

Arabic Fluency Roadmap

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1 Introduction

This document is a comprehensive companion to an 8-month Arabic language learning journey based on the textbook *At-Takallum: A Comprehensive Modern Arabic Course*.

It serves as a central hub for:

- **Detailed study notes**
- **Thematic and contextual vocabulary lists**
- **Practice exercises** for grammar, reading, writing, listening, and speaking
- **Supplementary resources** for cultural and religious enrichment
- **Tracking overall progression** across all learning levels

The learning journey is divided into three stages, each aligned with a CEFR proficiency level and structured around thematic chapters designed to gradually build language skills in context.

1.1 Elementary Level (A1 Proficiency)

The **Elementary Book** consists of 8 foundational chapters focused on everyday communication and basic vocabulary:

1. **Greetings and Introductions**
 2. **Family and Relationships**
 3. **School and Studies**
 4. **Food and Eating Habits**
 5. **Telling Time and Discussing Prices**
 6. **Holidays and Vacations**
 7. **Daily Routines and Activities**
 8. **Weather and Clothing**
-

1.2 Pre-Intermediate Level (B1 Proficiency)

The **Pre-Intermediate Book** continues with more complex sentence structures and a wider vocabulary, divided into the following 8 thematic units:

1. **Exploring Cairo and Transportation**
 2. **Housing and Daily Living**
 3. **Health and Well-being**
 4. **Shopping and Markets**
 5. **Jobs and the Workplace**
 6. **Tourist Attractions and Historical Sites**
 7. **Sports and Hobbies**
 8. **Past Memories and Storytelling**
-

1.3 Intermediate Level (B2 Proficiency)

The **Intermediate Book** builds toward fluency, focusing on abstract topics and culturally rich discussions:

1. Describing People and Character Traits
 2. Religious Celebrations and Eid Traditions
 3. Humor and Storytelling
 4. Nature and Environmental Issues
 5. World Cultures and Social Traditions
 6. Arabic Proverbs, Sayings, and Wisdom
 7. Famous Historical Figures
 8. The Role of Education and Learning
-

1.3.1 Materials and Resources

- Supplementary notes, vocabulary decks, and grammar exercises
- Cultural and religious content to enrich learning context
- Translation practice using classical texts

Note

This document will evolve over time to reflect ongoing progress, feedback, and new materials. Contributions and suggestions are welcome.

2 – Introducing Yourself

Making a great first impression starts with the basics: greetings, names, nationalities, and simple questions. This unit introduces essential vocabulary and expressions for everyday social interactions — from saying hello to telling someone where you're from.

Use the table below to familiarize yourself with the most common phrases used in first encounters.

Watch This!

Here's a helpful video that provides some pretty solid techniques for memorizing new vocabulary:

[7 Insanely Effective Techniques to Memorize Vocabulary in a New Language](#)

2.1 Key Vocabulary and Phrases

English	Arabic
Peace be upon you!	
And peace be upon you!	
Good morning!	/
How are you?	/
Fine, al-Hamdulillah	/
Welcome!	/
Welcome to you	/
What is your name?	
My name is
Where are you from?	
I am Egyptian	
I am from Egypt	
Good evening!	/
Nice to meet you	/ /
Goodbye / Farewell	/ / /
Job / Profession / Work	/ /
Student	/
Teacher	/ /
Translator	
Worker / Laborer	
Friend / Colleague	/
Carpenter	
Retired	
Journalist	
Accountant	
Mobile phone	
Landline phone	/
Email	
Address	
Unemployed	
He works	

Try This!

Try translating the following English phrases into Arabic using only the vocabulary from Chapter 1.

1. “My name is ... and I am from ...”
2. “What is your name [masculine/feminine]?”
3. “I am Egyptian.”
4. “I am from Egypt.”
5. “Where are you from?”
6. “What is your profession?”
7. “I am a teacher.”
8. “I am fine, thanks.”
9. “Good morning!”
10. “Goodbye! See you later!”

2.2 Singular Pronouns

In Arabic, personal pronouns change depending on gender and number. Here are the **singular pronouns**:

English	Arabic	Pronunciation
I		<i>anā</i>
You (masc.)		<i>anta</i>
You (fem.)		<i>anti</i>
He		<i>huwa</i>
She		<i>hiya</i>

Possessive Endings Tip!

To express **possession** (like *my book*, *your phone*, *his teacher*), Arabic uses **suffixes** attached to the end of the noun. Here are the common **possessive endings** for singular pronouns:

- () for → (my book)
- () for → (your book, masc.)
- () for → (your book, fem.)
- () for → (his book)

- () for → (her book)

These suffixes are directly attached to nouns to show ownership.

2.3 Nationalities

Nationalities in Arabic are based on the name of the country and are modified by adding masculine or feminine endings. These follow regular patterns and are important for introducing yourself or describing others.

