

ARABIC NAMES

Compiled by Eric J. Boyd

NOTES

Arabic names are composed of several parts:

(1) The ism – A personal proper name given shortly after birth. The male and female names listed below can all serve as isms. Adults are seldom referred to by these names, and it is an insult to refer to your elders by their ism.

(2) The kunya – An honorific as the father or mother of someone. Consists of Abu (father of) [Name] or Umm (mother of) [Name]. The name inserted is always that of the father or mother's first born son. Married persons are usually referred to by their kunyas. When writing out a full name, the person's kunya always precedes their ism.

(3) The nasab – A name showing that you are the son (ibn or sometimes bin) or daughter (bint) of your father or prior generation male relative. When included in a nasab, a kunya is converted to Abi instead of Abu (e.g., Ibn Abi Talib). A nasab follows the ism when listing a person's full name and generally does not go back more than one or two generations.

(4) The laqab – A religious epithet or descriptive name. Usually one in the form of Abdul (Servant of – male) or Amatul (Servant of –female) followed by one of the 99 names of Allah. Laqabs follow the ism. In some cases, a laqab can serve as an ism for a person, fulfilling its role in their name.

(5) The nisba – A name indicating occupation, tribe of descent, or geographical origin. Generally follows the ism or nasab, if there is one.

Not all of these pieces need to be used in any one person's name. Mix and match as you see fit for good Arabian flavor.

When a modern Arab person's name is Westernized to a given name and surname, it is usually an ism and either nasab or nisba that are used.

Examples:

Abu Hamzah Mansur Abdul-Latif al-Baghdadi
(kunya) (ism) (laqab) (nisba)

Ali Ibn Muhammad al-Misri
(ism) (nasab) (nisba)

Ibn Da'wud al-Sufi
(nasab) (nisba)

Abu Abdul-Matin Ibn Husayn
(kunya /w laqab ism) (nasab)

Umm Fadl Faiza Bint Khalid al-Hashimi
(kunya) (ism) (nasab) (nisba)

Story-Games Names Project

MALE (isms or part of kunya or nasab)

1. Abdullah (Servant of God)
2. Da'wud (David)
3. Fadl (Reward, favor)
4. Ghassan (Old Arabic name)
5. Husayn (Beautiful)
6. Ibrahim (Abraham)
7. Khalil (Beautiful, good friend)
8. Mahmud (Commendable)
9. Nasr (Help, victory)
10. Rafiq (Kind, friend)
11. Sulayman (Solomon)
12. Tahir (Pure, clean)
13. Uthman (Name of the third caliph)
14. Wadi (Calm, peaceful)
15. Yusuf (Joseph)
16. Zahir (Bright, shining)
17. Walid (Newborn child)
18. Talib (Sender of truth, student)
19. Rashid (Righteous)
20. Sabir (Patient)

MALE 2

1. Malik (Master)
2. Mansur (Divinely aided, victorious)
3. Hamid (Praised)
4. Abdul-Hayy (Servant of the Living)
5. Ihsan (Beneficence)
6. Ghazi (Conqueror)
7. Habib (Beloved)
8. Abdul-Rahman (Servant of the Compassionate)
9. Ahmad (Most highly adored)
10. Hashim (Generous)
11. Hassan (One who beautifies)
12. Ali (Noble, sublime)
13. Amr (By my life)
14. Baqar (Inevitable, powerful)
15. Hakim (Brother)
16. Abdul-Muhsin (Servant of the Benefactor)
17. Imran (A prophet's name)
18. Ismail (Ishmael)
19. Khalid (Eternal)
20. Marwan (Solid)

FEMALE 1 (isms)

1. A'isha (Life vivacious)
2. Ghaniyah (Beautiful)
3. Hiba (Gift)
4. Hafsah (Young lioness)
5. Munisa (Gentle, friendly)
6. Nafisa (Precious gem)
7. Sahla (Easy, convenient)
8. Sakina (Calm)
9. Nuriyah (Light)
10. Ramisa (White rose)
11. Suraya (Star)
12. Thana (Thankfulness)
13. Urshia (Belongs in the skies)
14. Salamah (Soundness, integrity)
15. Halima (Gentle, patient)
16. Khalida (Abiding, forever)
17. Layla (Of the night)
18. Azizah (Esteemed, precious)
19. Manhalah (Spring)
20. Labna (Old Arabic name)

FEMALE 2

1. Maheera (Expert)
2. Maira (Moon)
3. Aminah (Trustworthy, faithful)
4. Alina (Beautiful)
5. Banujah (The daughter of al-Mahdi)
6. Fatima (Name of a daughter of the Prophet)
7. Hasinah (Pretty)
8. Hayfa (Slender)
9. Rabia (Spring)
10. Rudaba (Old Arabic name)
11. Saadiya (Flower)
12. Sharayah (Poetess)
13. Rana (To gaze)
14. Nusayba (One with good lineage)
15. Razia (Content, satisfied)
16. Namyla (Quiet)
17. Ruqayyah (Name of daughter of the Prophet)
18. Sabiha (Graceful)
19. Naweed (Good news)
20. Reeha (Air)

