Arabic A1, lesson 18: my day: the present tense

A1 Lesson 18 of 18

You tell your day with present-tense verbs: I, you, he, she.

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
أَسْتَيْقِظُ	*astayqiẓu*	I wake up
أَشْرَبُ	*ashrabu*	I drink
آكُلُ	*ākulu*	I eat
أَذْهَبُ	*adhhabu*	I go
أَدْرُسُ	*adrusu*	I study
أَقْرَأُ	*aqraʾu*	I read

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
أَكْتُبُ	*aktubu*	I write
أَنَامُ	*anāmu*	I sleep
أَعْمَلُ	*aʿmalu*	I work
أَلْعَبُ	*alʿabu*	I play
أَسْمَعُ	*asmaʿu*	I listen
أَرْجِعُ	*arjiʿu*	I return
كُلَّ يَوْمٍ	*kulla yawm*	every day
ثُمَّ	*thumma*	then
إِلَى	*ilā*	to

KARIM

مَاذَا تَفْعَلِينَ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ؟

mādhā tafʿalīna kulla yawm?

What do you do every day? (to a woman)

SALMA

أَسْتَيْقِظُ، ثُمَّ أَذْهَبُ إِلَى الْمَدْرَسَةِ.

astayqiẓu, thumma adhhabu ilā l-madrasa.

I wake up, then I go to school.

KARIM

وَبَعْدَ الْمَدْرَسَةِ؟

wa baʿda l-madrasa?

And after school?

SALMA

أَدْرُسُ وَأَلْعَبُ.

adrusu wa alʿabu.

I study and I play.

KARIM

وَأَنَا أَقْرَأُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ.

wa anā aqraʾu kulla yawm.

And I read every day.

SALMA

أَنَا أَنَامُ فِي السَّاعَةِ التَّاسِعَةِ.

anā anāmu fī s-sāʿati t-tāsiʿa.
I sleep at nine o'clock.

The present tense: I, you, he, she

The present-tense verb keeps the same base and changes its **beginning** according to the person: أَ for "I", تَـ for "you (man)" and "she", يَـ for "he". For "you" (woman) ـِينَ is also added at the end.

Example with ذَهَبَ (to go): أَذْهَبُ (I go), تَذْهَبُ (you go, man / she goes), تَذْهَبِينَ (you go, woman), يَذْهَبُ (he goes).

The pronoun (أَنَا, هُوَ…) is optional: the start of the verb is enough. You will see all persons at level A2.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
أَذْهَبُ إِلَى الْمَدْرَسَةِ	*adhhabu ilā l-madrasa*	I go to school
هُوَ يَذْهَبُ	*huwa yadhhabu*	he goes
هِيَ تَذْهَبُ	*hiya tadhhabu*	she goes

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
أَنْتِ تَذْهَبِينَ	*anti tadhhabīna*	you go (to a woman)



Ibrahim explains

Remember three beginnings: “a” for I, “ya” for he, “ta” for she or you.

Previous lesson **All lessons** **Level test**