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HIGHLIGHTED HANDOUT

ISL1253

Arabic Language - I

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ISL1253

Arabic Language - I

STUDY HANDOUT

A complete topic-wise study handout for ISL1253 Arabic Language - I, prepared from Arabic language video lecture series covering the alphabet, pronunciation, and foundational grammar. Covers the Arabic alphabet, harakat, word formation, pronouns, nouns, verbs, sentence structure and everyday vocabulary - with Arabic script examples, transliteration, explanations and exam pointers.

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Lecture 1: Why Learn Arabic

Key terms: Arabic, Quran, Semitic languages, diglossia

Arabic is the language of the Holy Quran and of over 400 million people across the Middle East, North Africa and beyond. For Muslims, learning Arabic opens direct access to the Quran, Hadith and Islamic scholarship; for students, it is a major world language of diplomacy, business and culture. Arabic belongs to the Semitic language family (with Hebrew and Amharic) and is written right to left in a beautiful cursive script where most letters join.

- Modern Standard Arabic is used in media, education and formal writing; dialects vary by region.
- Arabic script is also used for Urdu and Persian - your Urdu reading gives you a head start.
- Goal of this course: read, write and understand basic Arabic and simple sentences.

EXAM POINTER: Be ready to write 3-4 lines on the importance of learning Arabic for a Muslim student.

Lecture 2: The Arabic Alphabet I: Alif to Seen

Key terms: alphabet, abjadiyah, letter forms

The Arabic alphabet has 28 letters, written from right to left. Most letters change shape depending on position: isolated, initial (joined on the left), medial (joined both sides), and final (joined on the right). The first group: ا alif, ب ba, ت ta, ث tha, ج jeem, ح ha, خ kha, د daal, ذ dhaal, ر ra, ز za, س seen. Six letters - ا د ذ ز و - never join to the following letter (right-joining only).

• ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س - practice writing each in all four forms

- Alif ا never takes a dot; ba ب has one dot below, ta ت two above, tha ث three above.
- Write right to left; letters within a word join, but the six non-joining letters break the connection.

EXAM POINTER: Exam task: write the alphabet group in isolated and joined forms - practice until automatic.

Lecture 3: The Arabic Alphabet II: Sheen to Qaf

Key terms: sheen, saad, daad, taa, dhaa, ayn, ghayn, fa, qaf

The second group: ش sheen (three dots), ص saad, ض daad, ط taa, ظ dhaa, ع ayn, غ ghayn, ف fa, ق qaf. The emphatic letters ط ظ ص ض are pronounced with a full, deep mouth (tafkhim)

- a distinctive Arabic feature with no Urdu/English equivalent. Ayn ع is a voiced throat sound; ghayn غ resembles a gargled 'gh'.

• ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق - note the dot patterns: sheen 3 above, fa 1 above, qaf 2 above

• Emphatics colour neighbouring vowels: صلاة sounds deeper than سلام.

• Listen-and-repeat with a teacher or audio is essential for ع and the emphatics. 

Lecture 4: The Arabic Alphabet III: Kaf to Ya

Key terms: kaf, lam, meem, noon, ha, waw, ya

The final group: ك kaf, ل lam, م meem, ن noon, ه ha, و waw, ي ya. Lam-alif لا has a special combined form. Ta marbuta ة (a ha with two dots) appears at the end of feminine words and is pronounced 't' when vowelled, 'h' in pause. Hamza ء (the glottal stop) sits on alif, waw, ya or alone depending on rules you will meet later.

• ك ل م ن ه و ي - complete the 28 letters

• lam + alif ligature - always written joined = لا

• ة ta marbuta marks feminine nouns: مدرسة (school), جامعة (university).

EXAM POINTER: Write all 28 letters from memory in order - a standard first-exam question.

Lecture 5: Harakat: The Short Vowels

Key terms: harakat, fatha, damma, kasra, vowel signs

Arabic short vowels are written as marks above or below consonants: fatha (a short 'a', a dash above: ب = ba), damma (short 'u', a small و above: ب = bu), kasra (short 'i', a dash below: ب = bi). Without harakat, ب could be ba, bu or bi - vowels disambiguate meaning. The Quran, children's books and learners' texts include harakat; ordinary adult texts omit them.

