fresh, new تازه

meat گوشت

expensive گران

madam, Mrs, lady خانم

cheap ارزان

bank بانک

manager رئیس

table میز

chair صندلی

paper, letter کاغذ

pen قلم

ink جوهر

building عمارت

post-office پُستخانه