

Arabic Language Beginner 1 & 2

Time and place: Virtual learning

Office hours:

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Objectives

- Learning to telling time, days of the week, months of the year
- Enhancing our ability to describe daily activities in the past, present, and future
- Learning how to describe national, historical, and religious events and festivities
- Intimately learning the verb forms
- Establishing correspondence with Arabs through letters and postcards
- Learning how to talk about hobbies and pastimes

Approach

Teacher and student activities are geared toward developing functional abilities to *use* Arabic accurately and fluently in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This involves intensive classroom interaction and out-of-class assignments.

Course Materials:

- Course materials will be provided to students by Instructor or Al-Bustan

Student Responsibilities

1. Attending and participating in class activities. Most of the language skills to be developed cannot be acquired without effective participation and interaction with other students and with the instructor. My expectation is that we can build an Arabic-speaking community through teamwork.
2. Doing homework assignments. This out-of-class practice is essential for reinforcement of classroom learning, reading, and writing.
3. Doing Final Project. This final project may take the form of a recording demonstrating what you have learned in the course of the semester.

How to do Well in This Class

This class is a group effort! We can make much more progress as a class than as individuals by creating an Arabic-speaking community of which you will be a fully participating member. The following suggestions will help you get the most out of the course:

- 1- **Prepare for active participation in class.** Practice new vocabulary out loud until you can produce it easily, listen/read texts several times until you are ready to answer questions on them, practice new grammar by using them in sentences.
- 2- **Study out loud.** The only way to train your brain and your mouth to speak in Arabic is through performance. Reading silently is not enough. Repeat whatever you hear, pronounce whatever you write, and learn to talk to yourself in Arabic.
- 3- **Think in Arabic.** While on your way from one class to another, think to yourself in Arabic. Name all of the objects whose name you know in Arabic. Describe their location, size, shape, color, number, adding as much detail as possible.
- 4- **Study in pairs/groups.** This is a great way to prepare for class and review—as long as you do the work in Arabic as much as possible, of course! Ask each other questions, brainstorm about assignments, go over materials covered in class together. You are welcome to collaborate on assignments, as long as each student hands in his/her own work.
- 5- **Personalize vocabulary.** Make words relevant by thinking of what you can say about yourself with them. Write extra sentences that are meaningful to you so that the vocabulary becomes yours. It is important at this stage to concentrate on what you can say more than what you want to say—which will come in time—and the best way to successfully attain that goal is to build a solid vocabulary base. *Language Learning is a process of programming yourself, because the words that you memorize are those very words that you will use to express yourself. By spending five minutes with words that you choose from the given vocabulary lists, you will be able to retain them for the rest of your life—**Make this language yours.***
- 6- **Language is context.** The communicative approach to language learning encourages you, the learner, to use what you know to derive what you do not. Think about how you acquired your native language: you learned new words by guessing their meaning from context, and you learned how to produce sentences by imitating and using patterns. As adult learners, we can take some shortcuts, but guessing skills remain central to language acquisition.
- 7- **Good language learners learn from their own mistakes and those of others.** As adults, we have been trained not to make mistakes. As language learners new to Arabic, mistakes are going to be made, but should not cause you undue stress. When your classmates are speaking, be an active listener by listening both to what they are saying and how they are saying it. Think about how you would correct their sentences.