

Where Urdu Letters Come From

This table is designed to end hatred against redundant Urdu letters by showing their usefulness. Letters representing consonants can allow us to guess whether the word passed into Urdu through Arabic or Persian, or whether it is derived from one of the Indian *bhashas*. Please note: this is only a guide; there are always exceptions.

Letter	Arabic	Persian	Bhashas
ب	✓	✓	✓
پ		✓	✓
ت	✓	✓	✓
ط			✓
ث	✓		
ج	✓	✓	✓
چ		✓	✓
ح	✓		

خ	✓	✓	rarely
د	✓	✓	✓
ڈ			✓
ذ	✓	rarely	
ر	✓	✓	✓
ڑ			✓
ز	✓	✓	
ژ		✓	
س	✓	✓	✓
ش	✓	✓	✓
ص	✓		

ض	✓		
ط	✓		
ظ	✓		
ع	✓		
غ	✓	✓	
ف	✓	✓	rarely
ق	✓	✓	
ک	✓	✓	✓
ل	✓	✓	✓
م	✓	✓	✓
ن	✓	✓	✓

و	✓	✓	✓
ہ	✓	✓	✓
ط			✓
ء	✓	✓	✓
ی	✓	✓	✓
آ	✓	✓	✓