

Arabic

مرحباً بكم

Spoken in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Script

- Arabic is written from right to left on the line.
- Arabic has 29 letters - with 3 letter sounds, which do not exist in English.
- Arabic does not distinguish between vowels and consonants; the use of a small sign on the top or under the letter indicates the pronunciation.
- There are no capital letters in Arabic.
- Punctuation is similar to English except for comas, which sit on the line instead of under the line.
- Some letters change shape depending on whether they are at the start, in the middle or at the end of the word.
- Arabic uses suffixes but no prefixes

Sentence structure

- The basic word order in a sentence is: subject:-verb-object (SVO)

Nouns and pronouns

- The second and third person pronoun is different for masculine and feminine gender. Ten different person pronouns exist in Arabic.
- Extra letters in a word are added to the singular form to make plurals or to indicate masculine or feminine gender.

Adjectives follow the noun.

Verbs inflection signals gender. Arabic uses either masculine or feminine gender for all known nouns.

Typical Errors

- Incorrect use of auxiliary verbs: "I am gone for visiting the city" (instead of "I am going to the city").
- Incorrect use of personal pronouns.
- Difficulties in placement of noun-adjective: "My friend the bossy one" (instead of "My bossy friend").
- Inappropriate use of no, not, none, much, many etc.
- Inappropriate word order when using auxiliary verbs, adjectives.