Arabic alphabet

Arabic abjad
العربية
Type	Abjad
Languages	Arabic
Time period	400 to the present
Parent systems	Proto-Sinaitic • Phoenician • Aramaic • Syriac • Nabataean • Arabic abjad
Child systems	N'Ko alphabet
ISO 15924	Arab, 160
Direction	Right-to-left
Unicode alias	Arabic
Unicode range	U+0600 to U+06FF [1] U+0750 to U+077F [2] U+08A0 to U+08FF [3] U+FB50 to U+FDFF [4] U+FE70 to U+FEFF [5] U+1EE00 to U+1EEFF [6]

the Arabic alphabet
of the Arabic script
ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه و ي
• history • diacritics • hamza • numerals • numeration

The **Arabic alphabet** (Arabic: أَبْجَدِيّة عَرَبِيّة *'abjadiyyah 'arabiyyah*) or **Arabic abjad** is the Arabic script as it is codified for writing the Arabic language. It is written from right to left, in a cursive style, and includes 28 letters. Because letters usually[7] stand for consonants, it is classified as an abjad.

Consonants

The basic Arabic alphabet contains 28 letters. Adaptations of the Arabic script for other languages added and removed some letters, such as Persian, Ottoman, Sindhi, Urdu, Malay, Pashto, and Arabi Malayalam have additional letters, shown below. There are no distinct upper and lower case letter forms.

Many letters look similar but are distinguished from one another by dots (*ʾiʿjām*) above or below their central part, called *rasm*. These dots are an integral part of a letter, since they distinguish between letters that represent different sounds. For example, the Arabic letters transliterated as *b* and *t* have the same basic shape, but *b* has one dot below, ب, and *t* has two dots above, ت.

Both printed and written Arabic are cursive, with most of the letters within a word directly connected to the adjacent letters.

Alphabetical order

There are two main collating sequences for the Arabic alphabet:

- The original *ʾabjadī* order (أَبْجَدِي), used for lettering, derives from the order of the Phoenician alphabet, and is therefore similar to the order of other Phoenician-derived alphabets, such as the Hebrew alphabet. In this order letters are also used as numbers.
- The *hijāʾī* (هِجَائِي) or *ʾalifbāʾī* (أَلِفْبَائِي) order shown in the table below, used where lists of names and words are sorted, as in phonebooks, classroom lists, and dictionaries, groups letters by similarity of shape.

The *ʾabjadī* order is not a simple historical continuation of the earlier north Semitic alphabetic order, since it has a position corresponding to the Aramaic letter *samekh*/*semkat* ס, yet no letter of the Arabic alphabet historically derives from that letter. Loss of *samekh* was compensated for by the split of *shin* ש into two independent Arabic letters, ش (*shīn*) and س (*sīn*) which moved up to take the place of *samekh*.

The most common *ʾabjadī* sequence is:

غ	ظ	ض	ذ	خ	ث	ت	ش	ر	ق	ص	ف	ع	س	ن	م	ل	ك	ي	ط	ح	ز	و	ه	د	ج	ب	أ
gh	ẓ	ḍ	dh	kh	th	t	sh	r	q	ṣ	f	ʿ	s	n	m	l	k	y	ṭ	ḥ	z	w	h	d	j	b	ʾ

Note: In this sequence, and all those that follow, the letters are presented in Arabic writing order, i.e., right to left. The Latin script transliterations are also in this order, with each placed under its corresponding letter. Thus, the first letter of the sequence is "أ"(ʾ) at the right, and the last letter in the sequence is "غ"(gh), at the left.

This is commonly vocalized as follows:

ʾabjad hawwaz ḥuṭṭī kalaman saʿfaṣ qarashat thakhadh ḍaẓagh.

Another vocalization is:

ʾabujadin hawazin ḥuṭiya kalman saʿfaṣ qurishat thakhudh ḍaẓugh

Another *ʾabjadī* sequence (probably older, now mainly confined to the Maghreb), is:[8]

ش	غ	ظ	ذ	خ	ث	ت	س	ر	ق	ض	ف	ع	ص	ن	م	ل	ك	ي	ط	ح	ز	و	ه	د	ج	ب	أ
sh	gh	ẓ	dh	kh	th	t	s	r	q	ḍ	f	ʿ	ṣ	n	m	l	k	y	ṭ	ḥ	z	w	h	d	j	b	ʾ

which can be vocalized as:

ʾabujadin hawazin ḥuṭiya kalman ṣaʿfaḍ qurisat thakhudh ẓaghush

Modern dictionaries and other reference books do not use the *ʾabjadī* order to sort alphabetically; instead, the newer *hijāʾī* order (with letters partially grouped together by similarity of shape) is used:

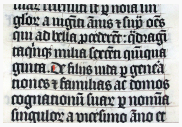
ي	و	ه	ن	م	ل	ك	ق	ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش	س	ز	ر	ذ	د	خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	أ

y	w	h	n	m	l	k	q	f	gh	‘	ẓ	ṭ	ḍ	ṣ	sh	s	z	r	dh	d	kh	ḥ	j	th	t	b	’

Another kind of *hijā'ī* order used to be widely used in the Maghreb until recently when it was replaced by the Mashriqi order:[8]

ي	و	ه	ش	س	ق	ف	غ	ع	ض	ص	ن	م	ل	ك	ظ	ط	ز	ر	ذ	د	خ	ح	چ	ث	ت	ب	أ
y	w	h	sh	s	q	f	gh	‘	ḍ	ṣ	n	m	l	k	ẓ	ṭ	z	r	dh	d	kh	ḥ	j	th	t	b	’

Letter forms



Calligraphy

- Arabic
- Chinese
- Georgian
- Indian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Kufic
- Mongolian
- Nepalese
- Persian
- Sini
- Tibetan
- Western

Unlike cursive writing based on the Latin alphabet, the standard Arabic style is to have a substantially different shape depending on whether it will be connecting with a preceding and/or a succeeding letter, thus all primary letters have conditional forms (allographs), depending on whether they are at the beginning, middle or end of a word, so they may exhibit four distinct forms (***initial***, ***medial***, ***final*** or ***isolated***). However, six letters (ا د ذ ر ز و) have only an isolated or final form, and so force the following letter (if any) to take an initial or isolated form, as if there were a word break. For example, أرارات (Ararat) has only isolated forms, because each letter cannot be connected to its adjacent one.

Some letters look almost the same in all four forms, while others show considerable variation. Generally, the initial and middle forms look similar except that in some letters the middle form starts with a short horizontal line on the right to ensure that it will connect with its preceding letter. The final and isolated forms, are also similar in appearance but the final form will also have a horizontal stroke on the right and, for some letters, a loop or longer line on the left with which to finish the word with a subtle ornamental flourish. In addition, some letter combinations are written as ligatures (special shapes), including *lām-'alif*.[9]

Table of basic letters

Notes

- See the article *Romanization of Arabic* for details on various transliteration schemes; however, Arabic language speakers do not follow a standardized scheme when transcribing names. Also names are regularly transcribed as pronounced locally, not as pronounced in Literary Arabic (if they were of Arabic origin).
- Regarding pronunciation, the phonemic values given are those of the pronunciation of Literary Arabic, the standard which is taught in universities. In practice, pronunciation may vary considerably from region to region, because Literary Arabic is not anyone's native language. For more details concerning the pronunciation of Arabic, consult the articles *Arabic phonology* and *varieties of Arabic*.
- The names of the Arabic letters can be thought of as abstractions of an older version where they were meaningful words in the Proto-Semitic language. Names of Arabic letters may have quite different names popularly, but they are not provided in the article.

  For example: ح *ḥā'* is most commonly known in Egypt as: IPA: [ħɑ]; in Lebanon: IPA: [ħe]. ز has two Literary Arabic names: *zayn/zāy* and called by Egyptians: IPA: [zeːn].
- Six letters (ا د ذ ر ز و) don't have a distinct medial form and have to be written with their final form without being connected to the next letter. Their initial form matches the isolated form.

Arabic letters usage in Literary Arabic

Name	Translit.	Value (IPA)	Contextual forms			Isolated
			Final	Medial	Initial	
alif	*ā* / ʾ (also ʼ)	various, including /aː/ [a]	ـا	ـا	ا	ا
bā'	*b*	/b/ (sometimes /p/ in loanwords)[b]	ـب	ـبـ	بـ	ب
tā'	*t*	/t/	ـت	ـتـ	تـ	ت
thā'	*th* (also *ṯ*)	/θ/	ـث	ـثـ	ثـ	ث
jīm	*j* (also *ǧ*, *g*)	[d͡ʒ] ~ [ʒ] ~ [g] [c]	ـج	ـجـ	جـ	ج
ḥā'	*ḥ*	/ħ/	ـح	ـحـ	حـ	ح
khā'	*kh* (also *ḫ*, *x̱*)	/x/	ـخ	ـخـ	خـ	خ
dāl	*d*	/d/	ـد	ـد	د	د
dhāl	*dh* (also *ḏ*)	/ð/	ـذ	ـذ	ذ	ذ
rā'	*r*	/r/	ـر	ـر	ر	ر
zayn / zāy	*z*	/z/	ـز	ـز	ز	ز
sīn	*s*	/s/	ـس	ـسـ	سـ	س
shīn	*sh* (also *š*)	/ʃ/	ـش	ـشـ	شـ	ش
ṣād	*ṣ*	/sˤ/	ـص	ـصـ	صـ	ص
ḍād	*ḍ*	/dˤ/	ـض	ـضـ	ضـ	ض
ṭā'	*ṭ*	/tˤ/	ـط	ـطـ	طـ	ط
ẓā'	*ẓ*	[ðˤ] ~ [zˤ]	ـظ	ـظـ	ظـ	ظ

ʻayn	ʻ (also ʿ)	/ʕ/	ـعـ	ـع	عـ	ع
ghayn	*gh* (also *ġ*, *ḡ*)	/ɣ/ (sometimes /ɡ/ in loanwords)[c]	ـغـ	ـغ	غـ	غ
fāʾ	*f*	/f/ (sometimes /v/ in loanwords)[b]	ـفـ	ـف	فـ	ف[d]
qāf	*q*	/q/ (sometimes /ɡ/ in loanwords)[c]	ـقـ	ـق	قـ	ق[d]
kāf	*k*	/k/ (sometimes /ɡ/ in loanwords)[c]	ـكـ	ـك	كـ	ك
lām	*l*	/l/	ـلـ	ـل	لـ	ل
mīm	*m*	/m/	ـمـ	ـم	مـ	م
nūn	*n*	/n/	ـنـ	ـن	نـ	ن
hāʾ	*h*	/h/	ـهـ	ـه	هـ	ه
wāw	*w* / *ū* / *aw*	/w/, /uː/, /aw/, sometimes /u/, /o/, and /oː/ in loanwords	ـو	ـو	و	و
yāʾ	*y* / *ī* / *ay*	/j/, /iː/, /aj/, sometimes /i/, /e/, and /eː/ in loanwords	ـيـ	ـي	يـ	ي[e]

- **^a** *Alif* can represent many phonemes in Literary Arabic:
  1. Without diacritics: ا
     - initially: *a, i* /a, i/ or sometimes silent in the definite article ال *(a)l-*
     - medially or finally: *ā* /aː/.
  2. *Alif* with *hamzah* above: أ
     - initially: *ʾa, ʾu* /ʔa, ʔu/
     - medially or finally: *aʾ* /ʔa/.
  3. *Alif* with *hamzah* under: إ
     - initially: *ʾi* /ʔi/; doesn't appear medially or finally (see hamza).
  4. *Alif* with *maddah* : آ
     - initially, medially or finally: *ʾā* /ʔaː/.
- **^b** /p/ and /v/ can be represented by پ and ◻/◻ or if unavailable, ب and ف/◻ are used, respectively.
- **^c** For Arabic language speakers, the phoneme /ɡ/ can be represented using different letters, depending on local dialects. ج is normally used in Egypt, also sometimes Yemen and Oman. ق is used where it represents the [ɡ] in local dialects. ك or غ are used where /ɡ/ doesn't exist in local dialects. Other letters such as گ, ◻ or ◻ may also be used, but are not regarded as standard Arabic letters. Likewise, where ج represents [ɡ], it can be also used for /ʒ/~/d͡ʒ/, or the letter ڃ can be used in Egypt.
- **^d** *Fāʾ* and *qāf* are traditionally written in northwestern Africa as ◻ and ◻ـ ـ◻ـ ـ◻, respectively, while the latter's dot is only added initially or medially.
- **^e** *Yāʾ* in the isolated and the final forms in handwriting and print in Egypt, Sudan and sometimes other places, is always undotted ى, making it only contextually distinguishable from *alif maqṣūrah*.

See also Additional letters below.

Further notes

- The letter *ʾalif* originated in the Phoenician alphabet as a consonant-sign indicating a glottal stop. Today it has lost its function as a consonant, and, together with *yaʾ* and *wāw*, is a *mater lectionis*, a consonant sign standing in for a long vowel (see below), or as support for certain diacritics (*maddah* and *hamzah*).
- Arabic currently uses a diacritic sign, ء, called *hamzah*, to denote the glottal stop [ʔ], written alone or with a carrier:
  - alone: ء ;
  - with a carrier: أ إ (above or under a *ʾalif*), ؤ (above a *wāw*), ئ (above a dotless *yāʾ* or *yāʾ hamzah*).

In academic work, the *hamzah* (ء) is transliterated with the modifier letter right half ring (ʾ), while the modifier letter left half ring (ʿ) transliterates the letter *ʿayn* (ع), which represents a different sound, not found in English.

- Letters lacking an initial or medial version are never linked to the letter that follows, even within a word. The *hamzah* has a single form, since it is never linked to a preceding or following letter. However, it is sometimes combined with a *wāw*, *yāʾ*, or *ʾalif*, and in that case the carrier behaves like an ordinary *wāw*, *yāʾ*, or *ʾalif*.
- The shape of the final *yāʾ* is always undotted ى in both print and handwriting in Egypt and Sudan, mainly.

