

خطوة بخطوة

Step by Step

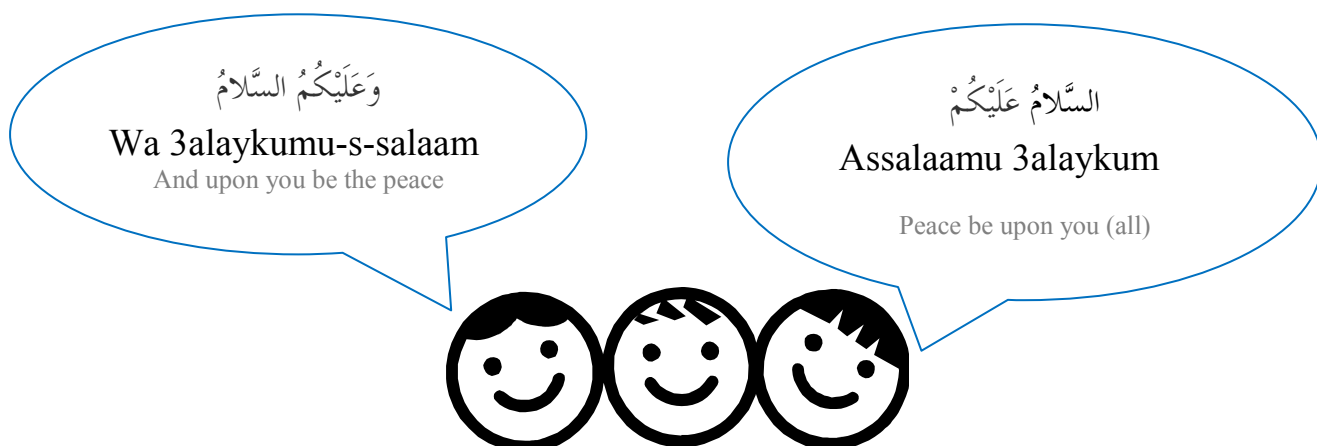
Arabic for beginners

The easiest way ever to learn reading and writing



By Umm Ziyad

Introduction



Assalaamu 3alaykum means "peace be unto you." The response for it is " Wa 3alaykumu-s-salaam ", which means " and on you be the peace". Muslims commonly use this greeting in all parts of the world, Arabs & Non-Arabs alike as it is the greeting of Islam.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
Bism-i-Ilaah-ir-Rahmaan-ir-Raheem
In the name of Allaah the most Gracious the most Merciful

Very good action or deed should be started with reciting Bismillah:
before meals, when coming home, when leaving the house ,when feeling pains, before ablution, when night falls, writing Bismillah in our letters, when placing the body of the deceased in the grave, when slaughtering an animal...
Bismillah is literally in every aspect of our lives

THE IMPORTANCE OF ARABIC

The Key to Understanding the Qur'aan

All praise is for Allah. We praise Him, seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of ourselves and the evils of our actions. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ is His servant and Messenger.

We all feel touched when we open up a good interpretation of the meaning of the Qur'aan and we ponder and wonder at the beauty of the words and the deep meanings within. In reality though, we are just seeing a glimpse of the real treasure that the Qur'aan is.

Imagine how you'd feel if you could understand the words of Allah in the form in which they were sent down and not just rely on a interpretation of the meaning in English. Imagine the power of the words and the directness of the message then! The potency would be outstanding!

The Qur'aan is the word of Allah; a direct message from Allah to His creation and Allah chose the Arabic language as the language of this message. Indeed Allah tells us this in the Qur'aan emphasizing to us that to understand the message in its fuller form one must understand the language:

﴿ إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ ﴾

“Indeed we have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'aan, in order that you may understand” (Surah Yusuf, Aayah 2)

Arabic and the message of the Qur'aan cannot be separated and translators throughout the ages have tried to convey to the non-Arabic speaking people the beauty of the meaning of the Qur'aan but have always called it ‘The translation of the meaning of the Qur'aan’, emphasizing the fact that the Qur'aan's direct translation is not possible, because so much of the potency and splendor of the words and their meanings which are inextricably linked to the Arabic language are lost in English or any other language. Indeed to even appreciate the poetic beauty of the Qur'aan one needs to have an understanding of Arabic.

A Priority for all of us

Scholars throughout the ages, from the Companions to the present day, encouraged the Ummah to learn the Arabic language. Ubay ibn Ka'b رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ said, "Teach Arabic like you teach the memorization of the Qur'aan!"

Abu Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ said, "That I recite and forget (a portion of the Qur'aan) is more beloved to me than to make a grammatical mistake!"

And 'Umar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ once passed by a group of archers who missed their targets. He admonished them and they responded that they were only beginners, but in answering back they made a grammatical mistake in their wording. He told them, "Indeed, your mistakes in Arabic grammar are more difficult to bear than your mistakes in archery!"

