Arabic A1, lesson 6: the family and possessives

A1 Lesson 6 of 18

You introduce your family and say “my”, “your”, “his” with small endings.

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
أَبٌ	*ab*	a father
أُمٌّ	*umm*	a mother
أَخٌ	*akh*	a brother
أُخْتٌ	*ukht*	a sister
جَدٌّ	*jadd*	a grandfather
جَدَّةٌ	*jadda*	a grandmother

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
اِبْنٌ	*ibn*	a son
اِبْنَةٌ	*ibna*	a daughter
عَمٌّ	*ʿamm*	a paternal uncle
خَالٌ	*khāl*	a maternal uncle
عَمَّةٌ	*ʿamma*	a paternal aunt
خَالَةٌ	*khāla*	a maternal aunt
عَائِلَةٌ	*ʿāʾila*	a family
مَنْ	*man*	who

KARIM

هَذِهِ عَائِلَتِي.

hādhihi ʿāʾilatī.

This is my family.

SALMA

مَنْ هَذَا؟

man hādhā?

Who is this?

KARIM

هَذَا أَبِي، وَهَذِهِ أُمِّي.

hādhā abī, wa hādhihi ummī.

This is my father, and this is my mother.

SALMA

وَمَنْ هَذِهِ؟

wa man hādhihi?

And who is this? (f)

KARIM

هَذِهِ أُخْتِي، وَهَذَا أَخِي.

hādhihi ukhtī, wa hādhā akhī.

This is my sister, and this is my brother.

SALMA

عَائِلَةٌ كَبِيرَةٌ!

ʿā'ila kabīra!

What a big family!

Possessive endings (my, your, his)

To say “my, your, his” you put no word in front: you add an **ending** to the noun. ـي = my, ـكَ = your (to a man), ـكِ = your (to a woman), ـهُ = his, ـهَا = her.

Example with كِتَابٌ: كِتَابِي, كِتَابُكَ, كِتَابُكِ, كِتَابُهُ, كِتَابُهَا. The tanwin and ال disappear.

The ة turns into ت: عَائِلَةٌ → عَائِلَتِي.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
كِتَابِي	*kitābī*	my book
أُخْتُكِ	*ukhtuki*	your sister (to a woman)
بيته	*baytuhu*	his house
عَائِلَتُهَا كَبِيرَةٌ	*ʿāʾilatuhā kabīra*	her family is big



Ibrahim explains

One single word in Arabic: the noun plus its ending. “kitab-i” = my book. Handy!

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