



Stage 0 · Lesson 1

How Arabic Works

By the end of this lesson you will know the direction of the writing, recognise three letters, read the three short vowels — and read a complete āyah from the Qur'an.



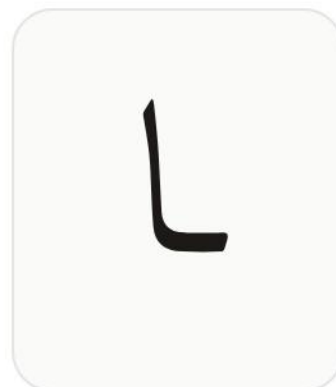
The first letter



alif

sound: a carrier — the long “aa”

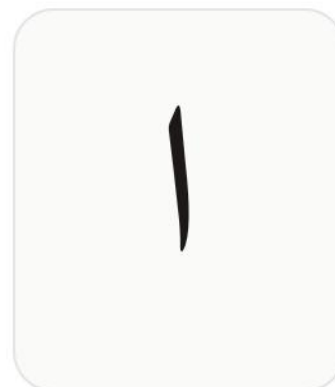
A single upright stroke. No dots. It never joins to the letter that comes after it.



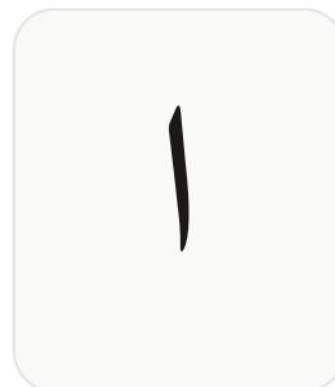
final



medial



initial



isolated

 trace here



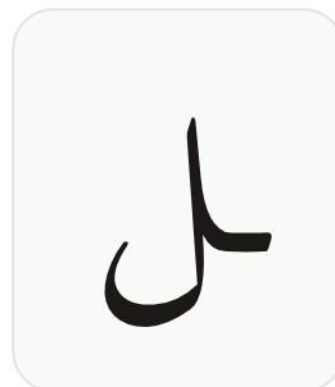
The second letter



lām

sound: l

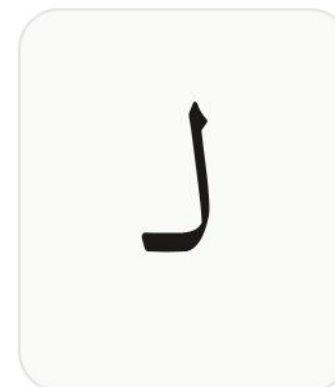
A tall stroke like the alif, but it curves at the bottom, like a hook.



final



medial



initial



isolated

 trace here



The third letter

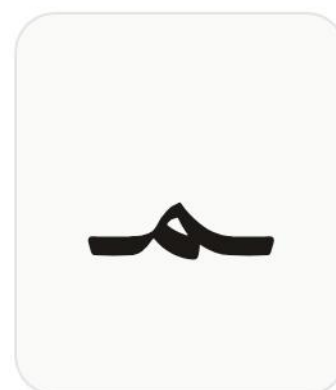
mīm

sound: m

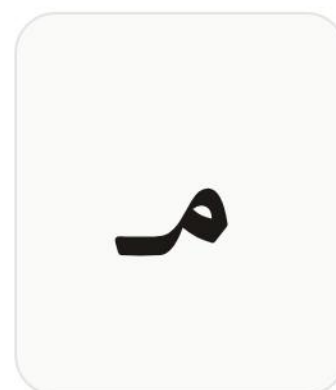
A small closed loop with a tail hanging down.



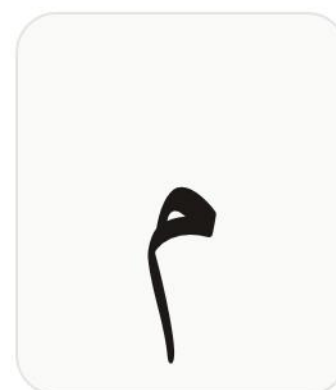
final



medial



initial



isolated

 trace here



The same three letters — right to left



Sūrat al-Baqarah — the opening āyah.

You have just read the first āyah of the longest sūrah in the Qur'an.



The whole vowel system — three marks



ḍammah

loop above → the sound
"u"



kasrah

slash below → the sound
"i"



fathah

slash above → the sound
"a"

What is written is what is said — no silent letters.



Now read — right to left

لَمْ

"did not"

مَالٌ

"wealth"

مَا

"what"

الله

"Allah" — the Name you are here for