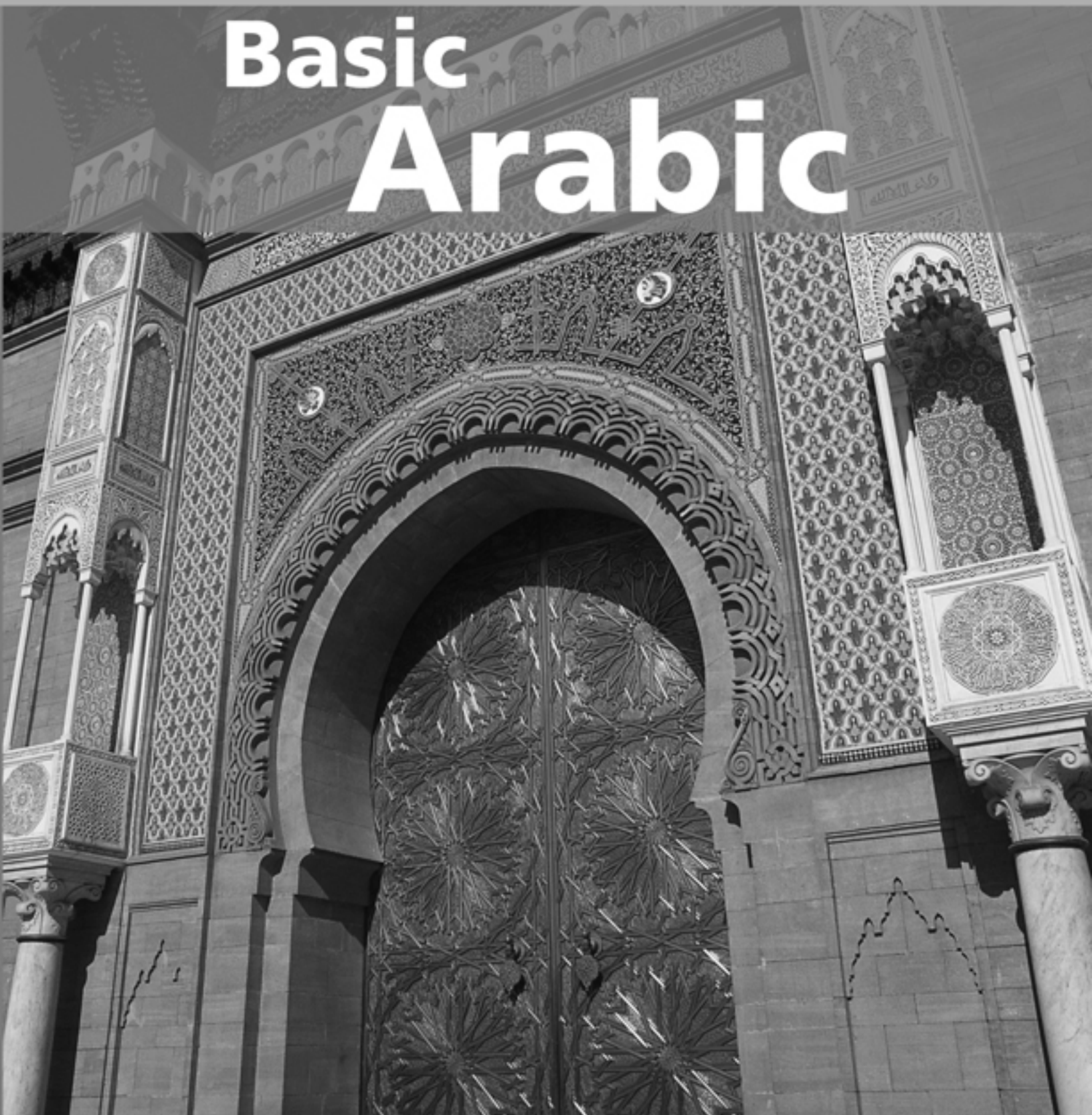


Berlitz

Speaking Your Language

Basic Arabic



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Original Edition: 2007 by Langenscheidt KG, Berlin and Munich
Printed in China, December 2009

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Cover photos © Mark Karrass/Corbis

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Berlitz

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Course Book

Berlitz Publishing

New York Munich Singapore

Arabic Verb Forms and Their Patterns

Form	Verb Pattern	Pattern Summary
I	FaMaLa FaMiLa FaMuLa	Memorize
II	FaMMaLa	Double middle radical
III	FaaMaLa	Long vowel after the first radical
IV	'aFMaLa	Prefix 'a- in perfect tense
V	taFaMMaLa	Prefix ta- and double middle radical
VI	taFaaMaL	Prefix ta- and long vowel after first radical
VII	'inFaMaLa	Prefix -n-
VIII	'iFtaMaLa	Infix -t- after first radical
IX	'iFMaLL	Doubled last radical
X	'istaFMaLa	Prefix -st-

Most words in Arabic are often derived from a three letter root consonant. Here we examine all the possible forms a verb can take in the Arabic language. The chart above lists the 10 most common forms you will encounter. It is important to note that not all verbs will have all the 10 forms listed above.

The “F” indicated the first radical of the root verb. The “M” indicates the middle radical of the root and the “L” indicated the last radical of the tri-literal root verb.

Each form represents a different meaning of a verb. The chart listed below gives some trends in the meanings of each form of a verb. Examples have been provided for illustration purposes.

Arabic Verb Forms and Their Meanings

Form	Example	Meaning of Verb
I	قتل (qatala): to kill كتب (kataba): to write سلم (salima): to be safe	Memorize
II	قتل (qattala): to massacre كتب (kattaba): to cause to write سلم (sallama): to make safe	intensive, causative, declarative, or denominative of Form I
III	قاتل (qātala): to try to kill كاتب (kātaba): to correspond with سالم (sālama): to make peace with	indirect object of Form I is the direct object of Form III; conative and always transitive
IV	اكتب (aktaba): to dictate اخذل (axlafa): to leave / compensate اسلم (aslama): to submit	Causative
V	تفرق (tafarraqa): to scatter تخلف (taxallafa): to hold back from تسلم (tasallama): to receive the surrender	reflexive or passive of Form II
VI	تقاتل (taqaatala): to fight with one another تكتتب (takaataba): to write to each other تسال (tasaalama): to make peace together تناعس (tanaa'asa): to pretend to sleep	reciprocal or one of pretence
VII	انكتب (inkataba): to subscribe انكسر (inkasara): to be broken	reflexive or passive
VIII	اقتتل (iqtatala): to fight with one another اكتتب (iktataba): to write to each other استلم (istalama): to kiss the Black Stone	reflexive or sometimes passive
IX	احمر (iHmarra): to turn red, to blush اصفر (iSfarra): to turn yellow, to pale ابيض (ibyaDDa): to turn white ازرق (izraqqa): to turn blue	denote color or bodily defect
X	استقتل (istaqtala): to risk one's life استكتب (istaktaba): to ask someone to write استسلم (istaslama): to submit, to keep to the middle of the road	ask or think that the sense of Form I should be done