

From the world of international business to global politics, the Arabic language is a modern day 'must'. But it's equally important – and simply good manners – for anyone living in an Arab country such as the UAE to have a basic comprehension of everyday usage. Here's the second instalment of our regular 'read and keep' introduction to the Arabic tongue

Daily situations: 1

A'tini give me

Min fadlak (m)/min fadlik (f) please

Hada (m)/Hadi (f) this

ktab book

Shukran thank you

Tafaddal (m)/ tafaddali (f) here you are

Hadak (m)/hadeek (f) that

Hada ktab this is a book

Hadi jareeda this is a newspaper

La hada msh ktab no this is not a book

Hada telephone this is a telephone

Try to say in Arabic: "Please give me this book". Your answer should be ... A'tini min fadlak hada al ktab

Vowels

There are six vowels in Arabic: three long ones which are written and three short ones which are not normally written – except in the Quran and children's books where small marks representing the short vowels are placed above or below the consonant letters:

SHORT LONG

A? Aa ?

U? Uu ?

I? Ii ?

Special offer!

Arabic becomes an increasingly important language around the world, Abu Dhabi Week teams up with Berlitz to offer readers an unmissable opportunity to speak out – and have your with a very special offer! Until the end of May each reader of Abu Dhabi Week to register for a Berlitz course will receive a special 10 percent discount on production of a copy of the magazine.

For more details contact Berlitz on 02 448 6667 or email leila.shehab@berlitz.ae .
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