

AD 0228S

**ALL THE ARABIC
YOU NEVER LEARNED
THE FIRST TIME AROUND**

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

This publication is to be used primarily in support of instructing military personnel as part of the Defense Language Program (resident and nonresident). Inquiries concerning the use of materials, including requests for copies, should be addressed to:

Defense Language Institute
Foreign Language Center
Curriculum/Faculty Development
Presidio of Monterey, CA 93944-5006

Military personnel may find themselves in positions where clear understanding of conversations or written material of a controversial nature will be essential to their mission. As a result, topics in the areas of politics, international relations, mores, etc., (which may be considered as controversial from some points of view) are sometimes included in language training for DLIFLC students. The presence of controversial statements - whether real or apparent - should not be construed as representing the opinions of the writers, the Defense Language Institute, Foreign Language Center, or the Department of Defense.

Actual brand names and businesses are sometimes cited in DLIFLC instructional materials to provide instruction in pronunciations and meanings. The selection of such proprietary terms and names is based solely on their value for instruction in the language. It does not constitute endorsement of any product or commercial enterprise, nor is it intended to invite a comparison with other brand names and businesses not mentioned.

In DLIFLC publications, the word, **he**, **him**, and/or **his** denote both masculine and feminine genders. This statement does not apply to translations of foreign language texts.

Permission to use copyrighted material was granted on the condition that it be used exclusively for nonprofit educational purposes within the United States Government.

Further reproduction is unauthorized.

AD 0228 S ALL THE ARABIC YOU NEVER LEARNED THE FIRST TIME AROUND

Is This Book For You?

Have you had the equivalent of at least two-years of university-level Modern Standard Arabic? If the answer is yes, ask yourself the questions below.

1. Has it been a while since you worked with the language, and is a lot of the grammar unclear to you?
2. Are you currently taking “advanced” Arabic courses and finding that deficiencies in your grammatical knowledge are hindering your comprehension?
3. Is the verb system of the language still largely a mystery?
4. Do hollow and defective verbs scare you?
5. Do you often have to guess at case endings?
6. Are you put off by the commonly used introductory Arabic texts?
7. Do you want to bone up on your grammar before going off to Middlebury for the summer or to prepare for some other program?
8. Do you want to improve your knowledge of the language but find yourself unable to enroll in more Arabic courses due to other obligations?
9. Are you willing to try something on your own?

If you answer yes to at least *one* of the questions from 1-8, and if you answer yes to question 9, then this may be the book for you.

The text is the result of the author’s experiences both as a student and teacher of Arabic. The book is a complete self-contained course designed to help students master virtually all of the grammar they will ever need in order to be able to read Arabic newspapers, literature, and academic works. The style is informal and clear. The presentation of the grammar of the language is comprehensive. The text includes plenty of drills, authentic Arabic reading passages, and an annotated key which includes translations of every Arabic sentence in every drill.

The author of this text is a native English speaker born in the United States. He has been through the learning-Arabic grind in the university system in the States and he knows where you are coming from. He also is a graduate of the Center for Arabic Study Abroad program at the American University in Cairo, and a former Fulbright fellow to Jordan. He has a Masters degree in Islamic Studies and has been teaching Arabic for fourteen years.

If you think this book may be for you, turn to the following page.

How Should You Use This Book?

I know that students never read the preface to a book so I am including the material below in this section instead. Yes, I know that you know everything in the world about how to study Arabic and even more about how to work through a self-study guide. That is why your Arabic is weak and your grammatical knowledge embarrasses you. So take a minute and read the following.

This book is divided into three parts. Part I includes all of the basics commonly taught in the first semester in a university-level Arabic course. No matter how much Arabic you have had (two years, three years, or ten years), you should start at the beginning of Part I and work your way through every chapter from beginning to end. You should do this, of course, at your own pace. Most people, even those working full-time, find that they can work through one chapter and its drills per day. Since there are only five chapters in Part One, you can complete Part I in five days. At the end of these five days you will understand the basic elements of an Arabic sentence. You will fully understand the case endings, plurals, *idaafas*, noun-adjective phrases, demonstratives, most of the rules of agreement in Arabic, and much more. You will have mastered the equational sentence and will have dealt with simple verbal sentences. You will then be ready for the core of the book, Part II.

Part II concentrates on the verb system of Arabic. You will start with Chapter One of Part II. This chapter is the most crucial chapter in the book. Take your time with it. Go through just one section of it a day, or even one section every two days. When you finish this chapter you will understand how Form I verbs work. All of them. Sound verbs, hollow verbs, defective verbs, doubled verbs, and assimilated verbs. You will be able to handle these verbs in the past tense, present tense, and the jussive (a form of negation with a past-tense meaning). You will also understand *ليسَ* and *كانَ* and how they are used.