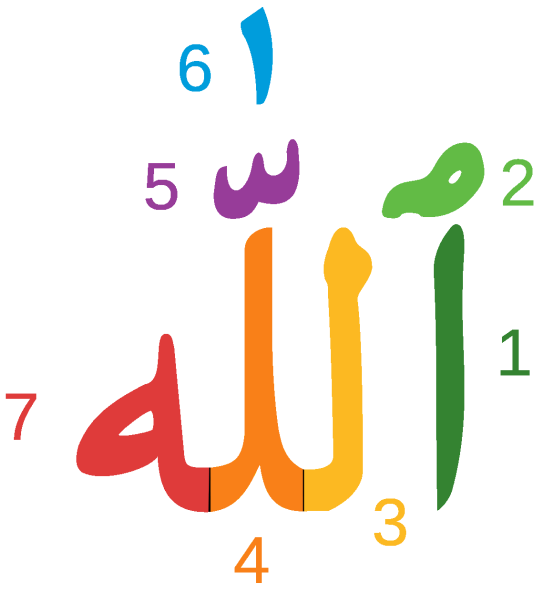
Modified letters

The following are not individual letters, but rather different contextual variants of some of the Arabic letters.

Conditional forms				Name	Translit.	Phonemic Value (IPA)
Isolated	Final	Medial	Initial			
آ	ـآ	ـآ	آ	ʾalif maddah	*ʾā*	/ʔaː/
ة	ـة			tāʾ marbūṭah	*h* or *t* / *ʰ* / *ẗ*	/a/, /at/
ى	ـى			ʾalif maqṣūrah[10]	*ā* / *ỳ*	/aː/

Ligatures

The use of ligature in Arabic is common. There is one compulsory ligature, that for *lām* + *'alif*, which exists in two forms. All other ligatures (*yā'* + *mīm*, etc.) are optional.



Components of a ligature for "Allah":
1. alif
2. hamzat waṣl (همزة وصل)
3. lām
4. lām
5. shadda (شدة)
6. dagger alif (ألف خنجرية)
7. hā'

Contextual forms				Name
Final	Medial	Initial	Isolated	
ﻞ		ﻟ		lām + 'alif

A more complex ligature that combines as many as seven distinct components is commonly used to represent the word *Allāh*.

Unicode primary range for basic Arabic language alphabet is the U+06xx range. Other ranges are for compatibility to older standards and do contain some ligatures. The only compulsory ligature for fonts and text processing in the basic Arabic language alphabet range U+06xx are ones for *lām* + *alif*. All other ligatures (*yā'* + *mīm*, etc.) are optional. Example to illustrate it is below. The exact outcome may depend on your browser and font configuration.

- *lām* + *'alif*

  لا

Note: Unicode also has in its Presentation Form B FExx range a code for this ligature. If your browser and font are configured correctly for Arabic, the ligature displayed above should be identical to this one, `U+FEFB` ARABIC LIGATURE LAM WITH ALEF ISOLATED FORM:

  ﻻ

- `U+0640` ARABIC TATWEEL + *lām* + *'alif*

  لـا

Note: Unicode also has in its Presentation Form B U+FExx range a code for this ligature. If your browser and font are configured correctly for Arabic, the ligature displayed above should be identical to this one:

- U+FEFC ARABIC LIGATURE LAM WITH ALEF FINAL FORM

ﻻ

Another ligature in the Unicode Presentation Form A range U+FB50 to U+FDxx is the special code for glyph for the ligature *Allāh* ("God"), U+FDF2 ARABIC LIGATURE ALLAH ISOLATED FORM:

ﷲ

This latter ligature code again is a work-around for the shortcomings of most text processors, which are incapable of displaying the correct vowel marks for the word *Allāh* in Koran. Because Arabic script is used to write other texts rather than Koran only, rendering *lām* + *lām* + *hā'* as the previous ligature is considered faulty:[11] If one of those fonts are installed on a computer (mry_KacstQurn, KacstOne, DejaVu Sans, Scheherazade, Lateef) the right will appear without automatically adding gemination mark and superscript Alef.

- *lām* + *lām* + *hā'*

لله or لله

- *'alif* + *lām* + *lām* + *hā'*

الله or الله

- *'alif* + *lām* + U+0651 ARABIC SHADDA + U+0670 ARABIC LETTER SUPERSCRIPT ALEF + *hā'*

اللّٰه (*DejaVu Sans* and *KacstOne* don't show the added superscript Alef)

An attempt to show them on the faulty fonts without automatically adding the gemination mark and the superscript Alef, although may not display as desired on all browsers, is by adding the U+200d (Zero width joiner) after the first or second *lām*

- (*'alif* +) *lām* + *lām* + U+200d ZERO WIDTH JOINER + *hā'*

هالل هلل

Gemination

Gemination is the doubling of a consonant. Instead of writing the letter twice, Arabic places a *W*-shaped sign called *shaddah*, above it. Note that if a vowel occurs between the two consonants the letter will simply be written twice. The diacritic only appears where the consonant at the end of one syllable is identical to the initial consonant of the following syllable. (The generic term for such diacritical signs is *ḥarakāt*).

General Unicode	Name	Transliteration
0651 ّ	shaddah	(consonant doubled)

Nunation

Nunation (Arabic: تنوين *tanwīn*) is the addition of a final *-n* to a noun or adjective. The vowel before it indicates grammatical case. In written Arabic nunation is indicated by doubling the vowel diacritic at the end of the word.

Vowels

Users of Arabic usually write long vowels but omit short ones, so readers must utilize their knowledge of the language in order to supply the missing vowels. However, in the education system and particularly in classes on Arabic grammar these vowels are used since they are crucial to the grammar. An Arabic sentence can have a completely different meaning by a subtle change of the vowels. This is why in an important text such as the *Qur'ān* the three basic vowel signs (see below) are mandated, like the *ḥarakāt* and all the other diacritics or other types of marks, for example the cantillation signs.

Short vowels

In the Arabic handwriting of everyday use, in general publications, and on street signs, short vowels are typically not written. On the other hand, copies of the *Qur'ān* cannot be endorsed by the religious institutes that review them unless the diacritics are included. Children's books, elementary-school texts, and Arabic-language grammars in general will include diacritics to some degree. These are known as "vocalized" texts.

Short vowels may be written with diacritics placed above or below the consonant that precedes them in the syllable, called *ḥarakāt*. All Arabic vowels, long and short, follow a consonant; in Arabic, words like "Ali" or "alif", for example, start with a consonant: *ʿAliyy*, *ʾalif*.

Short vowels (fully vocalized text)	Name	Trans.	Value
064E ـَ	fatḥah	*a*	/a/
064F ـُ	ḍammah	*u*	/u/
0650 ـِ	kasrah	*i*	/i/

Long vowels

In the fully vocalized Arabic text found in texts such as Koran, a long *ā* following a consonant other than a *hamzah* is written with a short *a* sign (*fatḥah*) on the consonant plus an *ʾalif* after it; long *ī* is written as a sign for short *i* (*kasrah*) plus a *yāʾ* ; and long *ū* as a sign for short *u* (*ḍammah*) plus a *wāw*. Briefly, ◌ا*a* = *ā*, ◌ِ*y* = *ī* and ◌ُ*w* = *ū*. Long *ā* following a *hamzah* may be represented by an *ʾalif maddah* or by a free *hamzah* followed by an *ʾalif*.

The table below shows vowels placed above or below a dotted circle replacing a primary consonant letter or a *shaddah* sign. For clarity in the table, the primary letters on the left used to mark these long vowels are shown only in their isolated form. Please note that most consonants do connect to the left with *ʾalif*, *wāw* and *yāʾ* written then with their medial or final form. Additionally, the letter *yāʾ* in the last row may connect to the letter on its left, and then will use a medial or initial form. Use the table of primary letters to look at their actual glyph and joining types.

Long vowels (fully vocalised text)	Name	Trans.	Value
064E 0627 اَ	fatḥah ʾalif	*ā*	/aː/
064E 0649 ىَ	fatḥah ʾalif maqṣūrah	*ā* / *á*	/aː/
064F 0648 وُ	ḍammah wāw	*ū*	/uː/
0650 064A يِ	kasrah yāʾ	*ī*	/iː/

In unvocalized text (one in which the short vowels are not marked), the long vowels are represented by the vowel in question: *ʾalif*, *ʾalif maqṣūrah* (or *yaʾ*), *wāw*, or *yāʾ*. Long vowels written in the middle of a word of unvocalized text are treated like consonants with a *sukūn* (see below) in a text that has full diacritics. Here also, the table shows long vowel letters only in isolated form for clarity.

Combinations اِ and يا are always pronounced *wā* and *yā* respectively, the exception is when اِ is the verb ending, where ʾalif is silent, resulting in *ū*.

Long vowels (unvocalized text)	Name	Trans.	Value
0627 ا	(implied fatḥah) ʾalif	*ā*	/aː/
0649 ى	(implied fatḥah) ʾalif maqṣūrah	*ā* / *aỳ*	/aː/
0648 و	(implied ḍammah) wāw	*ū* / *uw*	/uː/
064A ي	(implied kasrah) yāʾ	*ī* / *iy*	/iː/

In addition, when transliterating names and loanwords, Arabic language speakers write out most or all the vowels as long (*ā* with ا *ʾalif*, *ē* and *ī* with ي *yaʾ*, and *ō* and *ū* with و *wāw*), meaning it approaches a true alphabet.

Diphthongs

The diphthongs /aj/ and /aw/ are represented in vocalized text as follows:

Diphthongs (fully vocalized text)	Name	Trans.	Value
064E 064A يَ	fatḥah yā'	*ay*	/aj/
064E 0648 وَ	fatḥah wāw	*aw*	/aw/

Vowel omission

An Arabic syllable can be open (ending with a vowel) or closed (ending with a consonant):

- open: CV [consonant-vowel] (long or short vowel)
- closed: CVC (short vowel only)

A normal text is composed only of a series of consonants plus vowel-lengthening letters; thus, the word *qalb*, "heart", is written *qlb*, and the word *qalab*, "he turned around", is also written *qlb*.

To write qalab without this ambiguity, we could indicate that the l is followed by a short 'a' by writing a fatha above it.

To write qalb, we would instead indicate that the l is followed by no vowel by marking it with a diacritic called *sukūn* (ْ), like this: قلْبْ).

This is one step down from full vocalization, where the vowel after the q would also be indicated by a*fatḥah*: قَلْبْ.

The *Qur'ān* is traditionally written in full vocalization.

The long i sound in some qurans is written with a kasra followed diacriticless *yā'*, and long u by a damma followed by a bare *wāw*. In other qurans, this ya and this waw carry a *sukūn*. Outside of the *Qur'ān*, the latter convention is extremely rare, to the point that *yā'* with *sukūn* will be unambiguously read as the diphthong /aj/, and *wāw* with *sukūn* will be read /aw/.

For example, the letters *m-y-l* can be read like English meel or like English mail, or (theoretically) also some other ways, like 'mayyal' or 'mayil'. But if a sukuun is added on the ya' then the miim cannot have a sukuun (because two letters in a row cannot be sukunated), cannot have a damma (because there is never an 'uy' sound in Arabic unless there is another vowel after the ya), and cannot have a kasra (because kasra before sukunated ya' is never found outside qurans), so it MUST have a fatha and the only possible pronunciation is /mayl/ (meaning mile, or even e-mail). By the same token, m-y-t with a sukoon over the y can be mayt but not mayyit or meet, and m-w-t with a sukoon on the w can only be mawt, not moot (iw is impossible when the w closes the syllable).

Vowel marks are always written as if the *I'rāb* vowels were in fact pronounced, even when they must be skipped in actual pronunciation. So, when writing the name *'Aḥmad*, it is optional to place a sukoon on the *ḥ*, but a sukoon is forbidden on the *d*, because that d would carry a damma if any other word followed, as in *'Aḥmadu zawjī* meaning "Ahmad is my husband".

Another example: the sentence that in correct Arabic must be pronounced *'Aḥmadu zawjun sharrīr*, meaning "Ahmed is a wicked husband", is usually mispronounced as *'Aḥmad zawj sharrīr*. Yet, for the purposes of Arabic grammar and orthography, is treated as if it were not mispronounced and as if yet another word followed it, i.e., if adding any vowel marks, they must be added as if the pronunciation were *'Aḥmadu zawjun sharrīrun* with a tanween 'un' at the very end. So, it is correct to add an 'un' tanween sign on the final r, but actually pronouncing it would be a hypercorrection. Also, it is never correct to write a sukoon on that r, even though in actual pronunciation that r is (and in correct Arabic MUST be) sukooned.

Of course, if the correct i`râb is a sukuun, it may be optionally written.

General Unicode	Name	Translit.	Phonemic Value (IPA)
0652 ْ	sukūn	(no vowel with this consonant letter or diphthong with this long vowel letter)	∅
0670 ٰ	ʾalif above	*ā*	/aː/

The *sukūn* is also used for transliterating words into the Arabic script. The Persian word ماسک (*mâsk*, from the English word "mask"), for example, might be written with a *sukūn* above the س to signify that there is no vowel sound between that letter and the ک.

Additional letters

Regional variations

- ﭢ – a Maghrebi variation of the letter ف (*fāʾ*) .
- ﯗ and ﯘ – a Maghrebi variation of standard letter ق (as a rule, dotless in isolated and final positions and dotted in the initial and medial forms ﯙ ﯚ ﯛ).

