ROMANIZATION OF AMHARIC

BGN/PCGN 1967 System

Amharic is the principal and official language of Ethiopia. The BGN/PCGN system for Amharic is designed for use in romanizing names written in the Amharic alphabet. The Roman letters and letter combinations shown as equivalents to the Amharic characters reflect modern Amharic pronunciation.

Amharic is written from left to right, each character being a consonant-vowel unit. To romanize, the Amharic characters should be located in the table below and represented with the accompanying Roman script. For instance, Ethiopia's capital city, አዲስ አበባ, is represented Ādīs Ābeba (e.g. the first character being located in row 16, 1st order column: አ = Ā).

	1st order	2nd order	3rd order	4th order	5th order	6th order[1]	7th order	Combination with wa
1[2]	ሀ hā	ሁ hu	ሂ hī	ሃ ha	ሄ hē	ህ h / hi	ሆ ho	
2	ለ le	ሉ lu	ሊ lī	ላ la	ሌ lē	ል l / li	ሎ lo	ሏ lwa
3[2]	ሐ hā	ሑ hu	ሒ hī	ሓ ha	ሔ hē	ሕ h / hi	ሖ ho	
4	መ me	ሙ mu	ሚ mī	ማ ma	ሜ mē	ም m / mi	ሞ mo	ሟ mwa
5[2]	ሠ se	ሡ su	ሢ sī	ሣ sa	ሤ sē	ሥ s / si	ሦ so	
6	ረ re	ሩ ru	ሪ rī	ራ ra	ሬ rē	ር r / ri	ሮ ro	ሯ rwa
7[2]	ሰ se	ሱ su	ሲ sī	ሳ sa	ሴ sē	ስ s / si	ሶ so	ሷ swa
8	ሸ she	ሹ shu	ሺ shī	ሻ sha	ሼ shē	ሽ sh / shi	ሾ sho	ሿ shwa
9	ቀ k'e	ቁ k'u	ቂ k'ī	ቃ k'a	ቄ k'ē	ቅ k' / k'i	ቆ / ቈ k'o	ቋ k'wa
10	በ be	ቡ bu	ቢ bī	ባ ba	ቤ bē	ብ b / bi	ቦ bo	ቧ bwa
11	ተ te	ቱ tu	ቲ tī	ታ ta	ቴ tē	ት t / ti	ቶ to	ቷ twa
12	ቸ che	ቹ chu	ቺ chī	ቻ cha	ቼ chē	ች ch / chi	ቾ cho	ቿ chwa
13[2]	ኀ hā	ኁ hu	ኂ hī	ኃ ha	ኄ hē	ኅ h / hi	ኆ / ኈ ho	ኋ hwa
14	ነ ne	ኑ nu	ኒ nī	ና na[3]	ኔ nē	ን n / ni	ኖ no	ኗ nwa
15	ኘ nye	ኙ nyu	ኚ nyī	ኛ nya	ኜ nyē	ኝ ny / nyi	ኞ nyo	ኟ nywa
16[4]	አ ā / 'ā	ኡ u / 'u	ኢ ī / 'ī	ኣ a / 'a	ኤ ē / 'ē	እ i / 'i or *not* romanized	ኦ o / 'o	
17	ከ ke	ኩ ku	ኪ kī	ካ ka	ኬ kē	ክ k / ki	ኮ / ኰ ko	ኳ kwa
18[2]	ኸ he	ኹ hu	ኺ hī	ኻ ha	ኼ hē	ኽ h / hi	ኾ / ዀ ho	

