

Lateef - Font Features

Lateef is an OpenType-enabled font family that supports the Arabic script. It includes a number of optional features that provide alternative rendering that might be preferable for use in some contexts. The sections below enumerate the details of these features. Whether these features are available to users will depend on both the application and the rendering technology being used. Some applications let the user control certain features such as Character Variants to turn on the rendering of variant characters. However, at this point, most applications do not make use of those features so another solution is needed to show the variant characters. For applications that do not make use of the OpenType Character Variants, you can now download fonts customized with the variant glyphs you choose. Read this document, visit [TypeTuner Web](#), then choose the variants and download your font.

See [Using Font Features](#). Although that page is not targeted at Arabic script support, it does provide a comprehensive list of applications that make full use of the OpenType font technology.

See also [Arabic Fonts — Application Support](#). It provides a fairly comprehensive list of applications that make full use of the OpenType font technology.

This page uses web fonts (WOFF) to demonstrate font features and should display correctly in all modern browsers. For a more concise example of how to use Lateef as a web font see [Lateef-webfont-example.html](#) in the font package web folder.

If this document is not displaying correctly a PDF version is also provided in the documentation/pdf folder of the release package.

Complete feature list

Language system tags

Affects: U+062F, U+0630, U+0688..U+068F, U+0690, U+06EE, U+0759, U+075A, U+08AE, U+0645, U+0765, U+0766, U+08A7, U+06BE, U+0626, U+060C, U+061B, U+06F4, U+06F5, U+06F6, U+06F7, U+0650, U+064F, U+064C, U+0657

Unfortunately, the UI needed to access the language-specific behavior is not yet present in many applications. LibreOffice and Microsoft Word 2016 support language-specific behavior for Kashmiri, Kurdish, Sindhi and Urdu. Microsoft Word 2019, but not LibreOffice, supports language-specific behavior for Kyrgyz. Neither application provides support for the Rohingya or Wolof languages. Some Harfbuzz-based apps, e.g., XeTeX, can access language-specific behavior. In the past, it was not always possible to override language-specific behavior in cases where the language-specific variants were undesirable but, as of version 4.300, the font now supports this possibility.

Kashmiri, Kurdish (Northern), Rohingya, Sindhi, Urdu

Language	Meem	Heh Doachashmee (06BE)	4	6	7	0650/064E	064C	0652	Feature Setting
default	م مم	ه ههھ	۴	۶	۷	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	
Kashmiri	م مم	ه ههھ	۴	۶	۷	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	lang='ur '
Kurdish (Northern)	م مم	ه ههھ	۴	۶	۷	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	lang='ku '
Rohingya	م مم	ه ههھ	۴	۶	۷	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	lang='rhg '
Sindhi	م مم	ه ههھ	۴	۶	۷	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	lang='sd '
Urdu	م مم	ه ههھ	۴	۶	۷	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	بَ ب̣	lang='ur '

Kyrgyz, Malay, and Wolof

Language	Dal	0626	0674	0650/064E	064F	0657	Feature Setting
Default	د	ئ ئىئى	ا	ب	ب	ب	
Kyrgyz	د	ئ ئىئى	ا	ب	ب	ب	lang=' ky '
Malay	د	ئ ئىئى	ا	ب	ب	ب	lang=' ms '
Wolof	د	ئ ئىئى	ا	ب	ب	ب	lang=' wo '

Character variants

There are some character shape differences in different languages which use the Arabic script. These can be accessed by using OpenType Character Variants, or through the language support mentioned above.

Meem

Affects: U+0645, U+0765, U+0766, U+08A7

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	م ميم ڌ مننم ڊ مييم ڌ ششم	cv44=0
Sindhi-style	م ميم نر مننر بر مييم ر ششم	cv44=1
Long-tail	م ميم ڌ مننم ڊ مييم ڌ ششم	cv44=2

Heh

Affects: U+0647 (This feature is not recommended for use. The features available for Heh Doachashmee are preferred.)

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	ه ههه	cv48=0
Kurdish-style	ه ههه	cv48=3
Sindhi-style	ه ههه	cv48=1
Urdu-style	ه ههه	cv48=2

Heh Doachashmee

Affects: U+06BE

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	ه ههه	cv49=0
Knotted	ه ههه	cv49=1
Bowtie	ه ههه	cv49=2
Kurdish-style	ه ههه	cv49=3

Kyrgyz OE

Affects: U+06C5

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Loop	و	cv51=0
Bar	و	cv51=1

Yeh Hamza

Affects: U+0626

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	ئ ئ	cv54=0
Right hamza	ئ ئ	cv54=1
Mid hamza	ئ ئ	cv54=2

Shadda+kasra placement

Affects: U+064D, U+0650 with U+0651

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Default	بْ بْ بْ	cv62=0
Lowered	بْ بْ بْ	cv62=1
Raised		cv62=2

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
	بُ بُّ بَّ	

Damma

Affects: U+064F

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Default	بُ بُّ	cv70=0
Filled	بُ بُّ	cv70=1
Short	بُ بُّ	cv70=2
Crossed	بُ بُّ	cv70=3

Dammatan

Affects: U+064C

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	بُ بُّ	cv72=0
Six-nine	بُ بُّ	cv72=1
Two-nine	بُ بُّ	cv72=2

Inverted Damma

Affects: U+0657

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Default	بُ بُّ	cv74=0
Hollow	بُ بُّ	cv74=1
Filled	بُ بُّ	cv74=2

