Fathah: the first short vowel

In this lesson you will learn

- What a vowel mark is
- The fathah: a short a sound
- Reading every letter with fathah
- The seven letters that sound fuller

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/fathah

From letters to sounds

So far we have looked at letters. Now we start reading sounds. On its own a letter is just a consonant. To say it, it needs a vowel. In the Qur'an the short vowels are written as small marks above or below the letter.

بَ

ba

The fathah

A small slanted line above the letter. It gives a short **a** sound.

Keep it short. Say it quickly and move on. If you stretch it, it becomes a different sound, which we meet in a later lesson.

Every letter with fathah

Read each row from right to left. Short and clear. The hamzah takes the place of the alif here, because an alif never carries a vowel of its own. Shaded letters are the fuller ones.

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

خَ	حَ	جَ	ثَ	تَ	بَ	أَ
صَ	شَ	سَ	زَ	رَ	ذَ	دَ
قَ	فَ	غَ	عَ	ظَ	طَ	ضَ
يَ	هَ	وَ	نَ	مَ	لَ	كَ

Once you can read every row slowly, read the whole grid again a little faster. Then read it from the bottom row up.

Fathah: the first short vowel, continued

The fuller letters

خَ صَ ضَ طَ ظَ غَ قَ

You may notice that some letters sound fuller and deeper with fathah. These are the seven. For now just copy the sound you hear in the video or on the practice page. We look at why in a later lesson.

Read it yourself

Read each row out loud from right to left, with no example first. Then check yourself on the practice page, where you can hear each row read for you.

كَ	سَ	رَ	دَ	بَ
فَ	تَ	لَ	نَ	مَ
يَ	هَ	عَ	صَ	قَ

Check yourself

Each pair below differs only in its dots. Say both out loud, then write the sound under each one.

1. _____ تَ _____ بَ

2. _____ خَ _____ جَ

3. _____ ذَ _____ دَ

4. _____ زَ _____ رَ

5. _____ شَ _____ سَ

6. _____ قَ _____ فَ

Answers 1 ba, ta · 2 ja, kha · 3 da, dha · 4 ra, za · 5 sa, sha · 6 fa, qa

A tip for practice. Read one row a day until it is smooth, then add the next. When all four are smooth, read the whole grid each day before you start the next lesson.