For grown-ups

The Arabic alphabet has 28 letters. Arabic is written from right to left, so every tracing row starts on the right with a start dot and an arrow pointing left.

- [ ] **Start on the right**
  Point to the start dot on the right, then follow the arrow to the left. Your child may find it helpful to slide a finger along the dotted line before using a pencil.

- [ ] **One letter, up to four shapes**
  Arabic letters join together, so most letters change their shape at the start, middle or end of a word. Six letters never join the letter after them, so they have only two shapes.

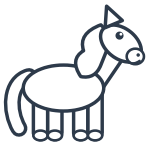
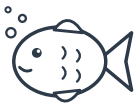
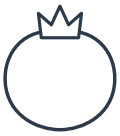
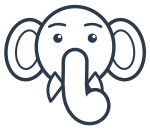
- [ ] **Sounds and words**
  Say each letter name and picture word aloud together. The Latin spellings are only a guide: some Arabic sounds do not exist in English, and a fluent speaker is the best model.

- [ ] **Hold the pencil comfortably**
  Most children are ready for a three-finger (tripod) grip around age four. If it is not there yet, use short crayons or chunky pencils. Always write the letter first and add the dots last.

The Arabic alphabet

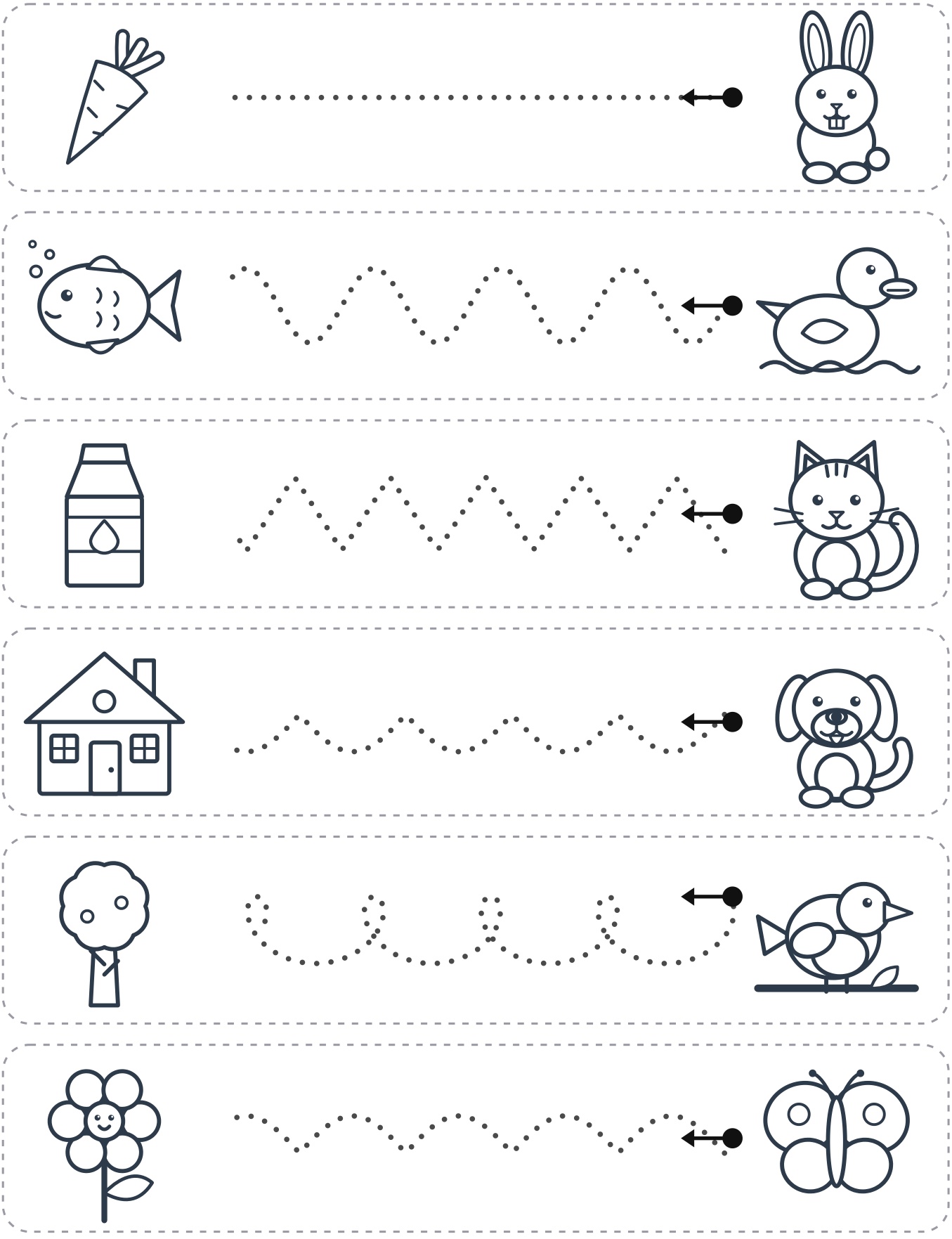
28 letters. Start reading on the right!

