

ROMANIZATION OF 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	Kabardian italics/ handwriting	Romanization
1	А а	<i>А а</i>	a
2	Э э	<i>Э э</i>	ä
3	Б б	<i>Б б</i>	b
4	В в	<i>В в</i>	v
5	Г г	<i>Г г</i>	g
6	Гу гу	<i>Гу гу</i>	gw
7	Гъ гъ	<i>Гъ гъ</i>	gh
8	Гъу гъу	<i>Гъу гъу</i>	ghw
9	Д д	<i>Д д</i>	d
10	Дж дж	<i>Дж дж</i>	j
11	Дз дз	<i>Дз дз</i>	dz
12	Е е	<i>Е е</i>	e
13	Ё ё	<i>Ё ё</i>	ë
14	Ж ж	<i>Ж ж</i>	zh
15	Жъ жъ	<i>Жъ жъ</i>	ž

¹ West Circassian, or Adghye, is sufficiently different to be regarded a separate language. See also the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Adyghe.

	Kabardian	Kabardian italics/ handwriting	Romanization
16	З з	<i>З з</i>	z
17	И и	<i>И и</i>	i
18	Й й	<i>Й й</i>	y
19	К к	<i>К к</i>	k
20	Ку ку	<i>Ку ку</i>	kw
21	КІ кІ	<i>КІ кІ</i>	kʼ
22	КІу кІу	<i>КІу кІу</i>	kwʼ
23	Къ къ	<i>Къ къ</i>	qʼ
24	Къу къу	<i>Къу къу</i>	qwʼ
25	Кхъ кхъ	<i>Кхъ кхъ</i>	q
26	Кхъу кхъу	<i>Кхъу кхъу</i>	qw
27	Л л	<i>Л л</i>	l
28	Лъ лъ	<i>Лъ лъ</i>	lh
29	ЛІ лІ	<i>ЛІ лІ</i>	lʼ
30	М м	<i>М м</i>	m
31	Н н	<i>Н н</i>	n
32	О о	<i>О о</i>	o
33	П п	<i>П п</i>	p
34	ПІ пІ	<i>ПІ пІ</i>	pʼ
35	Р р	<i>Р р</i>	r
36	С с	<i>С с</i>	s
37	Т т	<i>Т т</i>	t
38	ТІ тІ	<i>ТІ тІ</i>	tʼ

	Kabardian	Kabardian italics/ handwriting	Romanization
39	У у	<i>У у</i>	w, u ¹
40	Ф ф	<i>Ф ф</i>	f
41	ФI фI	<i>ФI фI</i>	f'
42	Х х	<i>Х х</i>	kh
43	Ху ху	<i>Ху ху</i>	khw
44	Хь хь	<i>Хь хь</i>	h
45	Хъ хъ	<i>Хъ хъ</i>	x
46	Хъу хъу	<i>Хъу хъу</i>	xw
47	Ц ц	<i>Ц ц</i>	ts
48	ЦI цI	<i>ЦI цI</i>	ts'
49	Ч ч	<i>Ч ч</i>	ch
50	Ш ш	<i>Ш ш</i>	sh
51	Щ щ	<i>Щ щ</i>	ś
52	ЩI щI	<i>ЩI щI</i>	ś'
53	Ъ ъ	<i>Ъ ъ</i>	ʷ ²
54	Ы ы	<i>Ы ы</i>	y ²
55	Ь ь	<i>Ь ь</i>	ʷ ²
56	Ю ю	<i>Ю ю</i>	yu
57	Я я	<i>Я я</i>	ya
58	И I	<i>I I</i>	ʹ
59	Iy Iy	<i>Iy Iy</i>	ʹw

NOTES

1. У should be romanized as /w/ or /u/ according to context: /w/ should be used word-initially, and /u/ used elsewhere, except as in combinations occurring elsewhere in the table above.

2. The characters Ę, Ъ, Ь & 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. 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

Ä (U+00C4)	Ž (U+0179)	Ś (U+015A)
ä (U+00E4)	ž (U+017A)	ś (U+015B)
Ę (U+00CB)	Ҁ (0048+0031)	
ë (U+00EB)	ҁ (0068+0031)	

4. The Romanization column shows only lowercase forms but, when romanizing, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used.