

## Alphabet - Lesson 5

### Vowels at the end of words

How should vowels be written when coming at the end of words? For the three long vowels which are written as separate letters, the rule is simple; use their ending form. For the three short vowels, follow this table:

sound	ending form	normal form
a	o/d	_____
e	o/d	_____
o	g	_____

So, short vowels are written as separate characters when they are the last sound of a word. Things are definitely getting complicated. For all these letters we already know one or more sounds. The good news is that there is actually only one word in Persian that ends with the “a” short vowel sound (the first example below). There are more facts to make things easier, mentioned after the examples

no	na	نه
fruit	mive	میوه
Burma	berme	برمه
nine	noh	نه
moon	māh	ماه
mountain	kuh	کوه
Korea	kore	کره
radio	rādio	رادیو
demon, monster	div	دیو
two	do	دو
hair	mu	مو
doe	āhu	آهو

For the letter "ه" coming at the end of words, if it is preceded by a vowel, it is definitely going to sound like "h", since the two vowels cannot be pronounced right after each other (fifth and sixth examples). If the previous letter is a consonant, it is pronounced as "e" in ninety percent of the cases. (the fourth example is among the remaining ten percent(!

The letter "و" can potentially be pronounced as "v", "u" and "o" when coming at the end of a word. However, one can be ninety percent sure that it will not sound like "v". For the rest, only experience can help.

If you find all this totally confusing, there is no need to worry. These cases form a very little percentage of what one encounters while reading a Persian text. Continuing with what you know well, you will gradually master these rules as well. By the help of what is explained so far and the alphabet cheat sheet, it is possible to start reading Persian without too much trouble. It is strongly recommended, however, to continue with this tutorial to master the Persian writing system and learn the not-so-infrequent exceptions and tricks as well.