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CLASSICAL ARABIC - THE WRITING SYSTEM



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CLASSICAL ARABIC . THE WRITING SYSTEM

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CLASSICAL ARABIC . THE WRITING SYSTEM

0. Arabic is customarily written and printed in a special alphabet of its own, called the Arabic alphabet, consisting of 28 LETTERS and a number of SIGNS. Some of the salient features of this alphabet are as follows:

1. Arabic is written and printed from right to left.
2. Normally only the consonants and the long vowels are indicated.
3. There are no capital letters.
4. The manner of writing is cursive and most of the letters are connected to preceding and following letters within the same word.
5. Most of the letters have three or more variant shapes, depending on whether they are connected to preceding and/or following letters or not.
6. Some letters are identical in basic form and are distinguished from one another by small dots.
7. The system of writing described here is the handwriting commonly used in the Syrian area. In other parts of the Arab world, and in Iran, the handwriting styles vary from slightly to considerably different. Printing types also vary, some being quite complex and ornate.

1. The alphabet

The following list shows the letters of the Arabic alphabet in the shape they have when they stand alone, that is, not connected to a preceding or following letter. This is the order of the alphabet adopted by most dictionaries. The signs will be discussed later.

Usual sound value	Arabic name	Arabic letter
ʔ, aa	ʔálif	
b	báaʔ	ب
t	táaʔ	ت or ت
o	oáaʔ	ث or ث

Usual sound value	Arabic name	Arabic Letter
j	jím	ج
ɲ	ɲáaʔ	ح
x	xáaʔ kh	خ
d	dáal	د
ð	ðáal	ذ
r	ráaʔ	ر
z	záay	ز
s	sín	س or س
ʃ	ʃín	ش or ش
ṣ	ṣáad	ص
ɖ	ɖáad	ض
t	táaʔ	ط
ð̣	ð̣áaʔ	ظ
ʕ	ʕáyn	ع
ʕ̣	ʕ̣áyn	غ
f	fáaʔ	ف
q	qáaf	ق or ق

Usual sound value	Arabic name	Arabic Letter
k	káaf	ك or ك
l	láam	ل
m	míim	م
n	núun	ن
h	háa?	ه or ه
w , uu	wáaw	و
y , ii	yáa?	ي or ي

The following shows the Arabic letters in their alphabetical order and written from right to left. Note the placing of the letters relative to the line of writing.

ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض
ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه و ي

2. The following 6 letters are NON-CONNECTORS. They do not form a cursive linking to a following letter, though they do connect to a preceding letter other than another non-connector.

ا ʿálif is characteristically a vertical stroke

أ dáal

إ óaal is exactly like dáal, but with one dot above it.

ر ráa?

ز záay is exactly like ráa?, but with one dot above it

و wáaw

3. Short vowels

dárasa	دَرَسَ	dáraka	دَرَكَ
wárada	وَرَدَ	rázaqa	رَزَقَ
wázara	وَزَرَ	wádaʕa	وَدَعَ
wáraša	وَرَشَ	wázana	وَزَنَ

All the above words show the sign [˘] fáṭṙah above each consonant letter. This sign indicates that each consonant is followed by the vowel a.

wúzina	وُزِنَ	wúriða	وُرِثَ
wúzira	وُزِرَ	wúdiʕa	وُدِيَ
rúziqa	رُزِقَ	dúrika	دُرِكَ
wúriða	وُورِدَ	dúriša	دُورِسَ

All the above words show the sign [˙] dámmah above the first consonant letter. This sign indicates that the consonant is followed by the vowel u.

All these words also show the sign _˘ kásrah below the second consonant letter. This sign indicates that the consonant is followed by the vowel i.

4. Long vowels

záala	زَالَ	ðáaqa	ذَاتَ
záara	زَارَ	ðáata	ذَاتَ
záada	زَادَ	ráaja	رَاجَ
dáana	دَانَ	ráaʕa	رَاعَ

záaḡa	زَاغَ	dáara	زَارَ
dáama	زَامَ	wáana	وَاخَ
ráana	رَاخَ	ḡáaba	زَابَ
ráaqa	رَاقَ	ráama	رَامَ

All the above words show a consonant with the sign ^ˉ fátrah immediately followed by an | ʔálif. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel aa.

rúuru	رُوحُ	ḡúu	زُؤُ
zúuru	زُورُ	dúumu	زُومُ
dúuru	دُورُ	dúuma	زُونُ
dúuju	دُوجُ	rúufu	زُوعُ

All the above words show a consonant with the sign [◌] dāmmah immediately followed by a و wáaw. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel uu.

wáadii	وَادِي	ḡfi	زِي
dáarii	دَارِي	zúurii	زُورِي
		dúurii	دُورِي

All the above words show a consonant with the sign [◌] kásrah immediately followed by a ي yáa?. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel ii.

5. ʔálif maqṣúurah

wáraa	وَرَى	dáraa	دَرَى
dáwaa	دَوَى	wádaa	وَدَى
dáaraa	دَارَى	rádaa	رَدَى
		ráwaa	رَوَى

All the above words show a consonant with the sign ˘ fát_ḥah immediately followed by an undotted ى yáaʔ. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel aa.

This way of indicating the long vowel aa occurs only at the end of a word. It is called ʔálif maqṣúurah. You will have to learn individually the words that are written with ʔálif maqṣúurah instead of with | ʔálif (cf. Section 4) as there is no general rule to follow.

6. Nunation

rudúudun	رُودُ	dáarun	دَارُ
dúwalun	دَوْلُ	wáaridun	وَارِدُ
wurúudun	وُرُودُ	wáraqun	وَرَقُ
wáariṭun	وَارِثُ	zawáalun	زَوَالُ
wadáafun	وَدَاعُ	dawáamun	دَوَامُ

All the above words show the sign ˆ dammatáan 'two dammahs' above the last consonant. This sign indicates the ending -un. This sign is also written as " and " .

rúuḥin	رُوحٍ	dáahin	دَاهٍ
wáafin	وَافٍ	ráaḥin	رَاعٍ
wáalin	وَإٍ	wáadin	وَإٍ
dámin	دَمٍ	dúwalin	دُؤِلٍ
dáarin	دَارٍ	zawáajin	زَوَاجٍ

All the above words show the sign = kasratáan 'two kasrahs' below the last consonant. This sign indicates the ending -in.

wáaridan	وَارِدًا	dáaran	دَارًا
zúuran	زُورًا	rudúudan	رُدُودًا
wurúudan	وُرُودًا	dúuran	دُورًا

All the above words show the sign = fatḥatáan 'two fatḥahs' above the last consonant. This sign indicates the ending -an. The sign = fatḥatáan usually occurs with an | ʔálif, as in these examples. Note that here the letter | ʔálif does not indicate the long vowel aa.

The n of these endings as well as this method of indicating it is called NUNATION; the Arabic term is tanwīn. Nunation occurs only at the end of a word.

rádan	رَدِيَّ	wázan	وَزِيَّ
ríwan	رِيَّوِيَّ	dáwan	دَوِيَّ

The above words show the sign = fatḥatáan over a consonant that is immediately followed by an undotted ي yaaʔ. You will have to learn the relatively few words that are written this way instead of with an | ʔálif, as there is no general rule to follow.

7. sukúun

ráy	رَی	dárbun	دَرَب
zúrtu	زُرْتُ	wáznun	وَزْن
dársun	دَرَس	záwjun	زَوْج
zárfun	زَرَع	dáwrun	دَوْر
wáy	وَي	wárdun	وَرْد

All the above words show the sign ° sukúun above the second consonant. This indicates that the consonant has no following vowel. This sign is also called jázmah.

8. Šáddah

ráddada	رَدَد	dábbun	دَبَب
dáallun	دَال	wáddun	وَدَد
záwwaja	زَوَّج	dálla	دَلَل
zuwwáarun	زَوَّار	šábbun	شَبَب
wázzafa	وَزَّع	rábbun	رَبَب

All the above words show the sign ~ Šáddah over the second consonant. This sign indicates that the consonant is doubled. The process of doubling a consonant is called tašdíd and this term is also used to refer to the sign.

9. Non-connectors following another letter

The letter ل láam, when connected to a following letter only, has the form ل. This letter will be discussed in detail in Section 14.

1. l connected to d

ládaa	لَدَى	ládaḡa	لَدَغ
wáladun	وَلَدٌ	wáladat	وَلَدَات

2. l connected to ð

láðafa	لَذَع	láðða	لَذَّ
láðaba	لَذَب	láðima	لَذِم

3. l connected to r

lirábbin	لِرَبِّ	liráaʕin	لِرَاعِ
lirúuin	لِرُوحِ	lirízqin	لِرِزْقِ

4. l connected to z

lázima	لِزْمِ	luzúumun	لُزُوم
lizáamun	لِزَامِ	zálzala	زَلْزَل

5. l connected to w

láv	لَوْ	lávrun	لَوْح
lávwaða	لَوْت	lávrunn	لَوْن

6. 1 connected to ʔálif has a special form

záalaa	زَالَا	láa	لَا
dúwalan	دُؤَلَا	láana	لَاخ
daláalun	دَلَال	láazama	لَازَم

10. Connected letters

Most of the letters have three or more variant shapes, depending on their position in a sequence of letters, that is, whether they stand at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of the sequence, or stand alone. Many letters, when standing at the end of a sequence or alone, have a variant with a flourishing final stroke. The variant with the flourish is often quite different from the other variants of the same letter.

