

Arabic Script Addendum to Kullu Tamam

Arabic transcripts for the lessons for Kullu Tamam (M. Woidich). The home of this document is github.com/nemethmik/arabic and regularly published on Egyptian Arabic Dictionary | Facebook

Motivation

[Kullu Tamam by M. Woidich](#) (2004) is far the best grammar text book for Egyptian Arabic. The book has phonetically precise-enough transcript of the dialogs and readings for the excellent audio on [soundcloud.com kullu tamam by AUC Press](https://soundcloud.com/kullu_tamam_by_AUC_Press).

This booklet provides Arabic Script texts for the dialogs, vocabulary and the example sentences used in the grammar sections in Kullu Tamam. This way you can grasp Arabic Script as quickly as possible along with learning the lessons.

Kullu Tamam's Lesson XVII is about Arabic Script.

The abbreviation KT stands for the book Kullu Tamam, Roman numbers are lessons and grammar sections, for example I.I is for grammar section I in lesson I.

For transcript the standard IPA system ([IPA/Egyptian Arabic - Wikipedia](#)) is used: [Type IPA phonetic symbols - online keyboard \(all languages\) \(typeit.org\)](#) is totally fine for shorter scripts.

Pay attention, that in IPA **j** is for the sound **ي** and **g** for **ج** IPA stands for international phonetic alphabet.

Phonetic transcript is printed in bold, English translations in italic.

Accent/stress is marked with underlining the stressed syllable. Stress/accent cannot be marked in Arabic script, when you learn the rules (see the excellent KT IV.I section), it's not that difficult to apply correctly the accent, but requires a lot of practice especially when learning verb conjugations.

Kullu Tamam is so strong in grammar, that after about the eighth lesson you can give a try to read easy Egyptian texts. A number of great publications are available from [Lingualism](#) including an [Egyptian Arabic Reader](#) series where the text is presented in Arabic script. Another excellent recent publication is [Egyptian Arabic: Easy Stories](#). All of these have accompanying audio read by native speakers of course with a relaxed speed.

Lesson 1

The Arabic Letters Used in Dialog A

Arabic is a consonants-and-long-vowels-only, right-to-left cursive script; even when printed, the print mimics handwritten style, where the letters are linked with ligatures to their neighbor letters. Some of the letters are linked to the right, but not to the left. There are no capital letters in Arabic script; instead, there are typically four shapes of each letter depending on the position: initial (rightmost), middle, final (leftmost) and standalone. The final and standalone shapes are practically the same. One-letter words in Arabic are written together with the word that they precede.

The title of the first dialog in lesson 1 is **اسْمُكَ** *ismak your name*. The first letter in Arabic alphabet is alif. Alif is as simple as a vertical line ,**|** without having a sound value, itself. Alif is just a holder of a vowel, or a long a: marker. An Arabic vowel in Arabic script can be

- **a** - fatha, a small line above its holder
- **i** - kesra, a small line below its holder

- **u** - damma, a small 9-shape symbols above its holder

Normally, Arabic script shows no vowels, just the consonants, the letters of the alphabet; vowels are not part of Arabic alphabet; vowels are not letters in Arabic. Alif cannot have sukun (a small circle, the no sound marker) or shadda (doubled consonant marker). When another letter is coming after alif it is not connected with a ligature, there are other no-left-connected letters in Arabic script are **ا د ث ر ز و**

In a more traditional way of scripting a hamza **ء** is written/printed above **أ** for **a** or **u** or below **إ** for **i**. Hamza itself has no sound value either; it's just a holder of the three possible vowels or sukun. Hamza can be printed above alif, ja:, waw, and can even be stand-alone without a holder. When writing Egyptian Arabic, some uses hamza, some don't. Some use hamza to mark that the vowel it holds cannot be elided (see KT I.I). However, hamza is optional only on an initial alif, in every other situation it is printed mandatorily.

To mark a long initial a: a horizontal wave-shape symbol **آ** is printed on alif. Usually, it is omitted just like all other vowels in regular scripts.

si:n س just like most Arabic letters, has four shapes: standalone, initial, middle and final: **سسس** Standalone and final are actually the same just like initial and middle are the same, the middle and final shape has a small connecting ligature to the right.