💡 Country Roots & Nationalities

Country	Root (Base Word)	Nationality (Masc. / Fem.)
Egypt		/
Somalia		/
America		/

2.3.1 Examples:

- – I am Egyptian (male)
- – I am Egyptian (female)
- – He is Somali
- – She is American

Note: The masculine form usually ends in , and the feminine form ends in .

2.3.2 Practice Questions

Try answering the following using the correct nationality form:

1. (What is your nationality? — to a male)
2. (What is your nationality? — to a female)
3. Translate:
 - a. I am American (female)
 - b. He is Egyptian

c. She is Somali

 Click to Practice a Conversation

2.4 Practice: A Conversation Between Two Friends

Friend 1: Hello!

Friend 2: Hello and welcome!

Friend 1: How are you?

Friend 2: I'm fine, thank God. And you?

Friend 1: I'm fine. What is your name?

Friend 2: My name is Ahmed. What is your name?

Friend 1: My name is Sarah. Where are you from?

Friend 2: I am from Egypt. And you?

Friend 1: I am from America. What is your job?

Friend 2: I am a teacher. And you?

Friend 1: I am a student. What is your address?

Friend 2: My address is 12 Cairo Street. What is your address?

Friend 1: My address is 8 Nile Avenue. What is your phone number?

Friend 2: My mobile number is 010-1234-5678. What is your number?

Friend 1: My phone number is 011-9876-5432. What is your email?

Friend 2: My email is ahmed@gmail.com. And yours?

Friend 1: My email is sarah@email.com.

Friend 2: Nice to meet you!


Friend 1: Nice to meet you too!

2.5 The Present Simple Tense With Singular Pronouns

In Arabic, verbs in the present tense are based on three-letter roots. Let's start with the verb (to work) and see how it changes with singular pronouns in the **present tense**.

Pronoun	Present Tense Verb	Example Sentence
I		– I work as a translator
You (m)		– You (m) work as a translator
You (f)		– You (f) work as a translator
He		– He works as a translator
She		– She works as a translator

Note: Feminine job titles and pronouns require feminine verb forms and endings, like and .

 Click to Practice with More Root Verbs

2.5.1 Practice with These Root Verbs:

Verb Root	Meaning	Present Tense (He)
	to work	
	to write	
	to read	
	to look	
	to understand	

2.5.2 Practice Prompts:

Try writing these for each singular pronoun ():

1. “_____ writes an email.”
2. “_____ reads the book.”
3. “_____ looks at the address.”
4. “_____ understands the lesson.”
5. “_____ works as a teacher.”

Mix masculine and feminine forms!

2.6 Quick Review Section

Review Checklist

Before moving on, make sure you can:

- ☐ Introduce yourself in Arabic
- ☐ Ask and answer where someone is from
- ☐ Use singular pronouns correctly
- ☐ Identify masculine and feminine nationalities
- ☐ Form simple present-tense sentences with key verbs

☐ Ask for basic personal info: name, address, phone, job

💡 A Scholar's Reflection

“
”
“*The Arabic language is among the richest and most expansive languages; it is a sea without a shore.*”
— **Ibn Jinnī**, famed linguist and grammarian

3 – The Family

Family is the foundation of many conversations in Arabic. In this unit, you'll learn how to introduce your family members, describe relationships, and talk about where people live and what they do.

3.1 Key Vocabulary and Phrases

English	Arabic
Family / Household	/
Grandfather	
Grandmother	
Father / Parent	/
Mother / Parent	/
Brother	
Sister	
Son / Daughter	/
Boy / Girl	/
Grandson / Granddaughter	/
Twin brother	
Paternal uncle	
Maternal uncle	
Paternal aunt	
Maternal aunt	
Husband / Wife	/
Relative / Kin	/
Father-in-law / Mother-in-law	/
Married	/
Fiancé / Fiancée	/
Bachelor (unmarried)	

English	Arabic
Miss / Young lady	
Surname / Title	/

3.2 Talking About Daily Life

English	Arabic
He lives in...	...
She studies	
He loves / likes	
He comments	
He receives / meets	
He prepares / makes ready	
She cooks	
He sits / sits down	

3.3 Practice Phrases


i Try This!

Translate the following into Arabic using the vocabulary above:

1. My mother and father live in Cairo.
2. He is my maternal uncle.
3. My sister is a student.
4. She loves her grandmother.
5. I am married.
6. He is a bachelor.
7. This is my wife and these are our children.
8. Where does your grandfather live?
9. She studies in the university.
10. My aunt (paternal) cooks delicious food.