Additional modified letters, used in non-Arabic languages, or in Arabic for transliterating names, loanwords, spoken dialects only, include:

Sometimes used for writing names, loanwords and dialects

- ﭤ – (not to be confused with ﭢ) used in Kurdish language when written in Arabic script and sometimes used in Arabic language to represent the sound /v/ when transliterating names and loanwords in Arabic. Also used in writing dialects with that sound.[12] (Usually the letter ف (*fāʾ*) transliterates /v/.) Also used as *pa* in the Jawi script. The phoneme /v/ in Tunisia and some other regions of Maghreb is rendered using ﭤ.
- پ – used to represent the phoneme /p/ in Persian, Urdu, and Kurdish; sometimes used in Arabic language when transliterating names and loanwords, although Arabic mostly substitutes /b/ for /p/ in the transliteration of names and loanwords. So, "7up" can be transcribed as سفن أب or سﭙن أپ.
- چ – used to represent /t͡ʃ/ ("ch"). It is used in Persian, Urdu, and Kurdish and sometimes used when transliterating names and loanwords in Arabic. In the Iraqi spoken dialect it may be used, especially when referring in the feminine, although it is rarely written, as well as rarely used in the Maghrebi spelling. Nevertheless, Arabic usually substitutes other letters in the transliteration of names and loanwords: normally the combination تش (*tāʾ-shīn*) is used to transliterate the /t͡ʃ/, as in "Chad". In Egypt چ is used for /ʒ/ (or /d͡ʒ/, which is approximated to [ʒ]). In Israel, it's used to render /g/ in Arabic language, for example on roadsigns.
  - *Ca* in the Jawi script.
- گ – used to represent /g/. Normally used in Persian, Kurdish, and Urdu.[12] Often names and loanwords with /g/ are transliterated in Arabic with ك (*kāf*), ق (*qāf*), غ (*ghayn*) or ج (*jīm*), which may or may not change the original sound. In Egypt ج is normally pronounced [g].
- ﯜ – a Maghrebi letter, sometimes used for [g] (not to be confused with ﯗ). In Tunisia it is sometimes used to represent the phoneme /g/. In final and isolate form it has the form which resembles the letter ق *qāf* whence it derives.
- ﭣ – a Maghrebi letter for [t͡ʃ].

Numerals

Western (Maghreb, Europe)	Central (Mideast)	Eastern/Indian (Persian, Urdu)
0	٠	۰
1	١	۱
2	٢	۲
3	٣	۳
4	٤	۴
5	٥	۵
6	٦	۶
7	٧	۷
8	٨	۸
9	٩	۹

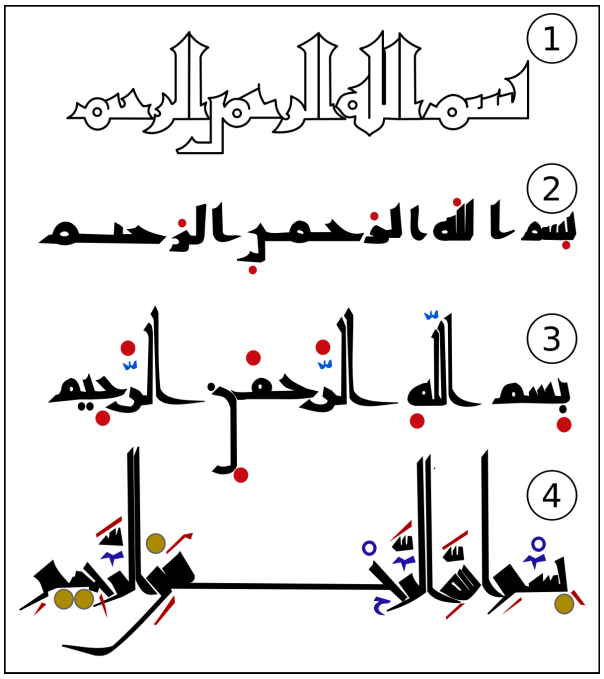
There are two main kinds of numerals used along with Arabic text; Western Arabic numerals and Eastern Arabic numerals. In most of present-day North Africa, the usual Western Arabic numerals are used. Like Western Arabic numerals, in Eastern Arabic numerals, the units are always right-most, and the highest value left-most.

Letters as numerals

In addition, the Arabic alphabet can be used to represent numbers (Abjad numerals). This usage is based on the *'abjadī* order of the alphabet. أ *'alif* is 1, ب *bā'* is 2, ج *jīm* is 3, and so on until ي *yā'* = 10, ك *kāf* = 20, ل *lām* = 30, …, ر *rā'* = 200, …, غ *ghayn* = 1000. This is sometimes used to produce chronograms.

History

The Arabic alphabet can be traced back to the Nabataean alphabet used to write the Nabataean dialect of Aramaic. The first known text in the Arabic alphabet is a late 4th-century inscription from *Jabal Ramm* (50 km east of *'Aqabah*) in Jordan, but the first dated one is a trilingual inscription at Zebed in Syria from 512. However, the epigraphic record is extremely sparse, with only five certainly pre-Islamic Arabic inscriptions surviving, though some others may be pre-Islamic. Later, dots were added above and below the letters to differentiate them. (The Aramaic language had fewer phonemes than the Arabic, and some originally distinct Aramaic letters had become indistinguishable in shape, so that in the early writings 15 distinct letter-shapes had to do duty for 28 sounds; cf. the similarly ambiguous Pahlavi alphabet.) The first surviving document that definitely uses these dots is also the first surviving Arabic papyrus (PERF 558), dated April 643, although they did not become obligatory until much later. Important texts were and still are frequently memorized, especially in Qur'an memorization, a practice which probably arose partially from a desire to avoid the great ambiguity of the script.



Evolution of early Arabic calligraphy (9th–11th century). The *Basmala* is taken as an example, from Kufic *Qur'ān* manuscripts. (1) Early 9th century script used no dots or diacritic marks;[13] (2) and (3) in the 9th–10th century during the Abbasid dynasty, Abu al-Aswad's system used red dots with each arrangement or position indicating a different short vowel. Later, a second system of black dots was used to differentiate between letters like *fā'* and *qāf*;[14][14] (4) in the 11th century, al-Farāhīdī's system) dots were changed into shapes resembling the letters to transcribe the corresponding long vowels. This system is the one used today.[15]

Later still, vowel marks and the *hamzah* were introduced, beginning some time in the latter half of the 7th century, preceding the first invention of Syriac and Hebrew vocalization. Initially, this was done by a system of red dots, said to have been commissioned by an Umayyad governor of Iraq, *Ḥajjaj ibn Yūsuf*: a dot above = *a*, a dot below = *i*, a dot on the line = *u*, and doubled dots indicated nunation. However, this was cumbersome and easily confusable with the letter-distinguishing dots, so about 100 years later, the modern system was adopted. The system was finalized around 786 by *al-Farāhīdī*.

Arabic printing presses

Although Napoleon Bonaparte generally is given the credit with introducing the printing press to Egypt, upon invading it in 1798, and he did indeed bring printing presses and Arabic script presses, to print the French occupation's official newspaper *Al-Tanbiyyah* (*The Courier*), the process was started several centuries earlier.

Gutenberg's invention of the printing press in 1450 was followed up by Gregorio de Gregorii, a Venetian, who in 1514 published an entire prayer book in Arabic script entitled *Kitab Salat al-Sawa'i* intended for the eastern Christian communities. The script was said to be crude and almost unreadable.[*citation needed*]

Famed type designer Robert Granjon working for Cardinal Ferdinando de Medici succeeded in designing elegant Arabic typefaces and the Medici press published many Christian prayer and scholarly Arabic texts in the late 16th century.

The first Arabic books published using movable type in the Middle East were by the Maronite monks at the *Maar Quzhayy* Monastery in Mount Lebanon. They transliterated the Arabic language using Syriac script. It took a fellow goldsmith like Gutenberg to design and implement the first true Arabic script movable type printing press in the Middle East. The Greek Orthodox monk *Abd Allah Zakhir* set up an Arabic language printing press using movable type at the monastery of Saint John at the town of *Dhour El Shuwayr* in Mount Lebanon, the first homemade press in Lebanon using true Arabic script. He personally cut the type molds and did the founding of the elegant typeface. He created the first true Arabic script type in the Middle East. The first book off the press was in 1734; this press continued to be used until 1899.[16]

Computers and the Arabic alphabet

The Arabic alphabet can be encoded using several character sets, including ISO-8859-6, Windows-1256 and Unicode (see links in Infobox, above), in the latter thanks to the "Arabic segment", entries U+0600 to U+06FF. However, neither of these sets indicate the form each character should take in context. It is left to the rendering engine to select the proper glyph to display for each character.

For compatibility with previous standards, initial, medial, final and isolated forms can be encoded separately in Unicode; however, they can also be inferred from their joining context, using the same encoding. The following table shows this common encoding, in addition to the compatibility encodings for their normally contextual forms (Arabic texts should be encoded today using only the common encoding, but the rendering must then infer the joining types to determine the correct glyph forms, with or without ligation).

Unicode

As of Unicode 6.1, the following ranges encode Arabic characters:

- Arabic (0600-06FF)
- Arabic Supplement (0750-077F)
- Arabic Extended-A (08A0-08FF)
- Arabic Presentation Forms-A (FB50-FDFF)
- Arabic Presentation Forms-B (FE70-FEFF)
- Arabic Mathematical Alphabetic Symbols 1EE00-1EEFF)

The basic Arabic range encodes the standard letters and diacritics, but does not encode contextual forms (U+0621-U+0652 being directly based on ISO 8859-6); and also includes the most common diacritics and Arabic-Indic digits. U+06D6 to U+06ED encode Qur'anic annotation signs such as "end of *ayah*" ۝ and "start of *rub el hizb*" ۞. The Arabic Supplement range encodes letter variants mostly used for writing African (non-Arabic) languages. The Arabic Extended-A range encodes additional Qur'anic annotations and letter variants used for various non-Arabic languages. The Arabic Presentation Forms-A range encodes contextual forms and ligatures of letter variants needed for Persian, Urdu, Sindhi and Central Asian languages. The Arabic Presentation Forms-B range encodes spacing forms of Arabic diacritics, and more contextual letter forms. The Arabic Mathematical Alphabetical Symbols block encodes characters used in Arabic mathematical expressions.

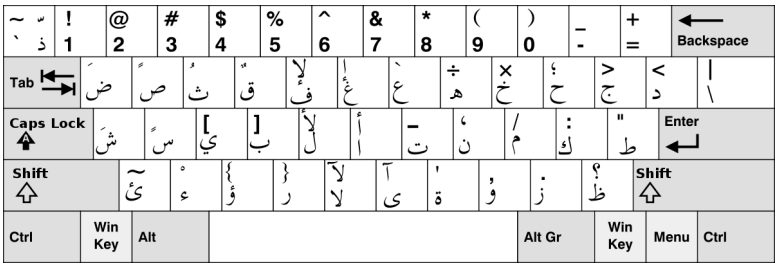
See also the notes of the section on modified letters.

Keyboards

Keyboards designed for different nations have different layouts, so that proficiency in one style of keyboard such as Iraq's does not transfer to proficiency in another keyboard such as Saudi Arabia's. Differences can include the location of non-alphabetic characters.

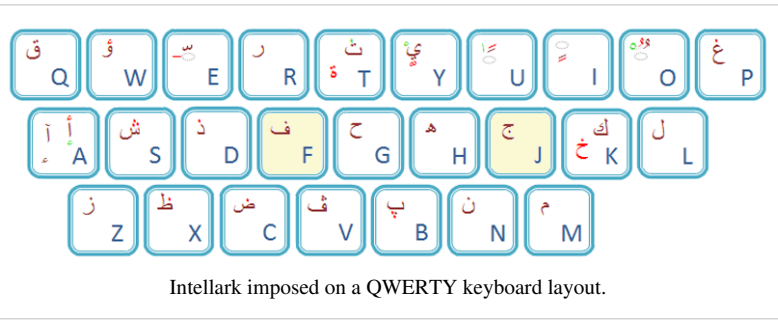
Arabic Mac keyboard layout

All Arabic keyboards allow typing Roman characters, e.g., for the URL in a web browser. Thus, each Arabic keyboard has both Arabic and Roman characters marked on the keys. Usually the Roman characters of an Arabic keyboard conform to the QWERTY layout, but in North Africa, where French is the most common language typed using the Roman characters, the Arabic keyboards are AZERTY.



Arabic Windows keyboard layout

To encode a particular written form of a character, there are extra code points provided in Unicode which can be used to express the exact written form desired. The range *Arabic presentation forms A* (U+FB50 to U+FDFF) contain ligatures while the range *Arabic presentation forms B* (U+FE70 to U+FEFF) contains the positional variants. These effects are better achieved in Unicode by using the *zero-width joiner* and *non-joiner*, as these presentation forms are deprecated in Unicode, and should generally only be used within the internals of text-rendering software, when using Unicode as an intermediate form for conversion between character encodings, or for backwards compatibility with implementations that rely on the hard-coding of glyph forms.



Intellark imposed on a QWERTY keyboard layout.

Finally, the Unicode encoding of Arabic is in *logical order*, that is, the characters are entered, and stored in computer memory, in the order that they are written and pronounced without worrying about the direction in which they will be displayed on paper or on the screen. Again, it is left to the rendering engine to present the characters in the correct direction, using Unicode's bi-directional text features. In this regard, if the Arabic words on this page are written left to right, it is an indication that the Unicode rendering engine used to display them is out-of-date.[17][18]

There are competing on-line tools, e.g. Yamli editor [19], allowing to enter Arabic letters without having Arabic support installed on a PC and without the knowledge of the layout of the Arabic keyboard.[20]

Handwriting recognition

The first software program of its kind in the world that identifies Arabic handwriting in real time has been developed by researchers at Ben-Gurion University (BGU).

