

# 1 : THE ARABIC ROOT SYSTEM

- The Arabic Language is based on a 'root' system. Most Arabic words have a sequence of 3 root consonants. Roots are the building blocks and beauty of Arabic Language. It is a distinct characteristic of Arabic Language.
- The root known as a **جذر/مصدر** in Arabic refers to the *core meaning of a word*. To identify the core meaning of a word, we need to identify the *three consonants/letters* (no taa marbuta (ة) in it). The three letters will always appear in the same order.
- Some words can have four root letters such as **ترجمة** (translation) whose root letters are **م/ج/ر/ت**, but often they are a repeated pair such as **زلزال** (earthquake) whose root letters are **ل/ز/ل/ز**.
- Some words can have a double letter (shaddah letter) as its root letters, wherein the second and third root letters are the same such as **جديد** (new) whose root letters are **د/ج/د** and **كُلّ** (all) whose root letters are **ل/ل/ك**.
- A root word can have many words originating from it. For e.g. **مكتب** (office/desk) and **كتاب** (book) shares the same three root letters which are **ب/ك/ت** (the act of writing).
- Another example: Few words that have **ر/ف/س** (which means something to do with traveling/ travel) as its 3 root letters are: **س/ر/ف**. Many words with similar meanings are created from the same 3 root letters.

Journey - سفر

He travels - يسافر

Ambassador - سفير

Traveller - مسافر

Embassy - سفارة

★ NOTE: Any additional consonants or vowels before, after or between the root letters modify the meaning according to different general patterns. Most commonly added consonants are **م**, **ت** and **ي**.

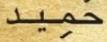
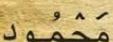
- Borrowed/ foreign words don't follow the root system. For example: **راديو** (radio) and **إنترنت** (internet).

Root:

ح م د

[ H-m-d ]

To Praise, Thank

	حَمْد [hamd]	Praise, Thanks
	حَمِيد [hameed]	Praiseworthy one
	حَامِد [haamid]	One who praises
	أَحْمَد [ahmad]	More praiseworthy (comparative/superlative)
	مَحْمُود [mahmud]	Praised
	مُحَمَّد [Muhammad]	One who is praised

Root:

ع ل م

['a-l-m]

Knowledge, learning, information,  
acquaintance, cognition, perception

	عِلْم [ 'ilm]	Knowledge, information Plural: عُلُوم ('uloom) Science বাংলা: ইলুম/এলেম
	الْعُلُوم [al-'uloom]	The natural sciences
	عَالِم [ 'aalim]	Scholar, Scientist বাংলা: আলিম/আলেম
	مُعَلِّم [mu'allim]	Teacher
	عَالَم [ 'aalam]	World, universe Plural: 'aalameen/'aalamoon

verbs: عَلِم [ 'alima] to know  
عَلَّمَ [allama] to teach

Root:

ح ك م

[ H-k-m ]

Command, ruling, judgement, wisdom

	حُكْم [Hukm]	Command, Judgement Plural: أَحْكَام (ahkaam) বাংলা: হুকুম
	حَاكِم [Haakim]	Ruler, Governor Wise person বাংলা: হাকিম
	حِكْمَة [Hikmah]	Wisdom বাংলা: হিকমত

Root:

ا خ ر

[a-kh-r]

delay, lag behind, postpone,  
late, final, end, last

	آخِر [aakhar]	Another, latest
	آخِر/آخِر [aakhir /akheer]	Last, end বাংলা: আখের
	الْآخِرَة [al-Aakhirah]	The Hereafter, the future life বাংলা: আখেরাত
	أُخْرَى [ukhraa]	Another, latter, second (between 2 things)
	تَأْخِير [ta'kheer]	To cause delay

ك/ت/ب (The act of writing)

