Arabic A2, lesson 14: hobbies and sport

A2 Lesson 14 of 18

You talk about your hobbies, what you can do and what you enjoy in your free time.

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
هِوَايَةٌ	*hiwāya*	a hobby
رِيَاضَةٌ	*riyāḍa*	a sport
كُرَةُ الْقَدَمِ	*kuratu l-qadam*	football
سِبَاحَةٌ	*sibāḥa*	swimming
رَسْمٌ	*rasm*	drawing
مُوسِيقَى	*mūsīqā*	music

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
قِرَاءَةٌ	*qirāʾa*	reading
وَقْتُ الْفَرَاغِ	*waqtu l-farāgh*	free time
أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ	*astaṭīʿu an*	I can
أَسْبَحُ	*asbaḥu*	I swim
أَرْسُمُ	*arsumu*	I draw
أَيْضًا	*ayḍan*	also
رَائِعٌ	*rāʾiʿ*	wonderful
مَعَنَا	*maʿanā*	with us

KARIM

مَا هِوَايَتُكِ؟

mā hiwāyatuki?

What is your hobby? (to a woman)

SALMA

هِوَايَتِي الرَّسْمُ، وَأُحِبُّ أَنْ أَسْبَحَ أَيْضًا.

hiwāyatī r-rasm, wa uḥibbu an asbaḥa ayḍan.

My hobby is drawing, and I also like to swim.

KARIM

أَنَا أُحِبُّ كُرَةَ الْقَدَمِ.

ana uḥibbu kurata l-qadam.

I like football.

SALMA

هَلْ تَلْعَبُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ؟

hal taʿlabu kulla yawm?

Do you play every day?

KARIM

لَا، أَلْعَبُ فِي وَقْتِ الْفَرَاغِ. هَلْ تَسْتَطِيعِينَ أَنْ تَلْعَبِي مَعَنَا؟

lā, aʿlabu fī waqti l-farāgh. hal tastaṭīʿīna an taʿlabī maʿanā?

No, I play in my free time. Can you play with us?

SALMA

نَعَمْ، رَائِعٌ!

naʿam, rāʾiʿ!

Yes, great!

“Can” and “like” + verb; the verbal noun

To say “I can” use أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ + verb with a final “a”: أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَسْبَحَ (I can swim). The same construction works for “I like”: أُحِبُّ أَنْ أَرْسُمَ. Forms ending in ـِينَ and ـُونَ lose their ن: هَلْ تَسْتَطِيعِينَ أَنْ تَلْعَبِي؟

To talk about an activity in general Arabic uses the **verbal noun** (masdar) with ال: أُحِبُّ السِّبَاحَةَ (I like swimming), أُحِبُّ الْقِرَاءَةَ (I like reading). The verbal noun is a noun: learn it with each verb.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَسْبَحَ	*astaṭīʿu an asbaḥa*	I can swim
أُحِبُّ أَنْ أَرْسُمَ	*uḥibbu an arsuma*	I like to draw
أُحِبُّ السِّبَاحَةَ	*uḥibbu s-sibāḥa*	I like swimming
هَلْ تَسْتَطِيعِينَ أَنْ تَلْعَبِي؟	*hal tastaṭīʿīna an talʿabī?*	can you play? (to a woman)

Ibrahim explains



The same “an + verb in -a” serves for “I can” and “I like”. One tool, two meanings!

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