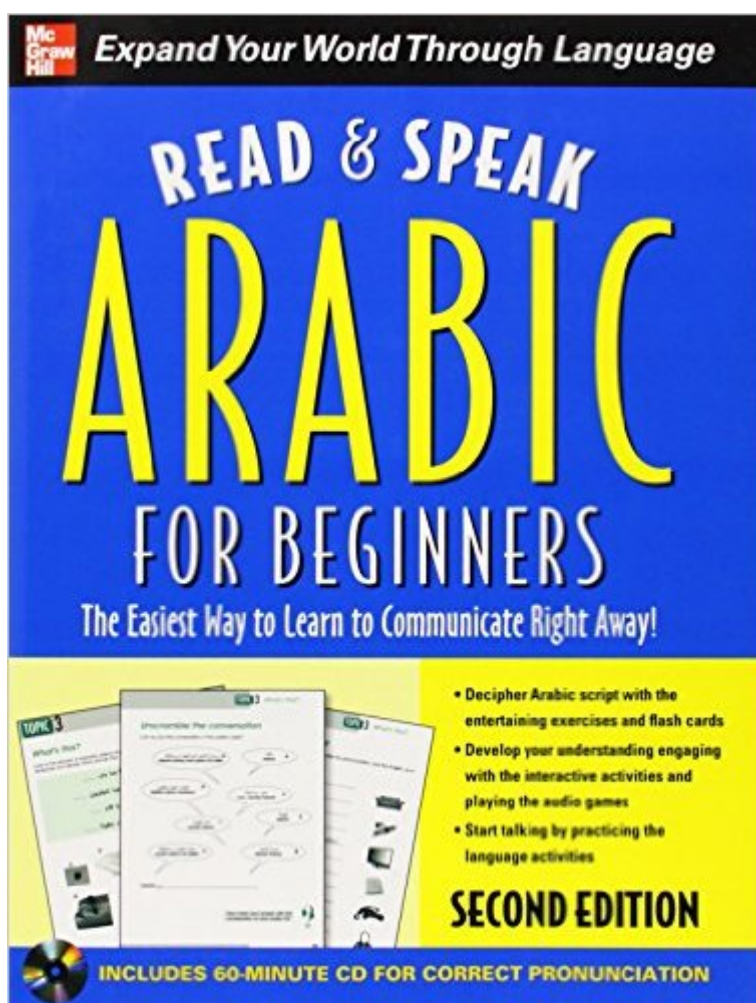


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# Read And Speak Arabic For Beginners With Audio CD, Second Edition (Read And Speak Languages For Beginners)



## Synopsis

Learn helpful Arabic vocabulary without being intimidated by its non-Roman script! Your desire to learn Arabic may be thwarted by its script; how will you pick up the language if you can't understand its characters? *Read and Speak Arabic for Beginners* overcomes this obstacle by providing an accessible, entertaining program that will reinforce vocabulary as well as help you create basic structures. Each of the eight topics develop your communication skills in key areas, and your progress will be reinforced by tests and puzzles. The accompanying 55-minute audio CD contains all the key words and phrases for you to listen to and repeat. It also features entertaining listening activities and games for additional reinforcement. Two-color layout and photographs throughout to illustrate key vocabulary. Proven approach combines games, puzzles, flashcards, and audio to aid language. Clear explanations of how basic phrases are used for practical communication. Audio CD/MP3s for correct pronunciation provides speaking and listening practice and audio games; detachable flashcards allow language reinforcement. Topics include: What is your name?; Where are you from?; What is this?; Where is it?; What's it like?; How do I get there?; Who's this?; What do you do?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I absolutely LOVE every thing that Jane Whitewick puts out. She makes learning Arabic easy and less stressful; especially the grammar! I had an "aha" moment when just thumbing thru her book BEFORE I even bought it on a Arabic grammar issue I had been trying to figure out for 18 months! I

have to admit, that Jane's super strong British accent is kinda a distraction when hearing her speak and Mahmoud sounds kinda bizarre talking like a proper English gent sitting down to tea vs. the Arab he is; but after a while, you get over it. She knows how to rock a language and get you to learn it. She has done a recording for Arabic for the Michel Thomas Method and I have to say, because I found out it was her doing the lessons is why I bought it---she really knows her stuff. If you are desiring to learn Arabic with some ease and less stress, then I recommend you searching and buy all her books.