3.4 Special Occasions & Home Life

English	Arabic
Bride / Bridegroom	/
Food	
Road / Street	
Decoration	
Guests	/
Salon / Reception Room	
Furniture	

 Click to Practice a Dialogue

3.5 Practice: Talking About Family

Ahmed: Hello! Who is this?

Fatimah: This is my father and mother.

Ahmed: What is your father's name?

Fatimah: His name is Yusuf.

Ahmed: Does he work?

Fatimah: Yes, he works as a teacher.

Ahmed: And your mother?

Fatimah: She cooks and takes care of the house.

Ahmed: Do you have any siblings?

Fatimah: Yes, I have one brother and two sisters.

Ahmed: Where do you live?

Fatimah: We live in Tripoli.

3.6 Verb Practice With the Family Theme

Try conjugating and writing present-tense sentences using these verbs:

Pronoun	Example Verb + Family Context
	– I love my grandmother
	– You live with your family
	– You (f) study at the university
	– He arranges the room
	– She cooks the food

i Review Checklist

- ☐ Identify and name family members
- ☐ Use verbs in present tense to describe family life
- ☐ Talk about marital status and relatives
- ☐ Describe who lives where
- ☐ Use feminine and masculine forms correctly

4 – Studying

Education is a major part of life across cultures, and in Arabic, knowing how to talk about school, subjects, and study routines helps you connect and express yourself in academic and personal settings.

4.1 Key Vocabulary and Phrases

English	Arabic
Class, grade	
Display screen	
Eraser	
Wastebasket	
School	
Bookshelf	
Dictionary	/
Absent / Present	×
Page	
Behind / At the back	/
Between	
Beside	
Under	/
To the right	
To the left	
University	
Faculty	
Good / Bad	×
Arabic language	

English	Arabic
English language	
Vacation / Holiday	

4.2 Verbs and Phrases for the Classroom

English	Arabic
He studies	
He thinks	
He guesses	
He starts	
He finishes	
He opens / He closes	×
Raise / Lower	×
Take / Here you go	/
Let me have	
Lesson / Lecture	/
Course / Subject	()
Idea / Opinion	/
Psychology	
Jurisprudence	
Qur'an explanation	
Hadith	
Recitation rules	
History	
Geography	

4.3 Practice Phrases

i Try This!

Translate the following into Arabic using the vocabulary above:

1. I study psychology and jurisprudence.
2. The dictionary is beside the bookshelf.
3. Open the book to page ten.

4. She is present today.
5. My course is very interesting.
6. He finishes his lesson at two o'clock.
7. The subject is difficult but useful.
8. Where is the eraser?
9. We are studying the Arabic language.
10. The classroom is to the right.

 Click to Practice a Dialogue

4.4 Practice: In the Classroom

Zayd: Are you studying today?

Nour: Yes, I am studying history and psychology.

Zayd: Is the teacher present?

Nour: No, he is absent today.

Zayd: Where is your book?

Nour: It's on the bookshelf, beside the dictionary.

Zayd: Do you like this course?

Nour: Yes, it's good and interesting.

4.5 Verb Practice With the Studying Theme

Pronoun	Example Verb + Classroom Context
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – I study tafsīr – You open the book – You (f) understand the lesson – He starts the lesson – She is thinking of the answer

A Scholar's Reflection

“

”

“My brother, you will never attain knowledge except with six things.

I will tell you about them clearly:

intelligence, eagerness, effort, provision,

companionship of a teacher, and a long time.”

— **Imām al-Shāfiʿī**, on the path to knowledge

Review Checklist

- ☐ Master classroom objects and directions
- ☐ Use present tense verbs in context
- ☐ Build common study-related phrases
- ☐ Practice dialogue with school vocabulary

5 – Food and Meals

In this chapter, we explore everything related to food and meals in Arabic — from ordering at a restaurant to naming common foods and drinks. You'll also practice useful verbs and sentence structures for daily eating routines.

Watch This!

Need help remembering all this new vocabulary?

Check out this video:

[How to Memorize Arabic Vocabulary Fast!](#)

5.1 Key Vocabulary and Phrases

English	Arabic
Meal	()
Breakfast	
Lunch	
Dinner	
Full, satisfied	
Hungry	
Thirsty	/
Sated (not thirsty)	
Before / After	/
Hot / Cold	/
Fruits	()
Vegetables	
Chicken	()
Fish	
Bread	
Meat	()
Rice	
Eggs	
Cheese	
Yoghurt	
Pickles	/
Honey	
Dessert	
Falafel	/
Tea	
Coffee	
Juice	()
Milk	/
Water	()
Sugar	
Jam	
Butter	
Olives	

5.2 At the Restaurant

English	Arabic
Restaurant	
Waiter	/
Menu	

English	Arabic
Bill / Check	
Change	
Customer	
Reserved / Vacant	/
Table	/
Glass / Cup	/ /
Plate	
Spoon / Fork / Knife	/ /
Napkin	
Water bottle	
Carbonated water	
Lemon juice	
Fried potatoes	
Kebab / Kofta	/
Shrimp	
Soup	

i Try This!