• fatha = 'a', damma = 'u', kasra = 'i'.

• Example: كتب (kataba - he wrote) vs كتب (kutub - books) - same letters, different vowels, different words!

• Practice: add correct harakat to 3-letter words from vocabulary lists.

Lecture 6: Sukun, Shadda and Tanween

Key terms: sukun, shadda, tanween, nunation

Sukun () marks a consonant with no vowel: من (man). Shadda () doubles a consonant - hold it longer: مدرسة (madrassa) vs مدرسة (madrasa, different word!). Tanween () adds an 'n' sound to indefinite nouns: كتاب (kitabun - a book), and marks indefiniteness ('a/an') as opposed to the definite ال ('the').

- Shadda changes meaning: درس (he studied) vs درس (he taught).
- Tanween forms: (un), (in), (an) - I usually needs an extra alif: كتابا.
- Definite: الكتاب (the book); indefinite: كتاب (a book).

EXAM POINTER: Explain tanween and convert five indefinite nouns to definite form with ال. 

Lecture 7: Sun and Moon Letters

Key terms: sun letters, moon letters, assimilation of lam

When ال (the) precedes a sun letter, the ل assimilates - it is written but not pronounced, and the sun letter takes a shadda: الشمس (ash-shams, the sun). Before moon letters, the ل is pronounced clearly: القمر (al-qamar, the moon). Sun letters: ت ث د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ل ن. Moon letters: ا ب ج ح خ غ ف ق ك م ه و ي.

- Trick: sun letters are mostly the 'tongue-tip' sounds; memorise the list.
- الشمس، النور، الرجل (sun) vs المسجد، الولد (moon).
- In recitation, wrong assimilation is a noticeable error - practice aloud.

Lecture 8: Long Vowels and Diphthongs

Key terms: long vowels, alif-madd, waw-madd, ya-madd

Long vowels stretch short ones: ا after fatha = long 'aa' (با = baa), و after damma = long 'oo' (بو = boo), ي after kasra = long 'ee' (بي = bee). Diphthongs: fatha + و = 'aw' (يوم = yawm, day), fatha + ي = 'ay' (بيت = bayt, house). Madd (prolongation) rules in tajweed extend these further before hamza or shadda.

- باب (baab - door), نور (noor - light), دين (deen - religion).
- Length matters: قلب (qalb - heart) vs قالب - different words!
- In the Quran, madd signs guide correct prolongation.

Lecture 9: Greetings and Everyday Expressions

Key terms: greetings, assalamu alaikum, courtesy phrases



Essential expressions: والسلام عليكم (assalamu alaikum - peace be upon you), (wa alaikum assalam - reply), صباح الخير (sabah al-khayr - good morning), مساء الخير (masa al-khayr - good evening), شكرا (shukran - thank you), عفوا (afwan - you're welcome/excuse me), نعم (na'am - yes), لا (la - no).

- ما اسمك؟ (ma ismuk? - what is your name? - to a male), ما اسمك؟ (to a female).
- اسمي ... (...ismi... - my name is), كيف حالك؟ (?how are you).
- بخير، الحمد لله (bikhayr, alhamdulillah - fine, praise be to Allah).

EXAM POINTER: Memorise a self-introduction: name, country, student - a common oral-exam task.

Lecture 10: Personal Pronouns I: Singular

Key terms: pronouns, ana, anta, anti, huwa, hiya

Arabic pronouns mark gender. Singular: أنا (ana - I), أنت (anta - you, male), أنت (anti - you, female), هو (huwa - he), هي (hiya - she). Unlike English, 'you' differs for male and female - a fundamental feature. Pronouns are often dropped with verbs since the verb shows the subject, but they add emphasis.

- أنا طالب (ana taalibun - I am a student - male), أنا طالبة (female).
- هو مدرس (he is a teacher), هي مدرسة (she is a teacher).
- Addressing correctly (anta vs anti) is basic courtesy.

