



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.



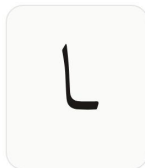
The first letter



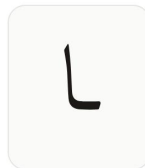
alif

sound: a carrier — the long “aa”

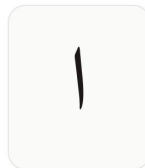
A single upright stroke. No dots. It never joins to the letter that comes after it.



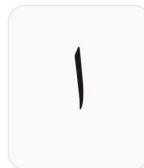
final



medial



initial



isolated

 trace here



The second letter



lām

sound: l

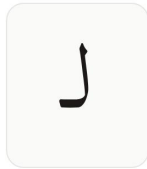
A tall stroke like the alif, but it curves at the bottom, like a hook.



final



medial



initial



isolated

 trace here



The third letter

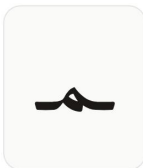
mīm

sound: m

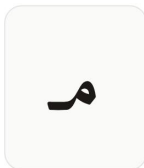
A small closed loop with a tail hanging down.



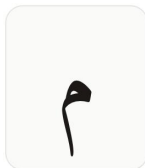
final



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



Stage 0 · Lesson 2

The Tooth Family

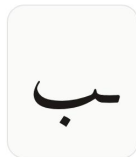
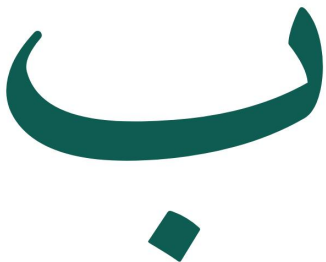
Read five letters that share one skeleton and are told apart only by their dots.



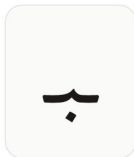
Letter 1 of 5

bā'

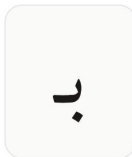
b — one dot below



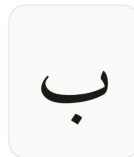
final



medial



initial



isolated

trace here



Letter 2 of 5



tā'

t — two dots above

ت

final

ت

medial

ت

initial

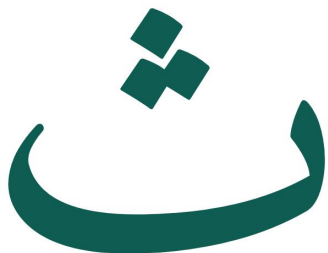
ت

isolated

trace here



Letter 3 of 5



thā'

th as in "think" — three dots above

final

medial

initial

isolated

trace here



Letter 4 of 5

nūn

n — one dot above, on a deeper bowl

final

medial

initial

isolated

trace here



Letter 5 of 5

ي

yā'

y, or a long "ee" — two dots below

ي

final

پ

medial

ي

initial

ي

isolated

trace here



Your task before the next lesson

Write ب ت ث ن ي five times each, by hand, on paper.

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Stage 0 · Lesson 3

The Letters That Refuse to Join

Learn the single most important shape rule in Arabic — the letters that never join to what comes after — plus eight new letters.



Letter 1 of 8

dāl



d — never joins to the letter after it

final

medial

initial

isolated

trace here



Letter 2 of 8



dhāl

th as in "this" — never joins forward

ذ

final

ذ

medial

ذ

initial

ذ

isolated

 trace here



Letter 3 of 8

rā'

r, lightly rolled — never joins forward



final

medial

initial

isolated

trace here



Letter 4 of 8



zāy

z — never joins forward

ز

final

ز

medial

ز

initial

ز

isolated

trace here



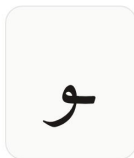
Letter 5 of 8

wāw

w, or a long "oo" — never joins forward



final



medial



initial



isolated

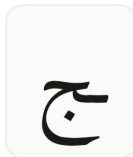
 trace here



Letter 6 of 8

jīm

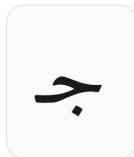
j — one dot inside the bowl



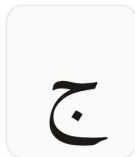
final



medial



initial



isolated

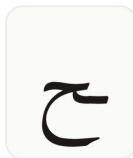
trace here



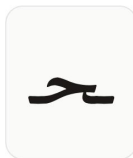
Letter 7 of 8

ḥā'

