Arabic A1, lesson 15: months, seasons and the construct state

A1 Lesson 15 of 18

You name the months and seasons and link two nouns with the construct state (“the teacher's book”).

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
شَهْرٌ	*shahr*	a month
سَنَةٌ	*sana*	a year
فَصْلٌ	*faṣl*	a season (also: a class)
عِيدُ مِيلَادٍ	*ʿīdu mīlād*	a birthday
الشِّتَاءُ	*ash-shitāʾ*	winter

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
الرَّبِيعُ	*ar-rabīʿ*	spring
الصَّيْفُ	*aṣ-ṣayf*	summer
الْخَرِيفُ	*al-kharīf*	autumn
يَنَايِرُ	*yanāyir*	January
فِبْرَايِرُ	*fibrāyir*	February
مَارِسُ	*māris*	March
أَبْرِيلُ	*abrīl*	April
مَايُو	*māyū*	May
يُونِيُو	*yūniyū*	June
يُولِيُو	*yūliyū*	July
أُغُسْطُسُ	*ughusṭus*	August

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
سِبْتَمْبَرْ	*sibtambar*	September
أُكْتُوبَرْ	*uktūbar*	October
نُوفَمْبَرْ	*nūfambar*	November
دِيسَمْبَرْ	*dīsambar*	December

KARIM

مَتَى عِيدُ مِيلَادِكِ؟

matā ʿīdu mīlādiki?

When is your birthday? (to a woman)

SALMA

عِيدُ مِيلَادِي فِي شَهْرِ أُكْتُوبَرَ. وَمَتَى عِيدُ مِيلَادِكَ؟

ʿīdu mīlādī fī shahri uktūbar. wa matā ʿīdu mīlādika?

My birthday is in October. And yours?

KARIM

عِيدُ مِيلَادِي فِي شَهْرِ مَارِسَ.

ʿīdu mīlādī fī shahri māris.

My birthday is in March.

SALMA

أُحِبُّ فَصْلَ الشِّتَاءِ.

uḥibbu faṣla sh-shitāʾ.

I like the winter season.

KARIM

وَأَنَا أُحِبُّ فَصْلَ الصَّيْفِ.

wa anā uḥibbu faṣla ṣ-ṣayf.

And I like summer.

The construct state: linking two nouns

To say “the teacher's book” Arabic puts the two nouns one after the other: كِتَابُ الْمُعَلِّمِ. This is the construct state (idafa).

Rules: the **first noun** has neither ال nor tanwin; the **second noun** ends in “i” (kasra) and can take ال.

Examples: بَابُ الْبَيْتِ (the door of the house), فَصْلُ الصَّيْفِ (the summer season), شَهْرُ مَارِسَ (the month of March). The second noun makes the whole phrase definite.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
كِتَابُ الْمُعَلِّمِ	*kitābu l-muʿallim*	the teacher's book
بَابُ الْبَيْتِ	*bābu l-bayt*	the door of the house
فَصْلُ الصَّيْفِ	*faṣlu ṣ-ṣayf*	the summer season
عِيدُ مِيلَادِي	*ʿīdu mīlādī*	my birthday



Ibrahim explains

The construct state is everywhere in Arabic. First noun without ال, second noun ending in “i”: remember that!

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