Frank A. Rice
(Instructor, Foreign Service Institute)

CLASSICAL ARABIC - THE WRITING SYSTEM

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CLASSICAL ARABIC . THE WRITING SYSTEM

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CLASSICAL ARABIC  .  THE WRITING SYSTEM

0. Arabic is customarily written and printed in a special alphabet of its own, called the Arabic alphabet, consisting of 28 LETTERS and a number of SIGNS. Some of the salient features of this alphabet are as follows:

1. Arabic is written and printed from right to left.
2. Normally only the consonants and the long vowels are indicated.
3. There are no capital letters.
4. The manner of writing is cursive and most of the letters are connected to preceding and following letters within the same word.
5. Most of the letters have three or more variant shapes, depending on whether they are connected to preceding and/or following letters or not.
6. Some letters are identical in basic form and are distinguished from one another by small dots.
7. The system of writing described here is the handwriting commonly used in the Syrian area. In other parts of the Arab world, and in Iran, the handwriting styles vary from slightly to considerably different. Printing types also vary, some being quite complex and ornate.

1. The alphabet
The following list shows the letters of the Arabic alphabet in the shape they have when they stand alone, that is, not connected to a preceding or following letter. This is the order of the alphabet adopted by most dictionaries. The signs will be discussed later.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usual sound value</th>
<th>Arabic name</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>د, aa</td>
<td>ٰلٰفٰ</td>
<td>ل</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>bٌلٌاٌرٌ</td>
<td>ب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>tٌلٌاٌرٌ</td>
<td>ت or ث</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Arabic name</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
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<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>jīm</td>
<td>ٍ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>hā'</td>
<td>ُ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>xā' / kā'</td>
<td>ُ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>dāal</td>
<td>ٌ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ð</td>
<td>ðāl</td>
<td>َ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>rā'</td>
<td>ُ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>zā'ay</td>
<td>ُ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>sīn</td>
<td>س or ش</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñ</td>
<td>šīn</td>
<td>ش or ش</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ś</td>
<td>sā'ad</td>
<td>ص</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ð</td>
<td>dā'ad</td>
<td>ض</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ŏ</td>
<td>tā'ah</td>
<td>ط</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñ</td>
<td>gā'ah</td>
<td>ظ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ŋ</td>
<td>āyn</td>
<td>ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñ</td>
<td>āyn</td>
<td>غ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>fā'ah</td>
<td>ف</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q</td>
<td>qā'af</td>
<td>ق or ٣</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Usual sound value | Arabic name | Arabic Letter
---|---|---
\(k\) | káaf | 
\(\ell\) | láam | \(\ell\)
\(m\) | míim | \(\m\)
\(n\) | núun | \(\n\)
\(h\) | háa\(\breve{}\) | \(\h\) or \(\h\)
\(\digamma, \upsilon\) | wáaw | \(\w\)
\(\upsilon, \iota\) | yáa\(\breve{}\) | \(\y\) or \(\y\)

The following shows the Arabic letters in their alphabetical order and written from right to left. Note the placing of the letters relative to the line of writing.

إب ت ث ج ح خ د ز ر س ش ص ض

ل ظ ج ف ك ل م ن و ي

2. The following 6 letters are NON-CONNECTORS. They do not form a cursive linking to a following letter, though they do connect to a preceding letter other than another non-connector.

\(\acute{\alpha}\)lif is characteristically a vertical stroke

\(\breve{\alpha}\)dal

\(\ddot{\alpha}\)dlal is exactly like dalal, but with one dot above it.

\(\breve{\alpha}\)ráa

\(\ddot{\alpha}\)záay is exactly like ráa\(\breve{}\), but with one dot above it

\(\acute{\alpha}\)wáaw
3. Short vowels

dárasa دَرَسَ dáракا دَرَكَ
wárada وَرَدَ ráqa ráقَ
wázara وَزَرَ wádaʕa وَزَعَ
wárəsə وَرَسَ wázana وَزَنَ

All the above words show the sign َـ fāṭrah above each consonant letter. This sign indicates that each consonant is followed by the vowel a.

wúzina وْرِزَنَ wúrəqa وْرِيْقا
wúzira وْرِبَرَ wúdə qa وْرِعَ
ráziqa رَزِقَ dárika دَرِيْكا
wúrida وْرِدَ dárisa دَرِيْسا

All the above words show the sign ْ dāmmah above the first consonant letter. This sign indicates that the consonant is followed by the vowel u.

All these words also show the sign ـ kāsurah below the second consonant letter. This sign indicates that the consonant is followed by the vowel i.

4. Long vowels

zálə láث sáqa شَاقَ
zárə rارَ sáta شَاتَ
záda رادَ raja راِجَ
dána نانَ ráfa ráفَ
All the above words show a consonant with the sign ﻨ fāṭmah immediately followed by an ﯽ alif. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel aa.

rūmu

زووح

rūmu

زووح

záru

زور

záru

زور

dāru

دور

dāru

دور

dāju

دور

All the above words show a consonant with the sign ﻩ dāmmah immediately followed by a ﻟ wāaw. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel uu.

wáadii

وايدي

wáadii

وايدي

dáarii

دايري

dáarii

دايري

All the above words show a consonant with the sign ﻃ kāshrah immediately followed by a ﻱ yā?. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel ii.

zága

زاغ

dāra

دار

dāma

دام

wāsa

واس

ráma

رام

záaba

زةاب

ráqa

رقة

ráma

رام
5. َذَلِكْ مَاكْسُورَة

wáraa  

ráraa  ّ

dáwaay  ِ

wádaay  ّ

dáaraay  ّ

rádaay  ّ

rawaa  ّ

All the above words show a consonant with the sign َ – fātihah immediately followed by an undotted َyā’. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel َa. This way of indicating the long vowel َa occurs only at the end of a word. It is called َذَلِكْ مَاكْسُورَة. You will have to learn individually the words that are written with َذَلِكْ مَاكْسُورَة instead of with َذَلِك (cf. Section 4) as there is no general rule to follow.

6. Nu’ation

rudúudun  ٌ

dáarun  ّ

dúwalun  ّ

wáaridun  ّ

wurúudun  ّ

wáraqun  ّ

wáariθun  ّ

zawáalun  ّ

wadáaθun  ّ

dawáamun  ّ

All the above words show the sign َ – dammátáan ‘two dammahs’ above the last consonant. This sign indicates the ending َun. This sign is also written as ‘’ and ‘’. 
All the above words show the sign  'kasratān 'two kasrahs' below the last consonant. This sign indicates the ending -in.

All the above words show the sign  'fatḥatān 'two fatḥahs' above the last consonant. This sign indicates the ending -an. The sign  'fatḥatān usually occurs with an  ُálif, as in these examples. Note that here the letter  ُálif does not indicate the long vowel aa.

The n of these endings as well as this method of indicating it is called NUNATION; the Arabic term is tānwiʿīn. Nunation occurs only at the end of a word.