In the following sections each letter will be taken up separately and the variant shapes will be given in the following order.

1. Connected to the following letter only.
2. Connected to the preceding and following letters.
3. Connected to the preceding letter only.
4. Standing alone.

11. The letter **س** *sín* is characteristically a series of three upward pointed strokes. In handwriting the three upward strokes are usually omitted and the letter is a horizontal straight line.

1. *s-* connected to the following letter only

sudúudun	سُدُود	sárra	سَرَر
síwaa	سِوَى	sáawaa	سَاوَى
sáara	سَار	rasúulun	رَسُول

2. -s- connected to the preceding and following letters

lisiráajin	لِسِرَاجٍ	lisáanun	لِسَانَ
lisúuqin	لِسُوقٍ	lásada	لَسَدَ
lisáddin	لِسَدِّ	lásaa	لَسَا

3. -s connected to the preceding letter only

dállasa	دَالَّسَ	lássaa	لَسَّ
		dássasa	دَسَّسَ

4. s standing alone

lawwáasun	لَوَّاسٍ	sáadisun	سَادِسٍ
durrúusun	دُرُوسٍ	dársun	دَرَسٍ

Additional examples.

دَدَر	رَسَام	سَوَّاقٍ
سُرُور	سَارَت	سَادِج
سَاع	سُدَس	سَام
دَرَا	رُسُوم	رَسُو

12. The letter ش šīn has the same basic form as the letter س sīn, but with the addition of three dots above it. In handwriting the dots are usually connected, forming a small tent-like mark.

1. Š- connected to the following letter only

šáddat	شَدَّتْ	šáaraka	شَارَكَ
šárṭun	شَرَطَ	šárafun	شَرَفَ
šáwqun	شَوَّقَ	šárqin	شَرِقَ

2. -š- connected to the preceding and following letters

lišáariš in	لِشَارِعِ	lišáwqin	لِشَوَّقِ
lášwan	لَشَوًّا	lišárafin	لِشَرَفِ

3. -š connected to the preceding letter only

	lášša	لَشَّسَ
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4. š standing alone

wáraša	وَرَشَّسَ	rášša	رَشَّسَ
rišáašun	رِشَّاشَ	láaša	لَشَّسَ

Additional examples.

شَدَّدَ	شَرَّفَ	شَرَّعَ
شَرَّحَ	وَشَّى	رَشَّدَ
لِشَرَطِ	شَوَارِعُ	شَرُوطَ

13. The letter ك káaf is characteristically a vertical stroke with a slanting line connecting to the top from the right.

1. k- connected to the following letter only

káðaa	كَذَا	ðákara	زَكَرَ
kárrama	كَرَّمَ	kirámun	كَرَّمَ
wákadat	وَكَّدَتْ	káwnun	كَوَّنَ

2. -k- connected to the preceding and following letters

sukfutin	سُكُوتٍ	šúkran	سُكْرًا
lákaša	لَكَّشَ	sukfunun	سُكُونٌ
šákara	شَكَّرَ	súkkarun	سُكَّرَ

3. -k connected to the preceding letter only

síkakun	سَكَّكَ	šákka	سَكَّكَ
wáškun	وَسَكَّكَ	láka	لَكَّكَ

4. k standing alone

dáraka	دَرَكَ	šukfukun	سُكُوتٌ
šárraka	شَرَكَ	ðáaka	ذَكَ

5. káaf plus ʔálif has a special form

rukkaabun	رُكَّابٌ	káana	كَانَ
sákkun	سَكَّأٌ	sukkaanun	سَكَّانٌ

Additional examples.

كَذَّبَ	زَكَرَتْ	سَكَّرَتْ
كَافٍ	كَوَارِثٌ	كَوْرَةٌ
كَوْنٌ	كَادَ	وَكَرَّ

14. The letter ل láam is characteristically a vertical stroke. It differs from | ʔálif chiefly by connecting to a following letter.

1. l- connected to the following letter only

láõõa	لَذَّ	láu	لَوُ
láuwin	لَوْنٌ	lázima	لَزِمَ
láama	لَامٌ	wáladan	وَلَدًا

2. -l- connected to the preceding and following letters

sulfukun	سُلُوكٌ	silkun	سِلْكٌ
sálisha	سَلِسٌ	ráasalaa	رَأْسَلَا
siláanun	سِلَاحٌ	sálaka	سَلَكٌ

3. -l connected to the preceding letter only

ráasala	رَأَسَل	sál	سَل
rúsulin	رُسُلِي	sálla	سَلَّ

4. l standing alone

rasúulun	رَسُولُهُ	dálla	دَلَّ
dúwalin	ذَوَالِ	záala	زَالَ

5. láam immediately preceded by káaf has a special form

šáklun	كَلُّهُ	kúllu	كُلُّهُ
šáakilun	كَلَامُهُ	kaláamun	كَلَامُهُ
kálada	كَلَدًا	šákkalaa	كَلَدًا

Additional examples.

كَلَابٌ	دَالَ	لِنَامٌ
لَكَ	لَدَرِمٌ	كَلَّلَ
كَكْرَهُ	كَكَ	كَكَّرَهُ

15. The letter م mim is characteristically a small circle, often merely a dot or a downward break in the line.

1. m- connected to the following letter only

márkazun	مَرَكَزٌ	máwridun	مَوْرِدٌ
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makáanun	مَكَانَ	máadin	مَاضِي
mašrúufun	مَشْرُوعٌ	maráakizu	مَرَائِزُ
márrat	مَرَّتْ	máa	مَا

2. -m connected to the preceding and following letters

šimáalan	شِمَالًا	lámmaa	لَمَّا
kamáa	كَمَّا	mamáaliku	مَمَّا لِكُ
šámsun	شَمْسٌ	sámmun	سَمَّا

3. -m connected to the preceding letter only

lám	لَم	súmmun	سُمُّمٌ
máwsimun	مَوْسِمٌ	sállama	سَالِّمٌ
rásmin	رَسْمٌ	lákum	لَكُمُ

4. m standing alone

marsuumun	مَرْسُومٌ	saláamun	سَلَامٌ
láama	لَامٌ	kiráamun	كِرَامٌ

Additional examples.

مَرَائِلِ	مَذْكُورٌ	مَقَائِلِ
كَاتِمٌ	مَوَادُّ	خَائِلٌ
مَائِ	لِمَاذَا	رَمَى

16. The letter ب baa' is characteristically an upward tooth-like stroke with one dot below it.

1. b- connected to the following letter only

báššarat	بَشَّرَتْ	bíkum	بِكُمْ
baláaḡun	بَلَّغْ	barlamáani	بَرَلْمَانِ
bádwun	بَدَوْ	biláadun	بِلَادَ

2. -b- connected to the preceding and following letters

lábisa	لَبِسَ	kúbraa	كُبْرَى
kibáarun	كِبَارَ	súbulin	سُبُلِ
sábban	سَبَّأَ	mubáaširun	مُبَاشِرَ

3. -b connected to the preceding letter only

márkabun	مَرَكَبَ	sábabin	سَبَبِ
sálbín	سَلْبِ	rákiba	رَكِبَ

4. b standing alone

báabun	بَابَ	dárbun	دَرْبَ
šáriba	شَرِبَ	káōōaba	كَذَّبَ

Additional examples.

سَبَبَ	مَبْرُوكَ	بَاتَ
بَاشَا	بَرَكَ	سَبَاقَ
بَرَحَ	كَبَّرَ	بُرُوكَ

17. The letter **ي** yáa' is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with two dots below it. In handwriting the two dots are usually connected, forming a short horizontal stroke.

1. **y-** connected to the following letter only

šadfidun	شَدِيدٌ	yáwmun	يَوْمٌ
yakúunu	يَلُونُ	yadúuru	يَدُورُ
yusallimúuna	يَسْلِمُونَ	barfidun	بَرِيدٌ
yasúuduhu	يُودُهُ	yazfidu	يَزِيدُ

2. **-y-** connected to the preceding and following letters

sáyyidun	سَيِّدٌ	yawmíyyan	يَوْمِيًّا
miláadun	مِيْلَادٌ	láysa	لَيْسَ
maydáanun	مَيْدَانٌ	kabírun	كَبِيرٌ

3. **-y** connected to the preceding letter only

káy	كَيْ	rasmíyyun	رَسْمِيٌّ
malakíyyun	مَلَكِيٌّ	yármii	يَرْمِي
maalíyyin	مَالِيٌّ	siyaasíyyun	سِيَّاسِيٌّ

4. **y** standing alone

markazíyyin	مَرْكَزِيٌّ	baladíyyun	بَلَدِيٌّ
wuddíyyun	وُدِّيٌّ	yádrii	يَدْرِي
bašaríyyun	بَشْرِيٌّ	barríyyun	بَرِّيٌّ

Additional examples.

