

The Acquisition of Binomials by Kuwaiti EFL Learners

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Abstract

The acquisition of lexical collocations, in general, has been regarded as a stumbling block for EFL learners; it is one of the most difficult areas as it is often perceived as being arbitrary. This study tests whether fifty Kuwait EFL learners are aware of one type of lexical collocations, namely, binomials (e.g., *up and down*, *salt and pepper*, *men and women*). Specifically, it investigates whether the participants' English proficiency level and the syntactic category of the internal components of binomials play a role in their acquisition. For this purpose, the researchers used an acceptability judgment task to check the participants' awareness of binomials in English. The results revealed that the participants' English proficiency level affected their answers on the test. In particular, the advanced learners performed better than the intermediate learners. However, the difference between the two groups was not enough to differ statistically. Additionally, the statistical analysis shows that the syntactic category of the components of binomials i.e., N+N and V+V had no influence on the participants' answers. The researchers concluded that Kuwaiti EFL learners have little awareness of English binomials. Their lack of awareness was attributed to several reasons, such as L1 negative transfer, the existence of culture-specific items and lack of exposure to certain items. The study recommended that further research is required in this area.

Keywords: Binomials, L1 transfer, lexical collocations, Kuwait EFL learners, acquisition of lexical items

1. Introduction

The acquisition of lexical items has started to capture the attention of many researchers recently due to their vital importance in theoretical linguistics in general, and language acquisition in particular (Meara, 2002, p. 393). This importance stems from the role played by the knowledge of lexical items; a knowledge that is viewed as the most prominent means of communication between interlocutors who speak different tongues. As a result of the interaction with various languages, the need to learn the vocabulary (i.e., collocations) pertinent to those languages has intensified drastically. Collocations have been seen as words that are weaved together by cohesive force, yielding an idiomatic meaning in some cases (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). One type of lexical collocations is referred to as 'binomials'. They are defined as lexical pairs, in which, two words related to same lexical category are joined together in a fixed order by a conjunction i.e., *and* and *or* (McCarthy & O'Dell, 1994, p. 154). Examples of binomials in English are *salt and pepper* (N+N), *on and off* (Prep+Prep), *give and take* (V+V), *right and wrong* (ADJ+ADJ), and *good and bad* (ADV+ADV). Binomials, as a type of lexical collocations, are important since they make spoken and written language stimulating and interesting (Kane 1983). Using collocations may make EFL learners sound more native-like that is, their speech will be less literal and monotone. The mastery of such expressions may enhance the learners' oral and written skills in the target language; thus, their importance. Additionally, it has been observed that binomials play a crucial role in second language (L2) learners' fluency and accuracy, language appropriateness and word knowledge. However, the acquisition of binomials, as a type of lexical collocations, has not received much attention. Thus, this study investigates the extent to which the English proficiency level of fifty Kuwaiti EFL learners plays a role in their performance on the test. Also, it tests whether the syntactic category of the internal components of binomials can affect the participants' answers on the test. The ultimate goal is to examine the extent to which fifty Kuwaiti EFL learners are aware of English binomials.

2. Literature Review

Despite the fact that collocations play a major role in language acquisition, very few studies have been conducted to tackle this issue. For instance, based on an extensive study, Hatch and Brown (1995) argued that

EFL/ESL learners acquire collocations as a block rather than compositional words that can be grouped together to form a chunk. In fact, Schmitt (2000) indicated that L1 learners not only acquire chunks, such as collocations, through exposure to stimuli during their life, but also develop the capacity or the competence to reconstruct these chunks. On the other hand, EFL/ESL learners can develop the ability to acquire these chunks; however, they may not develop the same ability exhibited by first language (L1) learners, namely, reconstructing the chunks and manipulating them (Schmitt, *ibid*). Nevertheless, it has been argued that EFL learners can achieve a native-like competence of collocations, provided that they have the ability to use them fluently (Ellis, 1997, p. 9). In other words, the continuous use of collocations in every-day speech may stimulate the learners' memory to retain such expressions and to utilise them repeatedly in their appropriate contexts (Ellis, *ibid*).