read this way ←

خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	ا
						
khaa	hhaa	jeem	thaa	taa	baa	alif
ص	ش	س	ز	ر	ذ	د
						
saad	sheen	seen	zay	raa	dhaal	daal
ق	ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض
						
qaaf	faa	ghayn	ayn	zaa	ttaa	daad
ي	و	ه	ن	م	ل	ك
						
yaa	waaw	haa	noon	meem	laam	kaaf

Right to left

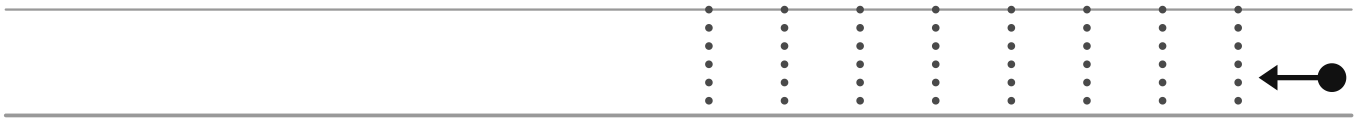
Follow the dots from the right to the left



Pen shapes for Arabic

Trace the shapes on the right, then copy them on the left

Sticks now you try



Bowls now you try



Waves now you try



Hooks now you try



Loops now you try



Dots now you try



Alif

Arabic letter 1 of 28

ا



lion

asad

write from right to left

ا

Sound: a long 'aa', as in 'far'
Dots: no dots

The shapes of the letter

This letter never joins the letter after it, so it has only two shapes.



end



alone

Trace the word

Alif often wears a little hamza on top, as in this word.

