

# 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](https://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 (almost perfect) transcript of the dialogs and readings, which is completely reasonable for the pedagogical concept that this book is teaching a spoken language.

Having understood that, 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](#), which has Arabic text only, no phonetic transcript at all. All the Lingualism books and the Easy Stories are coming with **excellent audio** on soundcloud.com ([kullu tamam! by AUC Press](#)), perfect learning materials for Egyptian Arabic for upper beginner, intermediate learners.

This addendum provides Arabic Script texts for the dialogs, vocabulary and the example sentences used in brilliant grammar sections in Kullu Tamam. This way **you can grasp Arabic Script as quickly as possible** along with learning the lessons from this excellent text book in order that you can start reading the Easy Stories and Lingualism books as quickly as possible.

Kullu Tamam's **Lesson XVII** is about Arabic Script, a very useful and worth reading its every word. Still, Lesson XVII is a "heavy" text, and this addendum gives examples and a more relaxed approach to learn reading Arabic Script.

The abbreviation KT stands for the book Kullu Tamam, I.I (Roman numbers) is for grammar section I in lesson I.

In this addendum an even more Romanized version of transcript is used:

- **3** for the letter [3ayn](#)
  - The IPA symbol is [ʕ], T.F.Mitchell used [ɣ]. In [Teach Yourself Colloquial Arabic of Egypt by J.Whitwick and M. Gaafar](#) -- a quite decent book from 2014 -- number **9** is used.
- G or 8 for 8ayn velar voiced fricative instead of ɣ or ġ.
- H or 7 for pharyngeal unvoiced fricative: aHmad, muHammad
- T, S, Z for emphatic versions of t, s and z respectively
- š for šiin as in šams (sun), but in simple Romanized transcript [sh] might be used, too.
  - The IPA standard symbol is [ʃ]
- x or 5 for xaa as in xallaS "to finish"; x is the IPA symbol and used in a number of books, too.
- aa, ee, ii, uu, oo for long a, e, i, u, o
- For emphatic a, the symbol [α] is often used. [Hiwαar] to make it clearly distinctive.
- q for glottal stop [ʔ] whenever it is clear and important to show that the original letter is qaaʔ
- ' (apostrophe) or the number **2** are used for glottal stop instead of the IPA standard ʔ
- Phonetic transcript is often put between square brackets [šams].
- Accent/stress is marked with á, áa, é, ée, í, íi, ú, úu, ó, óo. 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.

## 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 first letter in Arabic alphabet is **alif**. Alif is as simple as a vertical line (ا) without having a sound value, itself. **Alif is just a holder of a vowel**, or a **long aa** marker. An Arabic vowel in Arabic script can be

- [a] (**fatha**, ا̇ a small line above its holder),
- [i] (**kesra**, اِ a small line below its holder) or
- [u] (**damma**, اُ 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: alif, daal, thaal, raa, zaay, waw.

In a more traditional way of scripting a **hamza** (ء) is written/printed above ا̇ (for [a] or [u]) or below اِ (for [i]) alif. 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, yaa, 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 aa** a horizontal wave-shape symbol آ is printed on alif. Usually, it is omitted just like all other vowels in regular scripts.

**Siin** س [s] -- just like most Arabic letters -- has four shapes: standalone, initial, middle and final: س 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.

سَس [sas] (has no meaning) is just two siin letters with the vowel [a] and sukun (a small circle marking no vowel for that consonant). سَسِس [sassisu] (again has no meaning) has three siin letters and a, i, u as vowels for the three siins. The **shadda** on the second siin marks a doubled consonant, so actually this "word" has four siins. 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 [asaas] shows how to combine siin and alif. The alif in the middle (linked to the first siin but not to the second, since alif is not linked to the left) is a clear sign that the first siin must have an [a] sound. Since the first alif has no vowel mark in this example, it can also be pronounced either [isaas], [usaas]. Since shadda is optional, too, in Arabic script, it can even be [assaas], [issaas] or [ussaas], too.