Lecture 11: Personal Pronouns II: Dual and Plural

Key terms: dual, plural, nahnu, antum, hum

Arabic has a dual number (two of something) alongside singular and plural - unique among major languages. We: نحن (nahnu). You (dual): أنتما, you (plural male): أنتم, you (plural female): أنتن. They (dual): هما, they (male): هم, they (female): هن. Dual nouns add كتابان (two books).

- Dual is used for exactly two; three or more is plural.
- Sound masculine plural adds وون: مسلمون; feminine plural adds ات: مسلمات.
- Broken plurals (كتاب from كتب) are irregular - memorise with each noun.

Lecture 12: Nouns: Gender

Key terms: masculine, feminine, ta marbuta

Every Arabic noun is masculine or feminine. Feminine markers: ta marbuta (مدرسة), alif (أ) endings, and some inherently feminine words (sun, earth, body parts in pairs like hand, eye). All other nouns are masculine. Gender affects adjectives, verbs and pronouns - agreement is everywhere, so learning each noun's gender is essential. ☰

• معلم (male teacher) / معلمة (female teacher).

• Inherently feminine: أم (mother), بنت (girl), دار (house).

• Adjectives follow gender: طالب مجتهد / طالبة مجتهدة (hardworking student).

Lecture 13: Nouns: Number - Singular, Dual, Plural

Key terms: singular, dual, sound plural, broken plural

Number system: singular (كتاب), dual - add (كتابان - two books), plural - sound masculine (كتابون/ون), sound feminine (كاتبات), and broken plurals with internal pattern changes (كتب - بيت - بيوت, ولد - أولاد). Broken plurals follow patterns but must be memorised per word - always learn the plural with a new noun.

• Non-human plurals take feminine singular agreement: الكتب مفيدة (the books are useful).

• Dual verb/adjective agreement follows dual forms.

• Dictionary entries list plurals - build the habit of noting them.

EXAM POINTER: Give plurals of ten common nouns, identifying sound vs broken - a staple exam exercise.

Lecture 14: Demonstrative Pronouns

Key terms: demonstratives, hadha, hadhihi, dhalika

This (near): هذا (hadha - masculine), هذه (hadhihi - feminine). That (far): ذلك (dhalika - masc), تلك (tilka - fem). These/those: هؤلاء (ha'ula'i - near plural), أولئك (ula'ika - far plural). Demonstratives agree in gender and number with the noun: هذا كتاب (this is a book), هذه مدرسة (this is a school).

• هذا طالب مجتهد - adjectives chain after the noun

• ذلك القلم بعيد (that pen is far) - practice near/far contrasts

• هؤلاء طلاب (these are students)

Lecture 15: Adjectives and Agreement

Key terms: adjectives, agreement, nisba adjectives

Adjectives follow the noun and agree in gender, number, definiteness and case: كتاب كبير (a big book), الكتاب الكبير (the big book), مدرسة كبيرة (a big school). Nisba adjectives show origin/relation with باستاني (Pakistani), عربي (Arab), إسلامي (Islamic). Colours and common adjectives are high-frequency vocabulary - memorise them in masculine/feminine pairs.

- كبير/كبيرة (big), صغير/صغيرة (small), جديد/جديدة (new), قديم/قديمة (old).
- جميل (beautiful), طويل (tall/long), قصير (short), سعيد (happy).
- Definiteness agreement: if the noun has ال, so does the adjective.

Lecture 16: The Past Tense Verb I: Conjugation

Key terms: past tense, sarf, conjugation

Arabic verbs conjugate by person, gender and number through suffixes on a 3-letter root. From ك-ت-ب (writing): كتب (he wrote), كتبت (she wrote), كتبت (you m. wrote), كتبت (you f. wrote), كتبت (I wrote), كتبنا (we wrote), كتبوا (they m. wrote), كتبن (they f. wrote). The root carries meaning; the pattern carries grammar - the genius of Arabic morphology.

- Learn the full 13/14-form table for one verb, then apply to others.
- Dual forms: كتبا (they two wrote).
- Practice: conjugate درس (study), قرأ (read), ذهب (go).

