

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Beginner S1 #1

What is his name?

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INTRODUCTION

May: Marhaban, ismi May.

Danya: Ana Danya.

Timothy: Timothy here! Beginner Series, Lesson 1 - This is my friend? What kind of Arabic are we going to learning in this series?

May: We're going to focus on Modern Standard Arabic or MSA.

Danya: This is the form of Arabic that is used for writing and that you will hear in the news.

Timothy: That sounds great. I'll be able to read books and understand those free online newspapers and online news broadcast. But, what about speaking with your friends? Would you use Modern Standard Arabic?

Danya: No. MSA is used mostly for official communications. My friends and I use a regional dialect when talking to each other.

Timothy: Then why would I wanna learn Modern Standard Arabic?

Danya: Because it's a standard. If you learn MSA then you will be able to talk to people throughout the Arab world.

May: If you learned Jordanian dialect, you may have trouble understanding Moroccan speech.

Timothy: Why is that?

May: Each region has its own way of pronouncing things and its own words.

Timothy: So, where can I go to learn a regional dialect?

Danya: You could go to ArabicPod101.com and check out all the regional series lessons.

Timothy: Okay. This conversation takes place at the airport.

Danya: May is picking me up at the airport and she has brought a friend that I'll be meeting for the first time.

Timothy: The politeness level will be formal and we'll focus on introductions. Make sure you come by ArabicPod101.com and check out the transcripts, transliteration and translations in the PDF for this lesson. Let's get into today's conversation.

LESSON CONVERSATION

مي صباح الخير، يا دانية.

دانية صباح النور، يا مي.

مي هذا صديقي. إسمه تيموثي.

دانية تشرفنا. أنا دانية.

تيموثي تشرفنا، يا دانية.

Timothy: Now, with the English translation.

May: الآن الترجمة بالإنكليزية

مي صباح الخير، يا دانية.

Timothy: Good morning, Danya.

دانية صباح النور، يا مي.

Timothy: Good morning, May.

مي هذا صديقي. إسمه تيموثي.

Timothy: This is my friend. His name is Timothy.

دانية تشرفنا. أنا دانية.

Timothy: It's nice to meet you. I'm Danya.

تيموثي تشرفنا، يا دانية.

Timothy: It's nice to meet you, Danya.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Timothy: So how realistic was this conversation? Is it common for women to have male friends in the Middle East?

Danya: Well, it all depends on what you mean by having friends.

Timothy: How so?

Danya: For example. My cousin, Hala, enjoys friendships with men in your college but she finds it inappropriate to hug them.

Timothy: Really? I hug my close friends all the time in college. Why does Hala feel hugging your friends would be inappropriate?

Danya: People are subconsciously aware of sexuality and it's not that the culture pressures people not to interact with the opposite sex, it's just that it happens within limitations and boundaries.

Timothy: Okay. And so, one of those boundaries is with your friends, you know, guys that are not part of your family. You're just not going to hug them?

Danya: Right.

Timothy: Okay. Great.

Danya: Some people will choose to extend a handshake...

Timothy: Yeah.

Danya: And greet them. But, a hug might not be the most appropriate thing to do.

Timothy: A hug might be too much.

Danya: Right.

Timothy: Okay.

Danya: Although some people would do that.

Timothy: So I would be better off just greeting Hala, with a handshake?

May: Actually, that varies from a person to another. My friend Sarah, for example, tries to interact with men as little as possible. She won't talk to her male co-workers about her personal life. And when she greets them, she won't even shake hands with them either.

Danya: Yeah. But my cousin Hala would be fine with a handshake and I even know people who are fine with a kiss on the cheek.

Timothy: How interesting. So, how can I tell what would be appropriate in the Middle East, you know, if Hala will accept the handshake but Sarah doesn't. And you say, you have friends that would even accept a kiss on the cheek. How can I tell what would be the appropriate physical gesture to go along with meeting somebody?

Danya: Right. Well, your best bet is just to stand back and watch how the other people in the group are acting. So, if they're shaking hands then you offer yours. And if their extending a hug then you can also do that.

Timothy: Okay.

Danya: So it really depends on what group you're in.

Timothy: So for the listeners out there. We're going to have a really detailed write up on what we talked about today.

VOCAB LIST

Timothy: Now, we will take a look at the vocabulary and phrases for this lesson. First word:

May: تشرفنا [natural native speed]

Timothy: We are honored

May: تشرفنا [slowly - broken down by syllable]. تشرفنا [natural native speed]

Timothy: Next word.

May: صباح الخير [natural native speed].

Timothy: Good morning.

May: صباح الخير [slowly - broken down by syllable]. صباح الخير [natural native speed].

Timothy: Next word.

May: صباح النور [natural native speed].

Timothy: "Good morning". Used as a reply.

May: صباح النور [slowly - broken down by syllable]. صباح النور [natural native speed].

Timothy: Next word.

May صديق [natural native speed]

Timothy: Friend.

May: صديق [slowly - broken down by syllable]. صديق [natural native speed]

Timothy: Next word.

May: صديقة [natural native speed]

Timothy: "Friend". This time talking about a female.

May: صديقة [slowly - broken down by syllable]. صديقة [natural native speed]

Timothy: Next word.

