Arabic A1, lesson 9: the human body and the dual

A1 Lesson 9 of 18

You name the parts of the body and learn the dual form to say “two”.

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
رَأْسٌ	*raʾs*	a head
وَجْهٌ	*wajh*	a face
عَيْنٌ	*ʿayn*	an eye
أُذُنٌ	*udhun*	an ear
أَنْفٌ	*anf*	a nose
فَمٌ	*fam*	a mouth

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
سِنٌّ	*sinn*	a tooth
شَعْرٌ	*shaʿr*	hair
يَدٌ	*yad*	a hand
رِجْلٌ	*rijl*	a leg, a foot
قَلْبٌ	*qalb*	a heart
ظَهْرٌ	*ẓahr*	a back
بَطْنٌ	*baṭn*	a belly
جِسْمٌ	*jism*	a body

KARIM

أَيْنَ عَيْنُكِ؟

ayna ʿaynuki?

Where is your eye? (to a woman)

SALMA

هَذِهِ عَيْنِي، وَهَذِهِ أُذُنِي.

hādhihi ʿaynī, wa hādhihi udhunī.

This is my eye, and this is my ear.

KARIM

وَأَيْنَ أَنْفُكِ؟

wa ayna anfuki?

And where is your nose?

SALMA

هَذَا أَنْفِي، وَهَذَا فَمِي.

hādhā anfī, wa hādhā famī.

This is my nose, and this is my mouth.

KARIM

وَهَذِهِ يَدَايَ.

wa hādhihi yadāya.

And these are my two hands.

SALMA

شُكْرًا يَا سَلْمَى.

shukran yā Salmā.

Thank you, Salma.

The dual: two things or two people

Arabic has a special number for “two”: the **dual**. To form it, add ـَانِ to the end of the word: عَيْنٌ → عَيْنَانِ (two eyes), يَدٌ → يَدَانِ (two hands), وَلَدٌ → وَلَدَانِ (two boys).

With a noun ending in ة, the ة becomes ت: سَيَّارَةٌ → سَيَّارَتَانِ.

After a word such as “of” or “in” the ending is ـَيْنِ instead of ـَانِ (يَدَيْنِ). In “my two hands” you say يَدَايَ.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
عَيْنَانِ	*ʿaynān*	two eyes
يَدَانِ	*yadān*	two hands
وَلَدَانِ	*waladān*	two boys
سَيَّارَتَانِ	*sayyāratān*	two cars



Ibrahim explains

The dual is regular: add ـَانِ. Easy to remember: “an” for “two”.

Previous lesson

All lessons

Next lesson

