

The Arabic Alphabet

All 28 letters, in every position they take inside a word

A dot under a letter marks a heavier sound, made further back in the mouth. Sound cues are a rough guide only.

LETTER		On its own	Start	Middle	End
alif <i>a</i>	◌	ا	ا	ا	ا
baa <i>b</i>		ب	ب	ب	ب
taa <i>t</i>		ت	ت	ت	ت
thaa <i>th</i>		ث	ث	ث	ث
jeem <i>j</i>		ج	ج	ج	ج
ḥaa <i>h, throat</i>		ح	ح	ح	ح
khaa <i>kh</i>		خ	خ	خ	خ
daal <i>d</i>	◌	د	د	د	د
dhaal <i>dh</i>	◌	ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ
raa <i>r</i>	◌	ر	ر	ر	ر
zaay <i>z</i>	◌	ز	ز	ز	ز
seen <i>s</i>		س	س	س	س
sheen <i>sh</i>		ش	ش	ش	ش
ṣaad <i>s, heavy</i>		ص	ص	ص	ص

LETTER		On its own	Start	Middle	End
ḍaad <i>d, heavy</i>		ض	ض	ض	ض
ṭaa <i>t, heavy</i>		ط	ط	ط	ط
ẓaa <i>z, heavy</i>		ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
‘ayn <i>‘a, throat</i>		ع	ع	ع	ع
ghayn <i>gh</i>		غ	غ	غ	غ
faa <i>f</i>		ف	ف	ف	ف
qaaf <i>q, deep</i>		ق	ق	ق	ق
kaaf <i>k</i>		ك	ك	ك	ك
laam <i>l</i>		ل	ل	ل	ل
meem <i>m</i>		م	م	م	م
noon <i>n</i>		ن	ن	ن	ن
haa <i>h, light</i>		ه	ه	ه	ه
waaw <i>w</i>	◌	و	و	و	و
yaa <i>y</i>		ي	ي	ي	ي

Why six rows are marked with a bar

Arabic joins up like handwriting. These six letters never join to the letter that comes after them:

ا
alif

د
daal

ذ
dhaal

ر
raa

ز
zaay

و
waaw

So for these six, the Start form looks the same as On its own, and the Middle form looks the same as End.