

# TED x IELTS: Why Is 'X' the Unknown?

## Questions 1-5 (Summary completion) Write no more than one word for each answer.

The Arabic language is extremely 1. \_\_\_\_\_ . Because each part of a sentence is very precise and informative, constructing a sentence in Arabic is bit like writing an 2. \_\_\_\_\_. This partly explains many so-called Western sciences such as mathematics and 3. \_\_\_\_\_ actually have their origins in the Middle East. For example, the English word 'algebra' has Arabic roots. Many kinds of Middle-Eastern wisdom arrived in Europe via 4. \_\_\_\_\_, where they were first translated. However, certain Arabic sounds can't be pronounced by Europeans without a great deal of practice. They also can't easily be written using existing European 5. \_\_\_\_\_.

## Questions 6-10 (Matching)

Match the following statements with the letter or symbol they refer to.

6. It was familiar to Spanish mathematicians. \_\_\_\_\_
7. It was eventually replaced by another letter. \_\_\_\_\_
8. It was known throughout Europe. \_\_\_\_\_
9. It has been in use for nearly six centuries. \_\_\_\_\_
10. It is unpronounceable in Spanish. \_\_\_\_\_

- A. The mathematical symbol X
- B. The Arabic letter Sheen
- C. The Greek letter Kai
- D. The Latin letter X

See the answers at <http://ielts-academic.com/answers>

Watch the video and view the transcript at <http://ielts-academic.com/2012/08/15/ielts-listening-ted-x-ielts-why-is-x-the-unknown>