9

New words: المواصلات *al-muwāṣalāt* Communications

1 **Essential vocabulary**

إصدار	*'iṣdār* issue, issuing	أجنبي أجانب	*'ajnabī 'ajānib* foreign
بلاد بلدان	*bilād buldān* country	إعلان	*'i9lān* announcement, notice, advertisement
تجارة	*tijāra* trade		
جديد جدد	*jadīd judud* new	تليفزيون	*tilivizyōn* television
حاسب آلي	*ḥāsib 'ālī,*	جميل	*jamīl* beautiful
حاسبات آلية (pl.)	*ḥāsibāt 'ālīya*) computer	حكومة	*ḥukūma* government
رسالة	*risāla* letter	راديو	*rādiō* radio
شخصي	*shakhṣī* personal	رسمي	*rasmī* official
طويل طوال	*ṭawīl ṭiwāl* long	صورة صور	*ṣūra ṣuwar* picture, photograph
علاقات	*9alāqāt* relations		
كتاب كتب	*kitāb kutub* book	قصير قصار	*qaṣīr qiṣār* short
		ممتاز	*mumtāz* excellent

Open *S66.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat** the Essential vocabulary.

Reference vocabulary

إنترنت	*'intirnet* Internet	اتّصال	*ittiṣāl* contact, (telephone) call
بريد	*barīd* mail	بريد إلكتروني\إيميل	*barīd 'iliktrōnī, 'ímayl* e-mail
تقديم	*taqdīm* presentation	حديث حداث	*ḥadīth ḥidāth* modern
جوّي	*jawwī* air (adjective)	زميل زملاء	*zamīl zumalā'* colleague (m.)
خطاب أخطبة	*khiṭāb 'akhṭiba* speech	صحفي	*ṣuḥufī* journalist (m.)
صحافة	*ṣiḥāfa* press	قراءة	*qirā'a* (act of) reading
صحيفة صحف*	*ṣaḥīfa ṣuḥuf* newspaper	مجتهد	*mujtáhid* hardworking
لغة	*lugha* language	محلّي	*maḥallī* local
مجلّة	*majalla* magazine	معرض معارض	*ma9riḍ ma9āriḍ* exhibition
مراسل	*murāsil* reporter, correspondent	مندوب	*mandūb* delegate
مقالة	*maqāla* article	نصّ نصوص	*naṣṣ nuṣūṣ* text
ملوّن	*mulawwan* coloured		
مؤتمر	*mu'támar* conference		

* In spoken Arabic, use the popular word for 'newspaper', جريدة جرائد *jarīda jarā'id*. The word صحيفة صحف is used mainly in writing.

Open *S67.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat** the Reference vocabulary.

Basic structures, 1: Description

2 Read and write these two words:

إعلان إعلانا *'i9lān* announcement

هامّ هامّة *hāmm* important

Open *S68.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

إعلان is a *noun*, هامّ is an *adjective* (see 4/4 if you are unsure). Now **write** the two words together, *noun first*. We get the expression

إعلان هامّ إعلان هامّ an important announcement

Open *S69.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

This type of expression is our first basic structure, which we can call a **description**. It is very common.

You will remember that Arabic has no word for 'a' or 'an'. Note also that, in contrast to the English, the Arabic adjective *follows* the noun.

Now **read and write** a few more descriptions (remember that relatives and participles – Lessons 4 and 8 respectively – can be used either as nouns or adjectives wherever the meaning permits):

كاتب لبناني كاتب لبناني a Lebanese writer

خطاب طويل خطاب طويل *khiṭāb ṭawīl* a long speech

مراسل مشغول مراسل مشغول *(murāsil)* a busy reporter

إعلان عامّ إعلان عامّ a public notice

صحفي مصري صحفي مصري *(ṣuḥufī)* an Egyptian journalist

Open *S70.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

Now **read and write** 'an Egyptian (woman) journalist'. Watch what happens to the adjective:

صحفية مصرية صحفية مصرية *ṣuḥufīya miṣrīya*

Open *S71.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

The adjective assumes the feminine form too (see 3/5); it is said to *agree* with the feminine noun. **Read and write** 'an Egyptian newspaper':

صحيفة مصرية صحيفة مصرية *(ṣaḥīfa)*

Open *S72.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

In English, we generally apply the concept of masculine or feminine only to nouns denoting people or higher animals (one possible exception being 'she' for a ship); we regard other nouns as 'it' or *neuter*. Arabic has no neuter gender; all nouns, including those for things, places and ideas, are either masculine or feminine (صحيفة, shown above, is feminine). For our purposes, the gender rules for Arabic nouns are simple:

- Nouns for male people and male animals are masculine; nouns for female people and female animals are feminine.
- Nouns with final ة naming things, places and ideas are feminine; nouns (with any ending) denoting towns, and most countries, plus a few others, e.g. شمس *shams* (3/6) and سوق *sūq* (6/1), are also feminine. Most other nouns for things, places and ideas are masculine.

