Arabic A1, lesson 17: jobs and plurals

A1 Lesson 17 of 18

You name jobs and learn the three kinds of plural: masculine, feminine and broken.

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
طَبِيبٌ	*ṭabīb*	a doctor
مُهَنْدِسٌ	*muhandis*	an engineer
مُمَرِّضٌ	*mumarriḍ*	a nurse (m)
مُمَرِّضَةٌ	*mumarriḍa*	a nurse (f)
شُرْطِيٌّ	*shurṭī*	a police officer
طَبَّاخٌ	*ṭabbākh*	a cook

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
سَائِقٌ	*sā'iq*	a driver
تَاجِرٌ	*tājir*	a merchant
خَبَّازٌ	*khabbāz*	a baker
عَمَلٌ	*ʿamal*	a job, work
أَطِبَّاءُ	*aṭibbā'*	doctors
مُهَنْدِسُونَ	*muhandisūn*	engineers
مُمَرِّضَاتٌ	*mumarriḍāt*	nurses (f)
مُعَلِّمُونَ	*muʿallimūn*	teachers (m)
مُعَلِّمَاتٌ	*muʿallimāt*	teachers (f)

KARIM

مَا عَمَلُكِ؟

mā ʿamaluki?

What is your job? (to a woman)

SALMA

أَنَا طَبِيبَةٌ. وَمَا عَمَلُكَ؟

ana ṭabība. wa mā ʿamaluka?

I am a doctor. And what is your job?

KARIM

أَنَا مُهَنْدِسٌ.

ana muhandis.

I am an engineer.

SALMA

وَأُخْتِي مُمَرِّضَةٌ.

wa ukhtī mumarriḍa.

And my sister is a nurse.

KARIM

وَأَخِي شُرْطِيٌّ.

wa akhī shurṭī.

And my brother is a police officer.

The three plurals: masculine, feminine, broken

1) **Regular masculine plural** (people): add ـُونَ: مُعَلِّمٌ → مُعَلِّمُونَ.

2) **Regular feminine plural**: replace ة with ـَاتٌ: مُمَرِّضَةٌ → مُمَرِّضَاتٌ, سَيَّارَةٌ → سَيَّارَاتٌ.

3) **Broken plural**: the shape of the word changes, you have to learn it: كِتَابٌ → كُتُبٌ, طَبِيبٌ → أَطِبَّاءُ.

Useful rule: the plural of **things** behaves like a feminine singular: الْكُتُبُ جَدِيدَةٌ (the books are new).

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
مُهَنْدِسٌ ← مُهَنْدِسُونَ	*muhandis → muhandisūn*	engineer → engineers
مُمَرِّضَةٌ ← مُمَرِّضَاتٌ	*mumarriḍa → mumarriḍāt*	nurse → nurses
كِتَابٌ ← كُتُبٌ	*kitāb → kutub*	book → books
الْكُتُبُ جَدِيدَةٌ	*al-kutubu jadīda*	the books are new



Ibrahim explains

For books, cars, pens: the adjective is feminine singular. A very Arabic rule!

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