

Arabic Curriculum

ARABIC ALPHABET

- There are 28 letters in the Arabic alphabet.
- Arabic is written from right to left.
- Arabic is cursive; all letters must be connected to each other, except the non-connecting letters, which are connected to the preceding letter only.
- Arabic letters change shape according to their position (beginning, middle, end) in the word.
- There is no capitalization in the Arabic language.
- All letters are consonant, except 3 letters that will act as long vowels under certain conditions. Long vowels are pronounced twice as long as short vowels.
- There are 6 vowels in the Arabic language; 3 short ones and 3 long ones.
- The Arabic alphabet has a glottal stop called hamzah it is represented by a sign. Some scholars consider it to be the 29 th letter of the alphabet.
- A double consonant is indicated by the mark shddah ّ , the shaddah must be accompanied by a short vowel.
- A letter with the sukūn mark ْ means the letter is unvoweled.
- A letter with double short vowel mark at the end of a word means the word is pronounced with an n sound at the end.
- In Arabic texts, the short vowels are usually not written, as the reader becomes familiar with the Arabic language this represents no difficulty. The exception to unvoweled text is the holy book “Quran” where every vowel is written.

The Arabic Alphabet

الحروف الهجائية العربية

Name	Sound	Symbol	End	Midle	Initial	Stand Alone
alif n.c	ā in “dad”	ā	ا	ل	ا	ا
bāʾ	b in “book”	b	ب	ـبـ	بـ	ب
tāʾ	t in “take”	t	ت	ـتـ	تـ	ت
thāʾ	th in “thing”	t̤	ث	ـثـ	ثـ	ث
jīm	j in “judge”	j	ج	ـجـ	جـ	ج
ḥ	it has no equivalent English sound	ḥ	ح	ـحـ	حـ	ح

ḥāʾ	it has no equivalent English sound	ḥ	ح	حـ	ح	ح
dāl n.c	d in “dad”	D	د	دـ	د	د
ḍāl n.c	th in “that”	ḍ	ذ	ذـ	ذ	ذ
raʾ n.c	r in “row”	R	ر	رـ	ر	ر
zāy n.c	z in “zebra”	Z	ز	زـ	ز	ز
sīn	s in “sack”	S	س	سـ	س	س
shīn	sh in “shot”	sh	ش	شـ	ش	ش
ṣād	it has no equivalent English sound	ṣ	ص	صـ	ص	ص
ḍāḍ	it has no equivalent English sound	ḍ	ض	ضـ	ض	ض
ṭāʾ	it has no equivalent English sound	ṭ	ط	طـ	ط	ط
ẓāʾ	it has no equivalent English sound	ẓ	ظ	ظـ	ظ	ظ
aʿyn	it has no equivalent English sound	ʿ	ع	عـ	ع	ع

ḡayn	it has no equivalent English sound	ḡ	غ	غ	غ	غ
fāʾ	f in “fat”	f	ف	ف	ف	ف
qāf	it has no equivalent English sound	q	ق	ق	ق	ق
kāf	k in “black”	k	ك	ك	ك	ك
lām	l in “leg”	l	ل	ل	ل	ل
mīm	m in “man”	m	م	م	م	م
nūn	n in “noon”	n	ن	ن	ن	ن
hāʾ	h in “hat”	h	ه	ه	ه	ه
wāw n.c	w in “war”	w	و	و	و	و
yāʾ	y in “yet”	y	ي	ي	ي	ي
hamzah		ʾ	ء	*	أ	ء

n.c : non-connecting letters.

* can take different form depending on vowels و ن ا

Vowels

	Short Vowels	Long Vowels	Tanween
letter/symbo name sound	◌َ fatiḥa a as "hat"	ا alif ā as "dad"	◌ً tanween an
letter/symbole name sound	◌ِ kasrah i as "sit"	يَ yā' ī "seed"	◌ٍ tanween in
letter/symbole name sound	◌ُ dammah u "put"	و waw ū "shoot"	◌ٌ tanween un

The alif works as a long vowel when preceded by a letter with a fatiḥa.

The yā' works as a long vowel when preceded by a letter with a kasrah.

The waw works as a long vowel when preceded by a letter with a dammah.

There are three additional marks that helps with the correct pronunciation of Arabic words:

First is madda $\bar{\text{I}}$ and it is written on top of the alif to indicate a longer sound, instead of writing 2 alifs (ا ا).

