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HANDOUT

ISL1151

Arabic Through Quranic Text

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ISL1151

Arabic Through Quranic Text

Learning Arabic from the Qur'an — Study Handout

This handout covers ISL1151 Arabic Through Quranic Text: learning the Arabic language directly through the words, sentences and passages of the Holy Qur'an. Instead of abstract grammar drills, every rule is met inside real Quranic verses you already know and love. Arabic terms are transliterated with English meanings throughout, so no prior Arabic is assumed.

Method for this course: meet each pattern in a verse first, understand it, then recognize it in new verses. Recognition before production — you will read and understand far more than you are asked to write.

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Unit 1: Why Learn Arabic Through the Qur'an

Lectures 1–3

Learning Objectives

- Explain the status of Arabic as the language of the Qur'an
- Describe the advantages of learning Arabic via Quranic text
- Set realistic goals: reading, understanding, vocabulary
- Begin with the Arabic alphabet and its sounds

Arabic and the Qur'an

The Qur'an calls itself '**Qur'anan Arabiyyan**' — an Arabic recitation (12:2, 39:28). For fourteen centuries, Muslims have learned Arabic primarily to understand revelation directly. Learning through the Qur'an means every lesson carries spiritual reward alongside linguistic gain, and every grammatical pattern arrives inside a verse with eternal meaning — motivation no textbook can match.

Advantages of the Quranic Route

- **Familiar text:** you already recite parts of the Qur'an — recognition accelerates learning.
- **High-frequency vocabulary:** a few hundred root words unlock a huge share of the text (the word 'Allah' alone appears ~2,700 times).
- **Pure classical Arabic:** the Qur'an is the supreme model of fus-ha (classical) Arabic grammar and rhetoric.
- **Spiritual connection:** understanding what you recite in salah transforms worship.

Course Goals

- Read Quranic Arabic script fluently with correct pronunciation (tajwid basics).
- Understand the vocabulary and grammar of short surahs and selected verses.
- Recognize core patterns (verb forms, pronouns, sentence types) in new verses.
- Build a working vocabulary of ~300 high-frequency Quranic words.

Start where you are: Surah Al-Fatihah, which you recite daily. By the end of this course you will parse every word of it — 'Alhamdu (all praise) lillahi (belongs to Allah)'. Daily salah becomes daily revision; no extra study time needed for that portion.

Unit Summary

- The Qur'an is 'Qur'anan Arabiyyan' — learning its language is learning revelation directly.
- Familiar text + high-frequency roots + classical purity + spiritual reward = the ideal path.
- Goal: read fluently, understand short surahs, recognize patterns, own ~300 words.

Exam Pointers

- ★ Give four advantages of learning Arabic through the Qur'an.

- ★ What does 'Qur'anan Arabiyyan' mean and where is it said?
- ★ State the four course goals.

Unit 2: The Arabic Alphabet and Pronunciation

Lectures 4–7

Learning Objectives

- Recognize all 28 letters in isolated and joined forms
- Pronounce the emphatic and throaty letters correctly
- Read with vowel marks (harakat): fatha, damma, kasra
- Apply basic tajwid: articulation points

The 28 Letters

Arabic reads **right to left**; most letters change shape by position (isolated, initial, medial, final); six letters (alif, dal, dhal, ra, zay, waw) don't join to the left. Short vowels are marks: **fatha** (a), **damma** (u), **kasra** (i); **sukun** marks no vowel; **shadda** doubles the consonant.

Sounds with No English Equivalent

Emphatics (mufakhkhamah) — sad, dad, ta, dha: pronounced with a constricted throat, giving a 'heavy' sound (compare seen/sad, dal/dad).

Throat letters — ha, ayn, ha', hamzah, kha, ghayn: produced deep in the throat; ayn and the deep ha need practice.

Qaf vs kaf — qaf is deeper (back of tongue against soft palate).

- **Makharij** (articulation points): knowing WHERE each letter is produced is basic tajwid and fixes most mispronunciation.

Reading Practice Path

Isolated letters → letters with fatha/damma/kasra → joined words (start with 2-letter joins: ba+ta) → short Quranic words (rabb, din, sirat) → short verses. Practice daily in small doses — 15 minutes of reading beats 2 hours weekly. Use a mushaf with clear large print and color-coded tajwid as training wheels.