lion
asad

أسد

Trace the letter, then write it yourself

ا ا

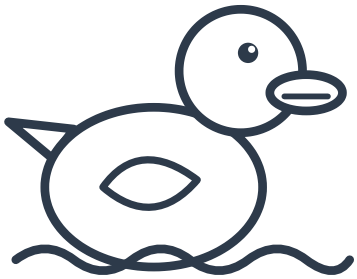
Now write the word yourself

أسد

Baa

Arabic letter 2 of 28

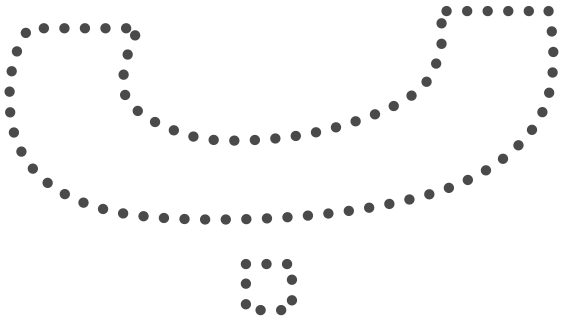
ب



duck

batta

write from right to left

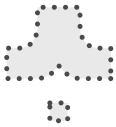


Sound: b, as in 'ball'
Dots: one dot below

The shapes of the letter



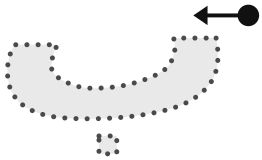
end



middle



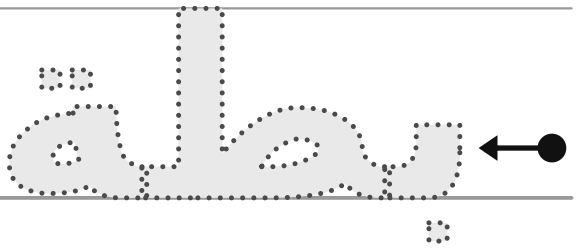
start



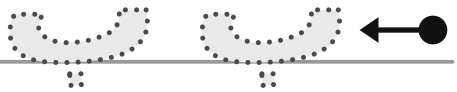
alone

Trace the word

duck
batta



Trace the letter, then write it yourself



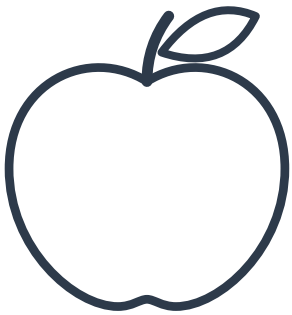
Now write the word yourself

بطة

Taa

Arabic letter 3 of 28

ت



apple

tuffaaha

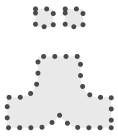
write from right to left

Sound: t, as in 'tap'
Dots: two dots above

The shapes of the letter



end



middle



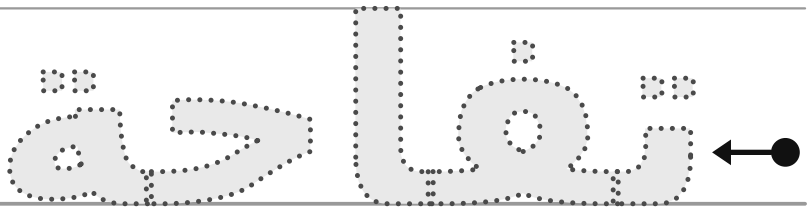
start



alone

Trace the word

apple
tuffaaha



Trace the letter, then write it yourself



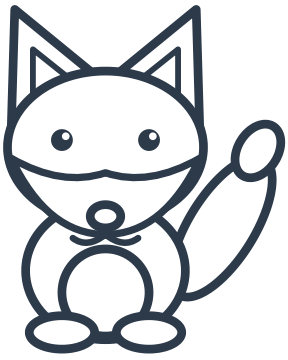
Now write the word yourself

تفاحة

Thaa

Arabic letter 4 of 28

ث



fox

tha'lab

write from right to left

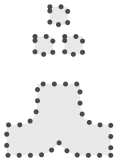


Sound: th, as in 'thin'
Dots: three dots above

The shapes of the letter



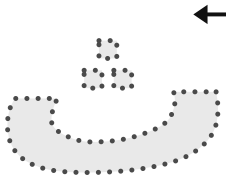
end



middle



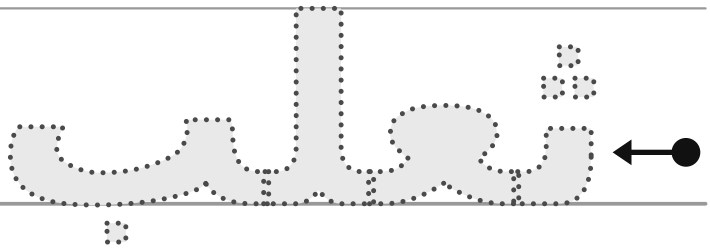
start



alone

Trace the word

fox
tha'lab



Trace the letter, then write it yourself



Now write the word yourself

ثعلب