The prototype enables the user to write Arabic words by hand on an electronic screen, which then analyzes the text and translates it into printed Arabic letters in a thousandth of a second. The error rate is less than three percent, according to Dr. Jihad El-Sana, from BGU's department of computer sciences, who developed the system along with master's degree student Fadi Biadsy.[21]

References

[1] http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U0600.pdf
[2] http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U0750.pdf
[3] http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U08A0.pdf
[4] http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/UFB50.pdf
[5] http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/UFE70.pdf
[6] http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1EE00.pdf
[7] While there are ways to mark vowels, these are not always employed. Because of this, it is more exactly called an "impure abjad". See Abjad#Impure abjads for a discussion of this nomenclature.
[8] Alyaseer.net ترتيب المداخل والبطاقات في القوائم والفهارس الموضوعية Ordering entries and cards in subject indexes (http://alyaseer.net/vb/showthread.php?t=8807) Discussion thread *(Accessed 2009-October–06)*
[10] See the sub-paragraph about the *ʾalif maqṣūrah* at *aleph* in Arabic
[11] SIL International: This simplified style is often preferred for clarity, especially in non-Arabic languages (http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&id=ArabicFonts&_sc=1)
[12] Arabic Dialect Tutorial (http://www1.ccls.columbia.edu/~cadim/ArabicDialectTutorialAMTA2006.pdf)
[13] File:Basmala kufi.svg - Wikimedia Commons
[14] File:Kufi.jpg - Wikimedia Commons
[15] File:Qur'an folio 11th century kufic.jpg - Wikimedia Commons
[16] Arabic and the Art of Printing – A Special Section (http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/198102/arabic.and.the.art.of.printing-a.special.section.htm), by Paul Lunde
[17] For more information about encoding Arabic, consult the Unicode manual available at The Unicode website (http://www.unicode.org/)
[18] See also Multilingual Computing with Arabic and Arabic Transliteration: Arabicizing Windows Applications to Read and Write Arabic & Solutions for the Transliteration Quagmire Faced by Arabic-Script Languages (http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/mideast/Multilingual_Computing_with_Arabic_and_Arabic_Transliteration.pdf) and A PowerPoint Tutorial (with screen shots and an English voice-over) on how to add Arabic to the Windows Operating System (http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/mideast/multilingual_computing_arabic.ppt).
[19] http://www.yamli.com/editor/
[20] Yamli in the News (http://www.yamli.com/press/)
[21] Israel 21c (http://www.israel21c.org/bin/en.jsp?enDispWho=Articles^l1650&enPage=BlankPage&enDisplay=view&enDispWhat=object&enVersion=0&enZone=Technology&)

Arabic alphabet coloring pages for kids, find the letters and color. (http://umm4.com/?p=3897)

External links

- Learn Arabic alphabet with audio (http://www.naturalarabic.com/free_article.php?artid=10150)
- Interactive audio lesson for learning the Arabic alphabet (http://www.salaamarabic.com/lesson/plan/1490/isolated_consonants)
- Named Entity Recognition (http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/asi.21090/abstract) – for a discussion of inconsistencies and variations of Arabic written text.
- Arabetics (http://arabetics.com/) – for a discussion of consistency and uniformization of Arabic written text.
- The Arabic alphabet (writing letters) (http://www.arabic-keyboard.org/arabic/arabic-alphabet.php)
- Learn Arabic Letters and Quran Reading (http://www.essentialilm.com/read-arabic-quran.html)
- Open Source fonts for Arabic script (http://alefba.us/typography/free-arabic-persian-farsi-urdu-kurdish-fonts/)

- Arabic (http://www.dmoz.org/Science/Social_Sciences/Linguistics/Languages/Natural/Afro-Asiatic/Arabic/Online_Courses//) at the Open Directory Project

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This article contains major sections of text from the very detailed article Arabic alphabet from the French Wikipedia, which has been partially translated into English. Further translation of that page, and its incorporation into the text here, are welcomed.

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W. Love, J04n, JWB, Jackollie, Jacobolus, Jaksmata, JamesAM, JavaWoman, Jeff3000, Jeru, Jerzy, Jguk 2, JhanCRUSH, Jijijijijijijiji, Jiminy Krikkitt, Jmlk17, Joao Xavier, John K, John Price, JohnChrysostom, Jolivio, Jon Harald Søby, Jon f, Jonsafari, Jpgordon, Jrajesh, Julian Mendez, Kaihsu, Karada, Kateshortforbob, Katxijasotzaile, Kbdank71, Kbolino, Kbouchafaa, Khaled hosny, Khalidkhoso, Khoikhoi, Kikos, Kirbytime, Kiwi128, Klemen Kocjancic, Kmgordon11, KnowledgeOfSelf, Koavf, Koresdcine, Kralizec!, Kwamikagami, Labnoor, Lacrimosus, LakeHMM, Lament, Largoplazo, Lcerick, Le Anh-Huy, Leewonbum, LeoNomis, Leszek Jańczuk, Lethe, Liliana-60, Lindert, Little Mountain 5, Lockesdonkey, Look41, Lyzazel, MBisanz, MER-C, MaGioZal, MaSsDoWn, Mabuhelwa, MacedonianBoy, Macrakis, Madhany, Magioladitis, Mahmudmasri, Mairi, Manaj2, Mani1, Mar4d, Mark Dingemanse, Marrouchi, Martarius, Martin Kozák, Maxee, Maximus Rex, Mboverload, McGeddon, Mcleinn, Mehboobbugti, Mga, Micki, Mihoubi3333, MikeX, Mimiq, MissFatoush, Mitsukai, Mo-Al, Moh954, Mohehab, Murraytheb, Mustafaa, Mustaqbal, MuzikJunky, NJT90, NSH001, Nach0king, Nandhp, Nbarth, Neptune5000, Nickj, Nicodecorato, Nicolas Eynaud, Ninly, Niteowlneils, No such user, Node ue, Norm mit, Octahedron80, Oghmoir, Omelette face, Oneeyedboxer, Opensourceit, Oxymoron83, Pabix, Parishan, Pasquale, Paveleon, Pete unseth, Peyna, Phe, Phil Boswell, Philg88, PiCo, Piano non troppo, Piccadilly Sirkus, Pince31, Pjacobi, Pne, Poccil, Poeloq, Polyhedron, Polynova, Porges, Prodego, Provider uk, Ptcamn, Puuropyssy, PuzzletChung, Pyriform, Quadell, QuiteUnusual, Ramsis II, Rdsmith4, RealGrouchy, RexNL, Rich Farmbrough, Rjanag, Rjwilmsi, Rmorrisons, Ross Burgess, Ruakh, Rursus, Rémih, SFGiants, Sala7addin, Salt Yeung, Sam Hocevar, Samadam, Samarmadinah, Samuel, Samwaltz, Sangak, Saperaud, Sapphic, Sardanaphalus, Sburke, Scythia, SebastianHelm, Sebastianito, Sebesta, Sesquiannual, Shafei, Shamir1, Shlomital, Shoeofdeath, Shombe123, Shunpiker, Si Gam, SimonP, Sindhbadh, Sirmelle, Sjerickson07, Skomorokh, Slashme, Soleado, Sonjaaa, Sourenaa, Stallions2010, Starcheerspeaksnewslostwars, Stardust8212, Steinbach, StephenHudson, StevenDH, Storkk, Sudhir.swarnkar, Suruena, Svdb, Sylent, Symane, Syrthiss, THF, Ta-Labs, Tarquin, Terfili, The Anome, The Phoenix, TheNewPhobia, Thecurran, Thehotelambush, Thomas Milo, TimBentley, Timwi, Tobias Bergemann, Tobias Conradi, Tobias Hoevekamp, Tolly4bolly, TomeHale, Tonymec, Tropylium, Tsbah, TwoThirty, Tyomitch, Ulric1313, Umrcht, Untifler, Varlaam, Vekoler, Verdy p, Vincent Ramos, Vladmirfish, Vmenkov, Voidvector, Wahatalzarzura, Wajaddas, Wandering-teacher, Waqas1987, Waxwing slain, Welsh, Westonmr, WhiteFireTwin, Wickey-nl, Wiki Wikardo, Wikiarabia, Will314159, Wimt, Wiwaxia, Wizardist, Wmahan, Woer$, Woodstone, Woohookitty, YBG, Yom, Youssefsan, Yuber, Yury Tarasievich, Yym, Zack wadghiri, Zerida, Zfr, Zhinz, Zinomr, ^demon, Володимир Груша, פלו קוק, הסרפד, أحمد ترجمان05, 厂乂尤力一, 849 anonymous edits

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Eastern Arabic numerals

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

It has been suggested that this article be merged into *Arabic numerals*. (Discuss) *Proposed since October 2011.*

The **Eastern Arabic numerals** (also called **Arabic–Indic numerals** and **Arabic Eastern numerals**) are the symbols (٠ ١ ٢ ٣ ٤ ٥ ٦ ٧ ٨ ٩) used to represent the Hindu–Arabic numeral system in conjunction with the Arabic alphabet in the countries of the Arab east, and its variant in other countries.

Contents [hide]

Numeral systems by culture

Hindu–Arabic numerals:
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Other names [edit]

These numbers are known as أرقام هندية ("Indian numbers") in Arabic. They are sometimes also called "Indic numerals" in English.[1] However, this nomenclature is sometimes discouraged as it leads to confusion with the numerals used in the scripts of India[2] (see Indian numerals).

Numerals [edit]

There is substantial variation in usage of glyphs for the Eastern Arabic–Indic digits, especially for the digits four, five, and six.[3]

Each number in the Persian variant has a different unicode point even if it looks identical to the Eastern Arabic numeral counterpart.

Other historical systems:
Aegean · Attic · Babylonian · Brahmi · Egyptian · Etruscan · Inuit · Kharosthi · Mayan · Quipu · Roman ·

Positional systems by base
Decimal (10)
1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 11 · 12 · 13 · 14 · 15 · 16 · 20 · 24 · 26 · 27 · 32 · 36 · 60 ·
Non-standard positional numeral systems

List of numeral systems
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Arabic style Eastern Arabic numerals on a clock in the Cairo Metro

Western Arabic	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Eastern Arabic	٠	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩

Perso-Arabic variant	۰	۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹
Pakistani variant	۰	۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹

Usage [edit]

Written numerals are arranged with their lowest-value digit to the right, with higher value positions added to the left. This is identical to the arrangement used by Western texts using Western Arabic numerals, even though Arabic script is read from right to left. There is no conflict unless numerical layout is necessary, as is the case for arithmetic problems (as in simple addition or multiplication) and lists of numbers, which tend to be justified at the decimal point or comma.[4]

North Africa [edit]

This article **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(May 2009)*

In present-day North Africa, excluding Egypt and Sudan, Western Arabic numerals (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) are used; in medieval times, a slightly different set (from which, via Italy, Western "Arabic numerals" derive) was used.

See also [edit]

- Western Arabic numerals
- Indian numerals
- Hindu–Arabic numeral system

References [edit]

1. ^ IBM website
2. ^ Unicode Online Glossary
3. ^ The Unicode Standard 5.0 – Electronic edition, Chapter 8 Middle Eastern Scripts
4. ^ Menninger, Karl (1992). *Number words and number symbols: a cultural history of numbers*. Courier Dover Publications. p. 415. ISBN 0-486-27096-3.

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Categories: Numerals

Aleph

Alef Bet →				
Phoenician	Hebrew	Aramaic	Syriac	Arabic
	א		ܐ	ا
Alphabetic derivatives				
Greek	Latin	Cyrillic		
A	A	A		
Phonemic representation:	ʔ			
Position in alphabet:	1			
Numerical value:	1			

ʾĀlp is the first letter of many Semitic abjads (alphabets), including Phoenician **Aleph** 𐤀 , Syriac **ʾĀlaph** ܐ, Hebrew **Aleph** א, and Arabic **Alif** ا.

The Phoenician letter gave rise to the Greek Alpha (A), being re-interpreted to express not the glottal consonant but the accompanying vowel, and hence the Latin A and Cyrillic A.

The aleph is in Unicode at U+05D0 א hebrew letter alef (HTML: `א`).

In phonetics, aleph /ˈɑːlɪf/ originally represented the glottal stop ([ʔ]), often transliterated as U+02BE ʾ modifier letter right half ring (HTML: `ʾ`), based on the Greek *spiritus lenis* ᾽, for example, in the transliteration of the letter name itself, *ʾāleph*.

Origin

The name *aleph* is derived from the West Semitic word for "ox", and the shape of the letter derives from a Proto-Sinaitic glyph based on a hieroglyph which depicts an ox's head.

In Modern Standard Arabic, the word أليف /ʔaliːf/ literally means 'tamed' or 'familiar', derived from the root ا-ل-ف, from which the verb أَلِف /ʔalifa/ means 'to be acquainted with; to be on intimate terms with'. In modern Hebrew, the same root א-ל-ף (alef-lamed-peh) gives *me'ulaf*, the passive participle of the verb *le'alef*, meaning 'trained' (when referring to pets) or 'tamed' (when referring to wild animals); the IDF rank of Aluf, taken from an Edomite title of nobility, is also cognate.Wikipedia:Please clarify

Arabic

Written as ا, spelled as ألف and transliterated as *alif* it is the first letter in Arabic. Together with Hebrew Aleph, Greek Alpha and Latin A, it is descended from Phoenician ʾāleph, from a reconstructed Proto-Canaanite *ʾalp* "ox".

