Arabic B1, lesson 20: reading the news and writing a summary

أَعْلَنَ he announced	بَلَدِيَّة town council	عامّ public, general
وَسَط centre	تَضُمُّ it contains	رَئيس president, head
سُكّان inhabitants	شَباب young people	لِقاء meeting

أَمْسِ

yesterday

A news article

أَعْلَنَتِ البَلَدِيَّةُ أَمْسِ عَنْ فَتْحِ مَكْتَبَةٍ عامَّةٍ جَديدَةٍ في وَسَطِ المَدينَةِ.

تَضُمُّ المَكْتَبَةُ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ عِشْرينَ أَلْفَ كِتابٍ، وَتَسْتَقْبِلُ الزُّوّارَ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ ما عَدا الأَحَدَ.

وَقالَ رَئيسُ البَلَدِيَّةِ إِنَّ القِراءَةَ تُفيدُ الجَميعَ.

وَيَأْمُلُ السُّكّانُ أَنْ تَكونَ المَكْتَبَةُ مَكانًا لِلِقاءِ الشَّبابِ.

▶ **Show the translation**

To understand an article, first look for the **six questions**: مَنْ (who), ماذا (what), مَتى (when), أَيْنَ (where), لِماذا (why), كَيْفَ (how). They are almost always in the first sentence.

News style likes:

- the **verbal sentence**: أَعْلَنَتِ البَلَدِيَّةُ… (verb first, in the singular)
- **form IV** أَعْلَنَ, form X تَسْتَقْبِلُ, masdars (فَتْح, قِراءَة) and the **idafa** (رَئيسُ البَلَدِيَّةِ)
- **إِنَّ** after قالَ: قالَ إِنَّ… and **أَنْ** after يَأْمُلُ.

To write a **summary**, keep the essentials: 1) a fact (who did what, where, when), 2) a figure or detail, 3) a quote or reaction. Link the sentences with وَ, ثُمَّ, لَكِنَّ, لِأَنَّ (because), وَلِذَلِكَ (that is why). Check verb endings and cases: that is how you tell a good text.

The six questions

Word	Meaning	Example
مَنْ	who	مَنْ أَعْلَنَ الخَبَرَ؟
ماذا	what	ماذا أَعْلَنَتِ البَلَدِيَّةُ؟
مَتى	when	مَتى فُتِحَتِ المَكْتَبَةُ؟
أَيْنَ	where	أَيْنَ المَكْتَبَةُ؟
لِماذا	why	لِماذا تُفيدُ القِراءَةُ؟
كَيْفَ	how	كَيْفَ يَسْتَقْبِلُ الزُّوّارَ؟

Put the words in order.

The council announced the opening of a library.

مَكْتَبَةٍ | عَنْ | أَعْلَنَتِ | فَتْحِ | البَلَدِيَّةُ

The library welcomes visitors every day.

يَوْمٍ | الزُّوَّارَ | تَسْتَقْبِلُ | كُلَّ | المَكْتَبَةُ

The residents hope for a meeting place.

المَكْتَبَةُ | يَأْمُلُ | لِلِقاءِ | تَكونَ | أَنْ | مَكانًا | السُّكّانُ

Check | Start again

Write a three-sentence summary of a news item from your town (real or invented), with who, what, when and where.

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Level test