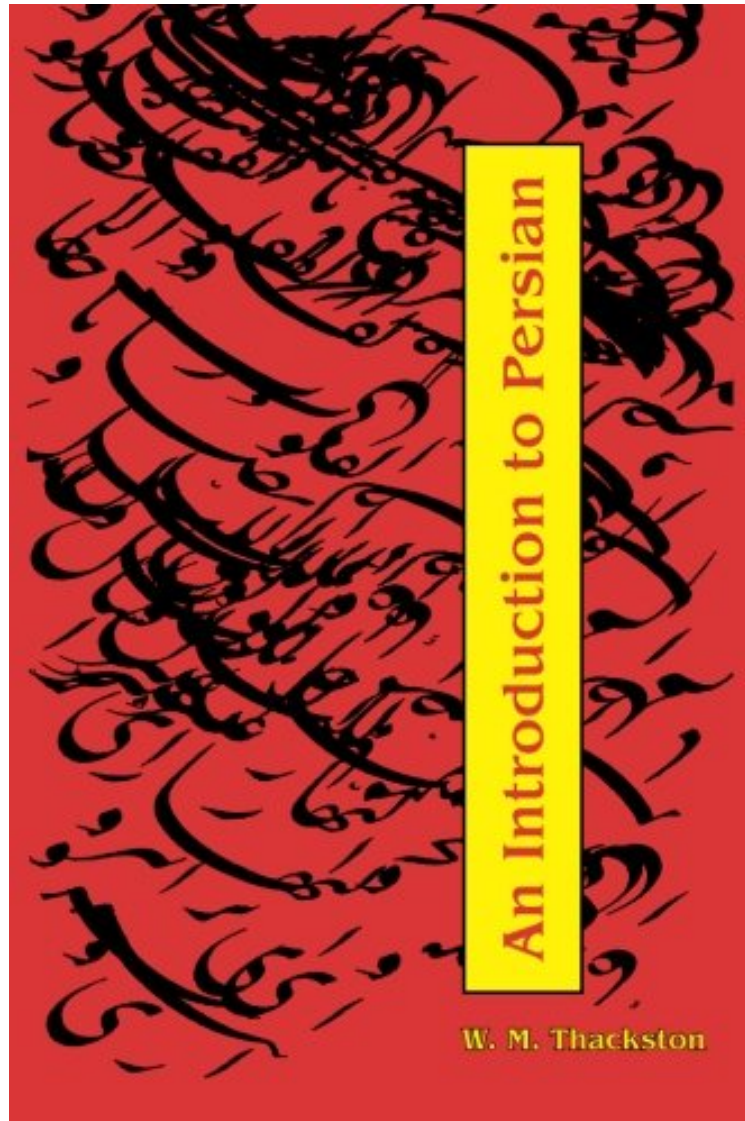


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An Introduction to Persian, Revised 3rd Edition

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W. M. Thackston : An Introduction to Persian, Revised 3rd Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Introduction to Persian, Revised 3rd Edition:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. 4th Edition ImprovementBy CeallaighI own the 3rd edition and now the 4th edition of this book. Upon inspection and comparison of the 4th edition with the 3rd, I find improvements both in the area of description and new features. Both the printed script and nastaliq are used in this edition. The script section has changed, and you are taught both scripts from the beginning. The only thing I wish would NOT have changed was the teaching of the cursive/handwritten script. The 3rd edition has that, and while this new edition doesn't

teach that, it would have been nice to have retained some of its elements. Other books like Lewis' Elementary Persian teach handwriting quite well as does the Routledge grammar of Persian. If you buy this 4th edition, you should purchase Teach Yourself Urdu Script, which gets into more detail about writing the nastaliq script. If you prefer to write the way the printed word appears, then there are some good books on writing Arabic this way. Teach Yourself Arabic Script is also a good book to acquire if you want to learn to use the handwritten style of Persian. I used that one along with Lewis' book. Overall, I am pleased with this new edition. Aside from the above on the script, the book appears to be the same, but with several revisions/improvements throughout. For example, whereas some of the exercises in the 3rd edition did not provide adequate task instruction, this edition closes the gap and has additional exercises. Regarding answers to the exercises, the publisher has informed me that the key to the exercises will be released as a separate title soon.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for learning written Persian