مِيزَانٌ	كَرِيمٌ	وَزِيرٌ
وَكِيلٌ	شِمَائِلِيٌّ	لِي
يُشْرِفُ	يَعْدُخُ	يُكَلِّمُ

18. The letter ن nún is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with one dot above it.

1. n- connected to the following letter only

náadin	نَادٍ	nášarat	نَشَرَتْ
názala	نَزَلَ	nuwváabun	نَوَّابٌ
nawáagin	نَوَّاحٍ	náala	نَالَ
našáaṭun	نَشَّاطٌ	názaṣa	نَزَعَ

2. -n- connected to the preceding and following letters

yanzilúma	يَنْزِلُونَ	yánšuru	يَنْشُرُ
mánzilin	مَنْزِلٍ	banáahu	بَنَاهُ
munáasibun	مُنَاسِبٌ	mandúubun	مَنْدُوبٌ

3. -n- connected to the preceding letter only

yúnkimu	يُمْكِنُ	mín	مِنْ
sákana	كَانَ	báyna	بَيْنَ
lán	لَنْ	mákkana	مَلَّكَ

4. n standing alone

múduni	مُدُنِ	yakfunu	يَكُونُ
bayáanun	بَيَّانٌ	makáanun	مَكَانٌ
miizáanin	مِيزَانِ	sinúuna	سِنُونُ

5. The sequence written as nb is often pronounced as mb, as follows:

minbarun	or	mímbarun	مِنْبَرٌ
yánbusu	or	yámbusu	يَنْبُسُ
ðánbun	or	ðámbun	ذَنْبٌ

Additional examples.

سُنْ	بَيِّنَ	نَوْعٌ
مُكَلِّمٌ	نَيْرَانٌ	نَالَةٌ
يُبَيِّنُ	مَنَاصِصٌ	مِنْبَرٌ

19. The letter ت taa' is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with two dots above it. In handwriting the two dots are usually connected, forming a short horizontal stroke.

1. t- connected to the following letter only

tadbírun	تَدْبِيرٌ	taláwnaa	تَلَوْنَا
támma	تَمَامٌ	tamáaman	تَمَامًا
táðkuru	تَذَكُّرٌ	tílka	تِلْكَ

2. -t- connected to the preceding and following letters

mátaa	تَاتَى	tamtáddu	تَمْتَدُّ
taštáriku	تَشْتَرِكُ	dawlatáani	دَوْلَتَانِ
yatímmu	يَتَمِّمُ	tátruku	تَتْرِكُ
yátluu	يَتَلَوُ	tutámmiisu	تُتَمِّمُ

3. -t connected to the preceding letter only

támmat	تَمَّتْ	náalat	نَالَتْ
káanat	كَانَتْ	dúrisat	دُرِسَتْ
lástu	لَسْتُ	táarakat	تَرَكْتُ
báytun	بَيْتُ	káuntu	كُنْتُ

4. t standing alone

sayyaaráatun	سَيَّارَاتُ	šúkirat	ذِكْرَاتُ
márrat	مَرَّاتُ	zúrta	زُرَّتُ
záadat	زَادَاتُ	sayyidáatun	سَيِّدَاتُ
kalimáatin	كَلِمَاتُ	wáddat	وَدَّاتُ

Additional examples.

نَزَلَتْ	زَلَزَتْ	تَدَابِيرُ
دَوْلَتَانِ	تَكَلَّنُ	تَلَا
لَيْتُ	رَمَيْتُ	زَادَتْ

20. The letter ٺ $\theta\acute{a}a$? is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with three dots above it. In handwriting the three dots are usually connected, forming a tent-like mark.

1. θ - connected to the following letter only

$\theta\acute{a}aminun$	تَامِنٌ	$\theta\acute{a}anin$	تَانِ
$\theta\acute{a}amanun$	تَمَنُّ	$\theta\acute{u}maa$	تَمَّا
$\theta\acute{a}bbata$	تَبَّتْ	$\theta uww\acute{a}arin$	تَوَّارِ

2. $-\theta$ - connected to the preceding and following letters

$mi\theta\acute{a}aqun$	مِيثَاقٌ	$mi\theta lun$	مِثْلٌ
$tam\theta ilun$	تَمَثِيلٌ	$ka\theta firun$	كَاتِبٌ
$y\acute{a}\theta bitu$	يُثَبِّتُ	$mum\acute{a}\theta ilin$	مُمَثِّلٌ

3. $-\theta$ connected to the preceding letter only

$m\acute{a}ka\theta a$	مَكَاتٌ	$b\acute{a}\theta a$	بَكَاتٌ
$\theta ilun$	ثَلَّتْ	$\theta\acute{a}ali\theta un$	ثَالِيَةٌ

4. θ standing alone

láwwa θ a	لَوَّتَ	wári θ a	وَرِيثَ
wári θ in	وَارِيثَ	yári θ u	يَرِيثَ

Additional examples.

كَثُرَتْ	ثِيَابَ	مَوْتُوقَ
وَوْتُوقِ	ثَبَّتَتْ	ثَلَاثُونَ

21. The letter \ominus háa? does not have any one characteristic form.

1. h- connected to the following letter only

biláadu h aa	بِلَادُهَا	híya	هِيَ
háammin	هَامِّمَ	húnaa	هَنَا
ðahábtu	ذَهَبْتُ	hunáaka	هَمَّاكَ

2. -h- connected to the preceding and following letters

lá h aa	لَهَا	šáhrun	شَهْرٌ
yuhímmu	يُحِمُّ	tamhiidíyyun	تَمْحِيدِيٌّ
mašhúuran	مَشْرُورًا	tahtámmu	تَهْتَمُّ
lá h um	لَهُمْ	bí h aa	بِهَا

3. -h connected to the preceding letter only

našaráthu	نَشَرْتُهُ	láhu	لَهُ
sallamáthu	سَلَّمْتُهُ	málikuhu	مَلِكُهُ
mínhu	مِنْهُ	yášbahu	يَسْبَهُ

4. h standing alone

banáahu	بَنَاهُ	murúurihi	مُرُورِهِ
yasúduhu	يُودُهُ	yákrahu	يُكْرَهُ

Additional examples.

مِيَاهُ	يُرْتَمُ	كَدَمْتُ
مُرْتَمٍ	شَبَهُ	نَكَّرُهُ
شَرِيرٍ	كُنْدٌ	كَلَنْ

22. táa? marbúutah

siyáasatan	سِيَّاسَةٌ	dáwlatun	دَوْلَةٌ
šárikatun	شَرِكَةٌ	biziyáaratun	بِزْيَارَةٌ
kálimatin	كَلِمَةٌ	múddatan	مُدَّةٌ
nášratun	نَشْرَةٌ	sayyáaratun	سَيَّارَةٌ
wizáaratun	وِزَارَةٌ	tamhidíyyatan	تَمْهِيدِيَّةٌ

mašhúuratun

مَشْهُورَةٌ

madīnatun

مَدِينَةٌ

All the above words end in the composite letter \ddot{O} táa' marbúṭah, which is composed of the letter \circ háa' plus the two dots of the letter ت táa'. This composite letter represents the phoneme t. The táa' marbúṭah occurs only at the end of a word. Note that the sign " fatḥatáan is placed immediately above the \ddot{O} táa' marbúṭah, with no accompanying 'álif (cf. Section 6).

Additional examples.

كُتِبَتْ
مُرْتَمَةً

نَيْتَةٌ
مَادَّةٌ

كَبِيرَةٌ
سَلَاةٌ

23. hámzah with 'álif

The sign ء hámzah represents the phoneme ʔ . It is characteristically a small hook-like figure and often appears together with an accompanying | 'álif, as in the following examples. Note that in such cases the | 'álif merely serves as a support for the ء hámzah and does not indicate the long vowel aa. The writing of hámzah is taken up in detail in Section 36.

1. hámzah at the beginning of a word

ʔišráafun

إِشْرَافٌ

ʔán

أَنَّ

ʔflaa

إِلَى

ʔámsi

أَمْسٍ

ʔumúurun

أُمُورٌ

ʔáwwali

أَوَّلٍ

ʔustáaḏun

أُسْتَاذٌ

ʔaḏáafa

أَذَاعَ

ʔúmamin

أُمَمٌ

ʔinna

إِنَّ

ʔusbúufun

أُسْبُوعٌ

ʔisláamun

إِسْلَامٌ

All the above words show the sign ھ hámzah with an accompanying ا ʿálif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) at the beginning of a word and (2) is immediately followed by a short vowel. Note that the sign ھ hámzah is above the ا ʿálif if the following vowel is a or u, and below it if the following vowel is i.

2. hámzah in the middle of a word

tásʿalu	تَسْأَلُ	ráʿyun	رَأَى
masʿálatun	مَسْأَلَةٌ	Báʿnun	بَعُنَ
bádaʿat	بَدَأَتْ	ráʿsan	رَأَى
saʿáltu	سَأَلْتُ	taʿmínun	تَأْمِينٌ
taʿákkada	تَأَلَّدَ	taʿkfidun	تَأْكِيدٌ

All the above words show the sign ھ hámzah over an ا ʿálif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is either preceded or followed by short a — but not by i or u.

Additional examples.