The above words show the sign  'fatḥatān over a consonant that is immediately followed by an undotted  َ kāf yāʾ. You will have to learn the relatively few words that are written this way instead of with an  ُálif, as there is no general rule to follow.
7. sukūn

 ráy  
 ráyy  
 dárbun  
 ráyy  
 wáznum  
 záwjun  
 dáwrún  
 wárdun

All the above words show the sign sukūn above the second consonant. This indicates that the consonant has no following vowel. This sign is also called jāzmah.

8. Šáddah

ráddada  
 ráddada  
 dábbun  
 ráddada  
 wáddun  
 záwwaja  
 záwwaja  
 dálā  
 zuwwārun  
 zuwwārun  
 dábbun  
 wázzaːa  
 wázzaːa  
 rábbun

All the above words show the sign Šáddah over the second consonant. This sign indicates that the consonant is doubled. The process of doubling a consonant is called tašādīd and this term is also used to refer to the sign.
9. Non-connectors following another letter

The letter ج lāam, when connected to a following letter only, has the form جٰ. This letter will be discussed in detail in Section 14.

1. l connected to d

ládaa لَدَا ládaa لَدَّا
wáladun وَلَدُن wáladun وَلَدَن

2. l connected to ُؤ

ládaa لَدَا ládaa لَدَّا
ládaa لَدَا ládaa لَدَّا
lášaba لَذَبَا lášaba لَذَّبَا
lášima لَذَمَي lášima لَذَّمَي

3. l connected to r

lírábbín لَيْرَبِّن lírábbín لَيْرَبِّن
líráqín لَيْرَقِّي líráqín لَيْرَقِّي
líraqín لَيْرَقِّي líraqín لَيْرَقِّي

4. l connected to z

láziima لِزَيْي láziima لِزَيْي
lizáman láznél láznél لَنَزَل

5. l connected to w

láů láů láwnun láů láwnun
láwwaů láů láwnun láů láwnun
6. 1 connected to ُلْلَفَ has a special form

زَالَلْا ٌلْا
دُوَالَلْ ٌلْاَمَا
دَالَالْلَمْ ٌلَاَزَمَا

10. Connected letters

Most of the letters have three or more variant shapes, depending on their position in a sequence of letters, that is, whether they stand at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of the sequence, or stand alone. Many letters, when standing at the end of a sequence or alone, have a variant with a flourishing final stroke. The variant with the flourish is often quite different from the other variants of the same letter.

In the following sections each letter will be taken up separately and the variant shapes will be given in the following order.

1. Connected to the following letter only.
2. Connected to the preceding and following letters.
3. Connected to the preceding letter only.
4. Standing alone.

11. The letter ﻃْسِن is characteristically a series of three upward pointed strokes. In handwriting the three upward strokes are usually omitted and the letter is a horizontal straight line.

1. ﻃٰns connected to the following letter only

سُدْنِدْمٰن ٍسَرْرَا
سْبِسْعَا ٍسَأْوَاا
سْبِسْرَا ٍرَسْدُلْمٰن
2. -s- connected to the preceding and following letters

lisiráaţin  لیسیرا ج لیسانن
lisúuqin  لیسو ق لیسادا
lisáddin  لیسد لیساه

3. -s connected to the preceding letter only

dállassa  دالس لیسسا
lássa  لیسسا
dássasa  داسسسا

4. s standing alone

lawwásun  لوا سن سادیسن
durúsun  دورو سن دارسن

Additional examples.

ساع م دم دارح م سابغ شورت م سووق م
12. The letter ج١- شين has the same basic form as the letter ج٣- سين, but with the addition of three dots above it. In handwriting the dots are usually connected, forming a small tent-like mark.

1. ـ connected to the following letter only

ج١- الدات ج٢- دالتا ج٣- نا لآرزة
ج٣- دارت ج٢- دارعت ج٢- دارع
ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارعت ج٢- دارع

2. ـ ـ ـ connected to the preceding and following letters

ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارعت ج٢- دارع
ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارعت ج٢- دارع
ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارعت ج٢- دارع

3. ـ ـ ـ connected to the preceding letter only

ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارع
ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارع
ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارع

4. ـ ـ ـ standing alone

ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارع
ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارع
ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارع

Additional examples.

ج٢- ن٣- دارت ج٣- دارت ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارت
ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارت ج٢- دارت
13. The letter ك kāf is characteristically a vertical stroke with a slanting line connecting to the top from the right.

1. k- connected to the following letter only

kādāa  

kārrama  

wākadal  

2. -k- connected to the preceding and following letters

sukūtin  

lākaṣa  

sākara  

3. -k connected to the preceding letter only

sīkakun  

wāṣkun  

4. k standing alone

dāraka  

sāraka
5. kāf plus ʾālif has a special form

rukkābun  

sakkān

Additional examples.

Additional examples.

The letter لām is characteristically a vertical stroke. It differs from ʾālif chiefly by connecting to a following letter.

1. ـ connected to the following letter only

láūūa  

láw

láwnin

lázima

láma

váladan

2. ـ connected to the preceding and following letters

sulūkun  

silkun

sálisa  

ráasalaa

sílāsān  

sálaka
3. -l connected to the preceding letter only

ráasala  رَاسَلا sál  سَل
rúsulin  رُسُلٍ sálá  سَلَل

4. l standing alone

rasúulun  رَسُولَ لَن dálla  دَلَّا
dúwalin  دُوَلَ لَن záala  زَالَا

5. láam immediately preceded by káaf has a special form

šáklun  شَكْلَ لَن kúllu  كُلُّ لَن
šáakilun  شَاكِلَ لَن kaláamun  كَلَاامُ عِن
kálada  كَلَدَا šákkalaa  شَكْكَالَا

Additional examples.

15. The letter ïmim is characteristically a small circle, often merely a dot or a downward break in the line.

1. m- connected to the following letter only

márkazun  مَرْكَزٍ máwridun  مَاوْرِيْدُن
2. -m- connected to the preceding and following letters

Simālan

lāmmaa

kamāa

mamāaliku

Sāmsun

sāmman

3. -m- connected to the preceding letter only

lām

sūmmun

mawsimun

sāllama

rāsmin

lākum

4. m standing alone

marsumun

salāamun

lāma

kirāamun

Additional examples.

māsīllī

ṣūklūr

ṣawād

līnāda

Iblīs
16. The letter بـbāˀ is characteristically an upward tooth-like stroke with one dot below it.

1. بـb connected to the following letter only

bāāarat  بـبـبـ بـبـبـ bikhun  
balāaƣun  بـبـبـ بـبـبـ barlamāani  
bādwan  بـبـبـ بـبـبـ bilāadun  

2. بـb connected to the preceding and following letters

lābisa  لـبـ لـبـ kūbraa  
kibāarun  لـبـ لـبـ sūbulin  
sābbaan  صـبـ صـبـ mubāaširun  

3. بـb connected to the preceding letter only

mārkabun  مـبـ مـبـ sābabin  
sālbin  سـبـ سـبـ rākiba  

4. بـb standing alone

bāabun  بـبـ بـبـ dārban  
šāriba  شـبـ شـبـ kāššaba  

Additional examples.
17. The letter ٌ yáa? is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with two dots below it. In handwriting the two dots are usually connected, forming a short horizontal stroke.

