

# ܬܠܬܐ ܠܥܡܪܐ

(Lesson 2)

## ܬܠܬܐ ܠܥܡܪܐ

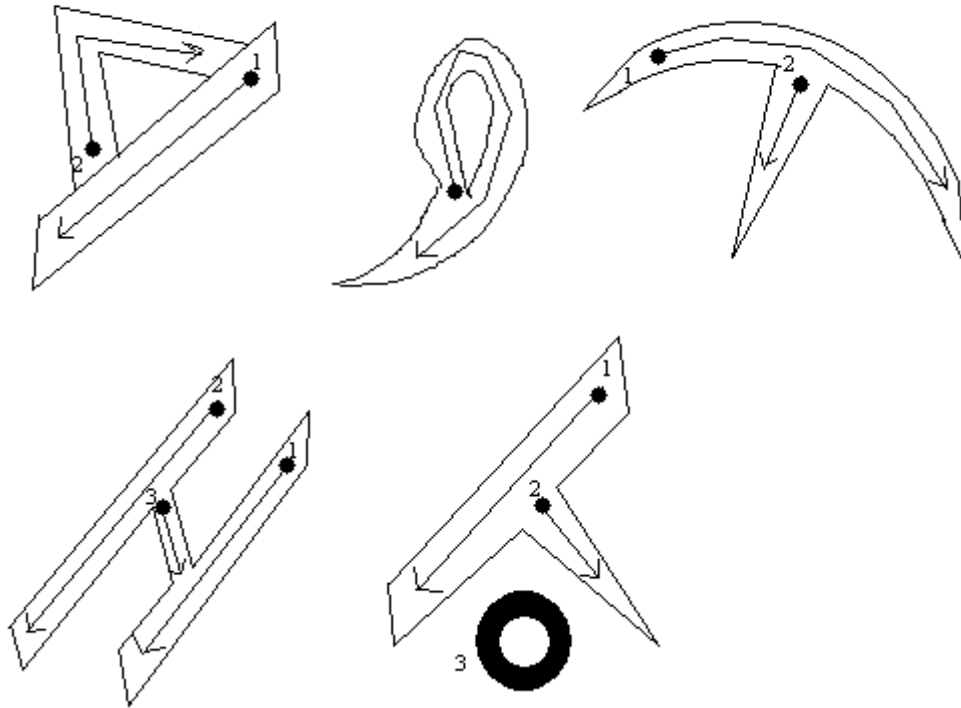
(Introduction to the Vowels)

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In Western Syriac (Aramaic) there are 5 vowels:

The Sound of the Vowel in English/Arabic	ܐܘܐ (The Vowel)	ܡܚܐ ܐܘܐ (The Name of the Vowel)
a َ	ܐ	ܡܚܐ p̄toho ܦܚܘ
o و أ	ܐ	ܡܚܐ zqofo ܙܦܘ
é ا ء	ܐ	ܡܚܐ rvoʂo ܪܒܘܐ
ee ِ	ܐ	ܡܚܐ hvoʂo ܚܒܘܐ
oo ُ	ܐ	ܡܚܐ 'soʂo ܥܨܘܐ

How to write the vowels:

