

# The Three Sisters

The image shows the Arabic letter Khaa (خ) in white. It is a cursive letter with a small dot above it and a hook that curves to the right.

khaa

The image shows the Arabic letter Haa (ح) in white. It is a cursive letter with a hook that curves to the right.

Haa

The image shows the Arabic letter Jiim (ج) in white. It is a cursive letter with a small dot above it and a hook that curves to the right.

jiim

# The Basics

- Like & ت, ب these three letters share the same skeletal shape and are distinguished by their dots.
- Two of the three (Haa and khaa) do not have English equivalents.
- All three are connectors.

ج jiim j

- This letter is pronounced differently in different parts of the Arab world.
  - In the Levant and North Africa, it sounds like the *j* in *bonjour*.
  - In Iraq and the Gulf, it sounds like the *j* in *jack*.
  - In Egypt, it sounds like the *g* in *game*.

# Let's practice with a word...

جاب (he brought)

- In the Levant and North Africa: jaab
- In Iraq and the Gulf: jaab
- In Egypt: gaab
- Learn to recognize all three pronunciations, but we'll be using jaab in class.

# Before we start writing...

- Be prepared for differences between handwriting and print.



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ㄏ Haa H or 7

- As we've learned in class, this sound is made deep in the throat.
- Let's do an exercise to improve our pronunciation of Haa.

# Exercise

1. Place your hand on your throat.
2. Open your mouth and pretend you are trying to fog up a piece of glass.
3. To pronounce Haa, you need to constrict the air passage and block off air from inside.
4. Feel your Adam's apple move.



# Think...

- What words do we know that begin with Haa?

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כּ khaa kh

- The sound oh khaa exists in many languages, like the German *ch* in *Bach* or the Hebrew *ch* in *baruch*.
- To pronounce it, notice your pronunciation of *k*.
- Notice where your tongue hits the back of the roof of your mouth.
- Now close off the flow of air only partially. Notice where your tongue hits when you make this sound.

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1. 	2. 	3. 	4. 
5. 	6. 	7. 	8. 
9. 	10. 	11. 	12. 