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READING BOOKLET

Travelers should always check with their nation's State Department for current advisories on local conditions before traveling abroad.

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Arabic Dialects

There are many varieties of Arabic spoken throughout the Arab world, including North Africa. Of the hundreds of known dialects, the spoken varieties with the largest number of speakers are grouped, on the basis of similarity in vocabulary and syntax, into the following:

- Syrian Arabic (as taught in this course) spoken in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan
- Egyptian Arabic spoken in urban Egypt
- Gulf Arabic spoken in Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, the Emirates (Qatar), Oman, Bahrain, and Eastern Saudi Arabia
- Iraqi Arabic spoken in Iraq
- North African Arabic spoken in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco
- Saudi Arabic spoken in Central and Western Arabia
- Yemeni Arabic spoken in Yemen and southern Saudi Arabia

The Written System

The written form of the Arabic language, which dates back to pre-Islamic periods, is called "Standard" or "Literary Arabic" and is used and understood throughout the Arab world. It is the form of the language taught in schools and is the default for educated Arabs of any nationality. The written system has also been adopted by neighboring countries whose language is not Arabic, such as Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Colloquial or "spoken" Arabic, including Syrian Arabic, varies widely by region, sometimes differing enough to be mutually unintelligible. It is considered to be a "dialect," and is almost never written down. Most educated Arabic speakers are able to easily jump back and forth between standard and dialect, even within the same sentence, with no loss of understanding.

The Arabic writing system is easy to learn and master because the Arabic alphabet has a high correspondence between sound and symbol. This means that a letter is pronounced almost the same in every word position.

The Arabic Alphabet

The Arabic alphabet contains 28 letters in addition to the *hamza* (glottal stop) and two variants of existing letters (*alif* and *taa*). A number of diacritical marks complement the alphabet. These are signs written above or below the letters; they are listed on page 10, after the alphabet chart.

There are two categories of Arabic letters. The first category contains six letters only, which are called "one-way connectors" because they connect only to the "preceding letters" or letters to the right. They do not connect to "following letters" or letters to the left. These are:

و ذر ز د ا

The other 25 letters of the alphabet constitute the letters of the second category. They connect to both preceding letters (to the right) and following letters (to the left), hence the term "two-way connectors."

The alphabet contains three long vowels: *alif* (aa), *waw* (uu), and *ya* (ii). The latter two function also as consonants, as in "wet" and "yes." There are three short counterparts of these vowels represented by diacritical marks: the *fatHa* (a), the *damma* (u), and the *kasra* (i). They are about half as long. A tiny circle written above a consonant is called a *sukuun* and represents the absence of a vowel.

The Arabic Alphabet

The mark that resembles a tiny "w" is called *shadda*. It signifies a doubled consonant. For example, this mark over the letter "t" makes the word pronounced /sit-tah/ rather than /sitah/.

A complete listing of the Arabic alphabet has been included for your reference, beginning on page 8. It is shown in two 2-page spreads, reading right to left. Each letter has four different representations, depending on its position within a word and includes the forms that the connectors assume in different word positions. There is an independent form, as well as a beginning, a middle, and an end form. The term "initial" means the first letter of the word starting from the right, "medial" means all the letters in the middle, and "final" refers to the last letter of the word, on the left. This is to be used only as a guide since all of the necessary information for beginning to read in Arabic will be given in the audio portion of the Reading Lessons. In the Readings for this course, you will practice recognition and pronunciation of Arabic letters and combinations of letters, as well as their use in different words and contexts.

If you are not familiar with the Arabic alphabet, you may at first find that it takes some time to assoc-iate the appropriate sounds with each letter and/or group of letters. Therefore, we recommend that you take the Reading Lessons at your own pace, repeating each until you feel comfortable proceeding to the next. With a little effort, you will be astonished at how quickly you are reading Arabic.

Introduction to Readings

There are nineteen Reading Lessons. The first sixteen Reading Lessons that follow are a review from Level 1. They'll give you a solid introduction to reading Standard Arabic. In the final three Lessons, you'll have a chance to try "reading" a transcription of three telephone calls. These are written in the Syrian dialect, so you will be able to understand what you are reading. Normally, writing is done only in Standard Arabic, and experienced readers look at the words written in Standard and translate them "on the fly" into dialect.

The recorded portion of the reading materials for *Eastern Arabic 2* will be found at the end of the program. You can do the Readings when it is most convenient for you, either with the lessons, or entirely after completing the full 30 lessons. Full instructions on how to proceed are in the recording.