ساس sas (has no meaning) is just two si:n letters with the vowel **a** and sukun (a small circle marking no vowel for that consonant). **سَاسِيسُ sassisu** (again has no meaning) has three si:n letters and **a, i** and **u** as vowels for the three si:ns. The **shadda** on the second si:n marks a doubled consonant, so actually this "word" has four si:ns. The vowel marker **i** (kesra) is written traditionally under the letter, but when shadda is present kesra is written directly under the shadda (not in this example here). In Arabic script even shadda is typically left out, too; so, it's almost impossible to read an Arabic text unless it is not fully marked with vowels, sukuns and shaddas; or, you recognize the word by simply seeing the consonant shape.

This unvowelled example **اساس asa:s** shows how to combine si:n and alif. The alif in the middle (linked to the first si:n but not to the second, since alif is not linked to the left) is a clear sign that the first si:n must have an **a** sound. Since the first alif has no vowel mark in this example, it can also be pronounced either **isa:s** or **usa:s**. Since shadda is optional, too, in Arabic script, it can even be **assa:s, issa:s** or **ussa:s**, too.

To avoid ambiguity, a kesra on the first alif and a shadda on the first si:n would be enough: **إِساسِ issa:s**. In Egyptian Arabic the final letter has no vowel, so we could have written a sukun **إِساسِ issa:s**. No need to write a fatha on top of the shadda on the first si:n since, the alif following the si:n shows that there is a fatha there, here alif is a long **a:** marker. Terribly important that in Egyptian relaxed, normal talk an alif that would be pronounced long a in standard Arabic is very often pronounced short following the delicate vowel shortening rules (see KT II.VI.)

mi:m م our second consonant, has four shapes **ممم** but as usual, the initial and middle shapes are the same just like the final and standalone. Mi:m is very often used in initial position as word formation letter: **ma** place names, **mu, mi** for active or passive participles. **ma** is used as a negation prefix in Egyptian Arabic verb conjugation, too.

With these three letters: alif, si:n, mi:m we have our first meaningful word: **اسم ism name**. This is a so common word that it is immediately recognized without printing or writing the vowels **إِسْم** In this word hamza is almost never

printed under alif, since this **i** sound is always elided when the **ism** follows another word with a final vowel. Hamza is often used to emphasize in print that the vowel that it carries is not elided in pronunciation.

The final-standalone version of **ka:f** ك is different from the initial-middle shape كك

Adding **ak** (masc) or **ik** (fem) to the word **ism** is easy اسمك. You can see right away a limitation of unvowelled Arabic script: **ism + k** might be either **ismak** إسمك *your name* masculine, or **ismik** إسميك *your name* feminine. It's the context you should somehow figure out the actual pronunciation.

The second word is إيه? **e: what?** Arabic question mark and comma are mirrored.

ja: ي can be used as a regular consonant **j**, as well as a long **i:** marker. The final shape can be either with dots or without , ي the initial-middle forms always have dots يي. In the final position it is very often pronounced as a short **a** or long **a:**, in which case **ja:** is written without dots يي. Again, keep in mind that even when **ja:** marks long **i:** in the Arabic script, when applying the delicate Egyptian pronunciation rules, it may be pronounced as a short **i**. When **ja:** has a sukun it is pronounced as a consonant **j** or a long **e:** when it follows **a**, **aj** in Egyptian Arabic is **e:**. These seem too complicated, and they really are, but during the course you will learn all intricacies of using **ja:**. **Ja:** is very often used as a prefix as well as suffix letter in verb conjugations.

Ja: ئ can also be a **hamza carrier** ئئ the dots are not printed then under **ja:**.

All the four shapes of **ha:** ه are different هه it is often called spaghetti **h**. It is a regular consonant, but in Egyptian Arabic script it is very often used in final position as a spelling symbol to give distinctively recognizable shape of the word without any phonetic value.

إيه is an Egyptian colloquial word **e: what?** and it is spelled as alif + **ja:** + **ha:**. Quite often, the alif has a hamza إ placed under alif marking that it carries the vowel **i** (kesra). In this word the final **ha:** is not pronounced, it is just a spelling symbol to make the word shape different from إي which is another word **ajj any; which?**

The next word is حوار **hiwa:r a dialog**. **ha:** ح to represent that so special Arabic sound. The three other shapes are حح There are three h-like sounds in Arabic: **h**, **H** and **x**.

Just like **ja:** waw و **w**, **u**, **o**, **o:**, **u:** is either a consonant or a long **u:** vowel marker, and also a hamza carrier ؤ It cannot be linked to the left.