In particular, Lewis (2000) indicated that in order for teachers to maximise vocabulary and collections' retention by students, they need to encourage them to pay more attention to the types of chunk they come across in their text-books and reading materials. It has been proposed, however, that this approach may have some shortfalls as it may not be easy for students to notice these types of phrases in a short time. Hence, to overcome this obstacle, it has been suggested that teachers need to allocate more time to discussing and explaining the importance of acquiring collocations repeatedly. This may help steer the students' attention to the advantages that can be gained by mastering the use of collocations in English (Lewis, *ibid*).

Amongst the researchers who investigated the acquisition of English collocations by Arab EFL learners is Bahumaid (2006). Specifically, he conducted a study to investigate the relative difficulty of translating English collocations into Arabic and vice versa. For Bahumaid (2006), lexical collocations refer to a lexical category that can be placed between idioms and free combinations. The study also explored the type of lexical collocations that can be perceived as difficult by Arab translators, especially those who taught translation at universities and worked as translators. For this purpose, a translation test that contained both English and Arabic collocations was used. The results revealed that the respondents' overall performance on the test was poor. It also showed that the respondents encountered difficulties with certain types of collocations compared to others. The difficulties were most manifest when the participants had to translate collocations that had a figurative meaning. This difficulty was attributed to the fact that the participants' competence in the target language is limited as opposed to their mother tongue. Bahumaid (2006) recommended that a compulsory course on English collocations should be included at Arab institutes and colleges for translation.

In another recent study, Shehata (2008) explored the impact of L1 on the respondents' comprehension and production of English collocations. The study also investigated whether the amount of exposure to English can play a role in the acquisition of collocations by Arab EFL learners. Ninety seven advanced Arab EFL learners participated in the study. The researcher used two types of test, namely, fill-in the-blank and an acceptability judgment task. The former was used to test the respondents' ability to produce collocations, while the latter tested their comprehension of collocations. The results revealed that the amount of exposure did play a role in the respondents' ability to produce and perceive English collocations. In addition, it was found that L1 have influenced the respondents' answers on the two tests. In particular, negative and positive L1 transfer played an essential role in the acquisition of English collocations by Arab EFL learners. For instance, the English collocations that have an equivalent in Arabic were produced easily, which means that positive transfer from L1 had a substantial influence on the respondents' answers on the two tests. Shehata (2008) concluded that students need to be more exposed to English collocations so that they can receive as much input as possible to enhance their retention.

In a similar vein, Yamashita and Jiang (2012) conducted a study to investigate L1 influence on L2 acquisition of English collocations by Japanese ESL users and EFL learners. The study compared the performance of native speakers of English, Japanese ESL users, and Japanese EFL learners on an acceptability judgement task. In the test, Yamashita and Jiang (2012) used lexical collocations which are similar in both L1 and L2, and other collocations that are different in the two languages. The reason for this process was to check whether L1 has an influence on the respondents' answers on the test. The results showed that EFL learners provided faulty answers on lexical collocations which are different in both languages. In addition, it was found that ESL users outperformed their EFL learners counterparts, which means that use and exposure to L2 can play a role in the respondents' mastery of English collocations. However, the respondents' overall performance suggests that even ESL users faced difficulties with those collocations that are different in both languages. The two researchers concluded that when L2 collocations are stored in memory, they are processed independently of L1, which is possibly why EFL learners face difficulties with acquiring lexical collocations in L2.

Looking at the literature review on the acquisition of lexical collocations by EFL learners in English, one may notice that little attention has been given to the acquisition of binomials by EFL learners in general, and Arab EFL learners in particular. Therefore, it can be suggested that this area requires further exploration. Hence, this study aims to provide answers to the following questions:

- 1) To what extent does the English proficiency level of fifty Kuwaiti EFL learners influence their acquisition of English binomials?
- 2) Does the syntactic category of the internal components of binomials play a role in the participants' performance on the test?

The next section provides an overview of the methodology.

3. Methodology

3.1 The Sample

The sample consisted of fifty students at the Public Authority of Applied Education and Training (PAAET) and College of Basic Education (CBE). Their mean age was 22 years old and they were all native speakers of Kuwaiti Spoken Arabic (KSA). To ensure the validity of the results, the researchers selected the participants randomly. Since the participants' English proficiency level is an independent variable, the researchers selected the participants based on their scores on the English Placement Test (EPT). In particular, those who scored 50-69 on the EPT were considered intermediate, whilst those who scored 70-85 were considered advanced. Therefore, the fifty participants were divided into two groups: (1) twenty five Intermediate Learners (ILs); and (2) twenty five Advanced Learners (ALs). It has been indicated by Lewis (2000) that participants with low English proficiency would not usually pass a test on English collocations prior to reaching that point where they have a clear sense of L2. Hence, participants with low English proficiency level were not included in this study. It should be noted that the participation in this study was voluntary; the researchers explained the procedure to the participants, and only those who agreed to be involved were included.

