

Transliteration Pronunciation Tips

\bar{A} \bar{I} \bar{U} = extend the vowel sound 2x longer than normal A, I or U sound. Like “bat” “beem” or “boot”.

$\bar{A}\bar{A}$ $\bar{I}\bar{I}$ $\bar{U}\bar{U}$ = extend the vowel sound four times longer than a normal A, I or U sound.

ã = a tight “uh” sound made by constricting the back of throat.

$^\circ$ = is a glottal stop. Say any English word starting with a vowel such as “apple”: if you listen carefully, you should hear or feel a faint discontinuity of the breath at the very beginning of the word. It is also the sound in the middle of “uh-oh”.

c = as in cA cI cU is distinctive of Arabic. You can articulate it by making a long “aaaah” tone and tilting your head back until you look straight up. The place where your tongue falls back in your throat is the seat of this sound. A tight strangled sound.

\tilde{N} = has a distinct buzz to it. Intensify and extend the vibration tone of the “N”.

R = should have a slight rolled vibration sound like “grrrrrr”.

Th = is exactly like the English “th” sound in “thought” or “thing”.

Kh = is a noisy sound like the Scottish word “loch”.

Dh = is exactly like the “th” in “this” or “that”.

Sh = is exactly like the “sh” in ‘sheep’ or ‘show’

Gh = is like the “Kh” but with a heavy growl sound like “ghrrrr”.

Q = is similar to “C” in “caugh”. Tongue in back of mouth with a wet sound.

Ş Ḍ Ṭ Ḍh Ḥ = Constrict the back of your mouth, creating a heavier duller sound to the letters.

AW = when W follows an A it is pronounced “oh” like s”sow” or “know”.

AY = when Y follows an A it sounds more like “I” as in “bite” or “bait”.

A and \bar{A} are normally sounded like the “A” in “bat”. But when they follow Ş Ḍ Ṭ Q Dh Gh Ḥ Kh Gh then the “A” sound is more like the “A” in “father”.

Whenever you read a double consonant such as “LL”, “KK”, “WW”, “NN” pronounce both letters distinctly, such as “Allah” (Al- lah) or “yellow” (yel-low) “unnivers” (un-nevers).

Dashes indicate grammatically separate words or particles that are pronounced as one unit.