Peace Corps

Jordanian Arabic
Grammar for beginners

CONTENTS

Section

A

1. THE ARABIC ALPHABET

ا   ب   ت   ث   ج   ح   خ

د   ذ   ر   ز   س   ش   ص

ض   ط   ظ   ع   غ   ف   ق

ك   ل   م   ن   هـ   و   ي

Table 1.1

Arabic	Letter name	Transli-teration	English equivalent	Example
ا	alif	Aa	A	**a**pricot
ب	baa	B	B	**b**ook
ت	taa	T	T	**t**all
ث	thaa	Th	(same as "thin")	**th**ree
ج	jiim	J	J	**j**uice
ح	Haa	H	(emphatic "h" with strong expulsion of air)	no equivalent
خ	khaa	Kh	(same as German "Ba**ch**")	no equivalent
د	daal	D	D	**d**ark
ذ	dhaal	Dh	(same as "the")	**th**is
ر	raa	R	R	**r**oom
ز	zaai	Z	Z	**z**oo
س	siin	S	S	**s**mall
ش	shiin	Sh	(same as "shine")	**sh**ort
ص	Saad	S	(emphatic "s" pronounced with the teeth slightly apart pressing the tip of the tongue to the lower teeth)	no equivalent
ض	Daad	D	(emphatic "d" pronounced with the tongue pressing against the edge of the upper teeth with the tip protruding)	no equivalent
ط	Taa	T	(emphatic "t" where you should be able to bite the sides of the tongue as flat as possible).	no equivalent
ظ	DHaa	DH	(emphatic "dh")	no equivalent
ع	‏ع‏ain	ع	(pronounced with the constriction of the larynx)	no equivalent
غ	ghain	Gh	(like Parisian r, sound of gargling)	no equivalent
ف	faa	F	F	**f**ather
ق	qaaf	G	G	**g**oal
ك	kaaf	K	K	**k**ind
ل	laam	L	L	**l**emon

م	miim	M	M	**m**onth
ن	nuun	N	N	**n**umber
هـ	haa	H	H	**H**appy
و	waaw	w/uu/oo	W	**w**ay - f**oo**d
ي	yaa	y/ii/ee	Y	**y**ard - v**i**sa

Some notes on pronunciation:

1) To say the *Ha,* pretend like you are breathing on a glass window, trying to make a fog-cloud. It should be an audible, breathy sound in the back of your throat. The *kha* is the same idea, but raspier, like the Scottish "lo**ch.**"

2) One way to practice making the *ayn* sound is to practice saying it with your hand on your throat to feel your larynx contract. The sound should come from deep in your throat, rather than from the back of your mouth (as in an English "a" sound).

3) To practice the *ghayn,* imitate gargling water in your throat with your head slightly tilted back. The *ghayn* is made a little lower in your throat than the *kha*, but it is a similar rough, vibrating sound.

4) In Modern Standard Arabic, and in many regions in the Middle East outside of Jordan, the qaaf is pronounced as a Q sound in the back of your throat. You will mostly hear the formal pronunciation when discussing the news, academic matters, technical vocabulary, or any other more "formal" conversations.

2. LONG & SHORT VOWELS

In Arabic, vowels are divided into two groups: long and short. The first table provides us with the three long vowels in Arabic, and the second table provides is with the short vowels.

Table 2.1

Long Vowel	Pronunciation	Example
ا	aa (e.g. fl**a**g)	زاكي - z**aa**kii (delicious)
و	uu (e.g. sh**oe**s)	بلوزة - bl**uu**za (sweater)
ي	ii (e.g. p**ie**ce)	كُرسي - Kurs**ii** (airplane)

To understand how long vowels are formed & used in Arabic, look at the three examples below:

With ر	**With د**	**With م**
raa را	daa دا	maa ما
ruu رو	duu دو	muu مو
rii ري	dii دي	mii مي

Table 2.2

Short Vowel	Symbol	Pronunciation
fatHa / فَتْحَة	--َ---	It sounds like a very short *a* (e.g.**a**nimal,Madab**a**) ate / أكلْ
Damma / ضَمَّة	--ُ---	It sounds like a very short *u* (e.g. f**u**ll) bear/ دُبْ
kasra / كَسْرَة	--ِ---	It sounds like a very short *i* (e.g. fr**i**dge, f**i**t) grapes/ عِنَبْ
Sukuun / سُكون	--ْ---	It sounds like *d* in kid, t in cu**t**,... etc. It is a full stop between consonants.
<u>shadda</u> / شَدَّة	--ّ---	It sounds like a doubled letter (e.g. a**tt**ack) bathroom / حَمَّام

tanwiin fateH /تنْوينْ فَتْح	--ً---	It sounds like a short an (e.g. f**u**n, s**u**n) pen / قلَماً
tanwiin Damma / تنْوينْ ضَم	--ٌ---	It sounds like a short un (e.g. **on** the table) pen / قلَمٌ
tanwiin kasra / تنْوينْ كَسر	--ٍ---	It sounds like a short *in* (e.g. look**in**, blam**in**) pen / قَلَم

Notes:

1) The tanwiin vowels only occur at the end of word on an alif.

2) With the exception of the tanwiin fatah (which you see in ahlan wa sahlan and a few other commonly used phrases), the tanwiin vowels markings are exclusive to written *fousha*

OTHER SYMBOLS

Hamza		We sometimes see the hamza on top of (أ) or below (إ) *alif*. This tells us which short vowel to use in pronouncing the *alif*. If a hamza occurs after the *alif* (ـاء) or *alif maksura* (ـىء), it signifies a glottal stop, like in "reading" (قراءة) or in certain emphatic pronunciations of "la."
Tar marbuta		Generally, this is used to designate feminine nouns or adjectives and it always occurs at the end of a word. It is pronounced as an "a" sound. If there is a suffix attached to the word, or it is part of an *i-daafa* phrase, the ta marbuta becomes a "t" sound.

3. THE ARABIC WRITING SYSTEM

The shape of the Arabic letter changes according to its position in the word:

Table 3.1

At the end of the word آخِر الكَـلمَة		In the middle of the word وَسَط الكَـلمَة		At the beginning of the word أوَّل الكَلمَة		Letter الحَرْف
سَما	ا , ـا	شارِعْ	ـا , ا	أحمَد	ا ، أ ، إ , ا ، أ ، إ	ا ، أ ، إ
قَـلْب	ـب , ب	عِلَبَة	ـب , بـ	بطَّة	ـب	ب
بيتْ	ـت , ت	يتْعَلَّم	ـتـ , تـ	تفَّاح	تـ	ت

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مُثَلَّث	ث , ث	الثلاثا	ثـ , ثـ	ثَعْلَب	ثـ	ث
ثَلَج	ج , ج	جاجَة	جـ , جـ	جَمَل	جـ	ج
مِلِح	ح , ح	أَحْمَر	حـ , حـ	حَليب	حـ	ح
مُخ	خ , خ	أَخْضَر	خـ , خـ	خَرُوف	خـ	خ
بَريْد	د , د	وَرْدَة	د , د	دُبْ	د	د
قُنْفُذ	ذ , ذ	هاذا / هاذي	ذ , ذ	ذَرَة	ذ	ذ
زِرِر	ر , ر	كُرْسي	ـر , ـر	راس	ر , ر	ر
خُبِز	ز , ز	مُزارِع	ـز , ـز	زَرافَة	ز	ز
خَس	س , س	عَسَلْ	ـسـ , ـس	سَمَكَة	سـ	س
عُش	ش , ش	مِشمِش	ـشـ , ـش	شَجَرَة	شـ	ش
قَفَص	ص , ص	حِصَّة	ـصـ , ـصـ	صُوص	صـ	ص
يِعُض	ض , ض	مضرَب	ـضـ , ـض	ضِفْدَع	ضـ	ض
يِحُط	ط , ط	مَطَر	ـط , ط	طاولَة	طـ	ط
حَظ	ظ , ظ	مظْهَر	ـظ , ظ	ظَرْف	ظـ	ظ
شَمِع	ع , ع	مَلْعَب	ـعـ , عـ	عِنَب	عـ	ع
صِمِغ	غ , غ	يغَنِّي	ـغـ , غـ	غَزال	غـ	غ
رَف	ف , ف	ضفْدَع	ـفـ , فـ	فَراشَة	فـ	ف
عَرَق	ق , ق	مَقْلوبَة	ـقـ , قـ	قِرد	قـ	ق
سَمَك	ك , ك	مَكْتَب	ـكـ , كـ	كَلْب	كـ	ك
شُغُل	ل , ل	سِلَّم	ـلـ , لـ	ليمُون	لـ	ل
قَلَم	م , م	مُمتاز	ـمـ , مـ	ميزان	مـ	م
لُون	ن , ن	عِنوان	ـنـ , نـ	نِمِر	نـ	ن

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فواكِه	ـه , ه	الظَّهُر	ـهـ , هـ	هاذا	هـ	هـ
أبو	ـو , و	موز	ـو , و	وَردَة	و	و
مَيّ	ـي , ي	عينْ	ـيـ , يـ	يُكْتّب	يـ	ي

Note(s):

1. "لا" is not from the Alphabet. It is two letters joint together (لا = ل + ا)
2. The two long vowels ا and و , and four consonants ز, ر, ذ, د only connect to the preceding side. All other letters connect to both sides.

