

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

Making Arabic Introductions

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#1

DIALOGUE - ARABIC

MAIN

1. خالد : السلام عليكم

2. محمد : و عليكم السلام، تفضل

3. مها : مرحبا خالد!

4. خالد : أهلا مها، كيف الحال؟

5. مها : كل شيء ممتاز شكرا!

6. محمد : بخير و الحمد لله.

ENGLISH

1. Khalid : Peace be upon you.

2. Mohammad : And peace be with you, come in.

3. Maha : Hello Khalid!

4. Khalid : Hello Maha, how are things?

5. Maha : All is great, thanks!

6. Mohammad : Good, thanks to God.

ROMANIZATION

1. ḥalid : al-ssalāmu ‘alaīkum
2. muḥammad : wa ‘alaīkum alssalām, tafadḍaal
3. mhā : marḥaban ḥalid!
4. ḥalid : ‘ahlan mahā, kaīfa al-ḥal?
5. mahā : kulu šay’in mumtāz, šukran!
6. muḥammad : biḥaīrin wa al-ḥamdu lilah.

VOWELLED

1. خَالِدٌ : السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ
2. مُحَمَّدٌ : وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ، تَفَضَّلْ
3. مَهَا : مَرْحَبًا خَالِدًا!
4. خَالِدٌ : أَهْلًا مَهَا، كَيْفَ الْحَالُ؟
5. مَهَا : كُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُمْتَاZ، شُكْرًا!
6. مُحَمَّدٌ : بِخَيْرٍ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ.

VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
كل شيء	kullu šay'	everything	expression	
ممتاز	mumtaaz	great, excellent	adjective	
الحال	al-ḥal	state	noun	masculine singular
(Standard) كيف	kayfa	how	pronoun	
بخير	biḥayr	fine, I'm fine.		
(Standard) و	wa	and	conjunction	
تفضل	tafaḍḍal	welcome; come in!	verb	masculine singular
مرحبا	marḥaban	hello, hi; welcome	expression	
و السلام عليكم / عليكم السلام	al-salāmu 'alaykum / wa 'alaykum al-salām	peace be upon you / and peace be with you, too	phrase	
أهلا	'ahlan	hello	interjection	neutral
(Egyptian) شكرا	šukran	thank you	phrase	
الحمد لله	al-ḥamdu lilah	thanks to God	expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

كل شيء ممتاز كُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُّمْتَاز	كل شيء ممتاز كُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُّمْتَاز
<i>kullu šay'in mumtāz</i>	<i>kullu šay'in mumtāz</i>
Everything is great.	Everything is great.
كيف الحال؟ كَيْفَ الْحَالِ؟	كم سنة ذهبت إلى المدرسة؟ كَمْ سَنَةً ذَهَبْتَ إِلَى الْمَدْرَسَةِ؟
<i>kayfa al-ḥal?</i>	<i>kam sanaʿan ḡahabta 'ilā al-madrasah ?</i>
How is your state?	How many years did you go to school?

<p>كيف نستخدم هذا؟ كَيْفَ نَسْتَحْدِمُ هَذَا؟</p> <p><i>kayfa tastaḥdim Hādā ?</i></p> <p>How do you use this?</p>	<p>قل لي كيف أستعمل جهاز التحكم. قُلْ لِي كَيْفَ اسْتَعْمِلُ جِهَازَ التَّحَكُّمِ.</p> <p><i>qul liī kayfa 'asta'milu ġihāza al-ttaḥakkum.</i></p> <p>Tell me how to use the remote control.</p>
<p>كيف حالة الجو في القاهرة؟ كَيْفَ حَالَةُ الْجَوِّ فِي الْقَاهِرَةِ؟</p> <p><i>kayfa ḥālat aġġaw fil-qāhirah?</i></p> <p>What's the weather like in Cairo?</p>	<p>كيف حالك؟ كَيْفَ حَالُكَ؟</p> <p><i>kayfa ḥāluk?</i></p> <p>How are you?</p>
<p>مرحباً, كيف الحال؟ مَرْحَباً، كَيْفَ الْحَالِ؟</p> <p><i>marḥaban, kayfa al-ḥal?</i></p> <p>Hello, how are you?</p>	<p>كيف حالكم؟ كَيْفَ حَالِكُمْ؟</p> <p><i>kayfa ḥal-ukum?</i></p> <p>How are you / How are you doing? (plural)</p>
<p>هل أنت بخير؟ هَلْ أَنْتَ بِخَيْرٍ؟</p> <p><i>hal 'anta biḥayr?</i></p> <p>Are you fine?</p>	<p>أنا و أحمد ذهبنا إلى السينما. أَنَا وَ أَحْمَدُ ذَهَبْنَا إِلَى السِّيْمَا.</p> <p><i>'anā wa 'aḥmad ḍahbnā 'ilā al-sīnimā.</i></p> <p>Me and Ahmed went to the cinema.</p>
<p>تفضل لو سمحت تَفَضَّلْ لَوْ سَمَّحْتَ</p> <p><i>tafaḍḍal law samaḥt</i></p> <p>Come in please</p>	<p>مرحباً, كيف الحال؟ مَرْحَباً، كَيْفَ الْحَالِ؟</p> <p><i>marḥaban, kayfa al-ḥaal-?</i></p> <p>Hello, how are you?</p>