EXAM POINTER: Conjugate a given root in the past tense - the central sarf exam question. 

Lecture 17: The Present Tense Verb

Key terms: present tense, prefixes, future with sa/sawfa

The present tense adds prefixes (and some suffixes) to the stem: يكتب (he writes), تكتب (she/you m. write), أكتب (I write), نكتب (we write), يكتبون (they m. write). Prefixes: ي ت أ ن (ya-ta-alif-nun). The present covers habitual and ongoing present; adding سوف or س makes the future: سيكتب (he will write). Negation with لا يكتب (he does not write).

- يكتب، تكتب، أكتب، نكتب - drill until automatic
- سأذهب (I will go), سوف ندرس (we will study)
- لم يكتب (he did not write) - jussive negates the past + لم

Lecture 18: Simple Nominal Sentences

Key terms: nominal sentence, muftada, khabar

A nominal sentence has no verb 'is': it consists of the subject (مبتدأ, muftada) and predicate (خبر, khabar): الطالب مجتهد (the student is hardworking). Both are normally in the nominative case (damma). Negation with ليس: ليس الطالب مجتهدا (the student is not hardworking). Word order: subject first, then predicate - though emphasis can invert them.

- الله كريم (Allah is Generous), العلم نور (knowledge is light).
- البيت كبير والحديقة جميلة - chain simple sentences
- Questions: هل الطالب مجتهد؟ (Is the student hardworking?)

Lecture 19: Simple Verbal Sentences

Key terms: verbal sentence, fi'l, fa'il, maf'ul

A verbal sentence starts with the verb: يكتب الطالب الدرس (the student writes the lesson). Components: الفعل (verb), الفاعل (doer, nominative), المفعول (object, accusative with fatha). Default order VSO, though SVO occurs for emphasis. The verb agrees with the subject in gender (but stays singular before a plural subject in classical style): كتب الطلاب الدرس.

- قرأ الولد الكتاب (the boy read the book)
- شربت البنت الماء (the girl drank the water)
- Identify fi'l, fa'il, maf'ul in five sentences - standard exercise.

Lecture 20: Prepositions and Common Particles

Key terms: prepositions, fi, ila, min, ala, bi, li

Key prepositions: في (in), إلى (to), من (from), على (on), بـ (with/by), لـ (for/to). Prepositions put nouns in the genitive case (kasra): في البيت (in the house), إلى المدرسة (to the school). Common particles: هل (question), قد (with past: indeed/already; with present: may), إن (indeed - puts subject in accusative).

- الكتاب على الطاولة (the book is on the table)
- ذهبت إلى السوق (I went to the market)
- إن الله غفور (Indeed Allah is Forgiving)

Lecture 21: Numbers 1-10

Key terms: numbers, wahid, ithnan, thalatha

.three female students). 1 and 2 agree normally as adjectives) ثلاث طالبات (three books - feminine number with masculine noun): Number-noun agreement has a famous twist: numbers 3-10 take the opposite gender of the counted noun and the noun goes plural. 10 عشرة, 1 واحد, 2 اثنان, 3 ثلاثة, 4 أربعة, 5 خمسة, 6 ستة, 7 سبعة, 8 ثمانية, 9 تسعة,

• كتاب واحد (one book), طالبان اثنان (two students).

• أحد عشر (11), اثنا عشر (12) - teens preview

• Practice: count classroom objects aloud daily.

EXAM POINTER: Write numbers 1-10 with correct noun agreement - examiners test the 3-10 polarity rule.

Lecture 22: Days, Months and Time Expressions

Key terms: days of week, months, telling time

Days: الأحد (Sunday), الاثنين (Monday), الثلاثاء (Tuesday), الأربعاء (Wednesday), الخميس (Thursday), الجمعة (Friday), السبت (Saturday). Islamic months: ربيع الأول, صفر, محرم... Time: أمس (yesterday), اليوم (today), (am/pm) صباحا/مساء, الساعة الثالثة (3 - o'clock) - الساعة (hour/o'clock) غدا (tomorrow).

