

Writing System Summary

All the letters of the alphabet in the order in which they are recited:

Name	Transcription	IPA	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent
'alif	aa	ε:, a:	ا	ا	ا	ا
baa'	b	b	ب	ب	ب	ب
taa'	t	t	ت	ت	ت	ت
thaa'	th	θ	ث	ث	ث	ث
jiim/giim	j/g	ḏ̥/ḡ	ج	ج	ج	ج
ḥaa'	ḥ	ħ	ح	ح	ح	ح
khaa'	kh	x	خ	خ	خ	خ
daal	d	d	د	د	د	د
dhaal	dh	ð	ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ
raa'	r	r	ر	ر	ر	ر
zaay	z	z	ز	ز	ز	ز
siin	s	s	س	س	س	س
shiin	sh	ʃ	ش	ش	ش	ش
ṣaad	ṣ	s ^ʕ	ص	ص	ص	ص
ḍaad	ḍ	d ^ʕ	ض	ض	ض	ض
ṭaa'	ṭ	t ^ʕ	ط	ط	ط	ط
ḍhaa'	ḍh	ð ^ʕ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
ʕayn	ʕ	ʕ	ع	ع	ع	ع

Name	Transcription	IPA	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent
<i>ghayn</i>	<i>gh</i>	ɣ	غ	غ	غ	غ
<i>faa'</i>	<i>f</i>	f	ف	ف	ف	ف
<i>qaaf</i>	<i>q</i>	q	ق	ق	ق	ق
<i>kaaf</i>	<i>k</i>	k	ك	ك	ك	ك
<i>laam</i>	<i>l</i>	l	ل	ل	ل	ل
<i>miim</i>	<i>m</i>	m	م	م	م	م
<i>nuun</i>	<i>n</i>	n	ن	ن	ن	ن
<i>haa'</i>	<i>h</i>	h	ه	ه	ه	ه
<i>waaw</i>	<i>w, uu</i>	w, u:	و	و	و	و
<i>yaa'</i>	<i>y, ii</i>	y, i:	ي	ي	ي	ي

Letters whose initial and medial forms appear in gray are non-connectors. That is, they do not connect to their left. For these letters, the initial form is identical to the independent form, while the medial form is identical to the final form.

Common additional letters used to represent borrowed sounds:

Name	Transcription	IPA	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent
<i>paa'</i>	<i>p</i>	p	پ	پ	پ	پ
<i>zhiim</i>	<i>zh</i>	ʒ	چ	چ	چ	چ
<i>vaa'</i>	<i>v</i>	v	ف	ف	ف	ف

Additional letter-like characters:

Name	Transcription	Shapes	Remarks
<i>hamza</i>	,	ء أ إ ئ و	The glottal stop. Can be written independently or over a “seat”, which can be <i>'alif</i> , <i>waaw</i> or dotless <i>yaa'</i> . The seat itself is not pronounced. Initial <i>hamza</i> is always written over an <i>'alif</i> , except in cases when it is written with <i>'alif madda</i> .

<i>taa' marbuuṭa</i>	-a, -at	ة ة	Written as a <i>haa'</i> with two dots. Occurs only word-finally. The <i>t</i> is only pronounced when a suffix indicated by a diacritic is added or when the word is the first term of an <i>'idaafa</i> phrase (possessive phrase).
<i>'alif maqṣuura</i>	-aa	ى ى	Written as a <i>yaa'</i> without dots. Occurs only word-finally.
<i>'alif madda</i>	'aa	آ آ	This represents a <i>hamza</i> followed by the long <i>aa</i> sound.
<i>laam 'alif</i>		لا لا	Used instead of the expected <i>u</i> . The <i>'alif</i> in this ligature can have any of the values of a normal <i>'alif</i> and can carry a <i>hamza</i> : لازم <i>laazim</i> 'must', الاسم <i>'al-ism</i> 'the name', and الأم <i>'al-'umm</i> 'the mother'.

Diacritics:

Name	Shapes	Remarks
<i>fathḥa</i>	ـَ	Indicates an <i>a</i> vowel after the letter it is written on.
<i>kasra</i>	ـِ	Indicates an <i>i</i> vowel after the letter it is written on.
<i>ḍamma</i>	ـُ	Indicates an <i>u</i> vowel after the letter it is written on.
<i>sukuun</i>	ـْ	Explicitly indicates no vowel after the letter it is written on.
<i>shadda</i>	ـّ	Indicates that the consonant it is written on is doubled.
<i>tanwiin il-fathḥ</i> <i>tanwiin il-kasr</i> <i>tanwiin id-ḍamm</i>	ـً ـٍ ـٌ ـٰ ـِـ ـِـ ـَـ ـِـ ـُـ	These occur only word-finally in formal Arabic and are pronounced <i>-an</i> , <i>-in</i> , and <i>-un</i> , respectively. In practice, <i>tanwiin il-fathḥ</i> is only written in combination with a final <i>'alif</i> , <i>'alif maqṣuura</i> or <i>taa' marbuuṭa</i> .