Arabic A2, lesson 10: at the hotel: أَنْ and the verb that follows

A2 Lesson 10 of 18

You book a room and express a wish: “I want to book”, “I like to sleep”.

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
فُنْدُقٌ	*funduq*	a hotel
حَجْزٌ	*ḥajz*	a reservation
أَحْجِزُ	*aḥjizu*	I book
لَيْلَةٌ	*layla*	a night
لَيَالٍ	*layālin*	nights
غُرْفَةٌ فَرْدِيَّةٌ	*ghurfa fardiyya*	a single room

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
غُرْفَةٌ مُزْدَوِجَةٌ	*ghurfa muzdawija*	a double room
فُطُورٌ	*futūr*	breakfast
مِصْعَدٌ	*miṣʿad*	a lift
اِسْتِقْبَالٌ	*istiqbāl*	reception
أَنْ	*an*	to (before a verb)
لِـ	*li-*	for, to
أَسْكُنُ	*askunu*	I stay, I live
أَرْجِعُ	*arjiʿu*	I return

KARIM

مَرْحَبًا، أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَحْجِزَ غُرْفَةً.

marḥaban, urīdu an aḥjiza ghurfatan.

Hello, I want to book a room.

SALMA

لِكَمْ لَيْلَةٍ؟

li-kam laylatin?

For how many nights?

KARIM

لِثَلَاثِ لَيَالٍ.

li-thalāthi layālin.

For three nights.

SALMA

هَلْ تُرِيدُ غُرْفَةً فَرْدِيَّةً أَمْ مُزْدَوِجَةً؟

hal turīdu ghurfatan fardiyyatan am muzdawija?

Do you want a single or a double room?

KARIM

فَرْدِيَّةً، وَهَلِ الْفُطُورُ مَعَ الْغُرْفَةِ؟

fardiyyatan, wa hali l-futūru maʿa l-ghurfa?

Single. And is breakfast included?

SALMA

نَعَمْ، تَفَضَّلْ، هَذَا مِفْتَاحُكَ.

naʿam, tafaḍḍal, hādhā miftāḥuka.

Yes. Here you are, this is your key.

أَنْ + verb: “I want to book”

After verbs such as أُرِيدُ (I want) or أُحِبُّ (I like), put أَنْ followed by a second verb in the present: أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَحْجِزَ (I want to book). After أَنْ the last letter of the verb takes an “a” (fatha): أَنْ أَحْجِزَ → أَنْ أَحْجِزَ.

The verb agrees with the person: تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَحْجِزَ (you want to book), نُرِيدُ أَنْ نَسْكُنَ (we want to stay). In forms ending in ـُونَ and ـِينَ the final ن drops: أُرِيدُ أَنْ تَذْهَبِي.

For “for (how many nights)” use لِـ: لِثَلَاثِ لَيَالٍ.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَحْجِزَ غُرْفَةً	*urīdu an aḥjiza ghurfatan*	I want to book a room
أُحِبُّ أَنْ أَنَامَ مُبَكِّرًا	*uḥibbu an anāma mubakkiran*	I like to sleep early
هَلْ تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَذْهَبَ؟	*hal turīdu an tadhhaba?*	do you want to go?
لِثَلَاثِ لَيَالٍ	*li-thalāthi layālin*	for three nights

Ibrahim explains



After “an” the verb changes its ending: -u becomes -a. Listen: urīdu an aḥjiza.

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