



English Words Derived from the Arabic Language

Arabic Words	Meaning	Arabic Words	Meaning
admiral	("amir al-bahr") commander of the seas		
alcove	niche, bay	jar	("jarra") container with a wide mouth
alfalfa	perennial flowering plant	lemon	("la-moon") citrus fruit
algebra	("al-jabr") branch of mathematics	loofah	("loofah") dried porous bath sponge
almanac	reference book, directory	lute	("al-ud")
amber	("ambar") orange-brown translucent gem	magazine	("makhzan") periodical publication
apricot	("al-buruk") fruit similar to the peach	mohair	("muhayyar") material made from goat hair
artichoke	("ardi shauki") vegetable	ream	("rizmah") bundle
caliph	("kalifah") successor, Islamic leader	safari	("safar") to travel; trip, journey
carat	("qirat") weight of four grains	Sahara	desert
caraway	("karawya") herb used in cooking	saffron	("zafron") spice
cipher	empty	satin	smooth, silky material
coffee	("qahwa") beverage	sherbet	drink
cotton	("cutun) soft fiber	sheriff	nobleman
elixir	("al-isker") legendary potion	sofa	("suffa") couch
gazelle	("gazal")	sugar	("succar")
genie	spirit	syrup	("shar'ab") thick, sticky solution
giraffe	("zirafa") tallest mammal with long neck	tariff	tax, duty
henna	("hinna") hair color	zero	("cipher") empty
jasmine	("yasmeen") a type of flower	zircon	("zarcun") mineral used as an opaque gem

Arabic is the dominant language spoken throughout the Middle East and in areas of North Africa. The Arabic word for "the" is al-, many words in this language begin with "al".