

## نام‌های ایرانی در فرهنگ نام‌های خانوادگی آمریکائی

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### چکیده

این مقاله نسخه کامل مقدمه‌ای برای بخش نام‌های ایرانی از ویراست دوم یک فرهنگ بزرگ (پنج جلدی) تالیف پاتریک هنکس و همکاران با عنوان *A Dictionary of American Family Names* از انتشارات دانشگاه آکسفورد در سال ۲۰۲۲ است. در پیشگفتاری که برای هر گروه از نام‌های زبان‌های گوناگون با هدف آگاهی دادن به مخاطبان انگلیسی‌زبان آمده، پس از معرفی کلی آن زبان، نام‌های خانوادگی پربسامد آن در کشور آمریکا بر پایه منشاء و ساختارشان دسته‌بندی و با نمونه‌هایی توصیف شده‌اند. از آنجاکه بسیاری از نام‌های ایرانی وام‌گرفته از زبان عربی با دگرگونی‌های آوایی و ساختواژی، «فارسی» شده‌اند، شایسته است که با مقایسه دستگاه‌های آوایی دو زبان، فرایندهای فارسی‌سازی نام‌های ایرانی با نمونه‌هایی نشان‌داده شوند. یادآور می‌شود که فهرست نام‌ها براساس آمار سال ۲۰۱۰ ایالات متحده و با بسامد بیش از ۳۰۰ فراهم آمده و در مواردی که نامی اهمیت تاریخی داشته، تا بسامد ۱۰۰ نیز در نظر گرفته شده است.

**کلیدواژه‌ها:** فرهنگ نام‌های خانوادگی آمریکا، نام‌های خانوادگی ایرانی، زبان فارسی

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## Persian Family Names

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### History, the Land and Languages of Iran

The contemporary Iranian names comprise part of the lexicon of Modern Persian language, which is the official and standard language of Iran. Present Iran occupies the central part of the historical and cultural Persia, spreading geographically from the Indian subcontinent in the east to Mesopotamia and Anatolia in the west and from the Caspian Sea and Caucasus Mountains in the north to the Persia Gulf in the south. There are several hypothetical reasons—among them the diversity and mildness of the climate—that attracted the Indo-Aryan tribes to migrate from northern Asian steppes around the Aral Lake and north of Caspian Sea to southern regions of Indian subcontinent and Iranian plateau. “The Indo-Aryans split off around 1800 BCE to 1600 BCE from the Iranians, whereafter the Indo-Aryans migrated into Anatolia and, possibly in multiple waves, the Punjab (northern Pakistan and India), while the Iranians moved into Iran, both bringing with them the Indo-Iranian languages. The Medes, Parthians and Persians begin to appear on the western Iranian Plateau from c. 800 BCE, after which they remained under Assyrian rule for several centuries, as it was with the rest of the peoples in the Near East. The Achaemenids replaced Median rule from 559 BCE. Around the first millennium of the Common Era (AD), the Kambojas, the Pashtuns and the Baloch began to settle on the eastern edge of the Iranian Plateau, on the mountainous frontier of northwestern and western Pakistan, displacing the earlier Indo-Aryans from the area. “The earlier Indo-Aryans from the area.” (retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Aryan\\_migrations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Aryan_migrations))

### Iranian languages

Iranian languages are a subgroup of the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European language family. Iranian languages are spoken in Iran,

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Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and parts of Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, and scattered areas of the Caucasus Mountains.

Linguists typically approach the Iranian languages in historical terms because they fall readily into three distinct categories—Ancient, Middle, and Modern Iranian.

Of the ancient Iranian languages, only two are known from texts or inscriptions, Avestan and Old Persian, the oldest parts of which date from the 6th century BCE. Avestan (an extinct East Iranian language and the language of the Zoroastrian holy book, Avesta) was probably spoken in northeastern Iran, and Old Persian (an extinct West Iranian language and the official language of the Achaemenian Empire) is known to have been used in southwestern Iran. In fact, it was the **Old Persian**, among the Old Iranian languages that continued to develop in the course of time to change into **Middle Persian** and **Modern Persian**.