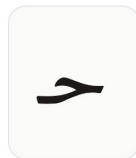
a deep h from the throat — no dot



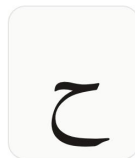
final



medial



initial



isolated

trace here



Letter 8 of 8

خ

khā'

kh — one dot above

خ

final

خ

medial

خ

initial

خ

isolated

✍ trace here



Your task before the next lesson

Copy each non-joining letter (د ذ ر ز و) and notice the gap after it.

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Stage 0 · Lesson 4

Teeth and Loops

Meet the heavy letters — your first real threshold in tajwīd, where a light and a heavy sound change the meaning.

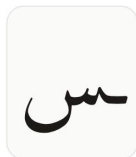


Letter 1 of 4



sīn

s — three teeth, no dots



final



medial



initial



isolated

 trace here

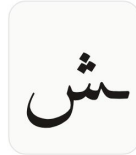


Letter 2 of 4



shīn

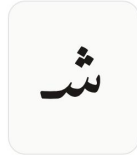
sh — three dots above



final



medial



initial



isolated

trace here



Letter 3 of 4

ص

ṣād

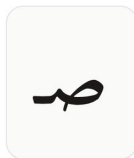
a heavy s



final



medial



initial



isolated

✍ trace here



Letter 4 of 4

ض

ḍād

a heavy d — the letter Arabic is named for

ض

final

ض

medial

ض

initial

ض

isolated

trace here



Your task before the next lesson

Say each pair aloud: ص / س, then ض / د — feel the weight change.

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Stage 0 · Lesson 5

Sounds From the Throat

Pronounce the four letters that are hardest for an English speaker —
two of which are in the very first sūrah you will read.



Letter 1 of 4



ṭā'

a heavy t



final



medial



initial



isolated

 trace here



Letter 2 of 4

ظ

ẓā'

a heavy dh

ظ

final

ظ

medial

ظ

initial

ظ

isolated

✍ trace here



Letter 3 of 4



‘ayn

from the middle of the throat — no English equivalent



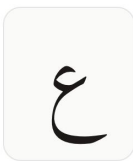
final



medial



initial



isolated

 trace here



Letter 4 of 4

غ

ghayn

a gargle — like the French r

غ

final

غ

medial

غ

initial

غ

isolated

✍ trace here



Your task before the next lesson

Practise ع and غ slowly and patiently — a few minutes, out loud.

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Stage 0 · Lesson 6

The Last Four

Finish the whole alphabet — all twenty-eight letters, in six lessons.



Letter 1 of 4

ف

fā'

f — one dot above

ف

final

ف

medial

ف

initial

ف

isolated

trace here



Letter 2 of 4



qāf

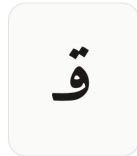
q — from the deep throat, two dots above



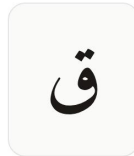
final



medial



initial



isolated

trace here



Letter 3 of 4



kāf

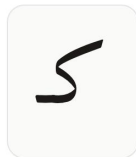
k



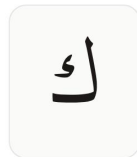
final



medial



initial



isolated

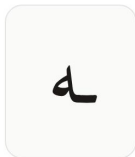
 trace here



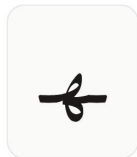
Letter 4 of 4

hā'

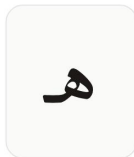
a light h, like "hat"



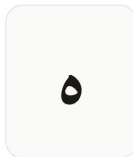
final



medial



initial



isolated

 trace here



Your task before the next lesson

Write out all 28 letters once, from memory if you can.

