Arabic A1, lesson 12: food and questions with هَلْ

A1 Lesson 12 of 18

You order food and drink, say what you like and ask yes/no questions.

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
خُبْزٌ	*khubz*	bread
مَاءٌ	*māʾ*	water
حَلِيبٌ	*ḥalīb*	milk
شَايٌ	*shāy*	tea
قَهْوَةٌ	*qahwa*	coffee
عَصِيرٌ	*ʿaṣīr*	juice

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
دَجَاجٌ	*dajāj*	chicken
سَمَكٌ	*samak*	fish
أَرُزٌّ	*aruzz*	rice
جُبْنٌ	*jubn*	cheese
أُرِيدُ	*urīdu*	I want
أُحِبُّ	*uḥibbu*	I like
هَلْ	*hal*	is it that? (yes/no question)
تَفَضَّلْ	*tafaḍḍal*	here you are, please (to a man)

KARIM

هَلْ عِنْدَكِ خُبْزٌ؟

hal ʿindaki khubz?

Do you have bread? (to a woman)

SALMA

نَعَمْ، عِنْدِي خُبْزٌ وَجُبْنٌ.

naʿam, ʿindī khubz wa jubn.

Yes, I have bread and cheese.

KARIM

أُرِيدُ خُبْزًا وَمَاءً، مِنْ فَضْلِكِ.

urīdu khubzan wa māʾan, min faḍliki.

I want bread and water, please.

SALMA

تَفَضَّلْ.

tafaḍḍal.

Here you are.

KARIM

شُكْرًا. أُحِبُّ الشَّايَ.

shukran. uḥibbu sh-shāy.

Thank you. I like tea.

SALMA

وَأَنَا أُحِبُّ الْقَهْوَةَ.

wa anā uḥibbu l-qahwa.

And I like coffee.

Yes/no questions with هَلْ

For a question with a yes or no answer, put هَلْ at the start: هَلْ عِنْدَكَ خُبْزٌ؟ Answer نَعَمْ (yes) or لَا (no). To say “I don't have”, use لَيْسَ عِنْدِي خُبْزٌ: لَا، لَيْسَ عِنْدِي خُبْزٌ.

After a verb such as أُرِيدُ (I want) or أُحِبُّ (I like), the object takes an “a” ending: أُرِيدُ مَاءً (an “an” at the end), أُحِبُّ الْقَهْوَةَ.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
هَلْ عِنْدَكَ خُبْزٌ؟	*hal ʿindaka khubz?*	do you have bread?
لَا، لَيْسَ عِنْدِي خُبْزٌ	*lā, laysa ʿindī khubz*	no, I don't have bread
أُرِيدُ مَاءً	*urīdu māʾan*	I want water
أُحِبُّ الْقَهْوَةَ	*uḥibbu l-qahwa*	I like coffee



Ibrahim explains

For a yes/no question, one small word is enough: “hal”. Nothing else changes.

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