### The Persian Language

Three distinct stages are recognized in the development of the Persian language:

1. **Old Persian:** from six centuries BC to 331 BC (during the reign of Achaemenids)
2. **Middle Persian:** from 331 BC to 867 CA (Seleucid, Parthian, Sassanid and early Islamic era)
3. **Modern Persian:** from 867 CA to the Present time (from the establishment of the Independent Iranian dynasties to Modern times)

These stages represent such great changes in the syntax, morphology, sound system and lexicon of the language that most linguists regard them as three languages. “Modern Persian grammar is in many ways much simpler than its ancestral forms, having lost most of the inflectional systems of the older varieties of Persian. Other than markers to indicate that nouns and pronouns are direct objects, Modern Persian has no system of case inflections. Possession is shown by addition of a special suffix (called the *ezāfeh*) to the possessed noun. Verbs retain a set of personal endings related to those of other Indo-European languages, but a series of prefixes and infixes (word elements inserted within a word), as well as auxiliary verbs, are used instead of a single complex inflectional system in order to mark tense, mood, voice, and the negative.” (Augustin, 2020)

Since, there has been no remarkable change in the grammar of Modern Persian for about twelve centuries, the literature of this period is comprehensible to present day speakers. However, language contacts through foreign invasions, conquests and relations had their impact on the Persian lexicon especially by loanwords which can be listed historically as follows:

- 3.1. Islamic era and Arabic Influence on Early Modern Persian or Dari (from the ninth century CA): Arabic loanwords
- 3.2. Saljuqs (from the eleventh century CA): Turkic loanwords
- 3.3. Mongols Invasion (from the thirteenth century CA): Mongolian loanwords
- 3.4. Timurid Invasion (from the fifteenth to sixteenth century CA) Turkic loanwords
- 3.5. Political and cultural relation with European countries (from the sixteenth century CA to present time): loanwords from European languages.

After the first two centuries of the Islamic era and by the uprising of several regional Iranian governments, Modern Persian was established as a literary, administrative and scientific “Islamic language” and expanded not only over the Iranian territory but even to Anatolia, Central Asia and Indian subcontinent.

## Surnames in Modern Persian

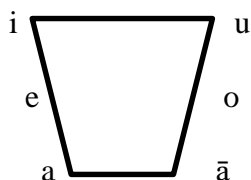
A note on the transcription used in this article:

Modern Persian is written in Perso-Arabic alphabet, which has several differences from Arabic script.

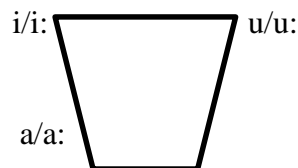
The pronunciation of the Arabic loanwords is adapted to the Persian sound system (Persianized) which is very different from that of Arabic.

Therefore, both the transliteration (Romanized form) and transcription of the words are quite different from Arabic. To show the real pronunciation of the words a **simple transcription system** is adopted which is very close to the traditional Romanized form.

Persian vowels



Arabic vowels



Adaptation of three short and long Arabic vowels to six Persian vowels:

Arabic IP	Perso-Arabic letter	Persian (simplified symbols)	Arabic example	Arabic/Persian writing	Contemporary Persian pronunciation	meaning
a	- / اَ	a	malik	ملك	malek	king
a:	آ / اِ / اِي	ā	ma:lik	ملك / مالک	mālek	owner
i	- / اِ	e	ʕilm	علم	‘elm	science
i:	ي	i	ʕi:d	عيد	‘id	feast
u	و / اُو	o	Mus <sup>t</sup> afa:	مصطفى	Mostafā	Proper name
u:	و	u	Mu:sa:	موسى	Musā	Proper name

Twenty three Persian consonants are represented by the following simplified symbols:

	bilabial	labio-dental	dental	alveolar	alveolo-palatal	palatal	velar	glottal
plosive	b p		d t			g k	q	‘
fricative		v f		z s	zh sh		kh	h
affricate					j ch			
trill				r				
nasal	m			n				
liquid				l			y	

Samarh (1999) regards [w] as a variant of /v/ which in present-day Persian occurs only in few words.

Comparing Arabic and Persian consonants and how the Arabic loan words are adapted into the contemporary Persian. Many of the examples

are taken from the list of Persian surnames in DAFN2 Entry List.

