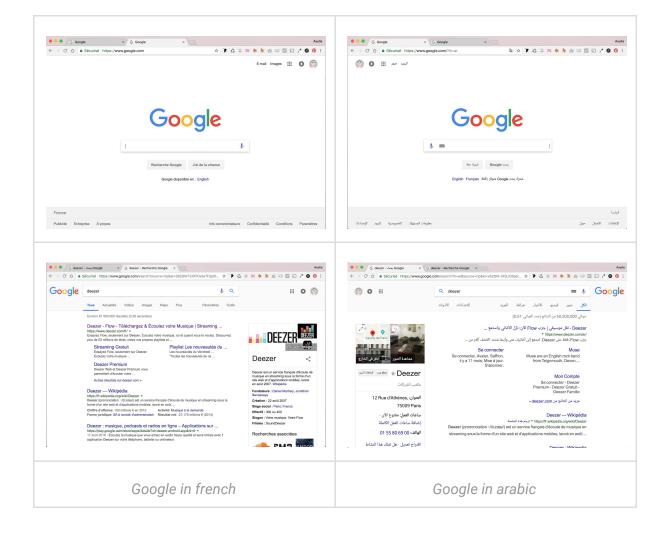
# The basics

The main and most obvious difference between LTR and RTL languages is seen in the direction of writing. In RTL languages, writing and reading is done from right to left. This directional change affects the structure of the website, as well as typography, icons, and images.

- **Texts** : script will write & be read from right to left, therefore titles & plain text that were aligned left are to be aligned right.
- Structure : the eyes follow the same direction for elements other than text, so flip the order of the items too (if an image was at the left of a text, it's now at its right). This applies more globally to the whole layout : columns, side menus etc.



 Language : If your product is aimed at users across the region, you'll need to consider using 'Modern Standard Arabic' (fusha 'the most eloquent Arabic language', wikipedia)

# Typography

Be aware that few web fonts support arabic scripts. Google uses Noto, Apple of course uses SF (and it looks like they made an effort to style it), Emirates has their own font. => Roboto and SF seem covered, what about Open Sans?

 To maintain easy readability, **bold typeface** should be avoided. Italicized font is also not used in Arabic.

To be confirmed (only Middle-East?) : If you need to highlight a certain part of text in Arabic, overline it instead of underlining, interspacing or italicizing.



- No CAPS in arabic script.
- Enlarge your font : arabic fonts often appear smaller in perception so if need be, raise the arabic font-size up a tad. 1. might be difficult when mixed with western script / 2. might actually depend on the font employed : Apple doesn't seem to have the pb with SF, see below (the two texts are the same font size)

Appels et Messages

Téléphonez et échangez des messages. Juste avec votre montre. الموسيقى

قوائم التشغيل المفضلة على معصمك، وعلى إيقاع حماسك.

 Adapt length of your design if need be : most Arabic words are shorter than those in English.

### Other type of text appearances

- Avoid text in images so you don't have to handle translation... (what about editors' playlists covers?) => already handled
- Texts that remain scripted in western alphabet : they will write from left to right, but be aligned right. Whole western-script-expressions -even composed of several words remaining LTR ordered- can appear in the middle of arabic script
- Numerals : weirdly enough for what we still call 'arabic numerals', when written western-style the same as above will apply (written from left to right, but aligned right). Good to know : a set of arabic-indic digits are typically used in Middle Eastern and Gulf countries, whereas North African countries tend to use European digits. In neither area, however, is one digit style used exclusively.

• 178507779	• 17869779
Arabic-indic numerals, used in Arabic	Extended-arabic numerals, used in Persian
language text	and Urdu language text

#### Abbreviations

<u>Days of the week (M T W T F S S)</u> : although it's a standard in many languages, this isn't possible in Arabic because all of them start with the same letter. Instead, simply display their whole names and reduce the font size.

No shortcuts in Arabic :

- TV تلفزيون (this is a loanword read: te-le-fee-syoo-n)
- دجاج كنتاكي KFC -
- برنامج تلفزيوني TV show -
- Punctuation : for a latin chain displayed in RTL, though the rest of the chain will remain LTR, the ponctuation will move left ¬\\_(ν)\_/¬

#### IN LTR

IN RTL

سوفم أعطي مثالا على ذلك. لا تمانع? I will give an example. Don't you mind?

سوفت أعطي مثالا على خالت. لا تمانع? I will give an example. Don't you mind !

■ Copyright, trademark : ¯\\_(ツ)\_/¯

Copyright © 2018 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

العلامة التجارية وجميع الحقوق محفوظة. © Apple Inc. 2018

© 2018 The Emirates Group. Tous droits réservés.

© 2018 مجموعة الإمارات. جميع الحقوق محفوظة.