Alif is written in one of the following ways depending on its position in the word:

Position in word:	Isolated	Final	Medial	Initial
Glyph form:	ا	ـا	ـا	ا

Arabic variants

Historically, the Arabic letter was used to render either a long /aː/, or a glottal stop /ʔ/. This led to orthographical confusion, and to introduction of the additional letter *hamzat qaṭ'* ء. Hamzah is not considered a full letter in Arabic orthography: in most cases it appears on a carrier, either a *wāw* (ؤ), a dotless *yā'* (ئ), or an alif. The choice of carrier depends on complicated orthographic rules. Alif أ إ is generally the carrier where the only adjacent vowel is *fatḥah*. It is the only possible carrier where hamzah is the first phoneme of a word. Where alif acts as a carrier for hamzah, hamzah is added above the alif, or, for initial alif-*kasrah*, below it, indicating that the letter so modified does indeed signify a glottal stop, and not a long vowel.

A second type of hamza, *hamzat waṣl* (همزة وصل), occurs only as the initial phoneme of the definite article and in some related cases. It differs from *hamzat qaṭ'* in that it is elided after a preceding vowel. Again, alif is always the carrier.

The *alif maddah* is, as it were, a double alif, expressing both a glottal stop and a long vowel: آ (final ـآ) ʾā /ʔaː/, for example in آخر *ākhir* /ʔaːxir/ 'last'. "It has become standard for a *hamza* followed by a long ā to be written as two *alifs*, one vertical and one horizontal" (the "horizontal" alif being the *maddah* sign).

The *alif maqṣūrah* (ألف مقصورة, 'limited/restricted alif'), commonly known in Egypt as *alif layyinah* (ألف لينة, 'flexible alif'), looks like a dotless yā' ى (final ـى) and may only appear at the end of a word. Although it looks different from a regular *alif*, it represents the same sound /aː/, often realized as a short vowel. When written, *alif maqṣūrah* is indistinguishable from final Persian *ye* or Arabic *yā'* as it is written in Egypt, Sudan, and sometimes other places. *Alif maqsurah* is transliterated as á in ALA-LC, ā in DIN 31635, à in ISO 233-2, and ỳ in ISO 233.

Code point	Isolated	Final	Medial	Initial	Unicode character name (or descriptive synonyms used in the JoiningType and JoiningGroup datatables)
U+0622	آ	ـآ	ـآ	آ	ARABIC LETTER ALEF WITH MADDA ABOVE
U+0623	أ	ـأ	ـأ	أ	ARABIC LETTER ALEF WITH HAMZA ABOVE
U+0625	إ	ـإ	ـإ	إ	ARABIC LETTER ALEF WITH HAMZA BELOW
U+0627	ا	ـا	ـا	ا	**ARABIC LETTER ALEF**
U+0671	ٱ	ـٱ	ـٱ	ٱ	ARABIC LETTER ALEF WASLA
U+0672	◻	◻ـ	◻ـ	◻	ARABIC LETTER ALEF WITH WAVY HAMZA ABOVE

U+0673	ؓ	ـؓـ	ـؓ	ؓ	ARABIC LETTER ALEF WITH WAVY HAMZA BELOW
U+0675	ؕ	ـؕـ	ـؕ	ؕ	ARABIC LETTER HIGH HAMZA ALEF
U+0773	ݳ	ـݳـ	ـݳ	ݳ	ARABIC LETTER WITH EXTENDED ARABIC-INDIC DIGIT TWO ABOVE
U+0774	ݴ	ـݴـ	ـݴ	ݴ	ARABIC LETTER WITH EXTENDED ARABIC-INDIC DIGIT THREE ABOVE

Hebrew

Written as א, spelled as אָלֶף and transcribed as Aleph.

In Modern Israeli Hebrew, the letter either represents a glottal stop ([ʔ]) or indicates a hiatus (the separation of two adjacent vowels into distinct syllables with no intervening consonant), as well as sometimes being silent (as word-final always, as word-medial sometimes, e.g. הוּא [hu] "he", רָאשִׁי [ʁaˈʃi] "main", רֹאשׁ [ʁoʃ] "head", רִאשׁוֹן [ʁiˈʃon] "first"). The pronunciation varies among Jewish ethnic groups.

In gematria, aleph represents the number 1, and when used at the beginning of Hebrew years, it means 1000 (i.e. א'תשנ"ד in numbers would be the date 1754).

Aleph, along with Ayin, Resh, He, and Heth, cannot receive a dagesh. (However, there are few very rare examples where the Masoretes added a dagesh or mappiq to an Aleph or Resh. The verses of the Hebrew Bible wherein an Aleph with a mappiq or dagesh appears are Genesis 43:26, Leviticus 23:17, Job 33:21 and Ezra 8:18.)

In Modern Hebrew the frequency of the usage of alef, out of all the letters, is 4.94%.

Aleph is sometimes used as a mater lectionis to denote a vowel, usually /a/. Such use is more common in words of Aramaic and Arabic origin, in foreign names and some other borrowed words.

Orthographic variants				
Various Print Fonts			Cursive Hebrew	Rashi Script
Serif	Sans-serif	Monospaced		
א	א	א	א	א

Rabbinic Judaism

Aleph is the subject of a midrash which praises its humility in not demanding to start the Bible. (In Hebrew the Bible begins with the second letter of the alphabet, Bet.) In this folktale, Aleph is rewarded by being allowed to start the Ten Commandments. (In Hebrew, the first word is אָנֹכִי, which starts with an aleph.)

In the Sefer Yetzirah, the letter aleph is king over breath, formed air in the universe, temperate in the year, and the chest in the soul.

Aleph is also the first letter of the Hebrew word *emet*, which means *truth*. In Jewish mythology it was the letter aleph that was carved into the head of the golem which ultimately gave it life.

Aleph also begins the three words that make up God's mystical name in Exodus, I Am who I Am (in Hebrew, Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh אהיה אשר אהיה), and aleph is an important part of mystical amulets and formulas.

Aleph in Jewish mysticism represents the oneness of God. The letter can been seen as being composed of an upper yud (Yodh), a lower yud, and a vav (Waw (letter)) leaning on a diagonal. The upper yud represents the hidden and

ineffable aspects of God while the lower yud represents God's revelation and presence in the world. The vav ("hook") connects the two realms.

Jewish mysticism relates aleph to the element of air, the Fool (Key 0, value 1) of the major arcana of the tarot deck,[1] and the Scintillating Intelligence (#11) of the path between Kether and Chokmah in the Tree of the Sephiroth.

Hebrew sayings with aleph

From aleph to tav describes something from beginning to end, the Hebrew equivalent of the English "From A to Z."

One who doesn't know how to make an aleph is someone who is illiterate.

No...with a big aleph! (*lo be-aleph rabbati* - לא באלף רבתי) means 'Absolutely not!'.

Syriac Alaph/Olaf

Alaph
ܐ *Madnḥaya* Alaph
܀ *Serṭo* Alaph
ܐ *Eṣtrangela* Alaph

Position in word:	Isolated	Initial	Medial	Final
Form of letter:	ܐ	ܐ	ܐ	ܐ

In the Syriac alphabet, the first letter is ܐ — Syriac: ܐܲܠܳܦ — Alaph (in eastern dialects) or Olaf (in western dialects). It is used in word-initial position to mark a word beginning with a vowel — although some words beginning with *i* or *u* do not need its help, and sometimes an initial Alaph/Olaf is elided. For example, when the Syriac first-person singular pronoun ܐܲܢܵܐ is in enclitic positions, it is pronounced *no/na* (again west/east) rather than the full form *eno/ana*. The letter occurs very regularly at the end of words, where it represents the long final vowels *o/a* or *e*. In the middle of the word, the letter represents either a glottal stop between vowels (but West Syriac pronunciation often makes this a palatal approximant), a long *i/e* (less commonly *o/a*) or is silent.

Numeral

As a numeral, Alaph/Olaf stands for the number one. With a dot below, it is the number 1,000; with a line above it, Alaph/Olaf will represent 1,000,000. With a line below it is 10,000 and with two dots below it is 10,000,000.

Ancient Egyptian

"Aleph" in hieroglyphs

The Egyptian "vulture" hieroglyph (Gardiner G1), by convention pronounced [a]) is also referred to as *aleph*, on grounds that it has traditionally been taken to represent a glottal stop, although some recent suggestions[2] tend towards an [ɾ] sound instead.

The phoneme is commonly transliterated by a symbol composed of two half-rings, in Unicode (as of version 5.1, in the Latin Extended-D range) encoded at U+A722 Ꜣ LATIN CAPITAL LETTER EGYPTOLOGICAL ALEF and U+A723 ꜣ LATIN SMALL LETTER EGYPTOLOGICAL ALEF. A fallback representation is the numeral *3*, or the Middle English character *ȝ* Yogh; neither are to be preferred to the genuine Egyptological characters.

Other uses

Mathematics

In set theory, the Hebrew aleph glyph is used as the symbol to denote the aleph numbers, which represent the cardinality of infinite sets. This notation was introduced by mathematician Georg Cantor.

Character encodings

Character	**א**		**ا**		**ܐ**		**𐡀**		**𐎀**		**𐤀**		**ℵ**	
Unicode name	HEBREW LETTER ALEF		ARABIC LETTER ALEF		SYRIAC LETTER ALAPH		SAMARITAN LETTER ALAF		UGARITIC LETTER ALPA		PHOENICIAN LETTER ALF		ALEF SYMBOL	
Encodings	**decimal**	**hex**	**decimal**	**hex**	**decimal**	**hex**	**decimal**	**hex**	**decimal**	**hex**	**decimal**	**hex**	**decimal**	**hex**
Unicode	1488	U+05D0	1575	U+0627	1808	U+0710	2048	U+0800	66432	U+10380	67840	U+10900	8501	U+2135
UTF-8	215 144	D7 90	216 167	D8 A7	220 144	DC 90	224 160 128	E0 A0 80	240 144 142 128	F0 90 8E 80	240 144 164 128	F0 90 A4 80	226 132 181	E2 84 B5
UTF-16	1488	05D0	1575	0627	1808	0710	2048	0800	55296 57216	D800 DF80	55298 56576	D802 DD00	8501	2135
Numeric character reference	א	א	ا	ا	ܐ	ܐ	ࠀ	ࠀ	𐎀	𐎀	𐤀	𐤀	ℵ	ℵ
Named character reference													ℵ	

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[1] Tarot Journey with Leisa ReFalo - The Magician (http://tarotjourney.net/tarot-cards/major-arcana/1-the-magician/)

[2] Schneider, Thomas. 2003. "Etymologische Methode, die Historizität der Phoneme und das ägyptologische Transkriptionsalphabet." Lingua aegyptia: Journal of Egyptian Language Studies 11:187–199.

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Arabic diacritics

Arabic alphabet
ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه و ي
Arabic script
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• Diacritics
• Hamza
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• Numeration

The Arabic script has numerous diacritics, including **i'jam** إِعْجَام (*i'jām*, consonant pointing), and **tashkil** تَشْكِيل (*tashkīl*, supplementary diacritics). The latter include the **ḥarakāt** حَرَكَات (vowel marks; singular: *ḥarakah* حَرَكَة).

The Arabic script is an impure abjad, where short consonants and long vowels are represented by letters but short vowels and consonant length are not generally indicated in writing. *Tashkīl* is optional to represent missing vowels and consonant length. Modern Arabic is nearly always written with consonant pointing, but occasionally unpointed texts are still seen. Early texts such as the Qur'an were initially written without pointing, and pointing was added later to determine the expected readings and interpretations.

Tashkil (marks used as phonetic guides)

The literal meaning of *tashkīl* is 'forming'. As the normal Arabic text does not provide enough information about the correct pronunciation, the main purpose of *tashkīl* (and *ḥarakāt*) is to provide a phonetic guide or a phonetic aid; i.e. show the correct pronunciation. It serves the same purpose as furigana (also called "ruby") in Japanese or pinyin or zhuyin in Mandarin Chinese for children who are learning to read or foreign learners.

The bulk of Arabic script is written without *ḥarakāt* (or short vowels). However, they are commonly used in some religious texts that demand strict adherence to pronunciation rules such as Qur'an القُرآن (*al-Qur'ān*). It is not uncommon to add *ḥarakāt* to hadiths الحَدِيث (*al-ḥadīth*; plural: *aḥādīth*) as well. Another use is in children's literature. Harakat are also used in ordinary texts when an ambiguity of pronunciation might arise. Vowelled Arabic dictionaries provide information about the correct pronunciation to both native and foreign Arabic speakers.

Short vowels can be included in cases where readers could not easily resolve word ambiguity from context alone, or simply wherever their writing might be considered aesthetically pleasing.

An example of a fully *vocalised* (*vowelised* or *vowelled*) Arabic from the *Qur'ān* (*Al-Fatiha* 1:1):

بِسْمِ ٱللهِ ٱلرَّحْمٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

bism Allāh al-Raḥmān al-Raḥīm

In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Some Arabic textbooks for foreigners now use *ḥarakāt* as a phonetic guide to make learning reading Arabic easier. The other method used in textbooks is phonetic romanisation of unvocalised texts. Fully vocalised Arabic texts (i.e. Arabic texts with *ḥarakāt*/diacritics) are sought after by learners of Arabic. Some online bilingual dictionaries also provide *ḥarakāt* as a phonetic guide similarly to English dictionaries providing transcription.

Harakat (short vowel marks)

The *ḥarakāt*, which literally means 'motions', are the short vowel marks. There is some ambiguity as to which *tashkīl* are also *ḥarakāt*; the *tanwīn*, for example, are markers for both vowels and consonants.

Fatḥah

◌َ

–

The **fatḥah** ◌َفَتْحَة is a small diagonal line placed *above* a letter, and represents a short /a/. The word *fatḥah* itself (فَتْحَة) means *opening*, and refers to the opening of the mouth when producing an /a/. Example with *dāl* (henceforth, the base consonant in the following examples): دَ /da/.

When a **fatḥah** is placed before the letter ◌ا (*alif*), it represents a long /aː/ (as in the English word "father"). Example: دَا /daː/. The *fatḥah* is not usually written in such cases.

Kasrah

–

◌ِ A similar diagonal line *below* a letter is called a **kasrah** ◌ِكَسْرَة and designates a short /i/. Example: دِ /di/.

