OBJECTIVES

unit 1

• Understanding Iran’s culture, history, and geography
• Identifying names of cities, countries, and continents
• Identifying names of Iranian provinces and cities.

module 1

• Identifying and saying numbers

module 2

• Learning about Persian script and its major characteristics
• Writing letters and symbols and their multiple forms in initial, middle, and final word positions
• Pronouncing letters and symbols

• Recognizing letters and symbols and their relation to sounds
• Identifying letters and symbols in authentic contexts

module 3

• Saying hello and goodbye
• Providing personal information
• Introducing yourself
• Using a dictionary
• Following classroom instructions
• Stating place of origin
• Understanding Iranian names and titles
Understanding Iran

OBJECTIVES

- Understanding Iran’s culture, history, and geography
- Identifying and saying numbers
- Identifying names of cities, countries, and continents
- Identifying names of Iranian provinces and cities.
Slices of Life

With a partner, share your knowledge or experience of Iran - news, travels, friends, reading, and rumors. Then, share your ideas with the class.

In groups, complete the following Iran Questionnaire of General Knowledge and Trivia. Pool your knowledge and circle the best answer(s). Don’t worry if you’re not sure about an answer and have fun!

**Iran Questionnaire**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>c</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>What is the correct pronunciation of Iran?</td>
<td>eye-ran</td>
<td>ee-ran</td>
<td>ee-ron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>What is Iran’s official language?</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Pashtu</td>
<td>Dari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>What are the main dialects of Persian?</td>
<td>Farsi</td>
<td>Dari</td>
<td>Tajiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Iran is located in …</td>
<td>The Middle East</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>What is Iran’s predominant religion?</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>Zoroastrianism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>What is the most common clothing worn by Iranian men?</td>
<td>Robe</td>
<td>Coat and tie</td>
<td>Shorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>What sort of climate does Iran have?</td>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>Arctic</td>
<td>Temperate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Iran is bigger than …</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Connecticut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>What form of government does Iran have?</td>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>Kingdom</td>
<td>Sheikdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>What’s the body of water to the south of Iran?</td>
<td>Persian Gulf</td>
<td>Arabian Gulf</td>
<td>Caspian Sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Iran’s major exports are …</td>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>Foodstuffs</td>
<td>Carpets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>What do Iranians live in?</td>
<td>Houses</td>
<td>Tents</td>
<td>High-rises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>What is the most common transportation in Iran?</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>Car</td>
<td>Bicycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>What is the acronym for Iran?</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>PRI</td>
<td>IRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>What is the official name of Iran?</td>
<td>Federation of Iran</td>
<td>People’s Republic of Iran</td>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I’ve Been There

Watch an American named Ruth and an Iranian friend talking about Ruth’s experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Iran. As you listen, circle whether the statement is True or False.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Peace Corps volunteers had six months of training in Farsi before going to Iran.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ruth was sent to a town north of Tehran.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Tafresh is a rural town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>There are lots of nice restaurants in Tafresh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Tafresh is famous for its plum trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>The other closest Peace Corps volunteers were in Arak.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>People in Tafresh watched a lot of American TV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Ruth wore a chador over her head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Ruth started a physical education program for girls in her school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>When the girls were playing outside, guards had to chase boys away from watching the girls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Tafresh has a tropical climate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Tehran has only two seasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Tehran weather changes radically from day to day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Tehran has a rather wet climate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cities & Provinces 1

Look at the map of Iran and answer the questions:

1. Name two ports in the Persian Gulf.
2. Name two cities in the Caspian Sea region.
3. What is the capital of Iran?
4. Name two cities in central Iran.
5. Name a city next to a lake in northwest Iran.
6. Can you add the names of Iran’s neighbors to the map?
Look at the map of Iran and answer the questions:

1. How many provinces are there in Iran?

2. Which province is largest?

3. Which province is smallest?

4. Name two provinces bordering the Caspian Sea.

5. Name two provinces in southern Iran.

6. Name a province in northeast Iran.

7. Name two provinces in central Iran.

8. Name a province in northwest Iran.
My Persian Survival Sentence

ABOUT YOUR PERSIAN SURVIVAL SENTENCE

Expressing Yourself - and Your Identity

Every one of us sees the world in a different way and therefore has different things to say.

