Lateef - Font Features

Lateef is an OpenType-enabled font family that supports the Arabic script. It includes a number of optional features that provide alternative rendering that might be preferable for use in some contexts. The sections below enumerate the details of these features. Whether these features are available to users will depend on both the application and the rendering technology being used. Some applications let the user control certain features such as Character Variants to turn on the rendering of variant characters. However, at this point, most applications do not make use of those features so another solution is needed to show the variant characters. TypeTuner creates tuned fonts that use the variant glyph in place of the standard glyph. TypeTuner also provides the ability to turn on support for the Kurdish, Kyrgyz, Rohingya, Sindhi, and Urdu languages variants.

See Using Font Features. Although that page is not targeted at Arabic script support, it does provide a comprehensive list of applications that make full use of the OpenType and Graphite font technologies.

See also Arabic Fonts — Application Support. It provides a fairly comprehensive list of applications that make full use of the OpenType and Graphite font technologies.

This page uses web fonts (WOFF) to demonstrate font features and should display correctly in all modern browsers. For a more concise example of how to use Lateef as a web font see *Lateef-webfont-example.html* in the font package web folder.

If this document is not displaying correctly a PDF version is also provided in the documentation/pdf folder of the release package.

End of Ayah (U+06DD) and subtending marks (U+0600..U+0605)

These Arabic characters are intended to enclose or hold one or more digits.

Specific technical details of how to use them are discussed in the Arabic fonts FAQ -- Subtending marks.

Additionally, Lateef includes two simplified alternates for U+06DD ARABIC END OF AYAH under the Stylistic Alternates (salt) feature, but at this time we know of no OpenType-based applications that can access these. The two alternates are also available through the Character Variants feature discussed below.

Customizing with TypeTuner

For applications that do not make use of the OpenType Character Variants, you can now download fonts customized with the variant glyphs you choose. Read this document, visit TypeTuner Web, then choose the variants and download your font.

Language

Affects: U+062F, U+0630, U+0688..U+068F, U+0690, U+06EE, U+0759, U+075A, U+08AE, U+0645, U+0765, U+0766, U+08A7, U+0647, U+0626, U+060C, U+061B, U+06F4, U+06F5, U+06F6, U+06F7, U+0650, U+064F, U+0657

Unfortunately, the UI needed to access the language-specific behavior is not yet present in many applications. LibreOffice and Microsoft Word 2016 support language-specific behavior for Kurdish, Sindhi and Urdu (but not Kyrgyz or Rohingya). Some Harfbuzz-based apps, e.g., XeTeX, can access language-specific behavior.

Language	Meem	Heh	0626	4	6	7	0650/064E	064C	Feature setting
default	م ممم	ه ههه	ئ ئئئ	۴	۶	Υ	بِّ	بْ	
Kurdish (Northern)	مممم	ههه	ئ ئئئ	۴	۶	Υ	بٌ	بٌ	lang=ku
Kyrgyz	ممم	ههه	ئى ئئئى	۴	۶	٧	بِّ	بْ	lang=ky
Rohingya	ممم	aga o	ئ ئئئ	٤	٦	۷	بّ	بُّ	lang=rhg
Sindhi	مممر	ه ههه	ئ ئئئ	۴	٦	۷	بّ	بْ	lang=sd
Urdu	م ممم	ه ههه	ئ ئئئ	٣	٦	۷	بّ	بٌ	lang=ur

Character variants

There are some character shape differences in different languages which use the Arabic script. These can be accessed by using OpenType Character Variants, or through the language support mentioned above.

Meem

Affects: U+0645, U+0765, U+0766, U+08A7

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	م ممم م مفنم م مجم م مثمم	cv44=0
Sindhi-style	م ممم م فنم م مبم ه ششر	cv44=1

Heh

Affects: U+0647

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	यक्ष ठ	cv48=0
Kurdish-style	ه ههم	cv48=3
Sindhi-style	ه همو	cv48=1
Urdu-style	<i>~</i> ېر، ه	cv48=2

Kirghiz OE

Affects: U+06C5

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Loop	g	cv51=0
Bar	و	cv51=1

Yeh Hamza

Affects: U+0626

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	ئئ	cv54=0
Right hamza	ئى ئى	cv54=1

Shadda+kasra placement

Affects: U+064D, U+0650 with U+0651

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Raised	ڔٞٞڔٞ۫	cv62=0
Lowered	ڔؚ۫ڔٞؠؚ	cv62=1

Damma

Affects: U+064F

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Default	் ்	cv70=0
Filled	ૺૺૺૺૺ૾	cv70=1

Dammatan

Affects: U+064C

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	<i>్</i>	cv72=0
Six-nine	<i>بُ</i> ٿ	cv72=1

Superscript Alef

Affects: U+0670 on all yeh, sad and seen-like characters U+0649 U+064A U+06D0 U+06D1 U+0777 U+06CC U+0635 U+0636 U+069D U+069E U+06FB U+08AF U+0633 U+0634 U+069A U+069B U+069C U+06FA U+075C U+076D U+077D U+077D U+077E

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Default (Large)	ئُ تُئُئُ یَ نَنی یَ نِنی یَ نِنی تُی تُئی یَ بِہْیِ یَ پِنِی یَ پَہْی یُ یُئِی یَ نِنیٰ یَ نَنیٰ یُ نُنیٰ یَ یَٰنیٰ یُ یَٰنیٰ یَ یَنیٰ یَ یَٰنِیٰ یَ یَٰلِیٰ یَ یَٰلِیٰ یَ یَٰلِیٰ مَ مَاصِطِ ضَ ضَضَضَ کُی یَنِیٰ یَ یَٰلِیٰ یَ یَٰلِیٰ یَ یَٰلِیٰ مَ صَصِصِ ضَ ضَضَضَ کی صِصِحِ مَن صَصِحِ مَن صَصْصَصَ ضَ ضَضِضَ صَ	cv76=0