الَّذِي	إِبْتَدَأَتْ	هَدَأَتْ
إِلَّا	إِذَا	تَأْثِيرًا
إِمْتِيَازًا	رَأَى	أَزْكَرًا

24. The letter ف fáaʿ is characteristically a small loop with a single dot above it.

1. f- connected to the following letter only

ffihaa	فِيْرًا	fáazat	فَازَتْ
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wáfdin	وَفِدٍ	ffi	فِي
faarisíyyun	فَارِسِيٍّ	sáafara	سَافَرَ
falláaḡun	فَلَاحٍ	fárraḡa	فَرَّغَ

2. -f- connected to the preceding and following letters

káfalat	كَفَلَتْ	yafúuzu	يَفُوزُ
náfsihi	نَفِيهِ	saffirun	سَافِرٌ
ʔalfáaḡun	أَلْفَاظٌ	tafáahumin	تَفَاهُصٌ

3. -f- connected to the preceding letter only

tataʔállafa	تَتَأَلَّفُ	ʔálifun	أَلِفٌ
sáalifun	سَالِفٌ	kállafa	كَلَّفَ
taʔlíifin	تَأْلِيْفٌ	ʔiltáffa	إِلْتَفٌ

4. f standing alone

sáwfa	سَوْفَ	káafin	كَافٍ
ʔášrafa	أَشْرَفَ	ʔišráafun	إِشْرَافٌ

Additional examples.

إِلْتَفَتْ	أَوْفَدَ	رَفَاعٌ
فَرَّةٌ	سَفَرَةٌ	وَفُودٌ
فَتِيٍّ	لَفِيْفٌ	سُفُنٌ

25. The letter ق qáaf is basically a small loop like ف fáa? but with two dots above it.

1. q- connected to the following letter only

qád	قَدَ	qáama	قَامَ
qáddama	قَدَّمَ	qaráaran	قَرَّارًا
qábla	قَبْلَ	qúwwatun	قُوَّةَ
fírqatun	فِرْقَةَ	šárqan	شَرْقًا

2. -q- connected to the preceding and following letters

ʔáIqaa	أَلْقَى	taqáddamat	تَقَدَّمَتْ
taqríiruhum	تَقْرِيرُهُمْ	ʔistiqláalun	اِسْتِغْلَالًا
maqaaláatihi	مَقَالَاتِهِ	ʔalqáwlu	أَلْقَوْلُ

3. -q connected to the preceding letter only

sábaqa	سَبَقَ	wáafaqa	وَأَفَقَ
ʔanfiqun	أَنْبَقَ	sáabiqun	سَابِقُ
tafríiqin	تَفْرِيقٍ	ʔittáfaqa	إِتَّفَقَ

4. q standing alone

mawθúuqun	مَوْتُوقٌ	ʔittifáaqun	إِتِّفَاقٌ
yufárriqu	يُفَرِّقُ	sáaqa	سَاقٌ
ʔaswáaqun	أَسْوَاقٌ	nifáaqun	نِفَاقٌ

Additional examples

أَلْقَرَنُ	دَقِيقَةٌ	يُقَالُ
شَرْقِيَّةٌ	مَوْقِفٌ	إِقَامَةٌ
قَدِيمَةٌ	إِسْتِقَالَةٌ	وَقْتُ

26. The letter ج jím is characteristically a wedge-shaped letter with one dot below it. Note that a preceding letter connects to it from above and to the right.

1. j- connected to the following letter only

jadídatun	جَدِيدَةٌ	jibáalun	جِبَالٌ
járaa	جَرَى	jíddan	جِدًّا
jalsátuhaa	جَلَسَتْهَا	waʔajáabahu	وَأَجَابَهُ
ʔistáʔjara	إِسْتَأْجَرَ	jawwíyyun	جَمَوِيٌّ

2. -j- connected to the preceding and following letters

tattájihu	تَتَّجَهُ	natíjatin	نَتِيجَةٌ
fayajlisúuna	فَيَجْلِسُونَ	lájnatun	لَجْنَةٌ
ʔaljálsatu	أَلْجَلَسَةُ	ʔalmájlisu	أَلْتَجَلِسُ

3. -j connected to the preceding letter only

barnáamaju	بَرْنَامَجٌ	nasíjin	نَسِيجٌ
tatwíjin	تَتْوِيجٌ	yúntiju	يُنْتِجُ

múntajin	مُنْتَجٍ	tadríjun	تَدْرِجٍ
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4. j standing alone

watazáwwaja	وَتَزَوَّجَ	tadárrujun	تَدَّرَجُ
yanfárijju	يَنْفَرِحُ	mansúujin	مَنْوُوجٍ

Additional examples.

تَجَارِي	أَجْيَشُ	دَرَبَاتٍ
جَرِيدَةٌ	تَجَارٌ	إِنْتَاخُ
سَيَجْلِسُ	أَجْرَةٌ	تَجَاخُ

27. The letter ح háa' is exactly like ج jíim but has no dots.

1. ه- connected to the following letter only

házbihí	هَزْبِهِ	hárbun	هَرْبٍ
háttaa	هَتَّى	hadíiθun	هَدِيَّتٍ
hámalat	هَمَلَتْ	?iqtiraa háatun	إِقْتِرَاهَاتٍ
haflá tuhum	هَفَلْتُمْ	hukúumatun	هَكْرَمَةٌ

2. -ه- connected to the preceding and following letters

ta hódduhu	تَحَدُّهُ	?al háarakatu	أَلْحَرَكَةُ
?al hurúubu	أَلْحُرُوبُ	wabánaθat	وَابَعَثَتْ
tuhíbbu	تُحِبُّ	?al bágru	أَلْبَعْرُ

3. -н connected to the preceding letter only

tásmанн	تَسْمَعُ	muráššanun	مُرَاشَّعُ
máнанн	مَنْعُ	?iftátana	إِفْتَاتَعُ
tasállunн	تَسْلَعُ	ráššana	رَاشَّعُ

4. н standing alone

?iqtáranн	إِقْتَرَحَ	maftúunн	مَفْتُوحُ
rúunн	رُوحِ	siláanн	سِلَادُ
nawáanн	نَوَاحِ	?iftitáanн	إِفْتِتَاحُ

Additional examples.

تَوْحِيدًا	مَعْلٍ	مَيْتٌ
مَوْلٍ	سَمَامَةٌ	نَحْوٍ
تَحْتِ	مُحَادَثَاتٍ	إِقْتِرَاحٍ

28. The letter خ *xáa?* is exactly like ج *jím* but with one dot above it.

1. x- connected to the following letter only

?al?axbáaru	أَلْخَبَارُ	xábarun	خَبَرٌ
?áxaðat	أَخَذَتْ	xiláafan	خِلَافًا
naaxibúnna	نَاخِبُونَ	?axfíran	أَخِيرًا
xaarijfyatun	خَارِجِيَّةٌ	xárajaa	خَرَجًا

2. -x- connected to the preceding and following letters

bixáyrin	بَحَيْرِ	sayáxruju	سَيَخْرُجُ
?ittáxaðat	اتَّخَذَتْ	?intáxaba	انْتَخَبَ
muxtálifatun	تُخَلِّفَةُ	?alxáaṣṣu	الْخَاصُّ

3. -x- connected to the preceding letter only

taarfíxun	تَارِخٌ	šáyxun	شَيْخٌ
šámaxa	شَمَخَ	tarsíxin	تَرْسِيخٌ
yársuxu	يَرْسُخُ	máslaxun	مَسْلَخٌ

4. x standing alone

šuyúuxun	شُيُوخٌ	?árraxa	أَرَّخَ
?áxun	أَخٌ	rusúuxin	رُسُوخٌ

Additional examples.

إِخْلَاصٌ	تَأْخِيرًا	أَخْطَاصٌ
يُخْتَلِفُ	إِخْوَانٌ	مَبِيرٌ
رَخَّحْتُ	تُخَالِفُ	أُخْرَى

29. máddah

ra?áahu	رَأَوْ	?aaθáarun	آرَأَوْ
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ʔalqurʔáanu	الْقُرْآنُ	ʔalʔáana	الآنَ
taʔámara	تَامَرَ	ʔáatin	آبٍ
bádaʔaa	بَدَأَ	ʔalʔáaxaru	الْأَخَرُ
ʔáaxaða	آخَذَ	ʔaaláafun	آلِفٌ

All the above words show the sign $\bar{\text{—}}$ máddah over an | ʔálif. This composite letter indicates the sequence ʔ followed by the long vowel aa. This method of indicating the sequence ʔaa is used when the phoneme ʔ is (1) at the beginning of a word or (2) is within a word and preceded by a consonant or by the vowel a.

Additional examples.

آمَنَ	آثَرَ	مَأْدِبٌ
مَأْكُلٌ	آمَانَ	آخِرٌ
آوِنَةٌ	آلَمَ	آفَاقٌ

30. The letter ع ʔáyn is characteristically a small flattened loop.

1. ʔ- connected to the following letter only

dáʔat	دَعَتْ	ʔáadatan	عَادَةً
ʔínda	عِنْدَ	máwʔidan	مَوْعِدًا
ʔáqadat	عَقَدَتْ	ʔárabun	عَرَبٌ
ʔálaa	عَلَى	ʔiʔláanun	إِعْلَانٌ

2. -r- connected to the preceding and following letters

ʔalʔ arabíyyu	أَلْعَرَبِيُّ	yaʔ rifúuna	يَعْرِفُونَ
taʔáawunan	تَعَاوَنًا	ʔáʔbun	تَعَبَتْ
samíʔtum	سَمِعْتُمْ	taʔíʔiʃu	تَعِيْشُ
báʔda	بَعْدَ	sayaʔúudu	سَيَعُودُ

3. -r- connected to the preceding letter only

mánaʔa	مَنْعَ	jamíʔun	جَمِيعَ
yuðíʔu	يُدِيعُ	wáqaʔa	وَقَعَ
tajtámíʔu	تَجْتَمِعُ	máʔa	نَعَّ

4. r standing alone

ʔijtimáaʔin	اجْتِمَاعٍ	ʔaðáaʔa	أَذَاعَ
ðiráaʔun	زِرَاعٍ	ʔáariʔun	شَارِعَ
satuðáaʔu	سُدَّاعُ	náwʔin	نَوْعٍ

Additional examples.