1

	1st order	2nd order	3rd order	4th order	5th order	6th order[1]	7th order	Combination with wa
19	ወ we	ዉ wu	ዊ wī	ዋ wa	ዌ wē	ው w / wi	ዎ wo	
20	ዐ ʻā	ዑ ʻu	ዒ ʻī	ዓ ʻa	ዔ ʻē	ዕ ʻ / ʻi	ዖ ʻo	
21	ዘ ze	ዙ zu	ዚ zī	ዛ za	ዜ zē	ዝ z / zi	ዞ zo	ዟ zwa
22	ዠ zhe	ዡ zhu	ዢ zhī	ዣ zha	ዤ zhē	ዥ zh /	ዦ zho	ዧ zhwa
23	የ ye[5]	ዩ yu	ዪ yī	ያ ya	ዬ yē	ይ y / yi	ዮ yo	
24	ደ de	ዱ du	ዲ dī	ዳ da	ዴ dē	ድ d / di	ዶ do	ዷ dwa
25	ጀ je	ጁ ju	ጂ jī	ጃ ja	ጄ jē	ጅ j / ji	ጆ jo	ጇ jwa
26	ገ ge	ጉ gu	ጊ gī	ጋ ga	ጌ gē	ግ g / gi	ጎ / ጐ go	ጓ gwa
27	ጠ tʼe	ጡ tʼu	ጢ tʼī	ጣ tʼa	ጤ tʼē	ጥ tʼ / tʼi	ጦ tʼo	ጧ tʼwa
28	ጨ chʼe	ጩ chʼu	ጪ chʼī	ጫ chʼa	ጬ chʼē	ጭ chʼ /	ጮ chʼo	ጯ chʼwa
29	ጰ pʼe	ጱ pʼu	ጲ pʼī	ጳ pʼa	ጴ pʼē	ጵ pʼ / pʼi	ጶ pʼo	
30[2]	ጸ tsʼe	ጹ tsʼu	ጺ tsʼī	ጻ tsʼa	ጼ tsʼē	ጽ tsʼ / tsʼi	ጾ tsʼo	
31[2]	ፀ tsʼe	ፁ tsʼu	ፂ tsʼī	ፃ tsʼa	ፄ tsʼē	ፅ tsʼ / tsʼi	ፆ tsʼo	ጿ tsʼwa
32	ፈ fe	ፉ fu	ፊ fī	ፋ fa	ፌ fē	ፍ f / fi	ፎ fo	ፏ fwa
33	ፐ pe	ፑ pu	ፒ pī	ፓ pa	ፔ pē	ፕ p / pi	ፖ po	
34	ቨ ve	ቩ vu	ቪ vī	ቫ va	ቬ vē	ቭ v / vi	ቮ vo	

NUMERALS																			
፩	፪	፫	፬	፭	፮	፯	፰	፱	፲	፲፩	፳	፳፩	፴	፵	፶	፷	፸	፹	፺	፻
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	20	21	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

NOTES

1. The 6th-order characters should be romanized either with or without the letter **i**, depending on pronunciation.

2. For documentation purposes, the characters romanized with h in rows 1, 3, 13, and 18 may, instead, be romanized with **h**, **ḥ**, **ḫ**, and **ẖ**, respectively; the characters both romanized with **s** in rows 5 and 7 may, instead, be romanized with **š** and **s**, respectively; and the characters both romanized with **ts'** in rows 30 and 31 may, instead, be romanized with **ts'** and **t̲s̲'**, respectively.

3. When the character ባ in row 14 is known to represent the Amharic word meaning 'and', its romanization (**na**) should always be separated from the preceding and following words by spaces and should never be capitalized, e.g., **Raya na K'obo**.

4. The vowel characters in row 16 should be romanized **ā**, **u**, **ī**, **a**, **ē**, **i**, and **o** initially and **'ā**, **'u**, **'ī**, **'a**, **'ē**, **'i**, and **'o** in all other positions.

5. When the character የ in row 23 is known to represent the Amharic preposition, its romanization (**Ye**) should begin with an upper-case letter and written together with the following word, which should also begin with an upper-case letter, e.g., **YeWiha Shet'**.

6. 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, except as they appear in row 20, which are U+2018.

Ā (U+0100)	ā (U+0101)
Ī (U+012A)	ī (U+012B)
Ē (U+0112)	ē (U+0113)

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