(There is a handful of exceptions, few of them important enough to concern us.)

With this in mind, **read and write** this series of feminine descriptions:

صحفية مشغولة صحفية مشغولة a busy newswoman

رسالة رسمية رسالة رسمية *risāla rasmīya* an official letter

صورة جميلة صورة جميلة *ṣūra jamīla* a beautiful picture

صحيفة عربية صحيفة عربية an Arab(ic) newspaper

Open *S73.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

All the descriptions given so far have been indefinite. Since we make an adjective agree with its noun in gender (m. or f.), it is logical that we also make it agree in *definition*, i.e. indefinite adjective with indefinite noun, definite adjective with definite noun. **Read and write** these definite descriptions:

الكاتب اللبناني	الكاتب اللبناني	the Lebanese writer (m.)
المراسل المشغول	المراسل المشغول	the busy reporter (m.)
النصّ الطويل	النصّ الطويل	*an-naṣṣ aṭ-ṭawīl* the long text (m.)
الصحافة الغربية	الصحافة الغربية	*aṣ-ṣiḥāfa l-gharbīya** the western press (f.)
الرسالة الطويلة	الرسالة الطويلة	*ar-risāla ṭ-ṭawīla** the long letter
المجلّة الجديدة	المجلّة الجديدة	*al-majalla l-jadīda** the new magazine

Open *S74.wav*. Read, listen and repeat.

We apply to adjectives the same rules for adding the article ...ال as for nouns (2/5 and 3/2).

* Remember that the 'weak' *a-* of the article is dropped after a vowel (3/3). It is easiest to pronounce the vowelless article as if it were part of the preceding word: *[aṣ-ṣiḥāfa**l**-gharbīya]* (etc.).

A proper name ('Egypt', 'Ahmad') is always definite, even if it has no article. So a description with a proper name has a definite adjective, like 'Alexander the Great' or 'Ivan the Terrible' in English. **Read and write:**

مصر الحديثة مصر الحديثة *(al-ḥadītha)* modern Egypt (f.)

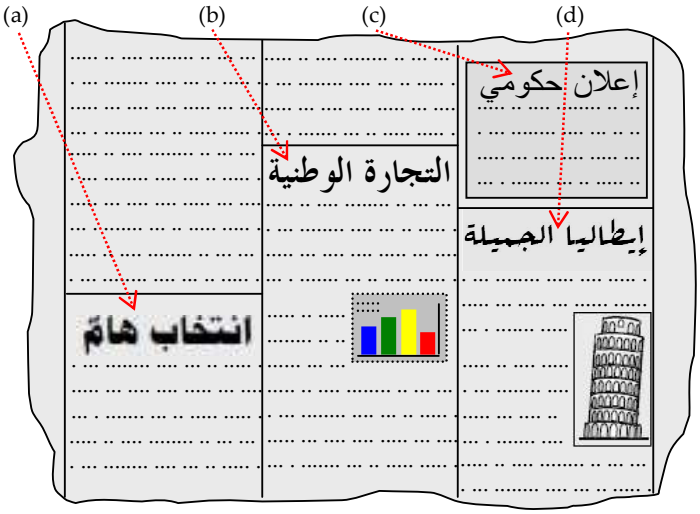
Open *S75.wav*. Read, listen and repeat.

Exercise 1 Make as many meaningful descriptions as possible, using a noun from list (a) and an adjective (making it agree) from list (b). Read and translate your descriptions:

nouns: (a) الإعلان، بلاد، صحيفة، الصورة، رسالة

adjectives: (b) هامّ، مفيد، شخصي، طويل، محلّي، جميل

Exercise 2 Read and translate these newspaper headings:



Which descriptions are masculine, and which feminine? Definite or indefinite?

The answers to these exercises follow paragraph 5 below.