Second is sukun $^{\circ}$, to indicate that the letter has no vowels, so to emphasis the letter we make a brief pause.

Third is the shddah $^{\text{w}}$, and it is used to give a double sound to the letter. For example wasal and wssal وصل و وصل

Sounds of voweled letters

أصوات الحروف

أ un	أو ū	أ u	إ in	إي ī	إ i	آ an	آ ā	أ 'a
ب nbu	بو bū	ب bu	ب bin	بي bī	ب bi	بآ ban	بآ bā	ب ba
ت tun	تو tū	ت tu	ت tin	تي tī	ت ti	تآ tan	تآ tā	ت ta
ث ṭun	ثو ṭū	ث ṭu	ث ṭin	ثي ṭī	ث ṭi	ثآ ṭan	ثآ ṭā	ث ṭ
ج jun	جو jū	ج ju	ج jin	جي jī	ج ji	جآ jan	جآ jā	ج ja
ح ḥun	حو ḥū	ح ḥu	ح ḥin	حي ḥī	ح ḥi	حآ ḥan	حآ ḥā	ح ḥa
خ ḫun	خو ḫū	خ ḫu	خ ḫin	خي ḫī	خ ḫi	خآ ḫan	خآ ḫā	خ ḫa
د dun	دو dū	د du	د din	دي dī	د di	دآ dan	دآ dā	د da
ذ ḍun	ذو ḍū	ذ ḍu	ذ ḍin	ذي ḍī	ذ ḍi	ذآ ḍan	ذآ ḍā	ذ ḍa
ر run	رو rū	ر ru	ر rin	ري rī	ر ri	رآ ran	رآ rā	ر ra
ز zun	زو zū	ز zu	ز zin	زي zī	ز zi	زآ zan	زآ zā	ز za
س sun	سو sū	س su	س sin	سي sī	س si	سآ san	سآ sā	س sa
ش shun	شو shū	ش shu	ش shin	شي shī	ش shi	شآ shan	شآ shā	ش sha
ص ṣun	صو ṣū	ص ṣu	ص ṣin	صي ṣī	ص ṣi	صآ ṣan	صآ ṣā	ص ṣa
ض ḍun	ضو ḍū	ض ḍu	ض ḍin	ضي ḍī	ض ḍi	ضآ ḍan	ضآ ḍā	ض ḍa