I got this book because I wanted to start studying Arabic. It has been a good start because it helps you to say things without really trying to teach you anything complicated. It also teaches you practical vocabulary for common situations. Thus far, I am about half-way through and can already say a good amount in Arabic. The audio CD provides good guidance. However, if one is very interested in proper pronunciation, the man, a native Arabic speaker, has a perfect accent while Jane Wightwick has quite an obvious English accent in Arabic (as far as I know, her intonation is correct, which is the most important thing at this point). However, from the standpoint of an English-speaker, a lot of the sounds in Arabic are quite comparable to those of English and are only subtly different, but those subtle differences play a large role in foreign accents. The two of them split the task of pronouncing the Arabic words, so some audio has the English accent and some doesn't. The games and activities are helpful. This book is a good beginning but does not provide any detailed grammar information. The grammar is very basic, but the point of the book is to help the student start "communicating right away", which it achieves quite well. The book focuses on nouns and adjectives, not really touching on verbs at all (verbs are quite complicated in Arabic and it would not make sense to include them in a beginner's book). Vocabulary is presented in short lists, which is the most effective way to approach vocabulary. As far as reading goes, I would recommend first buying a guide to Arabic handwriting instead of relying on this book to start reading Arabic. I am glad to have found this product.

I found this method to be just the right level of challenge for a beginner. The vocabulary words presented are useful and the pace is easy, but quick enough to keep one's focus and the voices of the presenters are warm and friendly. This set comprising a book and accompanying CD has given me the motivation and the confidence to continue studying Arabic. It's a great way to have a peek into the language, with no emphasis on Islam, as there sometimes is with other methods.

When I first opened this book, I thought some of the pages had been torn out. If you are entirely unfamiliar with Arabic, you have absolutely no idea what you're looking at. The attached audio CD is a little helpful, but the sounds are not clear enough for a beginner to understand. I'm glad I bought an Arabic alphabet book with this, or I would have no idea what I was reading. That being said, the book does provide some useful words and phrases that make it worthwhile. Not the best language book I've ever seen, but certainly not the worst, either.

Arabic is difficult, not only because so many sounds are subtle and different for non-native speakers to hear, but also because the grammatical structure is wholly different from Indo-European languages. *Read and Speak Arabic for Beginners* attempts to address this, with limited success. The text is pretty rudimentary - its 8 chapters focus on your name and where you're from, what things are (primarily towards ordering food), where things are (and adjectives), transportation and getting direction and a little bit on the genitive (possessive) case. Because of this organization, there is no explanation of grammar - it's unnecessary because the questions and answers are entirely rote. On one hand this expedites communication, but on the other, once you're "off script" it is impossible to really communicate. That said, once you've finished the 8 chapters, you'll have a solid working vocabulary of a little over 100 words. The CD that is included is a bit difficult to follow - especially for those who have no prior ear for Arabic. The greatest issue I have with the text, however, is that it doesn't address any of the dialects in the Arab speaking world (there are almost two dozen) - these dialects are not mutually understandable, which can be problematic. While it is considerably more expensive, for those beginners to Arabic, I recommend *Ultimate Arabic Beginner-Intermediate (Book only)* (LL Ultimate Basic-Intermed).

In less than a week I was able to understand at least half of the book & repeat some of it. Being able to just understand most of the conversations was a big plus, the reading isn't as important right now, but I'm sure it will go just as good when I get more involved.

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