3 So far all the descriptions have been singular. Descriptions can also be dual (though by their nature these are rare). The adjective agrees, forming its dual in the same manner as a noun (7/1). The dual description can be either definite or indefinite. **Read and write:**

مراسلين غربيين	مراسلين غربيين	*murāsilayn gharbīyayn*	two western correspondents
مراسلان غربيان	مراسلان غربيان	*murāsilān gharbīyān*	
الرسالتين الرسميتين	الرسالتين الرسميتين	*ar-risālatayn ar-rasmīyatayn*	both official letters
الرسالتان الرسميتان	الرسالتان الرسميتان	*ar-risālatān ar-rasmīyatān*	

Open *S76.wav*. Read, listen and repeat.

4 As you would expect, plural descriptions, definite and indefinite, also occur, very frequently.

In a plural description, the noun forms its plural in one of the three ways we have studied in Lesson 7 (regular feminine, regular masculine or an irregular form).

But the adjective forms its plural in one of these three ways *only when it describes people*. We call this the *animate plural (an. pl.)* form.

When the adjective describes any other plural noun (animals, things, places, ideas) it always has the so-called ***in**animate plural (inan. pl.)* form, irrespective of the gender of the noun. The *inanimate plural* adjective is identical in form to the feminine singular adjective, ending ـة.. or ـَة.

This is a most important rule, and you will see it in action countless times.

Inanimate plural rule: An adjective describing a plural noun which denotes anything other than people is put into the inanimate plural form, which is always the same as the feminine singular.

Read and write these plural descriptions, noting the form of the adjective in each case (the first two are animate, the last two inanimate):

زملاء ممتازين\ون زملاء ممتازين\ممتازون — *zumalā' mumtāzīn/-ūn* (m.) excellent colleagues

زميلات ممتازات زميلات ممتازات — *zamīlāt mumtāzāt* (f.) excellent colleagues

اقتراحات ممتازة اقتراحات ممتازه — *iqtirāḥāt mumtāza* excellent proposals

مقالات ممتازة مقالات ممتازه — *maqālāt mumtāza* excellent articles

Open *S77.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

The inanimate plural rule affects only the *adjective*, not the noun; and the choice of animate or inanimate does not arise at all with the singular or dual.

Here are more plural descriptions, of various kinds, including a mixture of definite and indefinite (since Arabic uses the article for any noun intended to cover a whole category in general, you may not always want to use the article in English). Spot the animate plural and inanimate plural adjectives too. **Read and write:**

بلدان غربية بلدان غربيه — *(buldān)* western countries

صور ملوّنة صور ملونه — *ṣuwar mulawwana* colour(ed) photographs

ممثّلون أجانب ممثلون أجانب — *mumaththilūn 'ajānib* foreign representatives

الصحف الأجنبية الصحف الاجنبيه — *aṣ-ṣuḥuf al-'ajnabīya* (the) foreign newspapers

الكمبيوترات اليابانية الكمبيوترات اليابانيه — (the) Japanese computers

مندوبين يابانيين مندوبين يابانيين — Japanese delegates

إعلانات حكومية إعلانات حكوميه — government announcements

زميلات مجتهدات زميلات مجتهدات — *(mujtahidāt)* hard-working colleagues (f.)

Open *S78.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

Plural nouns denoting groups or collections of people are seen as inanimate (i.e. any accompanying adjective agrees with the *groups*, not their human members). Note, and **read and write:**

حكومات اشتراكية حكومات اشتراكيه — *(ishtirākīya)* socialist governments

الوزارات الوطنية الوزارات الوطنيه — *(al-waṭanīya)* the national ministries

Open *S79.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

Now **read and write** an important proper name in the form of a description, in which the adjective is an inanimate plural participle (8/1):

الولايات المتّحدة الولايات المتّحده *al-wilāyāt al-muttáḥida* the United States

Open *S80.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

With the *description* you have broken through the line separating isolated words from expressions. You are beginning to manipulate the language, making it do what you want. There are two further related structures to come, in Lessons 10 and 12; the three together will give you yet more breadth of expression.

Possessive

5 In English the so-called *possessive* (in full, the *possessive adjective*): is a word: 'my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their'. In Arabic, it is an ending added to the noun denoting what is 'possessed' (don't take the term 'possessed' too literally). **Write** 'colleague' in Arabic, indefinite masculine form:

زميل زميل

Open *S81.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

Write it again, adding the ending ـي... *-ī*, and you get 'my colleague' (m.):

زميلي زميلي *zamīlī*

Open *S82.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

NB: Don't confuse this possessive ـي... *-ī* with the *relative* ending ـي... *-ī* (4/4).