Section

B

4. SUBJECT PRONOUNS

In Jordanian Arabic, the subject pronouns parallel subject pronouns in English, except they include more versions of the 2nd person (you).[1]

The subject pronouns in Arabic are:

Table 4.1

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I	أنا	Ana
You (masculine)	إِنْتَ	in-ta
You (feminine)	إِنْتِ	in-ti
You (plural)	إِنْتو	in-tu
He	هُوّ	hu-wa
She	هِيَّ	hi-ya
They	هُمَّ	hum-ma
We	إحنا	iH-na

Examples:

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I am Ali	أنا علي	ana عali
Where are you (m.) from?	من وين إِنْتَ؟	min wain inta?

---

[1] There are many other subject pronouns used in formal Arabic that are not used in spoken Arabic (and rarely used in news or print media), so we will not go over them here. However, one exception is *hunna*, which is the feminine 3rd person plural used to describe all female groups. This is used in some regional dialects in Jordan and sometimes in the media, but more generally *humma* is used regardless of the gender of the group.

Are you (f.) Jordanian?	إِنْتِ أردنية؟	inti urduniya?
Are you all (pl.) volunteers?	إِنْتو متطوعين؟	intu mutaTawعiin?
He is Jordanian	هُوّ أردني	huwa urunii
She is American	هِيّ امريكية	hiya amriikiya
They are students	هُمَّ طلاب	humma Tolaab
We are teachers	إحنا معلمين	iHna [2]muعalimiin

5. POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

In Arabic we use the following connected pronouns with nouns (and prepositions) as a **suffix** to express possession. Again, these are attached to the **end** of a noun (or preposition). Some irregular verbs are conjugated using these suffixes, which we will cover in another section.

Table 5.1..

My	ي...
Your (M)	كَ ...
Your (F)	كِ ...
Your (PL)	...كُو
His	ه ...
Her	ها ...
Their	...هُم
Our	نا ...

....

Example 1:   Name إِسِمْ

English	Arabic	Transliteration
My name	إسْمِي	is-m**ii**
Your name (m.)	إسْمَكْ	is-m**ak**

Your name (f.)	إِسْمِكْ	is-m**ik**
Your name (pl.)	إِسِمْكُو	isim-**kuu**
His name	إِسْمُه	is-m**oh**
Her name	إِسِمْها	isim-**ha**
Their name	إِسِمْهُم	isim-**hom**
Our name	إِسِمْنا	isim-**na**

Example 2: Book كْتابْ

English	Arabic	Transliteration
My book	كْتابي	Kitaab**ii**
Your book (m.)	كْتابَك	Kitaab**ak**
Your book (f.)	كْتابِك	Kitaab**ik**
Your book (pl.)	كْتابكو	Kitaab**kuu**
His book	كْتابه	Kitaab**oh**
Her book	كْتابها	Kitaab**ha**
Their book	كْتابهم	Kitaab**hom**
Our book	كْتابنا	Kitaab**na**

Example 3: School مَدْرَسة

When a noun ends in "taa marbuuta" ة , we drop ة and replace it with ت before adding the possessive pronoun.

English	Arabic	Transliteration
My school	مَدْرَستي	mad-rast**ii**

Your school (m.)	مَدْرَستك	mad-rast**ak**
Your school (f.)	مَدْرَستك	mad-rast**ik**
Your school (pl.)	مَدْرَستكو	mad-rasat**kuu**
His school	مَدْرَسته	mad-rast**oh**
Her school	مَدْرَستها	mad-rasat**ha**
Their school	مَدْرَستهم	mad-rasat**hom**
Our school	مَدْرَستنا	mad-rasat**na**

Section

C

6. Present Tense: Common Irregular Verbs

The verbs *I want* & *I have* are irregular. To conjugate, follow the same rule as with possessive pronouns mentioned above: connect pronoun suffixes to the root word.

To want:

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I want	أنا بدِّي	ana bed-dii…
You want (m.)	إنْتَ بدَّك	in-ta bed-dak…
You want (f.)	إنْتِ بدَّك	in-ti bed-dik…
You want (pl.)	إنْتو بدْكو	in-tu bed-kuu…
He wants	هُوّ بدُّه	hu-wa bed-doh…
She wants	هِيَّ بدْها	hi-ya bed-ha…
They want	هُمَّ بدْهُم	hum-ma bed-hom…
We want	إحنا بدْنا	iH-na bed-na…

To have:

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I have	أنا عِنْدي	ana ع en-dii…
You have (m.)	إنْتَ عِنْدَكْ	in-ta ع en-dak…
You have (f.)	إنْتِ عِنْدِكْ	in-ti ع en-dik…
You have (pl.)	إنْتو عِنْدكُو	in-tu ع end-kuu…
He has	هُوّ عِنْدُه	hu-wa ع en-doh…
She has	هِيَّ عِنْدها	hi-ya ع end-ha…
They have	هُمَّ عِنْدهُم	hum-ma ع end-hum…
We have	إحنا عِنْدنا / عِنَّا	iH-na ع end-na / ع en-na

General Notes:

1) With (إحنا) we can use both (عِنْدنا / عِنَّا). Generally, (عِنَّا) is used more often.

2) Precede بده (to want), عنده (to have), with كان ("to be") conjugated in the past tense to put these verbs in the past tense.

   I wanted…   أنا (كان) كُنت بدي ...

   I had…   أنا (كان) كُنت عندي ...

3) To negate the verbs *I want & I have,* precede each with ma (ما)

   I don't want…   ما بدي…

   I don't need…   ما عندي…

7. A Quick Introduction to Three Letter Roots

Most words in the Arabic language are built around a three-consonant root. Different meanings are created by adding vowels and other consonants to the root. Some roots have only two letters, and some have four. Words that have been adopted from other languages (such as *bortuqaal* or *telefeesyun*) do not have a three letter root.

Finding the root and identifying the structure of the word can help you determine the meaning of a word, and also gain a better understanding of the structure of the Arabic language. Modern Standard Arabic adheres more consistently to these rules than does spoken Jordanian; words and derivations that are used in MSA may be replaced or changed in *ameeya.* That being said, being able to find the root in a word, and to make connections to other words with the same root, will make it easier to learn new vocabulary and recognize patterns in the language. Throughout the book, we will refer back to the three-letter roots to demonstrate that there is a pattern to most words, which hopefully will make them easier to learn.

EXAMPLES OF THREE LETTER ROOTS

Let's look at the root *da-ra-sa (دَرَسَ)* to explore three-letter roots and their derivations. In this example, *darasa* means *he studied.* When used in other derivations, the meaning of the word will change slightly, but it will always relate back to the most basic meaning "to study."

