

Write your name in Arabic!

This worksheet will help you learn to write your own name or anybody else's name in Arabic.

The Arabic alphabet is very different from the one we use to write English (which is based on the ancient Latin or Roman alphabet). There are no capital letters, for example. The biggest difference is that Arabic is written from right to left. Another important difference is that the letters look different depending on whether they begin the word ("initial"), or they are in the middle of the word ("medial"), or at the end of the word ("final").

Arabic has three vowels: *alif* (ا) is used for English "a", *waaw* (و) is used for English "o" and "u" as well as for the consonant "w", and *yaa* (ي) is used for English "e", "i", and "y".

1) Look at the chart on the back of this page and find the sound that is closest to the sound of the beginning of your name. Write the Arabic letter from the "initial" column (green) on the right-hand side of a piece of paper.

For example, "Judy" starts with a j sound which corresponds to Arabic *jiim* (ج):

_____ ج

2) Find the next letter in your name on the chart from the "medial" column (pink) and write it to the left of the first letter. For more on vowels, see below.

Judy's second letter is u which corresponds to Arabic *waaw* (و):

_____ جو

3) Continue to find the remaining middle letters from your name and write them to the left of the previous letters.

Judy's third letter is d which corresponds to Arabic *daal* (د):

_____ جود

4) When you come to the last letter in your name, look for the Arabic letter in the "final" column (purple) and write it to the left of all the other letters:

Judy's last letter is y which corresponds to Arabic *yaa* (ي):

_____ جودي

Don't forget to write the dots above or below the letters. Some Arabic letters look exactly the same except for the dots. In English lower-case "i" and lower-case "l" would look almost the same without the dot.

Two Arabic letters that are the same and next to each other are indicated by writing a symbol that looks like a small w (called a *shadda*) above the letter. So "Anna" looks like this:

_____ انا

If you want to check your Arabic name, you can use Google translate selecting English and Arabic. Type the name into the English window and the Arabic equivalent will appear in the other window.



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Arabic Letter	Final	Medial	Initial	English	Examples
ا (alif)	ا	ا	ا	a	اليكس (Alex)
ب (baa)	ب	ب	ب	b (p)	بيتر (Peter)
ت (taa)	ت	ت	ت	t	توماس (Thomas)
ث (thaa)	ث	ث	ث	th	ثورمان (Thurman)
ج (jiim)	ج	ج	ج	j (g)	جون (John)
ح (Haa)	ح	ح	ح	H	حارس (Haris)
خ (khaa)	خ	خ	خ	kh	خان (Khan)
د (daal)	د	د	د	d	ديفيد (David)
ذ (dhaal)	ذ	ذ	ذ	dh	
ر (raa)	ر	ر	ر	r	ريبيكا (Rebecca)
ز (zaay)	ز	ز	ز	z	زوزو (Zuzu)
س (siin)	س	س	س	s	سيلبي (Selby)
ش (shiin)	ش	ش	ش	sh	شيلبي (Shelby)
ص (Saad)	ص	ص	ص	S	
ض (Daad)	ض	ض	ض	D	
ط (Taa)	ط	ط	ط	T	
ظ (DHaa)	ظ	ظ	ظ	DH	
ع (:ayn)	ع	ع	ع	:	
غ (ghayn)	غ	غ	غ	gh	غنادي (Ghenadie)
ف (faa)	ف	ف	ف	f	فرانك (Frank)
ق (qaaf)	ق	ق	ق	q	قوينا (Queena)
ك (kaaf)	ك	ك	ك	k	كارل (Carl)
ل (laam)	ل	ل	ل	l	ليونارد (Leonard)
م (miim)	م	م	م	m	مايكل (Michael)
ن (nuun)	ن	ن	ن	n	نانسي (Nancy)
ه (haa)	ه	ه	ه	h	هيلي (Hailey)
و (waaw)	و	و	و	w	ويسلي (Wesley)
ي (yaa)	ي	ي	ي	y	ياسمين (Yasmin)
Exception: alif (ا), daal (د), dhaal (ذ), raa (ر), zaay (ز), and waaw (و) are called selfish letters because they do not connect with letters following. See the examples.					