

PERSIAN LANGUAGE COURSE

COMPLETE SYLLABUS
A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2



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CLASSES
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This comprehensive syllabus outlines a step-by-step journey through the Persian language, based on the globally recognized Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Persian is not only the official language of Iran but also holds significant cultural and diplomatic importance across Afghanistan (Dari), Tajikistan (Tajik), and parts of Uzbekistan and the Indian subcontinent. With over 110 million native speakers and a rich literary tradition spanning over a millennium, learning Persian opens doors to a vast and influential civilization.

PART 1: UNDERSTANDING THE PERSIAN LANGUAGE & CEFR LEVELS

Before you begin, it is essential to understand the unique characteristics of Persian. Unlike Arabic, Persian uses the Arabic script but is an Indo-European language, making its grammar more intuitive for English speakers.

Aspect	Description & Syllabus Relevance
Script Direction	Right-to-Left (RTL). The script is the same as Arabic, with 4 additional letters (گ, چ, پ, ژ). Syllabus Focus: Mastering the alphabet and joining rules (A1).
Grammar Core	SOV (Subject-Object-Verb) structure. Notably, Persian has no grammatical gender and no definite/indefinite articles. Syllabus Focus: Sentence construction hierarchy (A1-B1).
Vocabulary	High levels of Arabic loanwords for religious/formal terms, versus pure Persian for daily speech. Syllabus Focus: Diglossia management (A2-B2).
Phonetics	Phonetic distinctions between short vowels (a, e, o) and long vowels (â, i, u). Syllabus Focus: Pronunciation of the "ghayn" (غ) and "qaf" (ق) sounds (A1-A2).

CEFR Alignment for Persian (Global Standard)

The following structure is based on the "Can Do" statements used by leading institutions and standardized Persian language programs.

Level	Global Descriptor for Persian	Syllabus Focus Area	Approx. Study Hours
A1	Breakthrough	Mastering the Perso-Arabic script. Overcoming the right-to-left writing hump. Survival phrases for travel in Tehran or Isfahan.	80-150 hours
A2	Waystage	Functional Persian. Reading basic signs and menus. Describing your daily routine in present and simple past tenses.	150-300 hours
B1	Threshold	Conversational Flow. Understanding the gist of news headlines and discussing hobbies. Handling routine travel tasks (hotels, transport).	300-500 hours

B2	Vantage	Abstract Expression. Reading short stories by Sadegh Hedayat or news editorials. Expressing opinions on social issues.	500-750 hours
C1	Effective Proficiency	Formal & Literary. Appreciating the poetry of Hafez or Rumi in the original text. Professional correspondence and business Persian.	750-1000 hours
C2	Mastery	Near-Native. Producing literary criticism. Understanding regional dialects (Dari, Tajik). Mastering formal/informal registers.	1000+ hours

PART 2: DETAILED TOPIC-WISE SYLLABUS (A1 TO C2)

STAGE 1: BASIC USER (A1 - BREAKTHROUGH)

Goal: To recognize the Perso-Arabic script, introduce yourself, and manage very simple daily interactions.

Textbook: Modern Persian, Elementary Level (Cambridge Core) is designed for this stage.

Week	Topic & Communication Goals	Lexical & Topical Syllabus	Grammatical & Structural Syllabus	Cultural Component
1-2	The Script & Sound System	Introduction to 32 letters. Recognizing the 4 unique Persian letters (پ, چ, ژ, گ). Learning initial, medial, final shapes.	Distinguishing short vowels (a, e, o) which are often omitted in writing. Reading (The Persian language).	History of the Perso-Arabic script. Calligraphy as art.
3-4	Introductions & Greetings	Greetings: "Salam", "Khodâ Hâfez". Vocabulary: Family (مادر، پدر، برادر) (Asking "Shomâ chetur hastid?")	No gender. Word order: SOV (Subject-Object-Verb). The verb "Hastan/ Budan" (to be).	The etiquette of "Taarof" (ritual politeness).
5-6	Daily Routine & Pronouns	Pronouns (Man, To, U, Mâ, Shomâ, Ishân). Numbers 1-20. Days of the week.	Present indicative tense (Mi-raw-am). The copula "am/i/ast/im/id/and".	Social hierarchy of pronouns: "Shomâ" (formal) vs "To" (informal).
7-8	Places & Directions	Vocabulary: Bâzâr (بازار), Khâneh (خانه), Sofreh (سفره), (Colors. Times of day.	Postpositions (Dar - in, Ru-ye - on). The Ezafe construction (کتاب خوب - Ketâb-e khub).	Nowruz and the Haft-Seen table.

