

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا
اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ
إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ
لِمَا يَحْيِيكُمْ



In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

O you who have believed!
Respond to (the call of) God and to the Messenger
when he calls you
to what gives you life.
(**Surah al-Anfal, 8: 24**)

Access to Qur'anic Arabic

TEXTBOOK

AbdulWahid Hamid



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Introduction

Most people need to know Arabic primarily to understand the Qur'an. This **Access to Qur'anic Arabic** course is an attempt to meet part of this need.

Aim

The aim is to get users to understand much of what they read as quickly and effortlessly as possible. The course seeks to do this by providing a graded introduction to the grammar and structure of Qur'anic Arabic and using words which occur very frequently in the Qur'an.

This course does not teach people to speak Arabic or to translate into Arabic.

Requirements

We assume that users can read and write the Arabic script. Those who cannot do so are referred to the MELS Graded Steps in Arabic materials for reading and writing the Arabic script and reading the Qur'an. A good grasp of English will be useful.

Course Materials

1. The **Textbook** covers the basic grammar and structure of Arabic using Qur'anic words, phrases and sentences almost entirely. (The few non-Qur'anic phrases and sentences used are pointed out.) The page layout and design of the Units in the Textbook should make it easy to follow.

Initially, only a limited vocabulary is used based on its frequency of occurrence in the Qur'an. The Textbook contains three Word Lists. The first has words which, with their derivatives, occur over 100 times in the Qur'an. Word List 2 has such words occurring between 50 and 100 times. Word List 3 has such words occurring between 25 and 49 times. (Not all derivatives are listed.)

This approach has two benefits. Students will not be burdened with a very large vocabulary from the outset. By mastering the select vocabulary, they will be able to understand much and quickly.

2. Two audiocassette tapes or two CDs contain a recording of the Qur'anic text and English translation for each Unit of the Textbook.

3. A separate **Workbook** has exercises for each Unit of the Textbook and gives much-needed further practice in the grammar and structure of the

language. Phrases and sentences used in the Workbook are also from the Qur'an and the vocabulary is mainly that which is used in the Textbook.

4. An important part of this course is the book **Selections from the Qur'an** which has passages that feature the select vocabulary and illustrate points of grammar and structure covered in the Textbook. The Selections are presented with parallel translations into English and notes on language and structure. The meaning of words not included in the three Word Lists is given. These three lists are combined into one in the book of Selections.

5. Three audiocassette tapes/two CDs contain the full recording of the Selections from the Qur'an.

Self-study

This course has been designed for self-study as well as for use in classroom situations. Even if used as a self-study course, the guidance of a competent teacher may at times be necessary.

Further Study

We hope this course will stimulate users to go further to a more detailed study of the Qur'an and of Arabic. For those who want to go further, we hope this book will be a useful starting point. It should of course be pointed out that the grammar and structure of Qur'anic Arabic and classical and modern literary Arabic is substantially the same, thanks largely to the enduring importance and preservation of the Qur'an itself. Some suggestions for further study are included at the end of this Textbook.

Testing

This course has been developed with and tested on children and adults, including family and friends. We are grateful to all those who took part in the process and pray that they and others who use it will go on to gain a better understanding of the Qur'an, the better to appreciate it, follow it, and be inspired by it throughout their lives.

Comments & suggestions

We will be most grateful for any comments and suggestions for improvement from users of this course, including teachers, students and those engaged in self-study.

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Alhamdu lillah - all praise and thanks is due to God, the Sustainer of all creation. May He bless all who have taught and advised, supported and encouraged me in this work over the years - especially my dear parents whose knowledge of Arabic was little but whose love for Islam was firm. Of so many others, I hope I will be forgiven for mentioning only a few here. Among them is AbdulQayyum Khan of Guyana (now in Toronto) who came to Trinidad and taught me, at the age of eighteen, to read and write the Arabic script; Ebrahimsa Mohammed for his guidance and friendship over a generation; M Hashir Faruqi for his wise counsel; Jamil Sherif and Muhammad Yasien Khan of New Jersey for lessons in dedication and constancy; Iqbal Sacranie for his keen interest in this work and Zafar Malik for his time and his precious skills - not limited to graphics.

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these books would not have reached their present form. Brother AbdulKadir not only has a superb range of computer skills but his unfailing trust and cheerfulness made working on this project such a great pleasure. I thank his wife Namat for her hospitality and for putting up with long and often odd hours of work.

I am also grateful to my nephew Asad Hamid and my daughter Zahra for their efficient computing skills; my daughter Kaamileh for her critical eye and graphic solutions; and my wife Azieza for her constant encouragement and invaluable advice as an experienced teacher. And to Mike Arkell and his colleagues at Cromwell Press, I must say how greatly I appreciate and value their professionalism and courtesy.