When a *kasrah* is placed before the letter ◌ي (*yā'*), it represents a long /iː/ (as in the English word "steed"). Example: دِي /diː/. The *kasrah* is usually not written in such cases but if *yā'* is pronounced as a diphthong /aj/, *fatḥah* should be written on the preceding consonant to avoid mispronunciation. The word *kasrah* means 'breaking'.

Ḍammah

◌ُ

–

The **ḍammah** ◌ُضَمّة is a small curl-like diacritic placed above a letter to represent a short /u/. Example: دُ /du/.

When a **ḍammah** is placed before the letter ◌و (*wāw*), it represents a long /uː/ (as in the English word "blue"). Example: دُو /duː/. The *ḍammah* is usually not written in such cases but if *wāw* is pronounced as a diphthong /aw/, *fatḥah* should be written on the preceding consonant to avoid mispronunciation.

Maddah

◌ٓ

The **maddah** ◌ٓمَدّة is a tilde-like diacritic which can appear only on top of an *alif* and indicates a glottal stop /ʔ/ followed by a long /aː/.

In theory, the same sequence /ʔaː/ could also be represented by two *alif*s, as in *◌أا, where a hamza above the first *alif* represents the /ʔ/ while the second *alif* represents the /aː/. However, consecutive *alif*s are never used in the Arabic orthography. Instead, this sequence must always be written as a single *alif* with a *maddah* above it—the combination known as an *alif maddah*. Example: قُرْآن /qurʾʔaːn/.

Dagger alif

◌ٰ

—

The **superscript (or dagger) *alif*** ◌ٰألف خَنْجَرِيّة (*alif khanjarīyah*), is written as short vertical stroke on top of a consonant. It indicates a long /aː/ sound where *alif* is normally not written, e.g. هٰذَا (*hādhā*) or رَحْمٰن (*raḥmān*).

The dagger *alif* occurs in only a few words, but these include some common ones; it is seldom written, however, even in fully vocalised texts. Most keyboards do not have dagger *alif*. The word Allah ◌الله (*Allāh*) is usually produced automatically by entering *alif lām lām hā'*. The word consists of *alif* + ligature of doubled *lām* with a *shaddah and a dagger alif* above *lām*.

Alif waslah

ٱ

The **waṣlah** وَصْلَة, **alif waṣlah** أَلِف وَصْلَة or **hamzat waṣl** هَمْزَة وَصْل looks like a small letter *ṣād* on top of an *alif* اَ (also indicated by an *alif* ا without a *hamzah*). It means that the *alif* is not pronounced, e.g. بِٱسم.

It only occurs in the beginning of words (can occur after prepositions and the definite article). It is commonly found in imperative verbs, the perfective aspect of verb stems VII to X and their verbal nouns (*maṣdar*). The *alif* of the definite article is considered a *waṣlah.*

It occurs in phrases and sentences (connected speech, not isolated/dictionary forms) 1) to replace the elided hamza whose alif-seat has assimilated to the previous vowel, e.g., في ٱليمن or في اليمن (alif by itself is also indicative of the connecting hamza); 2) in hamza-initial imperative forms following a vowel, especially following the conjunction و, e.g., قُم و ٱشرب الماء

Sukun

ـْ

—

The **sukūn** سُكُون is a circle-shaped diacritic placed above a letter. It indicates that the consonant to which it is attached is not followed by a vowel; this is a necessary symbol for writing consonant-vowel-consonant syllables, which are very common in Arabic. Example: دَدْ *dad.*

The **sukūn** may also be used to help represent a diphthong. A *fatḥah* followed by the letter ي (*yā'*) with a sukūn over it indicates the diphthong *ay* (IPA /aj/). A *fatḥah* followed by the letter و (*wāw*) with a *sukūn* indicates /aw/.

Tanwin (final postnasalized or long vowels)

ٍ ً ٌ

– – –

The three vowel diacritics may be doubled at the end of a word to indicate that the vowel is followed by the consonant *n*. These may or may not be considered ḥarakāt, and are known as **tanwīn** تَنْوِين, or nunation. The signs indicate, from right to left, *-un, -in, -an.*

These endings are used as non-pausal grammatical indefinite case endings in literary Arabic or classical Arabic (triptotes only). In a vocalised text, they may be written even if they are not pronounced (see pausa). See *i'rāb* for more details. In many spoken Arabic dialects, these endings are absent. Many Arabic textbooks introduce standard Arabic without these endings. The grammatical endings may not be written in some vocalized Arabic texts, as knowledge of *i'rāb* varies from country to country, and there is a trend in simplifying the Arabic grammar.

The sign ـً is most commonly written in combination with ـًا (*alif*), ـًة (*tā' marbūṭah*) or stand-alone ـًء (*hamzah*). *Alif* should always be written (except for words ending in *tā' marbūṭah, hamzah* or diptotes), even if *an* is not. Grammar cases and *tanwīn* endings in indefinite triptote forms:

- *-un*: nominative case;
- *-an*: accusative case, also serves as an adverbial marker;
- *-in*: genitive case.

Shaddah (consonant gemination mark)

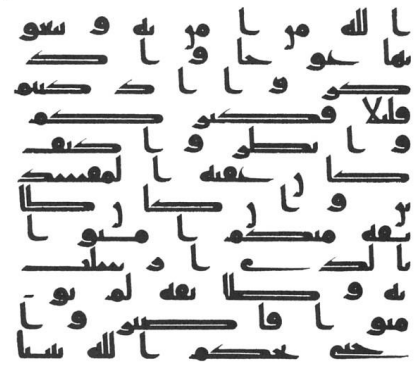
ـّـ

The **shadda** or **shaddah** شَدَّة (*shaddah*), or **tashdid** تَشْدِيد (*tashdīd*), is a diacritic shaped like a small written Latin "w".

It is used to indicate gemination (consonant doubling or extra length), which is phonemic in Arabic. It is written above the consonant which is to be doubled. It is the only *ḥarakah* that is sometimes used in ordinary spelling to avoid ambiguity. Example: دّ /dd/; *madrasah* مَدْرَسَة ('school') vs. *mudarrisah* مُدَرِّسَة ('teacher', female).

I'jam (phonetic distinctions of consonants)

The *ijam* إِعْجَام (**i'jām**) are the pointing diacritics that distinguish various consonants that have the same form (*rasm*), such as بـ /b/, تـ /t/, ثـ /θ/, نـ /n/, and يـ /j/. Typically *ijam* are not considered diacritics but part of the letter.



7th-century kufic script without either *ḥarakāt* or *i'jām*.

Early manuscripts of the *Qur'ān* did not use diacritics either for vowels or to distinguish the different values of the *rasm.* Vowel pointing was introduced first, as a red dot placed above, below, or beside the *rasm*, and later consonant pointing was introduced, as thin, short black single or multiple dashes placed above or below the *rasm* (image). These *i'jām* became black dots about the same time as the *ḥarakāt* became small black letters or strokes.

Typically, Egyptians do not use dots under final *yā'* ـي, both in handwriting and in print, as *alif maqṣūrah* ـى. This practice is also used in copies of the *muṣḥaf* (Qurʾān) scribed by ʻUthman Ṭāhā. The same unification of *yā* and *alif maqṣūrā* has happened in Persian, resulting in what the Unicode Standard calls "arabic letter farsi yeh", that looks exactly the same as *yā* in initial and medial forms, but exactly the same as *alif maqṣūrah* in final and isolated forms ـی ـیـ یـ.

Hamza (glottal stop semi-consonant)

أ إ ؤ ئ

Although often a diacritic is not considered a letter of the alphabet, the **hamza** هَمْزَة (*hamzah*, glottal stop), often does stand as a separate letter in writing, is written in unpointed texts, and is not considered a *tashkīl.* It may appear as a letter by itself or as a diacritic over or under an *alif*, *wāw*, or *yā*.

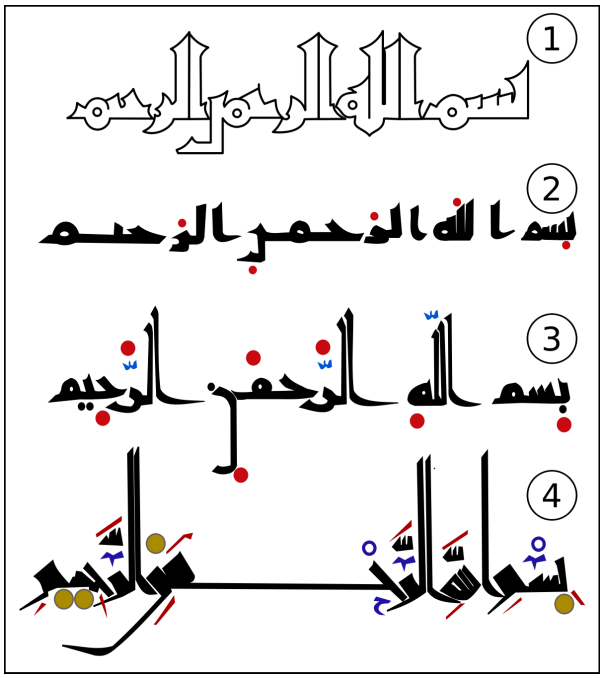
Which letter is to be used to support the *hamzah* depends on the quality of the adjacent vowels.

- If the syllable occurs at the beginning of the word, the glottal stop is always indicated by hamza on an *alif.*
- if the syllable occurs in the middle of the word, *alif* is used only if it is not preceded or followed by /i/ or /u/.
- If /i(ː)/ is before or after the glottal stop, a *yā* with a *hamzah* is used (the two dots which are usually beneath the *yāʾ* disappear in this case): ئـ.
- If /u(ː)/ is before or after the glottal stop, a *wāw* with a *hamzah* is used: ؤ.

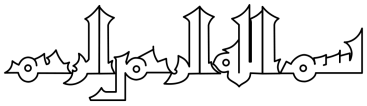
Consider the following words: أخ /ʔax/ ("brother"), إِسْرَائِيل /ʔisraːʔiːl/ ("Israel"), أُمّ /ʔumm/ ("mother"). All three of above words "begin" with a vowel opening the syllable, and in each case, *alif* is used to designate the initial glottal stop (the *actual* beginning). But if we consider *middle* syllables "beginning" with a vowel: نَشْأَة /naʃʔa/ ("origin"), إِسْرَائِيل /ʔisraːʔiːl/ ("Israel" — notice the /ʔiːl/ syllable), رُؤُوس /ruʔuːs/ ("heads", singular رَأْس /raʔs/), the situation is different, as noted above. See the comprehensive article on *hamzah* for more details.

History

According to tradition, the first to commission a system of *harakat* was Muawiyah I of the Umayyad dynasty, when he ordered Ziad Ibn Abih, his *wālī* in Basra (governed 664–673), to find someone who would devise a method to transcribe correct reading. Ziad Ibn Abih, in turn, appointed Abu al-Aswad al-Du'ali for the task. Abu al-Aswad devised a system of dots to signal the three short vowels (along with their respective allophones) of Arabic. This system of dots predates the *i'jām*, dots used to distinguish between different consonants.



Evolution of early Arabic calligraphy (9th – 11th century). The Basmala was taken as an example, from kufic *Qur'ān* manuscripts. (1) Early 9th century, script with no dots or diacritic marks (see image of early Basmala Kufic); (2) and (3) 9th–10th century under Abbasid dynasty, Abu al-Aswad's system establish red dots with each arrangement or position indicating a different short vowel; later, a second black-dot system was used to differentiate between letters like *fā'* and *qāf* (see image of middle Kufic); (4) 11th century, in al-Farāhídi's system (system we know today) dots were changed into shapes resembling the letters to transcribe the corresponding long vowels (see image of modern Kufic in Qur'an).



Early Basmala Kufic

Middle Kufic

Modern Kufic in Qur'an

Abu al-Aswad's system

Abu al-Aswad's system of Harakat was different from the system we know today. The system used red dots with each arrangement or position indicating a different short vowel.

A dot above a letter indicated the vowel *a*, a dot below indicated the vowel *i*, a dot on the side of a letter stood for the vowel *u*, and two dots stood for the *tanwīn*.

However, the early manuscripts of the Qur'an did not use the vowel signs for every letter requiring them, but only for letters where they were necessary for a correct reading.

Al Farahidi's system

This is the precursor to the system we know today. *al-Farāhīdī* found that the task of writing using two different colours was tedious and impractical. Another complication was that the *iʿjām* had been introduced by then, which, while they were short strokes rather than the round dots seen today, meant that without a color distinction the two could become confused.

Accordingly he replaced the *ḥarakāt* with small superscript letters: small alif, yāʾ, and wāw for the short vowels corresponding to the long vowels written with those letters, a small *s(h)īn* for *shaddah* (geminate), a small *khā'* for *khafīf* (short consonant; no longer used). His system is essentially the one we know today.[1]

References

[1] Versteegh, 1997. *The Arabic language*. p 56*ff*.

External links

- Online Arabic Diacritic Tool (http://www.arabic-keyboard.org/tashkeel/)
- Interactive lesson for learning Arabic short vowels (http://www.salaamarabic.com/lesson/plan/1495/vowels)
- Free Comprehensive Reference of Arabic Grammar (http://arabic.tripod.com/)
- Basic Introduction To Arabic Short Vowels (http://arabicgenie.com/blog/2009/09/arabic-short-vowels-what-you-need-to-know-about-tashkeel-and-harakaat)
- Vocalised Arabic (and other) texts online (for children) (http://www.childrenslibrary.org/icdl/SimpleSearchCategory?ids=&langid=309&pnum=1&cnum=1&text=&lang=English)
- Fully vocalised, transliterated and translated online Qur'ān with audio (http://transliteration.org/quran/WebSite_CD/MixNoble/Fram2E.htm)
- Sakhr Multilingual Dictionary (uses Harakat) (http://qamoos.sakhr.com/)
- web-based Arabic Notepad that supports full vowelization (tashkiil) (http://www.eiktub.com)
- Google Arabic Diacritic Tool “Tashkeel” (http://tashkeel.googlelabs.com/) (discontinued in September 2011)

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Wikipedia:Manual of Style/Arabic

This page in a nutshell: Arabic words on Wikipedia should use a *standard transliteration* of Arabic, with some exceptions.

