DAR AL HAMD

My Arabic Learning Journal

Listen • Notice • Practise



Printable Study Companion

Make this journal yours

This English-guided journal is a printable companion to an Arabic course or teacher. It is not an alphabet textbook, audio course or pronunciation assessment. Copy Arabic only from a checked lesson model. You can reuse individual pages whenever useful.

Try this
Choose a short session and one clear goal. Children can draw or tell an adult their answers; adult beginners can use the same pages. A confident guess is less useful than an honest question.

My name and the course I am following

A person or lesson I can ask for help

One thing I would like to be able to do

Choose one small goal

Pick one skill from your current lesson. Make the goal something you can point to, show or explain. Avoid trying to learn a whole alphabet in one sitting.

Try this
Instead of "finish everything", try "notice which of these two letters has dots below it". Ask your teacher whether the examples are appropriate for your level.

My small goal for today

The checked example or lesson I will use

How I will know what to revisit

Listen, notice, try

Listen to a reliable model in your course or from your teacher. Notice one feature, attempt it, then return to the model. English transliteration is a reminder, not a complete guide to Arabic pronunciation.

Try this
Listen once without speaking. Listen again and point to the example. Try it only after you know which example you are hearing.

Example and lesson reference

What I noticed when listening

What I want my teacher to hear or check

Look closely at a letter

Copy one letter from your lesson in the first space. Notice its outline and dots. Record what you see without guessing a rule for every letter from one example.

Try this
You might notice a curve, a bowl shape, or dots above or below. Keep the original example beside your copy.

My checked model and my careful copy

Features I can point to

One difference I want to check

Compare two shapes

Choose two letters your lesson has already introduced. Copy each with a label or lesson reference. Find one similarity and one difference. Ask a teacher to check your copies before using them as flashcards.

Try this
A pair may share an outline but differ in dots. Another pair may have a different outline. Describe the actual pair in front of you.

Example A and example B

What looks similar?

What is different, and how did I check?

Track a joined form

Use a joining example that your course has already explained. Copy the model and mark the letter you are studying. Do not invent joins or assume every letter joins on both sides.

Try this
Write the lesson reference so you can return to it. Ask what changes in this example and what stays recognisable.

Checked joined example and my copy

The feature that helps me recognise the letter

My question about joining

Notice the short vowel

Use the short-vowel examples in your lesson. Keep the consonant the same while comparing fatha, kasra and damma. Copy the actual marks from a checked model; these English names are labels, not substitutes for Arabic.

Try this
First point to the consonant, then to the mark. Listen to the combined sound. Ask a teacher to check it rather than relying only on English letters.

Fatha example: lesson model and my copy

Kasra example: lesson model and my copy

Damma example: lesson model and my copy

Point, match, explain

Make two or three cards from checked examples you already know. Ask a teacher or confident reader to model one sound. Point to the matching card, then explain what you noticed. Swap roles if appropriate.

Try this
Move the cards between rounds. If you make a mistake, compare with the model rather than racing to the next card.

The examples on my cards

A clue that helped me choose

An example I would like to hear again

My first word notebook

Choose one easy word from your course. Keep its fully marked Arabic, transliteration and English meaning together. Ask a teacher to check all three. Do not treat a sound-practice syllable as a complete word.

Try this
Record where the word came from so you can check it later. A drawing can help you remember a concrete meaning.

Arabic with vowel marks: checked model and copy

Transliteration and English meaning

My drawing, memory clue and lesson reference

Read without rushing

Select a very short exercise at your current level. Follow the course model, attempt it and ask for a correction if needed. A small, checked attempt is more useful than a long passage of guesses.

Try this
Separate what felt easier from what still needs help. Neither note is a judgement about your ability.

The exercise I attempted

Something that became clearer

A correction or question for next time

A week of small steps

Plan a flexible week. Five or ten minutes may be enough for a session, but your teacher and attention should guide the choice. A missed day is a reason to resume gently, not to punish yourself.

Try this
Write a task next to each day you choose. Leave days blank when you need rest. Use the final space for one useful observation.

Days 1-2: my chosen tasks and notes

Days 3-5: my chosen tasks and notes

Days 6-7: revisit, rest or ask for help

Questions are welcome

Save questions that you cannot resolve with the lesson. Show the exact example when asking for help. It is fine to write "I am not sure yet".

Try this
A specific question might be: "In this example, which mark changes the vowel?" Write the answer in your own words, then check that you understood.

My question and the example it refers to

Who or what I will check with

The explanation I received and what I will try

Teach back one idea

Explain one small idea to someone else using a checked example. Invite them to ask a question. If you are unsure, look it up together or ask a teacher rather than pretending.

Try this
Try: "Here is the feature I checked before choosing this card." Explaining your method matters more than giving a fast answer.

The idea and example I will show

How I explained my choice

A question that helped me think again

Check the learning habit

Read these three situations. A: You cannot tell two sounds apart. B: You have copied a new word but do not know its meaning. C: You guessed a card correctly. Decide what to do next before reading the suggestions.

Try this
Possible next steps: A - ask for a slow model and feedback; B - check the word and meaning with the lesson or teacher; C - explain the clue and try again with the cards moved. A correct guess alone does not prove understanding.

My next step for situation A

My next step for situation B

My next step for situation C

Notice progress, choose next

Return to an earlier page. Find one thing you understand more clearly and one question worth revisiting. Keep this journal as a record of learning, not a scorecard.

Try this
Continue through the Arabic Alphabet or Qaida course on Dar Al Hamd at a suitable pace. This journal contains original study prompts, not quotations from a textbook. You may print another copy for personal or classroom learning.

Something I can now explain or recognise

A question I will take to my teacher

My next small goal and when I will try it