

Typesetting Arab: sample

The Arabic alphabet أَبْجَدِيَّة عَرَبِيَّة

In addition to the modern order of the Arabic alphabet (which groups consonants of similar shape) there still exists another order, the so-called *Abjad* order, which is the same as one of the ancient Semitic orders; see the following for variations where different substitutes for the ancient “samech” (another s, which still exists in Hebrew) are used:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abjad_numerals

أ ب ج د ه و ز ح ط ي ك ل م ن س ع ف ص ق ر ش ت ث خ ذ ض ظ

The first twenty-two letters are essentially the same as the corresponding Hebrew consonants and so I learned the Arabic alphabet (in part) by looking at the corresponding letter. There are practical differences between the two alphabets, mainly to do with letters that have a soft and hard variation. For instance Hebrew has a *f* and *p* Arabic only has the *f*. in addition Arabic treats soft and hard variation as separate letters, whereas Hebrew indicates the difference by an interior dot and so treats *f* and *p* as one letter. Hebrew also treats the *sin* and *shin* as one letter and indicates the difference by the position of the dot above the form. Arabic treats these as separate letters and this accounts, in part, for the different Abjad orders.

Arabic -- English Vocabulary

Arabic	English
يَد	hand
ماء	water
كَتَبَ	to write

The Opening Verses of the Quran

N.B. Not typeset, but copied from a web version of the Quran: [<http://tanzil.net/>]

سورة الفاتحة

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ. الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ. مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.