3.2 The Test

The researchers used an acceptability judgement task to test the participants' awareness of binomials in English. Other researchers such as Shehata (2008) and Yamashita and Jiang (2012) used this task in their studies since it elicits valuable results that can enable the researchers to make putative generalisations and arrive at logical conclusions. Also, an acceptability rather than grammaticality judgement task was used, since using binomials in a reversed order may not be perceived as ungrammatical, rather as unacceptable. The participants were asked to tick the sentences they thought to be acceptable and cross the ones they thought to be unacceptable. Each binomial was used in two sentences; in the first one it was used in the correct order (i.e., *salt and pepper*), whilst in the second it was used in a reversed order (i.e., *pepper and salt*). Thus, overall, the test included 40 sentences (see Appendix A). Table 1 below shows the binomials that were used in the current study.

Table 1. N+N and V+V binomials used in the test

N+N binomials	V+V binomials
pros and cons	give and take
man and wife	toss and turn
salt and pepper	win or lose
bread and butter	rise and shine
tooth and nail	crash and burn
facts and figures	hit and run
life and death	hide and seek
fish and chips	buy and sell
flesh and blood	rock and roll
soap and water	open and shut

These binomials were chosen based on their frequency in the *Corpus of Contemporary American English* (COCA). For instance, *salt and pepper* was mentioned 4719 times and *hide and seek* 125 times. However, it has been observed that N+N binomials are more frequent than V+V, which may suggest that the participants' may encounter more problems with V+V binomials on the test.

3.3 The Statistical Analysis

For the purpose of this study, the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the participants' answers on the test. Specifically, the researchers calculated the means of the participants' answers in both ILs and ALs groups. The reason for using the means was to: (1) determine whether there are differences between the two groups i.e., ILs and ALs regarding their answers on the test; and (2) identify the most problematic type of binomials i.e., N+N or V+V. Furthermore, a t-test was used to check whether there are statistically significant differences between the two groups i.e., ILs and ALs.

4. Results and Discussion

As mentioned previously, this study aims to test whether the English proficiency level of fifty Kuwaiti EFL learners plays a role in their acquisition and use of English binomials. It also aims to check whether the syntactic category of the components of binomials affects the participants' answers on the test. An examination of table 2 demonstrates that ALs (42.2%) performed better than ILs (36.4%) on the test. Additionally, table 2 shows that the total mean of all answers by both ALs and ILs on both types of binomials was 39.3%. This result shows that Kuwaiti EFL learners have little awareness of binomials in English.

Table 2. Results of (ALs) and (ILs) on the basis of N+N and V+V binomials

	Advanced Learners (ALs)	Intermediate Learners (ILs)	Mean of total answers %
N+N binomials	42.8%	36.8%	39.8%
V+V binomials	41.6%	36%	38.8%
Mean of total answers %	42.2%	36.4%	39.3%

Despite the differences in the percentages between ALs and ILs, there is no statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of using English binomials; the statistical significance (0.209) is higher than (0.05) as shown in table 3. This means that the English proficiency level plays no role in the acquisition of binomials by Kuwait EFL learners.

Table 3. Results of t-test of differences between (ALs) and (ILs)

Proficiency Level	N	M	SD	t	Df	Sig.
Advanced Learners (ALs)	25	4.22	2.62	-1.120	48	0.209**
Intermediate Learners (ILs)	25	3.64	2.44			

**Significance level >0.05.

Testing whether the syntactic category of the internal components of binomials plays a role in their comprehension by Kuwaiti EFL learners, it seems that the syntactic category plays no role in the comprehension either. The statistical significance (0.269) is higher than (0.05), which means that there is no statistically significant difference between the results of N+N binomials and V+V binomials as shown in table 4.