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Stage 0 · Lesson 7

The Marks That Make It Read

Learn the four marks that control timing, and the tā' marbūṭah — after this you can read any fully-marked word.



sukūn

no vowel — the letter is closed



و

ب

shaddah

a doubled letter — held for the count of two



-an / -in / -un at the very end of a word

the long vowels (madd)



tā' marbūṭah

a "t" when you continue, an "h" when you stop



Your task before the next lesson

Point at any marked word in the mushaf and read it slowly, mark by mark.

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Stage 0 · Lesson 8

You Can Read al-Fātiḥah

Two weeks ago it was a wall of shapes. Now you read the whole sūrah from the mushaf — no transliteration anywhere.



Āyah 1

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Āyah 2

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ



Āyah 3

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Āyah 4

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ



Āyah 5

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ



Āyah 6

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ



Āyah 7

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ
الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ



Your task before the next lesson

Read al-Fātiḥah once a day from the mushaf. You have earned it.

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+ The Complete Arabic Alphabet Reference
 Keep this slide in front of you while reciting to recognize shapes and connection rules.

1 • FOUNDATION	2 • TOOTH FAMILY	3A • NON-JOINERS	3B & 4 • HOOKS & S	4 & 5 • HEAVY PAIRS	5 & 6 • FINAL LETTERS
alif ا	bā' ب	dāl د	jīm ج	ṣād ص	ghayn غ
lām ل	tā' ت	dhāl ذ	ḥā' ح	ḍād ض	fā' ف
mīm م	thā' ث	rā' ر	khā' خ	ṭā' ط	qāf ق
	nūn ن	zāy ز	sīn س	zā' ظ	kāf ك
	yā' ي	wāw و	shīn ش	'ayn ع	hā' ه
Forms: الم					

6 Non-Joiners:
 أ • د • ذ • ر • ز • س • و

Never connect forward!

Short vs Long:
 بَ بٍ بُ • بَا بِا بِو

Hold Madd 2 counts

Marks:

ؕ (Tā') • ّ (Shaddah) • ْ (Sukūn)

+ Practice Drill 1: Accurate Pronunciation from the Holy Quran

Read directly letter-by-letter without transliteration, keeping the vowels crisp.

Method: Read each word fluently as one unit. If needed, sound out the letters individually: (و - ج - د → وَجَدَ).

Fat-hah (a) & Kasrah (i) Drills

وَجَدَ

القصص: ٢٣

وَعَدَ

الحديد: ١٠

حَسَدَ

الفلق: ٥

نَزَلَ

الحديد: ١٦

كَسَبَ

المسد: ٢

ذَهَبَ

البقرة: ٢٠

كَذَبَ

القيامة: ٣٢

حَكَمَ

غافر: ٤٨

رَحِمَ

يوسف: ٥٣

فَرَحَ

التوبة: ٨١

شَهِدَ

البقرة: ١٨٥

وَسِعَ

البقرة: ٢٥٥

+ Practice Drill 2: Joining Words & Flowing Reading Connect words smoothly without pausing between letters. You are now reading real Quranic phrases!**Goal:** Read each two-word pair in one breath, feeling the meaning directly.**Quranic Pairs & Context**

"He prostrated, then gave thanks"

سَجَدَ فَشَكَرَ

"He promised, and was truthful"

وَعَدَ فَصَدَقَ

"He worshipped, and praised"

عَبَدَ وَحَمِدَ

"He was created, so he worshipped"

خُلِقَ فَعَبَدَ

"He was content, and gave thanks"

رَضِيَ وَشَكَرَ

"He was patient, and forgave"

صَبَرَ وَغَفَرَ