

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR KABARDIAN

BGN/PCGN 2011 System

The BGN/PCGN system for Kabardian is designed for use in romanizing names written in the Kabardian Cyrillic alphabet. Kabardian, of the north-western Caucasian language family, is principally spoken in Russia's republics of Kabardino-Balkariya and Karachayevo-Cherkesiya and has been written in a modified Cyrillic script since 1936. Also known as East Circassian¹, Kabardian is, as other languages of this family, notable for its rich density of consonant phonemes (most commentators agree on an inventory of 47 or 48) and corresponding paucity of vowels. Given the language's phonological complexity, Kabardian letters have been addressed in the romanizations below as per their articulation, rather than necessarily reflecting their orthography or the BGN/PCGN romanization of Russian Cyrillic: specifically glottalised consonants have been marked with an apostrophe, and labialized consonants with /w/.

Kabardian					Romanization
1	А	а	А	а	a
2	Ә	ә	Ә	ә	ä
3	Б	б	Б	б	b
4	В	в	В	в	v
5	Г	г	Г	г	g
6	Гу	гу	Гу	гу	gw
7	Гъ	гъ	Гъ	гъ	gh
8	Гъу	гъу	Гъу	гъу	ghw
9	Д	д	Д	д	d
10	Дж	дж	Дж	дж	j
11	Дз	дз	Дз	дз	dz
12	Е	е	Е	е	e
13	Ё	ё	Ё	ё	ë
14	Ж	ж	Ж	ж	zh
15	Жъ	жъ	Жъ	жъ	ž
16	З	з	З	з	z
17	И	и	И	и	i
18	Й	й	Й	й	y
19	К	к	К	к	k
20	Ку	ку	Ку	ку	kw
21	КІ	кІ	КІ	кІ	k'
22	КІу	кІу	КІу	кІу	kw'
23	Къ	къ	Къ	къ	q'
24	Къу	къу	Къу	къу	qw'
25	Кхъ	кхъ	Кхъ	кхъ	q
26	Кхъу	кхъу	Кхъу	кхъу	qw
27	Л	л	Л	л	l
28	Лъ	лъ	Лъ	лъ	lh
29	ЛІ	лІ	ЛІ	лІ	l'
30	М	м	М	м	m
31	Н	н	Н	н	n
32	О	о	О	о	o

¹ West Circassian, or Adghye, is sufficiently different to be regarded a separate language.

	Kabardian				Romanization
33	П	п	<i>П</i>	<i>n</i>	p
34	ПІ	пІ	<i>ПІ</i>	<i>nI</i>	p'
35	Р	р	<i>Р</i>	<i>p</i>	r
36	С	с	<i>С</i>	<i>c</i>	s
37	Т	т	<i>Т</i>	<i>m</i>	t
38	ТІ	тІ	<i>ТІ</i>	<i>mI</i>	t'
39	У	у	<i>У</i>	<i>y</i>	w, u ¹
40	Ф	ф	<i>Ф</i>	<i>φ</i>	f
41	ФІ	фІ	<i>ФІ</i>	<i>φI</i>	f'
42	Х	х	<i>Х</i>	<i>x</i>	kh
43	Ху	ху	<i>Ху</i>	<i>ху</i>	khw
44	Хь	хь	<i>Хь</i>	<i>хь</i>	ḥ
45	Хъ	хъ	<i>Хъ</i>	<i>хъ</i>	x
46	Хъу	хъу	<i>Хъу</i>	<i>хъу</i>	xw

	Kabardian				Romanization
47	Ц	ц	<i>Ц</i>	<i>ц</i>	ts
48	ЦИ	цІ	<i>ЦИ</i>	<i>цI</i>	ts'
49	Ч	ч	<i>Ч</i>	<i>ч</i>	ch
50	Ш	ш	<i>Ш</i>	<i>ш</i>	sh
51	Щ	щ	<i>Щ</i>	<i>щ</i>	ś
52	ЩИ	щІ	<i>ЩИ</i>	<i>щI</i>	ś'
53	Ъ	ъ	<i>Ъ</i>	<i>ъ</i>	'' ²
54	Ы	ы	<i>Ы</i>	<i>ы</i>	y ²
55	Ь	ь	<i>Ь</i>	<i>ь</i>	' ²
56	Ю	ю	<i>Ю</i>	<i>ю</i>	yu
57	Я	я	<i>Я</i>	<i>я</i>	ya
58	І	і	<i>І</i>	<i>і</i>	'
59	Іу	іу	<i>Іу</i>	<i>іу</i>	'w

NOTES

1. У should be romanized as /w/ or /u/ according to context: /w/ should be used word-initially, and /u/ used elsewhere.
2. The characters Ъ, Ы & Ь (except as they occur in character combinations addressed elsewhere in the table) appear only in Russian loan words, and are thus romanized in the same style as in the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Russian.