

Sun and Moon Letters in Arabic

The 14 letters that silence the lam in al-, and the 14 that keep it

SUN LETTERS

al- loses its l sound

ت

ta

ث

tha

د

dal

ذ

dhal

ر

ra

ز

zay

س

seen

ش

sheen

ص

saad

ض

daad

ط

taa

ظ

dhaa

ل

lam

ن

noon

the sun

الشمس

you say

ash-shams

What to listen for

No l sound arrives at all.
The next letter is held twice
as long. Listen for the doubling,
not for a missing letter.

MOON LETTERS

al- is said exactly as written

ا

alif

ب

ba

ج

jeem

ح

haa

خ

khaa

ع

ayn

غ

ghayn

ف

fa

ق

qaf

ك

kaf

م

meem

ه

ha

و

waw

ي

ya

the moon

القمر

you say

al-qamar

What to listen for

You hear a clear l.
The word sounds the way
it looks. Nothing merges
and nothing is held long.

The lam is written in both. Only the sound changes.

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