

# 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-enough transcript of the dialogs and readings for the **excellent audio** on 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, I.I (Roman numbers) 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 itali.

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 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 **اَ** a small line above its holder
- **i** - kesra **اِ** a small line below its holder
- **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, tha:l, raa, zaay, waw.

In a more traditional way of scripting a hamza ء is written/printed above ا 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 aa 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: 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.

سّsas (has no meaning) is just two si:n letters with the vowel a and sukun (a small circle marking no vowel for that consonant). سّسّsassisu (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 asaas 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 isaas or 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 si:n would be enough: إساّs issaas. In Egyptian Arabic the final letter has no vowel, so we could have written a sukun إساّس issas. 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 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.)

mi:m م our second consonant, has four shapes مم 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 اسم 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 is a 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** اِسْمَكَ *your name* masculine, or **ismik** اِسْمِك *your name* feminine. It's the context you should somehow figure out the actual pronunciation.

**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 a "long ii" 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 seems 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: ؤ 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.

**ايه** is an Egyptian colloquial word e: *what?* and it is spelled as alif + ja: + ha:. Quite often, the alif has a hamza ا 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 اي which is another word **ayy** *any; which?*.

**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 uu 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 **raa** it is emphatic, in **kaaf** it is more like **keef**.

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 حوَار 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 letter **ba:** ب is very simple to pronounce and write بب

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

The **aj** دِيب 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** *uḥasan and Hasan*. This rule is applied on all single letter words, too.

The letter **ta**: **ت** is very similar to baa, 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 **سَامِيَة** 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**.

اسْمُكَ 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, <b>samja</b> is pronounced with short <b>a</b> .	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 <b>sa:mi</b> the second vowel, despite it is marked by the final <i>ja</i> : as long, is pronounced short.
أنا اسمي سامي، وإنت، اسمك إيه؟  In Standard and Classical Arabic, the words should be pronounced exactly as written, but not in colloquial dialects. Note, also, that the <i>i</i> of <b>ism</b> is elided <b>ana-smi-sa:mi</b>	The second <b>a</b> in <b>ana</b> / is pronounced short, but the traditional spelling is with long <b>a</b> marked with the alif. If the final alif was dropped the shape of the word would be <b>أنا</b> <b>anna</b> or <b>inna</b> , 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, <i>ja</i> : and waw) is important to recognize a word, and it does not follow the actual colloquial pronunciation.
أنا اسمي حسن، وإنتي، اسمك إيه؟	One of the Arabic spelling variant for <b>inti</b> is with a <i>ja</i> : after the <i>ta</i> : to show that it is a feminine, but it can be spelled without the final <i>ja</i> : <b>إنت</b> in which case it cannot be distinguished from <b>inta</b> (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*: **د** cannot be linked to the left.

**ṭ** 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 **ش** is just like **س** but with three dots **ششش** In Egyptian Arabic negation **ج** is the suffix.

### Dialog B

حوار بين سامي ومها	
ده مين يا مها؟	The Arabic spelling for <b>da</b> <i>this/that</i> is with ha:, which is not pronounced. Sometimes it is written/printed with tamarbuta (دة)
ده طالب	
اسمُه إيه؟	<i>What is his name?</i> The <b>h</b> in <b>ismu</b> is not pronounced in Egyptian Arabic, in standard Arabic <b>hu</b> is the pronominal suffix for 3rd person singular masc., hence the spelling in Arabic script.
اسمُه حسن	
ودي مين يا مها؟	In <b>u-di</b> <i>and this (fem.)</i> a letter following <b>d</b> is not linked to it, so here ja: is printed in its standalone shape. Also note, that <b>u</b> <i>and</i> as a single-letter word is written together with the following word.
دي طالبة KT explains that in the pronunciation of <b>ṭṭ:liba</b> 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 <b>ṭṭ:liba</b> the accent is shifted to <b>i</b> , still the long <b>a:</b> wasn't shortened.
اسمها إيه؟	The Arabic spelling of the <b>ha</b> pronominal suffix preserved the classic <b>ha:</b> form, but it is pronounced with a short <b>a</b> .
اسمها سامية	

### Dialog C

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

### New Arabic Letters in Dialog D

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

**ف** is used for the phoneme **v**, too, see Mirvat **ميرفت** or the word video **فديو**.

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

## Dialog D

هو موجود؟	The first waw in <b>mawgu:d</b> <i>found, present</i> 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	
يتري أحمد جوزك موجود؟ The sound recording has <b>jatara</b> <i>I wonder</i> but the transcript in the KT book on page 8 doesn't.	The final ja: in <b>jatara</b> <i>I wonder</i> is a marker of a long aa, 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	In <b>da-msa:fir</b> <i>this has travelled away</i> the first i was elided and it can be also represented by adding a sukun on the mi:m 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, 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 عع

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 ʕa: 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 is similar to si:n س or shin ش

## Vocabulary Section

إيه	what	أنا	أنا	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
اسمه	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 إيه what is her name?	ده إبنِي this is my son	
I.II.1	Independent Personal Pronouns		
هو he	انت you (masc.)	أنا I	أنا طالب I am a student
هي she	انتي you (fem.)		
I.II.2	Dependent Personal Pronouns		
هو he	اسمُه his name	هي she	اسمَها her name
انت you	اسمك your name	انتي you (fem.)	اسمِك your (fem.) name
أنا I	اسمي my name	هي دي بنتك؟ Is this your daughter? ايوه دي بنتي أنا Yes, this is my [own] daughter.	ده جدّها هي مش جدّك 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 مدرّس She is a teacher هو مش مدرّس She isn't a teacher	دي مش أختي لآكن بنتي This is not my sister, but my daughter.	
I.III.3	Questions		
إسمك إيه؟ What is your name?	مين ده Who is this?	ده مين 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		
صَغِير small, young	صَغِيرَة small (fem.)	مدرّس a teacher	مدرّسة a teacher (fem.)
مهندس an engineer	مهندسة engineer (fem.)	طالب a student	طالبة student (fem.)

## Useful Expressions

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

## Egyptian Place Names

For some names the letter **qaaf ق** ققق 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** qaaf is pronounced as q, but in all other city or place names qaaf 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-ʕeeni** 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 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.