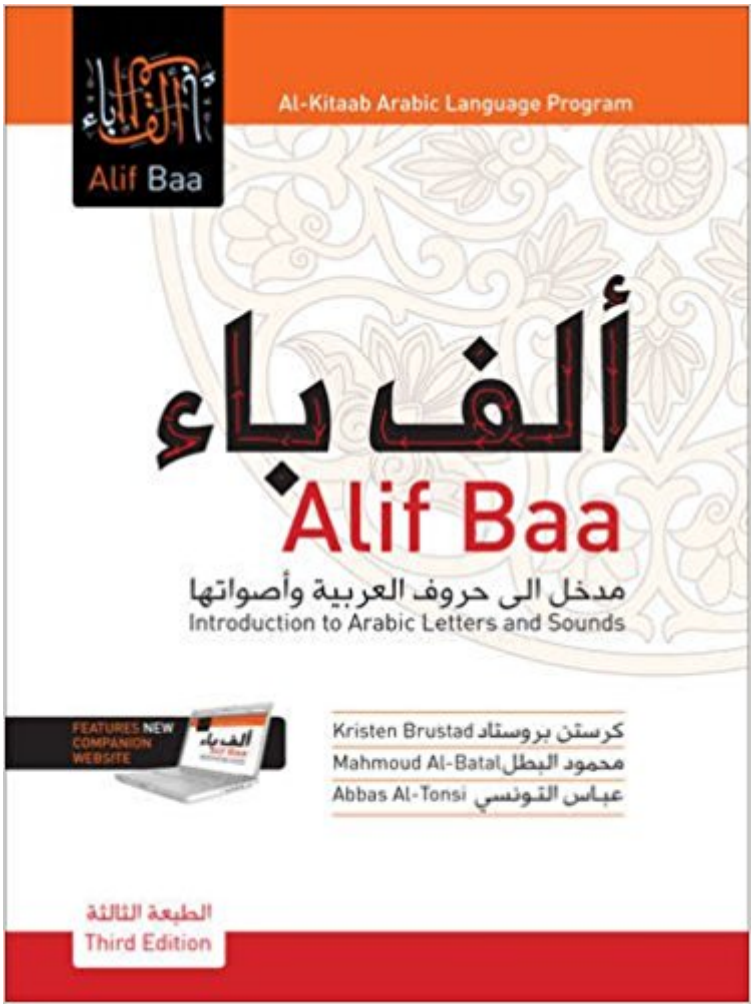
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Alif Baa: Introduction To Arabic Letters And Sounds [With DVD]



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Synopsis

The best-selling Alif Baa is the first volume of the Al-Kitaab Arabic language program and is now available in a new third edition. In this new version of the introduction to Arabic letters and sounds, English-speaking students will find an innovative integration of colloquial and formal (spoken and written) Arabic. Together, the book and new companion website provide learners with all the material necessary to learn the sounds of Arabic, write its letters, and begin speaking Arabic, including interactive, self-correcting exercises to enhance learning. The online component also gives instructors additional online grading options. Ã Â FEATURES Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Four-color design throughout the book features over 100 illustrations and photographs Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Gives learners and instructors color-coded options for the variety of language they wish to activate in speaking: Egyptian, Levantine, or formal Arabic (MSA) Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Introduces over 200 basic vocabulary words in all three forms of spoken and written Arabic side by side, including expressions for polite social interaction, and activates them in interactive homework exercises and classroom groupwork Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Includes video dialogues in Egyptian and Levantine, filmed in Cairo and Damascus Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Includes video footage of an Arabic calligrapher, capsules on Arabic culture, and images of street signs from Morocco, Egypt, and Lebanon Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Includes new English-Arabic and Arabic-English glossaries, searchable in the companion website Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Textbook includes a convenient DVD with the basic audio and video materials (no interactive exercises) for offline study that will play in iTunes and compatible MP3 players Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Â¢ New companion website (sold separately)Ã¢â ¬â •alkitaabtextbook.comÃ¢â ¬â •features a fully integrated set of interactive exercises with all the video and audio materials and additional online course management and grading options for teachers Ã Â Alif Baa provides the essential first 20-25 contact (classroom) hours of the Al-Kitaab program, accompanied by 40-50 homework hours. Students who complete Alif Baa should reach a novice-intermediate to novice-high level of proficiency.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Along with teaching the alphabet, this book prompts the students to start producing the language at the novice level, also from the first chapter." Ã¢â ¬â ¢

