

| Some differences   | Common difficulties  | Suggestions    |
|--|--|---|
| Arabic script runs from right to left.   | <p>Difficulty with orientation of English script</p> <p>Letters in words might be missed up e.g. might write 'slit' instead of 'silt' or 'frind' instead of 'friend'</p> | <p>Provide an alphabet strip on the desk or for personal use.</p> <p>Encourage pupils to run fingers below words when reading.</p> <p>Number lines for pupils.</p>                              |
| <p>Letters may look like one another but are distinguished by dots.</p> <p>There are 28 letters. They are all consonants.</p> <p>Letters change shape depending on their position in the word.</p> | <p>Difficulty with letter / sound recognition especially with /p/; /b/; /v/</p> <p>Difficulty with letter formation</p>  | <p>Teach letter names and sounds (as appropriate to age).</p> <p>Be aware of issues when correcting work: correct and perhaps provide further samples.</p>                                      |
| No upper or lower case   | <p>Difficulty in understanding use of capital letters</p> <p>Use of capital letters in wrong context or omission of these</p>  | <p>Provide an alphabet strip on the desk.</p> <p>Correct use in work and provide some extra practice; bring attention to capital letters when reading.</p>                                      |
| Use of present continuous '-ing' does not exist. The same form of the verbs expresses does / is doing.   | Use of present simple in place of present continuous: 'I go now' instead of 'I'm going now'  | Model correct structure: 'I go now', 'Oh, you're going now. I'm going too'.   |
| <p>Symbols representing numerals and numbers may be different.</p> <p>Numerals are written from left to right.</p>   | <p>Reading numbers and dates may prove difficult at the beginning</p> <p>Confusion between numbers and symbols</p>   | <p>Provide or display number lines / squares with word and symbol.</p> <p>Avoid asking pupils to read these aloud.</p> <p>Teach how to write dates using numbers; write full date on board.</p> |
| Word order in phrases and sentences, for example: in Arabic, the verb appears at the beginning of the sentence   | Incorrect word order when speaking or writing  | <p>Model correct structure: 'Go John to school Monday', 'I see. John goes to school on Monday.'</p> <p>Correct word order in written work; write out correct sentence.</p>                      |
| No indefinite articles with nouns  | Lack of 'a' or 'an' in sentences: 'This is book', 'He was soldier'.  | <p>Model correct structure: 'This is book', 'Yes, this is a book'.</p> <p>Emphasise articles when modelling and correct in writing.</p>   |
| Use of definite article with days, months, places and idioms   | <p>Omission of articles or use of articles when it is not necessary: 'He works in the India.'</p> <p>"He went to the library on the Tuesday"</p>                         | Model the correct use; correct in written work and provide some other examples.   |
| The verb 'to be' is not used in the present tense.   | Omission of the verb in the present tense: 'He my cousin', 'the dog fierce'  | Emphasise 'am', 'is' and 'are' in sentences; highlight these words in text or bring attention to these; provide further examples.   |

## Arabic speakers learning English

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|--|--|--|
| Vowels are not written in Arabic. Vowels are small signs added on or below the letters. There are 3 short and 3 long vowels in Arabic. | May have difficulties with vowels. English language has more vowels than Arabic. Words that are only differentiated only by their medial vowel sound are difficult. The 'o' and 'u' sound are difficult. | Provide an alphabet strip on desk with vowels highlighted.<br>Correct use in work and provide some extra practice. |
| Adjectives occur after the noun.   | Incorrect use of adjectives in a sentence: It is a book good'.   | Model correct structure: "It is a good book'.  |

Be careful not to over-correct. In written work choose 3-4 errors that occur regularly and correct these, perhaps writing out the correct version below the pupil's work

### Arabic-speaking countries

The Arab world stretches from Morocco across Northern Africa to the Persian Gulf. Arabic is the official language in Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Yemen. The Arab world is more or less equal to the area known as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Arab countries are religiously and ethnically diverse with Islam being the dominant religion in most countries.



Things to note:

There are 22 Arab countries

Iran and Turkey are not Arab

Being an Arab does not mean being a Muslim and being a Muslim does not mean being an Arab.

The Arab world includes Muslims, Christians and Jews.

There are about 420 million speakers of Arabic.

There are different dialects of Arabic.

### Some useful words in Arabic

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Marhaba        | Hello               |
| Ahlan wa sahan | Welcome             |
| Tasharrafna    | Pleased to meet you |
| Ismee          | My name is          |
| Shukran        | Thank you           |
| Mumtaaz        | Well done           |
| Ma'assalama    | Good bye            |

### References:

<http://omniglot.com/writing/arabic.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>

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