

THE ARABIC ALPHABET

A COMPANION VOLUME TO
THE QUR'ĀN READER

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ARABIC ALPHABET

ك The pronunciation within brackets is popular among the Urdū speaking people.

الف	ا	Alif a a	زای	ز	Za (zay) z	قاف	ق	Qaf q
باء	ب	Ba (bay) b	سین	س	Sin s	کاف	ك	Kaf k
تاء	ن	Ta (tay) t ¹	شین	ش	Shin sh	لام	ل	Lam l
ثاء	ث	Ṣa (ṣay) ṣ ²	صاڊ	ص	Ṣad ṣ	میم	م	Mim m
جیم	ج	Jim j	ڊاڊ	ض	Ḍad ḍ	نون	ن	Nūn n
حاء	ح	Ha (ḥay) ḥ	طا	ط	Ṭa (ṭo'ay) ṭ	هـ (هـ)	هـ	Ha (hay) h
خاء	خ	Kha (khay) kh	ظا	ظ	Za (zo'ay) z	واو	و	Waw w
دال	د	Dal d ¹	عین	ع	'Ain	همزة	ء	Hamza
ذال	ذ	Zal z	غین	غ	Ghain gh	یا	ی y	یا y
راء	ر	Ra (ray) r	فاء	ف	Fa (fay) f	ے		

The combination لا called lām-alif is reckoned by some a letter of the alphabet and is inserted before ya (ی).

When the letter ت (tā) is used as a feminine ending it is written as ّ or ّ (hā with two dots over it). This is called the "round tā" or tā marbūṭa. When ی (yā) is joined with other letters it generally takes two dots, e.g. یا عین (yā 'aina). The two dots below the final yā (ی) are optional, e.g. فی or فی.

1. The letter t and ḍ (ت, د) should always be pronounced soft in Arabic, Persian and Urdū as t and ḍ in French, Dutch or Italian.

2. Some Orientalists spell it as th.

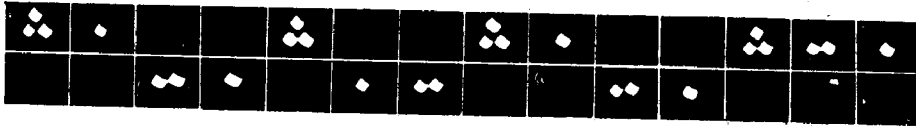
3. Orientalists spell this letter as dj because in some European languages the sound of j is like that of yā. In English, however, the sound of ج (jim) is exactly like j.

4. The letter و (wāw) is sometimes written before the letter هـ (hā).

1



2



Please read the Arabic script from right to left.

Line 1. One dot. Two dots. Three dots.

2. One dot over the line. Two dots over the line. Three dots over the line. One dot below the line. Two dots below the line. One dot over the line . . . and so on.

Alif

الله

Allah

ا

Ba'

بِسْمِ الله

Bismillah

(In the name of God)

ب

Ta'

توراة

Taurāt

(Torah)

ت

Sa'

ثواب

sawāb

(reward)

ث

Please read the Arabic script from right to left.



ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث
 ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث

Jim	جِهَاد	jihād (striving hard ; effort; zeal ; war)	ج
Hā'	حَج	Hajj (Pilgrimage)	ح
Khā'	خَلِيفَة	khalifah (successor)	خ
Dāl	دُعَاء	du'a' (prayer)	د
Zal	ذُبَاب	zubbāb (house fly)	ذ

ج ح خ د ذ خ ح ذ ج د ح د خ ذ ج د ح ذ ب ذ ا
د ت ح ث خ ج ا ا ب ت ت ج ح خ د ذ

Rā'

رَسُول

rasūl
(messenger)

ر

Za

زَكَاة

zakāt
(alms-giving ; obligatory
charity)

ز

Sin

سُنَّة

sunnah
(practice ; practice of the
Holy Prophet)

س

Shīn

شَرِيعَة

sharī'ah
(law ; Islamic law)

ش

ر ز س ش س ر ش ز ر ش س ز ش س ر
ب ش ا س ت ز ث ر ج ذ ح د خ ا ر ش
ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر س ش

Ṣad صَلَاةُ ṣalāt (worship) ص

Dād ضِيَاءُ ḍiyā' (brightness) ض

Tā' طَلَاقُ ṭalāq (divorce) ط

Zā' ظَالِمٌ zālim (aggressor) ظ

ص ض ط ظ ص ظ ط ض ط ض ظ ض ظ ص
 ظ ط ط ا ظ ب ص ت ض ث ش ج س ح ز خ ر
 ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ

'Ain	عِيسَى	'Isā (Jesus)	ع
Ghain	غَيْب	ghaib (unseen)	غ
Fā'	فِرْعَوْن	Fir'aun (Pharaoh)	ف
Qaf	قُرْآن	Qur'an	ق
Kaf	كِتَاب	kitāb (book)	ك (ک)

ع غ ف ق ك ع ك غ ف ع ق غ ك ك
 ا ع ب غ ت ف ث ح ز خ د س ر ش ز ص ع
 ض غ ط ف ظ ق ا ك ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ
 ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ك

