

The Arabic Alphabet

الحروف العربية

In this lesson you will learn:

- The shapes of the letters (consonants, long vowels)
 - independent, initial, medial, and final forms
- Pronunciation
- Transliteration into Latin alphabet

ا̄ Ālif

الف	Ālif	ā
initial:	medial:	final:
اب	باب	هنا / معنى

- Attaches **only** to previous letter
- Sometimes special form (ālif maqṣūrā) at end of certain words: معنى
- Special form when following ل (lām): لا

ب Bā'

باء	Bā'	b
initial:	medial:	final:
بيت	نبي	طيب

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as:
 - ت (tā')
 - ث (ṭā')
 - ن (nūn) (initial and medial forms)
 - ي (yā') (initial and medial forms)

ت Tā'

تاء	Tā'	t
initial:	medial:	final:
تحت	اجتمع	بيت

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as:
 - ب (bā')
 - ت (tā')
 - ن (nūn) (initial and medial forms)
 - ي (yā') (initial and medial forms)

ث Tā'

ثاء	Tā'	t
initial:	medial:	final:
ثقافة	كثير	حيث

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as:
 - ب (bā')
 - ت (tā')
 - ن (nūn) (initial and medial forms)
 - ي (yā') (initial and medial forms)

ج Ğīm

جيم	ğīm	ğ
initial:	medial:	final:
جن	نجم	تاج

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as:
 - ح (ḥā’)
 - خ (ḫā’)

ح Ḥā'

حاء	Ḥā'	ḥ
initial:	medial:	final:
حمد	صحيح	صحيح

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as:
 - ج (ǧīm)
 - خ (ḥā')

ح Ḥā'

خاء	ḥā'	ḥ
initial:	medial:	final:
خالد	فخر	فرخ

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as:
 - ج (ǧīm)
 - ح (ḥā')

د Dāl

دال	dāl	d
initial:	medial:	final:
دخول	مدرسة	بريد

- Attaches **only** to previous letter
- Same “shell” as: د (dāl)

ذ Dāl

ذال	dāl	d
initial:	medial:	final:
ذالك	هذا	أستاذ

- Attaches **only** to previous letter
- Same “shell” as: د (dāl)

ر Rā'

راء	ra'	r
initial:	medial:	final:
ر ب	مركز	مدیر

- Attaches **only** to previous letter
- Same “shell” as: ز (zayy)

ز Zāy

زاي	zāy	z
initial:	medial:	final:
زيارة	منزلة	مركز

- Attaches **only** to previous letter
- Same “shell” as: ر (rā’)

س Sīn

سين	sīn	s
initial:	medial:	final:
سمع	فلسفة	شمس

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: ش (šīn)

ش šīn

شین	šīn	š
initial:	medial:	final:
شمس	مشكلة	عرش

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: س (sīn)

ص Ṣād

صاد	ṣād	ṣ
initial:	medial:	final:
صباح	مصدر	خص

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: ض (ḍād)

ض Dād

ضاد	ḍād	ḍ
initial:	medial:	final:
ضرورة	مضرع	فرض

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: ص (ṣād)

ط Ṭā'

طاء	ṭā'	ṭ
initial:	medial:	final:
طريقة	مطعم	خط

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: ظ (ẓā')

ظ zā'

ظاء	zā'	z
initial:	medial:	final:
ظرف	حظيظ	حظيظ

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: ط (ṭā')

ع^ء ayn

عين	ء ayn	ء
initial:	medial:	final:
عربي	بعد	منع

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: غ (ğayn)

ع Gayn

غين	gayn	g̣
initial:	medial:	final:
غرب	بغداد	بلغ

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: ع (‘ayn)

ف Fā'

فاء	fā'	f
initial:	medial:	final:
فتح	مفتاح	الف

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: ق (qāf) (but only for **initial** and **medial** forms)

ق Qāf

قاف	qāf	q
initial:	medial:	final:
قرآن	ثقافة	فوق

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: ف (fā’) (but only for **initial** and **medial** forms)

ك Kāf

كاف	kāf	k
initial:	medial:	final:
كتاب	مكتبة	ملك

- Attaches to previous and next letter

ل Lām

لام	lām	ا
initial:	medial:	final:
ليلة	ملك	قليل

- Attaches to previous and next letter

م Mīm

ميم	mīm	m
initial:	medial:	final:
ملك	شمس	مطعم

- Attaches to previous and next letter

ن Nūn

نون	Nūn	n
initial:	medial:	final:
نبي	معنى	جن

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as:
 - ب (bā’) (initial and medial forms)
 - ت (tā’) (initial and medial forms)
 - ث (ṭā’) (initial and medial forms)
 - ي (yā’) (initial and medial forms)

ه Hā'

هاء	hā'	h
initial:	medial:	final:
هذا	سهل	فقه

- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as: ة (tā' marbūta) (**independent** and **final** forms)

و Wāw

وو	Wāw	w, ū
initial:	medial:	final:
وزير	صورة	لو

- Consonant or long vowel
- Attaches **only** to previous letter

ي Yā'

ياء	Yā	y, ī
initial:	medial:	final:
يمن	بيت	نبي

- Consonant or long vowel
- Attaches to previous and next letter
- Same “shell” as:
 - ب (bā') (initial and medial forms)
 - ت (tā') (initial and medial forms)
 - ث (tā') (initial and medial forms)
 - ن (nūn) (initial and medial forms)

Bonus Round: Special Letters

ة Tā' marbūṭa

تاء مربوطة	Tā' marbūṭa	-t/-a
		final:
		مرة / مكتبة

- Only appears at end of word
- Same “shell” as: ه (ha) (**independent** and **final** forms)

ء Hamza

همزة	hamza	'
Above or below ا	Above و	Above ي
أب، إن	تنبؤ	نائم

- Glottal stop
- Never attaches to another letter; instead written above or below

The Arabic Alphabet

الحروف العربية

The Arabic Alphabet

الْحُرُوفُ الْعَرَبِيَّةُ

مع سلامة!