

## Non-Arabic Names Like: Daawuud, George, Pepsi Cola

The respected Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim, **حَفْظَةُ اللَّهِ** was asked:

### Question

1. Why is the name **Daawood** sometimes written with one *waaw* **دَاوُدُ** and sometimes with two, **دَاوُودُ** ?
2. And what is the correct pronunciation?
3. Is there a strict spelling for non-Arabic proper names or is it flexible?

For example, can you write **George** as:

**جُورج** instead of **جُرُج** ?

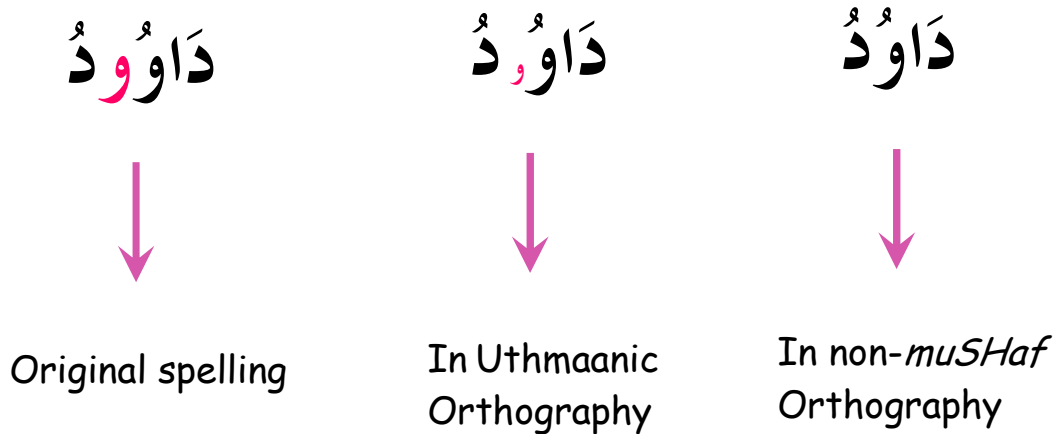
4. If George is written with *waaw*, it is a diptote and without the *waaw*, it is a triptote?

*Jazaaka Allaahu khair*

## Answer

The Shaykh replied (quote):

1. • The original spelling of دَاوُدُ is with two *waaws*.
  - But in the Uthmaanic Orthography it is written with one *waaw*, and according to the rules of *muSHaf* writing, a miniature *waaw* is added next to the first *waaw*.
  - In non-*muSHaf* orthography, it is written with only one *waaw*.



2. The pronunciation is **Daawuud** whether you write it with one *waaw* or two *waaws*.

3. • There are no strict rules regarding the writing of non-Arabic words in Arabic.
- The fonts used in newspapers do not have *Harakaat*, so to indicate the *Harakaat* of non-Arabic words, the three weak letters are added.

أَلْفٌ is added to indicate *fatHah*,

وَاوٌ to indicate *Dammah*,

and يَاءٌ to indicate *kasrah*, e.g.:

بُوشٌ = Bush

بِيبِيسِي كُولَا = Pepsi Cola

- In *Duruusu l-lughah* I write جُرْجٌ without *waaw* to explain the rule that a foreign proper noun with three letters is not a diptote.

It is the Arabicized form while جورج has its foreign look.

4. It is a diptote or triptote depending upon how it is pronounced.

If it is pronounced *jurj* without taking the *waaw* into consideration, it will be a triptote.

But if it is pronounced with the *waaw*, it will be a diptote.

(End quote)

جَزَى اللهُ شَيْخَنَا خَيْرَ الْجَزَاءِ.