You will then go on to the next chapter and gradually work your way through all seven chapters of Part II. When you have completed Part II, you will understand almost all of the Arabic *grammar* you will ever have to learn in order to read, write, or speak Arabic at any level you wish.

How long will it take to finish Part II? It is hard to say. I recommend that you do just a few pages a day. No more than one section of one chapter at a time. If you do this every other day, it will probably take about about three months.

Part III contains explanations of Arabic grammatical points which are secondary to your over all understanding of the language. You may look at any of the first four chapters of Part III at any time you like.

Part III also contains chapters on the use of the *Hans Wehr* Arabic-English dictionary, and on how to be a good Arabic student. You should read these two chapters (chapters five and six) *soon after you start working on Part I*. Just take a break and go look at them. They are very easy to read, entertaining, and, in my mind, very, very important.

The last chapter in Part III is an annotated key to all of the drills in Parts I and II. You should refer to it as you complete each exercise. Now keep reading.

What This Book Will Not Do For You

When you finish this book and master all of the material, will you be able to sit down with a Naguib Mahfouz novel and read it for pleasure, almost as if it were in English? Will you be able to speak Arabic with the eloquence of Gamal Abd Al-Nasir? Will you write with the gracefulness and precision of Taha Hussein? **Absolutely not!**

However, you will have all of the grammatical knowledge you need in order to develop your abilities to read advanced Arabic works, speak Modern Standard Arabic correctly, write properly, and even to learn more grammar. However, in order to be able do these things well, you will need to read extensively in whatever field you choose, acquiring the vocabulary and intellectual background that field or genre requires. In order to speak well, you will need to practice speaking. You are not going to learn to speak from a book. In order to write well, you are going to have to develop writing skills.

So you will still need to pursue your study of the language. The big difference will be that when you do so, you will be grammatically equipped. This fact will be of great benefit to you no matter what direction your study of the language may take. However, if you try to pursue your study of the language without a good grammatical foundation, the odds are very heavy that you really will not get anywhere. The fact that you have read this far is proof that you know that this is true.

It's time to get to work.

PERMISSION FOR USE OF THIS MATERIAL BY THE DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER AND PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, GRANTED 10 JAN 1997 BY
AUTHOR JAMES M. PRICE.

Table of Contents

Author's Preface	i
Part 1: Back to the Basics	
Chapter 1:	1
A: The Equational Sentence	1
B: The Definite Article	2
C: Case	3
D: The Nominative Case	4
E: Question Words	6
F: Helping Vowels	6
G: Demonstrative Pronouns	7
H: Gender	8
I: Pausal Form	8
Chapter 2:	
A: The Genitive Case	14
B: Prepositions	14
C: The Idaafa	15
Chapter 3	21
A: The Noun-Adjective Phrase	21
B: The Pronoun of Separation	23
C: The Nisba Adjective	24
D: Possessive Pronouns	25
E: Verbs - Past Tense and the Accusative Case	26
Chapter 4	39
A: Sound Plurals	39
B: Verb-Subject Agreement	41
C: Masculine Sound Plurals in Idaafas	43
D: Broken Plurals	45
E: Plural Demonstrative Pronouns	46
F: The Words كُلٌّ and بَعْضٌ	46
Chapter 5	51
A: <i>The Rules of Agreement in Arabic</i>	51
B: The Dual of Nouns, Adjectives, Pronouns and Verbs	53
C: Direct Object Pronouns	55
D: Prepositions with Pronoun Suffixes	55
E: The Preposition لِ "belonging to"	57

Part II: Verbally Speaking

Introduction to Part II

Chapter 1

A: Sound Verbs, Form I	63
Sound Verbs, Form I: the Jussive	67
B: Hollow Verbs, Form I	71
Hollow Verbs, Form I: Present Tense	74
Hollow Verbs, Form I: the Jussive	76
C: Defective Verbs, Form I	82
Defective Verbs, Form I: Present Tense	87
Defective Verbs, Form I: the Jussive	92
D: Assimilated Verbs, Form I	96
E: Doubled Verbs, Form I	100
Jussive of Doubled Verbs	101
F: لَيْسَ	104
G: كَانَ	108

Chapter 2:

