Arabic B1, lesson 1: roots and patterns

جَذْر root	وَزْن pattern, mould	كَتَبَ he wrote
كاتِب writer	مَكْتَبَة library	مَدْرَسَة school
دارِس student	عالِم scholar	مَعْمَل laboratory, workshop
مَفْتوح		

open

في مَدينَتِنا مَكْتَبَةٌ كَبيرَةٌ.

يَذْهَبُ إِلَيْها الطُّلّابُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ.

الكاتِبُ يَكْتُبُ كِتابًا جَديدًا.

والدّارِسُ يَدْرُسُ دَرْسَهُ.

والمُعَلِّمُ يُعَلِّمُ تَلامِيذَهُ.

قالَ المُعَلِّمُ: لِكُلِّ كَلِمَةٍ جَذْرٌ، والجَذْرُ يُعْطينا المَعْنى الأَساسِيَّ.

▶ **Show the translation**

Almost every Arabic word is built from a **root** of three letters, for example ك ت ب (the idea of writing). The root is slotted into a **pattern** (وَزْن), a mould of vowels and extra letters.

To name a pattern we use the root ف ع ل : the 1st letter of the mould is ف, the 2nd ع, the 3rd ل. The mould فاعِل therefore gives عامِل, دارِس, كاتِب : the one who does the action.

Three very useful moulds:

- فاعِل : the doer (كاتِب, the writer)
- مَفْعول : what undergoes the action (مَكْتوب, what is written)
- مَفْعَل / مَفْعَلَة : the place of the action (مَكْتَب, office; مَكْتَبَة, library)

To find the root, remove the added letters (prefixes م and ت, the ending ة, long vowels) and keep the three base letters.

One root, several patterns

Pattern	ك ت ب	د ر س	ع م ل
past (he …)	كَتَبَ	دَرَسَ	عَمِلَ
the doer	كاتِب	دارِس	عامِل
what is done	مَكْتوب	مَدْروس	مَعْمول
place	مَكْتَبَة	مَدْرَسَة	مَعْمَل

Match each word with its meaning.

كاتِب	place with books
مَكْتَبَة	the one who studies
مَكْتوب	place where one studies
دارِس	what is written
مَدْرَسَة	the one who writes

Check Start again

Take the root م ل ع and write three words of its family (for example عالِم) with their meaning.

Back to the list

Next lesson