Basic Letter Connection Practice

Arabic letters hold hands. 22 of the 28 letters connect to the letters on both sides, but six of them only take the hand of the letter before them (on their right) and never reach out to the next one. Learn these six first, because they decide where the little gaps inside every Arabic word appear.

STEP 1 Meet the six non-connectors

Alif, Dal, Dhal, Ra, Zay and Waw. After any of them, the next letter starts fresh. Trace each one and say its name out loud.

Waw	Zay	Ra	Dhal	Dal	Alif
و	ز	ر	ذ	د	ا
و	ز	ر	ذ	د	ا
و	ز	ر	ذ	د	ا

STEP 2 Spot them

Here is the whole alphabet. Circle the six letters that never connect to the letter after them. Bonus: say each name as you go.

ر	ذ	د	خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	ا
Ra	Dhal	Dal	Kha	Haa	Jim	Tha	Ta	Ba	Alif
ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش	س	ز
Fa	Ghayn	'Ayn	Zha	Taa	Dad	Sad	Sheen	Seen	Zay
		ى	و	ه	ن	م	ل	ك	ق
		Ya	Waw	Ha	Nun	Meem	Lam	Kaf	Qaf

STEP 3 Your first Thuluth words

Because these words use only non-connecting letters, every letter stands on its own, exactly like in the alphabet. Start on the right, keep the gaps small and even, and let Ra, Zay and Waw dip below the line.



dār
house



ward
rose



zād
provisions



Dāwūd
David



rādār
radar

STEP 4 Free writing

Write each word three more times on your own. Then try mixing the six letters into new combinations.