Table 4. Results of t-test of differences between N+N and V+V binomials

Syntactic Category	N	M	SD	t	Df	Sig.
N+N Binomials	10	3.98	2.58	-2.542	18	0.269**
V+V Binomials	10	3.88	2.08			

**Significance level >0.05.

Table 5 and 6 provide a clear and comprehensive description of the results, showing in detail the percentages of correct answers on each item on the test i.e., N+N and V+V binomials. For the readers' convenience, the researchers divided the results into two tables as follows; table 5 shows the participants' results on N+N binomials, whereas table 6 shows the participants' results on V+V binomials.

Table 5. Percentage of correct answers on N+N binomials

N+N binomials	Percentage of correct answers %		Mean of total answers %
	Advanced Learners (ALs)	Intermediate Learners (ILs)	
pros and cons	64%	56%	60%
man and wife	32%	24%	28%
salt and pepper	36%	32%	34%
bread and butter	24%	20%	22%
tooth and nail	52%	48%	50%
facts and figures	60%	52%	56%
life and death	64%	56%	60%
fish and chips	20%	20%	20%
flesh and blood	60%	48%	54%
soap and water	16%	12%	14%
Mean of total answers %	42.8%	36.8%	39.8%

Table 6. Percentage of correct answers on V+V binomials

V+V binomials	Percentage of correct answers %		Mean of total answers %
	Advanced Learners (ALs)	Intermediate Learners (ILs)	
give and take	20%	16%	18%
toss and turn	32%	24%	28%
win or lose	60%	52%	56%
rise and shine	32%	24%	28%
crash and burn	40%	40%	40%
hit and run	60%	52%	56%
hide and seek	64%	60%	62%
buy and sell	28%	24%	26%
rock and roll	48%	44%	46%
open and shut	32%	24%	28%
Mean of total answers%	41.6%	36%	38.8%

Regarding the performance of ALs and ILs in relation to the items *pros and cons* (60%), *facts and figures* (56%) and *hide and seek* (62%), it seems that these items have high percentages in comparison with *soap and water* (14%), *fish and chips* (20%) and *open and shut* (28%). The high percentages of these items may be due to their high frequency in contemporary speech as shown in the *COCA*; they occur 741, 221 and 125 times respectively. However, one may argue that the frequency is not always an indication of the learners' awareness of certain items in a language. Among these items, *give and take* (285 times) and *soap and water* (261 times) occur more than *facts and figures* (221 times) and *hide and seek* (125 times) in the *COCA*. Here, the researchers may argue that exposure to the items, rather than their frequency, is the main reason behind their correct use by the participants. This is explained in detail below:

- 1) The participants scored higher on both *facts and figures* (56%) and *pros and cons* (60%) compared to the other items. This may be due to their frequent occurrence in the IELTS exam. That is, task one of the writing exam requires the students to evaluate the *pros and cons* of a certain issue or provide an explanation of *the facts and figures* provided on the test. A quick look at the online samples of IELTS exam demonstrates that all materials usually use these items to explain how to do the writing task. Also, many samples of the test, which are suggested by academic websites, are studied by EFL learners as a guide to pass the exam. Most Kuwaiti EFL learners are encouraged to do this test before enrolling at universities. Also, many Kuwaiti EFL learners take the IELTS test for potential BA, MA or PhD scholarships in the UK, the USA, Canada or Australia.
- 2) With regard to *hide and seek* (62%), the researchers note that this item is usually used at schools in Kuwait. *Hide and seek* is the preferred game which the students usually play at school. EFL teachers, in Kuwait, use this item many times compared to the other items. As a result, it can be argued that the participants have done well on this item since they have been exposed to it more than enough during their time at school.

Moving to the items on which the participants scored low, such as *give and take* (18%), *soap and water* (14%) and *buy and sell* (26%), it seems that L1 interference plays a role in the participants' erroneous answers on the

test (cf. Shehata 2008):

- (1) rafad yaaxið w yaʕtji maʕi
 refused.he take.he and give.he with me
 'He refused to take and give'
- (2) ʔistaxdim l-maa w s-saabuun
 use.you the-water and the-soap
 'use the water and soap'
- (3) laazim teʕraf kiif tbiiʕ w tiʕtiri fi s-suuq
 should know.you how sell.you and buy.you in the-market
 'you should know how to sell and buy at the market'

Examining examples (1-3), it seems that the participants may have literally translated the binomials from Arabic into English. In Arabic, *take and give*, *water and soap* and *sell and buy* are used instead of their English counterparts *give and take*, *soap and water* and *sell and buy*. The literal translation from Arabic into English causes the misuse of these binomials in English. Hence, this may explain the participants' low scores on those items on the test.

