

و & ي

The Consonant Gardeners

Wait, aren't they long vowels?

- ي & و have two functions
 - Long Vowels
 - و makes a sound like 'ooo'
 - ي makes a sound like 'iii'
 - Consonants
 - و (waaw) makes a sound like the w in well.
 - ي (yaa) makes a sound like the y in yes.

How are these sounds related?

- For **و**:

- Pronounce *ooooo* and hold it, then go straight into an *a*.
- What is the consonant sound that connects the two vowels?

- For **ي**:

- Pronounce *eeeeee*, then go straight into an *a*.
- What is the consonant sound that connects the two vowels?

When are they consonants?

1. When و or ي is the first letter of a word.
 - a. This makes sense: remember that Arabic words *cannot begin with a vowel sound*.
2. When و or ي is preceded by *any vowel, short or long*.
3. When و or ي is followed by *any vowel, short or long*.

Reading the consonant و

1. وَثَبَ
2. وَاجِبَ
3. جَوَابَ
4. حِوَارَ
5. خَاوِي

Reading the consonant ي

1. بُيُوت
2. ثِيَاب
3. جُيُوب
4. يَجِب
5. يَثُوب

The Diphthong

- A diphthong is the sound that occurs when you glide from one vowel sound into another vowel sound.
 - E.g. the “oy” in “boy” or the “ou” in “out”
- Arabic also has this feature, *when a waw or yaa is preceded by a fatHa.*

Two Examples

- Day
- House

Listening Exercises 6 and 8