وَدَاعٍ	مَحْمَالٍ	عَدِيدَةٍ
عَمَامٍ	أَعْلَنْتُ	رُعِيَّ
تَوْسِيْعًا	جَامِعَةً	يُعْتَقَدُ
يُعَيِّنُ	مَمْنُوعَةً	إِتِّسَاعٍ

31. The letter غ ġáyn is exactly like ع řáyn but with one dot above it.

1. ġ- connected to the following letter only

ġádan	غَدًا	ġáyruhaa	غَيْرُهَا
ʔaġáaḏa	أَغَاظَ	ġáayatan	غَايَةَ
ġárban	غَرَبًا	ʔaġnáamun	أَغْنَامٌ

2. -ġ- connected to the preceding and following letters

lúġatun	لَغَةً	ʔalġúrfatu	الْغُرْفَةُ
maġlúuṭun	مَغْلُوطٌ	yaštáġilu	يَسْتَغِلُّ
yúġliqu	يُغْلِقُ	bálaġanii	بَلَّغَنِي

3. -ġ connected to the preceding letter only

mabáliġu	مَبَالِغٌ	ʔalmáblaġu	الْمَبَالِغُ
tafriġun	تَفْرِيعٌ	tablíġin	تَبْلِيغٌ

4. ġ standing alone

fáraġa	فَرَعٌ	bulúuġun	بُلُوعٌ
sáaġa	سَاعٌ	yúfriġu	يُفْرِعُ

Additional examples.

تَغَيَّرَ	سَوَّغَ	فَرَّغَ
إِنْبَغَى	مَبَالِغَةً	بَلَّغَتْ

32. The letter ط *ṭāa*? is characteristically an egg-shaped loop with a vertical stroke above it.

1. *ṭ*- connected to the following letter only

wáṭanun	وَطَنٌ	ṭarfiquhu	طَرِيقُهُ
ṭabiiṣfiyyan	طَبِيعِيًّا	?áṭlaqa	أَطْلَقَ
?aṭáaqa	أَطَاقَ	ṭayyaaráatun	طَيَّارَاتٌ

2. *-ṭ*- connected to the preceding and following letters

súlṭatun	سُلْطَةٌ	taṭáwwuran	تَطَوُّرًا
?áṣṭaa	أَطَّاعَ	maṭáarun	مَطَّارٌ
yaqṭaṣuḥaa	يَقْطَعُهَا	maḥáṭṭatun	مَحَطَّةٌ

3. *-ṭ* connected to the preceding letter only

fáqat	فَقَطَ	náṭṭun	نَفَطَ
?alwásatun	أَلْوَطَ	xáṭṭun	خَطَّ
muḥiitun	مُحِيطٌ	?al?áwsatun	أَلْوَسَطُ

4. *ṭ* standing alone

lišáṭin	لِشْرَطٍ	?inḥiṭáatun	إِنْحِطَاتٌ
naṣáatun	نَصَاطٍ	xuṭúṭun	خُطُوطٌ
?aḡláatun	أَغْلَاطٌ	?aḥáaṭa	أَحَاطَ

Additional examples.

يُعْطِي	مَغْلُوطٌ	شُرُوطٌ
أَلْوَنْطَى	يَطْلُبُ	طَاقَةٌ
يَنْتَطِيعُ	مِطَابَةٌ	مَنْطِيرٌ

33. The letter ظ ḍāa? is exactly like ط ṭāa? but with one dot above it.

1. ḍ- connected to the following letter only

ḍurúufun	ظُرُوفٌ	ḍáhara	ظَهَرَ
manáaḍiru	مَنْظِرٌ	ḍaahíratun	ظَاهِرَةٌ
ḍállat	ظَلَّتْ	muwaḍḍafúuna	مَوْظِفُونَ

2. -ḍ- connected to the preceding and following letters

niḍáamun	نِظَامٌ	?intáḍarat	إِنْتَظَرْتُ
háafaḍat	مَا فَظَّتْ	munaḍḍámatun	مَنْظَمَةٌ
maḍáahiru	مَظَاهِرٌ	faḍíiman	عَظِيمًا

3. -ḍ- connected to the preceding letter only

?intáfaḍa	إِنْتَفَظَ	láanaḍa	لَدَظَ
yunáafiḍu	يُنْحَافِظُ	ḡalíiḍun	غَلِيظٌ

4. ǝ standing alone

muǝúuǝin	مُظُوِ	ʔirtifáaǝun	اِئْتِفَاظٌ
ʔalfáaǝun	اَلْفَاظُ	malfúuǝun	مَلْفُوْظٌ

Additional examples.

تَعْظِيْمٌ	ظَرْيْفٌ	ظَنَنْتُ
مُعْظَمٌ	مَظٌّ	اِئْتِظَامٌ
مَظَرٌ	ظُرُورًا	اَظْرَرُ

34. The letter ص ṣáad is characteristically a small egg-shaped loop with a small tooth-like mark following the loop.

1. ṣ- connected to the following letter only

ʔalʕaaṣímatu	اَلْعَاصِمَةُ	ṣaadiráatun	صَادِرَاتٌ
ṣárrana	صَرَخَ	ṣaḥíiḥun	صَبِيحٌ
wáṣalat	وَصَلَتْ	laʔáṣbana	لَا صَبَحَ

2. -ṣ- connected to the preceding and following letters

ʔiqtiṣaadíyyun	اِئْتِصَادِيٌّ	taṣríinan	تَصْرِيحًا
maṣáaniʔu	مَصَابِعُ	ʔittáṣala	اِتَّصَلَ
ʔalṣáṣru	اَلْعَصْرُ	máṣḍarun	مَصَدَّرٌ

3. -ṣ connected to the preceding letter only

xáṣṣaṣa	خَصَّصَ	šáxṣin	شَخَّصَ
ḥíṣaṣun	حِصَّصَ	yağúuṣu	يَغْوُصُّ

4. ṣ standing alone

?ašxáaṣun	أَشَخَّصَ	báraṣun	بَرَّصَ
xuṣúuṣun	خُصَّصَ	ḥírṣun	حِرَّصَ

Additional examples.

اِمْتِصَّصَ	مُصَوِّدًا	تَحْصِيلًا
صَلِيبِيَّ	فَصَّارَتُ	يُصَدِّدُ
يَصِلُ	صُفِّصَ	صُفُوفٌ

35. The letter ض dáad is exactly like ص ṣaad but with one dot above it.

1. ḍ- connected to the following letter only

díddun	ضِدُّ	dáğṭun	ضَغَطٌ
mawḍúuṣun	مَوْضُوعٌ	?almáadi	الْمَاذِي
wúḍifa	وَضِيعٌ	muṣaarádatun	مُعَارَضَةٌ

2. -ḍ- connected to the preceding and following letters

?áydan	أَيْضًا	qadíyyatun	قَضِيَّةٌ
ḥádarahaa	حَضَرَهَا	ṣúḍwun	عُضْوٌ

máḍaa	مَضَى	ḥadrátukum	مَضَرَ تَكُمُ
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3. -ḍ connected to the preceding letter only

báḍḍun	بَعَضٌ	ṣaríḍun	عَرِيضٌ
ḥáḍḍa	مَضٌّ	ḥaḍíḍun	مَضِيضٌ

4. ḍ standing alone

ʔaráaḍin	أَرَاضٍ	ʔárḍun	أَرْضٌ
taʔárruḍun	تَعَرُّضٌ	máḥriḍun	مَعْرِضٌ

Additional examples.

قَرَضٌ	تَعَارِضٌ	عَمْرَضٌ
مُضَوْرٌ	أُمْتَضِرٌ	فَضْلٌ
مَرِيضًا	إِعْتَرَضٌ	فَرَضٌ

36. hámzah

This section takes up in detail the discussion of the sign ؤ hámzah that was begun in Section 23. The sign ؤ hámzah, which represents the phoneme ʔ, may occur alone or together with one of three other letters. How it is written in any given word depends upon (1) where the phoneme ʔ comes in the word and (2) what vowel or vowels precede and/or follow it.

The letter with which the sign ؤ hámzah occurs is called the kúrseyy 'seat' of the hámzah. There are three such seats, as follows:

1. An undotted ك yáaʔ
2. A و wáaw
3. An ا ʔálif

A fourth way is hámzah alone without a seat.

These four ways of writing the sign ۛ hámzah are taken up in the following sections (36.1-5). Note that the letters used as seats have no sound value.

