

# How to plan your learning experience with LearnOasis Arabic

by

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## Introduction

The following document will help you to organize your learning experience and plan the necessary time.

As an individual learner, you have the freedom to decide how many sessions a week you can plan in. Ideally you should choose to have two sessions a day (one in the morning, one in the afternoon/evening). Each session should last about 30 minutes. A session can be longer or shorter. It's up to you.

If you cannot manage two sessions a day, we would advise planning four sessions a week. You should calculate about 120 minutes for these, spread out evenly over the week.

From session 1 on, start a learning diary, in which you enter everything you want to remember

- cultural information,
- words and phrases,
- fixed sentences,
- important aspects of grammar, etc.

A model template how to plan your diary is provided at the end of this guide. You can print out the template and complete it for each unit.

Have your diary and a pen ready whenever you sit down to learn. – Do not underestimate the benefits of making handwritten notes. It has been proved conclusively that the neuro-chemical effects of handwriting contribute greatly to in-depth learning.

If taken seriously, the course can be completed in about 160 to 180 sessions, with each session lasting about 30 minutes.

This would be the equivalent of about three terms of an adult education course, assuming that you would attend four sessions a week.

The level that you would achieve would be A1.2/A2, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. (More information about this can be found in the Theoretical Foundation document).

## Overview

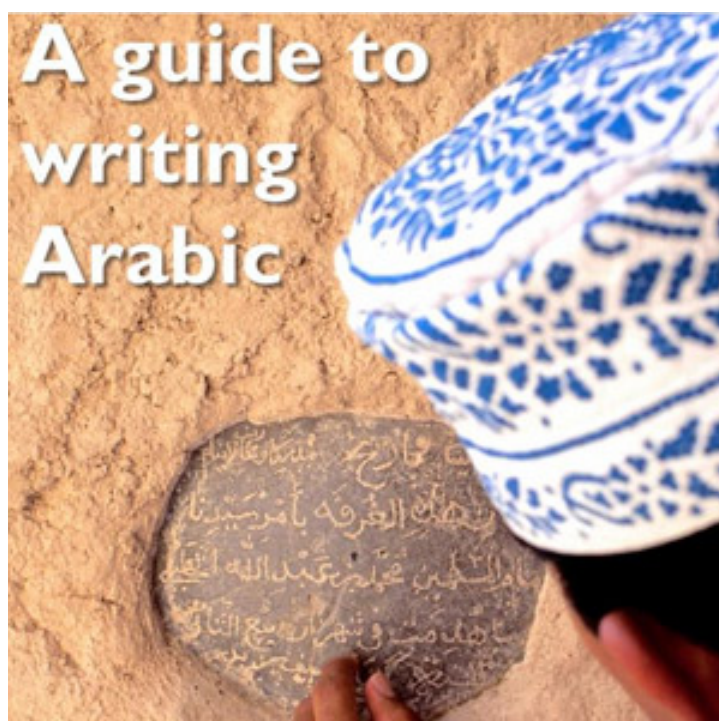
Your complete learning experience should be arranged like this.

- 1 introductory session
- 10 sessions for each of the 15 units (150 sessions in total)
- 8 revision sessions (one session after units 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15)
- 15 to 20 sessions for writing practice, to be distributed throughout the course

Learners who are familiar with Arabic script should note the following:

- Steps 2, 4, 6 and 8 in each dialogue repeat steps 1, 3, 5 and 7, however in Arabic script as the default writing. Transliteration and mother tongue are available for each of these steps, too. This means if you want to avoid transliteration, you can do so.
- Many of the language activities in modules 5 can also be done in Arabic script exclusively.

If you wish to learn to write Arabic script more extensively, you should use **A Guide to Writing Arabic**. This is available as a printed workbook or as an eBook and has been specially designed to accompany this eCourse.



## The Sessions

### **Introductory Session (about 30 minutes): Finding your way into the course**

1. Look at the User Guide.
2. Look at the Table of Contents.
3. Start with Unit 1 (Travel blog & main dialogue).

The first screen and the travel blog will give you the context of the unit.