Da-ra-sa دَرَسَ	He studied.
Da-rra-sa درَّسَ	He taught. (Or: he made someone to study).
Dars دَرْس	A study or lesson (Or: something that you study)
Madrassa مدرسة	School (Or: a place where one studies)
Mudar-res مُدرِس	Teacher (Or: one who makes someone study)
Tad-ress تدريس	Teaching, instruction (Or: the act of making someone study)

There are many different ways to derive different meanings from the roots, and not every structure applies to every verb. Because you are learning *ammeya*, as opposed to Modern Standard Arabic, you will find the patterns aren't always consistent. However, here are some general guidelines:

- Words that start with "mu" generally refer to a person (mudeer (مُدير), mualima (مُعلِمة), mutaTaweeya (مُتطوِعة))
  - Example of an exception: *mujaamma (مُجمَّع)*, which means "bus station"
- Words that start with "ma" generally refer to a place (madrassa (مَدرسة), maktab (مَكتب))
- Words that have a "ya" between the last two letters of the root are usually adjectives (*kareem (كَريم), laTyeef (لَطيف)* generous, kind*), kabeer (كبير)*;, big)
  - This does not apply to words like *taaleem(تعليم)* or *taTweer (تطوير)*("education" and "development"). Note that these words begin with a "ta" that is not part of the root. These words are nouns, and are derived from verbs (see the verb chart for more information)
- Verbs have a very specific pattern, please see the Verb Chart for more information

Here are some more examples of roots and derivations:

Ka-ta-ba كَتبَ	He wrote.	Ki-tab كِتاب	Book (or: something that he wrote).
		Mak-taba مَكتَبة	Library (or: place where books are kept)
Ja-ma-aa جَمَعَ	He gathered OR He	Ja-meey-aa جَمعيَّة	Organization

	united.			(gathering of people)
		Ij-te-ma-aa إجتماع		Meeting (gathering of people)
aa-ra-fa عَرفَ	He knew.	Ma-aa-roof مَعروف		Known
		i'i-ti-raaf اعتراف		Recognition

8. Present Tense: Regular Verbs

As mentioned above, all Arabic verbs can be broken down to a three letter "root." From this root, we add prefixes and suffixes to conjugate the verb in the present tense.

Aside from the irregular verbs, there are four main verb patterns for conjugating in the present tense.

Remember: there is no gender-neutral third person subject in Arabic, like "it" in English. Every verb must be conjugated based on the gender of the noun in the subject, even for non-human subjects like "car" or "house."

*The following examples are in the affirmative. To make a verb negative put ما before the conjugated verb (and after the subject pronoun) in present, future, and past tense.

1) Verbs with no long vowels in the root

This type of verb has three consonants in the root; none of the letters in the root are ا, و, or ي. When adding prefixes and suffixes to conjugate the verb in any tense, the root remains consistent.

Example 1: To study

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I study	أنا أدرُسْ	ana **a**drus
You study (m.)	إنْتَ تِدرُسْ	inta **ti**drus
You study (f.)	إنْتِ تِدرُسي	inti **ti**drus**ii**
You study (pl.)	إنْتوتِدرُسو	intu **ti**drus**uu**
He studies	هُوّ يِدرُسْ	hu-wa **yi**drus
She studies	هِيَّ تِدرُسْ	hi-ya **ti**drus
They study	هُمَّ يِدرُسو	hum-ma **yi**drus**uu**
We study	إحنا نِدرُسْ	iHna **ni**drus

Example 2: To drink

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I drink	أنا أشْرْبَ	ana **a**sh-rab
You drink (m.)	إنْتَ تِشْرَب	inta **ti**sh-rab
You drink (f.)	إنْتِ تِشْرَبي	inti **ti**sh-rab**ii**
You drink (pl.)	إنْتو تِشْرَبو	intu **ti**sh-rab**uu**
He drinks	هُوّ بِشرَب	hu-wa **yi**sh-rab
She drinks	هِيَّ تِشْرَب	hi-ya **ti**sh-rab
They drink	هُمَّ بِشربو	hum-ma **yi**sh-rab**uu**
We drink	إحنا نِشرب	iHna **ni**sh-rab

*Practice: ألعب, أكتب, أنجح, أرسم, أفتح, أكسر, أركب, أطلع, أنزل

2) Verbs with a long vowel in the middle: ي,ا,و

These are verbs in which the second letter in the three-letter root is a vowel (alif ا, wow و, ya ي). In the present tense, the vowel does not change.

There are three long vowels in Arabic. All three follow the same pattern: the long vowel remains intact in all conjugations of the verb.

   I.   To say (long vowel in the middle و)

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I say	أنا أقول	ana **a**guul
You say (m.)	إنْتَ تقول	inta **t**-guul
You say (f.)	إنْتِ تقولي	inti **t**-guul**ii**
You say (pl.)	إنْتو تقولو	intu **t**-guul**uu**
He says	هُوّ يقول	huwa **y**-guul
She says	هِيَّ تقول	hiya **t**-guul
They say	هُمَّ يقولو	humma **y**-guul**uu**
We say	إحنا نقول	iHna **n**-guul

*Practice: أفوت, أروح, أقود

II.   To sleep (long vowel in the middle ا)

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I sleep	أنا أنام	ana **a**naam
You sleep (m.)	إنْتَ تنام	inta **ta**naam
You sleep (f.)	إنْتِ تنامي	inti **ta**naam**ii**
You sleep (pl.)	إنْتو تنامو	intu **ta**naam**uu**
He sleeps	هُوّ ينام	hu-wa **ya**naam
She sleeps	هِيَّ تنام	hiya **ta**naam
They sleep	هُمّ ينامو	hum-ma **ya**naam**uu**
We sleep	إحنا ننام	iHna **na**naam

*Practice: أخاف, أبالِغ, أعاتب

III.   To bring (long vowel in the middle ي)

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I bring	أنا أجيب	ana ajiib
You bring (m.)	إنْتَ تجيب	inta tajiib
You bring (f.)	إنْتِ تجيبي	inti tajiibii
You bring (pl.)	إنْتو تجيبو	inta tajiibuu
He brings	هُوّ يجيب	hu-wa yajiib
She brings	هِيَّ تجيب	hi-ya tajiib
They bring	هُمّ يجيبو	hum-ma yajiibuu
We bring	إحنا نجيب	iHna najiib

*Practice: أقيم, أعيد, أزيد

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3) Verbs with a long vowel at the end: و,ا,ي

In these verbs, the last letter in the three-letter root is a long vowel. All verbs with any of the three long vowels at the end follow the same pattern. The long vowel remains unchanged at the end of the verb *except* in the "inti إنتِ," "into إنتو," and "humma هُمَّ" forms. In these cases, we drop the long vowel and replace it with the suffix which corresponds to that particular pronoun, as seen in the first two verb patterns.

I. To take a nap (long vowel at the end و)

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I nap	أنا أغْفو	ana a<u>gh</u>-fuu
You nap (m.)	إنْتَ تِغْفو	inta ti<u>gh</u>-fuu
You nap (f.)	إنْتِ تِغْفي	inti ti<u>gh</u>-fii
You nap (pl.)	إنْتو تِغْفو	intu ti<u>gh</u>-fuu
He naps	هُوّ يغْفو	hu-wa yi<u>gh</u>-fuu
She naps	هِيَّ تِغْفو	hi-ya ti<u>gh</u>-fuu
They nap	هُمَّ يِغْفو	hum-ma yi<u>gh</u>-fuu
We nap	إحنا نغْفو	iHna ni<u>gh</u>-fuu

Practice: يبدو، يحنو، يعلو

II. To read (long vowel at the end ا)

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I read	أنا اقْرا	ana ag-raa
You read (m.)	إنْتَ تِقْرا	inta ti-graa
You read (f.)	إنْتِ تِقْري	inti tig-rii
You read (pl.)	إنْتو تِقْرو	intu tig-ruu
He reads	هُوّ يِقْرا	hu-wa yig-raa
She reads	هِيَّ تِقْرا	hi-ya tig-raa
They read	هُمَّ يِقْرو	hum-ma yig-ruu

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English	Arabic	Transliteration
We read	إحنا نِقْرا	iHna nig-raa

Practice: يبدا

III. To cry (long vowel at the end ي)

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I cry	أنا أبْكِي	ana **a**b-kii
You cry (m.)	إنْتَ تِبْكِي	inta **ti**b-kii
You cry (f.)	إنْتِ تِبْكِي	inti **ti**b-kii
You cry (pl.)	إنْتو تِبْكو	intu **ti**b-k**uu**
He cries	هُوّ يِبْكِي	huwa **yi**b-kii
She cries	هِيَّ تِبْكِي	hiya **ti**b-kii
They cry	هُمَّ يِبْكو	hum-ma **yi**b-kuu
We cry	إحنا نبْكِي	iHna **ni**b-kii

Practice: أكوي, أرمي, أنهي

4) Verbs that are stressed:

"Stressed" verbs only have two consonants in the root. To make these fit into the 3 letter root pattern, we add a *shedda* to the final letter so that it is pronounced twice. Verbs that end with a shedda are said to be *stressed*. The stressed sound is heard most clearly when there is a suffix at the end of the verb.