Arabic IPA symbols	Perso- Arabic letter	Persian (simplified symbols)	Arabic example	Arabic/ Persian writing	Contemporary Persian pronunciation	Meaning
b	ب	b	baqir	باقر	Bāqer	Proper name
d	د	d	dunja:	دنیا	donyā	world
<u>d</u> <sup>s</sup>	ض	pronounced: z	d <sup>s</sup> i:ja?	ضیاء / ضیا	Ziyā‘/Ziyā	Proper name
<u>dʒ</u>	ج	j	dʒawa:di:	جوادی	Javādi	Proper name
<u>ḏ</u>	ذ	pronounced: z	ḏali:l	ذلیل	zalil	abject, weak
<u>ḏ</u> <sup>s</sup>	ظ	pronounced: z	ḏ <sup>s</sup> ulm	ظلم	zolm	cruelty
<u>f</u>	ف	f	fa: d <sup>s</sup> il	فاضل	fāzel	learned
H	ه	h	ha:di:	هادی	Hādi	Proper name
<u>ḥ</u>	ح	pronounced: h	ḥasan	حسن	Hasan	Proper name
J	ی	Y	jahja:	یحیی	Yahyā	Proper name
K	ک	k	kama:l	کمال	Kamāl	Proper name
L	ل	l	lut <sup>s</sup> fi:	لطفی	Lotfi	Proper name
M	م	m	mahdawi	مهدوی	Mahdavi	Proper name
N	ن	n	nadʒdʒa:r	نجار	najjār	carpenter
Q	ق	q	qa: d <sup>s</sup> i:	قاضی	qāzi	judge
R	ر	r	rad <sup>s</sup> awi:	رضوی	Razavi	Proper name
S	س	s	salik	سالک	Salek	Proper name
<u>s</u> <sup>s</sup>	ص	pronounced: s	s <sup>s</sup> adr	صدر	Sadr	Proper name
<u>ʃ</u>	ش	sh	ʃamsi:	شمسی	Shamsi	Proper name
T	ت	t	tura:bi:	ترابی	Torābi	Proper name
<u>t</u> <sup>s</sup>	ط	pronounced: t	t <sup>s</sup> a:hiri:	طاهری	Tāheri	Proper name

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θ	ث	pronounced: s	θa:biti:	ثابتی	Sābeti	Proper name
w	و	pronounced: v	waki:li:	وکلی	Vakili	Proper name
X	خ	kh	xali:fa	خلیفه	Khalife	Proper name
ɣ	غ	pronounced: q	ɣarb	غرب	qarb	west
Z	ز	z	zejd	زید	Zeyd	Proper name
ʔ	ء	‘	raʔi:si:	رئیس	Ra‘isi	Proper name
ʕ	ع	pronounced: ‘	ʕali:	علی	‘ali	Proper name
no Arabic equivalent	پ	p	-	پروین	Parvin	Proper name
no Arabic equivalent	ژ	zh	-	ژاله	Zhāle	Proper name
no Arabic equivalent	چ	ch		چمران	Chamrān	Proper name
no Arabic equivalent	گ	g		گشتاسب	Goshtāsb	Proper name
no Arabic equivalent	و	v		وزیری	Vaziri	Proper name

Important Note: In contemporary Modern Persian there has been a tendency to change the /a/ phoneme to /e/ which has led to a phonological process especially at the final position. Thus:

Old Pronunciation	New Pronunciation	Meaning
khāna	Khāne	House
nāma	Name	Letter
gusha	Gushe	Angle
rafta	Rafte	Gone
shash	Shesh	Six
zamin	Zemin	Earth
taryak	Teryāk	opium

This process has had its effect on Arabic loanwords, too. Examples:

fa:tʕima	Fāteme
ʕalla:ma	‘allāme
ħusajn	Hoseyn
mahdi:	Mehdi

## Development of Modern Persian Surnames

Up to the beginning of the twentieth century, Iranian people were usually identified by their first name and their father's name, and sometimes by adding attributes in the form of a prefix or suffix to the name. In the case of important and famous people such as scholars, poets, artists, men of letters, members of the royal family, courtiers and clergies, the names of their ancestors were also mentioned which sometimes would go back to several generations. In some special cases, people had nicknames or epithets. Nobles, statesmen and the royal family had honorific titles, added to their names, which usually indicated their position, responsibility or personal characteristic. Some of the **titles** may be traced in:

