ROMANIZATION OF ABKHAZ

BGN/PCGN 2011 System

The BGN/PCGN system for Abkhaz is designed for use in romanizing names written in the Abkhaz Cyrillic alphabet. Abkhaz is a consonant-rich north-western Caucasian language and has been written in a modified Cyrillic script since 1954. Given the language's phonological complexity, Abkhaz 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. Certain characters are written followed by ь or ә, usually denoting palatalization and labialization respectively, and these digraphs are also included in the tabulation below, the palatal consonants being marked with /y/ in the romanization (note that characters 14, 57 and 62 are not palatal) and labialized consonants being marked with /w/. Retroflex consonants are marked with an underline in the romanization whilst the apostrophe in the romanizations below denotes the glottal form of the consonants.

	Abkhaz	Abkhaz italics/ handwriting	Romanization
1	А а	*А а*	a
2	Б б	*Б б*	b
3	В в	*В в*	v
4	Г г	*Г г*	g
5	Гь гь	*Гь гь*	gy
6	Гә гә	*Гә гә*	gw
7	Ҕ ҕ	*Ҕ ҕ*	gh
8	Ҕь ҕь	*Ҕь ҕь*	ghy
9	Ҕә ҕә	*Ҕә ҕә*	ghw
10	Д д	*Д д*	d
11	Дә дә	*Дә дә*	dw
12	Е е	*Е е*	e
13	Ж ж	*Ж ж*	<u>zh</u>
14	Жь жь	*Жь жь*	zh
15	Жә жә	*Жә жә*	zhw
16	З з	*З з*	z

	Abkhaz	Abkhaz italics/ handwriting	Romanization
17	Ҙ ҙ	*Ҙ ҙ*	dz
18	Ҙә ҙә	*Ҙә ҙә*	dzw
19	И и	*И и*	i
20	К к	*К к*	k'
21	Кь кь	*Кь кь*	ky'
22	Кә кә	*Кә кә*	kw'
23	Қ қ	*Қ қ*	k
24	Қь қь	*Қь қь*	ky
25	Қә қә	*Қә қә*	kw
26	Ҟ ҟ	*Ҟ ҟ*	q'
27	Ҟь ҟь	*Ҟь ҟь*	qy'
28	Ҟә ҟә	*Ҟә ҟә*	qw'
29	Л л	*Л л*	l
30	М м	*М м*	m
31	Н н	*Н н*	n
32	О о	*О о*	o
33	П п	*П п*	p'
34	Ԥ ԥ	*Ԥ ԥ*	p
35	Р р	*Р р*	r
36	С с	*С с*	s
37	Т т	*Т т*	t'
38	Тә тә	*Тә тә*	tw'
39	Ҭ ҭ	*Ҭ ҭ*	t
40	Ҭә ҭә	*Ҭә ҭә*	tw
41	У у	*У у*	u
42	Ф ф	*Ф ф*	f
43	Х х	*Х х*	x
44	Хь хь	*Хь хь*	xy
45	Хә хә	*Хә хә*	xw
46	Ҳ ҳ	*Ҳ ҳ*	h

	Abkhaz	Abkhaz italics/ handwriting	Romanization
47	Ҳә ҳә	*Ҳә ҳә*	hw
48	Ц ц	*Ц ц*	ts
49	Цә цә	*Цә цә*	tsw
50	Ҵ ҵ	*Ҵ ҵ*	ts'
51	Ҵә ҵә	*Ҵә ҵә*	tsw'
52	Ч ч	*Ч ч*	ch
53	Ҷ ҷ	*Ҷ ҷ*	ch'
54	Ҽ ҽ	*Ҽ ҽ*	<u>ch</u>
55	Ҿ ҿ	*Ҿ ҿ*	<u>ch</u>'
56	Ш ш	*Ш ш*	<u>sh</u>
57	Шь шь	*Шь шь*	sh
58	Шә шә	*Шә шә*	shw
59	Ы ы	*Ы ы*	ÿ
60	Ҩ ҩ	*Ҩ ҩ*	yw
61	Џ џ	*Џ џ*	ɉ
62	Џь џь	*Џь џь*	j

NOTES

1. In order to retain reversibility, where two consonant characters appear together and the resulting romanization is equivalent to a Roman-script digraph occurring in the system (i.e. gh, zh, dz, sh or ts), a medial dot may be employed between the Roman-script consonants (e.g. g·h) in order to distinguish these from the Roman-script digraphs.

2. 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

<u>ZH</u> (U+005A+0048+035F)	<u>zh</u> (U+007A+0068+035F)
<u>CH</u> (U+0043+0048+035F)	<u>ch</u> (U+0063+0068+035F)
<u>SH</u> (U+0053+0048+035F)	<u>sh</u> (U+0073+0068+035F)
Ÿ (U+0178)	ÿ (U+00FF)
Ɉ (U+0248)	ɉ (U+0249)

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