# Arabic A2, lesson 2: the past tense: we, you, they

A2 Lesson 2 of 18

You tell a weekend spent with others: we, you, they.

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 |
|---|---|---|
| نَحْنُ | *naḥnu* | we |
| هُمْ | *hum* | they (m) |
| هُنَّ | *hunna* | they (f) |
| أَنْتُمْ | *antum* | you (pl) |
| نِهَايَةُ الْأُسْبُوعِ | *nihāyatu l-usbūʿ* | the weekend |
| شَاطِئٌ | *shāṭiʾ* | a beach |

| ARABIC | PRONUNCIATION | MEANING |
|---|---|---|
| رِحْلَةٌ | *riḥla* | a trip |
| أَصْدِقَاءُ | *aṣdiqāʾ* | friends |
| سَافَرَ | *sāfara* | he travelled |
| وَصَلَ | *waṣala* | he arrived |
| رَجَعَ | *rajaʿa* | he returned |
| خَرَجَ | *kharaja* | he went out |
| اِشْتَرَى | *ishtarā* | he bought |
| مَعَ | *maʿa* | with |

**KARIM**

أَيْنَ ذَهَبْتُمْ فِي نِهَايَةِ الْأُسْبُوعِ؟

*ayna dhahabtum fī nihāyati l-usbūʿ?*

Where did you go at the weekend?

**SALMA**

نَحْنُ ذَهَبْنَا إِلَى الشَّاطِئِ.

*naḥnu dhahabnā ilā sh-shāṭiʾ.*

We went to the beach.

**KARIM**

مَعَ مَنْ ذَهَبْتُمْ؟

*maʿa man dhahabtum?*

Who did you go with?

**SALMA**

مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. هُمْ وَصَلُوا مُبَكِّرًا.

*maʿa aṣdiqāʾī. hum waṣalū mubakkiran.*

With my friends. They arrived early.

**KARIM**

وَمَتَى رَجَعْتُمْ؟

*wa matā rajaʿtum?*

And when did you come back?

**SALMA**

رَجَعْنَا مَسَاءً.

*rajaʿnā masāʾan.*

We came back in the evening.

## The past tense: we, you, they

The other persons of the past: نَحْنُ ذَهَبْنَا (we: ـْنَا), أَنْتُمْ ذَهَبْتُمْ (you: ـْتُمْ), هُمْ ذَهَبُوا (they, m: ـُوا), هُنَّ ذَهَبْنَ (they, f: ـْنَ).

After the ـُوا of "they" an alif is written but not pronounced: كَتَبُوا is read "katabū".

To say "with" use مَعَ: مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي (with my friends). For "with us": مَعَنَا.

## Examples

| ARABIC | PRONUNCIATION | MEANING |
|---|---|---|
| نَحْنُ ذَهَبْنَا إِلَى الشَّاطِئِ | *naḥnu dhahabnā ilā sh-shāṭiʾ* | we went to the beach |
| هُمْ وَصَلُوا مُبَكِّرًا | *hum waṣalū mubakkiran* | they arrived early |
| أَنْتُمْ رَجَعْتُمْ مَسَاءً | *antum rajaʿtum masāʾan* | you came back in the evening |
| هُنَّ سَافَرْنَ مَعَنَا | *hunna sāfarna maʿanā* | they (f) travelled with us |

### Ibrahim explains



Mind the silent alif of “they”: it is written but not pronounced. Ka-ta-bu, not ka-ta-bu-a!

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