

LESSON 14

و WĀW

و (*wāw*). As a consonant it is pronounced like English *w*. The initial part of و is written identically to the initial part of ف and ق. It is a non-connector and does not join the following letter. Since it has no medial form it is easy to recognize in its isolated and final forms.

Observe the following combinations:

waṣafa

وَصَفَ

huwa

هُوَ

ṣinwun

صِنُّوْ

ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT

و as the initial consonant

Verbs

1. to brand

(wasama)

وَسَمَ

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2. to embrace	(wasi'a)	وَسِعَ	سِ عَ	وَّ
3. to describe	(waṣafa)	وَصَفَ	صَ فَا	وَّ
4. to join	(waṣala)	وَصَلَ	صَ لَ	وَّ
5. to put	(waḍa'a)	وَضَعَ	ضَ عَ	وَّ
6. to warn	(wa'aḏa)	وَعَظَ	عَ ظَ	وَّ
7. to fall	(waqa'a)	وَقَعَ	قَ عَ	وَّ
8. to bestow	(wahaba)	وَهَبَ	هَ بَ	وَّ
9. to be weak	(wahana)	وَهَنَ	هَ نَ	وَّ
10. to gather	(wasaqa)	وَسَقَ	سَ قَ	وَّ

و has an additional function. It is used as a vowel. It lengthens the short vowel *ḍammah* ء when it follows it. The combination و ء (ū) is pronounced like the English *oo* in 'shoot' and 'moon', but it is longer.

ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT

1. done	(maf'ūlun)	مَفْعُولٌ	لُ وُ	فَ عُ	مَ
2. assembled	(majmū'un)	مَجْمُوعٌ	عُ وُ	جُ مُ	مَ
3. overcome	(maghlūbun)	مَغْلُوبٌ	بُ وُ	غُ لُ	مَ
4. accursed	(mal'ūnun)	مَلْعُونٌ	نُ وُ	عُ لُ	مَ

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5. mad	(majnūnun)	مَجْنُونٌ	كُنْ	و	كُنْ	ج	مَج
6. sealed	(makhtūmun)	مَخْتُومٌ	مُ	و	تُ	خ	مَخ
7. known	(ma'lūmun)	مَعْلُومٌ	مُ	و	لُ	ع	مَع
8. detained	(ma'kūfun)	مَعْكُوفٌ	فُ	و	كُ	ع	مَع
9. hearts	(qulūbun)	قُلُوبٌ	بُ	و	لُ	ق	قُل
10. acceptance	(qabūlun)	قَبُولٌ	لُ	و	بُ	ق	قَب
11. roots	(uṣūlun)	أَصُولٌ	لُ	و	صُ	أ	أَص

When و is preceded by *fathah* as in قَوْلٌ *qawlun*, it is pronounced like the English diphthong *ow* in 'fowl', 'how' and 'shout'. The English diphthong *ou* as in 'go' does not exist in the Qur'anic Arabic.

ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT

1. taste	(dhawqun)	ذَوِقْ	قِ	و	ذ
2. saying, speech	(qawlun)	قَوْلٌ	لُ	و	ق
3. people	(qawmun)	قَوْمٌ	مُ	و	ق
4. colour	(lawnun)	لَوْنٌ	نٌ	و	ل
5. tablet	(lawḥun)	لَوْحٌ	حٌ	و	ل
6. sleep	(nawmun)	نَوْمٌ	مُ	و	ن

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7. fasting, fast	(ṣawmun)	صَ وَ مُ صَوْمٌ
8. sound	(ṣawtun)	صَ وَ تٌ صَوْتٌ
9. day	(yawmun)	يَ وَ مُ يَوْمٌ
10. fear	(khawfun)	خَ وَ فٌ خَوْفٌ

Before we close this lesson, let us learn وَ as a word also. It means, 'and', 'also', 'but', 'whilst'. وَ is also used as a form of oath.

PRACTICE TEXT 12

1. And bestow on us	وَهَبْ لَنَا
2. And We prescribed for them	وَكَتَبْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ
3. And they shall have no fear	وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ
4. By the fig	وَالَّتِيِّنِ
5. Thou art the Great Bestower	أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ
6. Then you turned back	ثُمَّ تَوَلَّيْتُمْ
7. You shall not wrong nor shall you be wronged	لَا تَظْلِمُونَ وَلَا تُظْلَمُونَ
8. They know all that you do	يَعْلَمُونَ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ
9. Those whom We carried (in the Ark) with Noah	مَنْ حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