Any final ة on the possessed noun changes to ت (since ة can stand only at the end of a word), before the possessive ending is added. **Write** 'my car':

سيّارتي سيّارتي *sayyāratī*

Open *S83.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

Here are the possessive endings for all the persons we need, including 'my' which we have just studied:

ـي	ـي...	*-ī*	my	ـنا ـنا...	*-na* our
ـك	ـك...	*-ak*	your (m. s.)	ـكم ـكم...	*-kum* your (pl.)
ـك	ـك...	*-ik*	your (f. s.)		
ـه	ـه...	*-u, -hu*	his, its (m. s.)	ـهم ـهم...	*-hum* their (an. pl.)
ـها	ـها...	*-ha*	her, its (f. s.), their (inan. pl.)		

These are all added to the indefinite noun in the same way as ـي... *-ī* 'my'. **Read and write:**

تقريري تقريري *taqrīrī* my report

مشكلتي مشكلتي *mushkilatī* my problem

اقتراحك اقتراحك *iqtirāḥak/-ik* your proposal

لجنتك لجنتك *lajnatak/-ik* your committee

مكتبه مكتبه *maktabu/maktabhu* his office

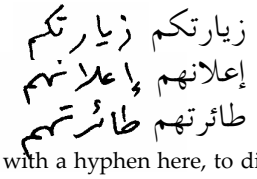
صورته صورته *ṣūratu/ṣūrat-hu** his/its picture

اسمها اسمها *ismha* her, its; their (inan. pl.) name

احتجاجنا احتجاجنا *iḥtijājna* our objection

مجلّتنا مجلّتنا *majallatna* our magazine

وصولكم وصولكم *wuṣūlkum* your (pl.) arrival


زيارتكم *ziyāratkum* your (pl.) visit
إعلانهم *'i9lānhum* their advertisement
طائرتهم *ṭā'irat-hum** their aeroplane

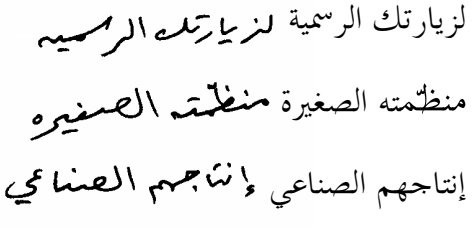
* We break the transcription with a hyphen here, to distinguish the two separate sounds *t-h* from the single sound *th* (ث, 1/3).

Open *S84.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

Certain things need explaining:

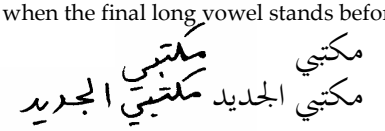
- The possessive corresponding to 'your' shown above has three forms: *-ak* when the 'possessor' is a male person, *-ik* when the possessor is a female person, and *-kum* when the possessors constitute a group. In very formal correspondence the plural *-kum* is sometimes used respectfully for the singular.
- We use the possessive *-u* or *-hu* when the possessor would be expressed with a masculine singular noun; we have to translate with 'his' or 'its' as appropriate.
- We use the possessive *-ha* when the possessor would be expressed with a feminine singular noun, *or a plural noun not denoting people* (the inanimate plural); we have to translate with 'her', 'its' or 'their' as appropriate.
- We use the possessive *-hum* 'their' only when the possessors are people, i.e. animate.
- No dual? Yes, there are dual possessives (= 'of you both', 'of them both'), but they are so rarely used that we need not learn them, and they have not been included in the table.
- When a noun has a possessive ending attached, it logically becomes definite. So any accompanying adjective (making a description) has the article, prefixed in the same way as to a noun – including the provision for initial sun letters.
- The pronunciation recommended here for these written endings is that of educated *spoken* Arabic. In formal reading of e.g. a legal, literary or political text a more complicated pronunciation is heard, which is not shown here as we do not need it.

Read and write:


لزيارتك الرسمية *li-ziyāratak ar-rasmīya*
for your official visit
منظّمته الصغيرة *munaẓẓamatu ṣ-ṣaghīra*
his small organisation
إنتاجهم الصناعي *'intājhum aṣ-ṣinā9ī*
their industrial production

Open *S85.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

The possessive ending corresponding to 'my' is a long *-ī*. It is a rule that when any long vowel at the end of a word is followed by a doubled consonant or two consonants in the same phrase, the long vowel shortens in pronunciation (the spelling remaining unchanged). This happens most commonly when the final long vowel stands before an article. Examine, and **read and write:**


مكتبي *maktabī* my office

but: مكتبي الجديد *maktab**i** l-jadīd* (short ***-i***) my new office

Open *S86.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

Final long vowel rule: When a long vowel at the end of a word is followed by a doubled consonant (or two consonants) in the same phrase, the long vowel shortens in pronunciation. The spelling is unchanged.