To avoid ambiguity, a kesra on the first alif and a shadda on the first siin would be enough: **إِسَّاس** [issaas]. In Egyptian Arabic the final vowel has no vowel, so we could have written a sukun **إِسَّاسْ** [issas]. No need to write a fatha on top of the shadda on the first siin since, the alif following the siin shows that there is a fatha there, here alif is a **long aa 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.)

**Miim م** [m] our second consonant, has four shapes **ممم** but as usual, the initial and middle shapes are the same just like the final and standalone. Miim 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, siin, miim 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 **kaaf ك** [k] is a different from the initial-middle shape **ككك**

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] **إِسْمَك** "your name" masculine, or [ismik] **إِسْمِك** "your name" feminine. It's the context you should somehow figure out the actual pronunciation.

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

Yaa **ئ** can also be a **hamza carrier** **ئئئ** the dots are not printed then under yaa.

All the four shapes of **haa ه** [h] are different **ههه** 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.

**ايه** is an Egyptian colloquial word [ee] "what?" and it is spelled as alif + yaa + haa. Quite often, the alif has a hamza **إيه** placed under alif marking that it carries the vowel [i] (kesra). In this word the final haa is not pronounced, it is just a spelling symbol to make the **word shape different** from **اي** which is another word [ayy] "any; which?".

In this addendum a capital H is used for **Haa ح** [H] to represent that so special Arabic sound. The three other shapes are **ححح** There are three h-like sounds in Arabic: h, H and x.

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

The letter **raa** ر [r] cannot be linked to the left. The vowels on raa are emphatic. **KT on page 4** explains that how the pronunciation of [a] changes when it is before or after an emphatic consonant, H or 3. This is terribly important: the **consonant determines how to pronounce [a]**: in [raa] it is emphatic, in [kaaf] it is more like [keef].

The waw in حوار [Hiwaar] "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 aa, unless of course there is a situation for vowel shortening جَوَار 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 raa.

The letter **baa** ب [b] is very simple to pronounce and write ببب

The letter **nuun** ن [n] is simple, too نُنن nuun is the prefix or suffix for plural 1<sup>st</sup> person in verb conjugation.

The **bayn** بَيْن [ay] diphthong in بَيْن [bayn] "between" in Egyptian Arabic is pronounced [been]. Whenever you can see a yaa in middle position it is most likely i, ii or ee.

The [wi, u] "and" as a **single letter word** is always written together with the following word وحسن [uHasan] "and Hasan". This is applied on all single letter words, too.

The letter **taa** ت [t] is very similar to baa, but two dots above: تَت taa is the most common prefix and suffix letter for verb conjugations.

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

**سامية** [samyā] is a female name of Turkish origin, and despite of the alif marking a long aa, actually it is pronounced short سَامِيَّة When yaa is followed by a tamarbuta, which denotes a feminine gender, yaa there is always pronounced [ya]

The alif after laam ل [l] is written in a special way لا [laa] "no". Laam looks very similar to alif but laam is linked to the right: لل The [a] with laam is sometimes pronounced emphatic.

## Dialog A

After listening the audio ([Kullu Tamam - Lesson 1 by AUC Press](#)) and comparing the phonetically precise 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**: [uHasan umaha usamyā].

|  |   |
|--|---|
| إِسْمُكَ إِيه؟   | "Your name is what?"  |
| حوار بين سامي وحسن ومها وسامية<br>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 [samyā] 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 [saami] the second vowel, despite it is marked by the final yaa as long, is pronounced short. |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>أنا اسمي سامي، وإنت، اسمك إيه؟</p> <p><b>In Standard and Classical Arabic, the words should be pronounced exactly as written, but not in colloquial dialects.</b></p> <p>Note, also, that the i of [ism] is elided [ana-smi-sáami]</p> | <p>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 <b>ان</b> [anna], 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, yaa and waw) is important to recognize a word, and it does not follow the actual colloquial pronunciation.</p> |
| <p>أنا اسمي حسن، وإنتي، اسمك إيه؟</p>   | <p>One of the Arabic spelling variant for [inti] is with a yaa after the taa to show that it is a feminine, but it can be spelled without the final yaa (إنت), in which case it cannot be distinguished from [inta] (masc).</p>   |
| <p>أنا اسمي مها</p>   | <p>"I, my name is Maha"</p>   |
| <p>وإنتي كمان اسمك مها؟</p>   | <p>"And you too your name is Maha?"</p>   |
| <p>لا، أنا اسمي سامية</p>   | <p>"No, I, my name is Samya."</p>   |

### New Arabic Letters in Dialog B and C

Just like raa, daal د [d] cannot be linked to the left.

