

Ustaaz Dil's Online Arabic-English Dictionary

In general, this dictionary is directed at students. It does not attempt to define or list unusual words or forms; there are many good electronic dictionaries out there for that purpose (Almaani, arabdict, etc.). This dictionary tries to cover the basic vocabulary of Arabic that students might encounter in the first couple of years of study, giving helpful information about forms and variations that can be helpful in that setting.

Your comments, additions, suggestions, etc. are welcomed. You can send in corrections or additions to an existing entry, add additional word senses, phrases or sample sentences, or suggest a word that is currently not listed. Click on the feedback form to help make this dictionary more useful for all students.

Lookup Instructions:

- Look up words and roots by typing Arabic or Latin characters (using the transliteration system provided)
- Do not use short vowel marks when looking up word forms (this means that sometimes the system will find things that are not what you intended because they are written the same but have different vowels)
- If you want it to find all entries with a particular root, click on the root button before entering the root

The Idea Behind the Search Function

- Word definitions include lists of related forms: plurals of nouns, verbal nouns, active participles, passive participles of verbs, etc.

When a non-sound root is involved, a more elaborate set of forms is listed, since they are less predictable and more confusing for students

- You may search for a basic form, or for any other listed form (the plural, the verbal noun, etc.). Any of these other forms will point you to a basic form.
- A particular form may be listed as one of the 'derived' forms for more than one word. For example, كَتَب could be the past tense of 'to write', or it could be the plural of the noun كِتَاب. If the search form is listed under more than one base word, the system will present you with a list of those words.

- Note that the system will find the following and take you to the basic entry that includes it:

- Singulars and plurals of nouns
- Alternative spellings of weak forms

- Feminine and plural forms of adjectives
- 3rd person singular perfect and imperfect forms of verbs
- Verbal noun
- Active and passive participle

if the verb is not sound, it will normally also find:

- 3rd person singular jussive
- 1st person singular past
- Masculine imperative forms

All of these are given so that you will not have to do a lot of abstract processing to find the meaning of a confusing form. You will have to do SOME processing, however, like changing verb forms to 3rd person singular or 1st person past, etc.

•When you encounter a confusing form, try typing it in directly. If that doesn't work try the following:

- Strip off possible conjunctions (و, ف)
- Strip off a possible definite article
- Strip off possible pronoun endings

If it looks like a verb form conjugated for a pronoun other than هو (or the case of past tense, for a possible non-sound form أنا), try to figure out how to change it to its corresponding هو (or أنا) form. Then try typing it again to see if you get a response.

•If you type in a form that is confusing you, the system will find possibilities for that form that may not have occurred to you. By perusing those possibilities, you may pinpoint the meaning of a form in a particular context.

For example, if you type in the form يعد (ycd), the system will give you a choice of seven different possible verbs.

Aspects of the Definitions

•The **list of word senses** (the meanings) include percentages after some of the entries. These numbers were derived from taking a random sample of 50 sentences using this word from the Modern Literature section of arabiCorpus, and counting what percentage of these citations reflected that word sense.

Use caution in interpreting these numbers, since the sample is small and only one genre was used (different ratios would have resulted if the Newspaper corpus had been used, for example). With those caveats, however, the word senses can still give you an idea of which senses are more common than others.

•The numbers in the **Frequency** section reflect the number per 100,000 words of text in three genres of arabiCorpus: Modern Literature (LIT), Newspapers (NEWS), and Premodern Texts (PREMOD).

Since 100,000 words is the approximate size of many daily newspapers in the Arab World, one way to think about the NEWS number is to imagine that one would encounter that many examples of forms of this word if one read an entire daily

newspaper from front to back. This number can also be useful for comparing the relative frequencies of different words.

These numbers were derived by running basic searches on arabiCorpus, without subtracting for false hits, so again all numerical data should be taken with a grain of salt. As long as you realize this limitation, however, we feel that you can still benefit from this information.

- The sample sentences aim to illustrate a variety of uses of the word in question, both in terms of meaning and grammatical context. Looking through these sentences and their translations will help build your vocabulary, and might give you some hints as to how to interpret a difficult use of a word when the definitions given do not clarify the meaning.