Symbol in Transliteration	Final Position	Medial Position	Initial Position
aa	L	L	1
b	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	÷
t	ت	ت	ت
th	ث	-	تُ
j	=	÷	÷
Н		_	_
kh	خ	غ	خ
d	7	<u>ا</u>	د
dh	ن	ن	ذ
r	_ر	-ر	ر
Z	-ز	-ز	ن
S	<u> </u>		سب
sh	<u>ش</u>	÷	ىث
S	ے	_م_	<u>م</u> ــ
D	خص	غـ	ضـ

Name	Name in Transliteration	Letter
ألِف	alif	1
باء	baa	·
تاء	taa	ت
ثاء	thaa	ث
۲	jiim	3
حاء	Наа	7
خاء	khaa	Ċ
دال	daal	د
ذال	dhaal	ذ
راء	raa	ر
زاي	zay	j
سين	siin	<u>"</u>
سين شين	shiin	ش
صاد ضاد	Saad	ص
ضاد	Daad	ض

←			
Symbol in Transliteration	Final Position	Medial Position	Initial Position
T	ط	لط	ط
Dh	ظ	ظ	ظ
	ے	ے	ح
gh	<u>ے</u> غ	غ	خ
f	ف	à	ف
q	ـق	ä	ق
k	ال	<	2
1	上	1	١
m	7		
n	-ن	نـ	ن
h	4_	-	_\$
uu/w	_و	_و	و
ee/y	ے	<u></u>	<u></u>
aa	ے	_	_
t	ية	_	_
,	اً ق ع	5	֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓֓

Name	Name in Transliteration	Letter
طاء	Taa	ط
ظاء	Dhaa	ظ
عَيْن غَيْن	çayn	ع
ؽؙؿ۫	ghayn	غ
فاء	faa	ف
قاف	qaaf	ق
كاف	kaaf	ك
لام	laam	J
ميم	miim	م
نون	nuun	ن
هاء	haa	٥
واو	waaw	و
۽ لِي	yaa	ي
ألِفمَقصورة	alif maqSuura	ی
ألِف مَقصورة تَاء مَربوطة هُمزة	taa marbuuTa	ä
هَمزة	hamza	۶
	9	

Diacritical Marks (read from right to left)

Name in Transliteration	Name	Sound	Letter	
sukuun	سُكون	none	0	
no vowel follows,	above the let	ter		
fatHa	فَتْحة	a		
short vowel, above	e the letter			
Damma	ضَمّة	u	9	
short vowel, above	e the letter			
kasra short vowel, below	كَسْرة v the letter	i		
shadda	شُكّة	none	Ų	
indicates a double consonant, above the letter				

Lesson One

را 11.

1.

دار 12. دا 2.

راد 13.

داد

3.

راذ 14. دادا

4.

دارا 15. ذا

5.

رادا 16. داذ

6.

رادار 17. ذاد

7.

زا 18. داذا

8.

زار 19. و ذادا

زاد 20. ذاذا 10.

Lesson Two

.11 بار

ا زادا

2.

12. بود

زادار

13.

زود زود

14. دابو

4. رادو

5. رود

6. روز

.7 دو

.8 دوب

9. داب

اد باد 10.

Lesson Three

11.

دور 1.

ياد 12.

ذور 2.

زور 3.

.13 بادي .14 رودي

4.

زادو 5.

دي 6.

دید 7.

8.

9.

Lesson Four

Lesson Five

دَليل 11.

1.

12.

2.

Y 13.

تاب

3.

14.

ثابو

4.

زول

5.

6.

7.

8. لاري9. بلال10. لودي

Lesson Six

نان	11.	ليزا	1.
نَبي	12.	لودي	2.
، بنت ز	13.	ليرا	3.
نَبيل	14.	لوز	4.
بَنات	15.	ثول	5.
بَیْن	16.	لاذا	6.
نار	17.	تِلال	7.
بَريد	18.	وَليد	8.
نُوال	19.	ىان	9.

10.

Lesson Seven

11.

داوي باري 1.

اذا إذا

2.

راء 13. 3.

.14 دُواء

4.

15. براء

وَلَد 5.

تاء 16. 6.

نَبات 17.

7.

18.

8.

9.

Lesson Eight

	esson Eigne		
لاف	11.	أنا	1.
ڹۘۯڨ	12.	إن	2.
بَريق	13.	داء	3.
قَريب	14.	نُوال	4.
يَقين	15.	بُؤري	5.
راقي	16.	نُؤذي	6.
دافي	17.	في	7.
فَريد	18.	فَن	8.
قَرار	19.	نَفير	9.

10.

Lesson Nine

	IIIC	Lesson	1
1.	لَبَن	11.	ضَرير
2.	نور	12.	نَضير
3.	لَن	13.	يُضير
4.	فيل	14.	قَدير
5.	ثَقيل	15.	نُدير
6.	فَريق	16.	قَرْض
7.	الفَريق	17.	بَريق
8.	نيل	18.	بَرْد
9.	النيل	19.	بارِد
10.	أُرض	20.	دافي

10.

Lesson Ten

	Lesson Ten		
سَفير	11.	<i>قُري</i>	1.
بوش	12.	لُدود	2.
شَفَق	13.	أُراضي	3.
شَفيق	14.	راس	4.
بَشَر	15.	سَرير	5.
ریش	16.	ساري	6.
روسىي	17.	سوري	7.
نَشَر	18.	نَسَب	8.
شوف	19.	نَسيب	9.
َ أَ لُف	20.	سَفَر	10.