In the right hand margin you will get some information about the main characters and links to the social networking sites that go with the course.

Take the time to explore these sites a bit.

Before you proceed to the main dialogue, you can ‘import yourself’ into the course. Use the camera icon in the interface to take a picture of yourself. – You will find a pleasant surprise later on where you appear in the course itself.

You have now completed the introductory session and you are now ready to start learning Arabic.

Each of the fifteen units can be mastered by following the next ten sessions.

## **Session 1 (about 45 minutes): Module 1, Steps 1 - 4**

- Step 1: Listen to the dialogue at least three times (once with the Arabic transliteration only, then twice with mother tongue window open).
- Step 2: If you are reasonably familiar with Arabic script, do the same again, just with Arabic script.
- Step 3: Listen at least three times to each line. Speak along with the audio when you feel reasonably confident. – Make notes in your learning diary for everything you want to remember (words, phrases etc).
- Step 4: If you are reasonably familiar with Arabic script, do the same again, just with Arabic script.

To finish this session, listen again to the complete dialogue a few times.

## **Session 2 (about 35 minutes): Module 1, Steps 5 - 8**

Start with a revision using Step 3. Take about 15 minutes for this.

- Revision: Listen to the complete dialogue first and then to the individual lines, speaking along with the audio.  
Re-read and practise the language in your learning diary. For additional practice you can use record cards for a variety of activities (e.g. write Arabic on one side and your mother tongue on the other; write gapped sentences or incomplete phrases on one side and on the other what is missing). If you wish, you can make your own memory cards to practise.
- Step 5: Choose one line, listen and record yourself. Do this at least three times to get a feeling for pronunciation, intonation and stress. – Then choose another three lines and do the same – feel free to choose more of the lines from the dialogue!
- Step 6: If you are reasonably familiar with Arabic script, do the same again, just with Arabic script.
- Step 7: Listen to the complete dialogue again. Then focus on the empty lines: Listen and record yourself. See if you can remember what is missing. – If you need help, use the +symbol in the navigation bar for help.
- Step 8: If you are reasonably familiar with Arabic script, do the same again, just with Arabic script.

### **Session 3 (about 30 minutes): Module 2, Steps 1 - 3**

- Step 1: Listen to each word several times, call up the mother language in between and try to remember each word together with its picture. Use transliteration for help.
- Step 2: Again listen several times to each word before you drag it to its picture. You can use transliteration for help. – Even if you have not made a mistake the first time round, use the refresh button to do the activity at least twice.  
Note the words down in your learning diary.
- Step 3: Use the audio console to listen, to record yourself and to check your recording.

### **Session 4 (about 30 minutes): Module 2, Steps 4 - 5**

This session contains two revision phases. Take about 15 minutes for this.

Revision I: Practise the dialogue again (listen, speak along, record yourself; focus on the words and phrases that you have written down in your learning diary).

Revision II: Practise the six words in module 2 again using step 2. You can also use record cards to help you practise.

- Step 4: Listen to the words and match the mother tongue equivalent to each word. – Check your answers. – Use the refresh button to do the activity at least three times.
- Step 5: Test your command of the six words. Record yourself and check. – Feel free to record each word several times. This will help you remember and give you a better command of the pronunciation.

### **Session 5 (about 30 minutes): Module 3**

At the end of this session there are two revision phases. Take about 10 minutes for them.

- Step 1: Look at the first word and listen to it as often as you like. Then look at the individual letters and compare their shape with their shape in the written word.  
With your cursor, roll over the individual letters from right to left and, at the same time, look at the table of letters in the bottom right hand corner. Try to say the sounds and to join them together so that you say the word, slowly at first, then faster. – If you want to, call up the transliteration for help.  
If you want to know the names of the Arabic letters, click on them.
- Step 2: Follow the same procedure as in Step 1.