Lām

لِبَاسٍ

libās
(garment)

ل

Mīm

مُحَمَّدٌ

Muḥammad

م (م)

Nūn

نَبِيٍّ

nabī
(prophet)

ن

Hā

هَارُونَ

Hārūn
(Aaron)

ه (ه)

ل م ن ه ه ن ل ه م ن م ه ه ل ن ل ع م غ ن ف
ه ه ق ع ك ك ل ص م ض ن ط ه ظ ل ر م ز ن س
ه ش ب ذ ا د ت ح ث خ ج ا ل ا ب ت ث ج ح خ
د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل ن ه ه

Wāw

وُضُوءٌ

wuḍū'
(ablution)

و

Hamza

ء

Yā'

يَا اللهُ

yā Allāh
(O God)

يَ

Lām alif
(lā')

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ

lā ilāha il-lallāh
(there is but One God)

لَا

وَعِي لَءِي وِي لَءِي وِي لَءِي وِي لَءِي وِي لَءِي
 نِي هَلَا وِي وِي وِي وِي وِي وِي وِي وِي وِي وِي وِي
 ط وِر دِر شِءِ جِ ذِ دِ وِ خِ حِ ثِ اِ بِ تِ لَ اِ بِ
 تِ ثِ جِ حِ خِ دِ ذِ رِ زِ سِ شِ صِ ضِ طِ ظِ عِ غِ
 فِ قِ كِ لِ مِ نِ هِ هِ وِ عِ يِ لَءِي

LESSON 2 VARIOUS FORMS OF THE LETTERS (A) الدرس ٢

All the Arabic letters have a simple basic form which is retained when these letters are joined to each other. Most of the letters have four forms, viz. (1) isolated or unconnected, (2) initial, (3) medial and (4) final. Six letters, i.e.

ا د ذ ر ز and و
alif, dal, zal, ra, za and waw

have only two forms, i.e. isolated and final.

In the last lesson we saw all these letters in their isolated forms. This lesson deals with the two forms (the initial and the final) of the joined letters.

In the initial connected form only the top or the first part of the letter is used. ج becomes ج, ش becomes ش, ع becomes ع and so on. In the final connected form a small flourish or hook is added to the beginning of the letter, e.g. ب becomes ب, ج becomes ج or ج and و becomes و.

Notice a small joining line added to the hook of the succeeding letter: ج ب جب.

In ya ي the hook is hardly noticeable. Note the following :

ن ب ي

Read from right to left:

1 ا ب ت ت ج ج ج ب ج ت 1
 2 ج ج ب ج ت ج ج ج ج ج 2
 3 ج ج ج ج ج ج ج ج ج ج 3
 4 ح ح ح ح ح ح ح ح ح ح 4

1. *bā*, *bā* with a hook. *tā*, *tā* with a hook *jim*, *jim*. *jim bā*, *jim tā*.

LESSON 3 VARIOUS FORMS OF THE LETTERS (B)

الدرس ٣

There are certain letters, viz,

ع and ي ه ل ك غ ع

'ain, ghain, kaf, lam, ha and ya

which take (or may take) a different shape in their final and (or) initial forms. The medial form is also affected (see next lesson). Note the following changes in the final form :

ع becomes ع or ع , غ becomes غ* or غ.

ه becomes ه.

As to the initial form :

ك becomes ك or ك or ك (as in ك , كا , كن).

ل becomes ل or ل (as in لا , لا).

ه becomes ه (remember the two eyed shape).



Tā Marbūta or the Round Tā

When the letter *ta* (ت) is used as a feminine ending, it is written as a *hā* (ه or ا) with, however the two points of the *ta* over it thus : ه or ا . This is called *ta marbuta* or the round *ta*.

It should also be borne in mind that when the dots are over the hook it is a different letter from the one where the dots are below the hook. Note carefully that in the initial form :

ي becomes ي and ن becomes ن ; ت becomes ت and ي becomes ي .

١ جمع هع هغ لغ قغ هخ كه

٢ غب قن ضظ قج فظ عث

٣ كل كالل لد ضا لذ لا مي

*Mark the flattened head of 'ain and ghain.

3. kāflām. kāf alif. lām alif. lām lām. lām dāl. qād alif. lām zāl. lām alif. mim yā.

LESSON 4 VARIOUS FORMS OF THE LETTERS (C) الدرس ٤

This lesson deals with the initial, medial and final forms of letters when joined. The middle form takes a small hook on both sides.

ن in the middle form becomes ن or ن (فهم or فهم).

م in the middle form becomes م or م (بما or بما).

The letter hamza (ء) is placed in the medial position, over or below the joining line, with or without a hook thus :

رئك فد لئن

Lām-hamza-nūn, fā-hamza-dāl, rā-hamza-kāf.

Three long lines (Nos 6, 7 and 8) below show the initial, medial and final forms of certain letters. These should be noted carefully. For the sake of practice read them from right to left and left to right.