1. y- connected to the following letter only

\[\text{sadbidun } \quad \text{yáwmun} \]
\[\text{yákùunu } \quad \text{yadúuru} \]
\[\text{yusallimduña } \quad \text{barfadun} \]
\[\text{yasúuduḥu } \quad \text{yaz fidu} \]

2. -y- connected to the preceding and following letters

\[\text{sáyyidun } \quad \text{yadmiiyya} \]
\[\text{miiláadun } \quad \text{láysa} \]
\[\text{maydáníun } \quad \text{kabírurun} \]

3. -y connected to the preceding letter only

\[\text{káy } \quad \text{rasmiyyun} \]
\[\text{malakíyyun } \quad \text{yármi} \]
\[\text{maalíyyin } \quad \text{siyáasiyyun} \]

4. y standing alone

\[\text{markaziyyin } \quad \text{baládiyyun} \]
\[\text{wuddíyyun } \quad \text{yádrii} \]
\[\text{bašariyyun } \quad \text{baráyyun} \]
18. The letter ن nun is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with one dot above it.

1. -n- connected to the following letter only

násadín  

násara t  

názala  

nuwaabbun  

nawásáin  

nála  

našáatún  

názará  

2. -n- connected to the preceding and following letters

yanziláma  

yánšuru  

mánzilin  

banáahu  

munáasíbun  

mándúubun  

3. -n- connected to the preceding letter only

yúmkiminu  

mín  

sákana  

báyna  

lán  

mákkana
4. n standing alone

múduni

bayáanun

miizán nin

5. The sequence written as nb is often pronounced as mb, as follows:

minbarun or mimbarun

yánbusu or yámbusu

dánbun or dambun

Additional examples.

نُعْ

نَيْبَن

نَيَبَّن

نَيَبَّن

سَلاصُ

سَلاصُ

سَلاصُ

سَلاصُ

19. The letter ﺕَﺕ- tā is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with two dots above it. In handwriting the two dots are usually connected, forming a short horizontal stroke.

1. t- connected to the following letter only

tadbiirun
taláwna

támma
tamáaman

táškuru
tílka
2. \(-t-\) connected to the preceding and following letters

mátaa  
\[\text{تَمْتَدُّ}\]

tašáriku  
\[\text{دَوْلَتُانِ}\]

yatímmu  
\[\text{تَتْرُكُ}\]

yátláru  
\[\text{تَتْرَكُ}\]

3. \(-t\) connected to the preceding letter only

támmat  
\[\text{نَالْتَ}\]

káanat  
\[\text{دُرِّسَتُ}\]

lástu  
\[\text{تَرَكَتُ}\]

báytúnn  
\[\text{كَانتُ}\]

4. \(t\) standing alone

sayyaardátn  
\[\text{دِكِّيرَتُ}\]

márrat  
\[\text{زَرْتُ}\]

záadat  
\[\text{sَيَدَاتُ}\]

kalimáatin  
\[\text{وَدَدَتُ}\]
Additional examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>نَلْتُ</th>
<th>نَلْتُ</th>
<th>نَلْتُ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>دَوْلَتْ</td>
<td>تَنَكَّنَ</td>
<td>تَنَكَّنَ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>لَيَتْ</td>
<td>رَنِيتَ</td>
<td>رَنِيتَ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تَدَبِّر</td>
<td>تَدَرْ</td>
<td>تَدَرْ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>رَأَتْ</td>
<td>رَأَتْ</td>
<td>رَأَتْ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. The letter ْذ - داً is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with three dots above it. In handwriting the three dots are usually connected, forming a tent-like mark.

1. ْذ- connected to the following letter only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>دَاَمِنْن</th>
<th>دَاَمِنْن</th>
<th>دَاَمِنْن</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>نَأَيْن</td>
<td>نَأَيْن</td>
<td>نَأَيْن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ثَنَأ</td>
<td>ثَنَأ</td>
<td>ثَنَأ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دَأَمُ</td>
<td>دَأَمُ</td>
<td>دَأَمُ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دَأَبَتْ</td>
<td>دَأَبَتْ</td>
<td>دَأَبَتْ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>دَأَبَتْ</td>
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<tr>
<td>دَأَبَتْ</td>
<td>دَأَبَتْ</td>
<td>دَأَبَتْ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. ْذ- connected to the preceding and following letters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>دَمِؤْوَلْن</th>
<th>دَمِؤْوَلْن</th>
<th>دَمِؤْوَلْن</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>دَمِؤْلَن</td>
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</tr>
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<td>دَمِؤْلَن</td>
<td>دَمِؤْلَن</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. ْذ connected to the preceding letter only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>دَأَثْأ</th>
<th>دَأَثْأ</th>
<th>دَأَثْأ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>دَأَثْأ</td>
<td>دَأَثْأ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>دَأَثْأ</td>
<td>دَأَثْأ</td>
<td>دَأَثْأ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. ๐ standing alone

lāwwā-ra
wāriθa

wāariθin
yāriθu

Additional examples.

Lūnā
Thaib

Wūnhū
Nasūnūn

21. The letter ๐ há? does not have any one characteristic form.

1. ḥ- connected to the following letter only

bilāduhāa
hiya

hāammin
hūnaa

šahābulu
hunāaka

2. -h- connected to the preceding and following letters

lá-hāa
Sāhrun

yuhīmmu
tašhīdīyyun

māshūrān
tahtāmmu

láhum
bihaa
3. -h connected to the preceding letter only

našaráthu
sallamáthu
mínhu
láhu
málikuhu
yášbahu

4. h standing alone

banáahu
murfúurihi
yasúuduhu
yákrahuhu

Additional examples.

22. táa? marbútah

siyáasatan
dáwlatun
báriyāratun
nášratun
sayyāratun
wisáaratun
tamhiidīyyatan

kálimatin
muddatan
mashuratun

madinatun

All the above words end in the composite letter ð tāʾ marbūṭah, which is composed of the letter  o hāʾ plus the two dots of the letter  tāʾ. This composite letter represents the phoneme t. The tāʾ marbūṭah occurs only at the end of a word. Note that the sign  fatmatāʾan is placed immediately above the ð tāʾ marbūṭah, with no accompanying ʾálif (cf. Section 6).

Additional examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>لْبِرَةَ</th>
<th>بِنَةَ</th>
<th>مَدَةَ</th>
<th>سَدْنَةَ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>لْبِرَةَ</td>
<td>بِنَةَ</td>
<td>مَدَةَ</td>
<td>سَدْنَةَ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23. hāmzah with ʾálif

The sign ṣ hāmzah represents the phoneme  a . It is characteristically a small hook-like figure and often appears together with an accompanying ʾ á līf, as in the following examples. Note that in such cases the ʾ á līf merely serves as a support for the ṣ hāmzah and does not indicate the long vowel aa. The writing of hāmzah is taken up in detail in Section 36.

