

## LESSON 2

ب *BĀ*, خ *KHĀ*, ع *ʿAYN* AND ق *QĀF*.

### THE VOWEL SIGN *KASRAH*

In this lesson we shall learn four more letters. Three of these letters, though not difficult to recognize in the written form, offer some difficulty in pronunciation.

ب (*bā*). It is pronounced like English *b*. The basic form of ب is a tooth ( ب ) and a dot below it ( ب ). Observe the following combinations:

bj	بج	ب ج
bb	بب	ب ب
bm	بم	ب م
bl	بل	ب ل
jbl	جبل	ج ب ل

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sbl س ب ل سبل

lbs ل ب س لبس

خ (*Khā'*). It is not an English sound. It is like the *ch* in the

Scottish '*loch*' or in the German '*nacht*' or '*ach*'. The Muslim names **Khāliq**, **Khadijā** and **Khālid** begin with this sound. خ is like the letter ج in all its forms except that the dot in خ is above the letter and in ج it is within the half circle of the tail.

Observe the following combinations:

k<sup>h</sup>b خ ب خب

k<sup>h</sup>s خ س خس

k<sup>h</sup>l خ ل خل

k<sup>h</sup>m خ م خم

s<sup>k</sup>h س خ سخ

b<sup>k</sup>h<sup>l</sup> ب خ ل بخل

ع (*ʿayn*). It has no English equivalent. It is a very strong guttural produced by compression of the throat and expulsion of the breath. It is a difficult sound for the average non-Arab to produce. Even non-Arab Muslims familiar with the sound cannot produce it without some effort. It is the first sound that you hear when Arab names ʿAbdullah and ʿAli, ʿUmar, ʿUthmān and ʿĀʾishah are pronounced.

The basic form of ʿayn is the initial open loop, which looks like the broken link of a chain.

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Observe the following combinations. In the English alphabet there is no letter to represent the sound of *‘ayn*, therefore normally one of the following three signs ‘, ‘ or ʻ are used to represent it.

‘l	عل	ل	ع
‘j	عج	ج	ع
‘m	عم	م	ع
‘b	عب	ب	ع

The loop of the *‘ayn* is slightly modified to provide for a ligature when it is joined by a preceding letter, thus **ع**, though the basic open loop **ع** is also used.

b‘	بع	ع	ب
j‘	جع	ع	ج
l‘	لع	ع	ل
al‘	جعل	ل	ع
al‘	عجل	ل	ع

**ق** (*qāf*). The sound of the first consonant in the word Qur’an. It is a guttural *k* sound produced in the throat with the back of the tongue closing the arches of the back of the mouth.

The basic form of **ق** is a bold circular dot **ق**, or in some script styles a loop with a slightly oval shape at the top and two dots above.

Observe the following combinations:

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ql	قل	ل	ق
qs	قس	س	ق
qb	قب	ب	ق
lq	لق	ق	ل
sq	سق	ق	س
bq	بق	ق	ب

In its medial form when a letter precedes it and another follows it, it becomes a small neat loop with two dots above, thus **ق**.

bql	بقل	ل	ق	ب
sqm	سقم	م	ق	س
lqb	لقب	ب	ق	ل

MEANINGFUL COMBINATIONS

1. to create ( <u>kh</u> alaqa)	خَلَقَ	ق	ل	خ
2. to make (ja <sup>ʿ</sup> ala)	جَعَلَ	ل	ع	ج
3. to accept (qabila)	قَبِلَ	ل	ب	ق
4. to collect (jama <sup>ʿ</sup> a)	جَمَعَ	ع	م	ج
5. to transform (masak <u>h</u> a)	مَسَخَ	خ	س	م
6. to portion out (qasama)	قَسَمَ	م	س	ق

THE VOWEL SIGN *KASRAH*

When a short diagonal stroke is placed under a consonant it is called *kasrah*. It corresponds to the vowel *i* in English *did*, *bid* and *mist*. The learner must be on his guard not to confuse the upper stroke *fathah* with *kasrah*. Observe the difference between the following two words:

to mark, to sign (‘alama)*	عَلَّمَ	مَ	لَ	عَ
to know (‘alima)	عَلِمَ	مَ	لِ	عِ

## ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT

1. to be safe and sound (salima)	سَلِمَ	مَ	لِ	سَ
2. to hear (sami‘a)	سَمِعَ	عَ	مِ	سَ
3. to hasten (‘ajila)	عَجِلَ	لَ	جِ	عَ
4. to be ill (saqima)	سَقِمَ	مَ	قِ	سَ
5. to play (la‘iba)	لَعِبَ	بَ	عِ	لَ

In Lesson 1 we learnt the simplest form of Arabic verb. It has three consonants. If these consonants are unvowelled, they indicate only the root of the verb. Meanings are expressed by the vowel pattern added to this root. Different vowel patterns signal different meanings. As we have seen earlier in this lesson, ‘alima عَلَّمَ means ‘to mark’. This word does not occur in the Qur’an, but there is another word from the same root ‘alima عَلِمَ which means ‘to know’. This verb does occur in the Qur’an. So pay careful attention to the vowel signs.

## PRACTICE TEXT 1

Read the following words. Once you are sure you have correctly read the words, check them with the transliteration given at the end of the book.

1. to put off	خَلَعَ	2. to return	قَلَبَ
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3. to remove	قَلَعَ	6. to get light from another*	قَبَسَ
4. to frown	عَبَسَ	7. to cover	لَبَسَ
5. to go before	سَبَقَ	8. to understand	عَقَلَ
9. to pluck off	سَلَخَ		

Arabic words may have many meanings. Here, only the meaning relevant to a Qur'anic context is given. The purpose is to familiarize you with the language. At the moment your aim is to learn the script, so do not distract your attention from that object by learning the words by rote.

جَعَلَ

*JA'ALA*