<p>المسلمون يقولون "السلام عليكم" عند التحية، و يقولون " و عليكم السلام" عند رد التحية.</p> <p>المُسْلِمُونَ يَقُولُونَ "السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ" عِنْدَ التَّحِيَّةِ، وَ يَقُولُونَ " وَ عَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ" عِنْدَ رَدِّ التَّحِيَّةِ.</p> <p><i>al-muslimūn yaqūlūn "al-salāmu 'alaykum" 'inda al-taḥiyyah, wa yaqūlūn " wa 'alaykum al-salām" 'inda radd al-taḥiyyah.</i></p> <p>Muslims say "Peace be upon you" to greet, and say "and peace be with you, too" to reply to the greeting.</p>	<p>أهلاً! إنفضل!</p> <p>أهلاً! إنفَضَّل!</p> <p><i>'hlan! 'itfaḍḍal!</i></p> <p>Hello! Please come in! (Egyptian Arabic)</p>
<p>شكراً على الدعوة.</p> <p><i>šokran 'ala-dda'wah</i></p> <p>Thank you for the invitation.</p>	<p>شكرا لكم</p> <p>شُكْرًا لَكُمْ</p> <p><i>shukran lakum</i></p> <p>Thank you all.</p>
<p>شكرا يا سيدي.</p> <p>شُكْرًا يَا سَيِّدِي</p> <p><i>šukran yā sayyidī</i></p> <p>Thank you sir.</p>	<p>شكرا يا سيدتي</p> <p>شُكْرًا يَا سَيِّدَتِي</p> <p><i>šukran yā sayyidati.</i></p> <p>Thank you madam.</p>

الحمد لله على كل شيء.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ.

al-ḥamdu lilah 'alā kulli šay'.

Thank you God for everything.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. The holy Quran encourages Muslims to use the word "God" often when they speak. Because of this, you will find a lot of phrases in Arabic that wouldn't be said as often in English. "alHamdulillah" (thanks to God) is one of these, and if you have Arab friends, you may also hear "insha'allah" (God willing) a lot. Learning a language is more than just learning the vocabulary and the grammar; you also have the local conversation patterns.

GRAMMAR

Grammar point: Pronunciation of some difficult Arabic letters

خالد: السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

"Peace be upon you (= Hello)."

The pronunciation of Arabic is quite challenging; there are many sounds that are unfamiliar to English speakers. So we'll actually teach you the pronunciation in two installments. Today, we'll look at one set of unfamiliar sounds, and in lesson 3 we'll look at the rest. The first new sound is the glottal stop. In the Lesson Notes PDF, this one is indicated with an apostrophe. The glottal stop occurs in the word أهلاً ('ahlan) for "hello". It is not so much what you hear as what you don't hear - there's a stop before the A, as in the English expression "uh-oh". The sound in the middle of "uh-oh" is a glottal stop.

Next, there's the ´ayn. The ´ayn is a sound that has to come from deep in the throat. In this lesson, we heard the ´ayn in the expression السلام عليكم (assalaam ´alaykum), "Peace be with you". Go to the vocabulary section in the Premium Learning Center and play this expression over and over to familiarize yourself with the sound of ´ayn.

Finally, the khaa. This one should be easy if you already learned German or Dutch. It's basically the same sound as in the name "Bach". In this lesson, it appeared in the name Khalid and also in the expression بخير (biḥayr), "good". Again, we recommend using the Premium Learning Center in order to familiarize yourself with the sound of this letter.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cultural point: Greetings and replies Most of the times people use "السلام عليكم" (assalaam ´alaykum) as it works for any time of the day, with anyone, regardless of the age, cultural & social status, education or otherwise. Its both formal and informal, and always very polite to use. The second most common greeting is "مرحبا" (marhaban), which means Hello, and Hello back, also formal and informal. The third greeting, "أهلاً" ('ahlan) is used the same way as "marhaban" and it is just as common. Most of the Arabic greetings are used equally formal and informal, the intonation makes the difference when addressing someone.