Minimal pairs to drill: qalb (heart) vs kalb (dog) — qaf vs kaf changes meaning entirely. Seen/sad: say 'sami'a' vs 'sami'a' heavy. Such pairs prove pronunciation is not decoration — it protects meaning, which is why tajwid matters.

Unit Summary

- 28 letters, right-to-left, shape-shifting, with harakat marking short vowels.
- Master emphatics, throat letters and qaf/kaf — makharij-based practice.
- Build: isolated → vowels → joins → Quranic words → verses; daily short practice.

Exam Pointers

- ★ Which six letters don't join to the left?
- ★ Explain fatha, damma, kasra, sukun, shadda with one example each.
- ★ Why does qalb vs kalb matter? (pronunciation protects meaning)

Unit 3: Pronouns and the Concept of I'rab

Lectures 8–11

Learning Objectives

- Use detached and attached pronouns
- Recognize pronouns in Quranic verses
- Explain i'rab: how word endings show grammatical role
- Identify the three cases: rafa', nasb, jarr

Detached Pronouns (damair munfasilah)

huwa (he), huma (they two), hum (they m.), hiya (she), huma (they two f.), hunna (they f.), anta (you m.), antuma, antum, anti (you f.), antunna, ana (I), nahnu (we). —

- Learn them as a chant — they appear constantly ('huwa Allahu ahad' — He, Allah, is One, 112:1).

Attached Pronouns (damair muttasilah)

Suffixes: **-hu/-hi** (his), **-ha** (her), **-hum** (their), **-ka** (your m.), **-ki** (your f.), **-kum** (your pl.), **-il/-ya** (my), **-na** (our). Attached to nouns = possession ('rabbu-hu' — his Lord), to verbs = object ('khalafa-hum' — He created them), to prepositions ('alay-him' — upon them, as in Al-Fatihah's 'alladhina an'amta alayhim').

I'rab: The Case System

I'rab = the change in word endings showing grammatical function. Three cases: **rafa'** (damma — typically the subject/doer), **nasb** (fatha — typically the object), **jarr** (kasra — after prepositions and as second term of idafa). Example: 'khalafa Allahu al-samawati' — Allahu (rafa', the Creator), al-samawati (nasb, the created). The endings TELL you who did what — word order is flexible because i'rab carries the grammar.

Verse lab — Al-Fatihah 1:2 'alhamdu lillahi rabbi al-amin': al-hamdu (rafa' — subject), li-l-lahi (jarr after li), rabbi (descriptive), al-amin (jarr). Parse it aloud: subject with damma, 'lillah' with kasra after the preposition — the verse demonstrates two cases in six words.

Unit Summary

- Detached pronouns (huwa, anta, ana...) and attached suffixes (-hu, -ka, -na...) — learn both sets cold.
- Attached pronouns show possession, objects, and prepositional complements.
- I'rab: rafa' (damma/subject), nasb (fatha/object), jarr (kasra/after prepositions) — endings reveal grammar.

Exam Pointers

- ★ Write the detached pronouns chart from memory.
- ★ Attach 'my/our/their' to 'rabb' and 'kitab'.

★ Parse 'khalaqa Allahu al-samawati' by i'rab.

Unit 4: Nouns: Gender, Number and the Idafa

Lectures 12–15

Learning Objectives

- Identify masculine vs feminine nouns
- Form singular, dual and plural (sound and broken)
- Construct and understand the idafa (possessive phrase)
- Recognize adjectives and agreement

Gender and Number

- **Gender:** feminine often marked by ta marbutah (madrasah, jannah) but some are feminine by usage (shams — sun, ard — earth, nar — fire). Everything else defaults masculine.
- **Dual:** add -ani (rafa') / -ayni: muslimani (two Muslims), yawmayni (two days) — 'rabb al-mashriqayni wa rabb al-maghribayni' (Lord of the two easts and two wests, 55:17).
- **Sound plurals:** -una/-ina (masculine: muslimuna), -at (feminine: mu'minat). **Broken plurals:** internal pattern change (kitab → kutub, qalam → aqlam) — must be memorized per word; extremely common in the Qur'an.