**Taa ط** [T] 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 **šiin ش** [š or sh] is just like siin but with three dots ششش In Egyptian Arabic negation shiin is the suffix.

### Dialog B

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>حوار بين سامي ومها</p>  |   |
| <p>ده مين يا مها؟</p>  | <p>The Arabic spelling for [da] "this/that" is with haa, which is not pronounced. Sometimes it is written/printed with tamarbuta (دة)</p>   |
| <p>ده طالب</p>   |   |
| <p>اسمُه إيه؟</p>  | <p>"What is his name?" 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.</p>     |
| <p>اسمُه حسن</p>   |   |
| <p>ودي مين يا مها؟</p>   | <p>In [udi] a letter following daal is not linked to it, so here yaa is printed in its standalone shape. Also note, that [u] "and" as a single-letter word is written together with the following word.</p> |
| <p>دي طالبة</p> <p>KT explains that in the pronunciation of [Taaliba] Classical Arabic style is preserved.</p> | <p>In Egyptian Arabic if there is a long vowel in a word, it always has the stress/accent, but here is an exception: in [Taaliba] the accent is shifted to i, still the long aa wasn't shortened.</p>       |
| <p>اسمها إيه؟</p>  | <p>The Arabic spelling of the [ha] pronominal suffix preserved the classic [haa] form, but it is pronounced with a short a.</p>   |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| اسمها سامية |  |
|-------------|--|

### Dialog C

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| إنت إيه؟                  | What are you?   |
| حوار بين مها وسامية       |   |
| هو سامي ده طالب يا سامية؟ | [huwwa] has a shadda in full script, but not in regular print.  |
| لا، ده مُدَرِّس           | In full vowelising, shadda is printed to show that the raa in [mudarris] is doubled.  |
| ودي هي دي طالبة           | [hiyya] has shadda too in full vowelised script.  |
| ايوه دي طالبة             | For [aywa] "yes" <b>ايوة</b> as well as <b>ايوا</b> are possible spelling variants, too; the haa here is not pronounced, it is just for spelling word shape symbol. |
| هو حسن كمان مدرس؟         |   |
| لا، مش مدرس ده طالب       |   |

### New Arabic Letters in Dialog D

**Giim ج** [g] is a typical colloquial sound in Egyptian Arabaica: **ججج** in standard/classical Arabic there is no [g] sound.

**Faa ف** [f] **ففف** is used for [v], too, see Mirvat **ميرفت** or the word video **فديو**.

The letter zaay **ز** [z] is the same as raa with a dot and cannot be linked to the left.

### Dialog D

|   |   |
|---|---|
| هو موجود؟   | The first waw in [mawguud] is a regular consonant, the second is a long u marker ( <b>مَوْجُود</b> ).   |
| حوار بين سامي وسامية  |   |
| ده مين يا سامية؟  |   |
| ده ابني سمير  |   |
| ودي مين؟  |   |
| دي بنتي ميرفت   |   |
| يترى أحمد جوزك موجود؟<br>The sound recording has [yatara] "I wonder" but the transcript in the KT book on page 8 doesn't. | The final yaa in [yatara] is a marker of a long aa, but pronounced short in Egyptian Arabic. When the final yaa is for a long aa it is normally written without the dots.   |
| لا، ده مش موجود ده مسافر اسكندرية   | In [damsaafir] the first i was elided and it can be also represented by adding a sukun on the miim in Arabic script <b>دَه مُسَافِر</b> . The rule is that the spelling of the consonants and long vowel markers, the shape of the word cannot be changed. Adding the actual vowels pronounced to this shape is fine. |

## New Arabic Letters in the Vocabulary Section

**3ayn ع** is the most typical Arabic sound, which Europeans can learn very hard ععع In recent years when mobile telephone chatting emerged some of the letters are Romanized with numbers: number 3 is used for 3ain, sometimes number 9 is used either.

