

**alif (ا)**

# isolated position

ALIF (ا)

When alif (ا) is written on its own, like in a list of the letters of the Arabic alphabet, it is in the isolated position.

# initial position

ا (AL-) = THE

When it is written as the first letter of a word, alif (ا) is in the initial position and it looks the same as in the isolated position.

# medial position

كِتَاب (KITAB) = BOOK

When it is written in the middle of a word, alif (ا) is in the medial position and the following letters are disconnected from it.

# final position

لَا (MA) = WHAT

When it is written as the last letter of a word, alif (l) is in the final position, and it looks the same as the medial position.

**lām (ل)**

# isolated position

LĀM (J)

When it is written on its own,  
like in a list of the letters of  
the Arabic alphabet, lām (J) is  
in the isolated position.

# initial position

لَيْل (LAYL) = NIGHT

When it is written as the first letter of a word, lām (J) is in the initial position, and it connects to the letter that follows it.



# medial position

ملكة (MALAKA) = QUEEN

When it is written as a middle letter in a word, lām (J) is in the medial position, and it connects to the letter before it and the letter that follows it.

# final position

لَيْل (LAYL) = NIGHT

When it is written as the final letter of the word, lām (J) is in the final position, and it connects to the letter that came before it.

**mīm (م)**

# isolated position

MĪM (م)

When it is written on its own,  
like in a list of the Arabic  
alphabet, mīm (م) is in the  
isolated position.

# initial position

مدرسة (MADRASA) = SCHOOL

When it is the first letter in a word, mīm (م) is in the initial position.

# medial position

سمكة (SAMAKA) = FISH

When it is a middle letter in a word, mīm (م) is in the medial position and connects to the letter before it and the letter after it.

# final position

اسم (ASM) = NAME

When it is the final letter in a word, mīm (م) is in the final position and connects to the letter before it.