#### Short vowels and diacritics





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## In this lesson you will learn:

- The names, shapes, and pronunciation of the 3 short vowels
  - Doubled forms
  - How to transliterate them into a Latin alphabet
- Two important diacritics and their function: (šadda), <sup>1</sup> (wasla)

Prerequisite: you can identify and read the letters of the Arabic alphabet

### Recap: Long vowels

Long vowel	Transliteration		
1	ā		
و	ū		
ي	ī		

### Long and short vowels

Long vowel	Transliteration	Short vowel	Name	Transliteration
١	ā		fatḥa	а
و	ū	<i>۹</i> 	ḍamma	u
ي	Ī	·····	kasra	i

Note: short vowels are always placed above or below a consonant that is pronounced directly before it.

## Examples

- فَتحَة، كَسرَة، مَلِكَ Fatha:
- سُكون، مُلوك، كُتُب :Þamma•
- فِقه، كِتَاب، مَلِكَ :Kasra •

#### Doubled short vowels

- Written as two short vowels above each other (fatha and kasra) or next to each other (damma)
- Pronounced as a short vowel followed by an "-n" sound: e.g., fathatan, kitābun, malikin
- Only written at **end** of word
- Indicates indefinite nouns and adjectives; never used with nouns and adjectives that have the definite article – じ



## The Tā' marbūța <sup>5</sup> revisited

 General rule: marks a short "a" (fatha) sound at end of word, unless followed by a short vowel, in which case it is pronounced "at"+ short vowel

 Within a sentence, tā' marbūţa will almost always be pronounced as "at" because it will be followed by a short vowel. Out of context or at the end of a sentence, it will usually be pronounced as "a" (technically, it is silent).

#### Diacritics: šadda and wasla

# ័ šadda

- Written above consonant
- Indicates doubled consonant
- Can (and almost always does) take a short vowel

Examples:



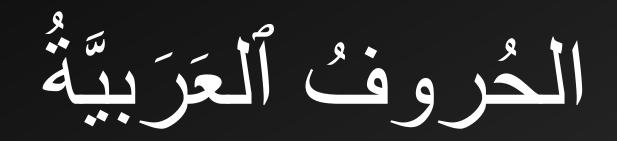
# ر (waṣla)

- A small sād written above the alif to indicate elision
- Most often seen with the alif of the definite article (-الل) when it is not in sentence initial position

Example:



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