# Arabic B2, lesson 5: nouns of instrument

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| مِفْتاح<br>key | مِلْعَقَة<br>spoon | مِكْنَسَة<br>broom |
| ثَلّاجَة<br>fridge | غَسّالَة<br>washing machine | مِسْطَرَة<br>ruler |
| مِطْرَقَة<br>hammer | أَرْض<br>floor, earth | ثِياب<br>clothes |

طاوِلَة

table

في المَطْبَخِ مِلْعَقَةٌ وَمِفْتاحٌ وَثَلّاجَةٌ.

اِسْتَخْدَمَتْ أُمّي المِكْنَسَةَ لِتُنَظِّفَ الأَرْضَ.

ثُمَّ وَضَعَتِ الثِّيابَ في الغَسّالَةِ.

وَكانَ المِفْتاحُ عَلى الطّاوِلَةِ.

▶ **Show the translation**

The **noun of instrument** (اِسْم الآلَة) names the tool with which the action is done. Three patterns derived from a simple verb, all with a **م with kasra** (مِـ):

- **مِفْعال**: فَتَحَ → مِفْتاح (key); وَزَنَ → مِيزان (scales)
- **مِفْعَل**: حَرَثَ → مِحْرَث (plough)

- **مِفْعَلَة**: كَنَسَ → مِكْنَسَة (broom); لَعَقَ → مِلْعَقَة (spoon); سَطَرَ → مِسْطَرَة (ruler); طَرَقَ → مِطْرَقَة (hammer)

For **modern machines** the pattern **فَعّالَة** is common: غَسَلَ → غَسّالَة (washing machine); ثَلَجَ → ثَلّاجَة (fridge); سارَ → سَيّارَة (car); طارَ → طَيّارَة (aeroplane).

Warning: مَـ (fatha) gives a **place** (مَكْتَب), مِـ (kasra) gives a **tool** (مِفْتاح). One vowel changes the whole meaning.

Plural: مَفاعِل or مَفاعيل: مِفْتاح → مَفاتيح; مِكْنَسَة → مَكانِس.

**Instrument nouns**

| Pattern | Root | Word |
|---|---|---|
| مِفْعال | ف ت ح | مِفْتاح |
| مِفْعال | و ز ن | مِيزان |
| مِفْعَلَة | ك ن س | مِكْنَسَة |
| مِفْعَلَة | ل ع ق | مِلْعَقَة |
| مِفْعَلَة | س ط ر | مِسْطَرَة |
| فَعّالَة | غ س ل | غَسّالَة |
| فَعّالَة | ث ل ج | ثَلّاجَة |
| فَعّالَة | س ي ر | سَيّارَة |

**Match each object with its definition.**

| | |
|---|---|
| مِفْتاح | tool for opening |
| مِكْنَسَة | tool for sweeping |
| مِلْعَقَة | appliance that washes clothes |
| ثَلّاجَة | tool for eating |
| غَسّالَة | appliance that keeps things cold |

Check | Start again

Write a list of six objects in your home with their instrument noun and the root they come from.

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