

# Alphabet - Lesson 7

## Tashdeed

Tashdeed (or geminate) is a sign that goes above a consonant to show that that consonant has to be pronounced as if there are two of them. Listen to the examples:

Mecca	makke	مَكَّة
reason	ellat	عِلَّتْ
bit	zarre	ذَرَّة

## More trouble with the letter "و"

For historical reasons, there are Persian words in which the letter "و" preceding the letter "ا" and following the letter "خ" is silent.

sister	khāhar	خواهر
sleep	khāb	خواب

Worse than that, there are also words in which the letter "و" is pronounced like "o", though it is not the last letter of a word. This includes most European loan words. Thus, we have two problems. First, when we encounter new words, there is a new potential pronunciation for the letter "و". Second, when we want to guess the spelling of a word containing the sound "o", a new possibility is that the letter "و" should be used instead of the short vowel sign which could be omitted.

There is no definite solution, but a helpful clue is that when "و" is read as "o", most of the times, it is either preceded by "خ" (this has historical reasons again) or it is in a European loan word.

self	khod	خود
to eat	khordan	خوردن
album	ālbom	آلبوم
electron	elektron	الِكْتِرُون

A third trouble with the letter "و" is that it is sometimes pronounced as "ow" (sounding like the "ow" in the English word "grow").

new	now	نو
government	dowlat	دولت
banana	mowz	موز
promise	ghowl	قول