Read from right to left :

- 1 قعف فقق غفع عغف نعغ
- 2 تنز مئذ لئن فدئ رئك
- 3 لبأ لتأ لنا لكأ لكل لله للاً ملو
- 4 حلم غلم علم مئ قئ تي فلا
- 5 لما لمن شمس ممن مجمع يعمهون
- 6 ينبتئ ثنئ تيئ ثينئ ثيئ تئذ
- 7 فعغفغ غغفغ فغغفغ غغغغ
- 8 قبعغغغ غغغغ فمئك هلمك مظطهه

3. *lām bā alif. lām tā alif. lām nūn alif. lām kāf alif. lām kāf lām. lām lām hā.
lām lām alif. mīm lām wāw.*

6. *yā nūn bā tā nūn bā | tā s̄ā nūn yā tā yā | s̄ā bā nūn s̄ā yā hamza | s̄ā yā
tā hamza zā.*

COMBINED EXERCISE

Read from right to left.

- 1 بصر بلغ عبث سلخ خلف يهب ١
- 2 عقل قفل لقب كفر فقر شفق ٢
- 3 بهز لبر جلب هعا عجه غحس ٣
- 4 تغد خكغ ستم حفت فنخذ قشل ٤
- 5 شقت ثصح ضثخ طسج يضط ٥
- 6 صظف كطش متق نمصن ظيم ٦
- 7 ئكة هئن بهك لبض للو نتي ٧
- 8 ثلت جنات مسلمات مسيطر مستغفرجنة ٨
- 9 مين نيم نيم شفع طهر نسي يظهر ٩
- 10 ينقلب خفيف ينطق ملك قريب ١٠
- 11 بنعمته بعينه مليكته اقيمواالصلوة ١١

1. bā ṣād rā. bā lām ghain. 'ain bā s̄ā. sin lām khā. khā lām fā. yā hā bā.

7. hamza kāf tā. hā hamza nūn. bā hā kāf. lām bā qād. lām lām wāw. nūn tā yā.

9. mīm yā nūn. nūn yā mīm. nūn yā mīm. shīn fā 'ain. ṭā hā rā. nūn sin yā. yā zā hā rā.

11. bā nūn 'ain mīm tā hā. bā 'ain yā nūn hā. mīm lām hamza kāf tā hā. alif qā' yā mīm wāw alif alif lām ṣād lām wāw tā.

EXPRESSIONS OF DAILY USE

1. *Bis-mil-lāh.*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

In the name of Allāh. (Every affair is begun with these words. The object is to make a man realize that he should seek the help of God in all affairs). This is an abbreviated form of the fuller formula which runs thus :

2. *Bismil-lā-hir-Rahmā-nir-Rahīm.*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allāh, the Beneficent, the Merciful. (These are the words with which the Holy Qur'ān opens).

3. *As-salāmu 'alaikum.*

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

Peace be on you !

4. *Wa 'alai-kumus-salām.*

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ

And on you be peace !

(The first form is that in which one Muslim greets his brother, and the second is that in which the greeting is returned). An enlarged form is as follows

5. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa rahmatu-llāhi*

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

wa barakātuh.

وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Peace be on you and the mercy of Allāh and His blessings.

6. *Wa 'alai-kumus-salāmu wa rahmatu-*

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ وَرَحْمَةُ

llāhi wa barakātuh.

اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

And on you be peace, and the mercy of Allāh and His blessings.

7. *Al-ḥamdu lillāh.*

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

All praise is due to Allāh. (Expression of thanksgiving to God).

8. *Allāhu Akbar.*

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Allāh is the Greatest. (Expression of one's own insignificance as compared to the Divine grandeur).

9. *Subhā-nallāh.*

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

Glory to Allāh or Allāh is free from all imperfections. (Expression of one's own limitations. When a person sees another person making a mistake these words are also uttered).

10. *Astaghfi-rullāh*

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ

I seek the protection of Allāh. (Seeking of Divine protection from the commission of sin as well as the punishment of sin when it has been committed).

11. *Jazā-kallāh.*

جَزَاكَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh reward thee.

12. *Jazā-kumullāhu khairā.*

جَزَاكَ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا

May Allāh give you a goodly reward. (Expressions of gratefulness).

13. *Bārā-kallāh.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh bless thee. (When a person sees any good in his brother, he addresses him in these words).

14. *Yarhamu-kallāh.*

يَرْحَمُكَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh have mercy on thee. (A short prayer when a Muslim sees another person in distress).

15. *Inshā-'allāh.*

إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

If it please Allāh. (One's determination to do a thing with the help and guidance of Allāh).

16. *Mā shā-'allāh.*

مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ

It is as Allāh has pleased. (One's admiration for a person or a thing remembering at the same time that all good comes from Allāh).

17. *Hasbi-yallāh.*

حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh suffice me.

18. *Hasbu-nallāh.*

حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ

May Allāh suffice us. (Short prayers to show one's dependence on God Who alone can save one from stumbling and from all kinds of errors and afflictions).

19. *Hasbu-kallāh.*

حَسْبُكَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh suffice thee. (In these words a Muslim addresses his brother when he sees him stumble or fall into error).

20. *Innā lillāhi wa innā ilaihi rāji'un.*

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Surely we are Allāh's and to Him we shall surely return. (At receiving the news of the death of a person or the loss of a thing).

By the same author

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