We can also add these possessives to a noun with the feminine regular plural noun ending ...ات, or to an irregular plural. **Read and write:**

مشاكلنا الفنّيه مشاكلنا الفنّية *mashākilna l-fannīya* our technical problems

معلوماتهم المفيده معلوماتهم المفيدة *ma9lūmāt-hum al-mufīda* their useful information

Open *S87.wav*. **Read, listen and repeat**.

When a possessive is added to a noun carrying a dual or a masculine regular plural ending (7/1, 2), the final ...ن of the dual or plural ending is dropped. Examine:

معلّموكم *mu9allimūkum* your teachers ممثّلاهم *mumaththilāhum* both their representatives

Exercise 3 Who placed advertisement (a)? And what is advertisement (b) looking for? (Read only the big coloured print in both examples.) :

(a)



(b)



Exercise 4 Read and translate the following descriptions:

(a) صور ملوّنة (b) للمراسلين الأجانب (c) منظّمتنا الفنّية

(d) الصحافة المحلّية والوطنية (e) مكتبك الجديد

The answers to these exercises are given immediately below.

Answers to Exercises

1 الإعلان الهامّ، المفيد، الشخصي، الطويل، المحلّي، الجميل

al-'i9lān al-hāmm, al-mufīd, ash-shakhṣī, aṭ-ṭawīl, al-maḥallī, al-jamīl the important, the useful, the personal, the long, the local, the beautiful announcement/advertisement

بلاد هامّ، جميل *bilād hāmm, jamil* an important, a beautiful country

صحيفة هامّة، مفيدة، محلّية *ṣaḥīfa hāmma, mufīda, maḥallīya* an important, a useful, a local newspaper

الصورة الهامّة، المفيدة، الشخصية، الجميلة *aṣ-ṣūra l-hāmma, l-mufīda, sh-shakhṣīya, l-jamīla* the important, the useful, the personal, the beautiful picture/photograph

رسالة هامّة، مفيدة، شخصية، طويلة، جميلة *risāla hāmma, mufīda, shakhṣīya, ṭawīla, jamīla* an important, a useful, a personal, a long, a beautiful letter

2 (a) *intikhāb hāmm* An important election, indefinite masculine

(b) *at-tijāra l-waṭanīya* ('The') National Trade, definite feminine

(c) *'i9lān ḥukūmī* Government(al) Announcement/Notice, indefinite masculine

(d) *'īṭáliya l-jamīla* Beautiful Italy ('Italy the Beautiful'), definite feminine

3 (a) *al-khuṭūṭ al-jawwīya l-waṭanīya* ('The') National Airlines ('Air Lines')

(b) *mumaththilīn fannīyīn* Technical Representatives

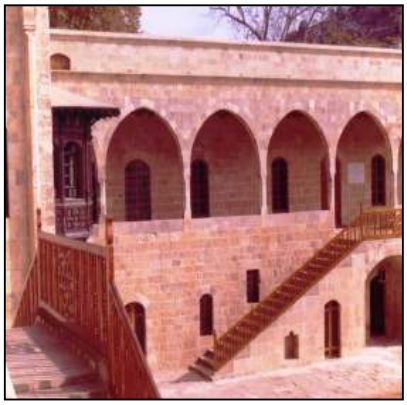
4 (a) *ṣuwar mulawwana* coloured pictures/ colour photographs

(b) *li-l-murāsilīn al-'ajānib* for the foreign reporters/correspondents

(c) *munaẓẓamatna l-fannīya* our technical organisation

(d) *aṣ-ṣiḥāfa l-maḥallīya wa-l-waṭanīya* the local and national press

(e) *maktabak al-jadīd* your new office



Tests

1 Read aloud and translate:

(a) صحافتنا الأسبوعية (b) احتجاجاتهم الطويلة (c) لزملائي الفنّيين
(d) صحف عربية (e) بنك أجنبي

2 Put adjective and noun together in a description, changing the adjective as necessary:

(a) مدرسة، ابتدائي (b) المطار، وطني (c) تقاريره، يومي (d) لزوّارنا، أجنبي
(e) انتخابات، عامّ

3 Make these descriptions plural:

(a) رسالة طويلة (b) التقرير الفنّي (c) ممثّل أجنبي (d) الطائرة الأميركية
(e) خطّ جوّي

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