Arabic A2, lesson 3: the full present tense: we, you, they

A2 Lesson 3 of 18

You describe a family's routine with every person of the present tense.

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
نَسْكُنُ	*naskunu*	we live
نَأْكُلُ	*naʾkulu*	we eat
نَطْبُخُ	*naṭbukhu*	we cook
نَزُورُ	*nazūru*	we visit
نُشَاهِدُ	*nushāhidu*	we watch
نَدْرُسُ	*nadrusu*	we study

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
يَعْمَلُونَ	*yaʿmalūna*	they work
يَلْعَبُونَ	*yalʿabūna*	they play
تَسْكُنُونَ	*taskunūna*	you (pl) live
غَالِبًا	*ghāliban*	often
أَحْيَانًا	*aḥyānan*	sometimes
عَادَةً	*ʿādatan*	usually
كُلَّ أُسْبُوعٍ	*kulla usbūʿ*	every week
جَدَّةٌ	*jadda*	a grandmother

KARIM

أَيْنَ تَسْكُنُونَ؟

ayna taskunūn?

Where do you live?

SALMA

نَحْنُ نَسْكُنُ فِي مَدِينَةٍ كَبِيرَةٍ.

naḥnu naskunu fī madīnatin kabīra.

We live in a big city.

KARIM

وَمَاذَا تَفْعَلُونَ عَادَةً؟

wa mādhā tafʿalūna ʿādatan?

And what do you usually do?

SALMA

أَبِي وَأُمِّي يَعْمَلُونَ، وَنَحْنُ نَدْرُسُ.

abī wa ummī yaʿmalūn, wa naḥnu nadrus.

My parents work, and we study.

KARIM

وَهَلْ تَزُورُونَ الْجَدَّةَ؟

wa hal tazūrūna l-jadda?

And do you visit your grandmother?

SALMA

نَعَمْ، نَزُورُ الْجَدَّةَ كُلَّ أُسْبُوعٍ.

naʿam, nazūru l-jadda kulla usbūʿ.

Yes, we visit our grandmother every week.

The present tense: the full table

In the present each person has its own beginning, and sometimes its ending: **أَذْهَبُ** (I), **نَذْهَبُ** (we: نَـ), **تَذْهَبُ** (you, m), **تَذْهَبِينَ** (you, f), **تَذْهَبُونَ** (you, pl: ـُونَ), **يَذْهَبُ** (he), **تَذْهَبُ** (she), **يَذْهَبُونَ** (they: يَـ + ـُونَ), **يَذْهَبْنَ** (they, f: يَـ + ـْنَ).

Tip: **أ** = I, **نـ** = we, **تـ** = you / she, **يـ** = he / they.

Frequency adverbs: **غَالِبًا** (often), **أَحْيَانًا** (sometimes), **عَادَةً** (usually).

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
نَحْنُ نَذْهَبُ	*naḥnu nadhhabu*	we go
أَنْتُمْ تَذْهَبُونَ	*antum tadhhabūna*	you (pl) go
هُمْ يَذْهَبُونَ	*hum yadhhabūna*	they go
هُنَّ يَذْهَبْنَ	*hunna yadhhabna*	they (f) go



Ibrahim explains

For “they” start with ya- and end with -ūna: ya-dh-hab-ūna.

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