Introduction

This is your one-stop shop for developing your vocabulary, academic writing, translation and comprehension through the acquisition of Arabic idioms and stylistic expressions.

This dictionary provides readers with a comprehensive glossary of Arabic idioms and expressions, translated into English. The wide range of idioms and expressions are very practical for learners, translators and academics who wish to expand their knowledge of Arabic idioms and expressions, and develop their Arabic translation and academic writing skills. This easy-to-access dictionary covers up-to-date idiomatic expressions reflecting different registers.

The main objectives of this dictionary can be summarised as follows:

1. Introduce learners to key idioms and expressions reflecting different registers.
2. Equip learners, translators and academics with a collection of multi-faceted key idiomatic and stylistic expressions to aid them in their translation, writing and comprehension.
3. Enhance awareness of key Arabic idioms and expressions and their translations.
4. Facilitate the task of accessing and using idioms and expressions alphabetically.
5. Develop their Arabic writing style.

Structure and Organisation

In term of the structure and organisation, this dictionary follows conventional dictionary formats and as such there are no breakdown of idioms into sections or themes, but all are listed alphabetically. The entries are organised alphabetically on the Alif–Yā’ (A–Z) scale. There is no criteria for selecting idiomatic expressions as the dictionary aims to accommodate all genres and types of idioms. In doing so, major modern and classic references and dictionaries such as *Lisān al-ʿArab*, *Hans Wehr*, *Oxford Arabic Dictionary*, *al-Mawrid* and other pertinent references have been consulted to ensure a wide range of idioms have been included.

This dictionary is considered a key reference and it is hoped that it will supplement existing textbooks and will be most useful for intermediate
and advanced learners of Arabic, native Arabic speakers, translators and
interpreters.

Our major drive for developing this idiomatic dictionary is the learners’
pressed need for a comprehensive glossary or a dictionary of Arabic idioms
and expressions, which will help them in their translation and writing. Our
students would often ask us to provide them with translations of idioms
to help them with translating and comprehending texts. It was evident
on numerous occasions in Arabic classes that current dictionaries are
not of much help to students when translating idioms and expressions
into English. Some of the dictionaries do not cover all Arabic idioms
and often only offer a selection. This dictionary incorporates major modern
and classical Arabic idioms and expressions. This will equip learners
with a compilation of idioms required for understanding, translating and
interpreting Arabic texts, both modern and classical.

The dictionary also makes idiomatic expressions visible to learners
and translators, helping them to recognise and identify key idioms and
expressions, which are often invisible in existing dictionaries.

With the growing interest in learning Arabic, and with the high demand
for translating different texts and registers, this compilation will be very
useful for learners of Arabic at the intermediate and advanced levels,
translators and interpreters. The dictionary will also be of great benefit
to native speakers of Arabic with a special interest in translation and
interpreting from Arabic into English. Learners and translators will have
at their disposal a comprehensive and easy-to-use dictionary/glossary
of idiomatic expressions, organised alphabetically and covering up-to-
date idioms. In addition to facilitating the process of mastering formal
Arabic, this dictionary aims at developing language skills for learners,
translators, interpreters and academics. It is therefore useful for different
Arabic language and translation programmes at the undergraduate and
postgraduate levels here in the UK and beyond.

This dictionary covers over 8,000 idioms and expressions, both
modern and classical, making it one of the most comprehensive in the
field of Arabic studies. We therefore believe that it will fill an existing gap
in the field. It will certainly contribute to the discipline and supplement
available dictionaries and glossaries. What sets this dictionary apart
from others is its attempt to provide a comprehensive list of idioms
and their translations, covering new idioms in different registers and
contexts, including timely themes such as COVID-19. It is hoped that
this dictionary will become the foremost reference for Arabic idioms
and expressions.
Accessing the Dictionary

Concerning the structure and organisation, this dictionary does not attempt to categorise the entries into sections or themes, but is organised in alphabetical order, from *Alif* to *Yāʿ*. Organising the entries alphabetically will facilitate the task of searching particular idioms and expressions by looking for the headword of the idiom. To facilitate the task of searching, some entries, especially those that may have more than one vocalisation, are vocalised to ensure that the right meaning and translation are provided.