A: Form II Verbs	115
Sound Verbs	115
Hollow Verbs	118
Assimilated Verbs	119
Doubled Verbs	120
Defective Verbs	120
B: Commands - Forms I and II	123
Form II	123
Form I	124
Form I Sound Verbs	124
Form I Hollow Verbs	126
Form I Defective Verbs	127
Form I Doubled Verbs	128
Negative Commands for All Forms	130
C: The Subjunctive with لَ	132
The Particle لَ	137
D: Verbal Nouns	139
E: Active and Passive Participles, Forms I and II	146
Deriving Form I Active Participles	146
Form II Active Participles	149
Summary	150
The Use of the Active Participle	150
Passive Participles Form I	155
Passive Participles Form II	155

Chapter 3	161
A: Form III Verbs	161
B: The Passive Voice	167
Chapter 4	182
A: The Comparative and Superlative	182
B: Form IV Verbs	186
An Important Announcement	193
Reading for Comprehension	194
C: The Particles أَنْ, إِنَّ, and اِنَّ	196
D: The Impersonal Passive	204
Chapter 5	210
A: Form V and Form VI Verbs	210
B: Relative Clauses	217
C: The Cognate Accusative	223
Chapter 6	227
A: Forms VII and VIII	227
B: The Haal Construction	236
C: The Tamyiz Construction	241
Chapter 7	246
A: Forms IX and X	246
B: Quadriliteral Verbs	252
C: The Future	253
D: The Conditional	261
Part III	
Introduction to Part III	
Chapter 1	271
The Little Words No One Ever Learns but Which are Very Important	271
Chapter 2	288
A: Defective Nouns and Adjectives	288
B: Diptotes	292
C: Indeclinable Nouns and Adjectives	295
D: Doubly Transitive Verbs	296
E. False Idaafas	298
Chapter 3	300
Arabic Numbers	300

Chapter 4	314
A: How To Tell Time	314
B: Colors	316
C: The Verb يرى , رأى	319
Chapter 5: How To Use <i>The Hans Wehr</i> Dictionary	323
Chapter 6: How To Be A Good Arabic Student	328
Chapter 7: Verb Charts	337
A: Sound Verbs	337
B: Assimilated Verbs	354
C: Defective Verbs	361
D: Doubled Verbs	375
E: Hollow Verbs	384
F: Quadriliteral Verbs	395
H: Oddball Verbs	399
Chapter 8: The Answer Key	403

Author's Preface

Several years ago I taught a course in newspaper Arabic at a highly-respected Middle East related institution in Washington, D.C. The students in the course came from university graduate programs in Middle East Studies, the government, and from private industry. All the students had studied Arabic for several years. I had been told that the class would have a number of advanced students and was looking forward to doing some interesting work with them.

During the first class session, I discovered that none of the students could read even a paragraph of a newspaper article without considerable difficulty. I also soon discovered that if given a great deal of time, the best students could understand the gist of an article, but did not grasp significant portions of it.

Diagnosing some of the major problems was a simple task. Class discussion revealed that most of the students had a weak knowledge of the verb system in Arabic, especially of hollow, defective, and doubled verbs. They were totally confused by these verbs, but had plodded along in their studies of the language hoping that these verbs would be rare and that they could get by.

Additionally, many of the students were weak in basic grammar, things which are taught in first-year university-level Arabic courses. Among the problems were the rules of agreement, the comparative and superlative, and case. Even the difference between an *idaafa* construction and a noun-adjective phrase was not clear in the minds of some.

Other problems were apparent as well. Some students could not read for context, but relied instead on a dictionary, the use of which was also unclear to them. Those who did try to read for context were so impeded by their weak overall control of the language that they often misinterpreted what they were reading.

In short, reading Arabic was sheer torture for many of the students in the class. It is hard to understand why anyone would want to continue to study Arabic while operating under such limitations. However, the problems experienced by these students are typical, as far as I can tell.

In subsequent "advanced" courses which I taught, I saw the same phenomenon. This book is in large part a portion of my own response to what I have termed the "Arabic is Really Awful, Boring, and Incredibly Complicated Affliction" (ARABICA).

This book reviews the grammar which must be mastered by the non-native speaker of the language in order to be able to read, write, or speak Arabic. It is intended for students who have had at least two years of university-level Arabic and who need to solidify their grasp of the grammar. It is specifically not intended for first-time learners of the language. The primary goal of this text is the student's mastery of the fundamentals of Arabic grammar in order to help the student improve his or her ability to read Arabic. However, mastery of these fundamentals will also contribute to an increase in ability in other skill areas.

The fundamental premise upon which the pedagogy of this book is based is that the Arabic grammar which must be mastered by a non-native adult learner of the language is not intellectually difficult to learn. I also maintain that once the student learns the body of grammar presented in this book (or in any