36.1 hámzah with yáaʔ

1. ʔ in the middle of a word

laajiʔʔuna	لَدَجِمُونُ	súʔimat	سُمِّمَتْ
yuhaddiʔʔuna	يُرَدِّتُونُ	súʔilat	سُيِّلَتْ
natáaʔiju	نَتَاجُ	bíʔrun	بِزْرُ
náaʔibun	نَائِبُ	jíʔtu	جِئْتُ
qáaʔimun	قَائِمُ	raʔíisun	رَئِيسُ
súʔilat	سُوئِلَتْ	riʔásatan	رِئَاسَةٌ

All the above words show the sign ۛ hámzah above an undotted ى yáaʔ. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded or followed by the vowel i.

2. ʔ at the end of a word

šawáaʔiʔu	شَوَالِهِيُّ	hádiʔa	هَدِيُّ
láajiʔun	لَدَجِيُّ	xáʔiʔa	خَطِيُّ
háadiʔin	هَادِيُّ	yúbʔiʔu	يُبْطِيُّ

All the above words show the sign ۛ hámzah above an undotted ى yáaʔ. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by the short vowel i.

36.2 hámzah with wáaw

1. ? in the middle of a word

mu?állifun	مُؤَلِّفٌ	mu?támarun	مُؤْتَمِرٌ
yu?áθθiru	يُؤَثِّرُ	mas?úulun	مَسْؤُولٌ
yu?áddii	يُؤَدِّي	šu?úunun	شُؤُونٌ
su?áaalun	سُؤَالٌ	bá?usa	بُؤُسٌ
tafáa?ulan	تَفَاؤُلٌ	yahda?úuna	يَهْدُؤُونَ

All the above words show the sign 5 hámzah above a 9 wáaw. Note that in these words the phoneme ? is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded or followed by the vowel u -- but not by the vowel i.

2. ? at the end of a word

yájru?u	يَجْرُؤُ	bá?u?a	بَطْؤُ
járu?a	جَرُؤُ	máru?a	مَرُؤُ

All the above words show the sign 5 hámzah above a 9 wáaw. Note that in these words the phoneme ? is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by short u.

36.3 hámzah with ?álif

1. ? at the beginning of a word

?újjilat	أُجِّلَتْ	?ádnaa	أَدْنَى
?úxraa	أُخْرَى	?ajáaba	أَجَابَ

ʔistáwraða	اِسْتَوْرَدَ	ʔúulaa	أُولَى
ʔiiθáarun	اِيْتَارَ	ʔúujida	أُوْجِدَ
ʔiijáadun	اِيْجَادَ	ʔintáhaa	اِنْتَهَى

All the above words show the sign ʔ hámzah with an | ʔálif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) at the beginning of a word and (2) is followed by both long and short vowels except long aa (for which see Section 29). In such words the sign ʔ hámzah is above the | ʔálif if the next vowel is a or u, and below it if the next vowel is i.

2. ʔ in the middle of a word

tásʔalu	تَسَأَلُ	qaráʔtum	قَرَأْتُمْ
masʔálatun	مَسْأَلَةٌ	taʔmíinun	تَأْمِينٌ
taʔállafa	تَأَلَّفَ	yáʔxuðu	يَأْخُذُ
báðaʔat	بَدَأَتْ	šáʔnun	شَأْنٌ
lájaʔat	لَجَأَتْ	máʔwan	مَأْوَى

All the above words show the sign ʔ hámzah over an | ʔálif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded or followed by short a (for long aa see Section 29) — but not by the vowels i or u.

3. ʔ at the end of a word

ʔábṭaʔa	أَبْطَأَ	báðaʔa	بَدَأَ
lájaʔa	لَجَأَ	nábdaʔu	نَبَدَأَ
málaʔa	مَلَأَ	ʔibtáðaʔa	اِبْتَدَأَ

yáhdaʔu

يَهْدَأُ

yúqraʔu

يُقْرَأُ

All the above words show the sign ʔ hámzah above an | ʔálif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by short a.

36.4 hámzah standing alone

1. ʔ in the middle of a word

tašáaʔama

تَشَاءَمَ

sáaʔala

سَاءَلْ

ʔisáaʔatun

إِسَاءَةٌ

láaʔama

لَاءَمَ

jáaʔat

جَاءَتْ

tasáaʔala

تَسَاءَلْ

All the above words show the sign ʔ hámzah standing alone. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded by long aa and followed by short a.

2. ʔ at the end of a word

baṭíiʔun

بَطِيئٌ

wuzaráaʔu

وُزَرَائِ

bádʔun

بَدٌّ

masáaʔan

مَسَاءٌ

šáyʔun

شَيْئٌ

jáaʔa

جَاءَ

hudúuʔun

هُدُوءٌ

ʔijráaʔin

إِهْرَائِ

All the above words show the sign ʔ hámzah standing alone. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by a long vowel or by a consonant. The sign ʔ fatwátáan is usually written above such a ʔ hámzah, as in the second example in the right-hand column, but may also be accompanied by an | ʔálif as described in Section 6.

36.5 Variant writings of hámzah

šáyʿan	سَيْنًا	or	سَيًّا
háýʿatun	هَيَّاءٌ	or	هَيْئَةٌ
rúʿiya	رُؤْيٍ	or	رُئِيٍّ
míʿatun	مِيَّاءٌ	or	مَيْئَةٌ
ʿijraaʿiyyun	إِجْرَائِيٍّ	or	إِجْرَائِيَّةٌ
tafáaʿulun	تَفَاؤُلٌ	or	تَفَاؤُلٌ

The above words show certain variants in the writing of the sign ʿ hámzah. The representation of the phoneme ʿ is complicated by historical considerations and not all dictionaries and texts show complete consistency. The variants usually occur when the phoneme ʿ is the last consonant in the word or comes before certain endings. In your reading you may expect to find variations that do not precisely agree with the system as set forth here.

Additional examples of the writing of the sign ʿ hámzah.

إِيصَالٌ	تَأْمُرٌ	دَائِرَةٌ
يَقْرُؤُونَ	وِقَامٌ	مُرِيٌّ
دَقَائِقٌ	جَرَائِدٌ	هَدَائِتٌ
مَوْوَلَةٌ	هَزْوَةٌ	إِسْتَأْنَفٌ
أَعْضَاءٌ	أَصْدِقَاءٌ	رَأْسٌ
الْعَاءُ	أَنْبَاءٌ	إِلْقَاءٌ
قُرَاءٌ	دَوَائِرٌ	سَبْدٌ
رُحَمَاءٌ	أَنْبَاءٌ	أَسْبَلَةٌ

37. A special way of indicating long aa

liðáalika	لِذَلِكَ	háaðaa	هَذَا
kaðáalika	كَذَلِكَ	háaðihi	هَذِهِ
laakíma	لَكِنَّ	haaʔuláaʔi	هَؤُلَاءِ
ʔalláahu	اللَّهُ	háakaðaa	هَئِذَا
lilláahi	لِلَّهِ	ðáalika	ذَلِكَ

All the above words show an | ʔálif, indicating the long vowel aa, placed above a consonant, instead of following it (cf. Section 4.). There are only a few words written in this way; these are the most common.

Note that there is no special letter in the Arabic alphabet to indicate the phoneme ʔ (the next to the last example in the left-hand column).

38. Pause forms

If you have been working through this material with an educated native speaker of Arabic, you have probably noticed that he does not always pronounce the same word in the same way. Such modifications in pronunciation typically involve the omission of final short vowels and nunation (cf. Section 6.). We call a form of a word modified in this way a PAUSE FORM.

A pause form is characteristically shorter than the FULL FORM of the same word. Pause forms occur typically at the end of a sentence, and in the pronunciation of single words in isolation, especially if such words commonly stand at the end of sentences. Within sentences pause forms may occur at the end of a phrase. Where pause forms are used within a sentence, and how often they occur, varies with different speakers and apparently depends upon the style of reading. This means that the same speaker will often read the same passage differently on different occasions.

The following examples will illustrate the modifications that occur to produce pause forms. Note especially that Arabic words are always written in their full form; the pause forms must be supplied by the reader.

1. Words ending in *táa' marbúuṭah*

PAUSE FORM

FULL FORM

jadfidah

jadfidatun

جَدِيدَةٌ

jadfidah

jadfidatin

جَدِيدَةٍ

jadfidah

jadfidatan

جَدِيدَاتٍ

ʔaljadfidah

ʔaljadfidatu

الْجَدِيدَةُ

ʔaljadfidah

ʔaljadfidati

الْجَدِيدَةِ

ʔaljadfidah

ʔaljadfidata

الْجَدِيدَاتِ

qáadimah

qaadimatun

قَادِمَةٌ

qáadimah

qaadimatin

قَادِمَةٍ

qáadimah

qaadimatan

قَادِمَاتٍ

ʔalqáadimah

ʔalqaadimatu

الْقَادِمَةُ

ʔalqáadimah

ʔalqaadimati

الْقَادِمَةِ

ʔalqáadimah

ʔalqaadimata

الْقَادِمَاتِ

In pause, words ending in *táa' marbúuṭah* drop final vowels and nunation (cf. Section 6.) and the *t* is replaced by *h*. This results in all the pause forms being alike. Note the change in the position of primary stress in the pause forms of the last six examples as compared to the full forms.