STAGE 2: ELEMENTARY (A2 - WAYSTAGE)

Goal: To handle simple transactions, describe past actions, and express future plans.

Unit	Topic & Communication Goals	Lexical & Topical Syllabus	Grammatical & Structural Syllabus	Intercultural Focus
1	Shopping & Transactions	Vocabulary: Clothes, grocery items. Bargaining phrases ("Gheymatesh chand ast?"). Currency (Toman/Rial).	Imperative mood (Begu! - Say! Begir! - Take!). Direct object marker "Râ" (را).	The art of bargaining in the Grand Bazaar (Tehran).
2	The Past Tense	Describing a trip to Persepolis. "Man diruz Persepolis raftam."	Simple Past tense (raft-am). The infinitive (raftan - to go). "Budan" (to be) in past tense.	The ruins of Persepolis (Takht-e Jamshid).
3	The Future & Plans	Expressing intentions. "Man fardâ Tehran mi-ravam."	Future tense (Khâham raft). The auxiliary verb "Khâstan" (to want).	The concept of "Inshallah" (God willing) vs "Om" (یا اوم) (I hope).
4	Describing Emotions	Vocabulary: Khoshhâl (happy), Ghasaban (angry), Dard (pain).	Compound verbs (Kâr kardan - to work, Dard dashtan - to hurt).	Expressing emotions in Persian classical music (Dastgah).
5	House & Location	Vocabulary: Rooms of the house. Family relations (Ameh, Dâei, Khâleh).	Locative prepositions (Pish-e - next to, Posht-e - behind).	The concept of "Bagh" (The Persian Garden).

STAGE 3: INTERMEDIATE (B1 - THRESHOLD)

Goal: To navigate travel, work, and social situations with relative ease.

Unit	Topic & Communication Goals	Lexical & Topical Syllabus	Grammatical & Structural Syllabus	Text & Media
1	Work & Education	Describing your profession. Vocabulary: Daftar (office), Dâneshgâh (university).	Subjunctive mood (Bâyad beravam - I should go). Obligation expressions.	Reading profiles from BBC Persian or Radio Farda.
2	Travel & Bureaucracy	Booking a hotel. Handling a lost passport.	Compound prepositions. Use of "Barâye" (for). Introduction to Relative clauses (Ke).	Dealing with Police/Consulate scenarios (Role Play).

3	Media & News	Discussing current events. Vocabulary: Siasat (politics), Eghtesâd (economy).	Complex sentence structures using "Chon" (because), "Agar...ke" (if...then).	Watching Iran International or Press TV.
4	Health & Body	Visiting a doctor. Vocabulary: Dard-e sar (headache), Doktor (doctor), Dâru (medicine).	Past participle usage. Comparative adjectives (Behtar - better, Bozorgtar - bigger).	The role of traditional medicine (Unani) in Iran.

STAGE 4: UPPER INTERMEDIATE (B2 - VANTAGE)

Goal: To understand abstract topics and produce structured arguments.

Unit	Topic & Communication Goals	Lexical & Topical Syllabus	Grammatical & Structural Syllabus	Cultural Outcome
1	Social Issues	Topics: Environment (آلودگی هوا), Gender, Modernization.	Complex clauses using "Bâ vojud-e inke" (despite). Expressing regret "Ey kâsh..."	Reading editorials in Etemad or Shargh newspapers.
2	Formal Writing	Writing a formal letter or a job application (Darkhâst-e Kâr).	Literary register. Using Arabic-sourced vocabulary in context.	The "Nameh" (Letter) writing tradition.
3	Short Stories	Plot summary of The Blind Owl (Sadegh Hedayat).	Discourse markers (Ammâ - but, Pas - therefore).	Hedayat and the rise of modernism in Iran.
4	Cinema & Arts	Reviewing a film by Abbas Kiarostami or Asghar Farhadi.	Expressing hypotheticals (Past Conditional). "Age bâz ham bebini..."	The impact of the Iranian New Wave cinema.

STAGE 5: ADVANCED (C1 - EFFECTIVE OPERATIONAL PROFICIENCY)

Goal: To master nuance, humor, and formal rhetoric.

Module	Topic & Communication Focus	Lexical & Stylistic Syllabus	Rhetorical & Structural Syllabus	Mastery Task
1	Advanced Prosody (Poetry)	Reciting a Ghazal by Hafez or Rumi. Understanding "Fârsi-e Shirin" (Sweet Persian).	Understanding the difference between Naghmeh (musical pitch) and Ozniyeh (letter writing).	Task: Perform a Fal-e Hafez (divination by Hafez's poetry) for a classmate.