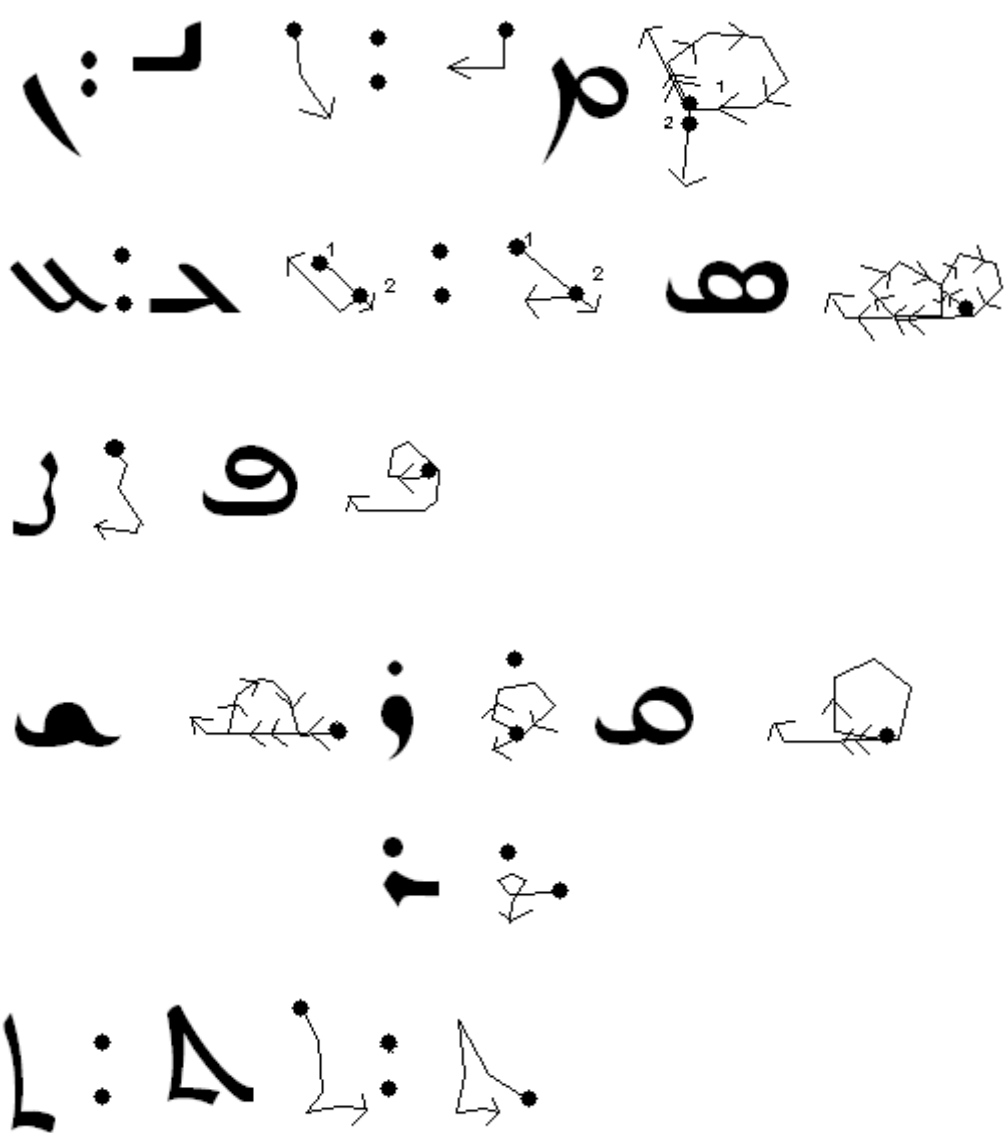


Exercise: Re-write the following vowels five times.

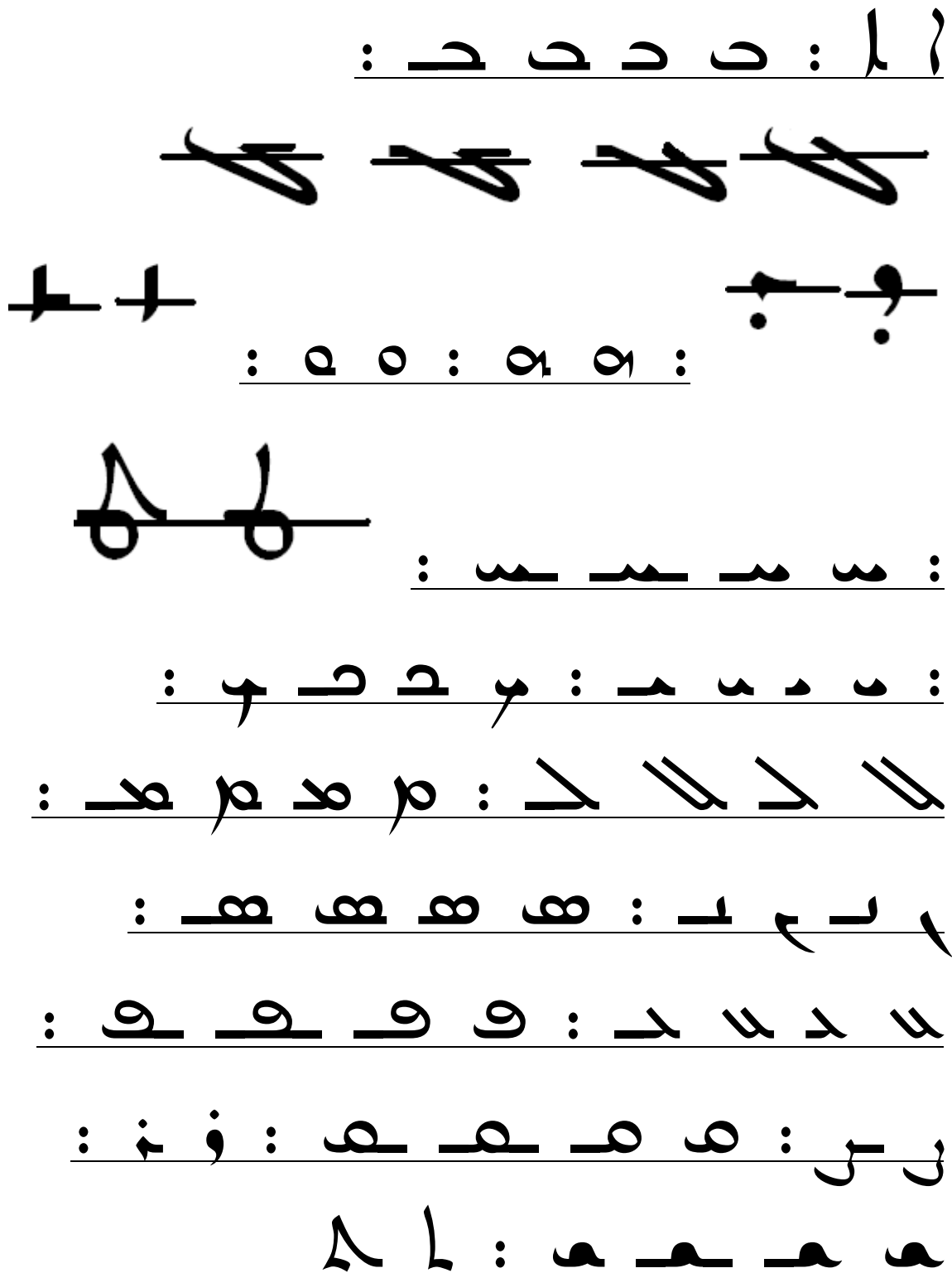
◌◌◌	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	◌◌◌







