Lesson 2

What are these dots which you find above and below the letters? They represent vowels. There are two systems of vowels in Syriac namely the Dot System or East Syriac vowel system and the Greek System or the West Syriac vowel system. The vowels are placed above or below the letters. Look at the dots given for the letters below.
East Syriac Vowel Signs

\[ \begin{array}{c|c}
\text{a (short)} & \text{ā} \\
\text{ā (long)} & \text{ē} \\
\text{e (short)} & \text{ē} \\
\text{ē (long)} & \\
\text{i, ee} & \text{ū, ū} \\
\text{u, oo} & \text{ū, ū} \\
\text{o, ŏ} & \text{ū, ū} \\
\end{array} \]

West Syriac Vowel Signs

\[ \begin{array}{c|c}
\text{a} & \text{ā} \\
\text{e} & \text{ē} \\
\text{o} & \text{ū} \\
\text{i} & \text{ū} \\
\text{u} & \text{ū} \\
\end{array} \]
Read the syllables

١٧

١٧
Note the following words:

There are diphthongs or combination of vowels and letters in Syriac. In East Syriac \( \text{ā} \) has both short and long pronunciation.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{au} / \text{āu} & \quad \text{ā, āː} \\
\text{ai} & \quad \text{āː}
\end{align*}
\]

Read the following words:
If any one of the letters ٧ is prefixed to a word which begins with a vowelled َ the vowel sound goes to the prefix. eg:- ٧

Vowel less final َََ is silent.

The following three words are written without vowels.

(methol) ٧ (kol) ٧ (min)

Read the following words

٧

Here the second letter doubles in the pronunciation.

Doubling is the mode of pronouncing a single consonant as if it were two. When a vowelled letter is preceded by another with a short vowel it is doubled.

eg. ٧
Read the following words

Here ﺣ has two different pronunciation.

The six letters ﺣ ﺣ ﺣ ﺣ ﺣ ﺣ have two different articulations: the hard called Kusaya indicated by a dot placed above the letters, and the soft, called Rukakha indicated by a dot below.e.g. ﻥﻮ ﻥﻮ ﻥﻮ

Note: A small line given below or above a letter shows that, the particular letter is not pronounced. e.g. ﻥﻮ

Read the following word

Here ﺣ and ﺣ are pronounced as one consonant. This is called assimilation.

Assimilation is the mode of pronouncing two consonants as one. Assimilation takes place between the same letters. e.g. ﻥﻮ (ettabbar), between the letters of same organ, especially ﺣ ﺣ e.g. ﻥﻮ (hattha =new) and between the letters of similar articulation in the middle of a word; ﻥﻮ as, ﻥﻮ (hayussana = pitiful). Here the loss of the assimilated (1st) letter is compensated by the doubling of the following letter.
Note the following words

What are the two horizontal dots placed above these words? They are called ‘sayame’.

Sayame (Ribui) are two horizontal dots (؟) placed above the words to denote plural number: as in "هَفْرَة" = names, "عِمَّة" = they have said. As in the latter example, when the word contains the letter ب, the dot over ب usually is made to coalesce with one of the plural dots.

II. A. Apply all the vowels to the following letters. Follow the example.

II. B. Find out letters with the vowels َ and ِ from the following words.

٩٠٨٩٠٢٩٠٣٠٤٠٥٠٦٠٦٠٧٠٨٠٩٠٦
II. C. See the pictures and find the missing vowels:

II. D. Write two words each which contain Kusaya and Rukakha.

II. E. Five pairs of words are given below. Only one in each pair is correct. Choose the correct word.