1. hāmzah at the beginning of a word

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ʾisrāʾifun</th>
<th>ʾán</th>
<th>ʾaʾsāʾ</th>
<th>ʾadāʾ</th>
<th>ʾinna</th>
<th>ʾislām</th>
<th>ʾisāʾ</th>
<th>ʾaʾwāli</th>
<th>ʾādāʾa</th>
<th>ʾāmsi</th>
<th>ʾābāʾa</th>
<th>ʾūn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>ʾán</td>
<td>ʾaʾsāʾ</td>
<td>ʾadāʾ</td>
<td>ʾinna</td>
<td>ʾislām</td>
<td>ʾisāʾ</td>
<td>ʾaʾwāli</td>
<td>ʾādāʾa</td>
<td>ʾāmsi</td>
<td>ʾābāʾa</td>
<td>ʾūn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All the above words show the sign ﻋ hámzah with an accompanying َ ¯ َ alif. Note that in these words the phoneme َ is (1) at the beginning of a word and (2) is immediately followed by a short vowel. Note that the sign ﻋ hámzah is above the َ alif if the following vowel is a or u, and below it if the following vowel is i.

2. hámzah in the middle of a word

tás'alu
mas'alatun
bádát
sa'áltu
ta'ákkada

rā'yun
sá'nun
rā'san
ta'minun
ta'kidun

All the above words show the sign ﻋ hámzah over an َ alif. Note that in these words the phoneme َ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is either preceded or followed by short a — but not by i or u.

Additional examples.

اَلَّذِي
إِبْتَدَأَتْ
إِذَا
إِنْتِيَارًا

24. The letter ﻓ fā is characteristically a small loop with a single dot above it.

1. ﻓ- connected to the following letter only

ffihaa
fāasat
2. \(-f-\) connected to the preceding and following letters

káfalat

\(\text{lūfta}^{\prime}\)

yafúuzu

náfsihi

\(\text{ṣafira}^{\prime}\)

saffirun

\(\text{ṣafira}^{\prime}\)

alfáṣūm

\(\text{ṭafāhum}^{\prime}\)

tafáhum

3. \(-f\) connected to the preceding letter only

\(\text{ṣa}^{\prime}\)

tāta\(\text{ṣallafu}^{\prime}\)

\(\text{ṣa}^{\prime}\)

sáalifun

\(\text{kāllaf}^{\prime}\)

tālif

\(\text{kāllaf}^{\prime}\)

tālif

\(\text{ṣa}^{\prime}\)

tā\(\text{ṣallafin}^{\prime}\)

\(\text{ṣa}^{\prime}\)

\(\text{ṣa}^{\prime}\)

tā\(\text{ṣallafin}^{\prime}\)

\(\text{ṣa}^{\prime}\)

4. \(-f\) standing alone

\(\text{sāwfa}^{\prime}\)

\(\text{kāafin}^{\prime}\)

\(\text{sāwfa}^{\prime}\)

\(\text{iṣrāafun}^{\prime}\)

\(\text{iṣrāafun}^{\prime}\)

Additional examples.
25. The letter َّ qáaf is basically a small loop like ُّ fáa? but with two dots above it.

1. q- connected to the following letter only

qád ُّ qáama
qáddama ُّ qaráaran
qábla ُّ qúwwatun
firqatun ُّ sárqan

2. -q- connected to the preceding and following letters

ّálqaa اَلْقَى taqáddamat
taqfírühum ُّ istíqláalun
maqáalátíthi ُّ alqáwlu

3. -q connected to the preceding letter only

sábaqa ُّ wáafaqa
٦انْقَعْ anfîqun ُّ sáabîqun
tafîqîn ُّ wîttáfaqa

4. q standing alone

mawáfâqun ُّ wîttifâaqun
yufárquq ُّ sáqa
٦انْقَعْ aswâaqun ُّ nifâaqun
Additional examples

26. The letter ٢ jīm is characteristically a wedge-shaped letter with one dot below it. Note that a preceding letter connects to it from above and to the right.

1. j- connected to the following letter only

jadădatun  جَدِيَّةٌ jibāalun  جَبَالٌ
járaa  جَرَى jiddan  جَدَّةٌ
jalsátuhaa  جَلْسَتْهَا wa?ajāabahu  وَاجَابَهُ
?istá?jara  إِسْتَجْرَ  jawfiyyun  جَوْفَيْيَنٍ

2. -j- connected to the preceding and following letters

tattăjihu  نَشَأَّهُ natfiyatin  نَفْتَيِّيْنٍ
fayajlisûuna  كَيْلَٰلُونَ lájnatun  لَاجَنْتَنٍ
?aljálsatu  أَجْلَسْتُهَا ?almájlisu  أَلْمُجِّلِسُ

3. -j connected to the preceding letter only

barnáamaju  النَّآمِجُ nasifijin  نَسْفَيْيَنٍ
tawfiyin  النُّوْمِ yûntiju  يُنْنُيْيَنٍ
muntajin | tadrijun  
---|---
watazawwaja | tadarrujun  
yanfarju | mansuujin

Additional examples:

| دَرْبَتْ | أَذْنِبْنِي  
| قَرِينِي | بَيِّنْهُ  
| بَيْعُونِي | أَمْرِهِ  
| جَناحُ | يُضْجِبْنِي

27. The letter ذ máṣa is exactly like ج jīm but has no dots.

1. ذ- connected to the following letter only

| mizbihi | närbus  
| håttaa | madfiğun  
| håmalat | iqtiqarabatun  
| naflatuhum | rukhumatun

2. ذ- connected to the preceding and following letters

| tanfuddhu | almárákatu  
| ?almur dubious | wabánağat  
| tuxibbu | albáñru

3. -m connected to the preceding letter only

tásmamu

mánana

tasálluhun

4. m standing alone

IFTÁTHA

RÁSHRH

IFTITÁTHUN

Additional examples.

28. The letter خ xáa? is exactly like ج jiim but with one dot above it.

1. m- connected to the following letter only

al'axbáaru

áxbáaru

áxását

rájíyátun

zábarun

xiláafan

?axíran

zarájaa
2. 

\(-x-\) connected to the preceding and following letters

bixáryn
sayárxu

\(\text{?ittáxa\text{o}at}\)
\(\text{?intáxaba}\)

muxtálifatun
\(\text{?alxáas\text{s}u}\)

3. 

\(-x-\) connected to the preceding letter only

taarílixun
šáyxun

\(\text{šámaxa}\)
tarsílixin

yársuxu
máslaxun

4. \(x\) standing alone

\(\text{šúyúluxun}\)
\(\text{?árraxa}\)

\(\text{?áxun}\)
rusúluxin

Additional examples.