By jcampo An excellent book for learning written Persian. After finishing this book you will be prepared to read original texts in Persian with a dictionary. Very detailed explanations are throughout this book from a highly intelligent author. The only downside is I would not use this if your only goal is spoken Persian, if that is the case then please use a different book. If your goal is written and spoken Persian then you will need to supplement this book. Also the book could (and maybe should) have dropped the romanizations beside the Arabic script after a certain point. I personally would've preferred vocalized Arabic script but that is just my preference.

57 of 57 people found the following review helpful. Demanding but excellent as your SECOND Persian book

By A Customer The reviews below make clear that different people have different reactions to this book. Having used a number of beginning textbooks of Persian over the years, here is another commentary that will hopefully put this book into perspective: It is a very complete and sophisticated handbook to the grammar of Persian, arranged in progressive lessons, but it does in many places demand a knowledge of English grammar (and grammatical terminology) that exceeds what most readers have these days. Frankly, I think that this book, and particularly the grammatical descriptions/explanations in it, would be very heavy going for a true beginner at Persian, especially someone working on his/her own without a teacher or class. For the true beginner, or the independent learner, I think the tried and true "Teach Yourself Modern Persian" by John Mace, (and NOT the new book by the same title written by Narguess Farzad) offers the easiest way to become acquainted with the Persian alphabet and language in easy stages in such a way that, even working on one's own, you can make good progress and get a good feel for the structure of the language. In my view, the Thackston book is a good follow-on book for someone who has already picked up the basics from Mace. Thackston's particular strength, in my opinion, is the way he has analyzed virtually all the aspects of the language and provided very clear-cut sample sentences, always in both Persian and English, to illustrate even the finest nuances of meaning. In this regard, it is outstanding, and the sentence-examples and their translations make the points sink in well even if the explanations are a bit abstruse in terms of grammatical terminology. But unless you already have a basic grasp of the fundamentals of Persian, you may not be able to benefit so much from Thackston. In short, I think Thackston's book is marvellous as a "follow-on" textbook for people who have already picked up a basic understanding of the way the language works, but is probably a bit heavy for those just starting out. I thus recommend it as your SECOND Persian book, and I think that if you approach it in this way you will value it very highly for the way it clarifies and solidifies what you have learned from Mace.

An Introduction to Persian is intended to serve as an introduction on the elementary level to the modern Persian language. Each lesson is provided with specific exercises and drills for the major grammatical and syntactical points introduced therein. Vocabulary are included at the end of each lesson are intended for active acquisition. Specialized supplementary vocabulary lists are also scattered throughout the book. In part two of the grammar, the outstanding differences between modern and classical usage are given. In part three the distinguishing features of ordinary colloquial Persian are given. A set of 9 audio CDs which helps in learning pronunciation is available for the book (ISBN 978-1-58814-043-2).

"This long awaited text once more demonstrates Professor Thackston's mastery over the Persian language and its intricacies, both in its modern and classical form. Thackston makes Persian grammar clear and understandable. His emphasis is on the spoken and written language in today's Iran, on the Persian which is taught in schools and spoken and understood by all the different ethnic groups in Iran. This new edition is a major contribution for those involved in teaching the Persian language. It also makes the learning of Persian more accessible and enjoyable..." -- Haleh Esfandiari, Princeton University, Middle East Studies Association Bulletin. "...both meticulous and systematic, without being idiosyncratic..." -- Brian Spooner, University of Pennsylvania, AACAR Bulletin.

Language Notes Text: English, Persian

About the Author WHEELER M. THACKSTON is Professor of the Practice in Persian and Other Near Eastern Languages at Harvard University.