Arabic B2, lesson 20: describing traditions, Ramadan and the festivals

The explanations on this page are being proofread.

يَصومُ he fasts	رَمَضان Ramadan	شَهْر month
إِفْطار meal that breaks the fast	مَغْرِب sunset	فَجْر dawn
تَهانٍ	عيد	أَقارِب

relatives

festival

congratulations

يَحْتَفِلُ

he celebrates

A description

في شَهْرِ رَمَضانَ يَصومُ المُسْلِمونَ مِنَ الفَجْرِ إِلى المَغْرِبِ.

يَجْتَمِعُ أَفْرادُ الأُسْرَةِ عَلى الإِفْطارِ، وَيَزورُ الأَقارِبُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا.

وَفي نِهايَةِ الشَّهْرِ يَحْتَفِلُ النّاسُ بِعيدِ الفِطْرِ، فَيَلْبَسونَ الثِّيابَ الجَديدَةَ وَيَتَبادَلونَ التَّهاني.

▶ **Show the translation**

To **describe traditions** we mostly use the **present of habit** and words showing repetition: عادَةً (usually), كُلَّ سَنَةٍ (every year), في هَذا اليَوْمِ (on this day).

Reciprocal form VI verbs are very useful: يَتَبادَلونَ (they exchange), يَتَزاوَرونَ (they visit one another). The expression **بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا** (one another) strengthens the idea: يَزورُ الأَقارِبُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا.

We also use the **impersonal passive** for "one": يُحْتَفَلُ بِالعيدِ (the festival is celebrated), يُقالُ (it is said).

Important: this text is a **description** of practices, not a legal or religious opinion. For any question of practice, refer to a qualified person. In a descriptive paragraph stay neutral and use "people", "families", "many people".

Defective plural: تَهانٍ (plural of تَهْنِئَة) loses its ي when indefinite (nominative and genitive): تَهانٍ, but التَّهاني with the article.

Expressions for description

Expression	Meaning
عادَةً	usually
كُلَّ سَنَةٍ	every year
بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا	one another
يَتَبادَلونَ	they exchange
يُحْتَفَلُ بِـ	it is celebrated

Match each word with its meaning.

صَوْم	meal that breaks the fast
إِفْطار	fasting
عيد	festival
أَقارِب	relatives
تَهانٍ	good wishes

Check · Start again

Describe in five sentences a festival or tradition in your family (present, عادَةً, a reciprocal verb), without giving a religious opinion.

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Level test