Arabic A2, lesson 12: clothes and shopping

A2 Lesson 12 of 18

You choose clothing, ask for the size and talk about several objects with their plural.

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
بِنْطَالٌ	*binṭāl*	trousers
فُسْتَانٌ	*fustān*	a dress
حِذَاءٌ	*ḥidhāʾ*	a shoe
جَاكِيتٌ	*jākīt*	a jacket
قُبَّعَةٌ	*qubbaʿa*	a hat

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
مَقَاسٌ	*maqās*	a size
أُجَرِّبُ	*ujarribu*	I try
يُمْكِنُ أَنْ	*yumkinu an*	is it possible to
قُمْصَانٌ	*qumṣān*	shirts
أَحْذِيَةٌ	*aḥdhiya*	shoes
ثِيَابٌ	*thiyāb*	clothes
صَغِيرٌ	*ṣaghīr*	small
مُنَاسِبٌ	*munāsib*	suitable
قَمِيصٌ	*qamīṣ*	a shirt

KARIM

هَلْ يُمْكِنُ أَنْ أُجَرِّبَ هَذَا الْقَمِيصَ؟

hal yumkinu an ujarriba hādhā l-qamīṣ?

May I try this shirt?

SALMA

نَعَمْ، تَفَضَّلْ. مَا مَقَاسُكَ؟

naʿam, tafaḍḍal. mā maqāsuka?

Yes, please. What is your size?

KARIM

مَقَاسِي كَبِيرٌ.

maqāsī kabīr.

My size is large.

SALMA

هَذِهِ الْقُمْصَانُ جَدِيدَةٌ وَرَخِيصَةٌ.

hādhihi l-qumṣānu jadīdatun wa rakhīṣa.

These shirts are new and cheap.

KARIM

أُرِيدُ هَذَا. بِكَمْ هُوَ؟

urīdu hādhā. bi-kam huwa?

I want this one. How much is it?

SALMA

بِخَمْسِينَ دِرْهَمًا.

bi-khamsīna dirhaman.
Fifty dirhams.

The plural of things: هَذِهِ + feminine singular

Many plurals are irregular: ثِيَابٌ ← ثَوْبٌ, أَحْذِيَةٌ ← حِذَاءٌ, قُمْصَانٌ ← قَمِيصٌ. Learn them with the word.

Golden rule: for a plural of **things** use هَذِهِ and a **feminine singular** adjective: هَذِهِ الْقُمْصَانُ جَدِيدَةٌ (these shirts are new). For a plural of **people** the adjective is plural: هَؤُلَاءِ الطُّلَّابُ جُدُدٌ.

To ask permission: هَلْ يُمْكِنُ أَنْ + verb ending in -a: هَلْ يُمْكِنُ أَنْ أُجَرِّبَ؟

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
قَمِيصٌ ← قُمْصَانٌ	*qamīṣ → qumṣān*	shirt → shirts
هَذِهِ الْقُمْصَانُ جَدِيدَةٌ	*hādhihi l-qumṣānu jadīda*	these shirts are new
تِلْكَ الْأَحْذِيَةُ رَخِيصَةٌ	*tilka l-aḥdhiyatu rakhīṣa*	those shoes are cheap
هَلْ يُمْكِنُ أَنْ أُجَرِّبَ؟	*hal yumkinu an ujarriba?*	may I try?



Ibrahim explains

For things in the plural the adjective stays feminine singular. That makes life easier!

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