



Title	Al-Jazeera Learning, <a href="https://learning.aljazeera.net/en">https://learning.aljazeera.net/en</a>
Owner	Government of Qatar
Platform	Website
Minimum System Requirements	Internet connection, internet browser, speakers
Target Language	Arabic
Cost	Free

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Do you want to learn Arabic as a second language in a free and easily accessible way? If yes, then in the modern age of language learning take note that language learning software and websites are your best friends. Indeed, choosing the right software or website for the right task is the first step to making the progress you are seeking. Encouraging as this sounds, note that finding the “right” website demands both time and effort. To that end, the *Al-Jazeera Learning* website provides a welcome alternative to those who wish to curtail the never-ending search for the right learning tool. Laconically expressed, the *Al-Jazeera Learning* site offers visitors an opportunity to test their level in Modern Standard Arabic in 15 minutes or less. Although the instructions of the level tests and the results are not translated, the website’s options are actually translated. Three language interfaces—English, French, Turkish—are offered here. Visitors can select their preferred level from a range of five levels: Beginner, Elementary, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate, and Advanced. Depending on level, visitors have access to a total of 218 Modern Standard Arabic lessons. Combined, these lessons offer a diverse platform for learners to be introduced to meaningful lessons through short videos. Best of all, available content information is provided free of charge.

Users do not need to create an account to watch the videos, use the dictionary, or access the vocalization tab. However, to ask teachers through the *Ask the Teacher* tab, users will need to create an account. Note here that once users enter the main page, three distinct options—these options are lined up at the top of the screen—become immediately available: *Language of Media*, *General Language*, and *Our Community*. Both *Language of Media* and *General Language* consist of five levels as noted previously. Users can then click on the options or scroll down to access each level. Each component or level is listed with a clear title. In *Language of Media* and *General Language*, for example, users have access to lessons (videos) and a list of vocabulary, including a list of the expressions used in the video. Although *Our Community* option does not offer an English-Arabic list of vocabulary and expressions accompanying the videos included therein, said option still provides users with blogs, frequently asked questions and answers, and videos that can be used as learning material for students in general and teaching material for Arabic language teachers in particular. On the upper left side four options are listed vertically: *Level Test*, *Vocalization*, *Ask the Teacher*, and *Dictionary*. Through these level tests, visitors can test their Arabic language level by answering multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blanks, and sequence questions. The dictionary helps users translate terms while the vocalization option allows visitors to copy-paste text and receive the same text with Arabic vocalizations. In addition, the *Ask the Teacher* tab provides users with an opportunity to ask questions the teacher will answer.

The *Al-Jazeera Learning* site adheres to a unified format. The visual hierarchy of the website allows visitors to identify the most important elements on a web page without delving deeper into the content. The most important elements are emphasized with a larger button, bolder color, or special icons. The white space around the elements helps direct visitors' attention and guides them through the interactive content. Not only are users of *Language of Media* and *General Language* options given videos to watch and learn, even more importantly, perhaps, they are given the opportunity to complete five or more comprehension activities, all of which are based on the content of the video. To this end, users are able to both practice and check their comprehension of the content and vocabulary used in the video. Although the website does not offer videos of spoken Arabic (dialects) and, indeed, only offers access to Modern Standard Arabic, nevertheless, it still offers users easy access to reading comprehension texts with glossaries and a range of videos from media and other authentic sources. The videos in *the Language of Media*, for example, are based on clips from TV shows (people singing, interviews between host and guests, etc.). Not only do these video lessons improve the users' literacy in Arabic, they also introduce them to the Arab culture and a great many current events in the Arab region. While participating, even if users are not interested in discussing politics in the Arabic language, for example, they can still learn a lot of useful vocabulary they can subsequently use in different contexts. Depending on level selected, *General Language* consists of short videos about Arabic alphabets and animation videos of short dialogues. Through the use of these videos, users are able to learn how to communicate effectively according to specific contexts, including, but not limited to, at the restaurant, booking appointments, and self-introductions. More specifically, at the advanced level, *General Language* and *Language of Media* offer reading passages about such topics as Arab scholars, Arab history, and historical places in the Arab region. These are followed by a variety of reading comprehension questions, thereby advancing users' understanding of both the Arab language and culture.