Imam ash-Shaafi'ee said, "Therefore it is imperative that every Muslim should strive to learn Arabic as hard as he can, so that he can testify the shahada, and recite the Book of Allah and say the invocations that are mandatory upon him, such as the takbeer, tasbeeh, tashahud and other prayers. And the more he learns the language that Allah Himself chose to be the language of him who sealed the Prophets, and to be the language of His final revelation, the better it is for him!" Imam ash-Shaafi'ee also said : "It is compulsory for every responsible Muslim to learn what they can of the Arabic language."

The great 8th century scholar Shaykul Islam Ibn Taymiyyah even went so far as to say that, "The Arabic language is part of the Religion, and knowing it is an obligation."

Unfortunately, we have become comfortable with simply relying on translations and spending all of our time and efforts in studying other things, (other languages even!) which may not even benefit us in the hereafter and have forgotten that the Qur'aan is in a very approachable language and we all have the ability or rather the responsibility to study and understand it.

If you knew that Allah had a message for you, personally, would you then not want to understand it in its original form? Think about it. We have the last revelation to mankind, the only communication from our Lord and Master, which is preserved in its original form, and yet in a 70 odd year life we do not give it the attention which it deserves. We should realize that Allah has honored us with the Qur'aan and chosen for us the noblest of languages. Attention to Arabic is attention to the Book of ; therefore, we should make learning it a priority.

I remember the feeling of tasting the sweetness of Allah's words in my Salaah when I first embarked upon my Arabic studies. I just repeated the same aayah of the Qur'aan again and again savoring the words and suddenly feeling a deep emotion that I'd never felt before though I had read the same aayah many times

Introduction

before studying Arabic. It was as though a light had been lit for me and I'd suddenly discovered a new part of a house that I'd been living in for years.

One of the definite benefits of learning Arabic is that it aids Khushoo' or consciousness in salaah and helps us to improve all of our acts of worship. Taraweeh prayer in Ramadan becomes a new experience!

Practical steps towards learning Arabic

Alhamdulillah (all praise for Allaah) with all the teaching aids and easy access to information that we have, learning Arabic does not necessarily mean traveling on arduous journeys to distant lands as it once used to. With discipline and commitment, the student can study much in his own

Here are some tips to help you:

1. Make Du3aa' (Supplication): As with everything we work towards, we should ask Allaah to help us and make learning easy for us.
2. Discipline yourself: Put a set amount of time aside every day or twice a week for your Arabic studies and stick to it.
3. Know your basics well: going step by step is the best way to master any language. Concentrating on improving your basic reading and writing is the first step in learning Arabic, even if it is repetitive. You can build on that firm foundation.
4. Invest in a good dictionary and Arabic books: A good dictionary is the Hans Wehr or Al-Mawrid, available in most Muslim bookshops and on the Internet.
5. Study under an Arab friend or tutor: The importance of a good teacher cannot be stressed enough. Although there is a lot of self-study involved, a friend who knows Arabic or an Arab brother or sister who you could go to regularly for guidance would be very valuable. You could even start going through your Arabic books with them.
6. Speak Arabic whenever you can: One of the biggest obstacles to speaking Arabic is being shy about making mistakes in speech and so not speaking at all. You must overcome this shyness and use whatever you know whenever you can. This is how you will eventually improve insha Allah. Maybe you could meet some Arab brothers or sisters who only speak Arabic. This way you'll be forced to speak what you know and they'll be pleased that you're making the effort.
7. Relate your knowledge back to the Qur'aan and other worships: Don't forget that your aim is to understand what you recite of the Qur'aan especially in your salaah and other adhkaar. Try to recognize Arabic words as you come across them in the Qur'aan and apply your knowledge in understanding the Qur'aan. Ponder over and pay attention to the words in your salaah. May Allah help us all to master the language of the Qur'aan and to aid its spread throughout the Ummah.

BEFORE WE START

- 1- The notes below are important and should be read carefully before starting the book.
- 2- The book is divided into units with each unit gathering the letters similar in writing.
- 3- Some parts of the book can be learned without a teacher, but it is always better to have a native teacher to learn the correct pronunciation.
- 4- The Arabic Language is easy to read as it is pronounced as written; so as soon as you finish learning the Alphabet & the Marks (indicate short vowels) you can easily read any text.
- 5- The Arabic Alphabet is composed of 29 letters.
- 6- The Arabic words are written from right to left.
- 7- The letters of the same word are usually connected from both sides, with an exception of six letters that can be connected from the right side only. We call them the **non-connectors**.
- 8- The letter in the original form is different than the connected form. The change is usually by cutting the left side of the letter. Some letter don't change of form at all.
- 9- Only three vowel sounds exist in the Arabic Language. Each one can be short or long.
- 10- You'll find six letters that are completely new for you so they are to be learned by imitating the native speakers.
- 11- The Arabic letters are divided to heavy letters and light letters:
Heavy letter: By giving the letter a quality of heaviness by elevating the tongue. **Light letter:** By giving the letter a quality of lightness by lowering the tongue away from the roof of the mouth.
Ex. Letter "b" in "bag" is light but "b" in "bath" is heavy

