

In 2016, we launched a web application aiming at deciphering difficult-to-read Ottoman Turkish words found in hand-written manuscripts quickly and easily.

The revolutionary impact that LexiQamus had on the field of Ottoman Turkish has attracted the attention of multiple world-renowned academic institutions in a very short period of time. Therefore, [many of them subscribed](#) to the resource.

Here are a few examples:



## Just What Might This Word Be?..

Those who read hand-written manuscripts frequently encounter the following situations:

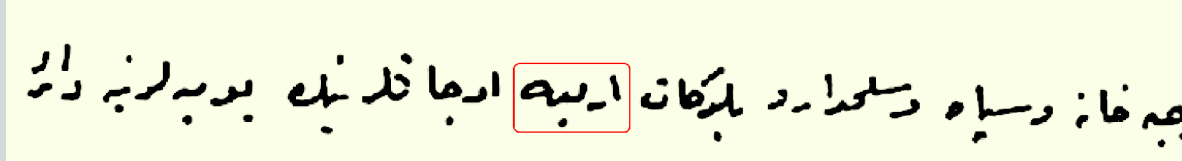
A word may be written using a complicated style, the ink used to write it may have been smeared, or a part of the page may have been folded, torn, or damaged by the elements. In short, there could be several reasons as to why a word is illegible.

## We Use a Special Algorithm to Decipher

LexiQamus comes into play here. Employing specially designed software, LexiQamus creates a list of possible words based on the letters and the illegible parts of the word entered into the program. This allows a word to be found in the blink of an eye that might not be found even after rummaging through truly colossal dictionaries.

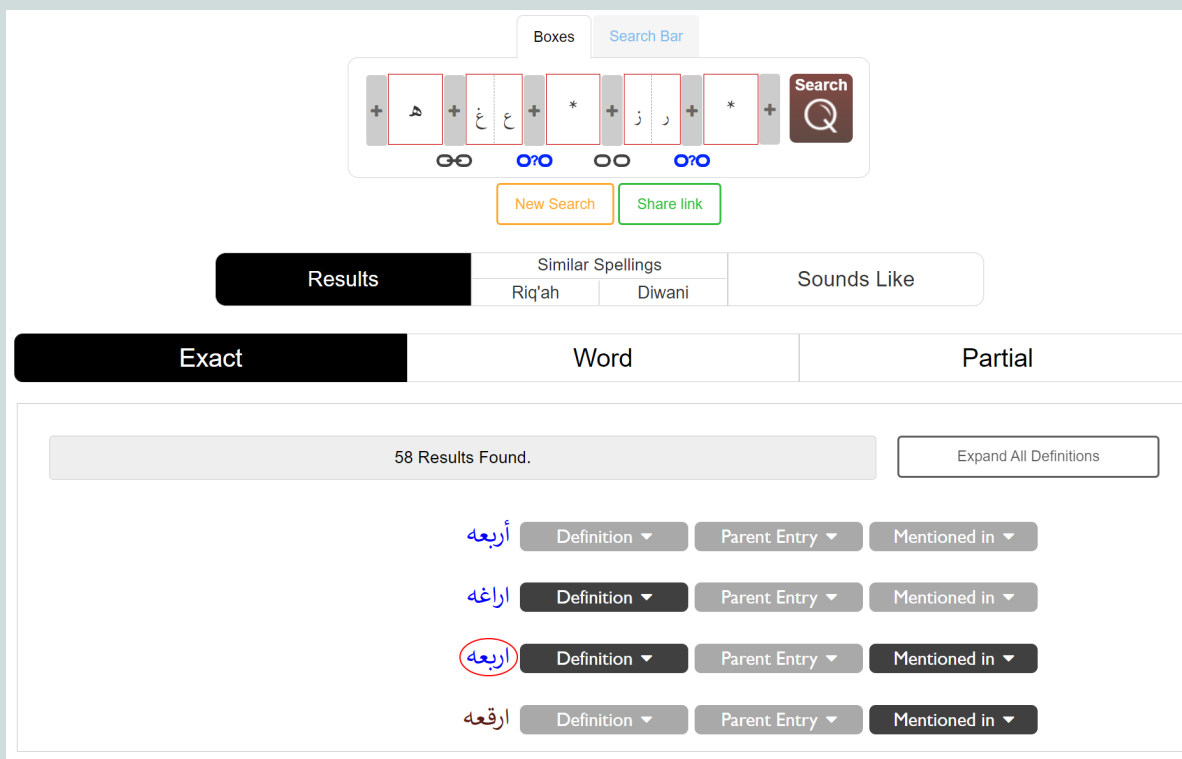
## How It Works

Let's assume that we cannot read the word marked in the line below.



...cebhane ve sipah ve silahdar ve bölukat \_\_\_\_ ocaklarının yevmiyelerine dair...

