

Notes on Transcription

Transliteration is mainly based on the Peace Corps method used in the TašIHeet Textbook.

Consonants

Symbol	Sound	Arabic script
	Arabic “ aiyn ” sound	
H	Throaty H sound.	
š	“ sh ” sound in “she.”	
x	“ ch ” in German “Bach”	
ġ	Like “ x ” except pronounced using the voice box, similar to French “ r .” Often written in other places as “gh.”	
	Emphatic “ d .” Increase the emphasis placed on the letter.	
	Emphatic “ t .” Increase the emphasis placed on the letter.	
	Emphatic “ s .” Increase the emphasis placed on the letter.	
q	Like the English “ k ” but pronounced farther back in the throat. Almost like the sound a crow makes	
Z	capitalized (Z) is pronounced emphatically	
J	capitalized (J) is pronounced emphatically	
R	capitalized (R) is pronounced emphatically	

Vowels

Symbol	English equivalent	Berber example
a	apple	amz
ay	ace	tastayt
i	bee a long “ee” sound, not “aiy.” For example, the word for “sky”, igana is pronounced “eegana,” not “aiygana.”	ignna
u	open	tumubil

Abbreviations

n	noun
v	verb
f	feminine
m	masculine
pl	plural
pron	pronoun
adj	Adjective
adv	adverb