The Arabic alphabet: letter names

In this lesson you will learn

- Arabic is read from right to left
- The name of every letter
- The alif and the hamzah
- Letters that share a shape and differ only in their dots

How to use this sheet. Watch the video for this lesson first if you can. Then work through these pages out loud, at your own pace. Come back to them through the week.

Scan to hear every sound from this lesson, or go to **salehabibi.org/learn/alphabet**

The alphabet

There are twenty-eight letters, plus the hamzah. Read each row from right to left and say each name out loud. You don't need to remember them all today. You will see these letters in every lesson from now on.

⟵ Arabic is read from right to left. Start every row on the right.

خ khaa	ح Haa (throat)	ج jeem	ث thaa	ت taa	ب baa	ا alif
ص Saad	ش sheen	س seen	ز zaa	ر raa	ذ dhaal	د daal
ق qaaf	ف faa	غ ghayn	ع ayn'	ظ Dhaa (heavy)	ط Taa (heavy)	ض Daad
ء hamzah	ه haa (soft)	و waaw	ن noon	م meem	ل laam	ك kaaf
						ي yaa

The alif and the hamzah. The first letter of the alphabet is the alif ا. The hamzah ء is a short catch in the throat. You will often see the hamzah sitting on an alif, which is why the two get mixed up. We come back to that in a later lesson.

The Arabic alphabet: letter names, continued

Same shape, different dots

Some letters share a body and differ only in their dots. When you are not sure which letter you are looking at, check the dots first. How many are there? Are they above or below?

One dot below, two above, three above

ب baa · ت taa · ث thaa

One dot inside, no dot, one dot above

ج jeem · ح Haa (throat) · خ khaa

No dots, three dots

س seen · ش sheen

One dot, two dots above

ف faa · ق qaaf

No dot, one dot

د daal · ذ dhaal · ر raa · ز zaa · ص Saad · ض Daad · ط Taa (heavy) · ظ Dhaa (heavy) · ع ayn' · غ ghayn

Check yourself

Say the name of each letter out loud. Write it underneath if it helps. Then check your answers at the bottom of the page.

1 ش	2 غ	3 ذ	4 ث	5 ز
6 خ	7 ض	8 ق	9 ن	10 ي

Read it yourself

Read each row out loud from right to left, saying the name of each letter. Then check yourself against the alphabet on the first page.

ب	ن	ت	ي	ث
ج	خ	ح	ع	غ

Answers 1 sheen · 2 ghayn · 3 dhaal · 4 thaa · 5 zaa · 6 khaa · 7 Daad · 8 qaaf · 9 noon · 10 yaa

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