# Arabic A1, lesson 5: this and that: demonstratives

A1 Lesson 5 of 18

You point at an object with “this” or “that” and ask “what is this?”.

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 |
|---|---|---|
| هَذَا | *hādhā* | this (m, near) |
| هَذِهِ | *hādhihi* | this (f, near) |
| ذَلِكَ | *dhālika* | that (m, far) |
| تِلْكَ | *tilka* | that (f, far) |
| سَيَّارَةٌ | *sayyāra* | a car |
| بَيْتٌ | *bayt* | a house |

| ARABIC | PRONUNCIATION | MEANING |
|---|---|---|
| شَجَرَةٌ | *shajara* | a tree |
| قِطَّةٌ | *qiṭṭa* | a cat |
| كَلْبٌ | *kalb* | a dog |
| مِفْتَاحٌ | *miftāḥ* | a key |
| هَاتِفٌ | *hātif* | a phone |
| سَاعَةٌ | *sāʿa* | a watch, a clock |
| وَرْدَةٌ | *warda* | a flower (rose) |
| كُرَةٌ | *kura* | a ball |

**KARIM**

مَا هَذَا؟

*mā hādhā?*

What is this?

**SALMA**

هَذَا هَاتِفٌ.

*hādhā hātif.*

This is a phone.

**KARIM**

وَمَا هَذِهِ؟

*wa mā hādhihi?*

And what is this? (f)

**SALMA**

هَذِهِ سَاعَةٌ.

*hādhihi sāʿa.*

This is a watch.

**KARIM**

وَمَا ذَلِكَ؟

*wa mā dhālika?*

And what is that?

**SALMA**

ذَلِكَ كَلْبٌ، وَتِلْكَ قِطَّةٌ.

*dhālika kalb, wa tilka qiṭṭa.*

That is a dog, and that is a cat.

## Demonstratives: هَذَا، هَذِهِ، ذَلِكَ، تِلْكَ

Four words to remember: هَذَا (m, near), هَذِهِ (f, near), ذَلِكَ (m, far), تِلْكَ (f, far). Choose according to the gender of the noun: سَيَّارَةٌ is feminine, so هَذِهِ سَيَّارَةٌ.

Mind the meaning: هَذَا كِتَابٌ (no ال) means “this is a book”, but هَذَا الْكِتَابُ جَدِيدٌ (with ال) means “this book is new”.

## Examples

| ARABIC | PRONUNCIATION | MEANING |
|---|---|---|
| هَذَا كِتَابٌ | *hādhā kitāb* | this is a book |
| هَذَا الْكِتَابُ جَدِيدٌ | *hādhā l-kitābu jadīd* | this book is new |
| هَذِهِ سَيَّارَةٌ | *hādhihi sayyāra* | this is a car |
| تِلْكَ السَّيَّارَةُ جَدِيدَةٌ | *tilka s-sayyāratu jadīda* | that car is new |



**Ibrahim explains**

Without ال: a sentence (“this is a book”). With ال: you talk about that specific book.

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