



Arabic Web Design

By: Hemani Alaparathi & Chezka Quinola

Introduction

Arabic is one of the most widely spoken languages, with over 400 million speakers.



Characteristics

Understanding Arabic web design helps create accessible, culturally relevant, and user-friendly websites.



Arabic is written from right to left

It has unique characteristics that affect web design, including right-to-left (RTL) script and complex typography.



Challenges

01

Poor Font Support

Arabic script is cursive, meaning letters connect within words.

02

RTL Framework Limitations

Popular CSS frameworks (e.g., Bootstrap) are built for LTR layouts, requiring manual overrides for RTL alignment.

03

Text Truncation & Overflow

Words are often longer than their English equivalents, causing text to overflow buttons, menus, or cards. Which can disrupt UI

Challenges

04

Bidirectional Text Mixing

Arabic script is cursive, meaning letters connect within words.

05

Cursor Movement Issues

Input fields in RTL layouts often misalign the cursor, making it jump unpredictably between letters.

06


Browser Inconsistencies

Older browsers or outdated versions of Safari/Chrome may ignore RTL CSS rules or fail to render Arabic script correctly.



So...

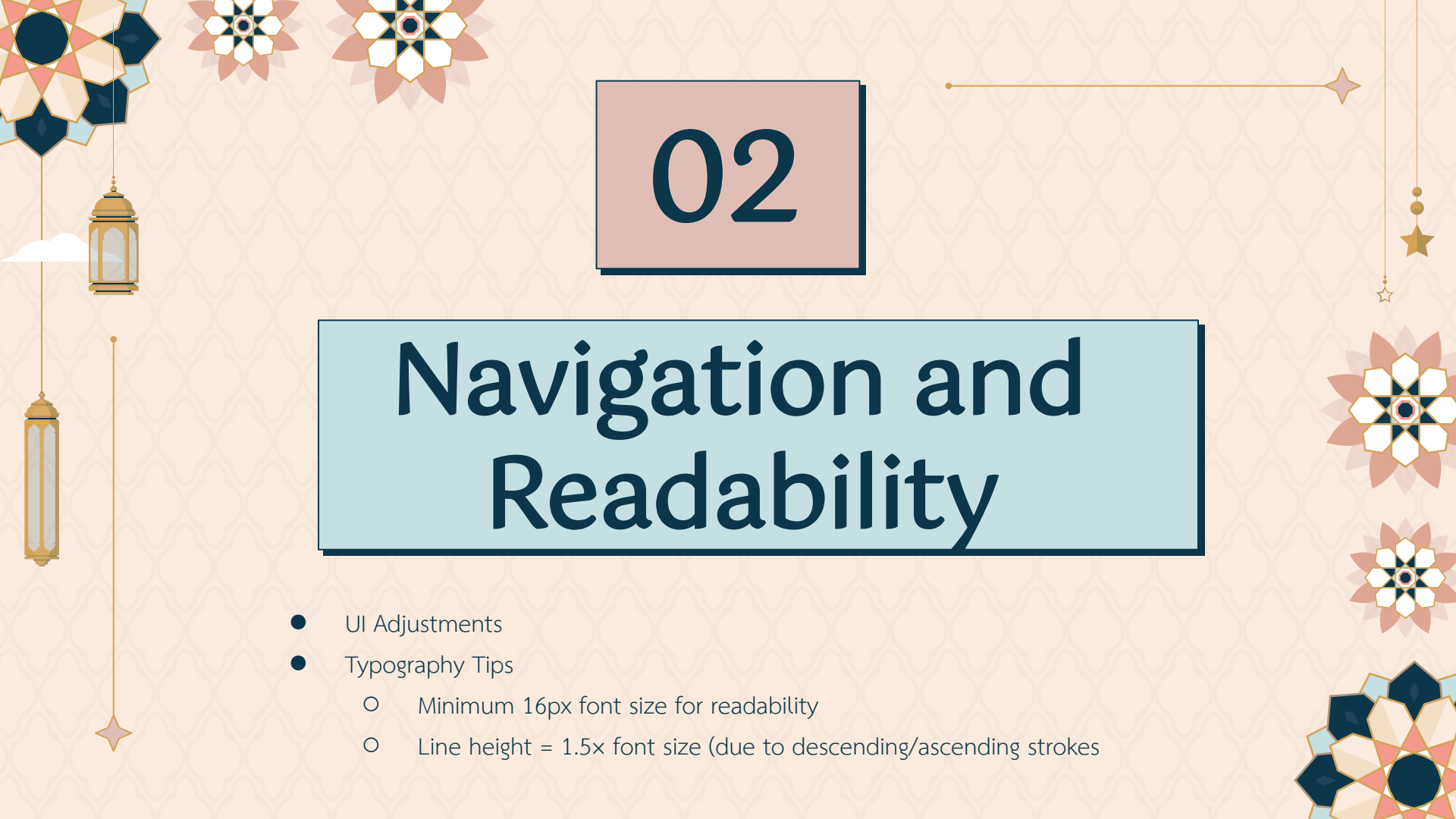
How do we bridge these gaps?



01

Arabic Layout Considerations

- RTL Direction
- Alignment
- UI Mirroring



02

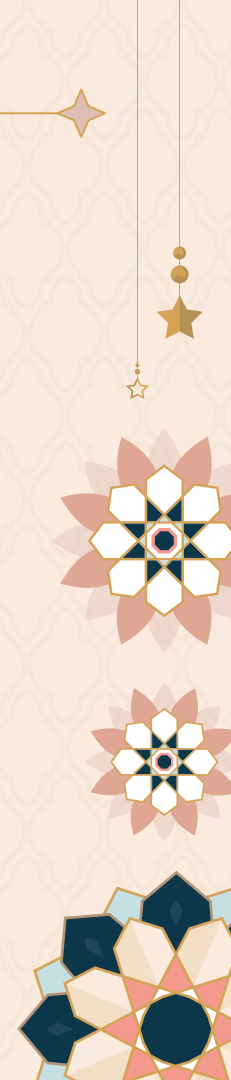
Navigation and Readability

- UI Adjustments
- Typography Tips
 - Minimum 16px font size for readability
 - Line height = 1.5x font size (due to descending/ascending strokes)



03

Accessibility

- Screen Readers:
 - Use lang="ar" to trigger correct pronunciation.
 - Avoid images for text (Arabic OCR is less reliable).
 - Resizing: Test zoom levels (200%+) to ensure text doesn't overlap.
 - Contrast: Use tools like Contrast Checker for diacritic visibility.
- 

Cultural Considerations



- **Colors:**

- Avoid red/green combinations (confusion for color-blind users).
- Green = Islam; avoid overly flashy hues

- **Imagery:**

- Use modest clothing in illustrations.
- Avoid hand gestures (e.g., thumbs-up can be offensive).

- **Localization:**

- Hijri calendar integration (e.g., Saudi Arabia).

Solutions & Best Practices

Arabic design demands attention to script, culture, and UX.



Fonts

Use Noto Naskh Arabic (Google Fonts) or Amiri.



CSS

- Direction: rtl + text-align: right
- Flexbox/Grid for responsive RTL layouts.



Testing

- Use pseudolocalization tools for BiDi testing.
- Test on Safari (common in Arabic regions).



Thank You!

