

## Modern Standard Arabic

### L 1

#### Introduction/ Arabic Alphabet

- ✚ More than 400,000,000 people in 25 countries around the world speak Arabic as their official or co-official language.
- ✚ As the Arabic language has its own particularities, learning it requires more attention and practice; For example, addressing male and female in nouns and verbs is of importance (unlike English).
- ✚ One of the other differences between Arabic and English or some other languages is its letters and characters; for example there is a letter in Arabic called *Dhad* (ض), which with its peculiar pronunciation isn't likely to be found in any other language and because of that they say that Arabic is the language of *Dhad*.
- ✚ Not only learning Arabic but also learning any second language has its own difficulties, some of which they have in common.
- ✚ Having learned Arabic language, one can have access to the scriptures and books only written in this language such as Quran and the narrations of the Holy Prophet and the Imams.
- ✚ In this course, we are to practice the modern standard Arabic and not the different dialects.

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#	Letter	Name	#	Letter	Name
1	ء	Hamza=همزة	15	ض	Dād=ضاد
2	ب	Bā'=باء	16	ط	Tā'=طاء
3	ت	Tā'=تاء	17	ظ	Zā'=ظاء
4	ث	Thā'=ثاء	18	ع	A°yn=عين
5	ج	Jim=جيم	19	غ	Ghayn=غين
6	ح	Hā'=حاء	20	ف	Fā'=فاء
7	خ	Khā'=خاء	21	ق	Qāf=قاف
8	د	Dāl=دال	22	ك	Kāf=كاف
9	ذ	Thāl=ذال	23	ل	Lām=لام
10	ر	Rā'=راء	24	م	Mīm=ميم
11	ز	Zāy'=زاء	25	ن	Nūn=نون
12	س	Sīn=سين	26	و	Wāw=واو
13	ش	Shīn=شين	27	ه	Hā'=هاء
14	ص	Ṣād=صاد	28	ي	Yā'=ياء

- In Arabic, the alphabet is also called *al-huroof al-abjadiyyah* (الحُرُوفُ الأَبْجَدِيَّة).
- In Arabic, there are 26 consonant and 3 vowel letters.
- Every letter in the Arabic alphabet has its own specific name and sound just as in English.

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Equivalent in English	Arabic letter	Letter's name	pronunciation	Equivalent in English	Arabic letter	Letter's name	pronunciation
'	ء	Hamza	As ('a) in arm, as ('i) in inn, as ('oo) in ooze (glottal stop)	S	س	Seen	As 's' in 'sun'
B	ب	Bā'	As 'b' in 'big'	SH	ش	Sheen	As 's' in 'sure'
T	ت	Tā'	As 't' in 'tea'	F	ف	Fā'	As 'f' in 'fog'
TH	ث	Thā'	As 'th' in 'three'	K	ك	Kāf	As 'k' in 'key'
J	ج	Jeem	As 'g' in 'gentle'	L	ل	Lām	As 'l' in 'love'
KH	خ	Khā'	As 'ch' in Scottish English, 'loch'	M	م	Meem	As 'm' in 'moon'
D	د	Dāl	As 'd' in 'door'	N	ن	Noon	As 'n' in 'noon'
DH	ذ	Dhāl	As 'th' in 'the'	W	و	Wāw	As 'w' in 'well'
R	ر	Rā'	As 'r' in 'room'	H	ه	Hā'	As 'h' in 'hot'
Z	ز	Zā'	As 'z' in 'zero'	Y	ي	Yā'	As 'h' in 'hot'

The **three long vowels** in Arabic are:

- A) الف (Alif), as 'a' in 'far'
- B) ياء (Yā'), as 'ee' in deer
- C) واو (wāw), as 'oo' in school

Unfamiliar sounds:

## Unfamiliar sounds:

Equivalent in English	Arabic letter	Letter's name	pronunciation
<u>H</u>	ح	Ḥā'	As 'h' articulated with friction from pharynx
c	ع	A'yn	As 'a' articulated in the pharynx with friction
gh	غ	Ghayn	As the Parisian 'r' in 'Paris'
<u>S</u>	ص	Ṣād	As 's' articulated with emphasis
<u>D</u>	ض	Ḍād	As 'd' articulated with emphasis
<u>I</u>	ط	Ṭā'	As 't' articulated with emphasis
<u>Z</u>	ظ	Ẓā'	As voiced 'th' articulated with emphasis
<u>Q</u>	ق	Qāf	As 'k' articulated with emphasis

- ✚ Not only the Arabic language, but also learning any second language has its own difficulties. Some difficulties are specific to that language whereas other are common.