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First the good:The book does a good job at introducing the alphabet in a logical manner. This is facilitated by the fact that the letters that are similar to each other are, for the most part, near each other in alphabetical order anyway. The videos showing how to write the letters are helpful, but the calligrapher speaks only Arabic, which is not helpful for someone with no understanding of the language.Now the bad:Disappointing, especially for the price.It introduces a huge amount of vocabulary, which is good, but provides no chance to use it in a way that can be corrected. The answer key provides answers for many exercises, but some simple "arrange the words into a sentence" or "respond to the following questions" exercises to allow the student to write simple sentences and check his work would have been a good idea. Other language texts do this.Firstly, there is no need for this to be glossy four-colour paper. It’s a waste of money. Colour-coding may have seemed to be a cute idea, but it does not help.Next, the book presents materials in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) in vocabulary lists but only gives dialogues in two dialects - Egyptian and Levantine. The dialogues should be given in MSA as well if the intent is to teach MSA.There are exercises listed in the book that are ONLY on the companion web-site. This is somewhat deceptive because that is not mentioned anywhere except inside the book itself. It would not be so bad except that the companion web-site is pay-only.Now outright errors:There are errors and omissions on the DVD, such as one dialogue that has two parts - only one part is given in Levantine Arabic with the

second part being only a title screen that shows for about 30 seconds with no audio while the dialogue is given in its entirety in Egyptian Arabic.Vocabulary lists do not match between the book and the DVD - Unit 4’s "New Vocabulary 2" list on the DVD has several items inserted in various places from the "New Vocabulary 1" list.

Anyone looking into studying the Arabic language (or any language, for that matter) should really devote his or her personal time to learning the alphabet (it should be expected to be known by at least the second day of class). I wish this book had focused less on the general alphabet and more on its caveats so that the learner can move more quickly into the language learning aspect, as opposed to wasting a semester on the rather simple writing system.The vocab and phrases taught in this book is fairly slapdash. I’d love to be able to say "Where’s the bathroom" with confidence by the end of my first language book, and while I’m able to make a fairly educated guess, it fails to provide the student with a basic set of phrases since its main focus is on the writing system.The textbook also purports to teach MSA, but it’s main focus is Masri (Egyptian).The audio CD accompanying the textbook is riddled with missing files.The companion website for this book is head over heels more useful than the book (outside of written exercises), but you need to buy that separately.

I bought this book for an Arabic 101 class at university. It is very basic and is well-written; however, I do recommend that you get another book that focuses on verbs and conjugation as the book throws in random conjugations with no explanation as to what the rules are. When trying to learn the language, this makes it incredibly difficult to be able to form sentences or carry on basic conversation.

This book is a wonderful introduction to how Arabic is pronounced and written. I myself studied the full content of this books over a month of diligent daily study, at the end of which I had a solid base upond which establish any further study of the arabic language. The books covers all the sounds and provide a wealth of exercises to master them, often comparing them to sounds present in English or in other European languages, which helps considerably to make the articulation of some difficult sounds attainable. Similarly, it gives plenty of opportunity to practice the arabic writting. I myself enjoyed it so much I wish I could have a book like this as a first textbook for every language.

This was a wonderful textbook that really accelerated my path to learning Arabic I had to use this

book for class at the University of South Carolina. It comes with a CD that has different lessons on it. The book is broken down into chapters that's starts with the alphabet and then goes into different saying from formal greetings to simple everyday saying. The book has the standard Arabic, Egyptian, and Lebanon dialect for each saying.

It was a waste of time and money buying this book new to get the DVD. It Does not work on any DVD player that I own. I tried the Samsung DVD/blue ray an old Cosby TV/DVD and a stand alone DVD. They should just tell you to buy access to the companion website and leave at that. I only bought the book to get the DVD. I could have bought this book for $6 and saved a lot.

I am a Lebanese-American who speaks Arabic in the Lebanese Dialect but I don't know how to read and write. I love how this book teaches beginners how to write and explains the rules so well! I also love how it gives Arabic vocabulary in Formal Arabic, Egyptian Arabic, and Levantine Arabic! I mainly focus on the Levantine arabic though because it is the one I speak. I am teaching myself though without taking a class because both my parents are natives of Lebanon so I would not want to waste $500 for a class.

I highly recommend this book to anyone trying to pick up Arabic. It was a required textbook for my college class and it was really the driving force in my learning. My professor was not of Arabic descent nor was it her first language. She hardly knew how to teach and subsequently left after her first semester. Without this book, I wouldn't have learned what I know today. I'm not fluent yet; far from it. But after the semester ended I kept up with it and even now I'm taking the next level with the next book, Al-Kitaab. 5/5 starts. !Ãƒ‍ËœÃ Â´Ãƒâ„¢Ã Æ'Ãƒ‍ËœÃ Â Ãƒ‍ËœÃ Â§Ãƒâ„¢Ã â

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