

# Maddah or hamza, etc., relative to vowels

## Introduction

Figuring out the “correct” rendering of sequences of combining marks is one of the challenges of this script. Herein are some references.

## Advice from Unicode list about Maddah

One foray into this question was to ask on the Unicode list how combining *maddah* interacted with other vowel marks. The resultant thread<sup>[1]</sup> makes it pretty clear that *maddah* should be rendered above any other vowel marks.

## Roozbeh Pournader’s proposal — now UTR-53

In Unicode document L2/14-1272<sup>[2]</sup>, Roozbeh Pournader proposed to fix the “broken” Arabic combining class values by standardizing on a mark order to be used for rendering. This became UTR-53<sup>[3]</sup> Unicode Arabic Mark Rendering which documents the Arabic Mark Transient Reordering Algorithm (AMTRA).

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<sup>1</sup> Hallissy and Pournader, 2011, Rendering of U+0653 ARABIC MADDAH ABOVE, [Unicode list archives](#).

<sup>2</sup> Roozbeh Pournader, 2014, Standardizing the order of Arabic combining marks, [L2/14-127](#).

<sup>3</sup> Roozbeh Pournader, Bob Hallissy, Lorna Evans [Unicode Technical Report #53 \(UTR53\)](#)

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