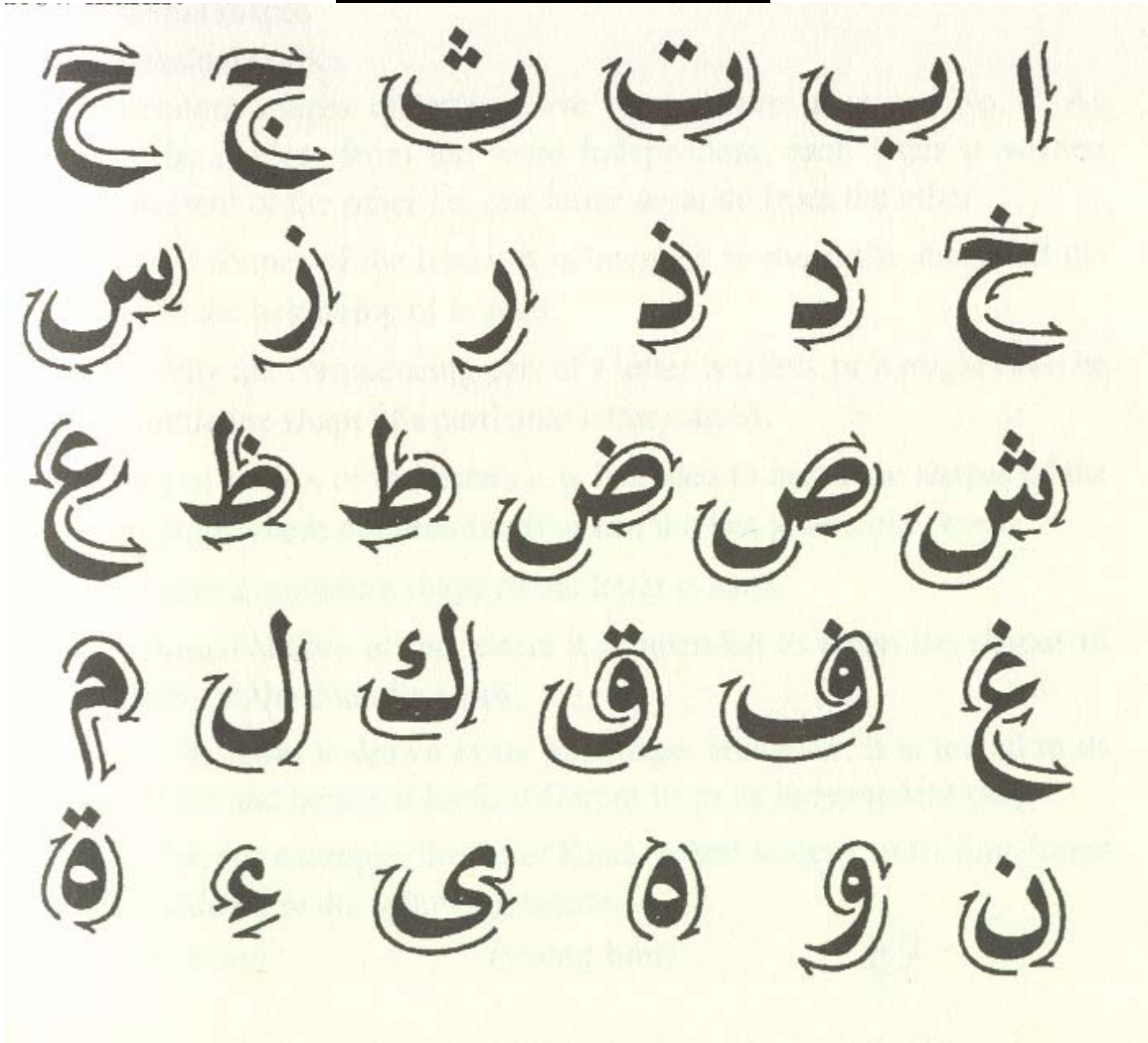
ḍun	ḍū	ḍu	ḍin	ḍī	ḍi	ḍan	ḍā	ḍa
طُن	طُو	طُ	طِن	طِي	طِ	طَان	طَا	طَا
ṭun	ṭū	ṭu	ṭin	ṭī	ṭi	ṭan	ṭā	ṭa
ẓun	ẓū	ẓu	ẓin	ẓī	ẓi	ẓan	ẓā	ẓa
ظُن	ظُو	ظُ	ظِن	ظِي	ظِ	ظَان	ظَا	ظَا
ʿun	ʿū	ʿu	ʿin	ʿī	ʿi	ʿan	ʿā	ʿa
عُن	عُو	عُ	عِن	عِي	عِ	عَان	عَا	عَا
ḡun	ḡū	ḡu	ḡin	ḡī	ḡi	ḡan	ḡā	ḡa
غُن	غُو	غُ	غِن	غِي	غِ	غَان	غَا	غَا
fun	fū	fu	fin	fī	fi	fan	fā	fa
qun	qū	qu	qin	qī	qi	qan	qā	qa
قُن	قُو	قُ	قِن	قِي	قِ	قَان	قَا	قَا
kun	kū	ku	kin	kī	ki	kan	kā	ka
لُن	لُو	لُ	لِن	لِي	li	lan	lā	la
mun	mū	mu	min	mī	mi	man	mā	ma
نُن	نُو	نُ	نِن	نِي	ni	nan	nā	na
hun	hū	hu	hin	hī	hi	han	hā	ha
wun	wū	wu	win	wī	wi	wan	wā	wa
yun	yū	yu	yin	yī	yi	yan	yā	ya
يُن	يُو	يُ	يِن	يِي	يِ	يَان	يَا	يَا

Letters with no English Equivalent

Although the following letters don't have an English equivalent, the sound of some of them can be similar if not exact to some sounds in the English/ French/German language

Sound	symbol	letter
No equivalent sound	ħ	ح
As ch in German nacht	ħ	خ
As s in toss	ş	ص
As d in dot	đ	ض
As t in flat	ţ	ط
As th in those	ţ	ظ
No equivalent sound	‘	ع
As r sound in French	ğ	غ
No equivalent sound	q	ق

How to write the Arabic Letters



The last 2 characters “ء” , “ة” are not part of the alphabet.

