

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #1

Hello. How Are You?

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DIALOGUE - STANDARD ARABIC

MAIN

1. أمينة : مرحبا
2. مريم : مرحبا، كيف حالك؟
3. أمينة : بخير الحمد لله، و أنت؟
4. مريم : بخير، الحمد لله.

ENGLISH

1. Amina : Hello.
2. Maryam : Hello. How are you?
3. Amina : Fine, thanks be to God. And you?
4. Maryam : Fine, thanks be to God.

ROMANIZATION

1. 'amiīnah : marḥaban
2. maryam : marḥaban, kayfa ḥal-uki?
3. 'amiīnah : biḥayr al-ḥamdu lillah, wa'anti?
4. maryam : biḥayr, al-ḥamdu lllah.

VOWELLED

1. أَمِينَةَ : مَرْحَبًا
2. مَرْيَمَ : مَرْحَبًا، كَيْفَ حَالُكَ؟
3. أَمِينَةَ : بِخَيْرِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، وَأَنْتِ؟
4. مَرْيَمَ : بِخَيْرِ، الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ.

DIALOGUE - MOROCCAN ARABIC

MAIN

1. أمينة : السلام عليكم
2. مريم : و عليكم السلام، كيف دايرة؟
3. أمينة : لباس، الحمد لله. و انت؟
4. مريم : بخير الحمد لله.

ENGLISH

1. Amina : Peace be upon you.
2. Maryam : And peace be upon you too. How are you?
3. Amina : No harm, thanks be to God. And you ?
4. Maryam : Fine, thanks be to God.

ROMANIZATION

1. 'amiina : s-salaamu calikum.
2. maryam : wa calikum s-salaam, kif dayra?
3. 'amiina : labaas, l-Hamdu llah. W nti?
4. maryam : bi-khir l-Hamdu llah.

VOWELLED

1. أَمِيْنَةَ : السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُم.
2. مَرْيَمَ : وَعَلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامُ، كَيْفَ دَائِرَةٌ؟
3. أَمِيْنَةَ : لَبَّاسُ، الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ. وَ أَنْتِ؟
4. مَرْيَمَ : بِخَيْرٍ، الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ.

VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
بخير (Standard)	biḥayr	fine	adjective	
كيف حالك؟	kayfa ḥal-uka?	How are you? (masc. singular)	phrase	masculine
الحمد لله	al-ḥamdu lillaah	Praise be to God.	phrase	
كيف حالك؟	kaifa ḥaaluki?	How are you? (fem. singular)	phrase	feminine
مرحبا	marḥaban	Hello, hi.	greeting	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

نحن بخير. نَحْنُ بِخَيْرٍ. <i>naḥnu biḥayr.</i> We're fine.	أنا بخير. أَنَا بِخَيْرٍ. <i>'anaa biḥayr.</i> I'm fine.
مرحبا ليلي. مَرْحَبًا لَيْلَى. <i>marḥaban Layla.</i> Hello Layla.	مرحبا بكم. مَرْحَبًا بِكُمْ. <i>marḥaban bikum.</i> Welcome to all of you.

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson, we will cover the usage of the question "kayfa ḥaaluki?" (How are you?) This question is made up of two words: kayfa (how) and ḥaaluki (you're doing). This expression changes depending on whether you're addressing a man or a woman, in a singular or plural form. What changes in the phrase is the second word "ḥaaluki." Literally, "ḥaaluki" can be translated as "your state", meaning "How's your state / How are you?" Its equivalent in the masculine form is "ḥaaluka." Therefore, "kayfa ḥaaluka?" means "How are you?" when addressing a man. Note that the only difference is the sound "a" at the end of the suffix "ka" that indicates the possessive "your." Now, let's go back to where this appeared in the conversation. Since Maryam is talking to Amina, a woman, naturally she uses the feminine form of "how are you" which is "kayfa ḥaaluki?" **To recap, "How are you?" is "kayfa ḥaaluki?" when addressing a woman and "kayfa ḥaaluka?" when addressing a man. In the next Newbie lesson, we will learn how to say "How are you?" when addressing a group of people.**

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Referring to God, "Allah", in conversations and language is pretty common in Arabic. Since Islam is the dominant religion in Arab countries, people always use expressions such as "In the name of God" (bismi llaah) or "Thanks be to God" ('al-ḥamdu lillaah). In our dialog today, we used the expression "biḥayr, 'al-ḥamdu lillaah" (I'm fine, thanks be to God) as a typical response to "How are you?" In this case, the speaker is thanking God for good health and well being. People in Arabic-speaking countries also use this expression in various other contexts, like after finishing a meal. Typically, one would say "'al-ḥamdu lillaah", and in this case, it means "Thanks be to God" for the good food.