Arabic A1, lesson 10: the house and prepositions of place

A1 Lesson 10 of 18

You describe where things are in the house with “in”, “on”, “under”, “in front of”.

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
غُرْفَةٌ	*ghurfa*	a room
مَطْبَخٌ	*maṭbakh*	a kitchen
حَمَّامٌ	*ḥammām*	a bathroom
حَدِيقَةٌ	*ḥadīqa*	a garden
سَرِيرٌ	*sarīr*	a bed
تِلْفَازٌ	*tilfāz*	a television

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
ثَلَّاجَةٌ	*thallāja*	a fridge
فِي	*fī*	in
عَلَى	*ʿalā*	on
تَحْتَ	*taḥta*	under
أَمَامَ	*amāma*	in front of
خَلْفَ	*khalfa*	behind
بِجَانِبِ	*bi-jānibi*	beside
طَاوِلَةٌ	*ṭāwila*	a table

KARIM

أَيْنَ الْقِطَّةُ؟

ayna l-qiṭṭa?

Where is the cat?

SALMA

الْقِطَّةُ فِي الْحَدِيقَةِ.

al-qiṭṭatu fī l-ḥadīqa.

The cat is in the garden.

KARIM

وَأَيْنَ الْكُرَةُ؟

wa ayna l-kura?

And where is the ball?

SALMA

الْكُرَةُ تَحْتَ السَّرِيرِ.

al-kuratu taḥta s-sarīr.

The ball is under the bed.

KARIM

وَأَيْنَ الْمِفْتَاحُ؟

wa ayna l-miftāḥ?

And where is the key?

SALMA

الْمِفْتَاحُ عَلَى الطَّاوِلَةِ، بِجَانِبِ الْهَاتِفِ.

al-miftāḥu ʿalā ṭ-ṭāwila, bi-jānibi l-hātif.

The key is on the table, beside the phone.

Prepositions of place and the “i” ending

To say where something is: الْكِتَابُ + preposition + noun. Useful prepositions: فِي (in), عَلَى (on), تَحْتَ (under), أَمَامَ (in front of), خَلْفَ (behind), بِجَانِبِ (beside).

After a preposition, the noun takes an “i” ending (a kasra): الطَّاوِلَةُ becomes عَلَى الطَّاوِلَةِ. The subject keeps its “u”: الْكِتَابُ.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
الْقِطَّةُ فِي الْغُرْفَةِ	*al-qiṭṭatu fī l-ghurfa*	the cat is in the room
الْكِتَابُ عَلَى الطَّاوِلَةِ	*al-kitābu ʿalā ṭ-ṭāwila*	the book is on the table
الْكُرَةُ تَحْتَ السَّرِيرِ	*al-kuratu taḥta s-sarīr*	the ball is under the bed
السَّيَّارَةُ أَمَامَ الْبَيْتِ	*as-sayyāratu amāma l-bayt*	the car is in front of the house



Ibrahim explains

After a preposition the noun ends in “i”. Listen: fi-l-ghurfa, ʿala ṭ-ṭawila.

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