

Table 1. English Consonant phonemes (adapted from Roach, 1983)

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Plato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d			k g	
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ			h
Affricate					tʃ dʒ			
Nasal	m			n			ŋ	
Lateral				l				
Tap				r				
Approximant	w					j		

Pashto Consonants

Different authors on various dialects of Pashto have identified different number of consonant phonemes. The following table shows the consonant sounds identified in Yuzafzai dialect of Pashto.

Table 2. Pashto consonant phonemes of Yusafzai dialect.

	bilabial	dental	alveolar	retroflex	Post-alveolar	palatal	velar	uvular	glottal
Plosives	p b	ʈ ɖ		ʈ ɖ			k g	q	
Fricative s			s z		ʃ		x ɣ		h
Affricate s					tʃ dʒ				
Nasals	m		n	ɳ			ŋ		
Lateral			l						
Trill			r						
Flap				ɽ					
Glides	w					j			

Pashto	IPA	X-SAMPA	Pashto	IPA	X-SAMPA
ب	b	b	ض	z	z
پ	p	p	ث س ص	s	s
د	d	d	ږ	ʒ / dʒ / ʒ / z	Z / dZ / Z / z
ت ط	t	t	ش	ʃ	S
ډ	ɖ	dʰ	ځ	ʒ / g / ʒ / ɟ	zʰ / g / Z / ʝ
ټ	t̚	tʰ	پښ	ɬ / x / ʃ / ɸ	sʰ / x / S / C
ج	dʒ	dZ	ف	f	f
چ	tʃ	tS	ح ه	h	h
خ	ɖz / z / ɖz / z	dz / z / dz / z	غ	ɣ	G
څ	ts / s / ts / s	ts / s / ts / s	خ	x	x
ق	q/k	q / k	و	w / o	w / o
ک	k	k	ی ی	j	j / i
گ	g	g	ی ئ	j	j - offglide
ع	(ʔ)	(ʔ)	ا	ɑ	A
م	m	m	ې	e	e
ن	n	n	اَ	a	a
ن	ŋ	(N)	اِ	ɪ	i i:
ڼ	ɲ	nʰ	اُ	u	u u:
ل	l	l	اَو	ə	@
ر	ɾ	rʰ	اَ	(no vowel)	(+)
ر	r	ɹ		(primary/strong stress)	ˈ
ذ ز ظ	z	z			

	IPA	Meaning	
V	/o/	was [dialect]	و
VC	/as/	horse	اس
VCC	/art/	loose	ارت
CV	/tə/	you	ته
CVC	/qer/	many, very	ڀير
CVCC	/lunɖ/	wet	لوند
CCV	/mla/	back	ملا
CCVC	/klak/	hard	کلی
CCVCC	/ʒwəɳɖ/	life	ڙوند
CCCV	/xwlə/	mouth	خوله
CCCVCC	/ɳdror/	sister-in-law	ندرور
CCCVCC	/ʃxwand/	chewing of food	شخوند

Most dialects in Pashto have seven vowels and seven diphthongs.^[8]

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Mid	e	ə	o
Open	a		ɑ

- Tegey & Robson (1996) also include near-close vowels /ɪ/ and /ʊ/.^[9]

Diphthongs [edit]

	Front	Central	Back
High			uɪ
Mid		əɪ	oɪ
Low	aɪ, aw		ɑɪ, aw

Elfenbein notes that the long diphthongs [ɑɪ, aw] are always stressed, whilst the short diphthongs may or may not be stressed.^[1]

Orthography of diphthongs [edit]

	Initial	Medial	Final
aɪ	ای	ـِـ	یـ
əɪ			ی and ئ
oɪ	اوی	وِـ	وی
uɪ	اوی	وِـ	وی
aw	او	وـ	وـ
ɑɪ	آی	ای	ای
aw	آو	او	او

Stress [\[edit \]](#)

Pashto has phonemic variable stress,^[11] unique amongst Iranian languages.^[6]

For instance, in verbs to distinguish aspect:

Verb - Imperfective (mostly Final Stress)	Meaning	Verb - Perfective (Initial Stress)	Meaning
kenastêlēm	I was sitting	kénastêlēm	I sat down
kenastēm	I was sitting	kénastēm	I sat down
ba kenēm	I shall be sitting	ba kénēm	I shall sit

Basic Word Stress [\[edit \]](#)

Stress is indicated by the [IPA stress](#) [marker](#) [ˈ].

In general, the last syllable is stressed if the word ends in a consonant and the penultimate syllable is stressed if the last syllable ends in a vowel.

Example	IPA	Meaning
رنځور	/ran.ˈdʒur/	sick [adj. masc.]
رنځوره	/ran.ˈdʒur.a/	sick [adj. fem.]
کورونه	/ko.ˈru.na/	houses [noun. masc. plural]
ښځو	/ˈʂə.dʒo/	women [noun. fem. plural. oblique.]
لاندې	/ˈlan.de/	below [adverb, circumposition]