

اللغة العربية

كِتَابَةُ الْهَمْزَةِ



Question

Please clarify the rules for writing الْهَمْزَةِ.

When does *hamzah* take a seat and when does it not take a seat?

What seat does *hamzah* take and why?

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



1) The initial هَمْزَةٌ

- It is written on the *alif* if it is مَفْتُوح or مَضْمُوم,

e.g.: أُمُّ , أَبٌ

- and below the *alif* if it is مَكْسُور ,

e.g.: إِنْ.

2) The medial هَمْزَةٌ

- It is determined by two factors:
 - i) The strength of the vowel,
 - ii) The letter compatible with each of the three vowels.

The vowels are here arranged according to their strength, and the letter compatible to each of them:

The Vowels in Order of
their Strength:

The Letter Compatible to
the Vowel:

- The كَسْرَةٌ → the يَاءِ.
- The ضَمَّةٌ → the وَاوِ.
- The فَتْحَةٌ → the أَلْفِ.
- The سُكُونٌ (absence of a vowel) → no letter.

- Three steps to determine how to write the medial هَمْزَةٌ :
 - 1) Look at the vowel of the هَمْزَةٌ , and
 - 2) Look at the vowel of the letter preceding it. Then
 - 3) Write the هَمْزَةٌ on the letter compatible with the stronger of the two vowels.

Examples of Writing the Medial هَمْزَة

- In رَأْسٌ ,

the *hamzah* has *sukuun*, and the preceding letter has *fatHah*.

The *fatHah* is stronger than the *sukuun*, and the letter compatible with the *fatHah* is the اَلْفُ .

- In بِئْسَ ,

the *hamzah* is *saakin*, and the preceding letter is مَكْسُورٌ .

The *kasrah* is stronger than the *sukuun*, and the letter compatible with the *kasrah* is the يَاءُ .

- In مُؤْمِنٌ ,

the *hamzah* is *saakin* and the preceding letter has *Dammah*.

The *Dammah* is stronger than the *sukuun*, and the letter compatible with the *Dammah* is the وَاوُ .

- In سُئِلَ,

the *hamzah* has *kasrah*, and the preceding letter has *Dammah*.

The *kasrah* is stronger than the *Dammah*, and the letter compatible with the *kasrah* is the يَاءِ .

- In مُؤَامِرَةٌ (plot),

the *hamzah* has *fatHah*, and the preceding letter has *Dammah*.

The *Dammah* is stronger than the *fatHah*, and the letter compatible with the *Dammah* is the وَاوِ .

- In سَأَلَ ,

both the *hamzah* as well as the preceding letter have

fatHah, and the letter compatible with the *fatHah* is the

أَلْفِ .

- In **بَيْئَةٌ** (*environment*),

the *hamzah* has *fatHah*, and the preceding letter has *sukuun*.

But a *saakin yaa'* preceded by a *kasrah* is in fact a long *kasrah*, so it is treated as a *kasrah*.

And the letter compatible with the *kasrah* is the **يَاءٌ**.

- In **هَيْئَةٌ**,

the *hamzah* has *fatHah*, and the preceding letter is *yaa'* preceded by a *fatHah*.

A *saakin yaa'* preceded by a *fatHah* resembles a *kasrah*, and therefore it is treated as a *kasrah*.

And the letter compatible with the *kasrah* is the **يَاءٌ**.

- In **تَفَاءَلٌ**,

the *hamzah* has *fatHah*, and the preceding letter has *sukuun*:

تَفَاءَلٌ

As the *fatHah* is stronger than the *sukuun*, the *hamzah* should have been written on the **أَلِف** like this:

تَفَأَّلَ

But as Arabic does not like two hefty *alifs* standing side by side, it has opted for contravening the rule, and writing the *hamzah* independently.

abdur rahim

Admin's note: For detailed lessons on how to write the **initial**, **medial** and **final** *hamzah*, see Vol. 3 of the Shaykh's Madinah University syllabus named:

مَنْهَجُ مَعْهَدِ تَعْلِيمِ اللُّغَةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ وَالْعُلُومِ الشَّرْعِيَّةِ بِالْجَامِعَةِ الْإِسْلَامِيَّةِ

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