Arabic B1, lesson 16: إِنَّ and its sisters

كَأَنَّ
as if

لَعَلَّ
perhaps, hopefully

لَيْتَ
if only

وَصَلَ
he arrived

طَوِيل
long

طَرِيق ج طُرُق
road

البَقَاء
staying

يَجْرِي
it runs, it flows

المَساء
the evening

سُرْعَة

speed

هِشام: إِنَّ الجَوَّ جَميلٌ اليَوْمَ.

مَريَم: لَكِنَّ الطَّريقَ طَويلٌ.

هِشام: لَعَلَّنا نَصِلُ قَبْلَ المَساءِ.

مَريَم: كَأَنَّ الوَقْتَ يَجْري بِسُرْعَةٍ!

هِشام: لَيْتَنا نَسْتَطيعُ البَقاءَ هُنا.

▶ **Show the translation**

إِنَّ وأَخَواتُها are particles used before a nominal sentence that almost reverse the cases of كانَ:

- the subject becomes **اِسْم إِنَّ**, in the **accusative**;
- the predicate becomes **خَبَر إِنَّ**, in the **nominative**: إِنَّ الجَوَّ جَميلٌ.

The six particles:

- إِنَّ: indeed, certainly (sentence start or after قالَ)
- أَنَّ: that (after verbs like عَلِمَ, قالَ, ظَنَّ… in a subordinate clause)
- لَكِنَّ: but
- كَأَنَّ : as if
- لَيْتَ: if only (wish)
- لَعَلَّ: perhaps, hopefully

The subject can be a **suffix pronoun**: إِنَّهُ, إِنَّها, إِنَّني, لَيْتَنا, لَعَلَّنا. After لَعَلَّنا a verb stays in the indicative (marfūʿ): لَعَلَّنا نَصِلُ.

إِنَّ and its sisters

Particle	Meaning	Example
إِنَّ	indeed	إِنَّ العِلْمَ نافِعٌ
أَنَّ	that	أَعْلَمُ أَنَّ الجَوَّ جَميلٌ
لَكِنَّ	but	لَكِنَّ الطَّريقَ طَويلٌ
كَأَنَّ	as if	كَأَنَّ الوَقْتَ يَجْري
لَيْتَ	if only	لَيْتَنا نَبْقى
لَعَلَّ	perhaps	لَعَلَّنا نَصِلُ

Put the words in order.

Indeed, knowledge is useful.

إِنَّ العِلْمَ نافِعٌ

But the road is long.

لَكِنَّ طَويلٌ الطَّريقَ

Perhaps we will arrive before evening.

لَعَلَّنا نَصِلُ المَساءِ قَبْلَ

Check Start again

Write a short four-line dialogue with إِنَّ, لَكِنَّ, لَعَلَّ and لَيْتَ.

Previous lesson · Back to the list

Next lesson