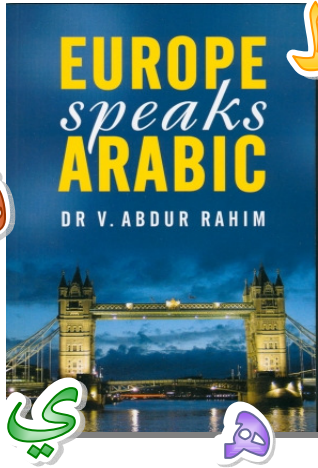


Extracted from:



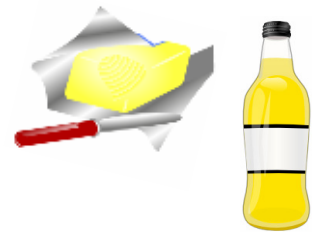
## (a) The Consonants

The following are the letters of the Arabic alphabet with their corresponding letters and signs used in this book:



It is the glottal stop which is like the Cockney pronunciation of

*tt* in  
*butter*,  
*bottle*,  
*rotten*, etc.



In this book, the sign of *hamzaḥ* is not indicated at the beginning of a word.

A word commencing with a vowel in fact commences with a *hamzaḥ*, e.g.

*amīr* ( *'amīr* ).



# THE ARABIC ALPHABET

## Pronunciation & Phonetic Notation

ب ت ث ج ح د ذ

ب

b

as *b* in *book*.



ت

t

as *t* in *cat* but softer.



ث

th

as *th* in *think*.



ج

j

as *j* in *just*.

ح

h

a voiceless guttural fricative.

Its voiced counterpart is ع.

It is as *h* in *hand*, but stronger.



خ

kh

similar to *kh* in the Scottish *loch*,

or the German *Buch*,

but unlike the European sound, it is guttural not velar.

د

d

as *d* in *do*, but softer.

ذ

dh

as *th* in *that*.



# THE ARABIC ALPHABET

## Pronunciation & Phonetic Notation

ر ز س ش ض ط ظ ع

ر

r

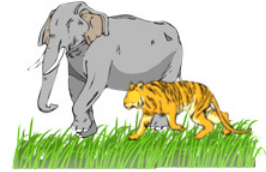
as *r* in *run*.



ز




z

as *z* in *zoo*.



س

s

as *s* in *sun*,    
never *s* as in *rose*. 

ش

sh

as *sh* in *she*.



ص

ṣ

a velarized form of *s*.

ض

ḍ

a velarized interdental fricative.  
It is somewhat like *th* in *this*.

ط

ṭ

a velarized form of *t*.

ظ

ẓ

a velarized form of  (*dh*).

ع

ʿ

a voiced guttural fricative. See .

It has no approximate equivalent in English.  
It may be ignored at the beginning of a word  
as in *ʿawār*, and when it occurs after a  
vowel as in *taʿrīf*, the vowel may be  
lengthened.



# THE ARABIC ALPHABET

## Pronunciation & Phonetic Notation

غ ف ق ك ل م ن و

غ

gh

a voiced form of خ.

*G* as in *good* may be substituted for it.

ف

f

as *f* in *food*.



ق

q

a voiceless uvular stop.

It is a strongly articulated *k*.

ك

k

as *k* in *book*.



ل

l

as *l* in *love*.

But in the word *Allāh*, it is velarized.

الله

م

m

as *m* in *moon*.



ن

n

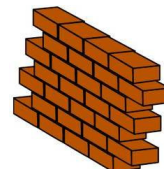
as *n* in *noon*.



و

w

as *w* in *wall*.



# THE ARABIC ALPHABET

## Pronunciation & Phonetic Notation


h

as *h* in *hand*.


y

as *y* in *you*.


h

called *the round tā*, it occurs only at the end of a word. It is pronounced *t* but changes to *h* in the pausal form. \*



\* The pausal form of a word is the one it assumes when it happens to be the last word in a sentence, e.g.

*hādhihī makkatu, wa ana uḥibbu makkah*

(This is Makkah and I love Makkah).

Note that in the non-pausal form, it is *makkat-u* and in the pausal form it is *makkah*.

The letter *ḥ* is basically *h* to which the two dots of *t* have been added to point to its dual pronunciation.

The roman character I use to represent this letter (*ḥ*) also combines *h* and *t*.

# THE ARABIC ALPHABET

## Pronunciation & Phonetic Notation

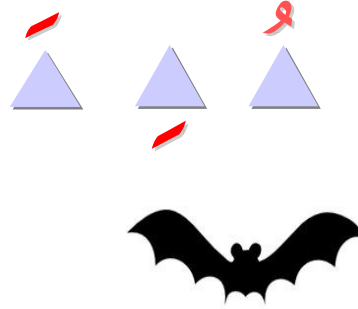
### (b) The Vowels

The three short vowels of Arabic are:

•  *fathah* : as *a* in *bat*.

•  *kasrah* : as *i* in *bit*.

•  *dammaḥ* : as *u* in *put*.



The three long vowels of Arabic are:


 following a letter carrying a *fathah*: *ā* as *a* in *father*.


 following a letter carrying a *kasrah*: *ī* as *i* in *machine*.

 following a letter carrying a *dammaḥ*: *ū* as *u* in *rule*.

### (c) The Diphthongs

The two diphthongs of Arabic are:

 following a letter carrying a *fathah*:  
*aw* as *ow* in *town*,  
not as *aw* in *claw*.

 following a letter carrying a *fathah*:  
*ay* as *i* in *bite*,  
not as *ay* in *bay*.

