

Introducing...



Yalla let's recap...

- Waw and yaa represent consonants when they occur at the beginning of a word.
- This is true of the alif as well--the consonant it stands for is called **hamza**.
- **Hamza** sometimes appears atop the alif, but sometimes the alif is written without the **hamza**.
- Initial alif is *always* a seat for the hamza.

How do I pronounce it?

- Say the word **uh-oh** aloud.
- **Hamza** (glottal stop) is the sound that occurs between the two syllables.
- In English, we consider words like *if*, *on*, and *up* to begin with vowels, but in Arabic, we consider the initial sounds in these words to be a consonant.
- **Remember:** in Arabic, no word can begin with a vowel.

Where is *hamza* in the alphabet?

- It actually doesn't have a place of its own, due to Quranic spelling (long story).
- For this reason, **hamza** has several different “spellings” --we will learn two today.



Initial *hamza*

- Like other consonants, **hamza** can be followed by all three short vowels:



Writing *hamza*

FINAL	MEDIAL	INITIAL	INDEPENDENT	NAME	TRANSLITERATION
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