#### Specific to forms (E&M) :

- Headings & icons that refer to a given field should be placed in the opposite position.
- Western-scripted content inside some fields (such as email address, numeric fields for credit card number...): as said above, the content remain written from left to right but align right. When the user types in the field, the chars appear right then proceed to the left. (But then what happens when he types in latin & then arabic script?) And what about the blinking vertical line, does it stay to the right? (deletion feels weird then) => don't know if CSS will allow us to change that anyway

Aéroport d'arrivée	مطار الوصول
new y	hew y
Toutes les villes	جميع المواقع

=	■ • <b>▼</b> Q :	∎• <b>∨</b> : ९ ≡
•	Name Peter Carlsson	Name علي کونرز
Ľ	Phone NumberLabel(212) 665-8945Mobile	لـabel Phone Number ▼ الجوّا (212) 665-8945
0	Address 2000 Main Street	Address العنوان
	CityStateZipHobokenNJ ▼94122	Zip State City 94122 ▼ ين

• **Calendars :** you have to mirror calendars (meaning monday goes on the right, sunday on the left etc).

> v	euillez ch	10ISIR VO	tre date	de depa	rt					رىك	اریح معادر	عی اختیار ت	يرج
$\overline{\mathbf{v}}$			août 20 <sup>-</sup>	18					201	أغسطس 8			(
LUN	MAR	MER	JEU	VEN	SAM	DIM	الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الإثنين
		1	2	3	4	5	5	4	3	2	1		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	19	18	17	16	15	14	13
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	26	25	24	23	22	21	20
27	28	29	30	31					31	30	29	28	27

Some arabic countries use their own specific calendar, and years vary between LTR

and RTL regions.

For example, the Islamic calendar (Hijri) is a purely lunar calendar. It contains 12 months that are based on the moon's phases, which means that the Islamic calendar year works out to be shorter than the non-Islamic calendar year: 12 x 29.53 = 354.36 days. The Gregorian calendar, which is most commonly used in LTR, is calculated according to the Earth's rotation around the Sun, meaning that a Gregorian year is longer than a non-Gregorian year. That's why Hijri always has to shift according to the Gregorian calendar. => Check with a native to know which calendar to apply

### Icons

Mirroring icons in an Arabic interface should be done with proper caution. Sometimes mirroring or flipping isn't necessary and sometimes it is. Basic guidelines are as follows:

Symmetrical icons, as well as icons without an explicitly specified direction (such as camera, download, user profile, etc.), don't need to be flipped.



Icons with an explicit direction should be mirrored : the back button for example should point to the right in the RTL version.



 Icons that depict movement or text direction should be mirrored (such as text alignment icons, progress charts, etc.)



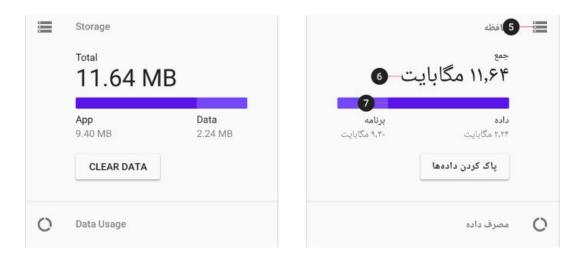
• Icons featuring English characters don't need to be mirrored, but should be localized.



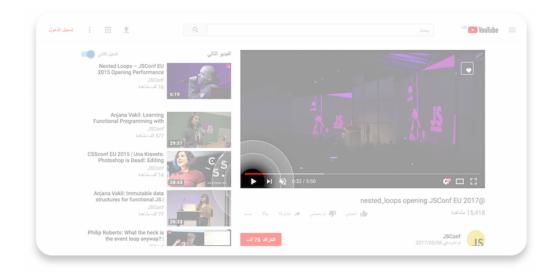
Do not flip clocks, music notes (& sheet music)

## **UX elements**

- Scrollbars : Internet Explorer & Opera display scrollbars on the left side on arabic websites.
- **Datagrids, mosaics of contents :** they are to be mirrored.
- Progress bars : in which direction? => Material guidelines : Progress bars fill in the same direction as content is read



- Carrousels & auto-sliders : start on the right & direction of mouvement is reversed.
- Video & audio players : video & audio players should not be mirrored because they represent playback progress instead of the flow of time.
   => Do not flip video controls & timeline indicators (basically all stuff related to controlling media content, such as play & pause buttons).



**Graphs** : do not flip them, x- & y- axes always appear in the same orientation.

# Color symbolism (To be checked)

### Red :

[Hebrew] = sacrifice, sin
[Egypte] = a lucky charm
[Iran] = good fortune and courage
[Middle-East] = Even though red is the color of love and hearts, in the Middle East it triggers caution and can even provoke feelings of anger and rage. More often than not, the color is associated with evil.