Example 1: To like or to love

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I like	أنا أحِبَّ	ana **a**Heb-b
You like (m.)	إنْتَ تحِب	inta **t**-Heb-b
You like (f.)	إنْتِ تحِبِّي	inti **t**-Heb-b**ii**
You like (pl.)	إنْتو تحِبُّو	intu **t**-Heb-b**uu**
He likes	هُوّ يحِب	huwa **ye**Heb-b

English	Arabic	Transliteration
She likes	هِيَّ تحِب	hiya **t**-Heb-b
They like	هُمَّ يحِبّو	hum-ma **ye**Heb-b**uu**
We like	إحنا نحِب	iHna **n**-Heb-b

Example 2: To reply

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I reply	أنا أرُدَّ	ana arud-d
You reply (m.)	إنْتَ ترُد	inta tarud-d
You reply (f.)	إنْتِ ترُدّي	inti tarud-dii
You reply (pl.)	إنْتو ترُدّو	intu tarud-duu
He replies	هُوَّ يرُد	hu-wa yarud-d
She replies	هِيَّ ترُد	hi-ya - tarud-d
They reply	هُمَّ يرُدّو	hum-ma yarud-duu
We reply	إحنا نرد	iHna narud-d

Practice: أشد, أمد

9. Present Tense with ب

Often you will hear people adding a ب to the beginning of present tense verbs. This applies to all subject pronouns. You will hear this frequently in almost every region in Jordan. People will understand you if you don't use the ب.

Example: To walk

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I walk	أنا بمْشي	ana bam-shii
You walk (m.)	إنْتَ بتمشي	Inta
You walk (f.)	إنْتِ بتمْشي	Inti
You walk (pl.)	إنْتوبتمْشو	Into
He walks	هُوَّ بيمشي	Hwwa

English	Arabic	Transliteration
She walks	هِيَّ بتمشي	Hyya
They walk	هُمّ بيمشوَ	Humma
We walk	إحنا بنمشي	iHna

Example: To like

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I like	أنا بحب	Ana
You like (m.)	إنْتَ بتحب	Inta
You like (f.)	إنْتِ بتحبي	Inti
You like (pl.)	إنْتوبتحبو	Into
He likes	هُوّ بيحب*	Hwwa
She likes	هِيَّ بتحب	Hyya
They like	هُمَّ بيحبو*	Humma
We like	إحنا بنحب	iHna

When you conjugate with the ب , you only need to use it on the first verb. Any following verbs will be conjugated in present tense based on the subject of the sentence, as in Section 8. For example:

*Ina **b**idee **a**rohh a'al dukan.*

*Heya **b**ithab **t**emshee*

10. Imperative

The imperative or command form is based on the present tense second forms. The imperative can be used in the affirmative "*open the door*" or negative "*don't open the door.*"

A. Affirmative Imperative

In general, the imperative is formed by taking the present tense conjugated with the subject pronouns, then dropping the first letter of the verbs, but every verb category has its exception:

1) Verbs with no long vowels: the first letter of the verb in the present tense is replaced by (إِ).

Example 1:

Verb (to open)	Imperative	Transliteration	Present	Transliteration
You (m.)	إِفْتَح	if-taH	تِفْتَح	tif-taH
You (f.)	إِفْتَحي	if-taHii	تِفْتَحي	tif-taHii
You (pl.)	إِفْتَحو	if-taHuu	تِفْتَحو	tif-taHuu

Example 2:

Verb (to drink)	Imperative	Transliteration	Present	Transliteration
You (m.)	إِشرَب	ish-rub	إِنْتَ تِشرب	tish-rub
You (f.)	إِشربي	ish-rubii	إِنْتِ تِشربي	tish-rubii
You (pl.)	إِشربو	ish-rubuu	إِنْتو تِشربو	tish-rubuu

2) Verbs with a long vowel in the middle: the first letter of the present tense is dropped.

Example 1:

Verb (to say)	Imperative	Transliteration	Present	Transliteration
You (m.)	قول	Guul	إِنْتَ تقول	inta **t-**guul
You (f.)	قولي	Guulii	إِنْتِ تقولي	inti **t-**guul**ii**
You (pl.)	قولو	Guuluu	إِنْتو تقولو	intu **t-**guul**uu**

Example 2:

Verb (to sleep)	Imperative	Transliteration	Present	Transliteration
You (m.)	نام	Naam	إِنْتَ تنام	inta **ta**naam

You (f.)	نامي	Naamii	إنْتِ تنامي	inti **ta**naami**i**
You (pl.)	نامو	Naamuu	إنْتو تنامو	intu **ta**naam**uu**

3. Verbs with a long vowel at the end: the first letter of the verb in the present tense in replaced with (إ)

Example 1:

Verb (to speak)	Imperative	Transliteration	Present	Transliteration
You (m.)	إحْكِي	iH-kii	إنْتَ تِحْكِي	inta tiH-kii
You (f.)	إحْكِي	iH-kii	إنْتِ تِحْكِي	inti tiH-kii
You (pl.)	إحْكُو	iH-kuu	إنْتو تِحْكو	intu tiH-kuu

Example 2:

Verb (to read)	Imperative	Transliteration	Present	Transliteration
You (m.)	إقْرا	ig-raa	إنْتَ تِقْرا	inta tig-raa
You (f.)	إقْري	ig-rii	إنْتِ تِقْري	inti tig-rii
You (pl.)	إقْرو	ig-ruu	إنْتو تِقْرو	intu tig-ruu

4. Verbs that are stressed: the first letter of the present tense is dropped

Example 1:

Verb (to put)	Imperative	Transliteration	Present	Transliteration
You (m.)	حُطْ	HuT-T	إنْتَ تحُطْ	inta tiHuT-T
You (f.)	حُطِّي	HuT-Tii	إنْتِ تحُطِّي	inti tiHuT-Tii
You (pl.)	حُطُّو	HuT-Tuu	إنْتو تحُطْو	intu tiHuT-Tuu

Example 2:

Verb (to reply)	Imperative	Transliteration	Present	Transliteration
You (m.)	رُد	rud-d	إِنْتَ ترُد	inta tarud-d
You (f.)	رُدِّي	rud-dii	إِنْتِ ترُدِّي	inti tarud-dii
You (pl.)	رُدُّو	rud-duu	إِنْتو ترُدُّو	intu tarud-duu

Note: categories 1 & 3 (no long vowel & long vowel at the end) have the same conjugation. Also, categories 2 & 4 (long vowel in the middle & stressed verbs) have the same conjugation.

B. Negative Imperative

The negative imperative or negative command uses the standard present tense conjugation (suffixes and prefixes) preceded by لا... (more common) or ما...

1) Verbs with no long vowels (يشرب)

Verb (to drink)	Imperative	Transliteration
You (m.)	لا تشرب	la tish-rub
You (f.)	لا تشربي	la tish-rubii
You (pl.)	لا تشربو	la tish-rubuu

2) Verbs with a long vowel in the middle (يقول)

Verb (to speak)	Imperative	Transliteration
You (m.)	لا تقول	la ta-guul
You (f.)	لا تقولي	la ta-guulii
You (pl.)	لا تقولو	la ta-guuluu

3) Verbs with a long vowel at the end (يبكي)

Verb (to cry)	Imperative	Transliteration
You (m.)	لا تبكي	la tab-kii
You (f.)	لا تبكي	la tab-kii
You (pl.)	لا تبكو	la tab-kuu

4) Verbs that are stressed (يحب)

Verb (to cry)	Imperative	Transliteration
You (m.)	لا تحب	la ta-heb
You (f.)	لا تحبي	la ta-hebii
You (pl.)	لا تحبو	la ta-hebuu

11. Future Tense

The future tense is formed by preceding the present tense verb with the participle (raH / رَحْ):

