

Arabic letter shapes

Every Arabic letter changes its shape a little, depending on where it sits in a word. Trace all four shapes of each letter!

Four shapes

A letter can be on its own, at the start of a word, in the middle, or at the end. Look at Ba:



Six shy letters

These six letters never hold hands with the letter after them, so they have no start or middle shape:



How to use it

Say the letter's name. Trace the grey shapes with a pencil, from right to left. Then try writing them on a sheet of paper.

Read it, then write it

Arabic is written from right to left, so the "Start" shape is on the right and the "End" shape is on the left.

Ready to read the Qur'an? Our online Maktab teaches children aged 4–13 to read with Tajweed, starting from these very letters. Free trial at jamiahafs.com

LETTER 1  Alif	END   	MIDDLE Does not join to the next letter	START Does not join to the next letter	ALONE   
LETTER 2  Ba	END   	MIDDLE   	START   	ALONE   
LETTER 3  Ta	END   	MIDDLE   	START   	ALONE   
LETTER 4  Tha	END   	MIDDLE   	START   	ALONE   

LETTER 5 ج Jim	END ج ج ج	MIDDLE ج ج ج	START ج ج ج	ALONE ج ج ج
LETTER 6 ح Ha	END ح ح ح	MIDDLE ح ح ح	START ح ح ح	ALONE ح ح ح
LETTER 7 خ Kha	END خ خ خ	MIDDLE خ خ خ	START خ خ خ	ALONE خ خ خ
LETTER 8 د Dal	END د د د	MIDDLE Does not join to the next letter	START Does not join to the next letter	ALONE د د د

LETTER 9 ذ Dhal	END   	MIDDLE Does not join to the next letter	START Does not join to the next letter	ALONE   
LETTER 10 ر Ra	END   	MIDDLE Does not join to the next letter	START Does not join to the next letter	ALONE   
LETTER 11 ز Zay	END   	MIDDLE Does not join to the next letter	START Does not join to the next letter	ALONE   
LETTER 12 س Sin	END   	MIDDLE   	START   	ALONE   

LETTER 13 ش Shin	END ش ش ش	MIDDLE ش ش ش	START ش ش ش	ALONE ش ش ش
LETTER 14 ص Sad	END ص ص ص	MIDDLE ص ص ص	START ص ص ص	ALONE ص ص ص
LETTER 15 ض Dad	END ض ض ض	MIDDLE ض ض ض	START ض ض ض	ALONE ض ض ض
LETTER 16 ط Ta	END ط ط ط	MIDDLE ط ط ط	START ط ط ط	ALONE ط ط ط

LETTER 17 ظ Za	END ظ ظ ظ	MIDDLE ظ ظ ظ	START ظ ظ ظ	ALONE ظ ظ ظ
LETTER 18 ع 'Ayn	END ع ع ع	MIDDLE ع ع ع	START ع ع ع	ALONE ع ع ع
LETTER 19 غ Ghayn	END غ غ غ	MIDDLE غ غ غ	START غ غ غ	ALONE غ غ غ
LETTER 20 ف Fa	END ف ف ف	MIDDLE ف ف ف	START ف ف ف	ALONE ف ف ف

LETTER 21 ق Qaf	END ق ق ق	MIDDLE ق ق ق	START ق ق ق	ALONE ق ق ق
LETTER 22 ك Kaf	END ك ك ك	MIDDLE ك ك ك	START ك ك ك	ALONE ك ك ك
LETTER 23 ل Lam	END ل ل ل	MIDDLE ل ل ل	START ل ل ل	ALONE ل ل ل
LETTER 24 م Mim	END م م م	MIDDLE م م م	START م م م	ALONE م م م

LETTER 25 ن Nun	END ن ن ن	MIDDLE ن ن ن	START ن ن ن	ALONE ن ن ن
LETTER 26 ه Ha	END ه ه ه	MIDDLE ه ه ه	START ه ه ه	ALONE ه ه ه
LETTER 27 و Waw	END و و و	MIDDLE Does not join to the next letter	START Does not join to the next letter	ALONE و و و
LETTER 28 ي Ya	END ي ي ي	MIDDLE ي ي ي	START ي ي ي	ALONE ي ي ي