The Idafa (Possessive Construction)

The **idafa** = two nouns: 'X of Y' with NO word for 'of': **kitab Allahi** (Book of Allah). Rules: first term (mudaf) takes **no al-** and no nunation; second term (mudaf ilayhi) is in **jarr**. Chain them: 'sirat alladhina an'amta alayhim' contains idafa-like structures; 'maliki yawmi al-din' (Master of the Day of Judgment, 1:4) = malik (mudaf) + yawm (mudaf ilayhi, jarr) + al-din (jarr). The idafa is the single most frequent Quranic phrase pattern — master it and huge stretches of text open up.

Adjectives

Adjectives **follow** the noun and **agree** in gender, number, case and definiteness: 'al-sirat al-mustaqim' (the straight path — both definite, both jarr). 'Rahman' and 'Rahim' describe Allah in the basmalah. Note: non-human plurals take feminine singular adjectives ('ayatin bayyinat' — clear signs).

Build-and-parse drill: 'nur al-qamar' (light of the moon) — nur (mudaf, no al-), al-qamar (jarr). 'Al-kitab al-hakim' (the wise Book) — adjective agrees. Make ten such pairs from Quranic vocabulary; the pattern becomes reflex.

Unit Summary

- Feminine by ta marbutah or usage; dual with -ani/-ayni; sound plurals (-una/-at) vs broken plurals (kutub).
- Idafa: 'X of Y' with no 'of' — mudaf loses al-, mudaf ilayhi takes jarr; chains common.
- Adjectives follow nouns and agree fully; non-human plurals take feminine singular.

Exam Pointers

- ★ Give the dual and plural of: muslim, mu'minah, kitab, yawm.

- ★ Parse 'maliki yawmi al-din' as idafa chain.
- ★ Why is the idafa the most important phrase pattern for Quranic reading?

Unit 5: Verbs I: The Past Tense (Al-Madi)

Lectures 16–19

Learning Objectives

- Conjugate the past tense across all pronouns
- Recognize past-tense verbs in verses
- Understand the root system: fa-ayn-lam
- Identify famous Quranic past-tense verbs

The Root System

Arabic words grow from **3-letter roots**: k-t-b (writing), 'l-m (knowledge), kh-l-q (creating), r-h-m (mercy), n-z-l (sending down). The pattern fa'ala is the template: kataba (he wrote) = fa(k)+a+la(t)+a+ba(b). Learn to **strip a word to its root** — then the dictionary (and your memory) unlocks whole families: kataba, kitab, katib, maktab — all 'writing' words.

Past Tense Conjugation (kataba)

huwa kataba, huma kataba, hum katabu; hiya katabat, huma katabata, hunna katabna; anta katabta, antuma katabtuma, antum katabtum; anti katabti, antuma katabtuma, antunna katabtunna; ana katabtu, nahnu katabna. —

- The endings (-a, -u, -at, -ta, -ti, -tum, -tu, -na) are constant across ALL verbs — learn once, apply everywhere.

Quranic Past Verbs to Own

- 'khalaqa' (He created) — kh-l-q. 'anzala' (He sent down) — n-z-l. 'ja'ala' (He made) — j-'-l. 'qala' (he said) — q-w-l. 'amana' (he believed) — a-m-n. 'kafara' (he disbelieved) — k-f-r. 'sami'a' (he heard) — s-m-'l. 'ahsana' (he did good) — h-s-n.

Verse lab — 112:3 'lam yalid wa lam yulad': yalid/yulad are mudari' (next unit), but note the roots: w-l-d (birth). And 97:1 'inna anzalnahu fi laylat al-qadr' — anzala (past, 'We sent down') + -na (we) + -hu (it): 'We sent it down' — past tense + attached pronouns in one glorious word. Parse it fully.

Unit Summary

- Every Arabic word grows from a 3-letter root; fa'ala is the master template.
- Past-tense endings are universal — memorize the 14 forms of kataba once.
- Own the high-frequency Quranic past verbs: khalaqa, anzala, ja'ala, qala, amana.

Exam Pointers

- ★ Conjugate 'nasara' (he helped) in the past tense, all persons.
- ★ Extract the roots of: khalaqa, anzala, kitab, muslim.
- ★ Parse 'anzalnahu' morphologically.