We pray that Allah Almighty will accept our efforts and that this attempt will be helpful in taking us along the way of discovering the Qur'an - the human being's only authentic link with Reality - and patterning our lives by it. And when the Hour comes, may the Qur'an be a testimony for us, and not against us.

We seek His help and guidance and we turn to Him in repentance and gratitude. And may His peace and blessings be on His noble messenger, the unlettered Prophet, the shining beacon.

AbdulWahid Hamid

Hendon, London. Rajab 1418/November 1997

Note on New Revised Edition

This is a revised edition of Access to Qur'anic Arabic. The structure and content of all three related books - the Textbook, the Workbook and the Selections remain the same but errors detected in the first printing have been corrected. Some new material, including internet resources, are included in the suggestions for further study.

We are grateful for the positive comments and en-

couragement from users in various parts of the world and welcome suggestions for further improvement. In response to requests from persons engaged in self-study, we have prepared an answer book for the Workbook and this should be available on the MELS website, *in sha' Allah*.

London. Rabi' ath-Thani 1424/June 2003

Note on Qur'anic Script

- A detailed note on Features of the Qur'anic Script is given at the beginning of the accompanying book *Selections from the Qur'an*. Readers may find it useful to refer to this at an early stage.
- In this Textbook, the hamzatu-l wasl on an alif (**أ**) is not shown in the Qur'anic text.

However, the hamzatu-l qat' with an alif (**إ** and **ئ**) is always shown.

- Reference numbers for Qur'anic text is given throughout. For example, in the reference number 85: 21 - the 85 refers to the *sūrah* number and 21 refers to the *ayah* or verse number.

How to use this book

1. You should be able to read and write the Arabic script before using this book. If you can't, use the *MELS Graded Steps in Arabic* course which includes (1) *Graded Steps in Qur'an Reading* with accompanying audiocassettes/CDs and (2) *Easy Steps in Arabic Handwriting (Workbooks 1 & 2)*. This course can be completed in 2-3 weeks or about 25 hours of study and practice.

The Al-Qari software on CD (PC & Mac formats) for reading the Arabic script, produced by SoundVision in Chicago, is recommended for self study.

For features of the Qur'anic Arabic script, see the Note at the beginning of the **Selections** book.

2. Read the Basic Word List 1. This contains words which, including their derivatives, occur more than 100 times in the Qur'an.

Learn these words and their meanings as soon as possible.

Return to the list frequently to revise and test yourself.

Use this Word List as a reference.

You do not have to learn all the words by heart before proceeding, but the quicker you memorize them, the faster you will get through the Units of the book.

3. Each Unit is made up of two facing pages and contains:

- on the left page, step by step explanations of the grammar and structure of Arabic. Study this carefully.

- on the facing page, selected Qur'anic text giving examples of the points of grammar and Arabic structure covered on the left page. Each of these pages has 15 lines of Qur'anic text. A small solid square ■ next to a line of text shows there is a relevant note at the bottom of the page.

- Make sure you can read the Arabic fluently.
- Listen to the recording of the text and its meaning on the cassette/CD - one page only at a time.
- Read the text aloud several times.
- Revise the material on the left page.
- Test your understanding of the text by covering the English translation and attempt a translation of the Arabic text.
- Practice copying the Arabic text to gain fluency in writing and as an aid to memorizing.

4. Do the exercises for the Unit you are studying in the accompanying Workbook.

5. Ideally, go to the next Unit only when you have mastered the material in the preceding Unit(s).

6. However, you can press on, while continually revising previous Units and the Word List.

7. When you have finished Section Two, you could **start learning Word List 2** which contains words which, with their derivatives, occur between 50 and 100 times in the Qur'an.

8. When you have finished Section 3, you could **start learning Word List 3** which contains words which, with their derivatives, occur between 25 and 49 times in the Qur'an.

9. Once you have started on the course, you may find it helpful to listen to the **Qur'anic Selections** on the audiocassettes/CDs. These Selections contain many of the words in the basic word lists and points of grammar and structure covered.

10. Aim to read the Selections fluently and memorize as much as possible. At the end of the course you should be able to **understand much of what you read, in sha Allah.**

Transliteration of Arabic into English

An underlined vowel a, i and u indicates a long vowel in the Arabic:

kitab = kitaab; karim = kariim;

rasul = rasuul

Abbreviations used in this Textbook

m. masculine; f. feminine;

s. singular; d. dual; p. plural

When referring to pronouns and verbs:

1. 1st person - the person speaking - **I, we**
2. 2nd person - the person spoken to - **you**
3. 3rd person - the person spoken about - **he, she, they**

e.g.

3.f.s. = 3rd person feminine singular = **she**

3.m.d. = 3rd person masculine dual = **they two**

2.m.p. = 2nd person masculine plural = **you**

1.m. & f. s. = 1st person masculine and feminine singular = **I**

act. part.	active participle
pass. part.	passive participle
nom.	nominative
acc.	accusative
gen.	genitive
prep.	preposition
lit.	literally

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