Lesson Eleven

	esson Eleven		
نَصير	11.	بَشير	1.
قَصير	12.	رَف	2.
شام	13.	زَفير	3.
مین	14.	فَقير	4.
میر	15.	ضَرَب	5.
سَمير	16.	سيب	6.
ريم	17.	باص	7.
مُساء	18.	صابون	8.
ميل	19.	بَصير	9.
		,	

10.

Lesson Twelve

L	esson Tweive		
كُتُب	11.	رَشيد	1.
رَفاه	12.	شَىدىد	2.
بَهاء	13.	رَئيس	3.
هُناء	14.	أمين	4.
هادي	15.	سوق	5.
هِلال	16.	دينار	6.
كِتاب	17.	ناس	7.
شُكيب	18.	مَلاك	8.
سُلام	19.	کَر <i>ي</i>	9.

20.

مَكان

Lesson Thirteen

1.	صافي	11.	داخ
2.	صَديق	12.	بَليخ
3.	توم	13.	بُخار
4.	بَصَل	14.	بَخيل
5.	فُوًاد	15.	خَروف
6.	سُئوًال	16.	خَشِن
7.	سيرة	17.	خُشُب
8.	قهوة أليسار	18.	سَماء
9.	سَفيرة	19.	صَباح

10.

Lesson Fourteen

Lesson Fifteen

بَغْداد	11.	هاتف	1.
غَريب	12.	عَلي	2.
بَلاغ	13.	ماهِر	3.
سوريا	14.	كَشَيف	4.
سَلْوی	15.	خَبيرة	5.
مَشْفى	16.	بَخيل	6.
دَعْوى	17.	جَميل	7.
غالي	18.	عَصير	8.
خَبَر	19.	فُراغ	9.
4			

10.

Lesson Sixteen

Le	esson Sixteen		
غُلُط	11.	بَنْك	1.
باظ	12.	شاي	2.
غُليظ	13.	دَفَع	3.
فَظيع	14.	مَدافِع	4.
ظُريف	15.	جامِع	5.
ظالِم	16.	بَلاط	6.
غار	17.	رَبَط	7.
حافظ	18.	لطيفة	8.
صَخْر	19.	طَبيب	9.

10.

Lesson Seventeen

- .1 ألو! مروان؟
- 2. إيه، مين عم يحكي؟
 - ... أنا آلن ...
 - 4. من نیویورك.
 - 5. آلن! مرحبا آلن!
 - 6. كيفك؟
 - 7. منیح کتیر، شکرا.
 - ... أنا مسافر ...
 - ... لسوريا ...
 - .10 بعشرة شباط.

Lesson Seventeen

- 11٠ عن جد؟
 - 12. عظیم!
- ... حابقی ...
 - ... بالشام ...
- .15 **كم أسبوع.**
- 16. منیح کتیر. منیح کتیر.
 - ١٦٠ بدي تزورني ١٠٠
 - 18. و حتبقى عندي؟
 - 19. إيه، إيه، على عيني!
 - 20. شكرا جزيلا.

Lesson Eighteen

- 1. ألو آلن؟ أنا مروان.
- 2. مروان، إنت هون بالشام؟
 - 3. إيه، وصلت الصبح.
 - ... ممك*ن اخد* تكسي...
 - 5. لعندك؟
 - 6. إيه، طبعا،
 - ... أو ممك*ن* تروح ...
 - .8 بالباص.
 - ... وبعدين، ...
 - ... شو رأيك نروح ...

Lesson Eighteen

- 11. على مطعم أبو جورج؟
 - 12. الأكل طيب كتير.
 - ... أحيانا ...
 - ... بروح لهنيك ...
 - . مع ر**فقاتی** .
 - ... عظیم! بکرة ...
- 17. شو رأيك نروح لحفلة؟
- 18. طيب، في حفلة الخميس بالليل.
 - 19. ممكن نروح لهنيك مشى .
 - 20. بحب الشام كتير!

Lesson Nineteen

- .1 ألو! مروان؟
- 2. إيه؟ آلن؟ إنت لسة بحلب؟
 - ... إيه، حإرجع لنيويورك ...
 - 4. السبت الصبح.
- 5. كانت رحلة منيحة. شكرا جزيلا.
 - .6 عفوا .
 - .ت بحب کمان،
 - ... أسف مو ممك*ن* إبقى ...
 - 9. بحلب معَك،
 - 10. بس کان عندی شغل کتیر.

Lesson Nineteen (continued)

- 11. بتحكي عربي منيح كتير هللأ.
 - 12. شکرا، ما بحکی کتیر،
 - 13. بس بحكى أحسن هللأ.
 - ... إيمتى حتجي ...
 - 15. تزورن**ي** بأميركا؟
 - ... ممكن نروح لمطعم منيح ...
 - .17. **بنیویورك.**
 - ... ممكن حسافر ...
 - 19. لنيويورك بكانون تانى.
 - 20.