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Pronunciation of alphabets: educate the children scientifically

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ABSTRACT

Education may be regarded both as a science and an art since it consists of theoretical as well as practical knowledge and skills derived through various artistic and scientific methods. Like other science subjects, education also needs logic. So educate the children scientifically by teaching them the exact pronunciations of the alphabets. An English alphabet should be pronounced exactly as it is pronounced in a word known as "Qadir's Pronunciation" of Alphabet. Similarly, Urdu Hija should also be pronounced exactly as it is pronounced in a word known as "Qadir's Pronunciation" of Urdu Hija.

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Introduction

Science is a systematic and precise body of knowledge in a particular field of the world. It seeks to discover the general laws regulating the phenomena in that field through observation and experiments. As per this definition, education must be taken as a science since it is a systematic body of knowledge accumulated through ages by observation and experiments. It has its own theories and laws for arrangement and organization of educational activities. Education has been developed as a science during these recent years. Education has also been regarded as an art since it attempts to make human activities beautiful and meaningful. It utilizes the knowledge and techniques of its own and other disciplines like psychology, economics, philosophy and so on. On the whole, education may be regarded both as a science and an art since it consists of theoretical as well as practical knowledge and skills derived through various artistic and scientific methods and aims at achieving desired objectives by applying them in human behaviour and practices [1].

English Alphabets

The modern English alphabets are Latin alphabets consisting of 26 letters:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The names of the letters are rarely spelled out, except when used in derivations or compound words (for example *tee-shirt*, *deejay*, *emcee*, *okay*, *aitchless*, *wye-level*, etc.), derived forms (for example *exed out*, *effing*, *to eff and blind*, etc.), pronunciation of certain acronyms (for example *HTML*, *FBI*, etc.), and in the names of objects named after letters (for example *em (space)* in printing and *wye (junction)* in railroading) [2]. English letters and their pronunciations are given in table 1.

Qadir's Pronunciation of English Alphabets

When a child start to pronounce alphabets of English, he says "aay", "bee", "see", "dee", "ee", "aef", "gee", "aech",

When he joins the alphabets, he has a problem to pronounce them. e.g.

When he joins "a" and "t" as "at", he understands that it is written as "aaytee".

Similarly, he will pronounce "go" as "geeo"; "so" as "aeso"; "no" as "en-o"; and "ant" as "a-en-tee", etc.

He once again has to learn the exact pronunciations of all the alphabets.

And waste time!!

But if he memorizes the exact pronunciations, known as "Qadir's Pronunciation" of Alphabets, in place of "aay", "bee", "see", it will be easy for a child to read the joined words.

Table 1: Pronunciation of English letters

Letter	Letter Pronunciation
A	a
B	bee
C	cee
D	dee
E	e
F	ef (eff as a verb)
G	gee
H	Aitch, haitch
I	i
J	Jay
K	kay
L	el or ell
M	em
N	en
O	o
P	pee
Q	cue
R	ar
S	ess
T	tee
U	u
V	vee
W	double-u
X	ex
Y	wy
Z	zed, zee

Qadir's Pronunciations of some alphabets are given here:

“a” should be pronounced exactly (â) as it is pronounced in a word, not “aay”.

“c” should be pronounced exactly (ĉ) as it is pronounced in a word, not “see”.

“g” should be pronounced exactly (ĝ) as it is pronounced in a word, not “gee”.

“s” should be pronounced exactly (ŝ) as it is pronounced in a word, not “aes”.

Urdu Alphabets (HIJAY)

Look at the “Urdu alphabet chart” given in figure 1. The Urdu letters are read from right to left, the lines from top to bottom. The letters are here seen arranged in standard dictionary alphabetical order. Many letters belong to “groups” or “series” which all have identical shapes; letters in the same series differ from each other only by their dots. The forms shown here are the basic, unattached, “independent” forms of the letters. The names of the letters are quite important and must be memorized [3].

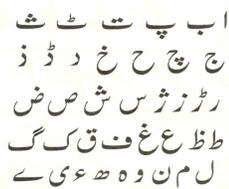


Figure 1: Urdu alphabet chart

A list of Urdu alphabets and their pronunciation is given in table 2. Urdu contains many historical spellings from Arabic and Persian, and therefore has many irregularities. Some of the original Arabic letters are not used in Urdu. This is the list of the Urdu letters, giving the consonant pronunciation [4]. Many of these letters also represent vowel sounds.

Qadir's Pronunciation of Urdu Alphabets (Hijay)

When a child start to pronounce alphabets (Hijay) of Urdu, he says “alf”, “bay”, “pay”....., “jeem”, “chay”, “hay”,....., “laam”, “meem”, “noon”....

When he joins the alphabets, he has a problem to pronounce them. e.g.

When he joins “پ” and “ج” as “پج”, he understands that it is written as “payjeem”.

Similarly he will pronounce “آگ” as “aagaaf”, “آن” as “aanoon”.

He once again has to learn the exact pronunciations of all the Urdu alphabets.

And waste time!!

But if he memorizes the exact pronunciations, known as “Qadir's Pronunciation” of Urdu Hijay, in place of “alf”, “bay”, “pay”; it will be easy for a child to read the joined words.

Qadir's Pronunciation of some Urdu Hijay is given here:

“ا” should be pronounced as in “با” that is “ا” not “alf”.

“ب” should be pronounced as in “با” that is “ب” not “bay”.

“پ” should be pronounced as in “پا” that is “پ” not “pay”.

“ج” should be pronounced as in “جا” that is “ج” not “jeem”.

“چ” should be pronounced as in “چا” that is “چ” not “chay”.

“س” should be pronounced as in “سا” that is “س” not “seen”.

“ک” should be pronounced as in “اک” that is “ک” not “Kaaf”.

“گ” should be pronounced as in “آگ” that is “گ” not “Gaaf”.

“ل” should be pronounced as in “آل” that is “ل” not “Laam”.

“م” should be pronounced as in “آم” that is “م” not “Meem”.

“ن” should be pronounced as in “آن” that is “ن” not “Noon”.

Table 2: Pronunciation of Urdu Alphabets (Hijay)

Letter	Letter Pronunciation	English Transcription
ا	alif	a
ب	bay	b
پ	pay	p
ت	tay	t
ٹ	tay	t
ث	say	s
ج	jīm	j
چ	chay	ch
ح	hay	h
خ	khay	kh
د	dāl	d
ڈ	dāl	d
ذ	zāl	dh
ر	ray	r
ڑ	ray	r
ز	zay	z
ژ	zhay	zh
س	sīn	s
ش	shīn	sh
ص	su'ād	ṣ
ض	zu'ād	z
ط	to'e	t
ظ	zo'e	ẓ
ع	'ain	'
غ	ghain	gh
ف	fay	f
ق	qāf	q
ک	kāf	k
گ	gāf	g
ل	lām	l
م	mām	m
ن	noon	n
و	vā'o	v, o, or ū
ہ	hay	h
ء	hamza	'
ی	Chhoti yay	y, i
ے	bari yay	ai or e

Conclusion:

An English alphabet should be pronounced exactly as it is pronounced in a word known as “Qadir's Pronunciation” of Alphabet. Similarly, Urdu Hija should also be pronounced exactly as it is pronounced in a word known as “Qadir's Pronunciation” of Urdu Hija. There should be meetings for the educationists to resolve and discuss the problems that may be evolved by using the Qadir's pronunciations.

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