

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Intermediate S1 #1

Reviewing Modern Standard Arabic Sentence Structure

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INTRODUCTION

Becky: Hi everyone, and welcome to ArabicPod101.com. This is Intermediate Season 1 Lesson 1 - Reviewing Modern Standard Arabic Sentence Structure. My name is Becky.

Hany: مرحباً I'm Hany.

Becky: In this lesson, we'll do an overview of Modern Standard Arabic sentence structure and an introduction to all the lessons in this series. The conversation takes place in the car.

Hany: It's between classmates.

Becky: The speakers are friends, so they will use both formal and informal Arabic. Okay, let's listen to the conversation.

DIALOGUE

: على إذاعة أرابيكبود101 على الآيباد.

مقدمة أرابيك بود101 دوت كوم: مرحباً بكم في سلسلة دروس النحو الشاملة لأرابيك بود 101 دوت كوم.

مقدمة أرابيك بود101 دوت كوم: في هذه السلسلة، سوف نتعلم أساسيات تكوين الجملة العربية وأقسام الجملة الأساسية في اللغة العربية.

مقدمة أرابيك بود101 دوت كوم: في نهاية هذه الدروس، ستكون قادراً على تكوين جمل طويلة و متقدمة باللغة العربية الفصحى.

مقدمة أرابيك بود101 دوت كوم: تنقسم كلمات اللغة العربية لثلاث أنواع: أسم و فعل و حرف.

مقدمة أرابيك بود101 دوت كوم: فلنستمع معاً إلى المحادثات المتنوعة في كل درس من الدروس المقبلة.

الزملاء: يبدو أن هذه السلسلة مهمة جداً إذا كنا نريد تعلم اللغة العربية الفصحى.

الزملاء: أجل، أليس كذلك؟ متى سيكون الدرس التالي؟

الزملاء: الإِسبوع القادم على الأَرَجح!

Becky: Listen to the conversation with the English translation

: (Listening to ArabicPod101.com on the iPad)

ArabicPod101.com presenter: Welcome to the intensive Standard Arabic grammar series by ArabicPod101.com

ArabicPod101.com presenter: In this series, we will learn the basics of Standard Arabic sentence formation and the basic parts of speech in the Arabic language.

ArabicPod101.com presenter: At the end of these lessons, you will be able to form long and advanced sentences in Modern Standard Arabic.

ArabicPod101.com presenter: Arabic words fall into three main classes—noun, verb, and particle.

ArabicPod101.com presenter: Let's listen to the various dialogues in the following lessons of this series.

Classmates: This series seems very important if we want to learn Modern standard Arabic.

Classmates: Yes, right? When will the next lesson be?

Classmates: Probably next week!

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Becky: Hany, could you clarify, once and for all, the question about the Arabic dialects for our listeners?

Hany: Sure. Arabic has a standard version, which is sometimes known as MSA and it's what we are going to teach in this series.

Becky: MSA stands for Modern Standard Arabic.

Hany: On the other hand, there are also many regional dialects, which are actually spoken.

Becky: That sounds very intimidating.

Hany: Right, but if you are able to speak Modern standard Arabic + 1 dialect, preferably a widely understood dialect like Egyptian or Levantine, you'll be able to live comfortably in the Arab world.

Becky: Why is it important to study MSA, if it's not actually spoken?

Hany: Because Modern Standard Arabic will help you understand the road and train signs, and news on TV and in the newspapers, regardless of the country you're in and also because we study it at school.

Becky: Which is the closest dialect?

Hany: It's hard to say what the closest dialect to Standard Arabic is, but people seem to agree that the gulf dialects like Saudi, or Levantine dialects, like Syrian, are quite close.

Becky: Can you give us the Arabic name for a couple of dialects?

Hany: Sure for example اللّهُجَّة الشّامِيَّة

Becky: which is the "Levantine dialect"

Hany: And mine is اللّهُجَّة المِصرِيَّة

Becky: Which is the "Egyptian dialect" -Okay, now onto the vocab.