This page proposes a guideline regarding the transliteration from the Arabic alphabet to Roman letters in the English Wikipedia.

The transliteration of Arabic used by Wikipedia is based on the ALA-LC Romanization method, with a few simple changes that make it easier to manage and read. The strict transliteration uses accents, underscores, and underdots, and is only used for etymology in the beginning of the article. All other cases of Arabic words rendered into English will use the same standard, but without accents, underscores, and underdots. Some exceptions to this rule may apply.

Definitions

Arabic

For the purposes of this convention, an **Arabic word** is a name or phrase that is most commonly originally rendered in the Arabic alphabet, and that in English is not usually *translated* into a common English word. These could be in any language that uses this script, such as Arabic, Persian, or Ottoman Turkish.

Examples of transliterations from Arabic script:

- Abu Sayyaf (organization)
- Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi (poet)
- Ta'if (city)

Examples of titles not transliterated from Arabic script:

- Yazdegerd III of Persia (ruled Persia before Arabic script became used)
- Ahmet Necdet Sezer (ruled Turkey after the script stopped being used)
- Egypt (does not derive from an Arabic word)
- Algorism and Algorithm (common English words, no longer perceived as "transliterations" of الخوارزمي)

Primary transcription

A word has a **primary transcription** (anglicization) if at least 75% of all references in English use the same transcription, or if a reference shows that the individual self-identified with a particular transcription, and if that transcription does not contain any non-printable characters (including underscores). Some primary transcriptions are not transliterations because they may be ambiguous as to the original spelling.

Examples of references include the FBI, the NY Times, CNN, the Washington Post, Al-Jazeera, Encarta, Britannica, Library of Congress, and other academic sources. Examples of self-identification include a driver's license or passport in which the individual personally chose a particular form of transcription.

Google searches can be useful in determining the most common usage, but should not be heavily relied upon. The content of large searches may not be relevant to the subject being discussed. For example, the ISO transliteration of القائم is "al-Qaʾim", but the transcription "al-Qaim" receives five times as many hits. This word is used in the names of three historical Caliphs and a town in Iraq, and is also another name for the Mahdi in Shi'a Islam. Since Google searches do not discriminate between them, other sources must be used to determine if a primary transcription exists for any particular usage. Google search counts are also biased toward syndicated news articles; a single syndicated reference may generate hundreds or thousands of hits, amplifying the weight of whatever spelling happens to be used by that one reference.

If there is no primary transcription, a standard transliteration is used (see below).

Examples:

- There is no single most-popular transcription for the name of the Prophet of Islam. "Mohammed", "Mohammad", "Muhammad", and "Mohamed" are all commonly used. The standard transliteration of Muhammad is used.
- The capital of Egypt is most widely known as Cairo. The standard transliteration of "al-Qahira" is not used.
- The primary transcription of the leader of al-Qaeda (itself a primary transcription of standard form *al-Qa ʾida*) is "Osama bin Laden". The standard transliteration of *Usama ibn Ladin* is not used.

  Note: the Arabic word ابن/بن (English: son of) should be transcribed *ibn* unless a primary transcription requires the colloquial *bin*.

Standard transliteration

The **standard transliteration** uses a systematic convention of rendering Arabic scripts. The standard transliteration from Arabic to Roman letters is found below.

The standard transliteration does not carry enough information to accurately write or pronounce the original Arabic script. For example, it does not differentiate between certain pairs of distinct letters (س vs. ص), or between long and short vowels. It does, however, increase the readability of the article to those not familiar with Arabic transliteration, and avoids characters that may be unreadable to browsers.

Strict transliteration

A **strict transliteration** is completely reversible, allowing the original writing to be faithfully restored. A strict transliteration need not be a 1:1 mapping of characters as long as there are clear rules for choosing one character over another. A source character may be mapped (1:n) into a sequence of several target characters without losing sequential reversibility.

A strict transliteration uses a system of accents, underscores, and underdots to render the original Arabic in a form that preserves all the information in the original Arabic.

Other common transliteration standards are ISO 233 and DIN 31635.

Note that several letters proposed in the strict transliteration system below do not render correctly for some widespread software configurations (e.g. ḥ, ṣ, ḍ, ṭ, ṛ, ẓ and ṁ). Using the {{transl}} template to enclose transliterations will use CSS classes to address these issues.

Examples

Arabic	Primary transcr.	Standard transcr.	Strict translit.
القاهرة	Cairo	al-Qahira	**al-Qāhirah**
السلف الصالح	Salaf	as-Salaf as-Salih	**as-Salaf aṣ-Ṣāliḥ**
قرآن	n/a	Qur'an	**Qur’ān**
صدام حسين	Saddam Hussein	Saddam Husayn	**Ṣaddām Ḥusayn**
العبّاسيّون	Abbasid	al-`Abbasiyun	**al-‘Abbāsīyūn**
كربلاء	Karbala	Karbala'	**Karbalā’**
محمد	n/a	Muhammad	**Muḥammad**
القاعدة	al-Qaeda	al-Qa`ida	**al-Qā‘idah**

Proposed standard

Article titles

See: Wikipedia:Naming conventions (Arabic)

Lead paragraphs

All *Arabic articles* should have a lead paragraph which includes the article title, along with the original Arabic script and the *strict transliteration* in parentheses, preferably in the lead sentence.

This is in accordance with the official Wikipedia policy at Wikipedia:Naming conventions (use English). Many articles that are missing this information are listed at Category:Articles needing Arabic script or text.

The standard format, with, pursuant to Template:Transl, the transliteration system indicated, is given in the following examples:

- **Cairo** (Arabic: القاهرة / ALA-LC: *al-Qāhirah*) is ...
- **Gamal Abdel Nasser** (Arabic: جمال عبد الناصر / ALA-LC: *Jamāl ʿAbd an-Nāṣir*; January 15, 1918 – September 28, 1970) was the second President of Egypt ...

Some cases will require variations on this format. If the name is extremely long, the first appearance of the name is suitable to provide the strict transliteration. Likewise, if a strict transliteration appears overly repetitious, it should be in place of the page title in the lead paragraph.

Example:

- **Abū al-ʻAbbās ʻAbd Allāh ibn Muḥammad as-Saffāḥ** (Arabic: أبو العباس عبد الله بن محمد السفاح) (721–754) was the first Abbasid caliph. Abu al-`Abbas was the head of...

Redirects

All common transliterations should redirect to the article. There will often be many redirects, but this is intentional and does not represent a problem.

Alphabetization

- Alphabetize by family name in modern cases where there is one, otherwise by the first component in the commonly used name
  - Example: Muʻawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan should be alphabetized under "Mawiyah".
- For alphabetization, the definite article "al-" and its variants (ash-, ad-, etc.) should *not* be ignored.
  - Example: Al-Qaeda should be alphabetized as "Al-Qaeda".
- For alphabetization, the family name designators *ibn* (or, colloquially, *bin*) and *bint* should be ignored, unless the *primary transliteration* makes it a part of the name (as in the Saudi Binladin Group).
- For alphabetization, the apostrophe (representing hamza and ʻain) should be ignored, and letters with diacritics should be alphabetized as if they did not have their diacritics.
  - Example: Ibn Sa'ūd should be alphabetized as "Saud".

Transliteration

The *strict transliteration* is based on the ALA-LC Romanization method (1997), and standards from the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The *standard transliteration* is the same, without accents, underscores and underdots.

Consonants

Arabic	Name	Standard translit.	Strict translit.	Notes
ب	bāʾ	b	**b**	
ت	tāʾ	t	**t**	
ث	thāʾ	th	**th**	the sequence ته is written t′h
ج	jīm	j	**j**	pronounced [g] in Egyptian Arabic
ح	ḥāʾ	h	**ḥ**	
خ	khāʾ	kh	**kh**	the sequence كه is written k′h
د	dāl	d	**d**	
ذ	dhāl	dh	**dh**	the sequence ده is written d′h
ر	rāʾ	r	**r**	
ز	zāy	z	**z**	
س	sīn	s	**s**	
ش	shīn	sh	**sh**	the sequence سه is written s′h
ص	ṣād	s	**ṣ**	
ض	ḍād	d	**ḍ**	
ط	ṭāʾ	t	**ṭ**	
ظ	ẓāʾ	z	**ẓ**	
ع	ʿayn	`	**ʿ**	different from hamza
غ	ghayn	gh	**gh**	
ف	fāʾ	f	**f**	
ق	qāf	q	**q**	sometimes transliterated as "g"
ك	kāf	k	**k**	
ل	lām	l	**l**	
م	mīm	m	**m**	
ن	nūn	n	**n**	
ه	hāʾ	h	**h**	
ء	hamzah	'	**ʾ**	omitted in initial position[1]
ة	tāʾ marbūṭah	ah or at or atan	**ah** or **at** or **atan**	usually as **ah**, but sometimes as **at** or **atan**.[2]
و	wāw	w	**w**	See also long vowels
ي	yaʾ	y	**y**	See also long vowels
يِّ	(yāʾ)	iy or i	**īy** or **ī**	romanized īy except in final position[3]
آ	ʾalif maddah	a, 'a	**ā**, **ʾā**	Initially **ā**, medially **ʾā**

1. ^ "In initial position, whether at the beginning of a word, following a prefixed preposition or conjunction, or following the definite article, hamza is not represented in romanization. When medial or final, hamza is romanized." [4]
2. ^ (Same pdf as note 1) "When the word ending in ة is in the construct state, ة is romanized *t*. [...] When the word ending in ة is used adverbially, ة (vocalized ةً) is romanized *tan*."
3. ^ (Same pdf as note 1) "Final ـِيّ is romanized *ī*."

Short vowels

Short vowels	Name	Translit. (standard and strict)
064E ـَ	fatʹḥa	a
064F ـُ	ḍamma	u
0650 ـِ	kasra	i

Long vowels

Long vowels	Name	Standard Trans.	Strict Trans.
064E 0627 اَ	fatḥa ʾalif	a	**ā**
064E 0649 ىَ	fatḥa ʾalif maqṣūra (Arabic)	a	**á**
064E 06CC ېَ	fatḥa yeh (Farsi, Urdu)		**ā / aỳ**
064F 0648 وُ	ḍamma wāw	u	**ū**
0650 064A يِ	kasra yāʾ	i	**ī**

Definite article

Solar letters	Standard translit.	Strict translit.
ت	t	t
ث	th	th
د	d	d
ذ	dh	dh
ر	r	r
ز	z	z
س	s	s
ش	sh	sh
ص	s	ṣ
ض	d	ḍ
ط	t	ṭ
ظ	z	ẓ
ن	n	n

Arabic has only one definite article, "ال" ("al-"). However, if it is followed by a solar letter (listed in the table right), the "L" is assimilated in pronunciation with this solar letter and the solar letter is doubled.

- Examples: تقي الدين (Taqi al-Din) is pronounced and transliterated as "Taqi ad-Din"

Both the **non-assimilated** ("al-") or the **assimilated** ("ad-") form appear in various standards of transliteration, and both allow the recreation of the original Arabic. For this manual of style, assimilated letters will be used, as it aids readers in the correct pronunciation.

The definite article "al-" and its variants (ash-, ad-, ar-, etc.) are always written in lower case (unless beginning a sentence), and a hyphen separates it from the following word.

- Examples: "al-Qaeda"

Dynastic "Al "

Some Arabic names, especially in Saudi Arabia for the House of Saud dynasty, start one of their names with آل, which seems to be an altered form of أهل. This means something like "family" or "dynasty", and is distinct from the definite article ال. If a reliably-sourced version of the Arabic spelling includes آل and the person is clearly a member of a dynasty, then this is *not* a case of the definite article, so "Al " (capitalised and followed by a space, not a hyphen) should be used. "Ahl " should be used if the Arabic spelling is أهل. Dynasty membership alone does *not* necessarily imply that the dynastic آل is used - e.g. Bashar al-Assad.

Arabic	meaning	transcription	example
ال	the	al-	Suliman al-Reshoudi
آل	family/dynasty	Al	Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
أهل	family/dynasty	Ahl	Ahl al-Bayt

Capitalization

Rules for the capitalization of English should be followed, except for the definite article, as explained above.

Names

The *standard transliteration* of Arabic names comprises a variation on the following structure:

- the given name (*ism*)
- multiple patronymics (*nasab*), as appropriate, each preceded by the particle *ibn* (son) or *bint* (daughter).

  Note: the Arabic particle بن (English: son of) should be transcribed ***ibn*** unless a primary transcription requires the colloquial form ***bin*** (e.g. Osama bin Laden)
- multiple descriptive nicknames (*laqab*) or family names (*nisba*), as appropriate.

Examples

- Example: "Bandar ibn Sultan as-Sa`ud"
- Counter-example: "Bandar ibn Sultan", "Bandar as-Saud", or "Bandar bin Sultan bin `Abd al-Aziz as-Sa`ud".
- Example: "Turki ibn Faisal as-Sa`ud"
- Counter-example: "Turki al-Faisal".
- Example: "Saddam Hussein at-Tikrit"
- Counter-example: "Saddam bin Hussein at-Tikrit" (*bin* is not typically used in Iraq)
- Example: "Waleed ash-Shehri"
- Counter-example: "Waleed ibn Ahmed ash-Shehri" (he was not known to use his father's name)

If the word **Abū** is preceded by **ibn**, the correct grammatical format is **ibn Abī**, and not **ibn Abū**.[5]

- Example: "`Ali ibn Abi Talib"
- Counter-example: "`Ali ibn Abu Talib"

Persian

When the Arabic script was adopted for the Persian language, there were letters pronounced in Persian which did not have a representation in the Arabic alphabet, and vice versa. The Persian alphabet adds letters to the Arabic alphabet, and changes the pronunciation of some Arabic letters which are not pronounced in Persian. In addition, Persian does not use a definite article ("al-"). All vowels, long or short, remain transliterated the same as in Arabic.

