

## Fonts for Urdu

A font is graphic design applied to a collection of numbers, symbols, and characters. A font describes a certain typeface, along with other qualities such as size and spacing.

There is an international system called "Unicode" which gives a specific number to most of the characters in most of the world's languages. As long as your computer has a "Unicode" font installed, it will display the correct character when the keyboard has been activated for Urdu.

Urdu script is based on the Arabic alphabet, but is traditionally written in a different style known as *Nastaliq*.

نصیب نستعلیق فونٹ

To display Urdu properly you will need to install a Unicode font that displays the characters in this style. A freely available font that does this is "Cobra Nastaleeq" which can be downloaded from:

<http://www.languages.devisland.net/community/urdu/CobraNastaliq.ttf>

### Installing a new font

1. Go to **Start** then **Settings** then **Control Panel** and double-click on **Fonts**.
2. Go to the **File** menu and select **Install New Font**. A dialogue box will appear.
3. In the list of **Folders** before you, double-click on the folder that contains the fonts you want to add.
4. A List of fonts will appear; click on the font you want to add, and then click **OK**.
5. If you wish to replace an existing font with a later version of the same font, you must first delete the old version. Having opened **Fonts** in the manner described in 1 above, click on the font you wish to remove to highlight it. Then go to the **File** menu and select **Delete**. You can now install the newer version as described above.
6. The fonts available on a computer are stored in their own directory which can be accessed via the control panel as described above.