- Mythology, e.g. **Pishdād/Pishdādi** 'the first (prehistoric) legislator', **Kiyumars** 'the first man on earth' (in Iranian mythology, equivalent to Adam),
- Old Iranian religions or Islam e.g. **Varjāvand** 'saint, shining', **Anushā/Anushe** 'immortal', **Ahurā** 'lord', **Yadollāh**, 'The hand of God', **Asadollāh**, 'The lion of God', **Shamseddin**, 'The sun of religion'
- History, e.g. **Kiāni/Kiān**, 'related to kings, royal', **Kāviāni**, 'related to kings, royal'
- Occupations, e.g. **Mostowfi/Mostowfiolmamālek**, 'accountant, treasurer/ treasurer of the countries', **Moshir/Moshiroddowle**, 'consultant/consultant to the state', **Nāyeb/Nāyebossaltane**, 'vice/regent',
- Personal characteristics and social status, e.g. **Hakim**, 'scholar, philosopher', **Sheykh**, 'sage, elder' **Allāme**, 'knowledgeable' **Mollā**, 'educated', **Khāje** 'master'
- Epithets and honorifics, e.g. **pour**, **zād**, **ebn**, combining forms meaning 'son of' **abu**, **bu**, **abā**, **bābā**, combining forms meaning 'father of', **omm**, combining form meaning 'mother of', **dokht**, combining form meaning 'daughter of', **āghā**, 'mister', **khānom**, 'lady', **hāji**, 'a man who has been to Mecca as a pilgrim', **hājiye**, 'a woman who has been to Mecca as a pilgrim', **jenāb**, 'esquire', **khān**, 'the chief or the leader of a tribe', **dowle**, 'combining form meaning state', **saltane**, 'combining form meaning kingdom'.

One of the consequences of the modernization movement at the turn of

the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the victory of the Iranian constitutional revolution, and one of the steps taken by the parliament was passing the Act of Issuing Modern ID Cards (**shenāsnāme**) for all the Iranian people in 1919. According to this Act and its regulations, everybody should have a **nām**, ‘name’, and a **nām-e khānevādegi**, ‘family name’. Most of the nicknames, epithets and titles such as **hāji**, **mirzā**, **jenāb**, **sheykh**, **khān**, etc. were regarded as informal and were excluded from the ID cards.

### Typology of Persian Family Names

It is noticeable that the list of high-frequency family names in the US is very different from that in Iran. There may be many reasons such as the difference between class ratio of migrating population and that of the national population, simplification of the names, adapting Persian names to English sound system and morphology, substituting some names with their analogical counterparts in English, adopting different transliteration or transcription systems, taking non-Persian names as Persian or perhaps considering Persian names under other languages, etc. Therefore, the typology is based on the list selected from the 2010 US Census, only in few cases to provide more data; examples are taken from the Iranian list of high-frequency surnames. The types could be many more but they are classified under few general categories and are ordered by their number of instances.

### Patronymic Names

Patronymic family names can be considered as the transformed older names into the new patterns for surnames. There are two general patterns for this category:

1. A proper name of the father or forefather of the family plus a suffix generally meaning the son of or born, Examples: **Alavi**, **Bahrāmi**, **Hātami**, **Khosravi**, proper name + -i and its variant -vi ‘related to’, **Aslāniān**, **Aziziān**, **Shahbāziān**, proper name + -iān/-iyān ‘(the family) related to’, **Alipour**, **Bizhanpour**, , proper name + -pour ‘son of’, **Alizāde**, **Farrokhzād**, , proper name + -zāde/zād ‘born’, **Hanifnezhād**, , proper name + -nezhād ‘race, pedigree’, **Alavitabār**, , proper name + -i + -tabār ‘ancestry, descent’, **Kordbache**, proper name + -bache ‘child’.

2. A simple proper name. Examples: **Dārā**, ‘Dariush/Darius’, **Narimān**, ‘proper name from Shahname, a classic epic poem by Ferdowsi’.

## Occupational Names

Persian family names indicating the occupation or profession can be classified by their structure in three groups:

1. A simple noun or the combination of the name of an object, product or appliance with a suffix generally meaning the agent or practitioner of a job or profession. Examples: **Pezeshk**, ‘doctor, physician’, **Keshāvarz**, kesht ‘cultivate’ + -varz ‘doer, agent’, ‘farmer’, **Barzgar**, barz ‘cultivate’ + -gar ‘doer (as occupation)’, **Amuzgār**, amuz ‘teach’ + -gār ‘doer (as occupation)’, **Honarvar**, honar ‘art’ + -var ‘doer (as occupation)’, **Abrishamchi**, abrisham ‘silk’ + -chi ‘Turkic suffix meaning owner or doer, silk-seller’, **Javāheri**, javāher ‘jewel’ + -i ‘owner or seller’

