

TYPING IN ARABIC (MACINTOSH)

There are two issues involved in typing in Arabic on your Macintosh. You must first set up your Mac for Arabic input. Then you must find and use a program that accepts Arabic input correctly.

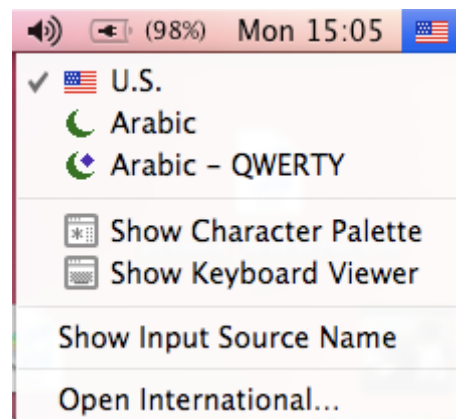
To Enable Arabic Input

1. Go to System Preferences > International.
2. Click the Input Menu button.
3. Check the boxes of the items you want to use.
 - a. You should definitely check the **Keyboard Viewer**.
 - b. You will find the **Character Palette** useful.
 - c. There are several choices for Arabic because there are several different keyboard layouts available. Suggestion: check them all, try them, and decide which one you prefer to use. You can then uncheck the ones you don't need.
4. Check the box next to **Show input menu in menu bar**.
5. Close International dialogue and the System Preferences.

Note: Leopard (10.5.x) has eliminated a useful option. If you don't have Leopard, you will see "Input source options". You will find it useful to choose "Allow a different input source for each document."

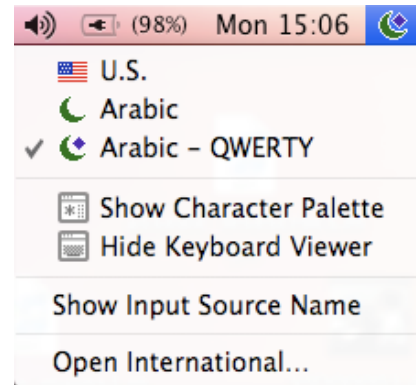
To See/Remember How to Type on Different Keyboards

When multiple input choices are active, you should see a flag (usually a US flag if your default input language is American English) on your menu bar. Click on the flag to open a menu. Choose **Show Keyboard Viewer** to see the keyboard layout of the language you have selected.



To Type in Arabic

When multiple input choices are active, you should see a flag (usually a US flag if your default input language is American English) on your menu bar. Click on the flag to open a menu. Select the flag / language in which you wish to type.



Word Processing in Arabic

Word 2004 and 2008 seem to support word processing in Arabic, but the letters do not seem to join properly. Apple's TextEdit does support basic word processing in Arabic. iWork 08's Pages offers more formatting choices. Mellel (<http://www.redlers.com/mellelmultilingual.html>) and Nisus Writer (<http://www.nisus.com/pro/comparison.php>) offer Word-like capabilities for Arabic.

Browser Issues

Is your computer set up for Arabic but all you get is gibberish when you surf the WWW? You probably need to change your browser encoding settings.

Safari

1. Go to View > Text Encoding and try settings until you find one that works. (Remember that you may need to refresh the page after you choose a new setting.)

If nothing works, it's probably not your computer but a problem with the way the page was created. Try a different site.

Firefox

1. Go to View > Character Encoding and try settings until they work for your page. (Remember that you may need to refresh the page after you choose a new setting.) Try "Unicode" first.

If you still see gibberish after refreshing, keep trying to find an encoding choice that works. If nothing does, it's probably not your computer but a problem with the way the page was created. Try a different site.