Example 1: To work

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I will work	أنا رَحْ أشْتَغِل	ana raH a<u>sh</u>-ta<u>gh</u>el
You will work (m.)	إنْتَ رَحْ تِشْتَغِل	inta raH ti<u>sh</u>-ta<u>gh</u>el
You will work (f.)	إنْتِ رَحْ تِشْتَغِلي	inti raH ti<u>sh</u>-ta<u>gh</u>lii
You will work (pl.)	إنْتو رَحْ تِشْتَغِلو	intu raH ti<u>sh</u>-ta<u>gh</u>luu
He will work	هُوّ رَحْ يِشْتَغِل	huwa raH yi<u>sh</u>-ta<u>gh</u>el
She will work	هِيَّ رَحْ تِشْتَغِل	hiya raH ti<u>sh</u>-ta<u>gh</u>el
They will work	هُمَّ رَحْ يِشْتَغلو	hum-ma raH yi<u>sh</u>-ta<u>gh</u>luu
We will work	إحنا رَحْ نِشْتَغِل	iHna raH ni<u>sh</u>-ta<u>gh</u>el

Example 2: To study

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I will study	أنا رَحْ أدرُسْ	ana raH **a**drus
You will study (m.)	إنْتَ رَحْ تِدرُسْ	inta raH **ti**drus
You will study (f.)	إنْتِ رَحْ تِدرُسي	inti raH **ti**drus**ii**
You will study (pl.)	إنْتو رَحْ تِدرُسو	intu raH **ti**drus**uu**
He will study	هُوّ رَحْ يِدرُسْ	hu-wa raH **yi**drus
She will study	هِيِّ رَحْ تِدرُسْ	hi-ya raH **ti**drus
They will study	هُمَّ رَحْ يِدرُسو	hum-ma raH **yi**drus**uu**
We will study	إحنا رَحْ نِدرُسْ	iHna raH **ni**drus

Example 1:
The volunteers will work with the Ministry of Education.

المُتَطوعين رَحْ يِشْتَغلو مَعْ وَزارَة التَربيَة و التَعْليم

Example 2:
They will go to the airport

رح يروحو على المطار

Example 3:
The trainees will go to their sites

المتدربين رَحْ يروحو على مواقعهم

While you will rarely use the present tense conjugation of "kaan" (كان) in the present, you can pair it with "rah" (رح) to use it in the future.

Examples:

They will be teachers in their new villages.

هم رَحْ يكونو معلمين في قراهم الجديدة.

She will be in Mafraq for the conference next week.

هي رَحْ تكون في المفرق عشان المؤتمر الأسبوع الجاي.

12. Past Tense

Like the present tense, there are four verb categories for the past tense. In general, the past tense is formed by conjugating the verb in the present tense with the subject pronoun أنا (*ana*), and dropping the أ. Then, certain suffixes are added depending on the subject pronoun (no prefixes are added in the past tense). Verbs with هُوَ (*huwa*) have no suffix added.

1) Verbs with no long vowels

Notice in the example(s) below, where the vowel markings for the subject pronouns huwa, hiya, and humma change from shrib to shirb. This applies to all verbs.

Example 1: To drink

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I drank	أنا شربتْ	ana shrib**it**
You drank (m.)	إنْتَ شربتْ	inta shrib**it**
You drank (f.)	إنْتِ شربتي	inti shrib**tii**
You drank (pl.)	إنْتو شربتو	intu shrib**tuu**
He drank	هُوّ شِربْ	hu-wa shirib
She drank	هِيَّ شِرْبَتْ	hi-ya shirb**at**
They drank	هُمَّ شِربْوُ	hum-ma shirb**uu**
We drank	إحنا شِربْنَا	iHna shrib**naa**

Example 2: to get tired

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I	أنا تعبت	Ana ta'abet
You (m.)	إنْتَ تعبت	Inta ta'abet
You (f.)	إنْتِ تعبتي	Inti ta'abetii
You (pl.)	إنْتو تعبتو	Into ta'abetuu
He	هُوّ تِعب	hu-wa ta'ab
She	هِيَّ تِعبت	hi-ya ta'abbet
They	هُمَّ تِعبو	hum-ma ta'abuu
We	إحنا تعبنا	iHna ta'abnaa

2) Verbs with a long vowel in the middle

For verbs with a long vowel in the middle, the same suffixes are added as in the example above, and the long vowel is replaced by a short vowel. With the subject pronouns هُوَّ, هِيَّ, هُمَّ the long vowel is replaced by (ا).

Note: In Type 2 verbs with a *shedda* over the vowel, the vowel acts as a consonant. It does not change in the past tense.

Example 1: To go (long vowel in the middle و)

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I went	أنا رُحْت	ana ruH-**t**
You went (m.)	إنْتَ رُحْت	inta ruH-**t**
You went (f.)	إنْتِ رُحْتي	inti ruH-**tii**
You went (pl.)	إنْتو رُحتو	intu ruH-**tuu**
He went	هُوَّ راح	hu-wa raaH
She went	هِيَّ راحَت	hi-ya raaH**at**
They went	هُمَّ راحُو	hum-ma raaH**uu**
We went	إحنا رُحنا	iHna ruH**naa**

I.   *Example 2:* To sleep (long vowel in the middle أ)

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I slept	أنا نمت	ana nimet
You slept (m.)	إنْتَ نمت	inta nimet
You slept (f.)	إنْتِ نمتي	inti nim-tii
You slept (pl.)	إنْتو نمتو	intu nim-tuu
He slept	هُوَّ نام	hu-wa naam
She slept	هِيَّ نامت	hi-ya naamat
They slept	هُمَّ نامو	hum-ma naamuu
We slept	إحنا نمنا	iHna nimna

*Note: In spoken Arabic, you do not hear the present tense of the verb "to be" in the ways we use it in English, such as with noun/adjective phrases or with any present

tense verbs ("The car *is* green" or "*Is* she coming over?"). However, we do use TO BE in the past tense as shown in the following example.

Example 3: To be

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I was	أنا كُنت	ana kun**t**
You were (m.)	إنْتَ كُنت	inta kun**t**
You were (f.)	إنْتِ كُنتي	inti kun**tii**
You were (pl.)	إنْتو كُنتو	intu kun**tuu**
He was	هُوّ كانْ	hu-wa kaan
She was	هِيَّ كانَتْ	hi-ya kaana**t**
They were	هُمَّ كانُو	hum-ma kaan**uu**
We were	إحنا كُنَّا	iHna kun-**naa**

The use of "to be" in the past tense is more similar to English: "The house *was* clean" (al-bayt kaan naD'iif) البيت كان نظيف or "She *was* eating dinner" (heya kaant teta'ashaa) هي كانت تتعشى.

3) Verbs with a long vowel at the end

Verbs with a long vowel at the end: if the long vowel is (ا) or (ى) it is replaced by (ي). Then add the same suffixes as shown above.

Example 1: I have dinner – أنا أتعشى

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I	أنا تعشيت	ana ta-Ashayt
You (m.)	إنْتَ تعشيت	inta ta-Ashayt
You (f.)	إنْتِ تعشيتي	inti ta-Ashaytii
You (pl.)	إنْتو تعشيتو	into ta-Ashaytuu
He	هُوّ تعشىَ	hu-wa ta-Ashaa
She	هِيَّ تعشت	hi-ya ta-Ashaat

English	Arabic	Transliteration
They	هُمَّ تعشو	hum-ma ta-Ashuu
We	إحنا تعشينا	iHna ta-Ashayna

Example 2: I sing - أغنّي

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I	أنا غنيت	ana gha-nayt
You (m.)	إنْتَ غنيت	inta gha-nayt
You (f.)	إنْتِ غنيتي	inti gha-naytii
You (pl.)	إنْتو غنيتو	into gha-naytuu
He	هُوّ غنّى	hu-wa ghan-naa
She	هِيَّ غنَّت	hi-ya ghan-net
They	هُمَّ غنّو	hum-ma ghan-nuu
We	إحنا غنينا	iHna gha-naynaa

4) Verbs that are stressed

Stressed verbs are conjugated in the same way as verbs with no long vowels. Remember to *stress* the shedda'd consonant, so you are pronouncing the consonant sound twice.

