

INTRODUCTION TO OK ARABIC

WELCOME TO ARABIC RUNNING ON THE OK WORD PROCESSOR.

Here is an example of modern non-literary Arabic produced on the OK Word Processor, using OK's reverse cursor movement feature.

ان ما توافرت علاماته استعمال العنف فرعا يقوم رجال البوليس
بالقبض على الرجل ومواجهته بالنهمة وامطابه معهم
الى قسم البوليس حيث توجه اليه تهمة الاعتداء وممارسة العنف العاشي

I am a two finger typist, I can neither read nor speak Arabic and I have never used this Arabic font before I typed the above sentences. Yet it took me only a few minutes to type them - and that was without hurrying! A touch typist would fly along, and so would any typist who became familiar with how to produce the diacritic marks.

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

- >> You need to have either an IBM compatible computer or an NEC APC-III. Contact PRICOM for further information about other compatible computers.
- >> You need the OK Word Processor. Even if you never type a letter of Arabic, OK Word Processor is the best one around. In fact, the reason that Arabic has been produced for OK Word Processor is partly that it is the best general purpose Word Processor in the business!
- >> To print Arabic, you need a 24-pin printer, preferably one of the NEC P5/P6/P7 family of printers. The 24-pin printers allow high quality copy to be produced for very low cost. OK Word Processor already works beautifully with laser printers as well as a huge range of dot matrix and daisy wheel printers. For Arabic, however, 12-pin printers produce only low quality output and so they will not be supported in the future. It may be that laser printers will be able to print Arabic on OK in the near future. For now, only the 24-pin family is supported.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This is what you have to do to use Arabic on OK Word Processor.

- STEP 1: Enter OK. See OK's documentation to find out how to do this.
- STEP 2: Type ESC LUNARABIC ESC. This allows you to see Arabic characters on the screen.
- STEP 3: Type ESC LUNARABIC.TMB ESC. This allows you to print Arabic characters on a 24-pin printer (with best results on one of the NEC P5/P6/P7 series).
- STEP 4: You were supplied the UNIVERS font with OK, so you probably already know about how to access alternate characters. The UNARABIC font has all of UNIVERS in slots 1 through 4. Arabic lives in slot 5.
- Simply press the ALT key to access the alternate character sets, and CTRL 5 to select the 5th slot of alternate characters.
- STEP 5: Type ESC < ESC to select Arabic cursor movement. Type ESC > ESC to revert back to English cursor movement.
- STEP 6: Just start typing!
- STEP 7: The Arabic letters join on the screen; they will join on the printer at 12 characters per inch. All of your arabic files should have a printer command at the top which instructs OK to use 12cpi and enhanced mode printing. The command you need is: |p12;e.

HOW DO I PRODUCE SPECIAL CHARACTERS AND MARKS?

You can see all of the special Arabic characters in the mini-keyboard display at the top of the screen.

With OK ARABIC, there are two Arabic fonts in one.

A. NORMAL ARABIC

In the normal and shifted keyboards, you will find the first font. This is for use when there are no diacritic marks to be added underneath letters, as in most modern Arabic. These letters line up perfectly with the normal English letters on the NEC P5/P6/P7 series of printers and so there is no room for vowel or other marks underneath the letters. To add diacritic marks above letters from the NORMAL ARABIC font, see below.

B. FULLY POINTED ARABIC

Arabic is an unusual language in that, when it is fully pointed, it has very wide lines. The main reason for this is that Arabic letters take diacritic marks both above and below. The width of lines is less noticeably large in modern Arabic, partly because diacritics are only rarely used - and virtually never used below letters. In fully pointed Arabic, however, the width of lines is both an obvious and an elegant feature of the written language.

In order to preserve at least some of the elegance of fully pointed written Arabic in OK ARABIC, we have provided a special FULLY POINTED ARABIC font in the GRAPH 1 and GRAPH 2 keyboards. In this font, each Arabic line is assigned two lines on the screen. On the lower of the two lines you type in the Arabic letters and any relevant sub-linear diacritic marks. On the top line of the pair you type in any desired supra-linear diacritic marks. The end result is an attractive display and printout, and one which makes worthwhile the small effort involved in keeping track of two lines on the screen.

Here is an example of fully pointed Arabic produced using the "LINE-PAIR" method.

رَبِّهِ زَيْدٌ بْنُ خَلِيدٍ سَعْدُ بْنُ صَوْفٍ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ

C. ADDING DIACRITIC MARKS WITH THE NORMAL ARABIC FONT

In the normal Arabic font (the one in the normal and shifted keyboards), there is no room (or need!) for diacritic marks below the letters. All of the diacritic marks which may go above the letters are available, however. You will notice that there are several special characters already provided for you in the shifted keyboard: \hat{r} , \hat{i} , \hat{f} , and \hat{c} . These are a few of the most common diacritical marks in modern Arabic.

You can add diacritic marks above Arabic letters automatically. All you do is hold down the CTRL key and press one of the letter keys from "r" to "y". This overlays a mark on the previous letter - the one to the right of the cursor, if you are using Arabic cursor movement. Here is a list of which keys produce which diacritic marks:

\hat{r} : \hat{r} \hat{s} : \hat{s} \hat{t} : \hat{t} \hat{u} : \hat{u} \hat{v} : \hat{v} \hat{w} : \hat{w} \hat{x} : \hat{x} \hat{y} : \hat{y}

D. ADDING DIACRITIC MARKS WITH THE FULLY POINTED ARABIC FONT

For diacritic marks underneath Arabic letters, first you type the letter you want. Then all you do is hold down the CTRL key and press either q (to get $\underset{\sim}{}$) or z (to get $\underset{\grave{}}{}$). The mark will be placed under the previously typed letter automatically.

For diacritic marks above Arabic letters, you simply type them in on the line above the letters - much as you would if you were writing by hand. You will find all of the supra-linear diacritic marks in the GRAPH 2 keyboard, along with a few ready made combinations.

E. A SPECIAL NOTE

Note that, in the situation where needs to be followed by or , special versions of these characters have been provided.

In the NORMAL ARABIC font, they are on the far right of the shifted keyboard. In the FULLY POINTED ARABIC font, they are on the far right of the unshifted GRAPH 2 keyboard.

To illustrate in the case of the NORMAL ARABIC font, compare on the left the normal characters overlaid by (using w) with the special characters typed in directly from the shifted keyboard on the right:

 f c f c

Here is the corresponding illustration in the case of the FULLY POINTED ARABIC font (of course, the diacritic marks are produced using the "line-pair" method rather than with automatic overlays):

 f c f c

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY USING ARABIC ON OK WORD PROCESSOR

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All fonts are available only to registered users of OK Word Processor and may be obtained from PRICOM, ph: (02) 331-3422.