Arabic A2, lesson 18: telling your holidays: linking words

A2 Lesson 18 of 18

You tell a trip from start to finish with “first”, “then”, “but”, “because”.

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
أَوَّلًا	*awwalan*	first
ثُمَّ	*thumma*	then
بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ	*baʿda dhālika*	after that
أَخِيرًا	*akhīran*	finally
عِنْدَمَا	*ʿindamā*	when (while)
لَكِنْ	*lākin*	but

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
لِأَنَّ	*li-anna*	because
أَيْضًا	*ayḍan*	also
رَائِعٌ	*rāʾiʿ*	wonderful
قَدِيمٌ	*qadīm*	old, ancient
مَدِينَةٌ / مُدُنٌ	*madīna / mudun*	city / cities
اِنْتَهَى	*intahā*	it ended
الْمَغْرِبُ	*al-maghrib*	Morocco
ذِكْرَى	*dhikrā*	a memory

KARIM

كَيْفَ كَانَتْ عُطْلَتُكِ؟

kayfa kānat ʿuṭlatuki?

How was your holiday?

SALMA

كَانَتْ رَائِعَةً! أَوَّلًا سَافَرْنَا إِلَى الْمَغْرِبِ.

kānat rāʾiʿatan! awwalan sāfarnā ilā l-maghrib.

It was wonderful! First we travelled to Morocco.

KARIM

وَمَاذَا فَعَلْتُمْ هُنَاكَ؟

wa mādhā faʿaltum hunāka?

And what did you do there?

SALMA

زُرْنَا الْمُدُنَ الْقَدِيمَةَ، ثُمَّ ذَهَبْنَا إِلَى الشَّاطِئِ.

zurnā l-muduna l-qadīma, thumma dhahabnā ilā sh-shāṭiʾ.

We visited the old cities, then we went to the beach.

KARIM

وَمَتَى رَجَعْتُمْ؟

wa matā rajaʿtum?

And when did you come back?

SALMA

رَجَعْنَا عِنْدَمَا انْتَهَتِ الْعُطْلَةُ، لَكِنِّي أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَرْجِعَ.

rajaʿnā ʿindamā intahati l-ʿuṭla, lākinnī urīdu an arjiʿa.

We came back when the holiday ended, but I want to go back.

Linking words for storytelling

To tell a story chain the actions with linking words: أَوَّلًا (first), ثُمَّ (then), بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ (after that), أَخِيرًا (finally). To link two ideas: وَ (and), لَكِنْ (but), لِأَنَّ (because), أَيْضًا (also). عِنْدَمَا (when) introduces an action in the past: عِنْدَمَا وَصَلْتُ (when I arrived). A story is mostly in the **past**: you keep the endings تُ, نَا, وا that you already know.

Tip: to start a story ask كَيْفَ كَانَتْ ...؟ and answer with كَانَتْ + adjective.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
أَوَّلًا سَافَرْنَا ثُمَّ زُرْنَا الْمَدِينَةَ	*awwalan sāfarnā thumma zurnā l-madīna*	first we travelled, then we visited the city
عِنْدَمَا وَصَلْتُ كَانَ الطَّقْسُ حَارًّا	*ʿindamā waṣaltu kāna ṭ-ṭaqsu ḥārran*	when I arrived it was hot
كَانَتِ الْعُطْلَةُ رَائِعَةً	*kānati l-ʿuṭlatu rāʾiʿa*	the holiday was wonderful

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
أَحْبَبْتُ الْمَغْرِبَ لِأَنَّهُ جَمِيلٌ	*aḥbabtu l-maghriba li-annahu jamīl*	I loved Morocco because it is beautiful



Ibrahim explains

“First, then, finally”: three words are enough to make a story clear and pleasant.

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