

Q & A

Dotted Yaa'
&
Dotless Yaa'

Question

Dear Shaykh

We have  and .

What is the difference in usage?

Answer

Our Shaykh Dr. Abdur Rahim, حفظه الله replied (quote):

Dear Br Abdullah

وعليكم السلام

Dotless *yaa'* is used when it is pronounced '*alif*' as in:

المُسْتَشْفَى

al-mustashfaa

المُنْتَدَى

al-muntadaa

الْفَتَى

al-fataa

Note that with the *tanween* these words lose the '*alif*':

مُسْتَشْفَىً

mustashfan

Egyptian System of Orthography:

In the Egyptian system of orthography, the dotted *yaa'* is not used.

In this system only the dotless *yaa'* is used whether it is pronounced *yaa'* or '*alif*'.

There both *fii* and *al-fataa* are written with the dotless *yaa'* :

في

الْفَتَى

Syrian System of Orthography: **ي**

In the Syrian system of orthography, the dotted *yaa'* is used.

If a Syrian sees a word like **في** written with a dotless *yaa'*: **في** he will immediately take out his pen, and dot the *yaa'*.

Wassalaam,
abdur rahim

Admin.'s Note:

Please see Madinah Arabic Book 3, lesson 1 for an explanation and usage of words spelt with a dotted *yaa'* and dotless *yaa'*.