Translate the following using the vocabulary above:

1. I want a chicken sandwich.
2. I am thirsty — I want lemon juice.
3. Where is the restaurant?
4. The coffee is hot.
5. The salad is cold.


5.3 Useful Verbs with Food

Arabic Verb	English
	He eats
	He has / consumes (a meal)
	He drinks
	He wants
	He calls (the waiter)

Arabic Verb	English
	You order / request

5.3.1 Example Sentences:

- *I eat breakfast at 7:00.*
- *He drinks tea and coffee.*
- *We would like the menu, please.*

 Click to Practice a Conversation

5.4 Dialogue: At the Restaurant

Waiter: Welcome!

Customer: Thank you. Is this table free?

Waiter: No, it's reserved. But this one is free.

Customer: Thank you. Can I see the menu?

Waiter: Of course. Here you go.

Customer: I want grilled fish and lemon juice.

Waiter: Anything else?

Customer: No, thank you.

Waiter: The bill, sir?

Customer: Yes, here you go. Keep the change.

Waiter: Thank you very much!

5.5 Verb Practice with Singular Pronouns

Let's look at (he eats) and (he drinks) across the singular pronouns:

Pronoun	Eat =	Drink =
---------	-------	---------

Pronoun	Eat =	Drink =
---------	-------	---------

Note: These verbs are irregular in the past tense but regular in the present.

Quick Questions

Try answering in Arabic:

1. — What do you want for lunch?
2. — Do you want water or juice?
3. — Where is the restaurant?
4. — What is this meal?

A Scholar's Reflection

“ : ”.
“*I have not eaten to fullness for sixteen years, because satiety burdens the body, hardens the heart, removes sharpness of mind, brings on sleep, and weakens one from worship.*”
— **Imām al-Shāfiʿī**

5.6 Quick Review Checklist

Review Goals

- ☐ Use common food vocabulary
- ☐ Order at a restaurant in Arabic
- ☐ Conjugate “eat” and “drink” with pronouns

- ☐ Ask for the bill, the menu, or water
- ☐ Know useful utensils and table items
- ☐ Practice a restaurant dialogue

6 - Times and Prices

Time and money shape much of our daily life and planning. In this unit, you'll learn how to tell time, understand prices and currency, and talk about schedules, appointments, and travel plans—all essential skills for navigating everyday situations in Arabic.

6.1 Key Vocabulary and Phrases

English	Arabic
Time, appointed time	/
It's 1 o'clock sharp	
Fifteen minutes to ...	
Twenty minutes to ...	
Half past ...	
Employee	
Ticket	
Airline office	
By day × By night	×
Quarter past ...	
An hour - a minute - a second	- -
Airport	
Plane, airplane	
Train	
Bus	
Twenty past ...	
New × Old	×
(She) goes	
(He) sleeps	
(She) arrives at	
In the morning × In the evening	×
The next × The previous	×
Before noon × In the afternoon	×

6.1.1 Currency & Exchange

English	Arabic
Late × Early	×
Exchange office	
Rate	()
US dollar	
Euro	
Pound sterling	
Egyptian pound	
Japanese yen	
Saudi riyal	
UAE dirham	
Kuwaiti dinar	
Currency	()
Money, cash	
Turkish lira	
Change	

6.1.2 Banking & Counting

English	Arabic
(He) exchanges	
(He) counts	
Bank	/
Central bank	
Fifty piasters	
Twenty-five piasters	

6.1.3 Prayer Times

English	Arabic
Prayer Times	
Adhan	
Dawn prayer	
Sunrise prayer	
Noon prayer	
Afternoon prayer	
Sunset prayer	
Evening prayer	

6.2 Translation Practice

i Translate the following into Arabic

1. I go to the airport at one o'clock sharp.
 2. The bus arrives at a quarter past four.
 3. He exchanges money at the bank.
 4. The prayer times are written on the wall.
 5. I sleep at night and go to work in the morning.
 6. The price of the ticket is ten dollars.
 7. I want to buy twenty-five piasters of change.
-

6.3 Practice Conjugation

💡 Verb Practice: Conjugate

Practice conjugating these important verbs across pronouns:

- (to go)
- (to sleep)
- (to arrive)
- (to exchange)
- (to count)

Try writing full sentences using each form.

i Review Checklist

- ☐ Memorized all vocabulary in time, transport, and money
- ☐ Can tell time using quarter/half/twenty expressions
- ☐ Know names of prayer times
- ☐ Can form basic sentences about time and prices
- ☐ Can conjugate essential verbs from this chapter