Example 1: I extend - أشدّ

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I	أنا شدّيت	ana shed-dayt
You (m.)	إنْتَ شدّيت	inta shed-dayt
You (f.)	إنْتِ شدّيتي	inti shed-daytii
You (pl.)	إنْتو شدّيتو	into shed-daytuu
He	هُوّ شدّ	hu-wa shed-da

English	Arabic	Transliteration
She	هِيَّ شدّت	hi-ya shed-det
They	هُمَّ شدّو	hum-ma shed-duu
We	إحنا شدّينا	iHna shed-naa

Example 2: I put - أَحُطَّ

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I	أنا حطّيت	ana Huut-tayt
You (m.)	إنْتَ حطّيت	inta Huut-tayt
You (f.)	إنْتِ حطّيتي	inti Huut-taytii
You (pl.)	إنْتو حطّيتو	into Huut-taytuu
He	هُوّ حطّ	hu-wa Huut-ta
She	هِيَّ حطّت	hi-ya Huut-tat
They	هُمَّ حطّو	hum-ma Huut-tuu
We	إحنا حطّينا	iHna Huut-naa

Section

D

13. Nouns & Adjectives

Arabic nouns have two genders: masculine and feminine. The gender influences the adjective modifying the noun as well as any verbs used with the noun. It is worth noting that there is little connection between whether an object is traditionally understood as "feminine" and whether it is a feminine noun. For example, the word for "dress" (fustan) is masculine.

While there are feminine plural nouns, they are treated as masculine plural for purposes of adjective and verb agreement.

Nouns

Feminine nouns are either words that refer to females like بنت **bint** (*girl*) and the word for (sun) **Shams** شمس is feminine, or words that end in "ta marbuuTa" (ة , ـة) like مدرسة **madrasa** (*school*). Almost all other nouns are masculine like ولد **walad** (*boy*) or صابون Saboon (soap). Exceptions are rare.

Adjectives

Unlike nouns, adjectives do not have inherent gender; rather, they change in order to agree in number and gender with the noun they are modifying. Adjectives in Arabic have four forms: masculine singular, feminine singular, masculine plural, and feminine plural (however, you will rarely hear the feminine plural). Most non-human plural objects (whether masculine or feminine) are described by the feminine singular form of the adjective. The feminine singular adjectives are usually formed by adding "taa marbuuTa" (ة , ـة) to the masculine form. Adjectives always come *after* the noun.
For example: **big cars -** سيارات كبيرة – **sayarat Kbieera**

Examples:

English	Arabic	Transliteration
Big/ Old	كبير/كبيرَة	kabiir / kabiira
Small / Young	زغير/زغيرَة	zaghiir / zaghiira
Tall	طويل/طويلَة	Tawiil / Tawiila
Short	قصير/قصيرة	gaSiir / gaSiira
A lot	كثير/كثيرَة	kathiir / kathiira
A little	قَليل/قَليلَة	galiil / galiila
New	جَديد/جَديدَة	jadiid / jadiida

14. Plural

The Arabic plural system, especially the irregular plural, is one of the most problematic parts of the Arabic language for non-native speakers. Most plurals appear irregular, but actually have a pattern based on internal changes (similar to mouse-mice or goose-geese in English), rather than adding suffixes (like "s" or "es" in English).

Fortunately, there are two more or less regular ways to make plurals in Arabic:

1) The masculine plural: adding (ين) to the masculine noun and changing the last short vowel to "كسرة". This is only for some masculine nouns which refer directly to men (or mixed company). This does not apply to non-human nouns, and there are human exceptions, such as *Tulab* طُلاب (student).

English	Arabic	
	Plural (m.)	**Singular (m.)**
Trainee (m.)	مُتَدَرِّبِين	مُتَدَرِّبْ
Volunteer (m.)	مُتَطَوِّعِين	مُتَطَوِّعْ
Teacher (m.)	مُعَلْمِين	مُعَلِّمْ

2) **The feminine plural**: it is usually formed by replacing the (ة) by (ات):

English	Arabic	
	Plural (f.)	**Singular (f.)**
Volunteer (f)	مُتَطَوِّعات	مُتَطَوِّعَة
Hour (f)	سَاعَات	سَاعَة
Plane (f)	طَيَّارات	طَيَّارَة

All other plural forms follow an internal pattern (or they are just completely irregular). Here are some common patterns:

3) **The broken plural**: it is called broken because the noun is split, or "broken" in the middle, and a long vowel is added. Finding the three-letter root and how it has been derived is a good way to notice the pattern in these types of verbs. We've shown you some regular broken plurals below to help show the pattern. For plurals which do not fit a regular pattern, the best way to learn is to memorize the plurals along with the singular when learning new vocabulary.

English	Arabic	
	Plural	Singular
Pen (m)	قْلامْ	قَلَم
Film (m)	أفلام	فلم
House (m)		
Flag (m)	أعلام	عَلم
Tooth (m)	أسنان	سِن
Gift (f)	هَدَايا	هَديَّة
President (m)	رُؤَساءْ	رَئيسْ

15. Before & After

1. <u>With Nouns:</u>

Add "before" or "after" before the noun, similar to how we use them in English.

Before قَبل   **(gebel + noun)**

After   بَعد   **(baεed + noun)**

Example(s)

They spoke to us after visiting the museum.	حكو معنا بعد زيارة المتحف	بعد
They spoke to us after they visited the museum.	حكو معنا بعد ما زارو المتحف	بعد ما

2. <u>With Verbs:</u>

To express before & after with a verb, add ما before the verb

Before قَبل ما   **(gebel ma + verb)**

After   بَعد ما   **(baεed ma + verb)**

I want to see her before the trip.	بدي أشوفها قبل السفر	قبل

I want to see her before I travel.	بدي أشوفها قبل ما أسافر	قبل ما

16. The Definite Article

The definite article in Arabic is ال (il, or al). It is written as part of the word, and in most cases, it is used in the same manner as "the" in English. There is no indefinite article in Arabic, such as "an" or "a", so indefinite nouns aren't preceded by anything.

One important exception is in proper nouns. In Arabic, it is included in many proper nouns, such as "the Jordan" الأردن or "the Saudi السعودية." There is no hard and fast rule as to which proper nouns have the definite article and which do not, so the only way to learn them is through memorization.

Here are some more examples:

Names with definite articles	Names without definite articles
الأردن/Jordan	مادبا/Madaba
الكويت/Kuwait	ماعين/Ma'een
السعودية/Saudi Arabia	معان/Ma'aan
العقبة/Aqaba	غور الصافي/The Saafi Valley
الطفيلة/Tafila	حسين/Hussein
البحر الميت/The Dead Sea	لبنان/Lebanon

Pronunciation

The definite article ال is pronounced as al- or el-, or sometimes just l-. When the article precedes certain sounds, the l- is not pronounced. It is assimilated into the following sound, and that sound, as a result, "doubles" or becomes stronger. For example, peace is pronounced as "as-salaam" السلام in Arabic, doubling the (s) sound instead of pronouncing the *lam.*

The sounds or letters that assimilated the l- of the definite article are:

ن	ل	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش	س	ز	ر	ذ	د	ث	ت

17. Comparative & Superlative

A. Comparatives

We use the comparative form of the adjective when comparing two things (e.g. bigger, smaller, older, etc.). There are two types of comparative adjectives in Arabic:

Adjectives with 4 letters or less

For adjectives with 4 or less letters, comparatives are formed by adding the letter (أ) as a prefix to the adjective and then dropping the (ي) if it comes as the third letter or the (ا) if it comes as the second letter. Finding the three-letter root can make this less confusing by helping you identify a clear pattern between adjectives and comparatives. For instance, the "ya" (ي) usually appears between the 2nd and 3rd letter of the root (kabeer كبير, Sagheer صغير). To form the comparative, remove the "ya" and add an "alif" to the beginning of the word. Similarly, for words like (barid) بارِد where the "alif" (ا) is between the 1st and 2nd letter, remove the "alif" from the middle of the word and add it to the beginning. When using the comparative for feminine adjectives the (ة) is dropped.

English	Arabic	Transliteration
Big (m.) / Bigger	كبير / أكبَر	kb**ii**r / **a**kbar
Pretty/Prettier		jam**ee**l/ **a**jmal
Old/ Older (for things, not people)		gad**ee**m/**a**gdam
Wide (f.) / Wider	واسَعة / أوسَع	w**a**seعa / **a**wsaع
Cold/Colder		b**aa**rid/ **a**brid
Fat/Fatter		n**aa**s-ha/ **a**n-sah (?)

To compare one thing to another, use the preposition (مِنْ) for "than."