Unit 6: Verbs II: The Present/Future (Al-Mudari')

Lectures 20–23

Learning Objectives

- Conjugate the mudari' (imperfect) tense
- Use prefixes sa-/sawfa for the future
- Recognize negation: la, lam, lan
- Read mudari' verbs in verses

Mudari' Conjugation (yaktubu — he writes/is writing/will write)

huwa yaktubu, huma yaktubani, hum yaktubuna; hiya taktubu, huma taktubani, hunna yaktubna; anta taktubu, antuma taktubani, antum taktubuna; anti taktubina, antuma taktubani, antunna taktubna; ana aktubu, nahnu naktubu. —

- Prefixes (ya/ta/a/na) mark the person; suffixes (-u, -ani, -una, -ina, -na) mark number/gender. The mudari' covers present AND future — context and particles decide.

Future and Negation Particles

sa- / sawfa + mudari' = future: 'sa-yaqulu' (he will say), 'sawfa ta'lamuna' (you will know). —

la + mudari' = present negation: 'la ya'lamuna' (they do not know). —

lam + mudari' (jussive) = past negation: 'lam yalid' (He did not beget, 112:3) — lam turns the mudari' into past negative!

lan + mudari' = future negation (emphatic): 'lan tanalu al-birra' (you will never attain righteousness, 3:92). —

Surah Al-Ikhlās grammar tour — 112:1 'qul huwa Allahu ahad': qul (imperative, next unit — 'say!'), huwa (pronoun), Allahu (rafa'), ahadun (predicate). 112:3 'lam yalid wa lam yulad': lam + yalid (past negative), yulad (passive — 'was begotten'). 112:4 'wa lam yakun lahu kufuwan ahad': yakun (mudari' of kana), lahu (for Him), kufuwan (nasb — predicate), ahadun (subject). One short surah, the whole verbal system on display.

Unit Summary

- Mudari': person-prefixes + number-suffixes; covers present and future.
- sa-/sawfa = future; la = not (present); lam = did not (past!); lan = will never.
- Surah Al-Ikhlās contains the complete negation system — memorize its parse.

Exam Pointers

- ★ Conjugate yaktubu fully.
- ★ Distinguish la, lam, lan with one Quranic example each.
- ★ Parse 112:3 word by word.

Unit 7: Imperatives, Derived Forms and Sentence Patterns

Lectures 24–27

Learning Objectives

- Form and recognize the imperative (amr)
- Meet the common derived verb forms (II–X)
- Distinguish nominal vs verbal sentences
- Recognize common particles: inna, qad, ma, idha

The Imperative

'qul' (say!), 'iqra' (read!), 'u'budu' (worship!), 'ittaqu' (fear/be conscious of!) — the Qur'an addresses you directly. Form: from the mudari' (taktubu → uktub). 'Iqra bismi rabbika' (96:1) — the first revealed word is an imperative: Read! Note how commands to Allah's servants carry love, not harshness.

Derived Forms (awzan) — A Map

Form II (fa''ala) — intensive/causative: 'allama (he taught) from 'alima (he knew).

Form III (fa'ala) — reciprocal: qatala (he fought).

Form IV (af'ala) — causative: anzala (He sent down) from nazala (it came down).

Form V (tafa''ala) — reflexive of II: ta'allama (he learned).

Form VII (infa'ala) — passive-like: inkasara (it broke).

Form VIII (ifta'ala) — reflexive: ijtama'a (they gathered).

Form X (istaf'ala) — seeking: istaghfara (he sought forgiveness).

- You don't conjugate all forms yet — just RECOGNIZE the patterns and their flavor (causative, reflexive, seeking).

Sentence Patterns and Particles

- **Verbal sentence:** verb first — 'khalafa Allahu...' **Nominal sentence:** noun first — 'Allahu nur al-samawat' (Allah is the Light of the heavens, 24:35).
- **Particles:** inna (indeed — puts the following noun in nasb: 'inna Allaha'), qad (indeed/already: 'qad aflaha' — successful indeed are...), ma (not/what), idha (when), hal (question: 'hal...' = is...?).

Form-spotting: 'istaghfiru rabbakum' (seek your Lord's forgiveness!) — Form X, seeking; imperative plural. 'Yu'allimuhum' (He teaches them) — Form II causative, mudari'. Once you see the shapes, the Qur'an starts labeling its own verbs.

Unit Summary

- Imperatives address you directly: qul, iqra, ittaqu — the Qur'an's favorite verb mood.
- Derived forms add meaning flavors: II intensive, IV causative, X seeking — recognize, don't yet produce.

- Verbal (verb-first) vs nominal (noun-first) sentences; particles inna, qad, ma, idha, hal.

