# MADAR AL-HURUF

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**WRITING NAMES IN ARABIC WITH MADAR AL-HURUF**
**THE ARABIC TRANSLITERATION WHEEL**

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. This strategy was inspired by and adapted from the book Sugar Comes from Arabic: A Beginner's Guide to Arabic Letters and Words by Barbara Whitesides (Interlink Books, 2009).

## TRANSLITERATION 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 ظ ط
- 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
  e= عِ  o= عُ  a= عَ

| LETTER | END | MIDDLE | BEGIN | INITIAL |
|--------|-----|--------|-------|---------|
| a | ـا | ـا | ا | أ |
| b | ـب | ـبـ | بـ | ب |
| c | ـك | ـكـ | كـ | ك |
| d | ـد | ـد | د | د |
| D | ـض | ـضـ | ضـ | ض |
| dh | ـظ | ـظـ | ظـ | ظ |
| e | ـي | ـيـ | يـ | ي |
| f | ـف | ـفـ | فـ | ف |
| g | ـغ | ـغـ | غـ | غ |
| h | ـه | ـهـ | هـ | ه |

| LETTER | END | MIDDLE | BEGIN | INITIAL |
|--------|-----|--------|-------|---------|
| H | ـح | ـحـ | حـ | ح |
| i | ـي | ـيـ | يـ | ي |
| j | ـج | ـجـ | جـ | ج |
| k | ـك | ـكـ | كـ | ك |
| kh | ـخ | ـخـ | خـ | خ |
| l | ـل | ـلـ | لـ | ل |
| m | ـم | ـمـ | مـ | م |
| n | ـن | ـنـ | نـ | ن |
| o | ـو | ـو | و | و |
| p | ـب | ـبـ | بـ | ب |
| q | ـق | ـقـ | قـ | ق |
| r | ـر | ـر | ر | ر |
| s | ـس | ـسـ | سـ | س |
| S | ـص | ـصـ | صـ | ص |
| sh | ـش | ـشـ | شـ | ش |
| t | ـت | ـتـ | تـ | ت |
| T | ـط | ـطـ | طـ | ط |
| th | ـث | ـثـ | ثـ | ث |
| TH | ـذ | ـذ | ذ | ذ |
| u | ـو | ـو | و | و |
| v | ـف | ـفـ | فـ | ف |
| w | ـو | ـو | و | و |
| x | ـكس | ـكسـ | كسـ | كس |
| y | ـي | ـيـ | يـ | ي |
| z | ـز | ـز | ز | ز |

The TSCTSC strategy was based on classroom research conducted by Fatima Abdulkadhem and Nour Jandali and was inspired by a similar strategy found in the book Sugar Comes from Arabic: A Beginner's Guide to Arabic Letters and Words by Barbara Whitesides (Interlink Books, 2009).

### 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.

## THE TSCTSC STRATEGY PRACTICE

| STRATEGY | EXAMPLE I | EXAMPLE II | EXERCISE III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type/Write | mercedes | canada | sophia |
| Sound out | mersedes | kanada | write how "ph" 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 | |

## THE TSCTSC STRATEGY PRACTICE

| STRATEGY | EXAMPLE I | EXAMPLE II | EXERCISE III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type/Write | chad | mitchell | chelsea |
| Sound out | tshaad | mitshel | |
| Clip | tshad | mitshl | |
| Turn around | d a s h t | l sh t i m | |
| Substitute | ت ش ا د | م ي ت ش ل | |
| Connect | تشاد | ميتشل | |

## 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: إ

Without the إ, 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 إ adds that emphasis to words in Arabic.

| STRATEGY | EXAMPLE I | EXAMPLE II | EXERCISE III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type/Write | edward | ethan | emily |
| Sound out | edward | ethen | |
| Clip | -dward | -ethn | |
| Turn around | d r a w d - | n t h e - | |
| Substitute | إ د و ا ر د | إ ي ث ن | |
| Connect | إدوارد | إيثن | |

| STRATEGY | EXAMPLE I | EXAMPLE II | EXERCISE III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type/Write | olivia | oscar | otis |
| Sound out | olivia | askar | |
| Clip | -olivia | -skr | |
| Turn around | a i v i l o - | r k s - | |
| Substitute | أ و ل ي ف ي ا | اُ س ك ر | |
| Connect | أوليفيا | اُسكر | |

**YOUR TURN:** Practice writing names in Arabic using the TSCTSC Strategy and the Wheel!

| STRATEGY | EXERCISE I | EXERCISE II | EXERCISE III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type/Write | | | |
| Sound out | | | |
| Clip | | | |
| Turn around | | | |
| Substitute | | | |
| Connect | | | |

| STRATEGY | EXERCISE I | EXERCISE II | EXERCISE III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type/Write | | | |
| Sound out | | | |
| Clip | | | |
| Turn around | | | |
| Substitute | | | |
| Connect | | | |

| STRATEGY | EXERCISE I | EXERCISE II | EXERCISE III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type/Write | | | |
| Sound out | | | |
| Clip | | | |
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| STRATEGY | EXERCISE I | EXERCISE II | EXERCISE III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type/Write | | | |
| Sound out | | | |
| Clip | | | |
| Turn around | | | |
| Substitute | | | |
| Connect | | | |