On the other hand, positive transfer from Arabic may have contributed to the participants' correct answers on the test regarding some items. For instance, *flesh and blood* (54%), *tooth and nail* (50%), *life and death* (60%), *hit and run* (56%) and *win or lose* (56%) exist in Arabic in the same order. Thus, one may argue that positive transfer from Arabic may have contributed to the participants' correct answers on the test. The Arabic counterparts of the above binomials can be seen in examples (4-8):

- (4) haaða lah̄mak w dammak
 this flesh.yours and blood.yours
 'this is your own flesh and blood'
- (5) daafaʕ ʕanni bi-ʔasnaanuh w ʔaðfaaruh
 defended.he me with-teeth.his and nails.his
 'he defended me with his teeth and nails'
- (6) haaðihi masʔalit h̄ayaah ʔaw mo:t
 this matter life or death
 'it's a matter of life or death'
- (7) mumkin tfuuz ʔaw texpas fi haaðihi l-luʕbih
 possible win.you or lose.you in this the-game
 'you may win or lose in this game'
- (8) l-ʔirhaabiyyiin dayman yudrubuun w yuhrubuun
 the-terrorists always hit and run
 'terrorists always hit and run'

It can be argued that positive transfer from L1 plays a positive role in the participants' correct answers on the test; hence, in the acquisition of English binomials in general. Even though the percentages of *flesh and blood* (54%), *tooth and nail* (50%), *life and death* (60%), *hit and run* (56%) and *win or lose* (56%) are not quite high, their percentages are higher than other items e.g. *buy and sell* (26%) and *open and shut* (28%). Literal translation of those five items in Arabic matches their English counterparts. In addition, the use of the previous items (4-8) in Arabic is almost the same as in English, which may have helped the participants tick the correct answer on the test.

Finally, one factor which may have contributed to the participants' wrong answers on the test is the fact that some binomials are culture-specific. Both *fish and chips* (20%) and *bread and butter* (22%) are items that are used extensively in the UK, especially *fish and chips*. *Fish and chips* is a hot English dish, consisting of fish, commonly Atlantic cod or haddock, and fried chips. It is a common take-away food and it is mostly popular in the UK. Therefore, the participants may have not been aware of this item; hence, they chose *chips and fish* (80%)

instead. The same argument applies to *bread and butter* ‘something that provides your main income’. In Arabic, there is no equivalent to this item, which may have made it difficult for Kuwaiti EFL learners to predict that the correct use is *bread and butter* not *butter and bread*.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examined the extent to which the English proficiency level of Kuwaiti EFL learners and the syntactic category of the internal components of binomials play a role in their awareness of binomials in English. The results revealed that Kuwaiti EFL learners have little awareness of English binomials. Additionally, the results showed that the participants’ English proficiency level played no role in their answers on the test. The difference between the two groups was not enough to differ statistically. Furthermore, the statistical analysis showed that whether the syntactic category of the internal components of binomials is N+N or V+V, the participants’ answers were not affected. However, some differences in the participants’ answers were detected concerning certain items; these differences were attributed to several reasons. The most significant reason is L1 interference i.e., positive vs. negative transfer. If the item has an equivalent in Arabic and in the same order as in English, the participants scored higher. However, if the order of the binomials in Arabic is reversed, the participants scored lower. The second reason is the exposure to the item e.g. IELTS preparation or school games such as *hide and seek*. The last reason is associated with the universality of the item and its use. If the binomial is culture-specific such as *fish and chips*, the participants tend to provide the wrong answer. The participants were not aware of the traditional English meal *fish and chips*. This study suggests that curriculum designers in Kuwait need to incorporate and highlight the importance of English binomials through well-structured activities and tasks. More studies need to be conducted on the lack of awareness of binomials by Kuwaiti EFL learners in different languages, such as French, and the methods that should be used to acquaint them with such expressions. Teachers need to highlight binomials during reading activities, and draw students’ attention to the fact that binomials should not be reversed due to translation of the Arabic counterpart if it existed.

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Appendix A

Acceptability Judgment Task

Read the following sentences. Put a tick (✓) next to any sentence you think is acceptable and a cross (×) next to any sentence you think is unacceptable. Your first decision is the one we want. Please do not change your answers.