When speaking a foreign language, your identity, culture, and world outlook may be expressed by the only sentence you have tried to learn.

What’s the one sentence or phrase you would like to learn to say in Persian?

Write your Survival Sentence in English first. Then, your teacher can help you learn your Persian Survival Sentence (PSS) or phrase. Some real-world samples (authentic language) follow:

/geraan ast, arzaantar bedaheed/
/*gerooneh, arzoontar bedeen/
It’s expensive, sell it for less.

/shomaa kheylee ghashang hasteed/
/*to kheylee ghashangee/
You are very beautiful.

/solh/
Peace.

/man faarssee sohbat nemeekonam/
I don’t speak (any) Persian.
Go around the class and share your PSS with one another.

Imagine you are traveling to Iran for one week.

In groups, write a list in English of the sentences and phrases you will need to know to survive this trip. Then, your teacher will help learn some of the Persian equivalents.

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**About Your Persian Survival Sentence**

*Tracking Learning Progress*

As you learn more Persian, you will be interested in other Persian expressions.

Keep track of every PSS you learn. Your PSS and phrases can serve as a learning strategy as well as a record of your progress in Persian.
Traveling to Iran

In pairs, research one topic from the Research Ideas list.

In each pair, one person should be responsible for Internet and library research and the other should be responsible for interviewing native speakers (teachers, local business owners, friends, etc.). Be prepared to report your findings in class the next day.

1. You are going to Iran as a tourist. What are you allowed to bring in and take out of the country?

2. You have been invited to Iran by an Iranian friend. Will you stay in a hotel and pay for your meals, or will you stay with the Iranian friend? If you stay with your Iranian friend, whose responsibility is it to pay for room and board?

3. You are a military officer. You are going to Iran to take humanitarian aid to an earthquake zone. Can you get by with English? How much Persian do you need to know?

4. You are in the import and export business and are going on a business trip to Iran. In considering what clothing to bring, what is okay to wear, what is frowned upon, and what is absolutely forbidden?

5. You are a university student going to study Persian in Iran. Do you need to obtain a travel visa? If so, what kind of visa do you need and where should you apply for it?
The Persian Community

Iranians in America

You may have noticed the many Iranian businesses, especially restaurants, in major cities in America.

In California, in particular, census figures show the number of Iranian immigrants at about one million, not including second generation Iranian-Americans.

One of the results of the growth of Iranian-America is that Iranians have developed their own phone book yellow pages, which you can easily get at any Iranian store.

In pairs, look at the advertisements. Guess the type of business advertising and the content of the advertisement.
سوپرمارکت چلفا
در مرکز شهر هوستان
با مدیرین خانم زیلا پاکدامن
رضایت شما بهترین پداسی ما است
* گرد آورنده کلیه مواد غذایی ایرانی
* میوه جات و سبزیجات تازه
* انواع خواربار
* خشکبار
* لوازم منزل
* ادویه جات
* نشریات و نوار کاست و ویدیو
تلفن: ۲۸۱-۵۵۰-۱۴۹۲
The Persian Community

Which Persian letters do you recognize in the advertisements?

In groups, look at the advertisements placed by societies and organizations in a copy of the Iranian yellow pages.

What can you learn about Iranians residing in the U.S. just by looking at these advertisements? Think about residents’ socio-economic status, problems or concerns, beliefs, and interests. Take notes and share your findings with the class.
Numbers 1 to 20

LANGUAGE NOTE

Script Directionality

Unlike English script, the Persian script has right to left directionality. In other words, Persian letters and words are written from right to left.

Persian numbers, however, do not follow the same convention. **Numbers are written and read from left to right** on the line of script.

Watch as numbers 1 to 20 are introduced.

Can you recall any of the numbers you heard?
Listen and read along, left to right.

Listen and circle the number you hear.

