

## TANVEEN

A few Arabic origin words end with the letter alif with two zabars <sup>اَ</sup>. This is called 'tanveen' and is used to change nouns to adverbs. This suffix is pronounced as 'an' as in English word *another*.

اتِّفَاقًا

Ittefaaqan  
(by chance)

اتِّفَاق

ittefaaq  
(chance)

Other examples:

مَثَلًا

maslan  
(for example)

تَقْرِيبًا

taqreeban  
(nearly)

اِحْتِيَاظًا

ehiyaatan  
(cautiously)

عَمُومًا

amuuman  
(generally)

فَوْرًا

fauran  
(immediately)

يَقِينًا

yaqeenan  
(certainly)



# Izaafat

Izaafat is a device used in Urdu to connect two words with the sound of 'e'. It serves two purposes:

- i. To denote possession
- ii. As an adjective

In most cases it is used to connect two nouns and indicates 'possession of' (genitive marker) that

is, it conveys the meaning of **کا، کی، کے** ('of' in English). This is denoted by diacritical

marks: zer (ـِ)

or hamza (ـَ) as will be explained in this unit.

In a few cases, *izaafat* is used to connect a noun and an adjective and does not denote possession.

Rules for using zer or hamza for denoting *izaafat*

## *Izaafat-zer*

If the first word of a compound ends with the letters ain 'ع', *chhoTi ye* 'ی', or a consonant, then the diacritic mark *zer* (ـِ) is placed below the last letter of the first word and it has the sound of 'e'.

For example:

دردِ دل

dard-e-dil



دِل کا دُرد

دردِ دل is made of two nouns: دُرد meaning 'pain' and دل meaning heart, the 'izaafat' zer placed below the first word, i.e., dard joins the two words to give the meaning 'pain of the heart' (heart's pain).

Further examples:

موجِ دریا

mauj-e-daryaa  
(wave of the sea)

رازِ دل

raaz-e-dil  
(secret of the heart)

شمعِ محفل

sham-e-mehfil  
(lamp of the gathering)

شاخِ گل

shaakh-e-gul  
(branch of flowers)

بیماریِ دل

Biimaari-e-dil  
(sickness of the heart)

خوبیِ قسمت

KHuubii-e-qismat  
(excellence of fate)

اِطْلَاعِ عام

ittelaa-e-aam  
(public notice)



It can be seen from the above examples that the last two cases use izaafat to connect a noun and an adjective, whereas, all the other examples connect two nouns.

If the first word of a compound ends with the letter *chhoTii he* (when *chhoTi* he is used as a vowel: 'a'), the symbol *hamza* (ه) is placed above and it has the sound of 'e' :

جذبہ دل

Jazba-e-dil

قطرہ خون

qatra-e-KHuun

If the first word of a compound ends with the letter *ba.Di ye* (ے), *hamza* is placed above

*ba.Dii ye*:

بوئے گل

buu-e-gul

آرزوئے وطن

aarzuu-e-watan

سزائے موت

Sazaa-e-maut

شے لطیف

shai-e-lateef

(delicate thing)

Most people, who read Urdu in Devnagri or Roman scripts, pronounce 'e' (izaafat zer) that occurs between two words as a separate sound of 'e'. It should be noted that the sound of 'e' should be combined at the end of the first word.

## ALIF-LAAM

There is one more type of izaafat, called alif-laam which is a combination of two letters, alif and laam ل.

This is used only in words of Arabic origin.



When appearing at the beginning of a word, it gives the meaning of 'the' as in *Al Haq, Al Kareem, Al Quran*

When appearing in the middle of words as a connector, it gives the meaning 'of'.

Silent alif-lam ال

While we have explained the meanings denoted by alif-laam izaafat above, the way it is pronounced varies depending on the first letter of the connecting word. There are clear rules governing this, as follows:

- With certain letters, *alif-laam* gives the sound of *al*. These letters are called *huruuf e qamari* حُرُوف قَمَرِي (moon letters). These letters are:  
alif ا, ba ب, bari he ح, chhoti he ه, jim ج, khe خ, ain ع, ghain غ, fe ف, qaf ق, kaf ك, mim م, vao و, and chhoti ye ي
- With the remaining letters, which are known as *huruuf e shamsi* حُرُوف شَمْسِي (sun letters), it does not give the sound of *al* but, assumes the sound of the corresponding letter. These letters are:  
ta ت, toe ط, dal د, sin س, shin ش, se ث, swad ص, zwad ض, ze ز, zal ذ, zoe ظ, lam ل, re ر and nun ن.
- When alif-laam appears at the beginning of a word, then it retains the sound of 'a', but when it appears in the middle of two words, it begins with the sound of 'u'.

Example:

دار السلطنت	=	سلطنت	+	ال	+	دار
daar-us-saltanat	=	saltanat	+	us	+	daar
		(kingdom)		(of)		(place)

Further Examples:

عبدُالله	نظامُ الدِّين
Abdullah	Nizamuddin



Other examples are as follows:

عيد الفطر

Id-ul-fitr

بين القوامي

bain-ul-aqvami

- There are a few exceptions in the usage of alif-laam as follows:

a. alif-lam preceded with the letter chhoTi ye:

If the first word ends with chhoTi ye and is followed by alif-laam, then chhoTi ye is silent.

For example:

حتى الامكان

Hattalimkan

b. When the alif of alif-laam is preceded by the letter *be*, *alif* remains silent and is pronounced as 'i'.

For example:

بالكل

Bilkul

بالاراده

bilirada

بالآخر

bilakhir