\(\text{?áíámír\text{s}a}\)
\(\text{?áíhmú\text{n}a}\)
\(\text{?áímhír\text{f}a}\)
\(\text{?áímír\text{k}i}\)

29. máddah

ra?áahu
\(\text{?aa\text{á}áaru\text{n}}\)
\(\text{?ara\text{á}}\)
؟القُرآنُ ِالْقُرآنُ ِالْقُرآنُ

تَآۡسُرْ َتَآۡسُرْ َتَآۡسُرْ

بَدَآ ِبَدَآ ِبَدَآ

آۡثَنَآآ ِآۡثَنَآآ ِآۡثَنَآآ

؟الْقُرآنُ ِالْقُرآنُ ِالْقُرآنُ

تَآۡسُرْ َتَآۡسُرْ َتَآۡسُرْ

بَدَآ ِبَدَآ ِبَدَآ

آۡثَنَآآ ِآۡثَنَآآ ِآۡثَنَآآ

All the above words show the sign — ma’dah over an ‘af. This composite letter indicates the sequence ‘a followed by the long vowel aa. This method of indicating the sequence ‘aa is used when the phoneme ‘a is (1) at the beginning of a word or (2) is within a word and preceded by a consonant or by the vowel a.

Additional examples.

آۡثَنَآآ ِآۡثَنَآآ ِآۡثَنَآآ

تَآۡسُرْ َتَآۡسُرْ َتَآۡسُرْ

بَدَآ ِبَدَآ ِبَدَآ

آۡثَنَآآ ِآۡثَنَآآ ِآۡثَنَآآ

30. The letter َِّ يَْ يَْ يَْ yáyn is characteristically a small flattened loop.

1. َِّ يَْ يَْ يَْ connected to the following letter only

dَغَتْ ِدَغَتْ ِدَغَتْ

عَادَتْ ِعَادَتْ ِعَادَتْ

مَعَّدَتْ ِمَعَّدَتْ ِمَعَّدَتْ

عَربَتْ ِعَربَتْ ِعَربَتْ

عَلَى ِعَلَى ِعَلَى

يُعَّلَن ِيُعَّلَن ِيُعَّلَن

رَبَعَن ِرَبَعَن ِرَبَعَن

مَرَبَعَن ِمَرَبَعَن ِمَرَبَعَن

ذَرَعَن ِذَرَعَن ِذَرَعَن

ذَرَعَن ِذَرَعَن ِذَرَعَن

ذَرَعَن ِذَرَعَن ِذَرَعَن
2. -١- connected to the preceding and following letters

\[\text{١} \text{العربية} \quad \text{يعرفون} \]
\[\text{١} \text{تاعونا} \quad \text{تعاوننا} \]
\[\text{١} \text{تاعيش} \quad \text{تعيش} \]
\[\text{١} \text{بعد} \quad \text{بعد} \]
\[\text{١} \text{تاعود} \quad \text{تعود} \]

3. -١- connected to the preceding letter only

\[\text{١} \text{مع} \quad \text{مع} \]
\[\text{١} \text{قَبَلَ} \quad \text{قبل} \]
\[\text{١} \text{ما} \quad \text{ما} \]

4. -١- standing alone

\[\text{١} \text{نَبَذَع} \quad \text{نبذع} \]
\[\text{١} \text{نَعَرَ} \quad \text{نعر} \]
\[\text{١} \text{ما} \quad \text{ما} \]

Additional examples.

\[\text{١} \text{إِذَا} \quad \text{إذًا} \]
\[\text{١} \text{فَعَلَتْ} \quad \text{فعلت} \]
\[\text{١} \text{يُعْقِدُ} \quad \text{يعقَدُ} \]
\[\text{١} \text{إِلَّا} \quad \text{إلا} \]
31. The letter  د gáyn is exactly like  ن fáyn but with one dot above it.

1. ـgconnected to the following letter only

gádan

gaʃaʃa

grba

2. ـg connected to the preceding and following letters

lugatuŋ

magluṭuŋ

yugliqu

3. ـg connected to the preceding letter only

mabaaliŋu

tafriŋuŋ

4. ـg standing alone

faraŋa

saaŋa

Additional examples.
32. The letter ٧ tāʾ is characteristically an egg-shaped loop with a vertical stroke above it.

1. ٧ connected to the following letter only

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{wāṭanun} & \quad \text{ṭarīquhu} \\
\text{ṭabiṣīyyan} & \quad \text{ṭāṭlaqa} \\
\text{ṣataqa} & \quad \text{ṭayyaaráátun}
\end{align*}
\]

2. ّ connected to the preceding and following letters

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{súlṭatun} & \quad \text{taṭáwwuran} \\
\text{ṣaitaa} & \quad \text{maṭáarun} \\
\text{yaqṭaṣuhaa} & \quad \text{maḥáṭtatun}
\end{align*}
\]

3. ّ connected to the preceding letter only

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{fāqat} & \quad \text{náftun} \\
\text{alwásātu} & \quad \text{xáṭtun} \\
\text{muṣītun} & \quad \text{ṣaláwṣaṭu}
\end{align*}
\]

4. ّ standing alone

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{lišārtin} & \quad \text{ṣinsítáṭun} \\
\text{našáṭin} & \quad \text{xuṭúṭtun} \\
\text{ṣaqláṭun} & \quad \text{ṣahárta}
\end{align*}
\]
Additional examples.

33. The letter َؤِ is exactly like َؤِ ْؤُ but with one dot above it.

1. َؤِ connected to the following letter only

\begin{align*}
\text{ذَّلْلَهْنَ} & \quad \text{ذَّلْلَهْنَ} \\
\text{ثَٰقَة} & \quad \text{ثَٰقَة} \\
\text{مَفْتَعَة} & \quad \text{مَفْتَعَة} \\
\text{تَّلَلَّكَ} & \quad \text{تَّلَلَّكَ} \\
\text{تَلْبَيْنَ} & \quad \text{تَلْبَيْنَ} \\
\text{تَلْبَيْنَ} & \quad \text{تَلْبَيْنَ} \\
\text{قَلْبَيْنَ} & \quad \text{قَلْبَيْنَ} \\
\text{عَذَّبَيْنَ} & \quad \text{عَذَّبَيْنَ} \\
\end{align*}

2. َؤِ connected to the preceding and following letters

\begin{align*}
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\end{align*}

3. َؤِ connected to the preceding letter only

\begin{align*}
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\text{ذَٰلِكَ} & \quad \text{ذَٰلِكَ} \\
\end{align*}
4. ّ standing alone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>نَفَظُ</th>
<th>نُفَظُ</th>
<th>مُفَظُ</th>
<th>مُفَظُ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ُخُفاَمُ</td>
<td>ُخُفاَمُ</td>
<td>ُخُفاَمُ</td>
<td>ُخُفاَمُ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>مَظْحُبُ</th>
<th>تَمْمُتُ</th>
<th>نَعْضُمُ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>مَظْحُبُ</td>
<td>تَمْمُتُ</td>
<td>نَعْضُمُ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