1.a. ٢١  b. ٣١  c. ٠٢
5.a. ٦١  b. ٦١  c. ۶
9.a. ٢  b. ١١  c. ۴

4.a. ٨  b. ٧  c. ٠١
8.a. ١٩  b. ٢٠  c. ١٨
10.a. ٢٢  b. ١٢  c. ۴١

7.a. ١١  b. ١٣  c. ٩١
6.a. ٢  b. ۵  c. ٠١
3.a. ١٦  b. ١٦  c. ١٥

1.b. ٢١  5.b. ٦١  9.b. ٨١
2.b. ٣  5.b. ۵١  9.c. ۶
3.b. ٠٢  5.c. ٥  9.c. ٣
The Calendar

Iran uses three calendars: The Islamic calendar (*Hejri* – هجری) marks 621 A.D. as year one, which is the date that the prophet Mohammad migrated from Mecca to Medina.

There are two different *Hejri* calendars - the more commonly used solar calendar (called *Hejri-e Shamsi* – هجری شمسی) and the lunar calendar (*Hejri –e Qamari* – هجری قمری) used mostly for religious events.

The first day of each Iranian month is around the 21st day of an American month. For example, February 26 would usually correspond to the 5th day of *Esfand* on the Iranian calendar.

The Iranian new year usually starts around March 21. In the press, you will often see the two *Hejri* dates and the Gregorian calendar (Western) date.

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In English, write the numbers which appear in the daily newspaper.

١٩٦٤

٧٨ فروردین

١٣٨٢

١٧ آوریل

٢٠٠٣

Write the Persian page numbers that are missing from the different sections of a 20-page Iranian newspaper. (The numbers are not in order.)
Listen to the short dialog between a customer and a fruit stand vendor. Answer the questions.

1. How much did the watermelon weigh?
2. How many kilos of grapes did the customer ask for?
3. How many hours does it take to drive to Shiraz?

Answer the questions.

1. What is the building number for the School of Education?
2. What is the building number for the School of Persian Language?
In pairs, one student should read each license plate number (click here to view). Read left to right by single digits, going from top to bottom, ignoring any letters.

The other student should fill in the blank license plates.

Check your answers.

Listen to the answering machine message regarding a change in a doctor’s appointment. Write the two Persian numbers you hear in the order you hear them.

1.

2.
Numbers 20 to 100

Listen as the numbers are introduced.

Listen again. Can you recall any of the numbers you heard?

Read the numbers aloud.
In pairs, take turns counting by tens from 10 to 100.

Listen and circle the number you hear.

1.a. ۴١ 4.a. ۹٩ 7.a. ۱٤ 10.a. ۱۰٠
b. ۴١ b. ٩۶ b. ٠٦ b. ٠١
c. ۴۲ c. ٩٩ c. ۶۶ c. ١

2.a. ۴١ 5.a. ۱۵ 8.a. ۱٧
b. ۱١ b. ۰٠ b. ٧٠
c. ۱٢ c. ۰١ c. ۷٧

3.a. ۸٥ 6.a. ۱۲ 9.a. ۱٩
b. ۸٨ b. ۰٣ b. ١٩
c. ۸٣ c. ۱٣ c. ٠٩

Listen to the short dialogs. Answer the questions that follow each.

1. Conversation between two friends: How old will Ahmad be tomorrow?
2. Conversation between a couple: How many years ago did the couple meet?
3. Conversation between a couple: How many kilos of rice did the woman ask her husband to buy?
4. Conversation between cabbie and passenger: How much does the cabbie want?
5. Conversation between two friends: What’s Sirous’ street number?
Listen. What are the missing numbers in the license plates? Remember, Persian numbers are written and read left to right.

In pairs, check your answers.

What do you notice about license plates in Iran? Compare them to U.S. license plates.
Numbers 100 to 1,000

Listen as the numbers are introduced.

Listen again. Can you recall any of the numbers you heard?

Listen to your teacher and read along.
In pairs, take turns counting by hundreds from 500 to 1000.

In pairs, one student should count by tens from 600 to 700. The other student should count by tens from 700 to 800.

Listen and circle the number you hear.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>٣٥٢</td>
<td>٥٢٢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>۸٤٧</td>
<td>٨٧٨</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>٨٧٨</td>
<td>٩١٩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>۵٤٧</td>
<td>٣٨٧</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>۵٢٥</td>
<td>٥٤٤</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>٣٣٢</td>
<td>٣٣٢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>٨٧٧</td>
<td>٧٧٧</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In pairs, take turns reading the numbers aloud while checking your answers.

