Arabic A2, lesson 15: the weather and the verb كَانَ

A2 Lesson 15 of 18

You describe today's, yesterday's and tomorrow's weather with “is”, “was”, “will be”.

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
طَقْسٌ	*ṭaqs*	weather
حَارٌّ	*ḥārr*	hot
بَارِدٌ	*bārid*	cold
مُمْطِرٌ	*mumṭir*	rainy
مُشْمِسٌ	*mushmis*	sunny

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
غَائِمٌ	*ghā'im*	cloudy
مَطَرٌ	*maṭar*	rain
ثَلْجٌ	*thalj*	snow
رِيَاحٌ	*riyāḥ*	winds
دَرَجَةُ الْحَرَارَةِ	*darajatu l-ḥarāra*	the temperature
كَانَ	*kāna*	he/it was
كَانَتْ	*kānat*	she/it was
سَيَكُونُ	*sa-yakūnu*	it will be
مِظَلَّةٌ	*miẓalla*	an umbrella

KARIM

كَيْفَ الطَّقْسُ الْيَوْمَ؟

kayfa ṭ-ṭaqsu l-yawm?

What is the weather like today?

SALMA

الطَّقْسُ حَارٌّ وَمُشْمِسٌ.

aṭ-ṭaqsu ḥārrun wa mushmis.

It is hot and sunny.

KARIM

وَكَيْفَ كَانَ الطَّقْسُ أَمْسِ؟

wa kayfa kāna ṭ-ṭaqsu amsi?

And what was the weather like yesterday?

SALMA

كَانَ غَائِمًا وَبَارِدًا.

kāna ghā'iman wa bāridan.

It was cloudy and cold.

KARIM

وَكَيْفَ سَيَكُونُ غَدًا؟

wa kayfa sa-yakūnu ghadan?

And how will it be tomorrow?

SALMA

سَيَكُونُ الطَّقْسُ مُمْطِرًا، خُذْ مِظَلَّةً.

sa-yakūnu ṭ-ṭaqsu mumṭiran, khudh miẓallatan.
It will be rainy, take an umbrella.

The verb كَانَ (was, will be)

In the present there is no verb "to be": **الطَّقْسُ حَارٌّ** (it is hot). In the past add **كَانَ** and the next word takes "an": **كَانَ الطَّقْسُ حَارًّا** (it was hot). In the future: **سَيَكُونُ الطَّقْسُ حَارًّا**.

This verb agrees: **كَانَ** (he), **كَانَتْ** (she), **كُنْتُ** (I was), **كُنْتَ** (you were, m), **كُنْتِ** (you were, f): **كَانَتِ السَّمَاءُ غَائِمَةً** (the sky was cloudy), **كُنْتُ مُتْعَبًا** (I was tired).

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
الطَّقْسُ حَارٌّ	*aṭ-ṭaqsu ḥārr*	it is hot
كَانَ الطَّقْسُ بَارِدًا	*kāna ṭ-ṭaqsu bāridan*	it was cold
كَانَتِ السَّمَاءُ غَائِمَةً	*kānati s-samā'u ghā'ima*	the sky was cloudy
سَيَكُونُ الْجَوُّ مُمْطِرًا	*sa-yakūnu l-jawwu mumṭiran*	it will be rainy



Ibrahim explains

With kāna the next word takes “an”: kāna ṭ-ṭaqsu bāridan. Sounds nice, doesn't it?

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