VOCAB LIST

Becky: Let's take a look at the vocabulary from this lesson. The first word is..

Hany: إذاعة [natural native speed]

Becky: podcast, broadcast

Hany: إذاعة [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hany: إذاعة [natural native speed]

Becky: Next we have..

Hany: سلسلة [natural native speed]

Becky: series

Hany: سلسلة [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hany: سلسلة [natural native speed]

Becky: Next we have..

Hany: نحو [natural native speed]

Becky: Arabic grammar

Hany: نحو [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hany: نحو [natural native speed]

Becky: Next we have..

Hany: شاملة [natural native speed]

Becky: comprehensive, full

Hany: شاملة [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hany: شاملة [natural native speed]

Becky: Next we have..

Hany: انقسم [natural native speed]

Becky: to divide

Hany: انقسم [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hany: انقسم [natural native speed]

Becky: Next we have..

Hany: متقدمة [natural native speed]

Becky: advanced

Hany: متقدمة [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hany: متقدمة [natural native speed]

Becky: Next we have..

Hany: متنوعة [natural native speed]

Becky: miscellaneous, various

Hany: متنوعة [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hany: متنوعة [natural native speed]

Becky: And last...

Hany: المقبلية [natural native speed]

Becky: next

Hany: المقبلية [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hany: المقبلية [natural native speed]

KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Becky: Let's have a closer look at the usage of some of the words and phrases from this lesson. The first phrase is..

Hany: في نهاية

Becky: meaning "At the end of"

Hany: This expression consists of 2 words – fi, literally means "in," and nihayat, meaning "the end." This expression has to be followed by a noun

Becky: Can you give us an example using this word?

Hany: Sure. For example, you can say.. في نهاية المحاضرة, سألت الأستاذ سؤالاً.

Becky: ..which means "At the end of the lecture, I asked the professor a question."

Becky: Okay, what's the next phrase?

Hany: قادر على

Becky: meaning "able to"

Hany: This expression consists of 2 words - qadir, which is an adjective meaning "able" and ala, which is a preposition meaning "to". Note that this expression has fewer usages than "can", which in Arabic is استطاع. It is used with more important abilities and privileges.

Becky: So it translates better to "able to". Can you give us an example using this word?

Hany: You can say.. أنا قادر على الوصول إلى حل.

Becky: .. which means "I'm able to reach a solution." Okay, now onto the lesson focus.

LESSON FOCUS

Becky: In this lesson, we'll do an overview of Arabic sentence structure, briefly introduce the following lessons in this series, and talk about how a lecture is structured.

Hany: That's right. We will also introduce you to the grammar we are covering in this series, and explain a very crucial part of Arabic, which is VOWELLING.

Becky: Vowelling is the reason non-native Arabic speakers find it difficult to read Arabic. Because native Arabic speakers know how every word is pronounced already, they can read Arabic even if it isn't vowelled, which is actually usually the case.

Hany: The only vowelled text Arabic native speakers read is probably the Quran.

Becky: Hany, how would you explain vowelling?

Hany: Sure. As our listeners will surely already know, Arabic isn't pronounced as it is written, since the written version has only consonants. The hidden vowelling gives a sentence its necessary SHORT vowels, which are the signs on top or at the bottom of a word, when this word is vowelled. They can also be called diacritics.

Becky: Does that mean that Arabic has no vowels aside from the vowelling signs?

Hany: No – Arabic has three vowel sounds, but they are LONG vowels, and can sometimes be used as consonants, such as when they are the first letter in a word.

Becky: Which are these three main long vowels?

Hany: They are ا, و, ي

Becky: So the difference between short vowels and long vowels is basically in the length of the vowel.

Hany: Right, notice the difference in pronunciation between the two following words, bal بَل and baal بَال

Becky: The first means "but" or "instead", while the second means "mind". Ok, now let's see the vowelling in more detail. Listeners, we recommend reading the lesson notes while you are listening to this, so that you can see which characters we are talking about.

