Arabic A2, lesson 8: asking for and giving directions

A2 Lesson 8 of 18

You ask the way, understand “straight on”, “right”, “left” and give directions yourself.

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
يَمِينٌ	*yamīn*	right
يَسَارٌ	*yasār*	left
مُسْتَقِيمًا	*mustaqīman*	straight on
اِنْعَطِفْ	*inʿaṭif*	turn!
اِذْهَبْ	*idhhab*	go!

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
عِنْدَ	*ʿinda*	at
بَعْدَ	*baʿda*	after
قَبْلَ	*qabla*	before
زَاوِيَةٌ	*zāwiya*	a corner
إِشَارَةُ الْمُرُورِ	*ishāratu l-murūr*	a traffic light
سَتَجِدُ	*sa-tajidu*	you will find
شُكْرًا جَزِيلًا	*shukran jazīlan*	thank you very much
الْأَوَّلُ	*al-awwal*	the first
الثَّانِي	*ath-thānī*	the second

KARIM

عَفْوًا، أَيْنَ الْمَحَطَّةُ مِنْ فَضْلِكِ؟

ʿafwan, ayna l-maḥaṭṭa min faḍliki?

Excuse me, where is the station, please? (to a woman)

SALMA

اِذْهَبْ مُسْتَقِيمًا ثُمَّ اِنْعَطِفْ إِلَى الْيَمِينِ.

idhhab mustaqīman thumma inʿaṭif ilā l-yamīn.

Go straight on, then turn right.

KARIM

وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ؟

wa baʿda dhālika?

And after that?

SALMA

سَتَجِدُ الْمَحَطَّةَ بَعْدَ الْبَنْكِ.

sa-tajidu l-maḥaṭṭata baʿda l-bank.

You will find the station after the bank.

KARIM

شُكْرًا جَزِيلًا.

shukran jazīlan.

Thank you very much.

SALMA

عَفْوًا.

ʿafwan.
You're welcome.

قَبْلَ، بَعْدَ، عِنْدَ and ordinal numbers

To guide someone use the imperative (اِذْهَبْ, اِنْعَطِفْ) and place words: قَبْلَ (before), بَعْدَ (after), عِنْدَ (at). The noun that follows takes the kasra: بَعْدَ الْبَنْكِ, عِنْدَ إِشَارَةِ الْمُرُورِ.

For "first, second, third" use ordinal numbers, which follow the noun and take ال: الشَّارِعُ الْأَوَّلُ (the first street), الشَّارِعُ الثَّانِي, الشَّارِعُ الثَّالِثُ. Feminine: الْمَحَطَّةُ الْأُولَى, الثَّانِيَةُ.

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
اِذْهَبْ مُسْتَقِيمًا	*idhhab mustaqīman*	go straight on
اِنْعَطِفْ عِنْدَ إِشَارَةِ الْمُرُورِ	*inʿaṭif ʿinda ishārati l-murūr*	turn at the traffic light
الْمَحَطَّةُ بَعْدَ الْبَنْكِ	*al-maḥaṭṭatu baʿda l-bank*	the station is after the bank
الشَّارِعُ الثَّانِي	*ash-shāriʿu th-thānī*	the second street



Ibrahim explains

The ordinal follows the noun and takes ـًا: “the street the second”. Don't forget it!

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