The abgad letters position above/under the line (the letters with the thin line don't have that slight space, they are touching to the line:





𐎧	𐎧	𐎧	𐎧
𐎨	𐎨	𐎨	𐎨
𐎩	𐎩	𐎩	𐎩
𐎪	𐎪	𐎪	𐎪
𐎫	𐎫	𐎫	𐎫
𐎬	𐎬	𐎬	𐎬
𐎭	𐎭	𐎭	𐎭



The olaf in Syriac has no value, it is not pronounced when there is no vowel over it,

except when used as a number. It's similar to the 'hamzé' in Arabic 'ء'. The English pronunciation is the most accurate for the most part.

The letter yood, sometimes writing as yudh is the smallest letter of the Aramaic abgad (Alphabet). The letter "g" (Gomal) is pronounced like the first "g" in 'g'arage.

Exercise: Practise reading the Syriac letters with the different vowels, and the letters without the vowels (without the vowels the Arabic pronunciation would be the closest)

ⲱ	Ⲳ	ⲳ	Ⲵ	ⲵ	The Letters
ⲱ OO ⲱ	Ⲳ EE Ⲳ	ⲳ É ⲳ	Ⲵ Q Ⲵ	ⲵ A ⲵ	ⲱ Ah ⲱ
Ⲷ BOO Ⲷ	Ⲷ BEE Ⲷ	Ⲷ BÉ Ⲷ	Ⲷ BO Ⲷ	Ⲷ BA Ⲷ	Ⲷ Bh Ⲷ
ⲷ GOO ⲷ	ⲷ GEE ⲷ	ⲷ GÉ ⲷ	ⲷ GO ⲷ	ⲷ GA ⲷ	ⲷ G-h ⲷ
Ⲹ DOO Ⲹ	Ⲹ DEE Ⲹ	Ⲹ DÉ Ⲹ	Ⲹ DO Ⲹ	Ⲹ DA Ⲹ	Ⲹ Dh Ⲹ
ⲹ HOO ⲹ	ⲹ HEE ⲹ	ⲹ HÉ ⲹ	ⲹ HO ⲹ	ⲹ HA ⲹ	ⲹ Hh ⲹ
Ⲻ WOO Ⲻ	Ⲻ WEE Ⲻ	Ⲻ WÉ Ⲻ	Ⲻ WO Ⲻ	Ⲻ WA Ⲻ	Ⲻ Wh Ⲻ



