

Complete Arabic

Jack Smart and Frances Altorfer

For Mairi and Kirsty

The publisher has used its best endeavours to ensure that the URLs for external websites referred to in this book are correct and active at the time of going to press. However, the publisher and author have no responsibility for the websites and can make no guarantee that a site will remain live or that the content will remain relevant, decent or appropriate.

For UK order enquiries: please contact
Bookpoint Ltd, 130 Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4SB.
Telephone: +44 (0) 1235 827720. *Fax:* +44 (0) 1235 400454.
Lines are open 09.00–18.00, Monday to Saturday, with a 24-hour message answering service. Details about our titles and how to order are available at www.teachyourself.co.uk

For USA order enquiries: please contact
McGraw-Hill Customer Services,
PO Box 545, Blacklick, OH 43004-0545, USA.
Telephone: 1-800-722-4726. *Fax:* 1-614-755-5645.

For Canada order enquiries: please contact
McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd,
300 Water St, Whitby, Ontario L1N 9B6, Canada.
Telephone: 905 430 5000. *Fax:* 905 430 5020.

Long renowned as the authoritative source for self-guided learning – with more than 40 million copies sold worldwide – the *Teach Yourself* series includes over 300 titles in the fields of languages, crafts, hobbies, business, computing and education.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data:
a catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: on file.

First published in UK 2001 by Hodder Education,
338 Euston Road, London, NW1 3BH.

First published in US 2001 by Contemporary Books,
a Division of the McGraw-Hill Companies, 1 Prudential Plaza,
130 East Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60601 USA.

Previously published as *Teach Yourself Arabic*.
This edition published 2010.

The *Teach Yourself* name is a registered trade mark
of Hodder Headline.

Copyright © 2001, 2003, 2010 Jack Smart and Frances Altorfer

In US: All rights reserved. Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Contemporary Books.

Typeset by WorldAccent, London, England.

Printed in the United Kingdom for Hodder Education, a division of
Hodder Headline, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH.

Impression number 5 4 3 2 1

Year 2013 2012 2011 2010

Contents

- iv Acknowledgements
ix Meet the authors
x Only got a minute?
xii Only got five minutes?
xvi Only got ten minutes?
xx Introduction

1 Arabic script and pronunciation guide

- 19 1 فلنبداً **fal-nábdá** 'Let's get started!
Greeting people, making short descriptive phrases, definites and indefinites
- 38 2 التفاصيل الشخصية **at-tafaaSiil ash-shakhSíyyah**
Personal details
Meeting people, saying where you are from, simple sentences with *is/are*, saying *there is/there are*, numbers 1–10
- 54 3 كيف تصف نفسك **kayfa taSif nafs-ak**
How you describe yourself
Saying your nationality, saying which languages you speak, talking about more than one object, some places around town, what your profession is
- 71 4 هذا وذاك **háadhaa wa-dháalik** *This and that*
Telling the time, asking about opening times, days of the week, numbers 11–20, making phrases and sentences with *this, that, those*
- 94 5 بيتنا بيتكم **báyt-naa báyt-kum** *Our house is your house*
Talking about your family, saying who things belong to, describing things, numbers 21–100



- 108 6 أين وسط المدينة؟ **áyna wásT al-madiinah?**
Where is the town centre?
Giving simple directions, talking about more places around town and their location, saying what belongs to whom
- 125 7 ماذا فعلت؟ **máadhaa fa:ált?** *What did you do?*
Talking about things which happened in the past, means of transport, Arabic verbs, saying *me, him, them, etc.*
- 145 8 كان يا ما كان **kaan yaa maa kaan** *Once upon a time*
Saying *was/were, is/are not*, describing something, saying *became*, a new type of *is/are* sentence, saying you *had done* something
- 169 9 أكثر من واحد **akthar min waaHid** *More than one*
Looking for a job in the paper, looking for a flat or a house, talking about more than one person or thing, saying *these/those*, talking about two people or things
- 190 10 ماذا تعمل؟ **maadhaa ta:mal?** *What do you do?*
Saying what you do every day, talking about your interests, saying what you like or dislike, saying what you will do in the future, more about *not*
- 214 11 الأعياد الإسلامية **al-a:yaad al-islamiiyah** *Islamic festivals*
The main Islamic festivals, special greetings for festival days, the Islamic calendar, asking questions, saying *to have*
- 237 12 صفحة المرأة **SafHat al-mar'ah** *Woman's page*
Talking about nationalities
- 247 13 الخليج العربي **al-khaliij al-arabi** *The Arabian Gulf*
More about describing places, saying *who, which, that, etc.*, passive verbs





