



LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

Making Arabic Introductions

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#1

ARABIC

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

VOWELLED ARABIC

1. خالد: السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ
2. مُحَمَّد: وَ عَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ، تَفَضَّلْ
3. مها: مَرْحَبًا خَالِد!
4. خالد: أَهْلًا مَهَا، كَيْفَ الْحَالُ؟
5. مَهَا: كُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُمْتَاز شُكْرًا!
6. مُحَمَّد: بِخَيْرٍ وَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. ḤAL-ID: al-ssalāmu ‘alaikum
2. MUḤAMMAD: wa ‘alaikum alssalām, tafaḍḍaal
3. MHĀ: marḥaban ḥal-id!
4. ḤAL-ID: ‘ahlan mahā, kaīfa al-ḥal?
5. MAHĀ: kulu šay’in mumtāz šukran!
6. MUḤAMMAD: biḥaīrin wa al-ḥamdu lilah

ENGLISH

1. KHALID: Peace be upon you (= Hello)
2. MOHAMMAD: And peace be with you (= Hello back), 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.

VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
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ممتاز	mumtaaz	great, excellent	adjective	
كل شيء	kullu šay'	everything	expression	
كيف	kaif	how	pronoun	
تفضل	tafaḍḍal	welcome; come in!	verb	masculine singular
و	wa	and	conjunction	
مرحبا	marḥaban	hello, hi; welcome	expression	
السلام عليكم / و 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
شكرا	shukran	thank you	expression	
بخير	biḥayr	fine, I'm fine.		
الحمد لله	al-ḥamdu lilah	thanks to God	expression	
الحال	al-ḥal	state	noun	masculine singular

SAMPLE SENTENCES

كل شيء ممتاز	كل شيء ممتاز
kullu šay'in mumtāz	kullu šay'in mumtāz
Everything is great.	Everything is great.

<p>كيف حالة الجو في القاهرة؟ kayfa ḥālat aḡḡaw fil-qāhirah?</p> <p>What's the weather like in Cairo?</p>	<p>كيف حالك؟ kayfa ḥāluk?</p> <p>How are you?</p>
<p>مرحباً, كيف الحال؟ marḥaban, kayfa al-ḥal?</p> <p>Hello, how are you?</p>	<p>كيف حالكم؟ kayfa ḥal-ukum?</p> <p>How are you / How are you doing? (plural)</p>
<p>تفضل لو سمحت tafaḍḍal law samaḥt</p> <p>Come in please</p>	<p>أنا و أحمد ذهبنا إلى السينما. 'anā wa 'aḥmad ḡahbnā 'ilā al-sīnimā.</p> <p>Me and Ahmed went to the cinema.</p>
<p>مرحباً, كيف الحال؟ marḥaban, kayfa al-ḥaal-?</p> <p>Hello, how are you?</p>	<p>المسلمون يقولون "السلام عليكم" عند التحية, و يقولون "و عليكم السلام" عند رد التحية. al-muslimūn yaqūlūn "al-salāmu 'alaykum" 'inda al- taḥiyyah, wa yaqūlūn " wa 'alaykum al-salām" 'inda radd al-taḥiyyah.</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! إفضل! 'hlan! 'itfaḍḍal!</p> <p>Hello! Please come in! (Egyptian Arabic)</p>	<p>شكراً لكم shukran lakum</p> <p>Thank you all.</p>
<p>شكراً يا سيدي. šukran yā sayyidī</p> <p>Thank you sir.</p>	<p>شكراً يا سيدتي šukran yā sayyidati.</p> <p>Thank you madam.</p>
<p>هل أنت بخير؟ hal 'anta biḡayr?</p> <p>Are you fine?</p>	<p>الحمد لله على كل شيء. al-ḥamdu lilah 'alā kulli šay'.</p> <p>Thank you God for everything.</p>

kayfa al-hal?

How is your state?

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: السلام عليكم

"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 "مرحباً" (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.