34. The letter ﯽ سَاد is characteristically a small egg-shaped loop with a small tooth-like mark following the loop.

1. ّ- connected to the following letter only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>اَلْعَاصِيَةُ</th>
<th>ﯽجَادِرِاتُونَ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ﯽصُحَّ</td>
<td>ﯽحُمَّرُ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ﯽضَلْتُ</td>
<td>ﯽلَاُشْبَاهُ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. ّ- connected to the preceding and following letters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ﯽإِفْتَصَارِيَّةِ</th>
<th>ﯽتَضْرِيماً</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ﯽمَسَايِغُ</td>
<td>ﯽيَتْطَالَا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ﯽالْعَضْرُ</td>
<td>ﯽمَاشْدَارُ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ﯽتَفْتَرِيماً</th>
<th>ﯽعِضْنِا</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ﯽمَشْدُرُ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. -ق connected to the preceding letter only

\[ \text{قَصَّرُ} \quad \text{قَصِّرُ} \]

\[ \text{قَصَّرُ} \quad \text{قَصِّرُ} \]

4. -ق standing alone

\[ \text{قَصِّرُ} \quad \text{قَصِّرُ} \]

\[ \text{قَصِّرُ} \quad \text{قَصِّرُ} \]

Additional examples.

\[ \text{قَصِّرُ} \quad \text{قَصِّرُ} \]

\[ \text{قَصِّرُ} \quad \text{قَصِّرُ} \]

35. The letter ض ذاد is exactly like ص ساءd but with one dot above it.

1. -ذ connected to the following letter only

\[ \text{ذَدُن} \quad \text{ذَذُن} \]

\[ \text{ذَدُن} \quad \text{ذَذُن} \]

\[ \text{ذَدُن} \quad \text{ذَذُن} \]

\[ \text{ذَدُن} \quad \text{ذَذُن} \]

\[ \text{ذَدُن} \quad \text{ذَذُن} \]

2. -ذ connected to the preceding and following letters

\[ \text{ذَذَا} \quad \text{ذَذَا} \]

\[ \text{ذَذَا} \quad \text{ذَذَا} \]

\[ \text{ذَذَا} \quad \text{ذَذَا} \]

\[ \text{ذَذَا} \quad \text{ذَذَا} \]

\[ \text{ذَذَا} \quad \text{ذَذَا} \]
3. -؟ connected to the preceding letter only

bāḍun ِبُعْضٍ ِبارِفٌ
mādīa ِمَضْنَ ِمُقِذٌ ِ

4. ـٌ standing alone

?aráśin ِأَرَضٍ ِبارِذٌ
ta?árruḍun ِتُعُرَضٍ ِمُقِرِذٌ

Additional examples.

قَرْضٌ ِقُعَرَضٍ
مُضْرَ ِمُقِضَرٌ
مَرْضَا ِمُقَرِضٌ

36. hámzah

This section takes up in detail the discussion of the sign ـ hámzah that was begun in Section 23. The sign ـ hámzah, which represents the phoneme ـ, may occur alone or together with one of three other letters. How it is written in any given word depends upon (1) where the phoneme ـ comes in the word and (2) what vowel or vowels precede and/or follow it.

The letter with which the sign ـ hámzah occurs is called the kúrsiyy 'seat' of the hámzah. There are three such seats, as follows:

1. An undotted ك yáa?
2. A و wáaw
3. An ـ أ réálif

A fourth way is hámzah alone without a seat.
These four ways of writing the sign ـ hāmzah are taken up in the following sections (36.1-5). Note that the letters used as seats have no sound value.

36.1 hāmzah with yāа?

1. ـ in the middle of a word

laajidʒuna

yuḥaddiŋuna

nataajiju

n’aaiibun

qaa’imun

sūAMILAT

sūAMILAT

biirun

zi’tu

raa’iisun

ri’aasatan

All the above words show the sign ـ hāmzah above an undotted ڭ yāа.
Note that in these words the phoneme ـ is (1) in the middle of a word
and (2) is preceded or followed by the vowel i.

2. ـ at the end of a word

ṣawaa’ti’u

lāajii’un

hāadi’a

xāti’a

yūbṭi’u

All the above words show the sign ـ hāmzah above an undotted ڭ yāа.
Note that in these words the phoneme ـ is (1) the last consonant in the
word and (2) is preceded by the short vowel i.
36.2 házmah with wáaw

1. ؤ in the middle of a word

muʔallifun
yuʔáthiru
yuʔáddi
suʔálam
tafadżulun

muʔtámarrun
masʔúlun
šuʔúnun
báʔusa
yahdaʔúuna

All the above words show the sign ؤ házmah above a ِ wáaw. Note that in these words the phoneme ؤ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded or followed by the vowel u — but not by the vowel i.

2. ؤ at the end of a word

yájruʔu
 Járuʔa

báʔuʔa
máruʔa

All the above words show the sign ؤ házmah above a ِ wáaw. Note that in these words the phoneme ؤ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by short u.

36.3 házmah with ʔálif

1. ؤ at the beginning of a word

ʔújjilat
ʔúxraa

ʔádnaa
ʔajáaba

áʔlin
áʔbab
All the above words show the sign ُ hamzah with an ُ alif. Note that in these words the phoneme ُ is (1) at the beginning of a word and (2) is followed by both long and short vowels except long aa (for which see Section 29). In such words the sign ُ hamzah is above the ُ alif if the next vowel is a or u, and below it if the next vowel is i.

2. ُ in the middle of a word

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tás?alu</th>
<th>qará'tum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mas?álatun</td>
<td>ta?mínun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ta?allafa</td>
<td>yá?xuūu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>báda?at</td>
<td>sá?nun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lája?at</td>
<td>má?wan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the above words show the sign ُ hamzah over an ُ alif. Note that in these words the phoneme ُ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded or followed by short a (for long aa see Section 29) — but not by the vowels i or u.

3. ُ at the end of a word

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>?ábta?a</th>
<th>báda?a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lája?a</td>
<td>nábda?u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mála?a</td>
<td>?ibtáda?a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All the above words show the sign ʾ hāmzah above an ʿālif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʾ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by short a.

36.4 hāmzah standing alone

1. ʾ in the middle of a word

\[\text{tašāa}\text{?ama} \quad \text{sāa}\text{?ala} \]
\[\text{?isāa}\text{?atun} \quad \text{lāa}\text{?ama} \]
\[\text{jáa}\text{?at} \quad \text{tasāa}\text{?ala} \]

All the above words show the sign ʾ hāmzah standing alone. Note that in these words the phoneme ʾ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded by long aa and followed by short a.

