Arabic A2, lesson 9: transport and travel

A2 Lesson 9 of 18

You buy a ticket, choose a means of transport and ask the arrival time.

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
قِطَارٌ	*qiṭār*	a train
حَافِلَةٌ	*ḥāfila*	a bus
طَائِرَةٌ	*ṭā'ira*	a plane
مَطَارٌ	*maṭār*	an airport
تَذْكِرَةٌ	*tadhkira*	a ticket
جَوَازُ سَفَرٍ	*jawāzu safar*	a passport

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
رِحْلَةٌ	*riḥla*	a trip, a flight
مُسَافِرٌ	*musāfir*	a traveller
ذَهَابٌ	*dhahāb*	outward trip
عَوْدَةٌ	*ʿawda*	return
يَصِلُ	*yaṣilu*	it arrives
رَكِبَ	*rakiba*	he took, he rode
أَمْ	*am*	or (choice between two)
الْقَاهِرَةُ	*al-qāhira*	Cairo

KARIM

أُرِيدُ تَذْكِرَةً إِلَى الْقَاهِرَةِ، مِنْ فَضْلِكِ.

urīdu tadhkiratan ilā l-qāhira, min faḍliki.

I would like a ticket to Cairo, please.

SALMA

هَلْ تُرِيدُ تَذْكِرَةَ ذَهَابٍ أَمْ ذَهَابٍ وَعَوْدَةٍ؟

hal turīdu tadhkirata dhahābin am dhahābin waʿawda?

Do you want a one-way or a return ticket?

KARIM

ذَهَابٌ وَعَوْدَةٌ. بِكَمْ؟

dhahābun waʿawda. bi-kam?

Return. How much is it?

SALMA

بِمِئَةِ دِرْهَمٍ.

bi-miʾati dirham.

One hundred dirhams.

KARIM

وَمَتَى يَصِلُ الْقِطَارُ؟

wa matā yaṣilu l-qiṭār?

And when does the train arrive?

SALMA

يَصِلُ فِي السَّاعَةِ الثَّامِنَةِ.

yaṣilu fī s-sāʿati th-thāmina.

It arrives at eight o'clock.

بِـ for the means and “from… to…”

To say how you travel use the preposition بِـ attached to the noun: بِالْقِطَارِ (by train), بِالطَّائِرَةِ (by plane), بِالْحَافِلَةِ (by bus). You can also say رَكِبْتُ الْقِطَارَ (I took the train).

For “from… to…”: مِنْ … إِلَى …: مِنَ الْقَاهِرَةِ إِلَى الْإِسْكَنْدَرِيَّةِ. The following noun always takes the kasra.

To choose between two options in a question use أَمْ: الْقِطَارُ أَمِ الطَّائِرَةُ؟

Examples

ARABIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
سَافَرْتُ بِالْقِطَارِ	*sāfartu bi-l-qiṭār*	I travelled by train
رَكِبْتُ الْحَافِلَةَ	*rakibtu l-ḥāfila*	I took the bus
مِنَ الْقَاهِرَةِ إِلَى الْإِسْكَنْدَرِيَّةِ	*mina l-qāhira ilā l-iskandariyya*	from Cairo to Alexandria
الْقِطَارُ أَمِ الطَّائِرَةُ؟	*al-qiṭāru ami ṭ-ṭā’ira?*	the train or the plane?



Ibrahim explains

The letter ب at the start of the word means “by, with”: bi-l-qitar, by train.

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