2-3	Political Discourse & Diplomacy	Understanding speeches from the Iranian Foreign Ministry or UN statements	Formal political jargon. Recognizing the Persian language's role in "Public Diplomacy".	Task: Summarize a 5-minute political TV show (Dastan-e Arzesh-ha) without notes.
4	Classical Literature	Analyzing the epic Shahnameh (Book of Kings) by Ferdowsi.	Literary terms: "Rostam o Sohrab" themes. Understanding the "Mythical" vs "Historical" in Shahnameh.	Task: Recite 10 couplets from the Shahnameh with proper meter.

STAGE 6: MASTERY (C2 - PROFICIENCY)

Goal: Near-native competence

Competency	Description & Syllabus Focus	Evidence of Mastery
Summation	Can summarize information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts coherently.	Listening to a lecture on Iranian Mysticism (Erfan) and reconstructing the arguments in a coherent written summary without notes.
Fluency	Can express themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning.	Taking a phone call regarding a complex banking issue or legal matter in Iran without hesitation.
Nuance	Can understand the difference between Esteqlâl (Independence), Azâdi (Freedom), and Jomhuri (Republic) in a political context.	Reading a Sohrab Sepehri (modern poet) poem and explaining the multiple layers of social and environmental satire.
Dialectal Variation	Understands regional variations.	Recognizing Dari (Afghanistan) or Tajik (Cyrillic script) features vs Tehrani Persian.

PART 3: IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING PERSIAN (BY LEVEL)

Persian is a language of power, poetry, and diplomacy. Its strategic importance is growing globally.

Level-Based Professional & Social Importance

Level	Professional Importance	Social & Cultural Impact
A1-A2	Tourism & Heritage: Navigating the historic bazaars. Basic culture shock management.	Breaking the ice. Being greeted with "Salam! Khosh âmadid!" (Welcome!) by locals.

B1-B2	Business & Intelligence: Jobs: Regional Manager for MNCs wanting to access Iran's consumer market. Intelligence/ Cryptology: Critical for geopolitical analysis.	Reading menus beyond kebabs. Enjoying Persian Classical Music (Dastgah) without confusion.
C1	High-Level Careers: Journalism (BBC Persian, VOA). Diplomacy: Roles in the UN or Foreign Services. Academia: Ph.D. research in Middle Eastern Studies or Islamic Golden Age.	Reading Rumi (Molana) in the original text, where the wordplay and spiritual double meanings are lost in translation.
C2	Research: Professor of Iranian Studies. Interpretation: Simultaneous interpretation for high-level delegations.	Writing a Ghazal (poem) in the style of Hafez.

PART 4: RECOMMENDED RESOURCES & STUDY TIPS

Essential Syllabus Resources

- ◆ **The "Bible" for A1-A2:** Modern Persian, Elementary Level by Iago Gocheleishvili (Cambridge Core, 2024). This is the most up-to-date textbook for university-level learners, complete with a companion website of over 200 audio/video files.
- ◆ **For A2-B1:** University of Leeds' *Persian post-beginners (A2)* module materials. Focuses on communicative tasks like shopping, eating out, and visiting someone's home.
- ◆ **For Dictionary:** A Comprehensive Persian-English Dictionary by F. Steingass (Standard academic reference) or digital apps like "FastDic".
- ◆ **For Digital Practice:** Glossika (Grammar drills), HelloTalk (Language exchange), Persian Language Online (Saadi Foundation).
- ◆ **For Listening:** BBC Persian (Clear, standard Persian), Manoto TV, or IRIB World Service.

The "Shahnameh" Method (Reading Practice)

For B1 level and above, try the "Shahnameh Three-Pass" method:

- ◆ **Scan:** Look at a short story from Ferdowsi (e.g., "Rostam and Sohrab").
- ◆ **Read:** Read the poem in the original.
- ◆ **Compare:** Compare your interpretation with the English translation by Dick Davis.

The "Taarof" Trap (Pragmatics)

For B1 level and above, try the "Shahnameh Three-Pass" method:

- ◆ **A1-A2:** Learn to respond to "Merci" (Thank you) with "Khahesh mikonam" (You're welcome/Please) rather than the literal "Lotf." ❌❌❌❌
- ◆ **B1+:** Master the formal "Taarof" phrases. If an Iranian says "Be farma id" (Please, go ahead), they may be testing your humility!