Superscript Alef

Affects: U+0670 on all yeh, sad and seen-like characters U+0620, U+0626, U+0633, U+0634, U+0635, U+0636, U+063D, U+063E, U+063F, U+0649, U+064A, U+0678, U+069A, U+069B, U+069C, U+069D, U+069E, U+06CC, U+06CD, U+06CE, U+06D0, U+06D1, U+06FA, U+06FB, U+075C, U+076D, U+0770, U+077D, U+077E, U+0775, U+0776, U+0777, U+08A8, U+08A9, U+08AF, U+08BA

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Default	يٰ يٰ يٰ ئِئِ سِ سِسْ شِ شَشْ صِ صَصْ ضِ ضُضُ يٰ يٰئِ يٰ يٰئِ يٰ يٰئِ يٰ يٰئِ يٰ يٰئِ ئِئِ بِنِ بِنِبِنِ پِنِ پِنِ پِنِ پِنِ پِنِ پِنِ ضُضُ يٰ يٰئِ يٰ بِيْ يٰ يٰئِ يٰ يٰئِ يٰ يٰئِ بُشِبُ ضِ ضِبُ شِ شِبُ شِ شِبُ شِ شِبُ	cv76=0

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
	سُ سُسْ شْ شُسْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ چْ چِصْ يَ يِيْ	
Large	وُ وُوْ يَ يِيْ سُسْ شْ شُسْ صْ صِصْ ضْ ضُضْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ ئُئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ ضُضْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ بُئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ سُ سُسْ شْ شُسْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ چْ چِصْ يَ يِيْ	cv76=1
Small	وُ وُوْ يَ يِيْ سُسْ شْ شُسْ صْ صِصْ ضْ ضُضْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ ئُئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ ضُضْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ بُئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ بْ بِئْ سُ سُسْ شْ شُسْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ يَ يِيْ چْ چِصْ يَ يِيْ	cv76=2

Sukun

Affects: U+0652

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Closed	بْ ْ	cv78=0
Open down	بْ ْ	cv78=1
Open left	بْ ْ	cv78=2
Closed	بْ ْ	cv78=3

End of ayah

Affects: U+06DD




These alternates are also available using the Stylistic Alternates (salt) feature, but at this time we know of no OpenType-based applications that can access these.

Firefox allows you to use U+06DD followed by the digits and proper rendering occurs. Some applications require the following:

- precede the entire sequence (subtending mark plus following digits) with 202D LEFT-TO-RIGHT OVERRIDE
- follow the entire sequence with U+202C POP DIRECTIONAL FORMATTING.

Surrounding the sequence with U+202D and U+202C seems to give the most reliable results in different browsers. However, we have not found a solution that works in Internet Explorer/Edge.

In the example below, the following codepoints are used: U+202D U+06DD U+0031 U+0032 U+0033 U+202C U+202D U+06DD U+0611 U+0622 U+0663 U+202C.

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard		cv80=0
Simplified A		cv80=1
Simplified B		cv80=2

The DISPUTED END OF AYAH (U+08E2) is also now available in the font. It works in the same way as End of ayah.


٣٤٥

Eastern digits

Affects: U+06F4, U+06F6, U+06F7

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Standard	٤٦٧	cv82=0
Sindhi-style	٤٦٭	cv82=1
Urdu-style	٣٦٭	cv82=2
Kurdish-style	٤٦٧	cv82=3
Rohingya-style	٤٦٭	cv82=4
Default	٤٦٧	cv82=5

Comma

Affects: U+060C, U+061B (This feature is not recommended for use. The Unicode Standard recommends the use of , U+2E41 and ؛ U+204F instead.)

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Upward	؛ ،	cv84=0
Downward	؛ ،	cv84=1

Decimal separator

Affects: U+066B

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Small reh	٫	cv85=0
Slash	/	cv85=1

Guillemet

Affects: U+00AB U+00BB U+2039 U+203A

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
Rounded	«(پ)»	cv88=0
Angled	«‹پ›»	cv88=1

Other user font features

Proportional figures

Tabular digits are the default for Latin digits. Lateef supports the OpenType **Proportional Figures (pnum)** for Latin digits.

Affects: U+0030..U+0039

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
False	0123456789	pnum=0
True	0123456789	pnum=1

Tabular figures

Proportional digits are the default for Arabic digits. Lateef supports the OpenType **Tabular Figures (tnum)** for Arabic digits.

Affects: U+0660..U+0669, U+06F0.. U+06F9

Feature	Sample	Feature setting
False	٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩ ٠١٢٣٥٦٧٨٩	tnum=0
True	•١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩ •١٢٣٥٦٧٨٩	tnum=1

Disable digit kerning (see FAQ)

This feature is only available in TypeTuner Web.

The Arabic digits are proportional by default and Lateef includes kerning to improve the spacing of certain pairs of digits such as ٧٨. However there are some applications, including Microsoft Word for Windows, that process the digit kerning information incorrectly, actually making some digits too far apart and some too close together. We have added a special Typetuner feature that can be used to create a version of the Lateef fonts in which the digit kerning is *disabled*. When using those fonts in Microsoft Word the resulting digit spacing will be much nicer than Tabular, but not quite as good as it would be if the application's kerning worked correctly. This is discussed further in the [FAQ](#).

This guide is from the [Lateef project](#) version 4.4 and is copyright © 1994-2025 SIL Global.