Arabic B1, lesson 15: كانَ and its sisters

مِعْطَف ج مَعاطِف coat	هادِئ quiet	بارِد cold
خُبْز bread	مَطْبَخ kitchen	ما زالَ to still be
لَذيذ delicious	فُطور breakfast	جاهِز ready

شارِع ج شَوارِع
street

كانَ الجَوُّ بارِدًا في الصَّباحِ.

أَصْبَحَتِ الشَّوارِعُ هادِئَةً وَصارَ النّاسُ يَلْبَسونَ المَعاطِفَ.

ما زالَتْ أُمّي في المَطْبَخِ.

لَيْسَ الخُبْزُ جاهِزًا بَعْدُ، لَكِنَّ الفُطورَ سَيَكونُ لَذيذًا.

▶ **Show the translation**

كانَ وأَخَواتُها (kāna and its sisters) are verbs used before a nominal sentence (subject + predicate) that change its cases:

- the subject becomes **اِسْم كانَ**, in the **nominative**;
- the predicate becomes **خَبَر كانَ**, in the **accusative**: كانَ الجَوُّ بارِدًا .

The main ones:

- كانَ : to be (past) — present يَكونُ, future سَيَكونُ, negated past لَمْ يَكُنْ
- أَمْسى, أَصْبَحَ: to become (morning, evening); صارَ: to become; ظَلَّ, باتَ: to remain, to spend the night
- ما زالَ: to still be, not to cease
- لَيْسَ: not to be (negates a nominal sentence in the present): لَيْسَ الخُبْزُ جاهِزًا.

These verbs conjugate like others: كُنْتُ, كُنّا, كانوا … and agree with their subject.

كانَ and its sisters

Verb	Meaning	Example
كانَ	to be (past)	كانَ الجَوُّ بارِدًا
أَصْبَحَ	to become (morning)	أَصْبَحَتِ الشَّوارِعُ هادِئَةً
صارَ	to become	صارَ الطِّفْلُ كَبيرًا
ظَلَّ	to remain	ظَلَّ البابُ مَفْتوحًا
ما زالَ	to still be	ما زالَ الجَوُّ بارِدًا
لَيْسَ	not to be	لَيْسَ الخُبْزُ جاهِزًا

Match each verb with its meaning.

كَانَ	to become
أَصْبَحَ	not to be
صَارَ	to remain, keep on
ظَلَّ	to be (past)
لَيْسَ	to become (morning)

Check Start again

Describe your morning in four sentences with كَانَ , أَصْبَحَ, زَالَ ما and لَيْسَ.

Previous lesson · Back to the list

Next lesson