The Arabic alphabet: all 28 letters

The Arabic alphabet has 28 letters. It is written from right to left, and most letters change shape depending on their position in the word: isolated, initial, medial or final. Each card shows the letter's name, its forms, an example word and its pronunciation.

Here are the 28 letters of the Arabic alphabet, in order. Click a letter to see its 4 shapes, how to say it and an example word, then practise tracing it.

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Frequently asked questions

How many letters does the Arabic alphabet have?

Twenty-eight letters, from alif to ya. The site has one card for each.

Which direction is Arabic written in?

From right to left. Numbers are written in the same direction as in Latin-script languages.

Why does a letter have several forms?

Because Arabic is written in joined letters: the form changes depending on whether the letter is isolated, initial, medial or final. Six letters do not join to the next one.