1.	We need to look at the pros and cons of each system.	✓
2.	This kind of take and give will help you save your marriage.	×
3.	The judge pronounced them man and wife.	✓
4.	10% percent of run and hit cases are never resolved.	×
5.	The cook seasoned the pizza with salt and pepper.	✓
6.	Some people do not like pepper and salt on their pasta.	×
7.	“Rise and shine sweetie”, said my mother in the morning.	✓
8.	It does not matter whether you lose or win, it is how you play the game.	×
9.	Ministers have been fighting tooth and nail over this issue.	✓
10.	I hope this band will roll and rock here for several years.	×
11.	There are so many cons and pros of this proposal.	×
12.	Let me give you just a few facts and figures.	✓
13.	This is definitely not a shut-and-open case.	×
14.	Tourism is the island’s bread and butter.	✓
15.	The two countries fought nail and tooth over this land.	×
16.	You should wash your hands with water and soap before eating.	×
17.	I was tossing and turning all night.	✓
18.	A buy-and-sell agreement will protect the business from collapse if a partner dies.	✓
19.	Chips and fish is one of the most popular dishes in the UK.	×
20.	The police is investigating a fatal hit and run accident.	✓
21.	Working in an insurance company is my butter and bread.	×
22.	The police listened to her call closely since she said that it was a death and life situation.	×
23.	Every wife and man should take care of their children.	×
24.	She used to play hide and seek when she was a child.	✓
25.	They said that the secret of a happy marriage was a little bit of give and take.	✓
26.	I always turn and toss when I am sleeping, especially after drinking coffee.	×
27.	The company burned and crashed after less than a year.	×
28.	They now realise that their hero is, after all, only flesh and blood.	✓
29.	Our lawyerthinks that we have an open-and-shut case.	✓
30.	It is very difficult to remember all the figures and facts related to this proposal.	×
31.	This is our opportunity to shine and rise and be the country that leads the way.	×
32.	This paint can be cleaned with a little soap and water.	✓
33.	The peace process is a matter of life and death in some regions.	✓
34.	Successful companies can sell-and-buy their products all year long.	×
35.	Whether you win or lose, you must be proud that you got this far.	✓
36.	I was playing seek and hide with my brother and I got lost in the woods.	×
37.	If you go on with this thing, you'll crashandburn.	✓
38.	You should try fish and chips when you go to England.	✓
39.	The Internet in Asia is ready to rock and roll.	✓
40.	We cannot worship our leaders, they are only blood and flesh.	×

Appendix B

Arabic Sounds

Arabic consonants/vowels	Symbols	Description
ء	ʔ	voiceless glottal stop
ب	b	voiced bilabial stop
ت	t	voiceless dento-alveolar stop
ث	θ	voiceless inter-dental fricative
ج	j	voiced post-alveolar affricate
ح	ħ	voiceless pharyngeal fricative
خ	x	voiceless uvular fricative
د	d	voiced dento-alveolar stop
ذ	ð	voiced alveolar fricative
ر	r	voiced alveo-palatal trill
ز	z	voiced alveolar fricative
س	s	voiceless alveolar fricative
ش	ʃ	voiceless alveo-palatal fricative
ص	ṣ	voiceless alveolar emphatic fricative
ض	ḍ	voiced alveolar emphatic stop
ط	ṭ	voiceless dento-alveolar emphatic stop
ظ	ḏ	voiced alveolar emphatic fricative
ع	ʕ	voiced pharyngeal fricative
غ	ɣ	voiced uvular fricative
ف	f	voiceless labio-dental fricative
ق	q/g (Note 1)	voiceless/voiced uvular stop
ك	k	voiceless velar stop
ل	l	voiced alveolar lateral
م	m	voiced bilabial nasal
ن	n	voiced alveolar nasal
ه	h	voiceless glottal fricative
و	w	voiced labio-velar glide
ي	y	voiced palatal glide
/ /	a	low short central unrounded
/ /	u	high short back rounded
/ /	i	high short front unrounded
آ	aa	low long central unrounded
وو	uu	high long back rounded
يي	ii	high long front unrounded
و	o:	mid long back rounded
او	aw	low short front unrounded + labio-velar glide
أي	ay	low short front unrounded + palatal glide
يي	ee	mid long front unrounded

Note

Note 1. These symbols represent the voiceless and voiced uvular stop.

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