The letter **ra:** ر cannot be linked to the left. The vowels on **ra:** are emphatic **a**. KT on page 4 explains that how the pronunciation of **a** changes when it is before or after an emphatic consonant, **h** or **ʕ**. This is terribly important: the consonant determines how to pronounce **a** in **ra:** it is emphatic, in **ka:f** it is more like **ke:f**.

The waw in حوار **hiwa:r dialogue** is a consonant, and the alif following the waw marks that the waw has a fatha (an **a** vowel), and this **a** should be pronounced long **a:**, unless of course there is a situation for vowel shortening حوآر Very important that even Egyptian Arabic script is morphological (see KT XVII p250); that is, the long vowel spelling is preserved in script even when the actual pronunciation of that vowel is shortened. Note also the emphatic **a** here because of the emphatic **ra:**

The next word is بين **be:n between**. The letter **ba:** ب is very simple to pronounce and write بب

The letter **nu:n** ن is simple, too نُن nu:n is the prefix or suffix for plural 1st person in verb conjugation.

The **aj** diphthong in **بين** *bajn between* in Egyptian Arabic is pronounced **be:n**. Whenever you can see a ja: in middle position it is most likely i, i: or e:.

The **wi, u** and as a single letter word is always written together with the following word **وحسن** *u-ḥasan and Hasan*. This rule is applied on all single letter words, too.

The letter **ta:** ت is very similar to ba:, but two dots above: تت ta: is the most common prefix and suffix letter for verb conjugations.

Tamarbuta ة ha: with two dots is not regarded as a letter, since it can only be in the final position and is primarily used as the marker of feminine words. When it is followed by a pronominal suffix or used in a possessive construct it is pronounced as **t** or **it**.

سامية *samja* is a female name of Turkish origin, and despite of the alif marking a long **a:**, actually it is pronounced short سَامِيَّة When ja: is followed by a tamarbuta, which denotes a feminine gender, ja: there is always pronounced **ja**

The alif after la:m ل is written in a special way لا la: "no". la:m looks very similar to alif but la:m is linked to the right: لل The **a** with la:m is quite often pronounced emphatic.

Dialog A

After listening the audio ([Kullu Tamam - Lesson 1 by AUC Press](#)) and comparing the transcript with the Arabic script in the KT book on page 8, even after the first lesson you will understand why phonetic transcript is so important when learning a spoken Arabic dialect. Note that the speakers in the audio recordings almost always pronounce **و** and as **u** before a consonant: **u-ḥasan u-maha u-samja**.

إِسْمُكَ إِيه؟	<i>Your name is what?</i>
حوار بين سامي وحسن ومها وسامية In Egyptian Arabic there can only be one long vowel in a word or speech unit; there are exceptions but this is the general rule. Similarly, samja is pronounced with short a .	When listening to the audio for the dialog, you can hear that some of the vowels marked long in the script actually pronounced short in spoken Arabic: In sa:mi the second vowel, despite it is marked by the final ja: as long, is pronounced short.
أنا اسمي سامي، وإنت، اسمك إيه؟ <i>I, my name is Sami, and you, your name is what?</i> In Standard and Classical Arabic, the words should be pronounced exactly as written, but not in colloquial dialects. Note, also, that the i of ism is elided ana-smi-sa:mi	The second a in ana / is pronounced short, but the traditional spelling is with long a marked with the alif. If the final alif was dropped the shape of the word would be ان anna or inna , which is a different word. So, in Arabic script the shape of a word determined by the sequence of consonants, the letters and long vowel markers (alif, ja: and waw) is important to recognize a word, and it does not follow the actual colloquial pronunciation.
أنا اسمي حسن، وإنتي، اسمك إيه؟ <i>I, my name is Hasan, and you (fem), your name is what?</i>	One of the Arabic spelling variant for inti is with a ja: after the ta: to show that it is a feminine, but it can be spelled without the final ja: إنت in which case it cannot be distinguished from inta (masc) <i>you</i> .
أنا اسمي مها	<i>I, my name is Maha.</i>

وإنتي كمان اسمك مها؟	<i>And you too your name is Maha?</i>
لا، أنا اسمي سامية	<i>No, I, my name is Samya.</i>

New Arabic Letters in Dialog B and C

Just like ra:, da:l د cannot be linked to the left.

تʼا: ط is the most common emphatic consonant in Arabic, it is an emphatic t, the vowels are pronounced emphatic in a word having an emphatic consonant.

The letter ji:n ش is just like si:n but with three dots ششش In Egyptian Arabic negation ji:n is the suffix.