May: إسم [natural native speed]

Timothy: name

May: إسم [slowly - broken down by syllable]. إسم [natural native speed]

KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES

Timothy: Now, let's have a look at the usage for some other words and phrases. The first phrase we will look at is صباح الخير (ṣabāḥu al-ḥaīr) Danya, when would you use this phrase?

Danya: I would use صباح الخير just like I would use "good morning" in the United States.

Timothy: So from like, when you wake up in the morning until lunch time or noon or so?

Danya: Absolutely.

Timothy: All right. May. If someone were to greet you with صباح الخير, How would you respond?

May: صباح النور (ṣabāḥ an-nuūr)

Timothy: What does that mean?

May: It means "good morning" but it's a little stronger.

Timothy: How so?

May: Well, the word نور (nuūr) means light. So it's more like saying "bright morning."

Timothy: If I were feeling like particularly happy one morning, could I greet someone with صباح النور (ṣabāḥ an-nuūr)?

May: No. صباح النور (ṣabāḥ an-nuūr) is used only when you reply for صباح الخير (ṣabāḥu al-ḥaīr)

Timothy: Okay. What if it were evening. How would I greet someone? Could you two demonstrate for me?

May: Sure. مساء الخير يا دانيا.,

Danya: مساء النور يا مي.,

Timothy: You used a new word there. Can you repeat it?

May: مساء [natural native speed]. مساء [slowly - broken down by syllable]. مساء [natural native speed].

Timothy: Does مساء mean "evening"?

May: Yes. In the evening, we say مساء الخير.

Timothy: Okay. So what do you mean by "evening" like what, from what time to what time?

May: Well, evening, for, like personally, I would use evening between 5: 00 and night time.

Danya: 'til midnight.

May: 'til midnight.

Timothy: So in the morning, we say...

Danya: صباح الخير

May: صباح النور

Timothy: And in the evening, it's...

May: مساء الخير.

Danya: مساء النور.

Timothy: What about the afternoon, what would you say then?

May: مرحباً.

Danya: أهلاً.

Timothy: So in the afternoon we would just say, "hello". Can we hear those words again?

May: مرحباً [natural native speed]. مرحباً [slowly - broken by syllable]. مرحباً [natural native speed].

Timothy: And the other word for "hello"?

May: أهلاً [natural native speed]. أهلاً [slowly - broken by syllable]. أهلاً [natural native speed].

Danya: There's another important greeting.

Timothy: Oh yeah? What is it ?

Danya: السلام عليكم.

May: و عليكم السلام .

Timothy: Oh yeah, I know that one. Let's repeat it for the listeners.

May: السلام عليكم [natural native speed]

Timothy: Peace be upon you.

May: السلام عليكم [slowly - broken by syllable]. السلام عليكم [natural native speed].

Timothy: And the reply?

May: وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ [natural native speed].

Timothy: And upon you, peace.

May: وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ [slowly - broken by syllable] .: وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ [natural native speed].

Timothy: So, when I visited the mosque, I heard that phrase from everybody, even people who didn't speak Arabic. So I was under the impression that السلام عليكم was sort of religious.

Danya: Well, Islam's a very important part of Arabic culture.

May: Yeah. In Jordan, at least, 9 out of 10 people are Muslim.

Danya: So we use السلام عليكم just like saying "hello".

Timothy: Really? So it must be pretty common to hear السلام عليكم

May: Yeah. See, like you said, Muslims are all over the world. They use the word السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ even if they don't know Arabic.

Danya: But I often shorten it to just سلام.

Timothy: How interesting. Let's have a more thorough look at the grammar used in this lesson.

LESSON FOCUS

Timothy: Today, we'll look at possessive suffixes. A possessive suffix is an ending to a word that means "my", "your", "his" or "her". Let's go back to where this appeared in the conversation. Can you repeat that sentence?

May: هذا صديقي

Timothy: "This is my friend." This sentence uses just one word to mean "my friend". Can you break that word down for us?

May: صديقي is made of صديق which means "friend" and the sound "E" which means "my" صديقي "my friend".

Timothy: Okay. Let's look at the other example from the dialog.

May: اسمه تيموثي.

Timothy: "His name is Timothy." "His name" is expressed with the single word اسمه. Can you break it down for us?

May: اسمه is made of اسم which means "name" and the sound "hu" which means "his", اسمه "his name".

Timothy: Okay. Let's give our listeners some more examples so they can start practicing.

May: اسمي مي.

Timothy: My name is May.

May: اسمها دانيا

Timothy: Her name is Danya.

May: هل اسمك تيموثي؟

Timothy: "Is your name Timothy?" نعم "yes".

May: ما إسمُك؟

Timothy: "What is your name?". This is used when asking a woman. How would you say, "what is your name?" when asking a man?

May: ما إسمُك؟

Timothy: Okay. So let's say them together so that we can hear the difference.

May: إسمُك؟

Timothy: For a woman.

May: إسمُك؟

Timothy: For a man.

OUTRO

Timothy: Thank you. This will conclude today's lesson. Be sure to pick up the PDF at ArabicPod101.com. Also, if you have any questions, feel free to use our form or comments on today's lesson. See you again tomorrow.

May: Bye.

Timothy: Until next time.