

# Arabic letters and vowel markers

March 6, 2018

## 1 The Alphabet

Name	Trans.	Isolated	Final	Medial	Initial
alif	aa	ا	ا	ا	ا
baa'	b	ب	ب	ب	ب
taa'	t	ت	ت	ت	ت
thaa'	th	ث	ث	ث	ث
jiim	j	ج	ج	ج	ج
Haa'	H	ح	ح	ح	ح
khaa'	kh	خ	خ	خ	خ
daal	d	د	د	د	د
dhaal	dh	ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ
raa'	r	ر	ر	ر	ر
zaay	z	ز	ز	ز	ز
siin	s	س	س	س	س
shiin	sh	ش	ش	ش	ش
Saad	S	ص	ص	ص	ص
Daad	D	ض	ض	ض	ض
Taa'	T	ط	ط	ط	ط
DHaa'	DH	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
'ayn	'	ع	ع	ع	ع
ghayn	gh	غ	غ	غ	غ
faa'	f	ف	ف	ف	ف
qaaf	q	ق	ق	ق	ق
kaaf	k	ك	ك	ك	ك
laam	l	ل	ل	ل	ل
miim	m	م	م	م	م
nuun	n	ن	ن	ن	ن
haa'	h	ه	ه	ه	ه
waaw	w/uu	و	و	و	و
yaa'	y/ii	ي	ي	ي	ي

This chart was designed as a complement to the Alif Baa Arabic textbook (Georgetown University Press, 1995) and follows the transcription system used therein.

Gray background marks letters that do not connect to following letters.

The baseline is marked with a red line on descending letter forms.

ظ and ط, ض, ص are the so called emphatic letters.

### Common ligatures

لا →	سلام	yallaa
لم →	المسلم	al-muslim
في →	في	fii
يح →	يحيى	yaHyaa
تج →	تجارة	tijaara
مح →	محل	maHall
مم →	ممل	mumill
الله →	الله	allaah

\* Non-optional

The letters و and ي represent either a consonant or a long vowel and are transcribed accordingly.

## 2 Other letters

Name	Trans.	Isolated	Final	Medial	Initial	
hamza	ʾ	أ	آ	أ	أ	Hamza is written with different "chairs" depending on surrounding vowels and its position in the word.
		إ	أ	أ	أ	
		ؤ	ؤ	ؤ	ؤ	
		ئ	ئ	ئ	ئ	
madda	ʾaa	آ	آ	آ	آ	Hamza in the form of ء does not connect to surrounding letters.
taa' marbuuTa	a/at	ة	ة			The letters ة and ي only occur in word-final position.
alif maqSuura	aa	ي	ي			

## 3 Vowel markers

Name	Short	Long	Nunation	
fatHa	a َ	aa َا	an ْ / َّ	The alif in َّ is silent.
Damma	u ُ	uu ُو	un ُ	
kasra	i ِ	ii ِي	in ِ	
alif khanjariyya	aa ِ			Alifkhanjariyya is only used in the words هَذِهِ، هَذَا، لَكِنَّ، اللَّهُ and ذَلِكَ. Usually not printed even in voweled text.

## 4 Other markers

sukuun	◌ْ	Marks the absence of vowels after a consonant. Not transcribed (دَرْس dars).	Sukuun and shadda are only printed in voweled text.
shadda	◌ّ	Marks doubling of a consonant. Vowel markers are written above or below shadda rather than above or below the letter (مُدَّرِّسٌ). Transcribed as double consonant (مُدَّرِّس mudarris).	