

# TRANSLITERATION

It is meant the replacement of source language letters ( i.e. graphological units ) by non-equivalent target language letters, on the basis of a set of conventionally established rules. Also, Transliteration means transferring the letters or characters (of a word) from one alphabet to another .

For example:

**Garage** = کراج

**Alcohol** = الكحول

**Bank** = بنك

# Transliteration in Islamic contexts

1. American spelling is the standard. Whenever there is a difference between American and British spelling, abide by the American rules. For example:

AMERICAN SPELLING	BRITISH SPELLING
<i>Traveler</i>	<i>Traveller</i>
<i>Honor</i>	<i>Honour</i>
<i>Muhammad</i>	<i>Mohammed</i>
<i>Muslim</i>	<i>Moselm</i>
<i>Organize</i>	<i>Organise</i>
<i>Toward</i>	<i>Towards</i>

2. When the Arabic word dhu ( ذو ) comes before the definite article ( ال ), it is transliterated as “Dhul-”. For example:

Dhul-Hijjah    ذو الحجة

Dhul-Qarnain    ذو القرنين

3. Some Arabic names (such as names of Prophets, angels and some places have conventional <sup>متعارف عليها</sup> spelling in English literature and dictionaries. These names are to be written according to the accepted spelling and not transliterated. For example:

**Mecca** مكة

**Medina** مدينة

**Syria** سوريا

**Gabriel** جبريل

**Moses** موسى

**Avicenna** ابن سينا

**Saladin** صلاح الدين

4. Names that do not have conventional English spelling should be written consistently according to transliteration rules. For example:

**'Umar bin Al-Khattab** عمر بن الخطاب

**Al-Muzdalifah** المزدلفة

5. Any doubtful pronunciation of Arabic words should be checked first in a reliable reference before being transliterated. For example:

**Abu Rauh**    **ابوروح**

**Ibn Muhriz**    **ابن محرز**

**Abu Burdah**    **أبو بردة**

6. No special consideration is given to the inflectional position of an Arabic word in Arabic sentences. Even if the name is given different vowel marks in different locations, it should be written the same in all instances. For example:

**`Abdullah narrated**    **عن عبدالله**

**In Dhul-Hijjah**    **في ذي الحجة**

7. To make plural form of a transliterated noun, just add s at the end of the singular form. For example:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
<i>hadith</i>	<i>hadiths</i>
<i>Dirham</i>	<i>dirhams</i>
<i>dinar</i>	<i>dinars</i>

However, some Arabic plural forms are popular in literature. You can use them, but just be consistent. For example:

*Ansar* انصار

*Muhajirin* مهاجرين

*fatawa* فتاوى

*mujahidin* مجاهدين

8. When Arabic letters – which are represented with one English letter – are doubled, the English equivalent should also be doubled. Example:

**Shaddad** شداد      **Ghassan** غسان      **Muttalib** مطلب

Sometimes an Arabic letter is represented by a combination of two English letters. In this case when the Arabic letter is doubled, the English equivalent is not. For example:

**Bashar** بشار

**Nakhal** نخال

9. Names beginning with the Arabic word `abd ( عبد ) are transliterated as “`Abdul-”. For example:

**`Abdul-Rahman** عبدالرحمن

**Abdul-Razzaq** عبدالرزاق

**`Abdul-Qadir** عبدالقادر

However, there are some exceptions to this rule with names that are usually written as one block. For example:

**`Abdullah** عبدالله

**`Ubaidullah** عبید الله