Arabic A1, lesson 8: colours

A1 Lesson 8 of 18

You name ten colours and make the colour 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
أَحْمَرُ / حَمْرَاءُ	*aḥmar / ḥamrāʾ*	red (m / f)
أَزْرَقُ / زَرْقَاءُ	*azraq / zarqāʾ*	blue (m / f)
أَخْضَرُ / خَضْرَاءُ	*akhḍar / khaḍrāʾ*	green (m / f)
أَصْفَرُ / صَفْرَاءُ	*aṣfar / ṣafrāʾ*	yellow (m / f)
أَبْيَضُ / بَيْضَاءُ	*abyaḍ / bayḍāʾ*	white (m / f)
أَسْوَدُ / سَوْدَاءُ	*aswad / sawdāʾ*	black (m / f)

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
بُرْتُقَالِيٌّ / بُرْتُقَالِيَّةٌ	*burtuqālī / burtuqāliyya*	orange (m / f)
بُنِّيٌّ / بُنِّيَّةٌ	*bunnī / bunniyya*	brown (m / f)
رَمَادِيٌّ / رَمَادِيَّةٌ	*ramādī / ramādiyya*	grey (m / f)
وَرْدِيٌّ / وَرْدِيَّةٌ	*wardī / wardiyya*	pink (m / f)
لَوْنٌ	*lawn*	a colour
سَمَاءٌ	*samāʾ*	a sky
قَمِيصٌ	*qamīṣ*	a shirt
أَوْ	*aw*	or

KARIM

مَا لَوْنُ السَّمَاءِ؟

mā lawnu s-samāʾ?

What colour is the sky?

SALMA

السَّمَاءُ زَرْقَاءُ.

as-samāʾu zarqāʾ.

The sky is blue.

KARIM

وَمَا لَوْنُ التُّفَّاحَةِ؟

wa mā lawnu t-tuffāḥa?

And what colour is the apple?

SALMA

التُّفَّاحَةُ حَمْرَاءُ أَوْ خَضْرَاءُ.

at-tuffāḥatu ḥamrāʾ aw khaḍrāʾ.

The apple is red or green.

KARIM

وَمَا لَوْنُ قَمِيصِكَ؟

wa mā lawnu qamīṣika?

And what colour is your shirt?

SALMA

قَمِيصِي أَبْيَضُ.

qamīṣī abyaḍ.

My shirt is white.

The colour adjective: agreement and ال

Colours are adjectives: they come **after** the noun and agree with it. Masculine أَحْمَرُ, feminine حَمْرَاءُ.

Three cases to tell apart:

سَيَّارَةٌ حَمْرَاءُ = a red car (no ال on either word);

السَّيَّارَةُ الْحَمْرَاءُ = the red car (ال on **both** words);

السَّيَّارَةُ حَمْرَاءُ = the car is red (ال only on the noun: it is a sentence).

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
قَمِيصٌ أَبْيَضُ	*qamīṣ abyaḍ*	a white shirt
سَيَّارَةٌ حَمْرَاءُ	*sayyāra ḥamrāʾ*	a red car
السَّيَّارَةُ الْحَمْرَاءُ	*as-sayyāratu l-ḥamrāʾ*	the red car
السَّيَّارَةُ حَمْرَاءُ	*as-sayyāratu ḥamrāʾ*	the car is red

Ibrahim explains



Tip: if the noun has ٱل and the colour does not, it is a sentence: “the car is red”.

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