

# ARABIC NAMING CONVENTIONS

Supervisory Foreign Language Program  
Coordinator



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## *Traditional Arabic Names*

- Typically five components
- Not all components necessarily always used
- Understanding components can provide useful information



## *A Typical Name*

Title



Laqab  
(nickname)



Ism  
(given name)



Kunya  
(patronym)



Nasab  
(son of + father's name= pedigree)



Nisba  
(affiliation)



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## *Isim = Given Name*

- Given name is Mustafa or “the chosen one”
- Given at birth
- Inappropriate to refer to elders or non-peers by their given name



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### *Laqab = Nickname*

- Acquired and used by friends and acquaintances
- [redacted] - mother of [redacted]
- Typically oldest son, but can be oldest daughter

[redacted]



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## *Kunya = Patronym*

- When an individual has children, he/she will take the patronym of their first born
- What is  child's name
- Is it a boy or a girl?



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**Nasab =**  
**Son of + (Father's Name)**

- Lineage is important in Arab society
- Individuals sometimes include grandfathers and great-grandfathers
- Sometimes seen as "bin"
- "Bint" = daughter of
- [redacted] is the son of whom?

[redacted]

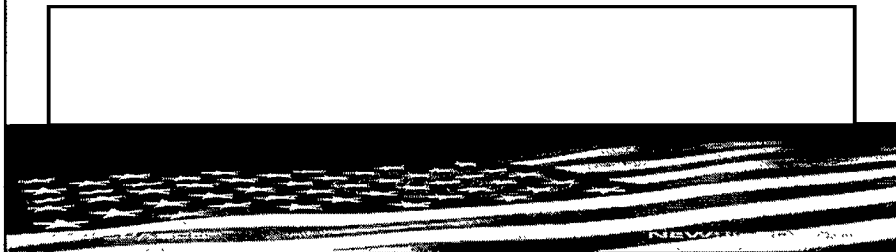


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## *Nisba = Affiliation*

- Where is [ ] from?
- If [ ] was born in the US, would he still use [ ]?

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## ***Titles***

- **Based on education or position in the community**
- **It would be a slight to omit it when addressing/referring to that person**
- **Examples: Sayyid, Hajj, Ustadh**



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## *Relationship?*



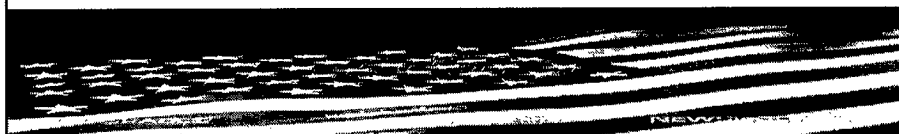
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## *Relationship?*



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## *Relationship?*



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*Questions?*