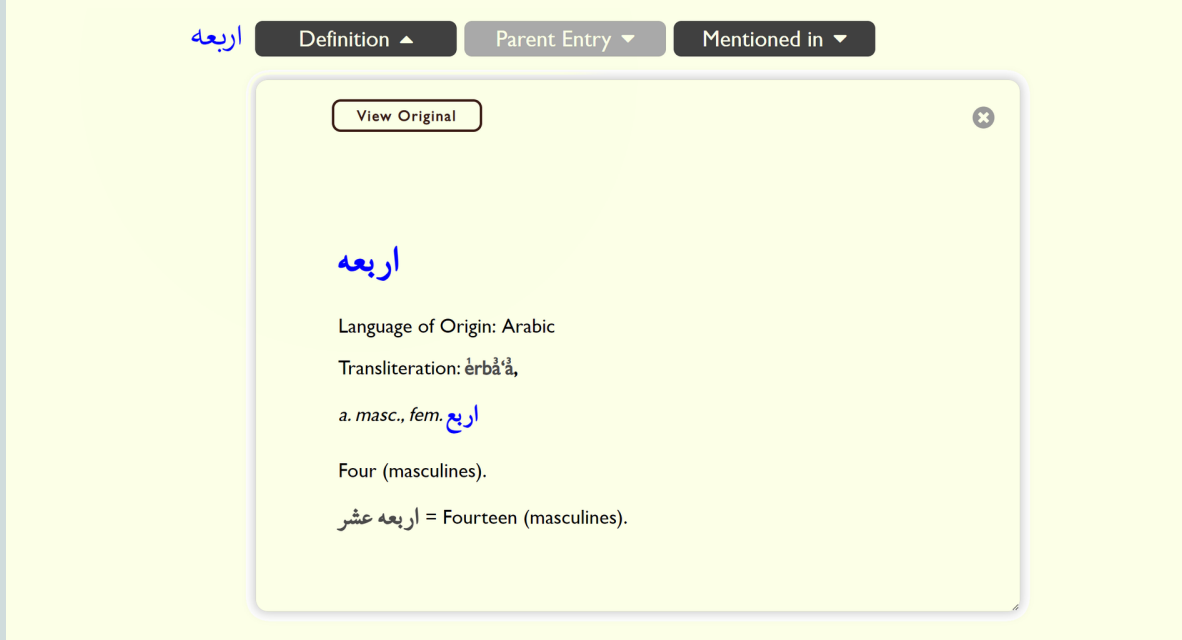
In this case, some letters are quite legible whereas others are more difficult to decipher. First, we enter the letters that we're able to make out into the little boxes found on LexiQamus's homepage. Then we enter an asterisk (\*) for those letters we're unsure of. If we're divided between two or more letters, we are able to enter possible letters in the same box.



Although there is an absolute possible of 6,400 words, LexiQamus scans the 19 dictionaries found in its database and determines that only 58 of these possibilities are even extant in these dictionaries. So 99% of possible results are eliminated. This saves us from the burden of having to look up the other 6,342 words to see if they even exist.

After looking at the meanings of these words, it is not hard to decide which one of them is most likely to be the word fitting into that context.

For instance, the illegible word is اربעה in this example.



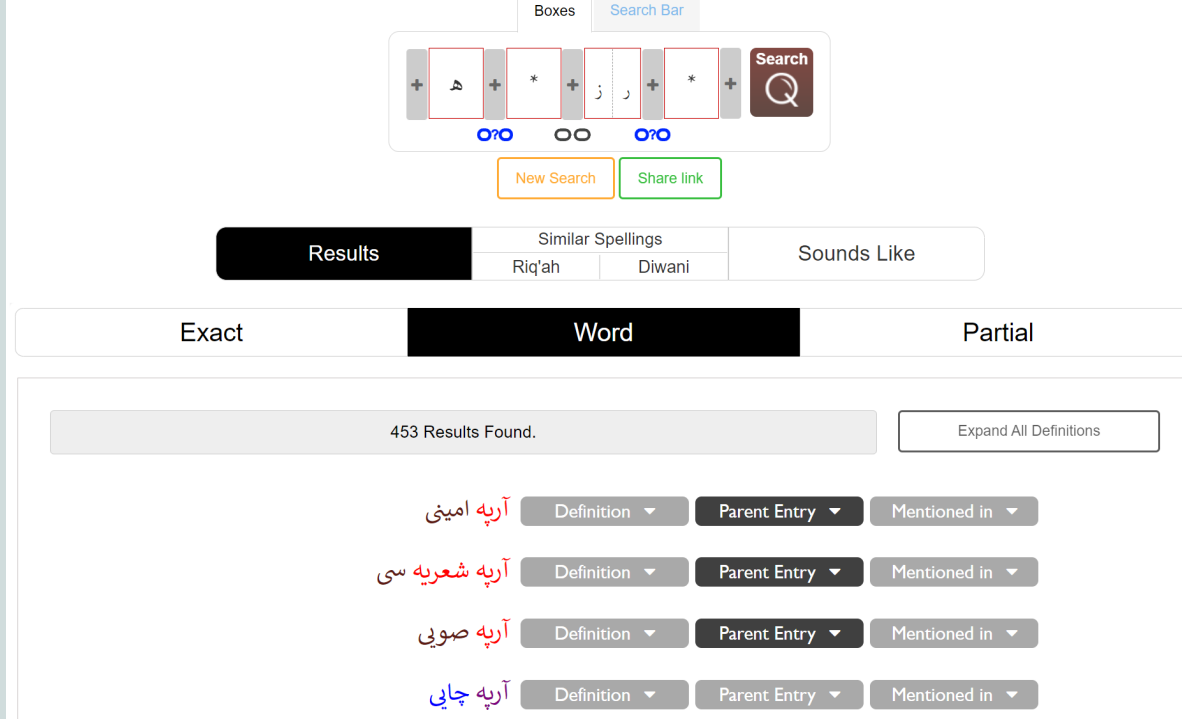
...cebhane ve sipah ve silahdar ve bölukat-ı erbaa ocaklarının yevmiyelerine dair...

