Arabic A1, lesson 4: masculine and feminine

A1 Lesson 4 of 18

You tell masculine from feminine and make the adjective agree with the noun.

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
وَلَدٌ	*walad*	a boy
بِنْتٌ	*bint*	a girl
رَجُلٌ	*rajul*	a man
اِمْرَأَةٌ	*imraʾa*	a woman
طَالِبٌ	*ṭālib*	a student (m)
طَالِبَةٌ	*ṭāliba*	a student (f)

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
مُعَلِّمٌ	*muʿallim*	a teacher (m)
مُعَلِّمَةٌ	*muʿallima*	a teacher (f)
صَدِيقٌ	*ṣadīq*	a friend (m)
صَدِيقَةٌ	*ṣadīqa*	a friend (f)
جَدِيدٌ	*jadīd*	new (m)
جَدِيدَةٌ	*jadīda*	new (f)
كَبِيرٌ	*kabīr*	big (m)
كَبِيرَةٌ	*kabīra*	big (f)

KARIM

أَنَا طَالِبٌ. وَأَنْتِ؟

ana ṭālib. wa anti?

I am a student. And you?

SALMA

أَنَا طَالِبَةٌ. وَهُوَ مُعَلِّمٌ.

ana ṭāliba. wa huwa muʿallim.

I am a student. And he is a teacher.

KARIM

وَهِيَ مُعَلِّمَةٌ.

wa hiya muʿallima.

And she is a teacher.

SALMA

أَنْتَ صَدِيقٌ جَدِيدٌ.

anta ṣadīq jadīd.

You are a new friend.

KARIM

وَأَنْتِ صَدِيقَةٌ جَدِيدَةٌ.

wa anti ṣadīqa jadīda.

And you are a new friend (f).

The feminine with ة and adjective agreement

To form the feminine you usually add ة (ta marbuta, pronounced “a”): طَالِبٌ → طَالِبَةٌ. A few feminine words have no ة, such as بِنْتٌ (girl).

The adjective comes **after** the noun and agrees in gender: صَدِيقٌ جَدِيدٌ (a new friend, m), صَدِيقَةٌ جَدِيدَةٌ (a new friend, f).

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
طَالِبٌ جَدِيدٌ	*ṭālib jadīd*	a new student (m)
طَالِبَةٌ جَدِيدَةٌ	*ṭāliba jadīda*	a new student (f)
وَلَدٌ كَبِيرٌ	*walad kabīr*	a big boy
بِنْتٌ كَبِيرَةٌ	*bint kabīra*	a big girl



Ibrahim explains

The noun and the adjective must have the same gender. If the noun has ة, so does the adjective.

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