2. Words (except those with *táa?* *marbúuṭah*) ending in a short vowel or nunation

PAUSE FORM	FULL FORM	
jadfid	jadfidun	جَدِيدٌ
jadfid	jadfidin	جَدِيدٍ
jadfidaa <u>or</u> jadfidan	jadfidan	جَدِيدًا
?aljadfid	?aljadfidu	الْجَدِيدُ
?aljadfid	?aljadfidi	الْجَدِيدِ
?aljadfid	?aljadfida	الْجَدِيدِ
mính	mínhu	مِنْهُ
bíh	bíhi	بِهِ
fíh	fíhi	فِيهِ
biláaduh	biláaduhu	بِلَادُهُ
jíddaa <u>or</u> jíddan	jíddan	جِدًّا
kaṭíiraa <u>or</u> kaṭíiran	kaṭíiran	كَثِيرًا

In pause, all final short vowels and the endings -un and -in are dropped. The ending -an is either replaced by -aa or remains unchanged. The replacement by -aa is the Classical form; the unchanged form is more common in modern reading.

3. Words ending in a long vowel or a consonant

PAUSE FORM	FULL FORM	
biláaduhaa	biláaduhaa	بِلَادُهَا
ʔalkúbraa	ʔalkúbraa	الْكُبْرَى
ʔalmáadii	ʔalmáadii	الْمَاضِي
yátluu	yátluu	يَتْلُو
biláaduhum	biláaduhum	بِلَادُهُمْ
bíkum	bíkum	بِكُمْ
fáqat	fáqat	فَقَطْ
járat	járat	جَرَتْ

In pause, words ending in a long vowel or a consonant remain unchanged.

39. Grammatical considerations

Up to this point we have described the Arabic writing system with a minimum of reference to the grammar of Classical Arabic. That is, we have regarded the problem as one involving the interpretation of the writing system without a knowledge of the grammatical status of the words and forms involved. However, it is necessary to know some grammatical facts in order to interpret certain peculiarities of spelling, and certain modifications of words when they come together within sentences. Most of the following sections will involve such facts.

40. Verb forms with a final ʔálif

tárukku	تَرَكُوا	ʔajáabuu	أَجَابُوا
---------	----------	----------	-----------

kásaw	كَوُوا	lája?uu	لَجَوْوَا
bánaw	بَنَوْوَا	?arsaluu	أَرْسَلَوْوَا
rámaw	رَمَوْوَا	xárajuu	خَرَجَوْوَا

The above verbs show the endings -uu and -aw meaning 'plural'. After such endings on verbs the writing system shows an | ?álif. This | ?álif has no sound value. Additional examples:

يَلْمَوْوَا	بَلَّغَوْوَا	يَلْتَرِّمَوْوَا
إِتَّخَذَوْوَا	تَلَّوُوا	يَتَّفِقُوُوا
تَرَبَّوُوا	يَتْلُوُوا	يَخْضُرُوُوا

41. The prefix for "the"

Read the first word in the right-hand column and then the corresponding word in the left-hand column. Continue this way down the list.

?alkútlatu	الْكُتْلَةُ	kútlatun	كُتْلَةٌ
?alqáwlu	الْقَوْلُ	qáwlu	قَوْلٌ
?al?ámru	الْأَمْرُ	?ámrun	أَمْرٌ
?albayáanu	الْبَيَانُ	bayáanun	بَيَانٌ
?alfúrşatu	الْفُرْصَةُ	fúrşatun	فُرْصَةٌ
?alxábaru	الْخَبَرُ	xábarun	خَبَرٌ
?alxárbu	الْحَرْبُ	xárbun	حَرْبٌ

ʔalhuǰúumu	الْحُجُومُ	hujúumun	لُحُومٌ
ʔalǧáayatu	الْغَايَةُ	ǧáayatun	غَايَةٌ
ʔalʕádadu	الْعَدَدُ	ʕádadun	عَدَدٌ
ʔaljaríidatu	الْجَرِيدَةُ	jaríidatun	بَرِيدَةٌ
ʔalmájlisu	الْمَجْلِسُ	májlisun	مَجْلِسٌ
ʔalwizáaratu	الْوِزَارَةُ	wizáaratun	وِزَارَةٌ
ʔalyáwmu	الْيَوْمُ	yáwmun	يَوْمٌ

All the words in the left-hand column show the prefix for "the". In Classical Arabic this prefix has different forms, depending on the first consonant of the word to which it is attached. When the first consonant is one of the following: k q ʔ b f x ḡ ḥ ḡ ʕ j m w y, the prefix is l- as in the above examples.

When a word having this prefix occurs in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence, the prefix has the form ʔal-. This prefix written as a part of the word to which it is attached and does not affect the position of primary stress.

Note the combination لا láam ʔálif when the prefix is attached to a word beginning with the phoneme ʔ. The | ʔálif here does not indicate the long vowel aa.

Additional examples.

الْكَافَةُ	الْبَحْتُ	الذَّرَاضِي
الْوَفْدُ	الْحَارِثُ	الْجَلَالَةُ
اللَّثْرَةُ	الْفِعْلُ	الْعِبَارَةُ
الرُّهُدُوءُ	الْغَرَضُ	الْخِطَابُ
الْيَمِينُ	الْمِنْطَقَةُ	الْقَصْرُ

42. Variant forms of the prefix for "the"

?attiláawatu	التَّلَاوَةُ	tiláawatun	تِلَاوَةٌ
?atṭaríqun	الطَّرِيقُ	ṭaríqun	طَرِيقٌ
?addársu	الدَّرْسُ	dársun	دَرْسٌ
?adduyúufu	الضُّيُوفُ	ḍuyúufun	ضُيُوفٌ
?aθθáanii	الثَّانِي	θáanin	ثَانٍ
?aððáhabu	الذَّهَبُ	ðáhabun	ذَهَبٌ
?aḍḍúhru	الظُّهْرُ	ḍúhrun	ظُهْرٌ
?assáabiqu	السَّابِقُ	sáabiqun	سَابِقٌ
?aṣṣufúufu	الصُّفُوفُ	ṣufúufun	صُفُوفٌ
?aššaháadatu	الشَّاهَادَةُ	šaháadatun	شَهَادَةٌ
?azzáytu	الزَّيْتُ	záytun	زَيْتٌ
?annáadii	النَّارِي	náadin	نَارٍ
?arraʔíisu	الرَّيِّسُ	raʔíisun	رَيْسٌ
?allúġatu	اللُّغَةُ	lúġatun	لُغَةٌ

All the words in the left-hand column show a variant form of the prefix for "the". When the first consonant of the word is one of the following: t ṭ d ḍ θ ð ṣ ṣ̣ š z n r l, the prefix is t- ṭ- d- ḍ- θ- ð- ṣ- ṣ̣- š- z- n- r- l- respectively, as in the above examples. That is, the first consonant of the word is doubled.

The Arabic writing system consistently shows the letter ل láam in the prefix for "the", and indicates the variants by showing no ° sukúun on the ل láam

and by placing a w sáddah over the first consonant of the underlying word.

When a word having a variant of the prefix for "the" occurs in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence, the prefix has the form $\text{ʔat- ʔat- ʔad- ʔad-}$ etc.

Additional examples.

الرَّغْبَةُ	الَّتَمَنُ	التَّسْرِيعُ
السَّعَادَةُ	التَّعَبُ	الدَّعْوَةُ
الصَّحْفُ	الذَّخِيرَةُ	الزِّيَارَةُ
النِّزَاجِيَّةُ	الضَّابِطُ	الطَّلَبَةُ
الظُّرُوفُ	السَّمَامَةُ	اللِّوَاءُ

43. hámzatu_lwásl

All Arabic words that are pronounced in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence with an initial ʔ and a following short vowel fall into one of two classes:

1. Those words that retain the initial ʔ and the following vowel under all conditions.
2. Those words that drop the initial ʔ and the following vowel under certain conditions.

That is, many words that in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence begin with one of the following sequences: ʔi- ʔu- ʔa- appear under certain conditions within sentences without this sequence.

The ʔ that is always retained is called in Arabic hámzatu_lqátṣ. The ʔ that is dropped under certain conditions is called hámzatu_lwásl. Words showing hámzatu_lwásl are discussed below.

43.1 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by words ending in a short vowel

Group I

ʔalqáwlu	أَلْقَوْلُ	ʔannahráani	أَلَنْهَرَانِ
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ʔalʕáadatu	الْعَادَةُ	ʔalʕárabu	الْعَرَبُ
ʔalʔaǧʕáanii	الْأَغَانِي	ʔistiqaalátuhu	اسْتِقَالَتُهُ
ʔalḥárbu	الْحَرْبُ	ʔarruʔasáaʔu	الرُّؤَسَاءُ

Group II

máa báyna_nnahráyni	مَا بَيْنَ النَّهْرَيْنِ
wayúmkinu_lqáwlu	وَيُكَلِّمُ الْقَوْلُ
fíi jazíirati_lʕárabí	فِي جَزِيرَةِ الْعَرَبِ
qáddama_stiqaalátahu	قَدَّمَ اسْتِقَالَتَهُ
máʕa_rruʔasáaʔi	تَعَ الرُّؤَسَاءِ
fáwqa_lʕáadati	فَوْقَ الْعَادَةِ
samíʕtum báʕda_lʔaǧʕáanii	سَمِعْتُمْ بَعْضَ الْأَغَانِي
qábla_lḥárbi	قَبْلَ الْحَرْبِ

All the words in Group I begin with *hámzatu_lwásl*. The Arabic writing system usually indicates the initial ʔ in such words by the sign ء *hámzah*. Some texts omit the sign ء *hámzah* and indicate only the vowel.