Dialog B

حوار بين سامي ومها	<i>A dialog between Sami and Maha</i>
ده مين يا مها؟ <i>This is who, Oh Maha?</i>	The Arabic spelling for da <i>this/that</i> is with ha:, which is not pronounced. Sometimes it is written/printed with tamarbuta (دة)
ده طالب	<i>This is a student.</i>
اسمُه إيه؟ <i>His name is what?</i>	<i>What is his name?</i> The h in ismu is not pronounced in Egyptian Arabic, in standard Arabic hu is the pronominal suffix for 3rd person singular masc., hence the spelling in Arabic script.
اسمُه حسن	<i>His name is Hasan.</i>
ودي مين يا مها؟ <i>And this is who, Oh, Maha?</i>	In u-di <i>and this (fem.)</i> a letter following d is not linked to it, so here ja: is printed in its standalone shape. Also note, that u <i>and</i> as a single-letter word is written together with the following word.
دي طالبة <i>This is a student girl.</i> KT explains that in the pronunciation of tʼa:liba Classical Arabic style is preserved.	In Egyptian Arabic if there is a long vowel in a word, it always has the stress/accent, but here is an exception: in tʼa:liba the accent is shifted to i, still the long a: wasn't shortened.
اسمها إيه؟ <i>Her name is what?</i>	The Arabic spelling of the ha pronominal suffix preserved the classic ha: form, but it is pronounced with a short a .
اسمها سامية <i>Her name is Samya.</i>	<i>Her name is Samya.</i>

Dialog C

إنت إيه؟	<i>What are you?</i>
حوار بين مها وسامية	<i>A dialog between Maha and Samya.</i>
هو سامي ده طالب يا سامية؟ <i>Is this Sami a student, Oh, Samya?</i>	huwwa <i>he</i> has a shadda in full script, but not in regular print.
لا، ده مُدَرِّس <i>No, this is a teacher.</i>	In full vowelling, shadda is printed to show that the ra: in mudarris <i>teacher</i> is doubled.
ودي هي دي طالبة <i>And this, is she a student girl?</i>	hijja <i>she</i> has shadda too in full vowelised script.
ايوه دي طالبة <i>Yes, this is a student girl.</i>	For ajwa <i>yes</i> ايوّة as well as ايوّا are possible spelling variants, too; the ha: here is not pronounced, it is just for word spelling shape symbol.

هو حسن كمان مدرس؟	<i>Is Hasan a teacher, too?</i>
لا، مش مدرس ده طالب	<i>No, not a teacher, this is a student.</i>

New Arabic Letters in Dialog D

gi:m ج is a typical colloquial sound in Egyptian Arabaic ججج in standard/classical Arabic there is no g sound at all.

fa: ف ففف is used for the phoneme v, too, see Mirvat ميرفت or the word video فيديو.

The letter za:j ز is the same as ra: with a dot and cannot be linked to the left.

Dialog D

هو موجود؟ <i>Is he present?</i>	The first waw in mawgu:d found, present is a regular consonant, the second is a long u marker مَوْجُود
حوار بين سامي وسامية	<i>A dialog between Sami and Samya.</i>
ده مين يا سامية؟	<i>Who is this, Oh, Samya?</i>
ده ابني سمير	<i>This is my son, Samir.</i>
ودي مين؟	<i>And this is who?</i>
دي بنتي ميرفت	<i>This is my daughter, Mirvat.</i>
يتري أحمد جوزك موجود؟ <i>I wonder, Ahmad, your husband is present?</i> The sound recording has jatara I wonder but the transcript in the KT book on page 8 doesn't.	The final ja: in jatara I wonder is a marker of a long a:, but pronounced short in Egyptian Arabic. When the final ja: is for a long a: it is normally written without the dots.
لا، ده مش موجود ده مسافر اسكندرية <i>No, this is not present, this has travelled to Alexandria.</i>	In da-msa:fir this has travelled away the first i was elided and it can be also represented by adding a sukun on the mi:m in Arabic script دَه مَسَافِر The rule is that the spelling of the consonants and long vowel markers, the shape of the word cannot be changed, but, adding the actual vowels pronounced to this shape is fine.

New Arabic Letters in the Vocabulary Section

ʕajn ع is the most typical Arabic sound, which Europeans can learn very hard ععع

A remnant from classical Arabic is the indefinite accusative noun case ending, which is exclusively remained in adverbial expressions. It is marked with a final alif. In full vowelised script it would be printed with double fatha and pronounced as an **طبعاً** tʕabʕan naturally

ʕajn ع is not that difficult to pronounce but requires a lot of practice, too ععع The letter ʕajn is the same as ʕain but with a dot.