Example:
- You (m.) are older than Ahmed

- إنتَ أكْبَر مِن أحْمَد

- My room is wider (f.) than yours

- غُرفتي أوسَع مِن غُرفِتَكْ

Adjectives with more than four letters

To form the comparative from adjectives that have more than four letters (or no identifiable three-letter root), we add the word "more" / (**ak**th**ar** / أكْثر) after the adjective without changing the form of the adjective itself:

English	Arabic	Transliteration
Worried (m.) / More worried	قلقان \ قلقان أكثر	galgan / galgan ak<u>th</u>ar
Hungry (f.) / More Hungry	جوعانة\ جوعانة أكثر	juعaana / juعaana ak<u>th</u>ar

Example:

- He is more happy than Omar   هُوَّ مْبْسوط أكْثر مِن عُمَر -

B. Superlatives

Superlatives describe the highest degree of the comparison of adjectives (e.g. biggest (big), smallest (small), oldest (old), etc.). In Arabic, superlatives are formed from the comparatives and using it with either the definite article or the first term of construct to form an *i-daafa* (see section **??**). We use the latter when we are identifying the superlative from among a group, such as "the youngest of the family" or "the best of the class".

Examples With the Definite Article

English	Arabic	Transliteration
Are you (f) the youngest?	إنتَ الأزْغرْ؟	inta laz-<u>gh</u>ar?
My brother Ahmad is the youngest	أَخُويْ أَحْمدْ هُو الأزْغر	a<u>kh</u>uuii aH-mad hu-wa laz-<u>gh</u>ar

With the First Term of the Construct:

English	Arabic	Transliteration
Are you (m) the youngest of all?	إنْتَ أزْغر الكُلْ؟	inta az-<u>gh</u>ar alkul
Saudi Arabia is the biggest country in the Middle East.	السُّعوديِّة أكْبر بَلَدْ في الشَرقْ الأوسَطْ	as-saعuudii-ya ak-bar balad fi <u>sh</u>-<u>sh</u>afg alausaT

More superlative examples with definite article or first term of construct:

English	Arabic	Transliteration
You are the youngest.	إنتِ الأزغَر	inti alaz-<u>gh</u>ar
This is the most beautiful car.	هاذي أحلَى سيّارَة	haa<u>dh</u>ihi aHla si-yaara

This book is the cheapest one.	هاذا الكتاب أرْخَص واحَد	haada l-kitaab ar-<u>kh</u>aS waaHad

Section

E

18. "Still / Not Yet" لِسَّا

A. The word لِسَّا,"still" maybe used as an independent particle, as in the following examples:

I still have time	لِسَّا عَنْدي وقْت
I am still living with my father and mother	أَنا لِسَّا سَاكْنة مَع أَبُوي وأُمِّي

Or, it can be preceded by a pronoun, as in:

| He is still in school | هو لِسَّا في المَدْرَسة |

B. لِسَّا is also used as an answer to a question, meaning "not yet":

Has the arrived? Not yet	وَصْلِتْ؟ لِسَّا
Have you read the paper? Not yet	قَرِيت الجَريدة؟ لِسَّا

19. "That"

The particle إِنْ is used similarly to the English "that" as a way to link two clauses. It is followed by either a noun or suffix pronoun, as in the following examples:

1.	Mr. Scott told me that he wants to see you (m.)	السَّيِّدْ سْكُوتْ حَكَى لِي إِنّه بِدُّه يْشُوفَك
2.	I thing that I need to rest a bit	أَظُنْ إِنِّي لازِمْ أَسْتَرِيحْ شْوَيْ
3.	I am sure that you are hungry.	أَكيد إِنَّك جوعان
4.	Do you know that the Embassy rented a nice house for you (m.)?	تِعرفْ إِنَّ السَفارَة استأجَرَت لَكْ بِيتْ حِلْو؟

As shown by these examples, when the clause that follows إِنْ starts with a noun (4), إِنْ stays as it is. However, if the clause that follows إِنْ starts with a verb (1 and 2), it is

necessary to attach a pronoun suffix to إنّ , rather than using a new subject pronoun. The pronoun suffix agrees with the subject of the verb. If the clause that follows إنّ is an equational sentence (such as "You are hungry," which would be written without the verb "to be" in Arabic) and it begins with a subject pronoun (3), the subject pronoun إنْتَ changes into a suffix pronoun (ك...) and attaches itself to إنّ.

For example:

| Equational Sentence | You are hungry. | إنْتَ جوعان |
| Sentence with "that" | I know that you're hungry. | بعرف إنّك جوعان |

20. "Become / Happen / Befall"

A. "To become" or "To happen"
The verb صار (Sar) has many uses in spoken Arabic. Used alone it can mean "to become" or "to happen." When used in this way, it is conjugated to fit the correct pronoun (I, you, he, etc.) and tense (past, future, etc.).

English	Arabic	Transliteration
She became a teacher	صارت مُدَّرسة	Saarat mud-darisa
What happened?	شو صار؟	shuu Saar?
An accident has happened	صار فيه حادث	Saar fii Haadeth
What will happen?	شو رَح يصير؟	shuu raH yeSiir?

B. "Have been" or "Has been"
Used with the preposition "li" (ل) plus the appropriate pronoun suffix, it means "have been" or "has been" and is used to describe spending time doing something.

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I have been	صار لي	Saarlii
You have been (m.)	صار لَك	Saarlak
You have been (f.)	صارلِك	Saarlik
You have been (pl.)	صار لكُو	Saaril-kuu
He has been	صار له	Saar-luh
She has been	صار لها	Saarlaha
They have been	صار لهُم	Saarlahum
We have been	صار لنا	Saarilna

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Examples:

English	Arabic	Transliteration
How long have you (m.) been here?	قديش صار لك هون؟	gadai<u>sh</u> Saarlak hoon?
I have been here for a week	صار لي أسبوع هون	Saarlii Osbuuع hoon

21. Conditional

Conditional sentences start with the word "if." The "if" clause describes a condition and the following clause state a result, e.g. "*If* you go tomorrow, I will see you there."

Generally in Arabic, the "if" clause is in the past tense, while the verb in the "result" clause can be in any tense. This rule is not absolute. Occasionally, in spoken Arabic, the present tense is used in the "if" clause.

In Arabic, there are two types of conditions:

- Possible or realizable conditions
- Impossible or unlikely conditions ("contrary to fact")

1. For possible conditional clauses, the word used for "if" is إذا

English	Arabic	Transliteration
If he asks you for 6 JD, tell him 3	إذا طلب منك 6 دنانير، قول له 3	
If you go tomorrow, I will see you there	إذا رُحت بُكرة، رح أشوفك هناك	

2. For contrary – to fact conditions, the word used for "if" is لُو

English	Arabic	Transliteration
If you had told me that he asked you for 6 JD, I'd tell him 3	لو قلت لي إنّه طلب منك 6 دنانير كان قلت له 3	
If I were in your shoes, I wouldn't stay silent.	لو إنِّي مكانك، ما بسكتأه	

More Examples

English	Arabic	Transliteration
If I take a taxi, how much should I pay?	إذا أخذ تكسي، قديش لازم أدفع؟	i<u>dh</u>a a<u>kh</u>e<u>dh</u> taksii, gadai<u>sh</u> laazim ad-faع
If he studied, he would have passed	لو دَرَس كان نجح	loo daras kaan najaH

22. Modal Expressions

مُمْكِنْ & لازمْ

Modals in English are words such as "must, ought to, can, could, should, need to, may, might, and have to." In Arabic, we use either مُمْكِنْ & لازمْ.