2. ʾ at the end of a word

\[\text{baṭīi}\text{?un} \quad \text{wuzarāa}\text{?u} \]
\[\text{bād}\text{?un} \quad \text{masāa}\text{?an} \]
\[\text{šáy}\text{?un} \quad \text{jáa}\text{?a} \]
\[\text{hudúu}\text{?un} \quad \text{?ijrāa}\text{?in} \]

All the above words show the sign ʾ hāmzah standing alone. Note that in these words the phoneme ʾ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by a long vowel or by a consonant. The sign ʾ fatāţāan is usually written above such a ʾ hāmzah, as in the second example in the right-hand column, but may also be accompanied by an ʿ ālif as described in Section 6.
36.5 Variant writings of hāmzah

The above words show certain variants in the writing of the sign ـ hāmzah. The representation of the phoneme ـ is complicated by historical considerations and not all dictionaries and texts show complete consistency. The variants usually occur when the phoneme ـ is the last consonant in the word or comes before certain endings. In your reading you may expect to find variations that do not precisely agree with the system as set forth here.

Additional examples of the writing of the sign ـ hāmzah.
37. A special way of indicating long aa

lišāalika
hāašaa

kašāalika
hāašihi

laakīnna
haašulaaši

qallāahu
hāakašaa

lillāahi
šašālika

All the above words show an ١٦٠ (the next to the last example in the left-hand column).

Note that there is no special letter in the Arabic alphabet to indicate the phoneme ١٦٠ (the next to the last example in the left-hand column).

38. Pause forms

If you have been working through this material with an educated native speaker of Arabic, you have probably noticed that he does not always pronounce the same word in the same way. Such modifications in pronunciation typically involve the omission of final short vowels and nukation (cf. Section 6.). We call a form of a word modified in this way a PAUSE FORM.

A pause form is characteristically shorter than the FULL FORM of the same word. Pause forms occur typically at the end of a sentence, and in the pronunciation of single words in isolation, especially if such words commonly stand at the end of sentences. Within sentences pause forms may occur at the end of a phrase. Where pause forms are used within a sentence, and how often they occur, varies with different speakers and apparently depends upon the style of reading. This means that the same speaker will often read the same passage differently on different occasions.

The following examples will illustrate the modifications that occur to produce pause forms. Note especially that Arabic words are always written in their full form; the pause forms must be supplied by the reader.
1. Words ending in taa? marbúṭah

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAUSE FORM</th>
<th>FULL FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jadīđah</td>
<td>jadīđatun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jadīđah</td>
<td>jadīđatin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jadīđah</td>
<td>jadīđatan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?aljadīđah</td>
<td>?aljadīđatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?aljadīđah</td>
<td>?aljadīđati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?aljadīđah</td>
<td>?aljadīđata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qādīmah</td>
<td>qādīmatun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qādīmah</td>
<td>qādīmatin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qādīmah</td>
<td>qādīmatan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?alqādīmah</td>
<td>?alqādīmatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?alqādīmah</td>
<td>?alqādīmati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?alqādīmah</td>
<td>?alqādīmata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In pause, words ending in taa? marbúṭah drop final vowels and nunation (cf. Section 6) and the t is replaced by h. This results in all the pause forms being alike. Note the change in the position of primary stress in the pause forms of the last six examples as compared to the full forms.
2. Words (except those with táa‘ marbútah) ending in a short vowel or nunation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAUSE FORM</th>
<th>FULL FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jadīd</td>
<td>jadīdun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jadīd</td>
<td>jadīdin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jadīdaa or jadīdan</td>
<td>jadīdan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʔaljadīd</td>
<td>ʔaljadīdu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʔaljadīd</td>
<td>ʔaljadīdi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʔaljadīd</td>
<td>ʔaljadīda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mính</td>
<td>mínhu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bíh</td>
<td>bíhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fíih</td>
<td>fíihi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biláaduh</td>
<td>biláaduhu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jiddaa or jiddan</td>
<td>jiddan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaθfiraa or kaθfiran</td>
<td>kaθfiran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In pause, all final short vowels and the endings -un and -in are dropped. The ending -an is either replaced by -aa or remains unchanged. The replacement by -aa is the Classical form; the unchanged form is more common in modern reading.
3. Words ending in a long vowel or a consonant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAUSE FORM</th>
<th>FULL FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>biláaduhaa</td>
<td>biláaduhaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?alkúbraa</td>
<td>?alkúbraa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?almáaḏii</td>
<td>?almáaḏii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yátluu</td>
<td>yátluu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biláaduhum</td>
<td>biláaduhum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bíkum</td>
<td>bíkum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fáqat</td>
<td>fáqat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>járat</td>
<td>járat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In pause, words ending in a long vowel or a consonant remain unchanged.

39. Grammatical considerations

Up to this point we have described the Arabic writing system with a minimum of reference to the grammar of Classical Arabic. That is, we have regarded the problem as one involving the interpretation of the writing system without a knowledge of the grammatical status of the words and forms involved. However, it is necessary to know some grammatical facts in order to interpret certain peculiarities of spelling, and certain modifications of words when they come together within sentences. Most of the following sections will involve such facts.

40. Verb forms with a final ?álif

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tárakuu</th>
<th>?ajáabuu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>تَرَكُوُا</td>
<td>أَجَا بُوا</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above verbs show the endings -uu and -aw meaning 'plural'. After such endings on verbs the writing system shows an ُalif. This ُalif has no sound value. Additional examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kásaw</td>
<td>lája'uu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bánaw</td>
<td>'arsaluu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rámaw</td>
<td>xárajuu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41. The prefix for "the"

Read the first word in the right-hand column and then the corresponding word in the left-hand column. Continue this way down the list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>?alkútlatu</td>
<td>kútlatun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?alqáwl</td>
<td>qáwlun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?al?ámru</td>
<td>?ámrun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?albayán</td>
<td>bayánun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?alfúrṣatu</td>
<td>fúrṣatun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?alxábaru</td>
<td>xábarun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?almár</td>
<td>sár bun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All the words in the left-hand column show the prefix for "the". In Classical Arabic this prefix has different forms, depending on the first consonant of the word to which it is attached. When the first consonant is one of the following: k q ṭ b f x ṣ h ẓ j m w y, the prefix is l- as in the above examples.

When a word having this prefix occurs in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence, the prefix has the form ?al-. This prefix written as a part of the word to which it is attached and does not affect the position of primary stress.

Note the combination ل lām ṭālīf when the prefix is attached to a word beginning with the phoneme ?ālif. The | ṭālīf here does not indicate the long vowel aa.

Additional examples.