Exam Pointers

- ★ Identify the form and meaning-flavor of: allama, anzala, istaghfara, ta'allama.
- ★ Distinguish verbal and nominal sentences with examples.
- ★ What does 'inna' do to the noun after it?

Unit 8: Reading the Short Surahs with Understanding

Lectures 28–32

Learning Objectives

- Parse Surah Al-Fatihah completely
- Understand Al-Ikhlās, Al-Falaq and An-Nas
- Build the 300-word core Quranic vocabulary
- Develop independent verse-analysis skills

Al-Fatihah: The Complete Parse

1) Basmalah: bi-smi (jarr after bi) Allāhi (jarr, mudaf ilayhi) al-Rahmāni al-Rahīmī (adjectives, jarr). 2) 'alhamdu lillāhi': hamd (praise, rafa' subject) li-llāhi (for Allāh, jarr). 3) 'rabbi al-ālamīn': rabb (Lord, descriptive) al-ālamīn (worlds, jarr). 4) 'al-Rahmāni al-Rahīm' (adjectives). 5) 'maliki yawmi al-dīn': idafa chain (Master of the Day of Judgment). 6) 'iyyaka na'budu wa iyyaka nasta'in': iyyaka (YOU alone — fronted object for emphasis!), na'budu (we worship, mudari'), nasta'in (we seek help — Form X!). 7) 'ihdina al-sirata al-mustaqīm': ihdina (guide us — imperative + na), al-sirata (object, nasb), al-mustaqīm (adjective).

The Mu'awwidhatayn and Al-Ikhlās

- Al-Ikhlās (112): pure monotheism — parsed in Unit 6. Al-Falaq (113): 'qul a'udhu bi-rabbi al-falaq' (I seek refuge with the Lord of the daybreak) — a'udhu (I seek refuge, mudari'), idafa 'rabb al-falaq'. An-Nas (114): 'rabb al-nas, malik al-nas, ilah al-nas' — triple idafa, triple reassurance.

The 300-Word Strategy

Quranic vocabulary is wonderfully concentrated: ~300 roots cover the vast majority of occurrences. Priority lists: Divine names (Rabb, Rahman, Rahim, Malik, Quddus...), core verbs (khalāqa, ja'ala, anzala, amana, kafara...), key nouns (sama', ard, nur, din, ajr, nar, jannah...), connectors (inna, wa, fa, thumma, idha...). Learn each word IN its verse — vocabulary with context sticks; lists alone fade.

Independent Analysis Method

For any new verse: 1) read aloud correctly, 2) mark the verbs (tense? form? root?), 3) mark the idafas and pronouns, 4) identify the sentence type, 5) draft the translation, 6) check against a trusted translation. This six-step method is the course's final skill — practice it on every verse from now on.

Final exercise: take 94:5-6 'fa-inna ma'a al-'usri yusra, inna ma'a al-'usri yusra' (So indeed with hardship comes ease). Find: inna (particle), ma'a (with), al-'usri (jarr — hardship), yusra (ease, subject in rafa'). Feel the rhetoric: the repetition, the word order (hardship first, ease as the surprise). Grammar serving meaning — that is Arabic through Quranic text.

Unit Summary

- Al-Fatihah parsed: i'rab, idafa chains, fronted objects (iyyaka), Form X (nasta'in).

- Mu'awwidhatayn: refuge vocabulary and triple idafas.
- ~300 roots unlock the Qur'an; learn words inside their verses.
- Six-step verse analysis: read → verbs → phrases → sentence → translate → verify.

Exam Pointers

- ★ Parse Al-Fatihah 1:5 ('iyyaka na'budu...') completely.
- ★ Why is the object fronted in 'iyyaka na'budu'?
- ★ Apply the six-step method to a given short verse.

Key Terms Glossary

All key terms from this handout in one place — use for quick revision.

Emphatics (mufakhkhamah) — sad, dad, ta, dha: pronounced with a constricted throat, giving a 'heavy' sound (compare seen/sad, dal/dad).

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huwa yaktubu, huma yaktubani, hum yaktubuna; hiya taktubu, huma taktubani, hunna yaktubna; anta taktubu, antuma taktubani, antum taktubuna; anti taktubina, antuma taktubani, antunna taktubna; ana aktubu, nahnu naktubu. —

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