The letter xa: خ is the third variety of h-like sounds in Arabic, and this x is common in a number of European languages. The basic shape of the letter خخخ is exactly the same as ha: ح or gi:m ج

sʕa:d ص is an emphatic s صصص after tʕa: it is the second most common emphatic letter. Pay attention to pronounce a accordingly: سهل vs صعب sahl easy sʕaʕb difficult. The basic shape of ص is similar to si:n س or fi:n ش

Vocabulary Section

إيه	what	أنا	I	ايوه	yes	بنت	girl, daughter
بين	between	ده	this, that	دي	this, that	فين	where
في	in	جد	grandfather	جوز	husband	هي	she
هو	he	حوار	dialog	ابن	son	ابني	my son
إنت	you (masc)	إنتي	you (fem.)	اسكندرية	Alexandria	اسم	name
اسمها	her name	اسمك	your name	اسمي	my name	اسمك	your name
اسمُه	his name	كمان	also, too	لا	no	لاكن	but
موجود	found, present	مسافر	travelled	مش	no(t)	مدرس	teacher
مهندس	engineer	مين	who	ست	woman, grand-mother	صغير	small
طبعاً	naturally	طالب	student	طالبة	student (fem.)	أم	mother
أخت	sister	و	and	يا	vocative	عم	paternal uncle
عمك	your paternal aunt						

Example Sentences in the Grammar Sections

I.I	Vowels		
وانت and you	هو اسمُه ايه what is her name?	ده ابني this is my son	
I.II.1	Independent Personal Pronouns		
هو he	انت you (masc.)	ا انا	انا طالب I am a student
هي she	انتي you (fem.)		
I.II.2	Dependent Personal Pronouns		
هو he	اسمُه his name	هي she	اسمها her name
انت you	اسمك your name	انتي you (fem.)	اسمك your (fem.) name
ا انا	اسمي my name	هي دي بنتك؟ Is this your daughter? ايوه دي بنتي انا Yes, this is my [own] daughter.	ده جدّها هي مش جدك انت This is her [own] grandfather and not your own grandfather.
I.III	1 Word order	2 Negations	
دي طالبة This is a student (fem)	هو مدرس She is a teacher هو مش مدرس She isn't a teacher	دي مش أختي لآكن بنتي This is not my sister, but my daughter.	
I.III.3	Questions		
اسمك ايه؟	مين ده	ده مين	

What is your name?	Who is this?	This is who?	
هو إنت طالب؟	هي دي أختك؟		
I.IV	Vocatives		
يا حسن Oh, Hasan	يا محمود Oh, Mohamed	يا سامية Oh, Samya	يا دكتور Oh, doctor
I.V	Feminine		
صُغِير small, young	صُغِيرَة small (fem.)	مدرس a teacher	مدرسة a teacher (fem.)
مهندس an engineer	مهندسة engineer (fem.)	طالب a student	طالبة student (fem.)

Useful Expressions

بلاش enough!	كفاية كده that's enough!	كل تمام everything's fine	كويس good
لا مؤاخذه sorry?	معلش don't worry; it doesn't matter	تمام كده that's fine!	طيب طب ok
طب يا الله hurry up!	زي بعض it doesn't matter, likewise	على مهلك take your time	على مهلك take your time (fem.)

Egyptian Place Names

For some names the letter ق قق qa:f is used which is pronounced in Egyptian Arabic as glottal stop ʔ, but in some classic words the original q pronunciation is preserved:

- القاهرة In qa:hira qa:f is pronounced as q, but in all other city or place names qa:f is pronounced as glottal stop.
- الاقصر is pronounced as 'luʔsʕur
- similarly الدقي is idduʔʔi a double glottal stop for the district Doqqi in Giza city.
- المقطم ilmuʔattʕam Moqattam is hilly suburb in Cairo,
- القصر العيني ilʔasʕr il-ʕe:ni Qasr al-Ainy street in Cairo.
- قنا ʔina Quena city.
- سقارة issʕaʔʔara Saqqara a village near Giza.
- الزقازيق izzaʔazi:ʔ Zagazig city.
- بولاق bulaʔ Bulaq district in Cairo.

Homework is to figure out the Arabic spelling of the other names. Some of the names have qa:f, pronounced as glottal stop, leave them out for now. Actually, this is a fun exercise to check the names in Wikipedia and learn about these places.