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] **طبعًا** [Tab3an] “naturally”

**Gayn غ** [G or 8] is not that difficult to pronounce but requires a lot of practice, too غغغ The letter Gayn is the same as 3ain but with a dot.

The letter **xaa خ** [x] 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 Haa ح or Giim ج

Saad **ص** [S] is an emphatic s صصص after Taa it is the second most common emphatic letter. Pay attention to pronounce [a] accordingly: سهل vs صعب The basic shape is similar to siin س or shin ش

## Vocabulary Section

|       |       |          |      |
|-------|-------|----------|------|
| إيه   | أنا   | ايوه     | بنت  |
| بين   | ده    | دي       | فين  |
| في    | جد    | جوز      | هي   |
| هو    | حوار  | إبن      | ابني |
| إنت   | إنتي  | اسكندرية | اسم  |
| اسمها | اسمك  | اسمي     | اسمك |
| اسمه  | كمان  | لا       | لاكن |
| موجود | مسافر | مش       | مدرس |
| مهندس | مين   | سبت      | صغير |
| طبعًا | طالب  | طالبة    | أم   |
| أخت   | و     | يا       | سعم  |
| عمك   |       |          |      |

## Example Sentences in the Grammar Sections

|        |                               |          |          |
|--------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| I.I    | Vowels                        |          |          |
| وإنت   | هو اسمه إيه                   | ده إبنِي |          |
| I.II.1 | Independent Personal Pronouns |          |          |
| هو     | إنت                           | أنا      | أنا طالب |
| هي     | إنتي                          |          |          |
| I.II.2 | Dependent Personal Pronouns   |          |          |
| هو     | اسمه                          | هي       | اسمها    |
| إنت    | اسمك                          | إنتي     | اسمك     |

|              |                       |                                 |                            |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| أنا          | اسمي                  | هي دي بنتك؟<br>ايوه دي بنتي أنا | ده جدّها هي مش جدّك<br>إنت |
| I.III        | 1 Word order          | 2 Negations                     |                            |
| دي طالبة     | هو مدرس<br>هو مش مدرس | دي مش أختي لآكن بنتي            |                            |
| I.III.3      | Questions             |                                 |                            |
| إِسْمَك إيه؟ | مين ده                | ده مين                          |                            |
| هو إنت طالب؟ | هي دي أختك؟           |                                 |                            |
| I.IV         | Vocatives             |                                 |                            |
| يا حسن       | يا محمود              | يا سامية                        | يا دكتور                   |
| I.V          | Feminine              |                                 |                            |
| صُغِير       | صُغِيرَة              | مدرس                            | مدرسة                      |
| مهندس        | مهندسة                | طالب                            | طالبة                      |

### Useful Expressions

|            |           |          |          |
|------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| بلاش       | كفاية كده | كل تمام  | كويس     |
| لا مؤاخدة  | معلش      | تمام كده | طيب طب   |
| طب يا الله | زي بعض    | على مهلك | على مهلك |

### Egyptian Place Names

For some names the letter **qaaf** ق [q or ʔ or ʕ] قق is used which is pronounced in Egyptian Arabic as glottal stop [ʔ], but in some classic words the original emphatic pronunciation is preserved:

- القاهرة. But in all other city or place names qaaf is pronounced as glottal stop
- الاقصر is pronounced as [ʔluʔSur]
- similarly الدقي is [idduʔi] a **double glottal stop** for the district Doqqi in Giza city.
- المقطم [ilmuʔaTTam] Moqattam is hilly suburb in Cairo,
- القصر العيني [ilʔaSr il3eeni] Qasr al-Ainy street in Cairo.
- قنا [ʔina] Quena city.
- سقارة [iSSaʔʔara] Saqqara a village near Giza.
- الزقازيق [izzaʔʔaziiʔ] 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 qaaf, 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.