#### Blue :

[Egypte] = virtue, protection-to ward off evil
[Iran] = color of mourning, heaven and spirituality, immortality
[Middle-East] = When it comes to blue, the Middle East is not so different from the West. Most Arabs consider it to be a sign of safety and protection. The color is also often associated with immortality, heaven, and spirituality.

#### • Yellow :

[Egypte] = mourning

**[Middle-East] =** Throughout the region, yellow is linked to happiness and prosperity, with the exception of Egypt, where it represents a state of mourning.

### Green :

[Egypte] = hope and spring
[North-Africa] = corruption and drug culture
[Middle-East] = In the Middle East green represents strength, fertility, luck, and wealth, and it's considered the traditional color of Islam.

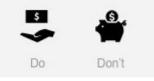
- White : [Middle-East] = purity, mourning
- Black : [Middle-East] = evil, mystery

### About mobile use

 Navigation movements on mobile : slide & back-slide transitions between two pages to be flipped as well

### Cultural concerns

- Moderate your user content more -or even differently- especially with muslim countries with different views on privacy, decency.
- Adapt icons metaphors : The semantics of icons should be considered, with special focus placed on cultural peculiarities or alternate meanings of symbols being used. Potentially problematic icons, such as a piggy bank icon to symbolize thriftiness or a champagne glass to indicate a restaurant, may be appropriate in LTR sites, but might be inappropriate in RTL ones. It's important to double-check if the icons used are easily understood in each culture they are being displayed in and, sometimes, this can only be done with the help of a native speaker.



Adapt visual content : choosing an image requires appropriate selection, taking into account cultural peculiarities when it comes to perception. Banners for the Arabic version of a website can be mirrored, but best practices recommend selecting individual images for each version of a website instead. Simply reflecting a horizontal image may result in distorted display when switching between LTR & RTL.



What about editor's playlists covers? => already handled What about album covers? do they need special moderation? => [CONTENT/PROF] by default, no explicit content will be recommanded on HP, and explicit covers will appear pixelated in search or other

## Good to know

- A few facts (2014) :
  - The proportion of Arabs online grew 30-fold between 2000 and 2012.
  - 40% of internet users in the Middle East regularly use smartphones and tablets, and

such devices are particularly popular with the growing young population.

- More than 40% of Saudi internet users are on Twitter, the highest rate in the world.
- However, less than 1% of all web pages are in Arabic.
- Small rectification : languages don't have direction, scripts do

   scripts: Arabic, Hebrew, Urdu, Syriac...
   languages that use these scripts: Arabic, Farsi, Hebrew, Yiddish, Urdu...
- There is such things as domain names (and therefore I assume, email addresses) in arabic script :

### سجِّل اهتمامك بإسم نطاق شبكة

https://أسماء.شبكة//Traduire cette page اسماء.شبكة// Traduire cette page المماء.شبكة يمثل عصر جديد لمستخدمي اللغة العربية على الإنترنت، وتوفير القدرة على تسجيل أسماء النطاقات بالحروف العربية لأول مرة.

## Afficher les résultats pour

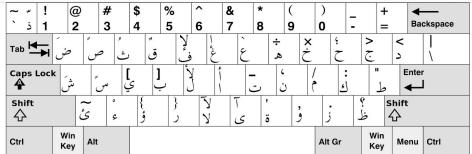
.shabaka (Domaine de premier niveau) Le domaine arabe de premier niveau شبكة. est un domaine international de premier niveau de nom ...

Réseau informatique Un réseau informatique est un ensemble d'équipements reliés entre eux pour échanger des ...



Examples of arabic keyboards :

#### Clavier arabe IBM PC [modifier | modifier le code ]



#### Clavier arabe Mac [modifier | modifier le code ]



Alphabetical order in arabic :

