

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR BURMESE

BGN/PCGN 1970 AGREEMENT

This system is an amplified restatement of the 1907 version of the *Tables for the Transliteration of Burmese into English*, published in 1908 by the Office of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Rangoon, Burma. The BGN has utilized the system mainly to supplement the body of place names published in Survey of India and other Roman-script maps and lists.

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

	Burmese	Romanization	(See notes 2, 5 and 6)
1.	က ခ	k, ka	(g, ga after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5.)
2.	ဂ ဃ	g, ga	
3.	င	ng, nga	
4.	စ ဆ	s, sa	(z, za after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5.)
5.	ဇ ဈ	z, za	
6.	ည	ny, nya	
7.	တ ထ (ဋ) (ဌ)	t, ta	(d, da after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5.)
8.	ဒ (ဍ) (ဎ) (ဏ)	d, da	
9.	န ဏ	n, na	
10.	ပ ဖ	p, pa	(b, ba after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5.)
11.	ဗ ဘ	b, ba	
12.	မ	m, ma	
13.	ယ ရ	y, ya	
14.	လ (ဌ)	l, la	
15.	ဝ	w, wa	
16.	သ	th, tha	
17.	ဟ	h, ha	
18.	အ	a, -, or not romanized	(see note 3)

CONSONANT CHARACTER COMBINATIONS

	Burmese	Romanization	(See notes 1, 2, 5 and 6)
1.	င ျ ျ	Cy, Cya	
2.	င ျ ျ	ch, cha	(gy, gya after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5.)
3.	ဝ	Cw, Cwa	
4.	ဝ ျ ျ	Cyw, Cywa	
5.	ဟ	hC, hCa	
6.	ရှ	sh, sha	

VOWEL CHARACTERS

	Independent Characters		Dependent Characters	
	Burmese	Romanization (See note 4)	Burmese	Romanization
1.			အ ဝါ	a
2.	ဧ ဧ	e, -e	ဧ	e
3.			ဝဲ	è
4.	အ ျ ျ	i, -i	အ ျ ျ	i
5.			အ ျ ျ	o
6.	ဥ ဥ	u, -u	ဥ ဥ ဥ ဥ	u
7.	အ ျ ျ	aw, -aw	အ ျ ျ အ ျ ျ	aw

CONSONANT CHARACTERS WITH END-OF-SYLLABLE MARKS IN SYLLABLES CONTAINING A MEDIAL VOWEL AND A FINAL CONSONANT

1.	ဝံင်	et	ပိုက်	aik	တေက်	auk						
2.	ဝိုင်	in	ပိုင်	aing	တေင်	aung						
3.	ဝိတ်	it										
4.	ဝိုင်	i, in, e (see Note 10)										
5.	ဝတ်	at	ပိတ်	eik	ပိုက်	ôk	ပွတ်	ut	ဝတ်	wut	တေတ်	it
6.	ဝန်	an	ပိန်	ein	ပုန်	ôn	ပွန်	un	ဝန်	wun		
7.	ဝိတ်	at	ပိတ်	eik	ပိုတ်	ôk	ပွတ်	ut				
8.	ဝိတ်	an	ပိတ်	ein	ပိုတ်	ôn	ပွတ်	un	ဝိတ်	wun		
9.	ဝယ်	è										
10.	ဝိုင်	in										
11.	ဝိတ်	an	ပိတ်	ein	ပိုတ်	ôn	ဝိတ်	wun				

END-OF-SYLLABLE MARKS		VOWEL MARK	TONE MARKS	
ဝိတ်	ဝိတ်	ဝိတ်	ဝိတ်	ဝိတ်
(See table of consonant characters with end-of-syllable marks.)		(See note 8.)	(See note 7.)	

NUMERALS									
ဝ	၁	၂	၃	၄	၅	၆	၇	၈	၉
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

NOTES

1. The symbol ◌ in the tables and in the following notes represents any Burmese consonant character, and the letter **C** represents the romanized equivalent of that character. The symbol → means “is romanized”.
2. Except when accompanied by a dependent vowel character or an end-of-syllable mark, a Burmese consonant character or a consonant character combination should be romanized with a following vowel letter **a**: မဒမ → **madama**, အက → **aga**, ကလိ → **kali**, သာငယ် → **thangè**, ပြစင် → **pyazin**.
3. At the beginning of a word, the vowel-carrier အ should not be romanized, unless followed by a consonant character that does not carry a vowel character or an end-of-syllable mark, in which case the character အ should be romanized **a**: အကာ → **aga**, but အိုဘဲ → **obè**, အပ် → **at**. At the beginning of a medial or final syllable, အ should be rendered by a hyphen: မအူ → **ma-u**, သီးပင်အိုင် → **Thibin-aing**.
4. The independent vowel characters should be romanized without a hyphen at the beginning of words and with a hyphen at the beginning of medial and final syllables: သြဘာ → **awba**, ဧဏီ → **eni**, ကြေး → **kye-e**, ကြောင်ဥကျဉ် → **kyauung-ugyin**.
5. When two consonant characters are written stacked one above the other without an end-of-syllable mark, the upper character should be romanized first, followed by the lower character, and then the vowel and consonant characters, if any: သဒ္ဒါ → **thadda**, အန္တိမဘဝ → **andimabawa**. It should be noted that the alternative romanizations shown in the tables of consonant characters and consonant character combinations do not apply to the upper character: ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ → **ukkada**.
6. When the letter **n** at the end of a syllable within a romanized word is followed by **g** or **y** at the beginning of the next syllable, the letter sequences should be rendered **n-g** and **n-y**, respectively, in order to differentiate those sequences from the digraphs **ng** and **ny**: အင်းကွတ် → **in-gut**, ကွန်ရက် → **kun-yet**, but ရွှေခန်း → **shwengan**, ညိုညာ → **nyinya**, တိုင်အောင် → **taing-aung**. Similarly, the letter sequence consisting of **t** at the end of a syllable within a romanized word, followed by **h** at the beginning of the next syllable, should be rendered **t-h** in order to differentiate that sequence from the digraph **th**: ဟက်ဟက်ပက်ပက်ရယ် → **het-hetpetpetyè**, but ဝသီ → **wathi**.
7. The tone marks ◌ and ◌: are not represented in romanization: ဘေးမဲ့ → **bemè**, တုံစား → **tanza**, ပြီးစီး → **pyizi**.

8. The vowel mark ^၆ indicates a change in the romanization of the preceding syllable from **a** to **in**:
သဘော^၆ → **thinbaw**, ဘင်္ဂလားအော်^၆ → **Bin-gala Aw**, စင်္ဘာပူ^၆ → **Sin-gabu**.
9. Although of infrequent occurrence, a number of character ligatures and abbreviations are found in Burmese writing. In the event that a character not shown in the tables is encountered, a reference source should be consulted.
10. ဝ် is romanized **i**, **in**, or **e**, depending on pronunciation. A reference source should be consulted in case of uncertainty.

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