Hany: There are two uses for vowelling as far as Arabic speakers are concerned, Initial-medial letter vowelling and Final letter vowelling.

Becky: the first one, the Initial-medial letter vowel, is the vowel of the initial and medial letters of a word.

Hany: This vowel determines the MEANING of the word.

Becky: The Final letter vowel is the vowel of the final letter of a word.

Hany: This vowel determines the POSITION of the word in the sentence and it can only be one of four signs - the first is fathah َ

Becky: which is an a sound as in "sad"

Hany: The second is kasrah ِ

Becky: which is an i sound as in "hill"

Hany: the third is dammah ُ

Becky: which is a u sound as in "parachute"

Hany: the last one is sukuun ْ

Becky: this sign indicates that there is no vowel sound for a letter.

Hany: Final vowel is dropped, or not pronounced, only if the word in question is the last word in a sentence, or if the word is said independently.

Becky: When you're a beginner, you need to learn the most common words in Arabic, because more than 99% of words follow certain forms that can be recognized easily if you follow a set of rules.

Hany: For example, you can read a lot until you get used to the common forms.

Becky: Listeners, until then, use vowel text to help you read and pronounce each word correctly. Of course, all our content has a vowel version for your convenience!

Hany: In this series we will be focusing on the final letter vowel in most of the lessons.

Becky: Now let's see how sentences in an Arabic lecture are usually organized. Even just listening to a lecture in your own language involves a lot of listening skills. Let's see how to make it easier in the case of an Arabic lecture.

Hany: First of all, you should know that the teacher or whoever is giving the lecture will most often use inverted sentences.

Becky: This is because they are probably trying to highlight a certain part of the sentence that isn't usually found at the beginning of the sentence. In Arabic, the only indicator for the importance of a certain part of a sentence is sentence order. This means that the part of the sentence that comes first is the more important, and the main focus of this sentence. Hany, can you pick up some examples from the first dialogue?

Hany: Sure, for example *في هذه السلسلة, سوف نتعلم أساسيات تكوين الجملة العربية*.

Becky: which means "In this series, we will learn the basics of Arabic sentence formation."

Hany: In the normal sentence order, the verb *سوف نتعلم*, meaning "we will learn", should come first. However, if we want to highlight or stress a certain part of the sentence, we can put it at the beginning of the sentence, in this case *في هذه السلسلة*, meaning "in this series"

Becky: Are there any other examples in the dialogue?

Hany: Yes, *في نهاية هذه الدروس, ستكون قادراً على تكوين جمل طويلة*.

Becky: which means "By the end of this series, you will be able to form long sentences." In this sentence, the time of the action is the focus of the sentence, and that's why it came first in the sentence order. In addition, in many noun sentences, the order of the subject and the object can also be switched!

Hany: Try to imagine a sentence saying "Happy John is." instead of "John is happy".

Becky: But Arabic doesn't have any subject or object markers, so how is that possible?

Hany: The reason this order shift is possible is the final letter vowelism we were just talking about.

Becky: So the final vowelism can tell you what the position of a word is in a sentence, even if the sentence order was inverted, right?

Hany: Right, and this is also widely used in literary works to stress certain parts or to rhyme sentences.

Becky: Ok, let's wrap up this lesson with a couple of sample sentences.

Hany: *في هذا البيت, الكلُّ حُرٌّ في حَيَاتِهِ*.

Becky: "In this house, each person is free to live their own life."

Hany: أَسْتَمِعُ إِلَى أَرَابِيكْبُود 101 عَلَى الْفُونِ الْخَاصِ بِي.

Becky: "I listen to ArabicPod101 on my iPhone."

OUTRO

Becky: Okay, that's all for this lesson. Thank you for listening, everyone, and we'll see you next time! Bye!

Hany: شُكْرًا