2. The name of an object, product or appliance plus present stem of a verb meaning someone who practices that verb as a job. Examples: **Ketābforush**, ketāb ‘book’ + -forush ‘sell, verb present stem’, **Kāshisāz**, kāshi ‘tile’ + -sāz ‘make, verb present stem’, **Zarshenās**, zar ‘gold’ + -shenās ‘recognize, equivalent to -logist, verb present stem’

3. A loan Arabic adjective/noun with ‘fa’ā’l’ pattern indicating name of a profession. Examples: **Najjār**, ‘carpenter’, **Haddād**, ‘blacksmith’,

Note: The family name may be only the adjectival form of the name of the occupation or profession, or by adding affixes or combining forms indicating a kind of relation to that job. Examples: **Pezeshkzād**, pezeshk ‘doctor’ + -zād ‘born’, **Tabibzāde**, tabib ‘doctor’ + -zāde ‘born’, **Najjāriān**, najjār ‘carpenter’ + -iān ‘related to’, **Me’mārpour**, me’mār ‘architect’ + -pour ‘son of’.

## Status Names

Family names may represent social, political or cultural status and position acquired or adopted by the bearer. Either simple nouns/adjectives, present participle, past participle of verbs or derivations and compounds are found in this category. Examples: **Ārian**, ‘Arian’, **Āzād**, ‘free’, **Darvish**, ‘dervish’, **Modarres**, ‘teacher’,

**Pārsā**, ‘pious’, **Jāvid**, ‘eternal’, **Akhavān**, ‘brothers’, **Binā**, ‘sighted, able to see’, **Kushā**, ‘hardworking’, **Varzide**, ‘experienced’, **Dāneshmand**, dānesh ‘science’ + -mand ‘owner’, **Sāhebdivān**, sāheb ‘owner, in charge’ and divān ‘office’.

### Habitational and Topographic Names

A very common surname which usually indicates the birthplace of the bearer is formed by adding the suffix –i to the name of a city, town, province or even a country. Examples: **Irāni**, ‘Iran’ + -i ‘citizen of’, **Tehrāni**, ‘Tehran’ + -i ‘coming from’, **Yazdi**, ‘coming from Yazd’, **Mahmudābādi**, ‘coming from Mahmudabad’. This form is sometimes used as the second part of a surname: **Modarres-e Tehrāni**, ‘Modarres from Tehran’, and sometimes it is used informally to distinguish people with similar surnames especially among the clergies.

Topographic surnames are also used with this structure, e.g. **Kuhi**, **Kuhestāni**, ‘coming from or related to mountains’, **Sahrāi**, ‘coming from or related to deserts’, **Daryāi**, ‘coming from or related to the sea’.

### Mythological and Ethnic Names

Many surnames can be categorized under this title with a simple word (name of a tribe or mythological figure) or a complex structure, mainly a noun plus –i suffix or other special suffixes such as –vand, –lu, –bāsh, . Examples: **Ānāhitā**, ‘related to Anahita the Goddess of running waters in the old Iranian Mythology’, **Rostami**, ‘related to Rostam, the mythological hero in Shahname’, **Foruhar**, ‘a variant of Faravahar, ‘an angle in old Iranian mythology’, **Afshār**, ‘from the Afshar tribe’, **Zand**, ‘from Zand family’, **Bakhtiyār**, ‘from Bakhtiari tribe’, Bakhtiyāri, Bakhtiyār + -i ‘from Bakhtiari tribe’, Qashqāi, ‘from Qashqai tribe’, **Zandi**, ‘from Zand family’, **Pārsi**, ‘related to Parsi immigrants to India’, **Dālvand**, **Kākāvand**, **Khomārlu**, **Inānlu**, ‘a tribe with the same name’ + -vand or –lu ‘from or related to’.

### Religious Names

Many surnames originate either from the ancient Iranian religions like Zoroastrianism and Mazdaism or from the Islamic faith. Examples: **Elāhi**, ‘related to Allah’, **Nabavi**, ‘related to nabi the prophet’, Shariati, ‘related to shariat/sharia, religious law’, **Mazdāpour**, ‘descendant of or related to Mazdā’, and **Avestā**, ‘the sacred book of Zoroastrians’.

## Nicknames and Epithets

Although many nicknames and honorific titles are used in colloquial Persian, they are not allowed to be registered in the ID cards, therefore they are not included in official statistical surveys.

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سیدان

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