MALE 3

1. Nabil (Noble, generous)
2. Shakir (Thankful)
3. Utbah (Threshold)
4. Yazid (Old Arabic name)
5. Zayd (In abundance, plentiful)
6. Wasil (Inseparable friend)
7. Yahya (John)
8. Sharif (Honest, noble)
9. Thabit (Firm, established)
10. Ubayd (Worshipper)
11. Shahid (Witness)
12. Umar (Name of the second caliph)
13. Nashat (Joy)
14. Inayat (Blessing, favor)
15. Hamzah (Lion)
16. Imad (Pillar, confidence)
17. Ishaq (Isaac)
18. Salim (Secure, free)
19. Ya'qub (Jacob)
20. Zia (Wise)

FEMALE 3

1. Maymuna (Blessed)
2. Hind (India)
3. Jumana (Silver pearl)
4. Kashifah (Revealer of secrets)
5. Hullah (Old Arabic name)
6. Izza (Name of a slave girl who was early Muslim)
7. Jamilah (Beautiful)
8. Bilqis (Name of the Queen of Sheba)
9. Bushra (Glad tidings)
10. Chanda (Moonlight)
11. Khadijah (Name of first wife of the Prophet)
12. Maysun (Beautiful of face and body)
13. Muna (Water)
14. Qurratul-Ayn (Delight of the eye)
15. Sawda (Name of a wife of the Prophet)
16. Zaynab (Name of daughter of the Prophet)
17. Dahab (Gold)
18. Faiza (Gain)
19. Jihan (Heavenly place)
20. Zubaydah (Name of wife of Caliph Harun Al-Rashid)

SURNAMES 1 (nisbas)

1. al-'Abarta'i
2. al-Adwani
3. al-Dimashqi
4. al-Farabi
5. al-Ghanawi
6. al-Hallaj (The cotton dresser)
7. al-Hijazi
8. al-Hindi
9. al-Ifriqi
10. al-Isbahani
11. al-Jaludi
12. al-Kabir (The elder)
13. al-Kasrawi
14. al-Katib (The writer)
15. al-Rashid (The rightly guided)
16. al-Rumi
17. al-Saghir (The younger)
18. al-Tayyib (The good)
19. al-'Attar (The druggist)
20. al-Baghdadi

SURNAMES 2 (laqabs – some of the 99 names of Allah)

1. Al-Rahim - The Most Merciful
2. Al-Quddus - The Most Holy
3. As-Salam - Peace and Blessing
4. Al-Mu'min - The Guarantor
5. Al-Aziz - The Almighty, the Self Sufficient
6. Al-Jabbar - The Powerful, the Irresistible
7. Al-Khaliq - The Creator
8. Al-Ghaffar - The Ever Forgiving
9. Ar-Razzaq - The Ever Providing
10. Al-Fattah - The Opener, the Victory Giver
11. Al-Alim - The All Knowing, the Omniscient
12. Al-Mu'izz - The Giver of Honor
13. Al-Latif - The Subtly Kind
14. Al-Hafiz - The Preserver
15. Al-Mujib - The Responsive, the Answerer
16. At-Tawwab - The Ever Returning, Ever Relenting
17. Al-Muntaqim - The Avenger
18. Al-Jami' - The Gatherer, the Unifier
19. An-Nur - The Light
20. Al-Hadi - The Guide

SURNAMES 3 (nisbas)

1. al-Hamdani
2. al-'Awwaqi
3. al-Badawi
4. al-Hashimi
5. al-Basri
6. al-Burjani
7. al-Darir (The blind)
8. al-Tuluni
9. al-Wasiti
10. al-Shaybani
11. al-Shirazi
12. al-Khurasani
13. al-Maghribi
14. al-Misri
15. al-Najjar (The carpenter)
16. al-Nasrani (The Christian)
17. al-Qayrawani
18. al-Rahib (The monk)
19. al-Sufi (The mystic)
20. al-Talaqani

SURNAMES 4 (laqabs – some of the 99 names of Allah)

1. Al-Matin - The Firm, the Steadfast
2. Al-Waliyy - The Protecting Friend, Patron, and Helper
3. Al-Mubdi' - The Producer, Originator, and Initiator of all
4. Al-Muhyi - The Giver of Life
5. Al-Mumit - The Bringer of Death, the Destroyer
6. Al-Hayy - The Ever Living
7. Al-Majid - The Illustrious, the Magnificent
8. Al-Wahid - The One, the All Inclusive, the Indivisible
9. Al-Muqtadir - The All Determiner, the Dominant
10. Al-Muqaddim - The Expediter, He who brings forward
11. Al-Awwal - The First
12. Al-Akhir - The Last
13. Az-Zahir - The Manifest; the All Victorious
14. Al-Batin - The Hidden; the All Encompassing
15. Al-Barr - The Most Kind and Righteous
16. Al-Wadud - The Loving, the Kind One
17. Al-Majid - The All Glorious
18. Al-Ba'ith - The Raiser of the Dead
19. Al-Haqq - The Truth, the Real
20. Al-Wakil - The Trustee, the Dependable