Urdu

Urdu adds additional letters, and some existing letters are transliterated differently. The strict transliteration is based on the ALA-LC Romanization method for Urdu (2012) [6]. The standard transliteration is the same, without accents, underscores and underdots.

Consonants

Urdu	Standard translit.	Strict translit.	Notes
ب	b	**b**	
پ	p	**p**	
ت	t	**t**	
ٹ	t	**ṭ**	
ث	s	**s̲**	"s", combining macron below: s̱
ج	j	**j**	
چ	ch	**c**	
ح	h	**ḥ**	
خ	kh	**k̲h**	"k", combining double macron below, "h": k͟h
د	d	**d**	
ڈ	d	**ḍ**	
ذ	z	**z̲**	
ر	r	**r**	
ڑ	r	**ṛ**	
ز	z	**z**	
ژ	zh	**z̲h**	
س	s	**s**	
ش	sh	**s̲h**	
ص	s	**ṣ**	
ض	z	**ẓ**	
ط	t	**t̤**	"t", combining diaeresis below: t̤
ظ	z	**z̤**	"z", combining diaeresis below: z̤
ع	`	**ʿ**	different from hamza
غ	gh	**g̲h**	"g", combining double macron below, "h": g͟h
ف	f	**f**	
ق	q	**q**	
ک	k	**k**	
گ	g	**g**	
ل	l	**l**	
م	m	**m**	
ن	n	**n**	
ں	n	**n̲**	"n", combining macron below: ṉ

و	w or v	**w** or **v**	
ہ	h	**h**	
ة	t	**t**	
ء	'	**’**	omitted in initial position
ی	y	**y**	

Aspirates

Urdu	Standard translit.	Strict translit.
بھ	bh	**bh**
پھ	ph	**ph**
تھ	th	**th**
ٹھ	th	**ṭh**
جھ	jh	**jh**
چھ	chh	**chh**
دھ	dh	**dh**
ڈھ	dh	**ḍh**
ڑھ	rh	**ṛh**
کھ	kh	**kh**
گھ	gh	**gh**

Vowels

Vowels	Standard Trans.	Strict Trans.
ـَ	a	**a**
ـِ	i	**i**
ـُ	u	**u**
ـَا	a	**ā**
ـَی ـَے	a	**á**
ـِی ـِے	i	**ī**
ـُو	u	**ū**
ـو	o	**o**
ـیے ـے	e	**e**
ـَوْ	au	**au**
ـَیْ ـَےْ	ai	**ai**

Ottoman Turkish

The Ottoman Turkish language differs from the above languages in that, since 1928, words that were once written with a Persian-influenced version of the Arabic *abjad* have been written using the Latin alphabet. As such, there is a long established set of standards for writing the language in a standard transliteration; however, in a strict transliteration, the language adheres closely to the standards for strict transliteration described above.

Guidelines for writing Ottoman Turkish words according to the standard transliteration can be found at the website of the Turkish Language Association (*Türk Dil Kurumu*): here [7] for the majority of words, and here [8] for names of people.

In the following table, only those letters which differ in either their strict or their standard transliteration from the Arabic-oriented table above are shown; all others are transliterated according to that table.

Script	Standard translit.	Strict translit.	IPA	Notes
ا	a, â, e	**ā**, **e**	[ɑː], [e]	This represents **a**, **â**, or **e** in initial position, and **â** in medial or final position.
آ	a, â	**ā**	[ɑː]	This is only written in initial position.
ث	s	**s̲**	[s]	
ج	c, ç	**c**	[dʒ], [tʃ]	When choosing between **c** and **ç** in the standard transliteration, modern Turkish orthography should be followed.
چ	ç	**ç**	[tʃ]	
خ	h	**ḫ**	[h]	
ذ	z	**z̲**	[z]	
ژ	j	**j**	[ʒ]	
ش	ş	**ş**	[ʃ]	
ض	z, d	**ż**, **ḍ**	[z], [d]	When choosing between **ż** and **ḍ** in the strict transliteration, and **z** and **d** in the standard transliteration, modern Turkish orthography should be followed.
ع	a, 'a, ', â	`a, `ā, ‘	[ɑ], [ɑː], ø	
غ	g, ğ	**ġ**	[ɣ], [g], [k], [h]	When choosing between **g** and **ğ** in the standard transliteration, modern Turkish orthography should be followed.
ق	k	**ḳ**	[k]	
ك	k, g, ğ, n	**k**, **g**, **ñ**	[k], [n], [ɲ], [ŋ]	When choosing between **k**, **g**, **ğ**, and **n** in the standard transliteration, modern Turkish orthography should be followed.
گ	g, ğ	**g**	[g], [k]	When choosing between **g** and **ğ** in the standard transliteration, modern Turkish orthography should be followed.
ڭ	n	**ñ**	[n], [ɲ], [ŋ]	
ه	h, e, a, i	**h**, **e**, **a**, **i**	[h], [ɑ], [e], [i]	When choosing between **e** and **a** in the transliteration, the Turkish rules of vowel harmony should be followed. This is only transliterated as **h** at the end of a word in proper nouns.
ء	', ø	**ʾ**	ø	
و	v, o, ö, u, ü	**v**, **o**, **ō**, **ö**, **u**, **ū**, **ü**	[v], [o], [oː], [œ], [u], [uː], [y]	When making the transliteration, modern Turkish orthography should be followed.
ي	y, i, ı, a	**y**, **i**, **ī**, **ı**, **ā**	[j], [i], [iː], [ɯ], [ej], [ɑː]	When making the transliteration, modern Turkish orthography should be followed.

لا	la, lâ	**lā**	[lɑ:]	
ة	et	**et**	[et]	

Definite article

In words that use the Arabic definite article ال, the article always follows the assimilation of solar letters. However, the vowel ا can be transliterated in a number of ways.

1. For a definite article in initial position, the definite article is written as **el-** in both the standard and the strict transliterations; e.g. الوهاب **el-Vehhāb**, الرمضان **er-Ramażān**.
2. For a definite article in medial position, such as is found in many names of Arabic origin, the vowel in the strict transliteration can be written in a variety of ways; e.g. **u'l**, **ü'l**, **i'l**, **'l**, etc. In such cases, the diacritic representing the hamza or `ayin (e.g. **'**) is always used, and the choice of vowel should follow modern Turkish orthography; e.g. عبد الله **`Abdu'llah**, عبد العزيز **`Abdü'l-`Azīz**, بالخاصه **bi'l-ḫaṣṣa**.
3. For a definite article in medial position in the standard transliteration, **'** is not used, and the choice of vowel and spelling should follow modern Turkish orthography; e.g. عبد الله **Abdullah**, عبد العزيز **Abdülâziz**, بالخاصه **bilhassa**.

External links

- ALA-LC Romanization Tables [4] - Guideline for the ALA-LC romanization.
- Arabic Romanization at the Library of Congress [9] - Fact sheet for the ALA-LC standard
- Arabic [10] - Sheet comparing 6 major transliteration standards.
- Arabic [11] - Report on the status of United Nations romanization systems for geographical names. January 2003
- Yamli [12] Real-Time Arabic transliteration
- eiktub [13] Another real-time Arabic transliteration software, also capable of exact transliteration according to the rules of Bikdash Transliteration [14].

References

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style/Arabic#endnote_1
[2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style/Arabic#endnote_2
[3] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style/Arabic#endnote_3
[4] http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/romanization/arabic.pdf
[5] http://www.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/names/arabic-naming2.htm
[6] http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/romanization/urdu.pdf
[7] http://tdk.org.tr/yazim/
[8] http://www.tdk.gov.tr/adsozlugu/adarama.asp
[9] http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/arabic1.pdf#search=%22inseparable%20prefix%20arabic%22
[10] http://transliteration.eki.ee/pdf/Arabic.pdf#search=%22Arabic%20transliteration%20hyphen%22
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Appendix:Arabic script

Definition from Wiktionary, the free dictionary

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
ا	ب	ت	ث	ج	ح	خ	د	ذ	ر	ز	س	ش	ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ك	ل	م	ن	ه	و	ي

Contents

Modified letters and additional symbols

- ء (hamza, hamzat al-qaT3) *(standalone)* - همزة القطع
- ة (taa' marbuuTa) - تاء مربوطة
- ى ('alif maqSuura) - ألف مقصورة, final position only, often used in place of the final ي by some writers, especially in Egypt.
- أ (hamza over an ʾalif)
- إ (hamza under an ʾalif)
- ؤ (hamza over a wāw)
- ئ (hamza over a dotless yāʾ)
- آ (ʾalif mádda)
- ٱ (hamzat al-waSl)

Diacritics (tashkīl)

- ـَ fatHa (فتحة)
- ـِ kasra (كسرة)
- ـُ Damma (ضمة)
- ـْ sukuun (سكون)
- ـّ shadda (شدة)
- ـٰ dagger 'alif (ألف خنجرية) ('alif ẖanjaríyya) - missing on standard keyboards, seldom used, only appears in a small number of words.

Nunation (tanwīn)

- ـٌ tanwiin al-Damm (تنوين الضم)
- ـٍ tanwiin al-kasr (تنوين الكسر)
- ـً tanwiin al-fatH (تنوين الفتح)

Ligatures

- لا lām + 'alif
- ﷲ lām (geminated) + dagger 'alif + hā', only appears in ﷲ (*Allāh*) Allah and ﷲ (*li-llāh(i)*) "to Allah"

Others

- ـ tatwiil or tatweel, a lengthening symbol, has no phonetic value.

Modifications for other languages

Brahui script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
ا	ب	پ	ت	ٹ	ث	ج	چ	ح	خ	د	ڈ	ذ	ر	ڑ	ز	ژ	س	ش	ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ک	گ	ل	ڵ	م	ن	ں	و	ہ	ء

Other letters:

ۃ ؤ أ آ

Jawi script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
ا	ب	ت	ث	ج	چ	ح	خ	د	ذ	ر	ز	س	ش	ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ڠ	ف	ڤ	ق	ك	ڪ	ل	م	ن	و	ه	ي	ڽ

Kashmiri script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
ب	پ	ت	ٹ	ث	ج	چ	ح	خ	د	ڈ	ذ	ر	ڑ	ز	ژ	س	ش	ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ك	گ	ل	م	ن	و	ھ	ے

Ottoman Turkish script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
ا	ب	پ	ت	ث	ج	چ	ح	خ	د	ذ	ر	ز	ژ	س	ش	ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ك	گ	ڭ	ل	م	ن	و	ه	ى

Other letters:

ک ئ ؤ أ آ ء

Pashto script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
ا	ب	پ	ت	ټ	ث	ج	څ	چ	ح	خ	د	ډ	ذ	ر	ړ	ز	ژ	ږ	س	ش	ښ	ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ک	ګ	ل	م	ن	ڼ

Persian script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
ا	ب	پ	ت	ث	ج	چ	ح	خ	د	ذ	ر	ز	ژ	س	ش	ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ک	گ	ل	م	ن	و	ه	ی

Punjabi (Shahmukhi) script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
ا	ب	بھ	پ	پھ	ت	تھ	ٹ	ٹھ	ث	ج	جھ	چ	چھ	ح	خ	د	دھ	ڈ	ڈھ	ذ	ر	رھ	ڑ	ڑھ	ز	ژ	س	ش	ص

31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ک	کھ	گ	گھ	ل	لھ	م	مھ	ن	نھ	ٹ	و	ہ	ء	ی	ے	

Modified letters and additional symbols

- ڑ (salshi rRay) - سالشی ڑ
- ل (moredhaniya laam) - موردھنیا لام
- م (moredhaiya meem) - موردھنیا میم
- ِ Khari zair (کھڑی زیر)
- ْ Moqoof jazam (موقوف جزم)
- ٔ Nokedaar topi numa jazam (نوکدار ٹوپی نما جزم)
- ء hamzah (ہمزہ)

- Khat-e-maddola (خطِ معدولہ)
- ـٔـ Arabic hamza above (همزه بالا)
- ـَـ fatHa (فتحة)
- ـِـ kasra (كسرة)
- ـُـ Damma (ضمة)
- ـْـ sukuun (سكون)
- ـّـ shadda (شدة)

Sindhi script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
ا	ب	ٻ	پ	ت	ٽ	ٹ	ٿ	ٺ	ث	پ	ج	چ	جھ	چ	چ	ڇ	ح	خ	د	ڏ	ڈ	ڊ	ڊ	ذ	ر	ڑ	ڑھ	ز	س	ش
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**	**36**	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**	**41**	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**	**46**	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**	**51**	**52**								
ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ڦ	ق	ڪ	ک	گ	گ	گھ	ڳ	گ	ل	م	ن	ڻ	و	ھ	ي							

Urdu script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
ا	ب	پ	ت	ٹ	ث	ج	چ	ح	خ	د	ڈ	ذ	ر	ڑ	ز	ژ	س	ش	ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ک	گ	ل	م	ن	و	ہ	ھ	ء	ی

Other letters:

ۓ ئ ي ة ؤ ں آ

Uyghur script

Xiao'erjing script

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
ا	ب	پ	ت	ث	ج	چ	ح	خ	د	ذ	ر	ز	ژ	س	ښ	ش	ص	ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ک	گ	ڭ	ل	م	ن	ه	و	ى	

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