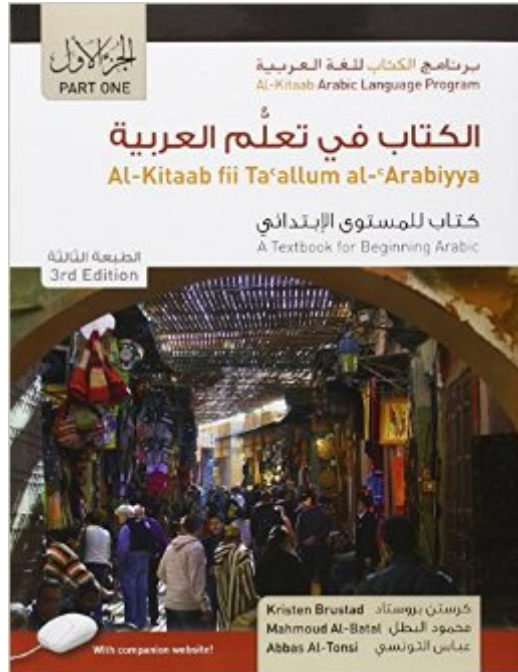


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# Al-Kitaab Fii Ta'allum Al-'Arabiyya (Arabic Edition)



## Synopsis

Al-Kitaab Part One is the second book in the Al-Kitaab Arabic Language Program and is now available in an extensively revised and reorganized third edition. This book with its companion website develops skills in formal and colloquial Arabic, including reading, listening, speaking, writing, and cultural knowledge, integrating materials in colloquial and formal/written Arabic. It provides a comprehensive program for students in the early stages of learning Arabic. Â

FEATURES

- Four-color design throughout the book with over 100 illustrations and photographs
- Color-coded words and phrases throughout to easily follow the variety or varieties of Arabic you want to activate
- Egyptian, Levantine, and/or formal Arabic
- Introduces over 400 vocabulary words in all three forms of Arabic side by side
- Presents the story of Maha and Khalid in Egyptian, and now Nasreen and Tariq in Levantine, in addition to Maha and Khalid in formal Arabic
- Expanded grammar explanations and activation drills, including discussions about colloquial and formal similarities and differences
- New video dialogues from everyday life in both Egyptian and Levantine to reinforce vocabulary in culturally-rich contexts
- Develops reading comprehension skills with new authentic texts
- Reinforces learning through extensive classroom activities and homework exercises that provide constant review
- Includes Arabic-English and English-Arabic glossaries, reference charts, and a grammar index
- Reduced from 20 chapters to 13 chapters, the course now more closely corresponds to two semesters of college study with an average of 4-5 contact hours per week
- Textbook includes a convenient DVD with the basic audio and video materials (no interactive exercises) for offline study that will play in iTunes and compatible MP3 players
- New companion website (sold separately) at [alkitaabtextbook.com](http://alkitaabtextbook.com) features fully integrated interactive, self-correcting exercises, all the audio and video materials, and additional online course management and grading options for teachers

Â Al-Kitaab Part One, Third Edition provides 125 contact (classroom) hours with approximately 250 homework hours. Students who complete Part One should reach an intermediate-mid level of proficiency.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hey everyone, I wrote a review for this about five years ago when I was first starting in Arabic. I'm now on my last year of my Arabic studies in University. I have since finished both parts of Al-Kitaab and I wanted to UPDATE my review. Since going through the whole thing I can give a more honest review. Has it gotten any better? Unfortunately no. This has to be the worst language textbook of all time. In my university career I have also done Japanese and Hindi/Urdu, and seeing the books used for them compared to Al-Kitaab is astounding. I am language learning fanatic and have used many different books. I have used bad books and I still think this one is the worst. I'm wondering if this is why so many people drop out of Arabic courses. This book is TERRIBLE. During my classes I learned practically nothing from Al-Kitaab, I had to use other resources (which I will list at the end of the review). I could seriously pick apart this book from each chapter explaining how bad it is. By the way the authors do not tell you, you have to buy the access to the companion website. In my first Arabic class there was a girl who could not afford the website, and she could not do half of the exercises. Anyway, there are so many problems with this book. I apologize in advanced for my long review, but I feel these points need to be made. I will list the main points.1) First off, as I said in the previous review the book Alif Baa that precedes this is excellent. It teaches you some basic greetings and the letters. It is a cute and fun book, and I would recommend it for anyone wanting to learn then Alphabet. However the jump to from Alif Baa to Al-Kitaab is way too big! You are learning things like "hi, how are you?" in Alif Baa to "my dad works as a translator in the United Nations," in lesson 1 of Al-kitaab.

I'm in my 2nd semester of Arabic at the college level and we're using this book. Well, using is sort of the wrong word. Better to say we're struggling with this book, because it's just so horribly bad. To start with, as other reviewers mentioned, the jump between Alif Baa (the first book in the series) and this one is just way too big. We covered Alif Baa in the first semester and it basically taught us how to read, write, and pronounce Arabic, which was fine. We got a few phrases and learned the names

of some of the grammatical marks. We learned the vowelings. That was fine. But, when you open Al-Kitaab, everything in the table of contents is in Arabic, even though it's almost all words you won't have been introduced to yet. One of the first exercises asks you to question your classmate about certain aspects of their life, when that requires vocabulary you won't have and a knowledge of Arabic sentence structure that you won't have. I'm also really agitated about how unorganized this book is. There is no unified area to look at pronoun charts, conjugation charts, or plural charts. It's introduced sporadically throughout the text. It would be better to have it in an index. In other cases, you're given the conjugation of a verb like "I memorize", "he reads" as vocabulary words, but you're not given the full conjugation chart so you know how to use it for more than just that one conjugation. Of course, you could go back through the whole text to see if it was explained somewhere, but that's a crap way of doing things. Really, without a teacher to explain things clearly, this book would be completely useless. COMPLETELY USELESS. And a complete waste of money. If you don't need this for a class, DO NOT BUY IT.

I recently took an introductory Arabic course at a large public university that uses this textbook. Having learned another "critical language" for nearly twenty years and having taught that language at the university level for another five years, I hope that I can provide some helpful perspective on this new edition of Al-Kitaab. Some of the methods used by this textbook--especially its focus on listening comprehension--are excellent. Despite certain advantages, however, I believe the third edition would work only for a course taught by a very experienced teacher who has already developed a large number of exercises and assignments that can be provided separately to students. Without all of these additional materials already in place, however, the current book/website package is simply not enough for teaching the language in a way that will allow students to feel that they are making progress and mastering the material. More specific comments: 1) Many textbook sets come with a separate workbook or extensive exercises to practice the vocabulary and patterns taught in each lesson. They may be simple, repetitive, and kind of boring, but this method allows students to form sentences and learn through repetition. In this edition al-Kitaab, however, very few exercises are available in the textbook, and nearly all of them are "fill in the blank"; students are rarely, if ever, required to write a full sentence in Arabic - a decision by the authors that I find impossible to understand. Moreover, rather than ask students to perform one type of isolated task repeatedly, e.g. conjugate a set of verbs, practice the iDaafa form, or insert subject and object pronouns, etc.

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