

مدار الحروف

Madar Al-Huruf

Writing names in Arabic with Madar Al-Huruf,
The Arabic Transliteration Wheel



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The Arabic transliteration wheel is a rotatable wheel that matches English letters and sounds to their Arabic phonetic counterparts. It can be used as a tool to write English names in Arabic and to introduce users to the Arabic alphabet.

Moneera Al-Badi, a graphic designer from Doha, Qatar and a former Communications Fellow at QFI who graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University-Qatar, created Madar Al-Huruf.

Moneera worked closely with US-based teachers of Arabic in Washington, DC and Tucson, AZ to finalize the wheel's design and user guide. Two Arabic teachers in Tucson, Arizona, Fatima Abdulkadhem and Nour Jandali, created the mini unit and student workbook, making the wheel a truly global endeavor. Fatima and Nour also developed the TSCTSC strategy to write one's name in Arabic, adapted from the book *"Sugar Comes from Arabic: A Beginner's Guide to Arabic Letters and Words."*

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The TSCTSC Strategy

T Type/Write

Write your name as you usually would in English, but don't capitalize it.

S Sound out

Rewrite your name as you sound it out. Focus on writing it how it sounds, not how it's spelled. Don't write any letters that aren't pronounced.

C Clip

Eliminate all letters of short vowels. Trim any short vowel sound (like the "e" in Alex), but keep the long sounds (like the "a" in Pam.)

T Turn Around

Arabic is written from right to left, unlike English. Rewrite what you wrote in the Clip section, but from right to left. Your name probably looks "backwards" now!

S Substitute

Find the Arabic letter that corresponds to each English letter using the wheel, and substitute the Arabic letter for each English letter. You can also use the chart in this workbook to find corresponding Arabic letters.

C Connect

Write your name, making sure to connect the Arabic letters. Remember to start writing from the right and go right-to-left! Read your name aloud to make sure it sounds right.

Translation Guide

Key

█ Don't capitalize your name when starting the strategy!

█ Non-social letters (don't connect to the left.)

█ Uppercase Letters = Very heavy sounds, not usually found in the English alphabet.

█ Lowercase Letters = soft or usual sounds

• 9 Heavy sounding Arabic letters

ع | غ | ح | خ | ق | ص | ض | ط | ظ

• Long Vowels

ا | و | ي

• Add "أ" to words beginning with sharp vowel sounds

E = إ | I = إ | O = أ | u = أ

• "ع" has no single English sound equivalent

a = ع | o = ع | e = ع

LETTER	END	MIDDLE	BEGIN	INITIAL
a	ا	ا	ا	أ
b	ب	ب	ب	ب
c	ك	ك	ك	ك
d	د	د	د	د
D	ض	ض	ض	ض
dh	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
e	ي	ي	ي	ي
f	ف	ف	ف	ف
g	غ	غ	غ	غ
h	ه	ه	ه	ه
H	ح	ح	ح	ح

LETTER	END	MIDDLE	BEGIN	INITIAL
i	ي	ي	ي	ي
j	ج	ج	ج	ج
k	ك	ك	ك	ك
kh	خ	خ	خ	خ
l	ل	ل	ل	ل
m	م	م	م	م
n	ن	ن	ن	ن
o	و	و	و	و
p	ب	ب	ب	ب
q	ق	ق	ق	ق
r	ر	ر	ر	ر
s	س	س	س	س
S	ص	ص	ص	ص
sh	ش	ش	ش	ش
t	ت / ء	ت	ت	ت
T	ط	ط	ط	ط
th	ث	ث	ث	ث
TH	ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ
u	و	و	و	و
v	ف	ف	ف	ف
w	و	و	و	و
x	كس	كس	كس	كس
y	ي	ي	ي	ي
z	ز	ز	ز	ز

THE TSCTSC STRATEGY PRACTICE

Try it out

STRATEGY	EXAMPLE 1	EXAMPLE 2	EXAMPLE 3
Type/Write	mercedes	canada	sophia
Sound out	mersedes	kanada	Write the "ph" how it sounds
Clip	mrseds	Knda	
Turn around	s d e s r m	a d n k	
Substitute	م ر س ي د س	ك ن د ا	
Connect	مرسيدس	كندا	

- Tip: Remember, the "r" and "d" are non-social letters and don't connect to the left in Arabic.

STRATEGY	EXAMPLE 1	EXAMPLE 2	EXAMPLE 3
Type/Write	chad	mittchell	chelsea
Sound out	tshaad	mitshel	
Clip	tshad	mitshl	
Turn around	d a sh t	l sh t i m	
Substitute	ت ش ا د	م ي ت ش ل	
Connect	تشاد	ميتشل	

- Tip: The "ch" sound is usually written as "tsh" in Arabic, but some people just write "sh".



Writing names that begin with vowels (E, I, O, U)

When writing a name that begins with E, I, O, or U, you will need to begin with the “a” letter: أ

Without the أ, Ethan would be pronounced “Yeethan”, and Emily would be “Ymily”. This is because the vowel sounds are a little different in Arabic - think about the difference between the “a” in “apple” versus the “a” in “say”. At the beginning of a word in English, we put a little more emphasis on the “a” sound than in the middle of a word. Adding the أ adds that emphasis to words in Arabic.

STRATEGY	EXAMPLE 1	EXAMPLE 2	EXAMPLE 3
Type/Write	edward	ethan	emily
Sound out	edward	ethen	
Clip	-dward	-ethn	
Turn around	d r a w d -	n t h e -	
Substitute	إدوارد	إيثن	
Connect	إدوارد	إيثن	

STRATEGY	EXAMPLE 1	EXAMPLE 2	EXAMPLE 3
Type/Write	olivia	oscar	otis
Sound out	olivia	askar	
Clip	-olivia	-skr	
Turn around	aivilo-	rks-	
Substitute	أوليفيا	أسكر	
Connect	أوليفيا	أسكر	

Your turn! Practice writing names in Arabic using the TSCTSC

Strategy and the Wheel.

STRATEGY	EXAMPLE 1	EXAMPLE 2	EXAMPLE 3
Type/Write			
Sound out			
Clip			
Turn around			
Substitute			
Connect			

STRATEGY	EXAMPLE 1	EXAMPLE 2	EXAMPLE 3
Type/Write			
Sound out			
Clip			
Turn around			
Substitute			
Connect			

STRATEGY	EXAMPLE 1	EXAMPLE 2	EXAMPLE 3
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