

LESSON NOTES

Arabic Alphabet Made Easy #1

Alef and Nun

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Grammar

#1

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson are the Arabic Characters ا (Alef) and ن (Nun)

Basics of Arabic Alphabets

The Arabic alphabet contains 28 letters, their variations, and 4 glottal stop variations. Arabic is largely phonetic, which means words are pronounced exactly like they're written. Also, most Arabic sounds have counterparts in English.

Arabic is a cursive language. That means every letter in a word connects to the letter before or after it. Therefore, every letter will be written differently depending on where it's placed.

Types of Arabic Alphabets

First type: with English counterparts

أ ا ب ت ث ج د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ف ك ل م ن ه و ي :

Second type: without English counterparts

ح خ ط ظ ع غ ق

Possible Positions for a Letter in Arabic

Arabic is written from right to left, which in turn means that the letters of a word are connected from right to left.

Isolated: Isolated means that the letter has no letters before it or after it. It's the standard form. ن

Initial: Initial means the the letter is at the beginning of a word, so it's connected to the letter after it, but has no letters before it. نا

Medial: Medial means that the letter is connected both from back and front to a letter. لنا

Final: Final means that the letter is the last letter in a word, so it's only connected to the letter before it. ان

Note: The following letters don't have a distinct medial form and are written with their final form without being connected to the next letter. Their initial form is the same as the isolated form.

و ز ر ذ د ا

This Lesson's First letter: ا (Alif)

It's just like its English counterpart "A" in the word "apple". "ا" is very easy to write. It's basically a vertical stick. In Arabic, there are 4 glottal stop variations and this "ا" can take a glottal stop mark on top or underneath.

Isolated/Initial: ا

Medial/Final: نا

Second Letter: ن (Nun)

The "ن" is pronounced just like the English "N." Pretty easy, right?

It basically looks like a semi-circle with a dot on top.

Isolated: ن

Initial: نا

Medial: لنا

Final: من