- 266 14 الطاعة والسمع **as-sam: wa T-Taa:ah**
Hearing is obeying (The Arabian Nights)
Following a recipe, telling people to do something, addressing people or attracting their attention, duals and masculine plurals in possessive constructions
- 284 15 العرب في هوليوود **al:-arab fii huuliiwuud**
The Arabs in Hollywood
Making comparisons, saying how things are done, shopping
- 303 16 الرياضة **SafHat ar-riyaaDah** *Sports*
Sports and leisure activities, talking about colours, describing how or when you have done something
- 321 17 من كل بلد خبر **min kull balad khabar**
News from every country
Talking about *each, every, all* and *some*. Using irregular nouns and adjectives
- 341 *Key to the exercises*
- 372 *Listening transcripts*
- 375 *Glossary of language terms*
- 379 *Grammar summary*
- 392 *Verb tables*
- 420 *Arabic–English vocabulary*
- 441 *English–Arabic vocabulary*
- 460 *Grammar index*



1

فلنبداً fal-nábdá' Let's get started!

In this unit you will learn:

- *how to greet people*
- *how to make short descriptive phrases*
- *about definites and indefinites*



1 السلام عليكم as-saláamu :aláy-kum
hello [lit., Peace be upon you]

» CD1, TR06

In Arabic, it is extremely important to be able to greet people and to reply when someone greets you. Notice that each greeting has its own particular reply. If you have the recording, listen to these people greeting each other and see how they respond.

Simple greetings

السلام عليكم

as-saláamu :aláy-kum*

hello [lit., peace be upon you]

وعليكم السلام

wa- :aláy-kum as-saláam

hello (reply) [lit., (and) upon you
peace]

*This pronunciation is explained in Structures 1b below.

Exercise 1

Kamal is visiting an old friend, John, in his hotel in Cairo and Kamal speaks first. Practise saying each phrase, filling in the gaps. Remember to pronounce the stress on every word where it is shown.

a as-saláamu ..., yaa John!

السلام... يا جون!

b wa :aláy-kum ..., yaa Kamáal!

وعليكم... يا كمال!

Exercise 2

You are going to visit your Arabic-speaking friend Nadia. She welcomes you into her house. What do you say to her?

يا yaa O

(obligatory before anyone's name or title when addressing them)

2 صباح الخير SabáaH al-kháyr Good morning

CD1, TR07

Suad is about to begin teaching an Arabic course at the university in Cairo. First she greets a new student.



Su:áad	SabáaH al-kháyr.	سعاد صباح الخير.
Táalibah	SabáaH an-núur.	طالبة ص صباح النور.

Táalibah (pl. **Taalibáat**) *female student*, طالبات

Insight

The plurals of nouns and adjectives in Arabic do not follow a logical system, so it is better to learn them along with the singular from the beginning. They are given after the singular noun in the vocabulary, separated by a comma.

In Arabic, there is no word for *good afternoon*, so **masáa' al-kháyr** is used for both late afternoon and evening.

تعبيرات رئيسية ta:biiráat ra'iisiyyah (Key phrases)

» CD1, TR08

How to wish someone good morning, evening

صباح الخير SabáaH al-kháyr	<i>good morning</i> [lit., morning (of) the goodness]
صباح النور SabáaH an-núur	<i>good morning (reply)</i> [lit., morning (of) the light]
مساء الخير masáa' al-kháyr	<i>good afternoon/good evening</i> [lit., evening (of) the goodness]
مساء النور masáa' an-núur	<i>good afternoon/good evening (reply)</i> [lit., evening (of) the light]

Exercise 3

Fill in the bubbles with the appropriate greetings.





Exercise 4

- It is 11am and you go to the bank for cash. Greet the bank clerk.*
- You are in a restaurant one evening and an acquaintance comes up and greets you. What would you say?*
- Your partner comes home from work at 7pm. What does he/she say to you?*
- You go into a shop in the market. Say hello to the shopkeeper.*
- You see your neighbour in the street and she says hello to you. How would you reply?*

3 كيف حالك؟ kayfa Háal-ak? How are you?

CD1, TR09

Suad asks one of the students, Michael, how he is:

Su:áad	káyfa Háal-ak?	سعاد	كيف حالك؟
Michael	al-Hámdu lil-láah.	مايكل	الحمد لله.
Su:áad	áhlan wa-sáhlan.	سعاد	أهلاً وسهلاً.
Michael	áhlan bi-ki. wa ánti, káyfa Háal-ik?	مايكل	أهلاً بك. وأنت، كيف حالك؟
Su:áad	al-Hámdu lil-láah, bi-kháyr.	سعاد	الحمد لله، بخير.

Insight

Note the spelling of **ahlan** and **sahlan** with a final **alif**. This is the accusative marker (see Unit 8).

