Arabic A1, lesson 1: greetings

A1 Lesson 1 of 18

You learn to greet, thank, say yes or no and say goodbye.

Vocabulary | Dialogue | Grammar | Exercises

Pronunciation is written in Latin letters (ā, ī, ū = long vowels; ḥ, ṣ, ḍ, ṭ, ẓ = emphatic consonants; ʿ = the letter ع). The Arabic is always fully vowelled.

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ	*as-salāmu ʿalaykum*	hello (peace be upon you)
وَعَلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامُ	*waʿalaykumu s-salām*	reply: and peace upon you
مَرْحَبًا	*marḥaban*	hello, welcome
أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا	*ahlan wa sahlan*	welcome
صَبَاحُ الْخَيْرِ	*ṣabāḥu l-khayr*	good morning
مَسَاءُ الْخَيْرِ	*masāʾu l-khayr*	good evening

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
كَيْفَ حَالُكَ؟	*kayfa ḥāluka?*	how are you? (to a man)
بِخَيْرٍ	*bi-khayr*	fine, well
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ	*al-ḥamdu lillāh*	thank God
شُكْرًا	*shukran*	thank you
عَفْوًا	*ʿafwan*	you're welcome, pardon
نَعَمْ	*naʿam*	yes
لَا	*lā*	no
مِنْ فَضْلِكَ	*min faḍlika*	please
مَعَ السَّلَامَةِ	*maʿa s-salāma*	goodbye

KARIM

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ يَا سَلْمَى.

as-salāmu ʿalaykum yā Salmā.

Hello, Salma.

SALMA

وَعَلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامُ يَا كَرِيم، كَيْفَ حَالُكَ؟

wa ʿalaykumu s-salām yā Karīm, kayfa ḥāluka?

Hello, Karim. How are you?

KARIM

بِخَيْرٍ، الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ. وَأَنْتِ؟

bi-khayr, al-ḥamdu lillāh. wa anti?

Fine, thank God. And you?

SALMA

أَنَا بِخَيْرٍ، شُكْرًا.

ana bi-khayr, shukran.

I am fine, thank you.

KARIM

عَفْوًا. مَعَ السَّلَامَةِ.

ʿafwan. maʿa s-salāma.

You're welcome. Goodbye.

SALMA

مَعَ السَّلَامَةِ.

maʿa s-salāma.
Goodbye.

No verb “to be” in the present

In Arabic you do not say “I am” or “he is” in the present: you simply place the words one after the other. أَنَا بِخَيْرٍ reads “I, well” and means “I am fine”.

To ask a question, start with a question word: كَيْفَ (how?). To a woman you say كَيْفَ حَالُكِ؟, with an “i” sound at the end instead of “a”.

Arabic is written and read from right to left.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
أَنَا بِخَيْرٍ	*ana bi-khayr*	I am fine
كَيْفَ حَالُكِ؟	*kayfa ḥāluki?*	how are you? (to a woman)
صَبَاحُ الْخَيْرِ	*ṣabāḥu l-khayr*	good morning



Ibrahim explains

No “to be” in Arabic in the present: you just say “I, well”. Easy, right?

All lessons

Next lesson