



Speed Writing

Title: *Mastering Arabic 1*

Unit number: 7 (onwards)

Topic: Description

Aim: To encourage fluent writing and correct spelling

Materials needed:

- Text on page 84 of *Mastering Arabic 1*, enlarged as attached.
- Lined sheet of writing paper/good writing pen for each student

This activity is a great way to warm up any lesson and a simple but effective way to encourage fluency in handwriting and accuracy in spelling basic vocabulary. The activity is explained here using a text from *Mastering Arabic 1*, Unit 7, but any other familiar text from the courses can be used, as well as ones you create yourself.

Step 1

- ✓ Complete *Mastering Arabic 1*, pages 83-84, including listening to and reading the text on page 84. Make sure students are very familiar with the text. (It is better to complete this in a previous lesson, and then start a subsequent lesson with this activity.)

Step 2

- ✓ Pin the enlarged text somewhere easily accessible, but where students cannot read it when they are writing, e.g. behind a screen or similar. If you think the complete text is too long, just use half of it.
- ✓ Explain that they are going to try and reproduce the text as quickly and accurately as possible.
- ✓ Tell them that they can go behind the screen as many times as they like to look at the original, but that they can't take their pen or paper with them.

They must come back to their desks and recreate the text from memory.

- ✓ Explain that their version of the text will be marked for a combination of speed and accuracy.

Step 3

- ✓ Each student hands in their sheet when finished.
- ✓ Write the time it took on the bottom of the sheet.
- ✓ Mark the sheet for speed and accuracy, according to your preference. For example, you could give one point for each minute taken and one point for each error in copying.

Step 4

- ✓ When all the students have finished, each one can be given a mark (lower marks being better).

You can adapt this game to a pair activity with one student running to look at the original text and then dictating to the other student who writes it down.

You can make this type of activity a regular warm-up with lengths of text suitable for the level of the students.

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