وُ	وِ	ؤُ	وُو	وَ	وْ
اُ ZOO	اِ ZEE	اُ ZÉ	اُ ZO	اِ ZA	اِ Zh
زُ	زِ	زُ	زُو	زَ	زْ
هُ	هِ	هُ	هُ	هَ	هْ
هُ	هِ	هُ	هُ	هَ	هْ
حُ	حِ	حُ	حُو	حَ	حْ
تُ	تِ	تُ	تُو	تَ	تْ
تُ	تِ	تُ	تُو	تَ	تْ
يُ	يِ	يُ	يُو	يَ	يْ
يُ	يِ	يُ	يُو	يَ	يْ
كُ	كِ	كُ	كُو	كَ	كْ
كُ	كِ	كُ	كُو	كَ	كْ
لُ	لِ	لُ	لُو	لَ	لْ
لُ	لِ	لُ	لُو	لَ	لْ
مُ	مِ	مُ	مُو	مَ	مْ
مُ	مِ	مُ	مُو	مَ	مْ
نُ	نِ	نُ	نُو	نَ	نْ
نُ	نِ	نُ	نُو	نَ	نْ



Alternate spelling (in English) for the names of letters in Syriac, and the meaning of each letter:

The Meaning of the Letter	The Name of Letter	The Letter
Bull, Ox	Olaph	ܐ
House, Tent	Bet	ܒ
Camel	Gomal	ܓ
Door (Dam)	Dolat	ܕ
Window, Fence	Hé	ܚ
Wedge, Nail	Waw	ܘ
Weapon	Zain	ܙ
Wall, Obstacle	Het	ܗ
Snake	Tet	ܛ
Hand	Yud	ܝ
Palm of Hand	Koph	ܟ
Staff	Lomad	ܠ
Water (Ocean)	Mim	ܡ
Fish	Nun	ܢ
Foundation	Semkat	ܣ
Eye	‘ain	ܥ
Mouth	Fé	ܦ
Fish-hook	Sodé	ܨ
Monkey	Quph	ܩ
Head, Top Person	Rish	ܪ
Teeth	Shin	ܫ
Mark, Sign, Cross	Taw	ܬ

(You’ll notice that the ‘ܐ’ can be pronounced as ‘p’ or ‘f’, we will cover this topic in later lessons, in Western Syriac (starting not to long ago) the letter ‘ܐ’ is pronounced as ‘f’ no matter what state it’s in (which is grammatically wrong). There are still some scholars that will pronounce it as ‘p’, and like them I prefer to use the ‘p’ when appropriate and the ‘f’ when appropriate.)

Alternate spelling (in English) for the names of vowels in Syriac:

ܐܘܬܐ (The Vowel)	ܡܬܐ ܐܘܬܐ (The Name of the Vowel)
ܐ	ܦܬܐܐ ftoḥo ܦܬܚܐ
ܐ	ܙܩܐܐ zqofo ܙܩܦܐ
ܐ	ܪܒܐܐ rboṣo ܪܒܘܐ
ܐ	ܚܒܐܐ ḥboṣo ܚܒܘܐ
ܐ	ܥܪܐܐ 'šoṣo ܥܨܘܐ

This alternative spelling is mainly due to some bad habits which have been picked up in Western Syriac (Aramaic), I recommend using the spelling as found at the beginning of this lesson.



## The Syriac (Aramaic) History (Part 2)

(This historical material is written by other authors, and this author doesn't claim authorship of the material in the section "The Syriac (Aramaic) History")

### Ancient Phoenician Period (5250-3800 B.C.)

- The first house on Earth that's built with stone appeared in Byblos around 5250 B.C.
- Great progress in Lebanon: domestication of animals, art of jewel making, and the precious stones industry.

### Eneolithic Period (3800-3200 B.C.)

- Appearance of copper in industry at Byblos.
- The opening of the metal era.
- Further progress in the industry and art of ceramics, of precious stones, ivory, gold, and silver.

### Proto-urban Period (3200-3000 B.C.)

- Progress of metallurgic industry.
- Which lead to houses built of stone being divided into many rooms and halls, and assembled within city walls.



### (Names – šmo-hé) ܡܚܕܐ

English	French	Arabic	Karshouni	Syriac
John-Marô	Jean-Maron	يوحنا مارون	<b>yu-ḥa-non dmo-run</b>	ܝܫܘܥ ܡܪܝܢܐ
Julian	Julien	يوليانوس	<b>o-yul-ya-nos</b>	ܐܘܠܝܢܐܘܨ
Italy	Italie	إيطاليا	<b>ee-ṭa-lee-ya</b>	ܐܡܠܟܐ
Isaac	Isaac	إسحاق	<b>ees-ḥoq</b>	ܐܝܨܚܐ
Israel	Israel	إسرائيل	<b>ees-ro-yél</b>	ܐܝܨܪܐܝܠ
Herode	Hérode	هيرودس	<b>hé-ro-dés</b>	ܠܘܕܐ