## The Same Word from Different Dictionaries

After clicking on a word, LexiQamus directs us to another website where dictionaries like Kamus-ı Türki, Lugat-ı Naci and Kamus-ı Osmani display the meaning of the word in question in image format.

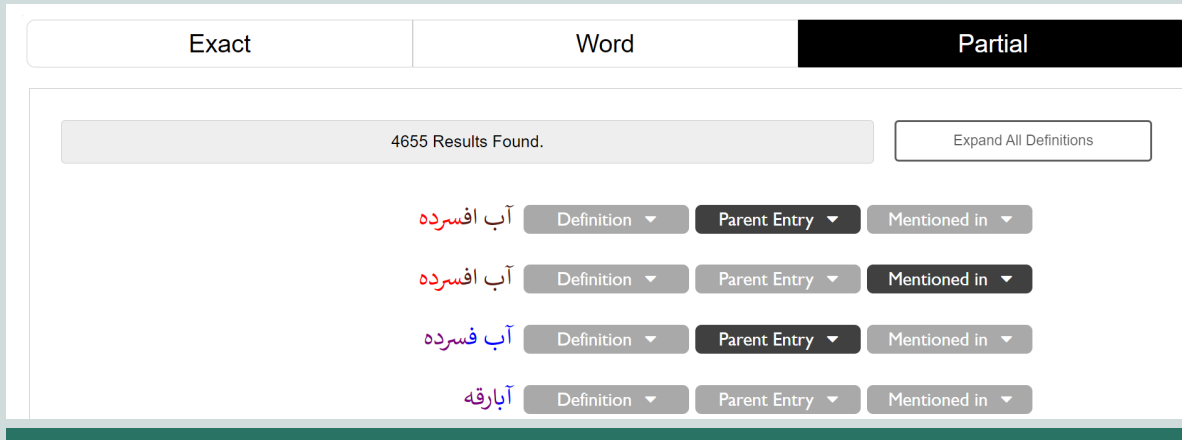
## Phrases Containing the Word Entered

The results are listed in three separate tabs. The first tab shows exact matches of the word entered whereas the second tab displays phrases in which the desired word is found.



## Partial Matches

The final tab, however, lists results that contain partial matches of the word entered.



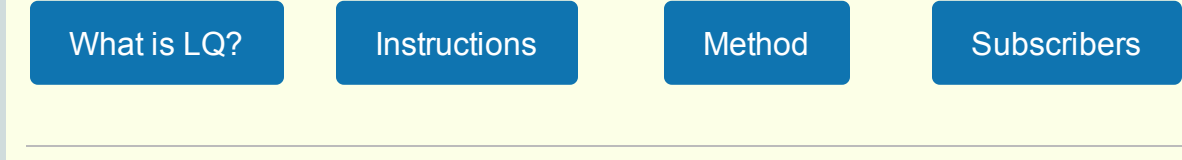
## Redhouse's Lexicon at Your Fingertips

If the word exists in James Redhouse's famous Ottoman Turkish Lexicon, its definition is shown directly on LexiQamus's website in digital form.

This was made possible after said lexicon was digitized for the very first time ever by means of a crowd-sourcing project that spanned two and a half years to minimize errors to the greatest extent possible.

As a result, all of the entries, sub-entries, and undefined words contained in this 2,224-page dictionary are searchable only on LexiQamus.

## For Further Information



## How to Contact Us?

For enquiries regarding institutional subscription, you can contact us at [sales@lexiqamus.com](mailto:sales@lexiqamus.com).

