

Alif Baa Unit 4-5 – Pronouncing Al-'iDaafa

Pronouncing al-'iDaafa الإضافة

Special Pronunciation for "city" and "state" in al-'iDaafa الإضافة

You may have noticed that the words "city" and "state" are pronounced *madiina* and *wilaaya* in the vocabulary list, but when used in the dialogues, they are pronounced *madiinat* and *wilaayat*. This is because in the dialogues these words function as first terms of al-'iDaafa الإضافة. Most feminine words are pronounced with a final "t" sound at the end of the word when they are first terms of al-'iDaafa الإضافة.

مدينة
madiina
city

مدينة وشنطون
madiinat Washington
the city of Washington

ولاية
wilaaya
state

ولاية كولورادو
wilaayat Colorado
the state of Colorado

Not every term of al-'iDaafa الإضافة gets a final "t" added to it; only most feminine words do. All we expect you to remember, for now, is that *madiina* مدينة and *wilaaya* ولاية are pronounced *madiinat* and *wilaayat* when they are the first terms of an 'iDaafa construction. We'll address the behavior of other words later.

More on Pronouncing al-'iDaafa

(taa' marbuuTa تاء مربوطة) and al-'iDaafa الإضافة

The unique pronunciation rules for many feminine first terms of al-'iDaafa الإضافة has to do with the presence of a symbol: ة (called taa' marbuuTa تاء مربوطة). Most feminine words end in this symbol, which only occurs at the end of a word. There it takes the following shape:

ة

Remember that not every first term of al-'iDaafa الإضافة gets a final "t" added to it, only those that end with ة do.

حبيب Habiib dear one (male)	حبيب منى Habiib Mona Mona's (male) dear one
حبيبة Habiiba dear one (female)	حبيبة سامي Habiibat Saami Sami's (female) dear one