ROMANIZATION OF ADYGHE

BGN/PCGN 2012 System

The BGN/PCGN system for Adyghe is designed for use in romanizing names written in the Adyghe Cyrillic alphabet. Adyghe, a language of the north-western Caucasian family, is principally spoken in Russia's republic of Adygeya and has been written in a modified Cyrillic script since 1938. Also known as West Circassian[1] , Adyghe is, as other languages of this family, notable for its rich density of consonant phonemes and corresponding paucity of vowels. Given the language's phonological complexity, and in line with other BGN/PCGN Romanization Systems for north-western Caucasian languages, Adyghe 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, labialized consonants with /w/, and retroflex consonants with an underbar. Adyghe contains a number of phonemes not part of the Kabardian alphabet, but those phonemes that are shared have been represented in romanization as per the BGN/PCGN Kabardian Romanization System.

	Adyghe				Romanization		Adyghe				Romanization
1	А	а	*А*	*а*	a	15	Жь	жь	*Жь*	*жь*	ź
2	Б	б	*Б*	*б*	b	16	Жъ	жъ	*Жъ*	*жъ*	<u>zh</u>
3	В	в	*В*	*в*	v	17	Жъу	жъу	*Жъу*	*жъу*	<u>zh</u>w
4	Г	г	*Г*	*г*	g	18	З	з	*З*	*з*	z
5	Гу	гу	*Гу*	*гу*	gw	19	И	и	*И*	*и*	i
6	Гъ	гъ	*Гъ*	*гъ*	gh	20	Й	й	*Й*	*й*	y
7	Гъу	гъу	*Гъу*	*гъу*	ghw	21	К	к	*К*	*к*	k
8	Д	д	*Д*	*д*	d	22	Ку	ку	*Ку*	*ку*	kw
9	Дж	дж	*Дж*	*дж*	j	23	КІ	кІ	*КІ*	*кІ*	k'
10	Дз	дз	*Дз*	*дз*	dz	24	КІу	кІу	*КІу*	*кІу*	kw'
11	Дзу	дзу	*Дзу*	*дзу*	dzw	25	Къ	къ	*Къ*	*къ*	q'
12	Е	е	*Е*	*е*	e	26	Къу	къу	*Къу*	*къу*	qw'
13	Ё	ё	*Ё*	*ё*	ё	27	Л	л	*Л*	*л*	l
14	Ж	ж	*Ж*	*ж*	zh	28	ЛІ	лІ	*ЛІ*	*лІ*	l'

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[1] East Circassian, or Kabardian, though very similar, is sufficiently different to be regarded a separate language. See also the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Kabardian.

	Adyghe				Romanization		Adyghe				Romanization
29	Лъ	лъ	*Лъ*	*лъ*	lh	49	Ц	ц	*Ц*	*ц*	ts
30	М	м	*М*	*м*	m	50	ЦI	цI	*ЦI*	*цI*	ts'
31	Н	н	*Н*	*н*	n	51	Цу	цу	*Цу*	*цу*	tsw
32	О	о	*О*	*о*	o	52	Ч	ч	*Ч*	*ч*	ch
33	П	п	*П*	*п*	p	53	ЧI	чI	*ЧI*	*чI*	ch'
34	ПI	пI	*ПI*	*пI*	p'	54	Чъ	чъ	*Чъ*	*чъ*	č
35	ПIу	пIу	*ПIу*	*пIу*	pw'	55	Ш	ш	*Ш*	*ш*	sh
36	Р	р	*Р*	*р*	r	56	ШI	шI	*ШI*	*шI*	sh'
37	С	с	*С*	*с*	s	57	ШIу	шIу	*ШIу*	*шIу*	shw'
38	Т	т	*Т*	*т*	t	58	Шъ	шъ	*Шъ*	*шъ*	<u>sh</u>
39	ТI	тI	*ТI*	*тI*	t'	59	Шъу	шъу	*Шъу*	*шъу*	<u>sh</u>w
40	ТIу	тIу	*ТIу*	*тIу*	tw'	60	Щ	щ	*Щ*	*щ*	ś
41	У	у	*У*	*у*	w, u[Note 1]	61	Ъ	ъ	*Ъ*	*ъ*	,,[Note 2]
42	Ф	ф	*Ф*	*ф*	f	62	Ы	ы	*Ы*	*ы*	y [Note 2]
43	ФI	фI	*ФI*	*фI*	f'	63	Ь	ь	*Ь*	*ь*	, [Note 2]
44	Х	х	*Х*	*х*	kh	64	Э	э	*Э*	*э*	ä
45	Ху	ху	*Ху*	*ху*	khw	65	Ю	ю	*Ю*	*ю*	yu
46	Хъ	хъ	*Хъ*	*хъ*	x	66	Я	я	*Я*	*я*	ya
47	Хъу	хъу	*Хъу*	*хъу*	xw	67	I	I	*I*	*I*	, [Note 3]
48	Хь	хь	*Хь*	*хь*	<u>h</u>	68	Iу	Iу	*Iу*	*Iу*	'w [Note 3]

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 Ё, 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.

3. Except as these characters occur elsewhere in the table above.

4. An inventory of letter-diacritic combinations, with their Unicode encoding, in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script is:

   All apostrophes appearing in romanization are U+2019

Ë (U+00CB)	ë (U+00EB)
Ź (U+0179)	ź (U+017A)
ZH (U+005A+0048+035F)	zh (U+007A+0068+035F)
H (0048+0031)	h (0068+0031)
Č (U+010C)	č (U+010D)
SH (U+0053+0048+035F)	sh (U+0073+0068+035F)
Ś (U+015A)	ś (U+015B)
Ä (U+00C4)	ä (U+00E4)

5. The Romanization columns show only lowercase forms but, when romanizing, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used.