#### Common hijā'ī order

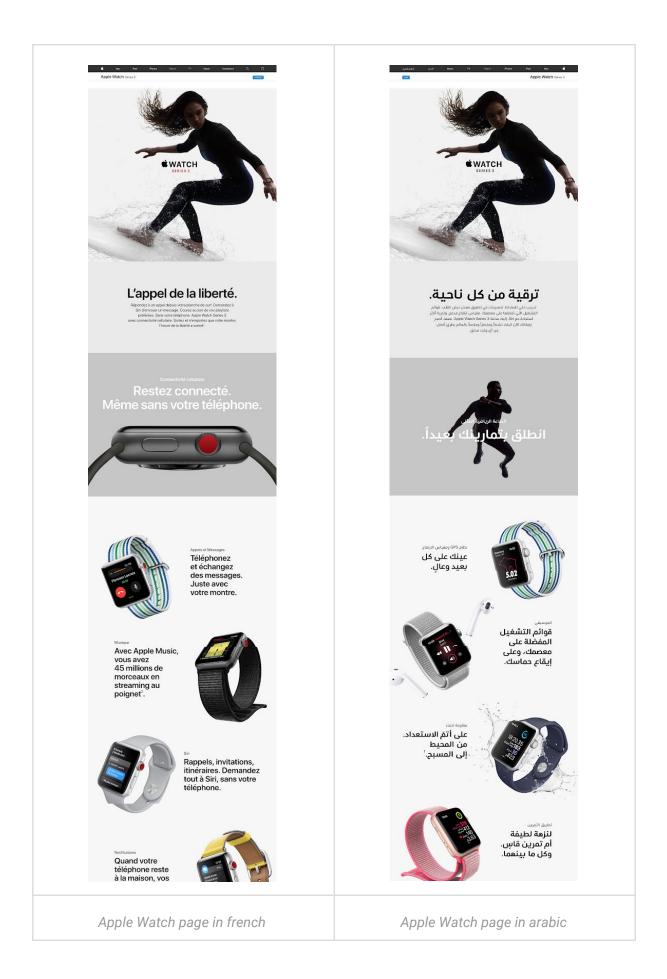
					1	d			è	c	1.	1							ذ		÷	-	-				1
у	w	h	n	m	1	k	q	f	gh	C	Ż	ţ	ģ	ş	sh	s	z	r	dh	d	kh	ķ	j	th	t	b	ā

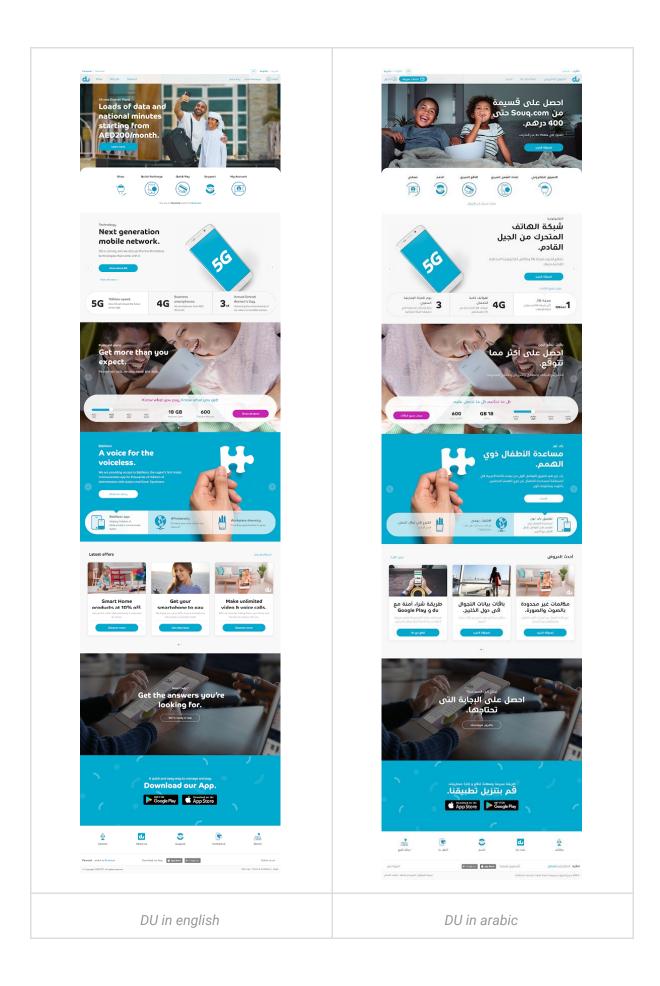
## Links

- Web Design For Right-to-Left Languages: the Basics on Medium/Muzli
- <u>Assessment of Web Localization for Arabic Market</u> on Moravia
   <u>Farsi or Persian? 5 Things to Know about the Language That Unlocks Iran's Market</u>
   <u>Potential</u> on Moravia
   <u>BiDi 101: A Bidirectional Language Crash Course for Globalization Pros</u> on Moravia
   <u>BiDi 101: Bidirectional Script Traits That Vex Localization Pros</u> on Moravia
- <u>Useful tips and tricks for RTL development</u>
- <u>Material guidelines</u>
   <u>Material language support</u>
   <u>Microsoft styleguides for all languages</u>
- A few websites that handle arabic : <u>Google</u> <u>Apple</u> (also see <u>Apple music</u> for the choice of visuals)

<u>Alibaba</u> <u>Emirates</u>...

- A few websites that have originally been designed for arabic audience : <u>Du (arabic phone carrier or so)</u> <u>Arageek (dedicated to all hip geek news around the world)</u> <u>Saudi League (football in Saudi Arabia)</u>... => all exist on mobile web (and probably have a mobile app)
- For music streaming, see <u>Anghami on web</u> & mobile app.





9:41 AM \$ 100% = Back = Title	بدالچوع 9:41 AM \$ 100% ■ الرجوع <b>Title</b>
This is some content	محتوى
Action	فعل
mobile layout in english	mobile layout in arabic