The following website can be of great help in learning the Arabic alphabet
www.madinaharabic.com

Counting

number	masculine	feminine	مؤنث	مذكر
1	Walad waḥid	Bint waḥida	بنت واحدة	ولد واحد
2	Waladān iṭṭnan	Bintan iṭṭnatān	بنتان إئتنان	ولدان إئتان
3	ṭalāṭatu 'awlād	ṭalāṭu banāt	ثلاث بنات	ثلاثة أولاد
4	'arba'atu 'awlād	'arba'u banāt	أربع بنات	أربعة أولاد
5	ḥamsatu 'awlād	ḥamsu banāt	خمس بنات	خمسة أولاد
6	Sitatu 'awlād	Situ banāt	ست بنات	سنة أولاد
7	sab'atu 'awlād	sab'u banāt	سبع بنات	سبعة أولاد
8	ṭamānīatu 'awlād	ṭamānī banāt	ثمانى بنات	ثمانية أولاد
9	tis'atu 'awlād	tis'u banāt	تسع بنات	تسعة أولاد
10	'ashratu 'awlād	'ashru banāt	عشر بنات	عشرة أولاد
11	aḥad 'ashra waladan	iḥdā 'ashrata bintan	أحدى عشرة بنتاً	أحد عشر ولداً
12	iṭṭnā 'ashra waladan	iṭṭnatā 'shrata bintan	إئتنا عشرة بنتاً	إئنا عشر
13	ṭalāṭata 'ashra waladan	ṭalāṭa 'shrata bintan	ثلاث عشرة بنتاً	ثلاثة عشر ولداً
14	'arba'ata 'ashra waladan	'aba'a 'shrata bintan	أربع عشرة بنتاً	أربعة عشر ولداً
15	ḥamsata 'ashra waladan	ḥamsa 'shrata bintan	خمس عشرة بنتاً	خمسة عشر ولداً

16	Sitata 'ashra waladan	Sita 'shrata bintan	ست عشرة بنتاً	سنة عشر ولداً
17	sab'ata 'ashra waladan	sab'a 'shrata bintan	سبع عشرة بنتاً	سبعة عشر ولداً
18	tamanīta 'ashra waladan	tamanī 'shrata bintan	ثماني عشرة بنتاً	ثمانية عشر ولداً
19	tis'ata 'ashra waladan	tis'a 'shrata bintan	تسع عشرة بنتاً	تسعة عشر ولداً
20	'ishrun 'ashra waladan	'ishrun bintan	عشرون بنتاً	عشرون ولداً
21	waḥidun wa 'ishrun waladan	iḥdā wa 'ishrun bintan	أحدى و عشرون بنتاً	واحد و عشرون ولداً
22	itnāni wa 'ishrun waladan	itnatā wa 'ishrun bintan	إثنتا و عشرون بنتاً	إثنان و عشرون ولداً
23	ṭalāṭatun wa 'ishrun waladan	ṭalāṭun wa 'ishrun bintan	ثلاث و عشرون بنتاً	ثلاثة و عشرون ولداً
24	'arba'tun wa 'ishrun waladan	'arba'un wa 'ishrun bintan	أربع و عشرون بنتاً	أربعة و عشرون ولداً
25	ḥamsatun wa 'ishrun waladan	ḥamsun wa 'ishrun bintan	خمس و عشرون بنتاً	خمسة و عشرون ولداً
26	Sitatun wa 'ishrun waladan	Situn wa 'ishrun bintan	ست و عشرون بنتاً	سته و عشرون ولداً

27	sab'atun wa 'ishrun waladan	sab'un wa 'ishrun bintan	سبع و عشرون بتاً	سبعة و عشرون ولداً
28	ṭamaniātu wa 'ishrun waladan	ṭamani wa 'ishrun bintan	ثماني و عشرون بتاً	ثمانية و عشرون ولداً
29	tis'atun wa 'ishrun waladan	tis'un wa 'ishrun bintan	تسع و عشرون بتاً	تسعة و عشرون ولداً
30	ṭalāṭun waladan	ṭalāṭun bintan	ثلاثون بتاً	ثلاثون ولداً
40	'arba'un waladan	'arba'un bintan	أربعون بتاً	أربعون ولداً
50	ḥamsun waladan	ḥamsun bintan	خمسون بنت	خمسون ولداً
60	Situn waladan	Situn bintan	ستون بتاً	ستون ولداً
70	sab'un waladan	sab'un bintan	سبعون بتاً	سبعون ولداً
80	ṭamānun waladan	ṭamānun bintan	ثمانون بتاً	ثمانون ولداً
90	tis'un waladan	tis'un bintan	تسعون بتاً	تسعون ولداً
100	mi'atu waladin	mi'atu bintin	مئة بنت	مئة ولد

