Arabic A1, lesson 14: the days of the week

A1 Lesson 14 of 18

You name the seven days, say “today”, “tomorrow”, “yesterday” and ask “when?”.

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
يَوْمٌ	*yawm*	a day
أُسْبُوعٌ	*usbūʿ*	a week
الْأَحَدُ	*al-aḥad*	Sunday
الِاثْنَيْنِ	*al-ithnayn*	Monday
الثُّلَاثَاءُ	*ath-thulāthāʾ*	Tuesday
الْأَرْبِعَاءُ	*al-arbiʿāʾ*	Wednesday

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
اَلْخَمِيسُ	*al-khamīs*	Thursday
اَلْجُمُعَةُ	*al-jumuʿa*	Friday
اَلسَّبْتُ	*as-sabt*	Saturday
اَلْيَوْمَ	*al-yawma*	today
غَدًا	*ghadan*	tomorrow
أَمْسِ	*amsi*	yesterday
مَتَى	*matā*	when

KARIM

مَا الْيَوْمُ؟

mā l-yawm?

What day is it today?

SALMA

الْيَوْمُ الْخَمِيسُ.

al-yawmu l-khamīs.

Today is Thursday.

KARIM

وَغَدًا؟

wa ghadan?

And tomorrow?

SALMA

غَدًا الْجُمُعَةُ.

ghadan al-jumuʿa.

Tomorrow is Friday.

KARIM

مَتَى الِامْتِحَانُ؟

matā l-imtiḥān?

When is the exam?

SALMA

الِامْتِحَانُ يَوْمَ السَّبْتِ.

al-imtiḥānu yawma s-sabt.

The exam is on Saturday.

Talking about time: today, tomorrow, yesterday

The Arabic week starts on Sunday. Each day name takes ال: اَلْأَحَدُ, اَلِاثْنَيْنِ, اَلثُّلَاثَاءُ… In many Arab countries the weekend is Friday and Saturday.

The time words اَلْيَوْمَ, غَدًا, أَمْسِ can move freely in the sentence. To say "on Saturday" you say يَوْمَ السَّبْتِ ("the day of Saturday").

To ask when: مَتَى.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
اَلْيَوْمُ الْخَمِيسُ	*al-yawmu l-khamīs*	today is Thursday
غَدًا الْجُمُعَةُ	*ghadan al-jumuʿa*	tomorrow is Friday
اَلدَّرْسُ يَوْمَ الِاثْنَيْنِ	*ad-darsu yawma l-ithnayn*	the lesson is on Monday
مَتَى الِامْتِحَانُ؟	*matā l-imtiḥān?*	when is the exam?



Ibrahim explains

In the Arabic calendar the week starts on Sunday: "al-ahad", the first day.

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