**اختر لغة الواجهة**  
Language Interface

EN FR TR

Q

**مجتمعنا**  
Our Community

**لغة عامة**  
General Language

**لغة الإعلام**  
Language of Media

**تعلم العربية**  
Learning Arabic

اختبر مستواك  
Level test

تشكيل  
Vocalization


سل الأستاذ  
Ask the Teacher

قاموس  
Dictionary


مواد أخرى  
More

**مفهي الجزيرة (ح5) يستضيف المدرب العراقي**  
عدنان حمد


Al-Jazeera Cafe welcomes the Iraqi coach



**أهلاً بكم في مفهي الجزيرة (الحلقة 3)**  
welcome to Al Jazeera Cafe (3)




**بسلسلة مفهي الجزيرة**



**مفهي الجزيرة (الحلقة 4) يستضيف اللعق خليل البلوشي**

Al-Jazeera Cafe welcomes Khalil Al Balushi



Vocabulary

morning **صباح**

shining **مشرق**

be honored **تشرّف**

make happy **يسعد**

start **تبدأ**

education **تعليم**

methods **أساليب**

similar **متشابهة**

you have chosen **اخترت**

you learn **تتعلم**

عبارات  
Expressions

أهلاً وسهلاً



ضع كلًا من الأخرى التالية في العنود المناسب:  
Drag and drop

من ضيوفها؟	ما موضوعها؟	أين وقعت حدي للكتابة؟
■ في مفهي الجزيرة	■ تعليم اللغة العربية	■ المؤتمر منلجر والطالبة سليفيا

Although *Al-Jazeera Learning* is a most useful language learning resource, there is room for improvement. We suggest that some improvement of the components is needed indeed to render the application more manageable for beginner and lower intermediate users. First, the website does not offer translation of instructions, level tests, or content. This makes the site more suitable for upper-intermediate and advanced levels of learners. Second, both the beginners- and intermediate-level tests are above these designated levels. Receiving tests that are above a user's known level of language proficiency may well discourage a user from using the website to learn Arabic. Third, the "General language" tab stands for lessons for different levels of learners. The naming of the "General Language" tab may confuse users how best to navigate through the website. To ameliorate such possible confusion, we suggest that the "General Language" tab be replaced with a more easy-to-follow interface tab such as "Lessons" or "Let's Start!" Fourth, the website mainly focuses on teaching Modern Standard Arabic without giving students access to authentic Arabic dialects. Authentic language, we suggest, exposes learners to

a great many varieties of Arabic dialects, all of which further underscore the vitality of real language use in everyday life in the Arab region. No doubt, it is of critical import that dialects with MSA be introduced if authenticity of language and culture is a viable goal worth pursuing. Fifth, the website focuses mainly on teaching reading and writing skills. Although there are some listening exercises, unfortunately, we must note here that listening and speaking are not emphasized. Such prescribed orientation makes this website a useful resource for Modern Standard language learners who wish to improve their reading and writing skills, but not so for those who seek to improve upon their listening and speaking skills. We suggest that skills improve in orchestration with one another, not apart from each other.

Despite the shortcomings noted heretofore, we reiterate that the site *Al-Jazeera Learning* is indeed a vital addition to an Arabic language learners' toolbox. The site offers users a plethora of free resources whose linguistic value should neither go unnoticed nor marginalized by either visitors to or users of the site. Moreover, *Tashkil*, or vocalization, is a phonetic guide to make reading Arabic easier, especially for novice readers. *Al-Jazeera Learning* offers ample vocalized texts that no doubt are useful reading learning resources for learners. Teachers can make profitable use of such vocalized texts in their classrooms and beyond. If Modern Standard Arabic is what you wish to learn, then the *Al-Jazeera Learning* site is the site you want to visit. Did we say you could do so in a free and easily accessible way?

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