Group II shows these same words in phrases preceded by words that end in a short vowel. Here the phoneme ʔ and the following vowel drop, and the omitted vowel is replaced by the final vowel of the preceding word. Such words are joined closely together in pronunciation; we indicate this in our transcription by a curved line () connecting the words involved. The Arabic writing system indicates this by the sign و *wáslah* over the ا *ʔálif*.

Part of the study of Classical Arabic grammar is learning what words and forms begin with *hámzatu_lwásl*. The prefix for "the" is one of the most common.

Additional examples.

نَشْرَةُ اللَّفْمَارِ	عِنْدَ النَّزَايَةِ
الْبَحْرُ اللَّفْمَرُ	مِطَابُ الرَّيِّسِ
عَاصِمَةُ النَّمْلَةِ	جَزِيلُ الشُّكْرِ
سَافِرُ الْوَفْدِ	مَضَرَ الْجَلَّةِ

43.2 hámzatu_lwá:sl preceded by the prefix for "the"

?alistiqláalu	الِإِسْتِقْلَالُ	?istiqláalun	إِسْتِقْلَالٌ
?aliqtišáadu	الِإِقْتِصَادُ	?iqtišáadun	إِقْتِصَادٌ
?alintidáabu	الِإِنْتِدَابُ	?intidáabun	إِنْتِدَابٌ
?alistixláaṣu	الِإِسْتِخْلَاصُ	?istixláaṣun	إِسْتِخْلَاصٌ
?alistijwáabu	الِإِسْتِجْوَابُ	?istijwáabun	إِسْتِجْوَابٌ

All the words in the right-hand column begin with hámzatu_lwá:sl. In the left-hand column these same words appear with the prefix for "the". This prefix has here the form li- (in isolation and at the beginning of a sentence ?ali-). However, many Arabs read such words as if they began with hámzatu_lqáṭf. For example, they would read the first item in the left-hand column as ?al?istiqláalu instead of ?alistiqláalu.

43.3 hámzatu_lwá:sl preceded by words ending in a long vowel

Group I

ráttaa	مَتَّى	?álaa	عَلَى
dárasuu	دَرَسُوا	?ílaa	إِلَى

jalsátuhaa	جَلَسَتْهَا	háaḏaa	هَذَا
fii	فِي	máa	مَا

Group II

ʔála_zziráaʔti	عَلَى الزَّرَاعَةِ
ʔíla_lintixaabáati	إِلَى الِذِّتِّخَابَاتِ
háttá_ssáaʔati	مَتَى السَّاعَةِ
dárasu_lqadíyyata	دَرَسُوا الْقَضِيَّةَ
háaḏa_lmawdúufu	لِهَذَا الْمَوْضُوعِ
ma_ttaxaḏáthu	مَا اتَّخَذَتْهُ
jalsátuha_lʔúulaa	جَلَسَتْهَا الْأُولَى
fi_ššárqi_lʔádnaa	فِي الشَّرْقِ الْأَدْنَى
fi_jtimáaʔin	فِي أَجْتِمَاعٍ

All the words in Group I end in long vowels. Group II shows words that begin with háamzatu_lwásl preceded by the words of Group I. In such cases the long vowel is replaced by the corresponding short vowel. Additional examples.

سَمِعْنَا الْخِطَابَ	هَذَا الْقَاهِرَةَ
فِي التَّجْلِيسِ	مَا انْشُورِدَ
تَبَدُّأُ الْبِرْدَاعَةِ	إِلَى الْيَوْمِ
عَلَى الْأَرْضِ	فِي الْمَاضِي

43.4 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by certain words ending in -aa and -uu

xattáa_ssik'ati

مَطَا آلِ سَلَّةٍ

waxadaráa_ljálsata

وَمَضْرَا الْجَلَّةِ

manduubáa_lhukúumati

مَنْدُوبَا الْخُلُومَةِ

mustami'úu_lhadfi'ithi

مُسْتَمِعُو الْحَدِيثِ

manduubúu_lhukúumati

مَنْدُوبُو الْخُلُومَةِ

The endings -aa 'dual' and -uu 'plural' (with nouns and adjectives) are sometimes pronounced long before a following word beginning with hámzatu_lwásl. This occurs chiefly in a very careful reading style; more often these long vowels are replaced by the corresponding short ones, as described in Section 43.3.

43.5 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by words ending in consonants

Group I

ʔiláykum

إِلَيْكُمْ

ʔán

عَنْ

húm

هَمْ

qád

قَدْ

mín

مِنْ

bánaʕat

بَعَثَتْ

bánaw

بَنَوْا

bádaʔat

بَدَأَتْ

manduubáyni

مَنْدُوبَيْنِ

samíʔtum

سَمِعْتُمْ

Group II

ʔáni_lmawdúufi

عَنِ الْمَوْضُوعِ

qádi_ntaházna_lfúrřata

bána@ati_llájnatu

báda?ati_lmafrákatu

samířtumu_lxiřáaba

?iláykmuu_l?axbáaru

húmu_llađfina_sáafaruu

míni_qtiraaháatin

mína_lqur?áani_lkaríimi

bánawi_lmadíinata

mín_manduubáyi_lrukúumati

قَدِ أَنْتَرَزْنَا الْفُرْصَةَ

بَحَثْتِ اللَّجْنَةَ

بَدَأَتْ التَّمَعَّرَةَ

سَمِعْتُمْ الْخُطَابَ

إِلَيْكُمْ الْأَخْبَارُ

لَهُمُ الَّذِينَ سَافَرُوا

مِنْ أَقْتِرَامَاتِ

بَيْنَ الْقُرْآنِ الْكَرِيمِ

بَنَوْا الْمَدِينَةَ

مِنْ مَدَوْبِي الْحُلُومَةِ

All the words in Group I end in a consonant. Group II shows these same words immediately preceding words that begin with hámzatu_lwářl. Here these words add a final vowel, in most cases the vowel i. The word mín has two variants: mína before the prefix for "the" and míni elsewhere.

The treatment of the endings -aw 'plural' and -ay 'dual' (the last two examples in Group II) before a following hámzatu_lwářl is uncertain. According to some grammarians they add a final -i, thus: -awi, -ayi. This treatment will be followed here. Additional examples.

مَدَدَتِ الشَّرَّ

عَنِ الْأَخْبَارِ

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ

قَدِ أَنْتَرَزْنَا

مِنْ الْجَنُوبِ

وَصَلَّتِ الْوُفُودُ

دُرَيْتِ أَيْدِ قِتْرَامَاتِ

دَعَتِ الْحُلُومَةَ

43.6 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by words ending in nunation

Group I

ġárban	عَرَبًا	ʔiṣlāʔun	إِصْلَاحٌ
šimáalan	شِمَالًا	masʔálatun	مَسْأَلَةٌ
ʔaxfiran	أَخِيرًا	ʔán masʔálatin	عَنْ مَسْأَلَةٍ

Group II

ʔiṣlāʔuni_ġtimaafiyun	إِصْلَاحٌ أَجْتِمَاعِيٌّ
masʔálatuni_qtišaadiyyatun	مَسْأَلَةٌ اقْتِصَارِيَّةٌ
ʔán masʔálatini_qtišaadiyyatin	عَنْ مَسْأَلَةٍ اقْتِصَارِيَّةٍ
yanúduhaa ġárbani_lbáru	يَحْدُثُهَا عَرَبًا أَلْبَحْرُ
wašimáalani_ljibáalu	وَشِمَالًا أَلْجِبَالُ
waʔaxfirani_ntáhati_ddáwratu	وَأَخِيرًا أَنْتَرْتِ الدَّوْرَةَ

All the words in Group I end in nunation, that is, the endings -un -in -an. Group II shows these same words immediately preceding words that begin with hámzatu_lwásl. Here these words add a final -i. Note that this final -i is not indicated in the Arabic writing system.

43.7 Omission of ʔálif with wáslah

lilʔusbúufi	لِلْأُسْبُوعِ	lilrukúumati	لِلْحُكُومَةِ
littaʔlíifi	لِلتَّأْلِيفِ	lilijtimáaʔi	لِلْإِجْتِمَاعِ

lirraʔfisi

لِلرَّئِيسِ

lilʔámali

لِلْعَمَلِ

When the preposition لِ li- is added to a word that has the prefix for "the", the ا ʔálif and the sign ~ wáslah of the prefix are omitted.

bismi_llaahi

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

ʔismun

إِسْمٍ

The word ا ʔismun begins with hámzatu_lwásl. When the preposition بِ bi- is added to this word in the above solemm introductory formula, the ا ʔálif and the sign ~ wáslah are omitted. This omission occurs only in the above formula; elsewhere the Arabic writing system shows the composite letter آ , as in the following examples.

bismi_rraʔfisi

بِاسْمِ الرَّئِيسِ

bismi ʔafdáaʔi_mnáadii

بِاسْمِ أَغْضَاءِ النَّادِي