أَلْبَحْثُ أَلْتَعْلَمْ أَلْبَحْضُ النَّافِضِ أَلْتَعْلَمْ 
أَلْبِحْضُ النَّافِضِ أَلْتَعْلَمْ أَلْبَحْضُ النَّافِضِ 
الْعُفْوُ أَلْتَعْلَمْ أَلْبِحْضُ النَّافِضِ
42. Variant forms of the prefix for "the"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ṛatilāawatu</td>
<td>tilāawatun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛaṭṭarīqu</td>
<td>ṭarīquun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛaddārsu</td>
<td>dārsun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛadguyūufu</td>
<td>ḍuyūufun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛaḥāāanī</td>
<td>āāāanin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛaḍḍāhabu</td>
<td>ḍāhabun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛaḍṭūhrū</td>
<td>ūhrun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛaṣṣāābiqu</td>
<td>sāābiqu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛaṣṣufūufu</td>
<td>ṣufūufun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛaṣṣahāādatu</td>
<td>ṣāḥādatun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛazzā́ytu</td>
<td>zāytun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛannáādi</td>
<td>nāadin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛarrā́fīsu</td>
<td>raʿīsun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṛallūḡatu</td>
<td>lūḡatun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the words in the left-hand column show a variant form of the prefix for "the". When the first consonant of the word is one of the following: t ẓ ṭ ḏ ẓ ṣ š z n r l, the prefix is t- t- d- ḍ- ḏ- ṣ- š- ẓ- z- n- r- l- respectively, as in the above examples. That is, the first consonant of the word is doubled.

The Arabic writing system consistently shows the letter Ġ láām in the prefix for "the", and indicates the variants by showing no ṭ sukūun on the ṭ láām.
and by placing a ḫāṣ at the first consonant of the underlying word.

When a word having a variant of the prefix for "the" occurs in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence, the prefix has the form ṭat-, ṭat-, ṭad-, ṭad-, etc.

Additional examples.


al-ḥāfiz
al-ḥāfa
al-ḥāfa
al-ḥāfa
al-ḥāfa
al-ḥāfa
al-ṭāriqah
al-ṭawāla

43. hámsatu lwāšl

All Arabic words that are pronounced in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence with an initial ʾ and a following short vowel fall into one of two classes:

1. Those words that retain the initial ʾ and the following vowel under all conditions.
2. Those words that drop the initial ʾ and the following vowel under certain conditions.

That is, many words that in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence begin with one of the following sequences: ṭi-, ṭu-, ṭa- appear under certain conditions within sentences without this sequence.

The ʾ that is always retained is called in Arabic hámsatu lwāšl. The ʾ that is dropped under certain conditions is called hámsatu lwāšl. Words showing hámsatu lwāšl are discussed below.

43.1 hámsatu lwāšl preceded by words ending in a short vowel

Group I

 Narrānī al-ḥūzūn

*alqawla
*annahranī
All the words in Group I begin with ُHAMZATU-LWASIL. The Arabic writing system usually indicates the initial ُin such words by the sign َHAMZAH. Some texts omit the sign َHAMZAH and indicate only the vowel.

Group II shows these same words in phrases preceded by words that end in a short vowel. Here the phoneme ُand the following vowel drop, and the omitted vowel is replaced by the final vowel of the preceding word. Such words are joined closely together in pronunciation; we indicate this in our transcription by a curved line (ٍ) connecting the words involved. The Arabic writing system indicates this by the sign ـWASILAH over the ِALIF.

Part of the study of Classical Arabic grammar is learning what words and forms begin with ُHAMZATU-LWASIL. The prefix for "the" is one of the most common.
Additional examples.

٣.٢ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِتيتِفِضْجُدُ لِتيتِفِضْجَلُن
ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
٣.٣ ٍحَمْزَتُو لِوْلَٰٰذِل ْمُضَمَّدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجُدُ لِيۡتِفِضْجَلُن
jalsátuhhaا
háaáa
fii
máa

Group II

vála_zzirásafti
víla_lintixaábáati
záta_ssásaati
darásu_lqadíyyata
háááa_lmawduuúu

ma_ttasaálhhu
jalsátuha_l?úulaa
fi_šbrqi_l?ádnaa
fi_ttimáafín

All the words in Group I end in long vowels. Group II shows words that begin with hámzatu_lwásíl preceded by the words of Group I. In such cases the long vowel is replaced by the corresponding short vowel. Additional examples.
43.4 hámmatu lwášl preceded by certain words ending in -aa and -uu

xatṭáa ssik'atí
wamadáráa ljálsata
manduubáa luukúumati
mustamífúu lmadifiíi
manduubúu luukúumati

The endings -aa 'dual' and -uu 'plural' (with nouns and adjectives) are sometimes pronounced long before a following word beginning with hámmatu lwášl. This occurs chiefly in a very careful reading style; more often these long vowels are replaced by the corresponding short ones, as described in Section 43.3.

43.5 hámmatu lwášl preceded by words ending in consonants

Group I

wiláyykum
húm
mín
bánaw
manduubáyñi

Group II

wání lmawdúnñi
All the words in Group I end in a consonant. Group II shows these same words immediately preceding words that begin with hamzatu lwasl. Here these words add a final vowel, in most cases the vowel i. The word min has two variants: mina before the prefix for "the" and mini elsewhere.

The treatment of the endings -aw 'plural' and -ay 'dual' (the last two examples in Group II) before a following hamzatu lwasl is uncertain. According to some grammarians they add a final -i, thus: -awi, -ayi. This treatment will be followed here. Additional examples.
43.6 ëhmzatu lwâsl preceded by words ending in nunaition

Group I

ëgârban ëgârban ëislâmusi ëislâmusi

ësimáalan ësimáalan ëmasâlatun ëmasâlatun

ëxafírân ëxafírân ënân ënân ëmasâlatin ëmasâlatin

Group II

ëislâmuni jtimasâfiyyun ëislâmuni jtimasâfiyyun

ëmasâlatin_qtísaadiyyatun ëmasâlatin_qtísaadiyyatun

ënân ëmasâlatiní_qtísaadiyyatin ënân ëmasâlatiní_qtísaadiyyatin

yamúduhaa ëgârbaní_lbâmru ëgârbaní_lbâmru

wâsimáalani_ljibâalu wâsimáalani_ljibâalu

wâxafîrani_ntâhati_ddâwratu wâxafîrani_ntâhati_ddâwratu

All the words in Group I end in nunaition, that is, the endings -un -in -an. Group II shows these same words immediately preceding words that begin with ëhmzatu lwâsl. Here these words add a final -i. Note that this final -i is not indicated in the Arabic writing system.

43.7 Omission of ëalif with wâslah

ëli?usbûsfi ëli?usbûsfi ëlîsrûkûmumati

ëlitta?líifi ëlitta?líifi ëlîlîjti?mâsâfi
When the preposition ٍ li- is added to a word that has the prefix for "the", the َ رَّجُلِ and the sign ـ waslah of the prefix are omitted.

بِسْمِ ٍ إِسْمَعْلٰی

The word ٍ إِسْمَعْلِی begins with هامزة ـ lwásli. When the preposition ٍ bi- is added to this word in the above solemn introductory formula, the َ رَّجُلِ and the sign ـ waslah are omitted. This omission occurs only in the above formula; elsewhere the Arabic writing system shows the composite letter ٍ، as in the following examples.

بِسْمِ ٍ رَسُولِ إِسْمَعْلٰی

بِسْمِ ٍ أَسْحَابِ آَلِ مَسَدٰی