Modern Standard Arabic

L 1

Introduction/ Arabic Alphabet

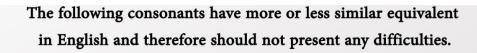
- ♣ More than 400,000,000 people in 25 countries around the world speak Arabic as their official or co-official language.
- ♣ As the Arabic language has its own particularities, learning it requires more attention and practice; For example, addressing male and female in nouns and verbs is of importance (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.

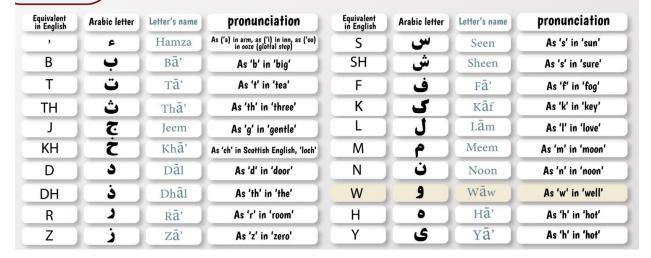
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The Arabic alphabet is the first difference between this language and English. It includes 29 characters and they are called huroof (plural of harf). Name Letter Name Letter # صاد-Dād همزه=Hamza 15 ض 1 طاء= 'Tā 2 اء= 'Bā 16 ط ظ 3 ت تاء= Tā' 17 ظاء= 'Zā 3 ث عین = A°yn تاء= 'Thā 18 4 غ غين = Ghayn جيم = Jim 19 5 3 7 حاء='Hā' 20 ف فاء= Fā' 6 Ż 21 ق قاف=Qāf خاء= Khā' 7 Dāl=J13 ک كاف=Kāf 22 8 3 Lām=pU ذ J ذال=Thāl 23 9 ميم = Mim Rā'==1 24 10 نون = Nūn ن زاء= Zāy 25 11 Waw=919 سين = Sīn 26 س 12 هاء= 'Hā شین = Shīn ش 27 ٥ 13 S اء= Yā' Sād=300 ص 28 14

- 🖶 In Arabic, the alphabet is also called al-huroof al-abjadiyyah (الحُروف الأبجَديّة).
- **♣** 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.

The following consonants have more or less similar equivalent in English and therefore should not present any difficulties.

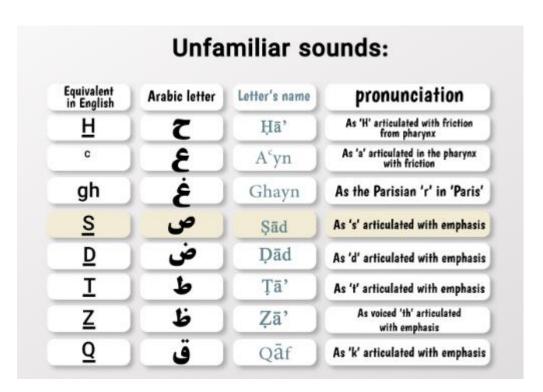




The three long vowels in Arabic are:

- A) الف (Alif), as 'a' in 'f<mark>a</mark>r'
- B) ياء (Yā'), as 'ee' in deer
- C) واو (wāw), as 'oo' in school

Unfamiliar sounds:



♣ 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.