In pairs, take turns reading aloud the telephone numbers on these signs. Click here to view. The other student should listen and write the numbers.

Remember, seven-digit telephone numbers are read three digits at a time. Six-digit telephone numbers are read two digits at a time.
On line 1, write your name, date of birth, phone number, street number, and a made-up social security number in Persian.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birthdate</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Street Number</th>
<th>(Fake) SSN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>اسم شما چیست؟ /esme shomaa cheest? / /*esmet cheeye?/</td>
<td>تاريخ تولدتان چیست؟ /taareekhe tavalodetaan cheest?/ /*taareekhe tavalodet cheeye?/</td>
<td>شماره تلفنتان چیست؟ /shomaareye telefonetaan cheest?/ /*shomaareye telefonet cheeye?/</td>
<td>شماره خانه تان چیست؟ /shomaareye khaanetaan cheest?/ /*shomaareye khoonat cheeye?/</td>
<td>کد ملی شما چیست؟ /kode meleeye shomaa cheest? / /*kode meleet cheeye?/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

Go around the room, asking for and writing your classmates’ information. Use Persian in both speaking and writing.
Watch people counting money as they pay for things. What numbers are being used to count?

Listen and read along.

Watch the food menu. In English, write down all the numbers you see. Now with a friend take turns in reading in Farsi the numbers you wrote down in English.

In pairs, take turns reading in Persian the numbers you wrote.
Watch people counting money as they pay for things. Although you may not understand everything, listen for the answers to the questions.

1. Clip #1: What is the highest number mentioned?

2. Clip #1: What is the Persian word for *thousand*?

3. Clip #1: What is Persian currency called?

4. Clip #2: How much money did the woman give the cashier?

5. Clip #3: How much money in total did the woman give the cashier?

6. Clip #4: How much did the customer pay?

7. Clip #4: How many tomans do you think each bill is worth?
Read the names of the selected states on the U.S. map.
In pairs, read the names of major world cities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persian</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. رم</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. شیکاگو</td>
<td>پاریس</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. مادرید</td>
<td>لوس آنجلس</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. تهران</td>
<td>نیویورک</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. لندن</td>
<td>سنفرانسیسکو</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In pairs, rewrite the names of the cities in English.

1. ﺳﯿﺎ | سینا
2. ﺗﯿﺮ | بین
3. ﺣﺎرک | ایران
4. ﺗﯿﭙان | عراق
5. ﻷاسترا | پایه

In pairs, compare answers and rewrite the names of the cities in English.

Listen to the names of continents and countries. Fill in the missing letter(s). Use the appropriate shape of the letter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persian</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ﺳﯿﺎ</td>
<td>سینا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. ﺗﯿﺮ</td>
<td>بین</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. ﺣﺎرک</td>
<td>ایران</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. ﺗﯿﭙان</td>
<td>عراق</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ﻷاسترا</td>
<td>پایه</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In pairs, compare answers and rewrite the names of the cities in English.
Match the cities with the locations marked on the map.

In pairs, compare answers.
Listen as the speaker says the names of some major Iranian provinces and read along.

فارس گیلان لرستان خوزستان کردستان فارس
گیلان خراسان خوزستان کردستان مازندران
زنجان کرمان

In pairs, identify these provinces on the map of Iran.
Listen as the speaker says the names of some major Iranian cities. Fill in the missing letter. Use the appropriate shape of the letter.

1. براز
2. زبر
3. اصفهان
4. آستارا
5. اشتر
6. شهد
7. راک
8. تارنا
9. پاسو
10. ندرعباس

Using the classroom map for assistance, match these cities with the locations marked on the map.
Close your books. Watch with the sound off as a teacher points out areas on the map. Focus on the regions and areas where the pointer rests.
In groups, look at your map and decide which cities the teacher pointed out. Check ✓ the cities you agree were pointed out.

Watch again, this time with the sound on. In Persian, write the names of the cities you hear. Match these with those you previously marked on the map.

What words and phrases did the speaker use for north, south, and northeast?

Using your completed map, report your group’s findings to the class.