• يوم الجمعة عطلة (Friday is a holiday).

• في أي ساعة؟ (at what time?), الساعة الآن الخامسة (it is now five o'clock).

• Learn your daily routine vocabulary: أستيقظ (I wake up), أفطر (I have breakfast).

Lecture 23: Family and People Vocabulary

Key terms: family vocabulary, nasab

.كتابي (my book), كتابك (your m. book), كتابك (your f. book), كتابه (his book), كتابها (her book): neighbour). Possessive suffixes attach to nouns) جار (friend), صديق (maternal uncle), خال (son), ابن (sister), بنت (daughter), جد (grandfather), جدة (grandmother), عم (paternal uncle), أب (father), أم (mother), أخ (brother), أخت

• أبي يعمل مدرسا (my father works as a teacher).

• عندي أخوان وأخت (I have two brothers and a sister).

• بيتي قريب من المسجد (my house is near the mosque).

Lecture 24: Food, Home and Daily Life Vocabulary

Key terms: food, home, daily routine vocabulary

Home: بيت (house), غرفة (room), مطبخ (kitchen), باب (door), نافذة (window). Food: خبز (bread), أرز (rice), لحم (meat), دجاج (chicken), ماء (water), حليب (milk), شاي (tea), فاكهة (fruit). Daily verbs: أكل (eat), شرب (drink), نام (sleep), استيقظ (wake up), ذهب (go), جاء (come).

• آكل الخبز وأشرب الشاي (I eat bread and drink tea).

• المطبخ نظيف (the kitchen is clean).

• Build sentences about your own day - the best revision.

Lecture 25: Simple Dialogues: At School and Market

Key terms: dialogues, conversation, classroom Arabic

Classroom dialogue: أحمد. من أين أنت؟ - أنا من باكستان. أين تدرس؟ - أدرس في الجامعة الافتراضية. Market dialogue: جدا - (how much is this?) بكم هذا؟. السلام عليكم - وعليكم السلام. ما اسمك؟ - اسمي غال. بحسنا، بثمانية - (too expensive!) بعشرة روبيات. غال. Memorise and role-play dialogues - speaking cements grammar.

• كم الساعة؟ (what time is it?), أين المسجد؟ (where is the mosque).

• هل تتكلم العربية؟ (do you speak Arabic?), قليلا (a little).

• مع السلامة (goodbye - go with safety).

Lecture 26: Quranic Phrases Every Beginner Should Know

Key terms: Quranic Arabic, common phrases

Your grammar unlocks the Quran: بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم (in the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful) - note the genitive kasras after the preposition رب العالمين (You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help) - object pronoun precedes the verb for emphasis.

• Identify: prepositions, definite articles, attached pronouns in these verses.

• رب العالمين (shows the possessive construction (idafa) - next course's topic)

• Every prayer you read becomes a grammar lesson.

EXAM POINTER: Parse one short verse: identify the verbs, nouns and pronouns - a beautiful exam question.

Lecture 27: Revision: Midterm Practice Set

1. Write the Arabic alphabet (28 letters) in order. (5 marks)
2. Add correct harakat to: قلم، مدرسة، كتب. Transliterate each. (5 marks)
3. Convert to definite with ال, applying sun/moon rules: 5) (marks) شمس، قمر، كتاب، نور، ولد.
4. Write the singular personal pronouns (I, you m/f, he, she) with meanings. (5 marks)
5. Conjugate كتب in the past tense, all singular forms. (10 marks)

Lecture 28: Revision: Final-Term Practice Set

1. Conjugate يذهب in the present tense (singular + plural). (10 marks)
2. Write numbers 1-5 with: كتاب (m) and مدرسة (f), observing gender polarity. (5 marks)
3. Translate into Arabic: 'The girl drank the water.' 'This is a big school.' 'I will go tomorrow.' (10 marks)
4. Identify fi'l, fa'il and maf'ul: 5) (marks) قرأ الطالب الكتاب.
5. Write a 6-line dialogue introducing yourself in Arabic. (10 marks)

End of Handout - Good luck with your exams!