A boy	ولداً / ولدًا
2 boys	ولدان
3 or more boys	أولاد
A girl	بنت/بتاً
2 girls	بتان
3 or more girls	بنات

Question Words

When "hal" is placed in front of a sentence it will change the sentence into a yes/no question.	hal?	هل؟
What?	mā?	ما؟
What?	mādā?	ماذا؟
Where?	'ayn?	أين؟
When?	matā?	متى؟
How much?	kam?	كم؟
Why?	limādā?	لماذا؟
Who?	man?	من؟
How	kayfa	كيف؟
Which?	'ayy?	أي؟

Pronouns

As in the English language pronouns can refer to first person, second person or third person, they can also be independent or attached to the word, however in Arabic there are 3 categories when it comes to the number of persons the pronoun is referring to; single, dual and plural.

Independent Pronouns -Singular

He	huwa	هو
She	hiyya	هي
You – masculine	'anta	أنتَ
You – feminine	'antī	أنتِ
I	'anā	أنا

Pronoun Suffixes-singular possessive

His book	kitābuhu	كِتَابُهُ / ُهُ
Her book	kitābuhā	كِتَابُهَا / ِهَا
Your book - masculine	kitābuka	كِتَابُكَ / ُكَ
Your book - feminine	Kitabuki	كِتَابُكِ / ِكِ
My book	Kitabī	كِتَابِي / ِي

The bold letters indicate the pronoun suffix.

Tenses

There are 3 tenses in the Arabic language:

- Past or perfect tense, to indicate a completed action. Using the verb “kāna” (was or were) in its appropriate form at the beginning of the sentence can change the action into past tense.
- Present or imperfect tense, to indicate an action that is taking place now. It can also indicate present continuous or future depending on what words are used with it, for example using the word “sawfa” or adding the letter “sīn” to the beginning of the present tense verb or using the word “tomorrow” in the sentence changes the tense into the future. Adding the word “now” to the sentence will make it present continuous.
- Command tense.

Verb Conjugation

In Arabic language the verb must agree with its subject in number, gender and person.

Singular present

(he) goes	yaḏhab	يذهب
(she) goes	taḏhab	تذهب
(I) go	'aḏhab	أذهب
(You masculine) go	taḏhab	تذهب
(you feminine) go	taḏhabīn	يبن تذه

Singular Past

(he) went	ḏhaba	ذَهَبَ
(she) went	ḏhabat	ذَهَبَتْ
(I) went	ḏhabt	ذَهَبْتُ
(You masculine) went	ḏhabta	ذَهَبْتَ
(you feminine) went	ḏhabti	ذَهَبْتِ

Singular Future

(he)will go	sayāḏhab	سيذهب
(she)will go	sataḏhab	ستذهب
(I)will go	sa'aḏhab	سأذهب
(You masculine)	sataḏhab	ستذهب
(you feminine)	sataḏhabīn	ستذهين

The bold letters indicate the pronoun marker.

Present Continuous

He is playing now	Huwa yal'abul ān	هو يلعب الآن
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Command form

(you masculine) Go	idhab	إذهب
(you feminine) Go	idhabī	إذهبي

Negation

The boy plays.	الولد يلعب Alwalad yal'b	لا lā
The boy doesn't play.	الولد لا يلعب Alwalad lā yal'b	
Don't play.	لا تلعب Lā tal'b	
The boy will not play.	الولد لن يلعب Alwalad lan yal'b	لن lan
The boy didn't play.	الولد لم يلعب Alwalad lam yal'b ما لعب الولد Mā la'b alwalad	لم - ما mā-lam
The boy is not here.	ليس الولد هنا Laysa alwalad huna	ليس laysa
The girl is not here.	ليست البنت هنا laysat albint huna	ليست laysat
I am not here.	أنا لست هنا 'anā lastu huna	لست last

Nothing		لا شيء lāshy'
No one		لا أحد Lā 'aḥad
Never		أبدًا abadan