A. لازمْ – need to, have to, must, ought to, should, it is necessary that

1. The word covers a lot of different meanings, as seen in the above definitions. You will have to rely on context to know which meaning your speaker intends.
2. It is used to express a sense of necessity or obligation
3. It is invariable (always has the same form)
4. It is followed by a present tense verb
5. To conjugate in the past, add appropriately conjugated version of "kan" كان

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I have to practice as much as possible	لازَمْ أَتْمَرَّنْ قَدَرْ الإِمْكَان	laazam at-mar-ran gadar al im-kaan
We should speak Arabic with each other	لازِمْ نِحكُي عَرَبِي مع بعض	laazim niH-kii عarabii maaع-baعad

B. مُمْكِنْ – can, could, may, might, it is possible that
1. When preceding a present tense verb, مُمْكِنْ generally acts as the modal of possibility
2. It is invariable (always has the same form)

English	Arabic	Transliteration
It's possible they studied Arabic before they came to Jordan.	مُمْكِنْ	mum-kin darasuu al-lughat aarabii gebil ijuu lil-orduun

English	Arabic	Transliteration
I can help you	أَنا مُمْكِنْ أَسَاعْدك	ana mum-kin asaaع-dak

3. When مُمْكِنْ is used alone, or followed by an equational sentence or a past tense verb, it means "perhaps" or "maybe"

English	Arabic	Transliteration
Maybe she's at the office	مُمْكِنْ هِيَ في المَكْتَبْ	mum-kin hi-ya fi l-mak-tab
Perhaps they arrived last night	مُمْكِنْ وِصْلُو اللِّيلة المَاضْية	mum-kin wiS-luu l-laila l-maaD-ya

C. Negative مُمْكِنْ & لازمْ

To negate a modal phrase, add مِش before the modal word.

English	Arabic	Transliteration
You (sing.m.) don't have to help me	مشْ لازمْ تْسَاعدني	mish laazim t-saaع-d-nii
Can't you try?	مشْ مُمْكِنْ تْحَاوْلي؟	mish mum-kin t-Haauu-lii
We don't have to study today	مشْ لازِمْ نُدْرُسْ اليْومْ	mish laazim tud-rus alyoom
I can't speak French	مشْ مُمْكِنْ أَتْكَلَّمْ بالفَرَنْسِيِّة	mish mum-kin atakalam bil-faran-sii-ya

23. Negations

1. لا laa (no): used when giving a command or answering a question. When used by itself, there is usually a glottal stop at the end: لأْ

لا تروح لحالك، رح تيجي اليوم؟ لأ، لا تدخن...الخ

2. ما maa (not) is used mainly with verbs:

ما أدخن، ما بحب ريحة الدُخان، ما روحت على الحفلة، ما رح أسافِر...الخ

3. مِشْ mish (not) is used mainly with adjectives and nouns

أنا مش مبسوط، أنا مش إبراهيم، أنا مش دكتور...الخ

4. بِدونْ biduun (without) is used with nouns:

بحب الشاي بدون سكر، بدون احراج...الخ

5. ما في maafii (there is no) is used with nouns:

ما في فلوس، ما في ناس بالبيت، ما في مُخ...الخ

6. Verb (present tense starts with b) + iish: ـش

I don't drink بشرب =, I can't بقدرش =

7. Maa + (verb past tense) + iish = negated past tense verb

بحبِش القهوة بـسكر، ما روحتِش على الحفلة امبارح...الخ

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24. Relative Clauses

Relative clauses "relate" back to something or someone in the main clause. For example, in the sentence: This is the suitcase *which arrived yesterday,* "which arrived yesterday" is the relative clause. It gives further information about the "suitcase."

In spoken Arabic, it is sometimes easier to think of relative clauses as two complete, related sentences sometimes connected by a relative pronoun. In spoken Arabic, "*illee*" اللي is a commonly used relative pronoun, although you also might find that some people don't use any relative pronouns at all. Here are some examples:

A. Definite noun (e.g. **the** suitcase)
   If the antecedent of the relative clause is a definite noun, the relative pronoun must be used to link the two clauses. Both phrases on either side of the relative pronoun must be able to stand alone as two related, but independent and complete, ideas. The verb in the relative clause much be conjugated according to the object it is modifying.

   Definite noun   relative pronoun   verb

This is **the suitcase** **which** **arrived** yesterday.	هَاذِي هِيِّ الشّنْطَة اللِّي وِصْلتْ امْبَارِحْ

   Directly translated into English, this would sound like: "This is the suitcase *that* It arrived yesterday."[3]

B. Indefinite noun (e.g. **a** suitcase)
   If the antecedent of the relative clause is an indefinite noun, the relative pronoun is not used to link the two clauses. Otherwise, the same rules apply as above.

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[3] To help yourself get used to different sentence structure, pay attention to how an Arabic speaker who is not very good at English constructs sentences in English. Often, they will use English words but with Arabic grammar, which makes it easy to listen for grammatical differences.

This is **a suitcase** **which** **arrived** yesterday.	هَاذِه شّنْطَة وِصْلت امْبَارِحْ

C. 1. If the verb in the relative clause is transitive, meaning it must take a direct object in order to make sense, and it refers back to antecedent as direct object, that verb must take a "dummy" pronoun object that agrees in number and gender with the antecedent. Basically, you must add a pronoun to the verb in the relative clause that corresponds with the object in the original clause so that the second part of the phrase could make sense as an independent clause.

This applies to both definite and indefinite antecedent:

This is the suitcase they found (*it*).	**هَاذِي هِيِّ الشّنْطَة اللّي لَقَوهَا**
This is a suitcase they found (*it*).	**هَاذِي شّنطَة لَقَوهَا**

2. The relative clause must always refer back to the object. In this example, we must add a preposition and a pronoun to ensure that a) we have two independent clauses and b) we know exactly to what the relative clause is referring.

I visited the school where she studies (*in it*).	زُرْت المَدْرَسِة اللّي بْتُدْرُسْ فِيهَا

25. The i-Daafa الإضافة

The i-daafa construct is used to express possession or to describe a relationship between two nouns. It's a phrase that can generally be translated to "_____ of _____" (even if that's not how we'd phrase it in English.)

1. Possession
   a. When the possessor is a proper noun, we add it *after* the noun, like an adjective to express possession.

Megan's house *(the house of Megan)*	بيت ميغان	beyt maygan
Dana's book *(the book of Dana)*	كتاب دانة	kitab dana

   b. When describing a feminine noun, the taa-marbuta becomes a taa (in pronunciation but the written form stays the same).

| Abu Hamza's car | سيارة أبو حمزة | siyaara**T** abu hamza |
| Fatima's picture | صورة فاطمة | soora**T** fatima |

c. If we are not using a proper noun, we add the definite article to the possessor noun only. For describing feminine nouns, the taa-marbuta still changes into a taa. If you use a possessive pronoun with the possessor noun, you do not need to add "al", because the possessive pronoun acts as the definite article.

the student's book	.كتاب الطالب	Kitab al-taliba
the teacher's car	سيارة المعلمة	Siyaraat al-muaalima
my father's car	سيارة أبوي	siyaraat abuee
her sister's dress	فستان اختها	fustaan u<u>kh</u>t-ha

2. Other i-Daafa phrases: I-Daafa's are used in other contexts as well. These phrases can be translated to "_____ of _____". Sometimes these directly correlate to English examples, and other times they don't. Firag as-salaam – فرق السلام (Peace Corps) is one example you should already be pretty familiar with.

For example: bank al-askaan – بنك الاسكان, feraq al-salaam – فرق السلام

3. I-Daafas can sometimes be very long. In any case, only the final word in the i-daafa will include the definite article, and all "ta-maarbuta" will be pronounced as a t sound.

EXAMPLES

26. Noun-Adjective Phrases

To make a noun-adjective phrase in English a complete sentence, you must use the verb "to be" between the noun and the adjective.

*The car **is** green. The house **is** big.*

Arabic speakers do not use the verb "to be" in this way. Instead, noun-adjective sentences are formed based on placement of the definite article, and the verb "to be" is understood. Unlike in an i-Daafa phrase, the "ta-maarbuta" is still pronounced "ah" and not "t", even though it's connected to a word after.   You can distinguish between these two types of phrases by noticing where the definite article appears in the phrase. For noun-adjective sentences, only the first word will have a definite article; in an i-Daafa, the first word has no definite article, but all following words do.

| The car is green. | السيارة خضرة | ***Assayara*** *khadra.* |
| The house is big. | البيت كبير | ***Al**-bayt kabeer.* |

When both the noun and the adjective have the definite article, the phrase is no longer a complete sentence. However, "to be" is still not needed here—you can add adjectives, verbs or prepositions to finish the sentence, as long as they do not have a definite article.

The green car is big.	السيارة الخضرة كبيرة	**As**-sayaraa **al**-khadra kabeera.
The green car is in front of the house.	السيارة الخضرة قدام البيت	**As**-sayaraa **al**-khadra guddaam al-bayt
The big house is beautiful	البيت الكبير جميل	**Al**-bayt **al**-kabeer jameel

Remember, the adjective always follows the noun in Arabic.

_____