- Step 3: Follow the same procedure as in Step 1.
- Step 4: Look at the Arabic script from right to left and identify the word that matches the transliteration. Check your answers and redo the activity if you have made a mistake. – Then focus on the correct Arabic words and practise reading them.
- Step 5: Follow the same procedure as in Step 4.

**NOTE:** If you wish to learn to write Arabic script more extensively, this is a good point of departure. Use the accompanying workbook: **A Guide to Writing Arabic**. This is available as a printed workbook or as an eBook and has been specially designed to accompany this eCourse.

Revision I: Choose any Step of Module 2 and revise the six words so that you know them well.

Revision II: Choose Module 1, Step 3, to revise the language of the dialogue. – If you are feeling confident, try yourself at Step 4.

### **Session 6 (about 30 minutes): Module 4**

Module 4 consists of a varying number of slides that tell you ABOUT the Arabic language and that engage you in a variety of activities. During the course, as you progress from unit to unit, these activities will become increasingly demanding. Whereas the first few units focus on pronunciation, the following units will lead you into important aspects of Arabic grammar. –

Many learners have negative experiences of grammar from their school days or from previous language courses and find the prospect of grammar study intimidating.

However, **we promise** that all grammar in this course is explained in such a way that everyone can understand it. Grammatical terminology is reduced to the minimum.

Go through the slides slowly, so that you can concentrate on the information you receive. Make ample use of your learning diary. Write down everything that you feel is important for your learning.

### **Session 7 (about 30 minutes): Module 1 (travel blog) and Module 6, Step 1**

By re-reading the travel blog (Module 1) and closely reading the cultural note (Module 6, Step 1), you will be able to improve your cultural competence. The travel blog addresses a topic in a light-hearted and sometimes slightly ironic way from the point-of-view of an only moderately competent Western traveller. The cultural note takes a more serious approach and deals with a topic objectively and profoundly; it is entertaining and at times also thoroughly amusing. It is complemented by a number of particularly useful phrases to do with the topic. They are accompanied by a variety of brief but informative explanations.

It is important for you to take your time to savour all the ‘goodies’ offered in this module. Here, in

particular, your learning diary will be of use to you.

Your acquaintance with the travel blog and also the cultural note will help in the following two learning sessions.

### **Sessions 8 and 9 (about 30 minutes each): Module 5**

Sessions 8 and 9 cover the language activities. Within the course the number of activities varies from 10 to 18 per unit, with 13 to 14 the average number of activities.

In some units the first or the first two activities draw on what you have read in the travel blog and cultural note. In these activities you can check your cultural knowledge.

The idea of these two learning sessions is to give you ample and varied opportunities to recycle language elements that you have come across in particular in this unit, but also in the whole course up to the respective point in the course.

There are multiple choice activities, a large and varied number of drag and drop activities, matching activities, lots of listening and speaking activities, and later on also reading activities. – In a large number of activities you will have a recording facility, allowing you to test your speaking skills against a native model.

Many activities allow you to work with transliteration, mother tongue and Arabic script at the same time. However, within these activities you as a learner can often choose if you want to make use of the transliteration, the Arabic script or the mother tongue.

At the beginning it is wise to do all the activities of a unit in two chunks of about 30 minutes each. Soon you will be able to decide for yourself if you want to drop or do one or the other activity only quickly in favour of more extensive practice with other activities.

Choose some activities that you especially focus on and make notes in your learning diary.

### **Session 10 (about 35 minutes): Revision and Module 6, Step 2**

Your learning diary should be ready and available for your final session for each unit. Re-read what you have noted down and decide for yourself which parts of the unit you want to revise for about 30 minutes. Of course, you are free to spend more time on revision before you proceed to Module 6, Step 2. Here you will get some final advice that will help you to avoid blunders when you encounter Arab culture.



# My Learning Diary

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Session</b> _____	<b>Date</b> _____
<b>Unit</b> _____	

<b>Module</b>	<b>Step</b>	
_____	_____	