

# ARABIC

## LANGUAGE PROFILES



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# ARABIC



Saudi Arabia



# ARABIC ALPHABET



Name	Final	Medial	Initial	Isolated	Name	Final	Medial	Initial	Isolated
alif	ا	-	-	ا	dād	ض	ض	ض	ض
bā'	ب	ب	ب	ب	ṭā'	ط	ط	ط	ط
tā'	ت	ت	ت	ت	zā'	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
thā'	ث	ث	ث	ث	'ayn	ع	ع	ع	ع
jīm	ج	ج	ج	ج	ghayn	غ	غ	غ	غ
hā'	ح	ح	ح	ح	fā'	ف	ف	ف	ف
khā'	خ	خ	خ	خ	qāf	ق	ق	ق	ق
dāl	د	-	-	د	kāf	ك	ك	ك	ك
dhāl	ذ	-	-	ذ	lām	ل	ل	ل	ل
rā'	ر	-	-	ر	mīm	م	م	م	م
zāy	ز	-	-	ز	nūn	ن	ن	ن	ن
sīn	س	س	س	س	hā'	ه	ه	ه	ه
shīn	ش	ش	ش	ش	wāw	و	-	-	و
ṣād	ص	ص	ص	ص	yā'	ي	ي	ي	ي

٠ ١ ٢ ٣ ٤ ٥ ٦ ٧ ٨ ٩



# ARABIC

عربي

To begin, I would just like to note that most Arabic-speaking countries are predominately Muslim, and most Muslim countries are predominately populated by Arabic speakers - . . . *(continued)*

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Semitic nomadic tribes have crisscrossed the desert sands for thousands of years, and the desert is believed to be the natal home of the Semitic people.

These ancient tribes spread into Mesopotamia and Palestine. . . *(continued)*

## LINGUISTIC BACKGROUND

Arabic is spoken by almost 200 million people, and as the language of Qu'ran. . . *(continued)*

### SCRIPT:

The beautiful and graceful Arabic script is the second most widespread writing system after the Latin scripted one. It is also the fastest writing . . . *(continued)*



1. *Kufic* originated from Kufah in Mesopotamia (Iraq) near the end. . . *(continued)*
2. *Naskhi*, "copying", was the script. . . *(continued)*
3. . . . *(continued)*

### COLLOQUIAL:

As Arabic is the official language of many countries, and the religious language of all Muslims, the variety of oral and written variations are numerous. . . *(continued)*

- *Khaliji* is used by those who live in the Gulf states. . . *(continued)*
- . . . *(continued)*

Basically, Modern Standard Arabic is used. . . *(continued)*

## LINGUISTIC COMPARISON

	ENGLISH	ARABIC
<b>LANGUAGE FAMILY</b>	Indo-European (West Germanic branch)	Afro-Asiatic ... <i>(continued)</i>
<b>WRITING SYSTEM</b>	- alphabet, Latin script - non-phonetic	- alphabet, <b>Naskhi</b> - cursive/ <b>Kufic</b> - Qu'ran - phonetic ... <i>(continued)</i>
<b># OF LETTERS</b>	26 - 6 vowels	25 consonants , ... <i>(continued)</i>
<b>COMBINATION OF LETTERS</b>	- each syllable has vowel/consonant sound	- consonant + vowel (initial) ... <i>(continued)</i>

**N. B.** Arabic vocabulary is made up of a word scheme ... *(continued)*

### ◆ WORDS FROM ARABIC

Alchemy, almanac, cotton, orange, saffron, sugar,, ... *(continued)*

## CULTURAL BACKGROUND

### EDUCATION

Compulsory education is dependent on the Arabic speaking country. Segregated schools at all levels occur. ... *(continued)*

### School system:

1. *Elementary School* (6 years), ages 6 to 12

• ... *(continued)*

### NAMES

Among the various Muslim groups, certain names are avoided for historical reasons. For example, Ali is a very common name among **Shi'a** Muslims ... *(continued)*

Arabic naming patterns can be divided into seven categories:

• *Religious:*

**Muhammad, Musa, Ibrahim, Hassan, Ahmad**

Muslim children are named after. ... *(continued)*

## RELIGION

### • Islam

Islam is the world's fastest growing religion, second only to Christianity in size, and soon. . . .  
(*continued*)

#### 🚩 **Muhammad** (570 - 632 CE)

Muhammad was sent into the desert to be raised. . . (*continued*)

#### 🚩 **Religious texts:**

There are two main texts:

##### 1. **Qu'ran** (*Recitation*)

The **Qu'ran** is considered by Muslims to be. . . (*continued*)

#### 🚩 **Beliefs:**

Muslims are monotheistic, believing in a single creator who is. . . (*continued*)

#### 🚩 **Five Pillars of Islam:**

##### 1. **Shahada**, *Belief*

The first Pillar of Islam attests to . . . (*continued*)

#### 🚩 **Branches of Islam:**

The main divisions are Sunni and Shi'a Muslims.

**Sunni** Muslims are followers . . . (*continued*)

#### 🚩 **Jihad** (*struggle*)

Muslims view **jihad** as a personal, internal struggle . . . (*continued*).

## TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE CUSTOMS

### • Engagement

In traditional Gulf State countries, it is not uncommon . . . (*continued*)

## BIRTH

The words of the **adhaan**, *the call to prayer*, whispered into the right ear of the. . . . (*continued*)

## CALENDAR

Muslims measure their year by the cycles of the moon rather than the sun, so the Muslim lunar year is . . . (*continued*)

The calendar began with the **hegira** when Muhammad . . . (*continued*)

## CELEBRATIONS

Friday is a day of rest, and schools, government offices and businesses . . . (*continued*).

• **Al-Hijra/Muharram**, Muharram 1st

It begins the Muslim New Year, the beginning of the first month. . . . (*continued*)

## LITERATURE/CULTURE

### 🚩 Arts

It is often said that Islam bans images of people or animals, but this . . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Calligraphy

With awe and respect for God's word, calligraphy. . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Architecture

Buildings providing places of communal worship, social service. . . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Dance

The *ardha* is Saudi Arabia's national dance. . . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Music

*Al-sihba* is folk music that originated . . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Knowledge

It is said that God delivered a book to the Arabs to acknowledge. . . (*continued*)

## OTHER

### 🚩 Mathematics

The most famous mathematician was Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi, . . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Astronomy

Astronomers in the Muslim world built. . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Taj Mahal/buildings

During the Mughal reign of Shah Jahan, the . . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Gift-giving

Handkerchiefs are. . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Inventions (Islamic, not just Arabian)

- experimental method in science to replace the Greek speculative method
  - telescope, by Abdul Hasan
- . . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Halal Foods

#### • Halal

*Halal* is Arabic meaning *lawful, permitted or*. . . (*continued*)

### 🚩 Slaughter

1. The Muslim butcher is mentally sound and knowledgeable . . . (*continued*).

2. The animal is lawful according to Islamic Law. . . (*continued*)

- *Haram*

1. Food of Animals

- Pigs and boars
- Dogs, . . . (*continued*)

SOURCES/SUGGESTED REFERENCES . . . (*continued*)

WEBSITES . . . (*continued*)

Linguistic/Cultural “ambassadors”: . . . (*continued*)

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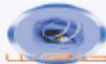
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