Arabic A2, lesson 4: the future: holiday plans

A2 Lesson 4 of 18

You talk about your plans with سَـ and سَوْفَ: “I will travel”, “we will visit”.

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
سَأُسَافِرُ	*sa-usāfiru*	I will travel
سَنَذْهَبُ	*sa-nadhhabu*	we will go
سَيَزُورُ	*sa-yazūru*	he will visit
سَأَشْتَرِي	*sa-ashtarī*	I will buy
سَأَحْجِزُ	*sa-aḥjizu*	I will book
سَوْفَ	*sawfa*	future word (separate)

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
الْعُطْلَةُ	*al-ʿuṭla*	the holiday
بَلَدٌ	*balad*	a country
طَائِرَةٌ	*ṭāʾira*	a plane
تَذْكِرَةٌ	*tadhkira*	a ticket
هَدِيَّةٌ	*hadiyya*	a gift
بَعْدَ غَدٍ	*baʿda ghadin*	the day after tomorrow
الْعَامَ الْقَادِمَ	*al-ʿāma l-qādim*	next year
هَدَايَا	*hadāyā*	gifts

KARIM

مَاذَا سَتَفْعَلِينَ فِي الْعُطْلَةِ؟

mādhā sa-tafʿalīna fī l-ʿuṭla?

What will you do during the holidays?

SALMA

سَأُسَافِرُ إِلَى مِصْرَ بِالطَّائِرَةِ.

sa-usāfiru ilā miṣra bi-ṭ-ṭā'ira.

I will travel to Egypt by plane.

KARIM

وَمَتَى سَتُسَافِرِينَ؟

wa matā sa-tusāfirīn?

And when will you leave?

SALMA

سَأُسَافِرُ بَعْدَ غَدٍ.

sa-usāfiru baʿda ghad.

I will leave the day after tomorrow.

KARIM

هَلْ سَتَزُورِينَ الْأَهْرَامَ؟

hal sa-tazūrīna l-ahrām?

Will you visit the pyramids?

SALMA

نَعَمْ، وَسَأَشْتَرِي هَدَايَا.

naʿam, wa sa-ashtarī hadāyā.

Yes, and I will buy gifts.

The future with سَـ and سَوْفَ

To form the future start from the present and add سَـ before the verb: أَذْهَبُ (I go) → سَأَذْهَبُ (I will go). You can also use the separate word سَوْفَ: سَوْفَ أَذْهَبُ. The meaning is the same; سَـ is shorter and more common.

The verb keeps its present form: سَنَذْهَبُ (we will go), سَيَزُورُ (he will visit), سَتُسَافِرِينَ (you will travel, f).

To say “by plane”, “by train” use the preposition بِـ: بِالطَّائِرَةِ.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
سَأَذْهَبُ	*sa-adhhabu*	I will go
سَوْفَ أَذْهَبُ	*sawfa adhhabu*	I will go (same meaning)
سَنَزُورُ الْجَدَّةَ	*sa-nazūru l-jadda*	we will visit grandmother
سَيُسَافِرُ بِالطَّائِرَةِ	*sa-yusāfiru bi-ṭ-ṭā’ira*	he will travel by plane

Ibrahim explains



سَـ is attached to the verb; سَوْفَ is written separately. Both mean the same.

Previous lesson **All lessons** **Next lesson**