

Arabic alphabet and word list

There are twenty-eight letters in the Arabic alphabet. Remember, Arabic is read from right to left.

Name Of Letter	Contextual forms			Sound	Pronunciation
	Beginning	Middle	End		
Alif	ا	ا	ا	A	As in 'father' or 'Amsterdam'
Baa	ب	ب	ب	B	As in 'bag' or 'bad'
Taa	ت	ت	ت	T	As in 'tag' or 'top'
Tha	ث	ث	ث	Th	As in 'north', 'teeth' or 'three'
Jeem	ج	ج	ج	J	As in 'jeans' or 'jelly'
Ha	ح	ح	ح	H	an 'h' sound made in your throat with a lot of air. Sharp H as in the name Hassan or 'Bach'. It's close to the same noise one makes when one breathes onto one's sunglasses for cleaning.
Kha	خ	خ	خ	Kh	Kh pronounced from the front of the throat like the j in Spanish. This is the <i>ch</i> sound in German <i>doch</i> or Scottish <i>loch</i> and similar to the Spanish <i>g</i> in <i>gente</i> .
Dal	د	د	د	D	As in 'dog' or 'dad'
Dhal	ذ	ذ	ذ	Dh	As 'th' in 'this', 'there' or 'this'
Ra	ر	ر	ر	R	As in 'rag' or 'roll'. (always roll r)
Zein	ز	ز	ز	Z	As in 'zoo' or 'zebra'
Seen	س	س	س	S	As in 'sun' or 'sight'
Sheen	ش	ش	ش	Sh	As in 'sheep' or 'shoes'
Sad	ص	ص	ص	S	A strong 's' as in 'song' or 'Sahara' (low and deep s). This is an emphatic s. To pronounce it, hold your tongue down in the bottom of your mouth and say <i>psalm</i> .
Dad	ض	ض	ض	DD	This is the emphatic <i>d</i> . To pronounce it, press your tongue down into the bottom of your mouth and say <i>dock</i> . A strong 'd' like the 'd' in 'don't' or 'Don' (deep and hard d)
Ta	ط	ط	ط	TT	A strong t like the 'tight' (deep and strong t). To pronounce it, press your tongue down in the bottom of your mouth and say <i>talk</i> .
Za	ظ	ظ	ظ	Th	To pronounce it, press your tongue down into the bottom of your mouth and say <i>the all</i> as a single word connecting the <i>th</i> sound and <i>all</i> . As th in 'thus'.
Ayn	ع	ع	ع	"A	This is hard to pronounce, so you can pronounce it as A in English. And is known as the <i>strangled vomit sound</i>
Ghayn	غ	غ	غ	Gh	If you can say the 'French' 'r' as in "au revoir" 'Paris' or <i>rue</i> , although it is generally written as <i>gh</i> when translated into English although this bears NO resemblance to English <i>gh</i> whatsoever. It is written as <i>gh</i> as to not confuse it with the regular <i>r</i> that Arabic also has.
Fa	ف	ف	ف	F	As in 'father' or 'fat'
Qaf	ق	ق	ق	Q	To make this sound, pronounce a <i>k</i> but generate it far back in your throat, almost as if you are going to gargle.. As in "Qatar" strong 'q' but a little sharper, from the back of your throat.
Kaf	ك	ك	ك	K	As in 'kitty' or 'kick'
Lam	ل	ل	ل	L	As in 'lemon' or 'lick'
Meen	م	م	م	M	As in 'mouse' or 'might'
Noon	ن	ن	ن	N	As in 'nose' or 'night'
Ha	ه	ه	ه	H	As in 'his' or 'hat'
Waw	و	و	و	w	As in w in 'wall' and oo 'school' (long vowel letter) or 'wish'
Ya	ي	ي	ي	y	As in y in 'yellow' and ee 'eel' as (long vowel letter)

The *harakat*, which literally means "motions", are the short vowel marks for the vowel sounds: ˘ Fatha (a short line above the word)

This gives an 'a' sound pronounced as in 'sun'. ˙ Damma This gives the 'u' sound pronounced as in 'soot'. ˘ Kasra (a short line below the word) This gives the 'i' sound pronounced as in 'sit'.