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
	سُسْلِ شُل شُ شُشُلُ مِنْ شِشْشِ مِنْ طَلْ طَلْ طَلْ طَلْ طَلْ طَشْلَنْ شُ شُشْلُ مِنْ مُسُلِّسُ مِنْ مُشَلِّسُ مِنْ مُشْفِّسُ	
Large	ئُ ئُنْئُ مَى سَلَى مَا يَنِي مَى نُنْئَ مَا يَبْنِي مِي پَيْلِي مِي لَيْلِي عَلَيْ لِبَائِي عَلَيْ يَلْكُونَى مَا يَنْئَى مَا مَضْصَلَ صَاصَطُ صَاصَطُ صَاصَطُ عَلَيْ عَلَى يَنْئِي مَا يَنْئِي مَا يَنْئِي مَا مُضْضَلً صَاصَطُ مَا صَصْطَ صَاصَطُ مَا صَصْطَ مَا مَنْ فَضْضَ مَلْ مَنْ مَنْ مَنْ مَنْ مَنْ مَنْ مَنْ مَن	cv76=1
Small	ئُ تُلَّئُ يَ لَنِي يَ لِيْنِي كُى تُلَئِّ كُنْ بِإِنِي يَ لِيْنِي يَ إَنْ يُكُنِّ كُنْ لِيُلِي عَلَيْ لِيْنِي كُى ثُلُفُى تَّ لِيَّتَى ثَى ثُلُفُى كَا لِيْنِي عَلَيْ لَكُنْ فَي لَيْنَى كَا لِيْنِي عَلَيْ لَكُنْ فَي لَيْنِي عَلَيْ لَكُنْ فَي لَيْنِي عَلَيْ فَي لَيْنِي عَلَيْ فَي لَيْنِي عَلَيْ فَي لَيْنِي عَلَيْ فَلَيْ عَلَى لَيْنِي عَلَيْ فَلَى اللَّهُ فَي فَلْ فَلَمْ فَلَى اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَيْ اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَيْ اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَيْ اللَّهُ فَيْ اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَيْ اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَيْ اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَيْ اللْلِيْ فَي اللَّهُ فَلِي اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَيْ اللَّهُ فَي اللَّهُ فَيْ اللَّهُ فَلِي اللَّهُ فَا الللْمُنْ الللِّهُ فَا اللَّهُ فَا الللّهُ اللَّلِهُ فَاللّهُ اللَّهُ اللِلْمُ الللِّهُ فَالل	cv76=2

Sukun

Affects: U+0652

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Closed	بْ	cv78=0
Open down	ب	cv78=1
Open left	ٺ	cv78=2

End of ayah

Affects: U+06DD

Firefox allows you to use U+06DD followed by the digits and proper rendering occurs. Some applications require the following:

- precede the entire sequence (subtending mark plus following digits) with 202D LEFT-TO-RIGHT OVERRIDE
- follow the entire sequence with U+202C POP DIRECTIONAL FORMATTING.

Surrounding the sequence with U+202D and U+202C seems to give the most reliable results in different browsers. However, we have not found a solution that works in Internet Explorer/Edge.

In the example below, the following codepoints are used: U+202D U+06DD U+0031 U+0032 U+0033 U+202C U+202D U+06DD U+0611 U+0622 U+0663 U+202C.

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	(123) (117)	cv80=0
Simplified A	(123) (117)	cv80=1
Simplified B	123 (177)	cv80=2

Eastern digits

Affects: U+06F4, U+06F6, U+06F7

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	484	cv82=0
Kurdish-style	454	cv82=3
Rohingya-style	٤٦٧	cv82=4
Sindhi-style	417	cv82=1
Urdu-style	٣٦٧	cv82=2

Proportional Figures

Tabular digits are the default for Latin digits. Lateef supports the OpenType **Proportional Figures (pnum)** for Latin digits.

Affects: U+0030..U+0039

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Tabular Figures	0123456789	pnum=0
Proportional Figures	0123456789	pnum=1

Tabular Figures

Proportional digits are the default for Arabic digits. Lateef supports the OpenType **Tabular Figures (tnum)** for Arabic digits.

Affects: U+0660..U+0669, U+06F0.. U+06F9

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Proportional Figures	17405774 174507774	tnum=0
Tabular Figures	. ۱ ۲ ۳ ۵ ۶ ۷ ۸ ۹ . ۱ ۲ ۳ ٤ ٥ ٦ ٧ ٨ ٩	tnum=1

Comma

Affects: U+060C, U+061B

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Upward	٤٠	cv84=0
Downward	i e	cv84=1

Decimal separator

Affects: U+066B

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Small reh	ر	cv85=0
Slash	1	cv85=1

Disable digit kerning (see FAQ) — TypeTuner-only

The Arabic digits are proportional by default and Lateef includes kerning to improve the spacing of certain pairs of digits such as VN. However there are some applications, including Microsoft Word for Windows, that process the digit kerning information incorrectly, actually making some digits too far apart and some too close together. We have added a special Typetuner feature that can be used create a version of the Lateef fonts in which the digit kerning is *disabled*. When using those fonts in Microsoft Word the resulting digit spacing will be much nicer than Tabular, but not quite as good as it would be if the application's kerning worked correctly. This is discussed further in the FAQ.

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