تعبيرات رئيسية ta:biiráat ra'iisíyyah (Key phrases)

« CD1, TR10

كيف حالك؟ kayfa Háal-ak?	how are you? (to a man) [lit., How [is] condition-your?]
كيف حالك؟ kayfa Háal-ik?	how are you? (to a woman)
الحمد لله al-Hámdu lil-láah	praise [be] to God (response to above)
أهلاً وسهلاً áhlan wa-sáhlan	welcome
أهلاً بك áhlan bi-k	(reply to a man)
أهلاً بك áhlan bi-ki	(reply to a woman)
وأنت؟ wa-ánta/ánti	and you? (sing. m./f.)
بخير bi-khayr	well adj. [lit., in well-being]

الملاحظات al-mulaaHaDHáat (Notes)

- **káyfa Háal-ak** If you are speaking to a woman, you must say **káyfa Háal-ik**, although there is no difference in written Arabic. If you are talking a group of people, you must say **káyfa Háal-kum** (كيف حالكم).
- **al-Hámdu lil-láah** never changes and is used in many situations. Even if something unfortunate or unpleasant has happened, the devout Muslim must submit to the will of Allah and praise Him for what He has decreed.

- **áhlan bi-k** *You must say **áhlan bi-ki** to a woman (same spelling) or **áhlan bi-kum** (أهلاً بكم) to a group of people.*

Exercise 5

a *Mohammad is having a party and his English friend John arrives. Finish the sentence for Mohammad.*

káyfa ...?

كيف ...؟

b *What does John reply?*

c *Fill in the missing words in the next exchange between Mohammed and John.*

– ... **wa sáhlan**

... وسهلاً.

– **áhlan**

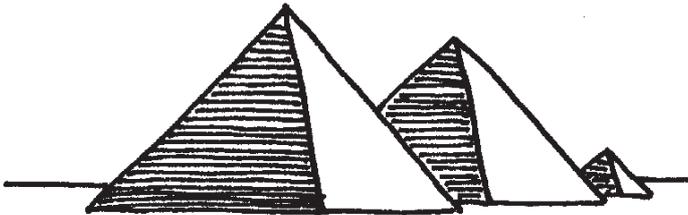
.... أهلاً

d *You meet some Arabic-speaking friends. How do you ask them how they are?*

e *An Arabic-speaking colleague comes into your office and you greet him. What do you say?*

4 What do they want?

الأهرام **al-ahráam** (*The pyramids*)



CD1, TR11

Exercise 6

Some tourists are spending the day in Cairo. Listen to the recording or read the dialogues below and try to work out which picture belongs to each dialogue.

a



b



c



1

- táaksi! al-ahráam, min faDI-ak! تاكسي! الأهرام من فضلك!
- ná:am, ya sáyyid-il! نعم يا سيدي!

2

- al-miSbáaH min fáDI-ak. المصباح من فضلك.
- tafáDDal. تفضل.
- shúkran. شكرا.

3

- shaay wa-sandawíitsh شاي، وسندويتش من فضلك.
 minfáDI-ak.
- shaay bi-súkkar? شاي بسكر؟
- laa shúkran, bidúun súkkar. لا، شكرا، بدون سكر.
 bi-kam háadhaa? بكم هذا؟
- thaláathah junayháat. ثلاثة جنيهات.

Exercise 7

Which dialogue takes place:

- a in a café beside the Nile?
- b in Khan al-Khalili market?
- c in Tahrir Square, in the centre of Cairo?

Exercise 8

Find the words for the following items:

- a a tea with sugar

- b the lamp
- c the pyramids
- d a sandwich

معلومات ثقافية ma:luumáat thaqaafiyyah (Cultural tips)

People don't usually use terms like Mr and Mrs. In Egypt and some other northern Arab countries, people say **siidi** where we might say *sir*, but in other countries this term is reserved for certain classes of nobility. Its correct formal pronunciation is **sáyyidi**, but this does not show in the Arabic script.

Exercise 9

Which figure from the Arabian Nights is this?

علاء الدين والمصباح السحري
:aláa'ad-diin wa-l-miSbáaH as-síHrii



تعبيرات رئيسية ta:biiráat ra'iisiyyah (Key phrases)

CD1, TR12

تاكسي táaksii	taxi
من فضلك min fáDI-ak	please
نعم ná:am	yes
مصباح miSbáaH	lamp
تفضل tafáDDal	here you are, welcome

شكرا shúkran	thank you
شاي shaay	tea
و wa-	and
لا laa	no
بـ bi-	with
سكر súkkar	sugar
بدون bi-dúun	without
بكم هذا؟ bi-kam háadha?	how much is this?
ثلاثة جنيهات thaláathah junayháat	three pounds
سحري síHrii	magic

تراكييب اللغة taraakiib al-lúghah (Structures)

1 Definite or indefinite?

It is important in Arabic to be able to distinguish between *definite* words and phrases and *indefinites*.

Indefinite words have *a* or *an* before them in English. There is no indefinite article, or word for *a* or *an*, in Arabic.

بيت bayt	(a) house
سندويتش sandawíitsh	(a) sandwich

There are three types of definite word in English:

- 1 words that have the definite article – the house
- 2 proper nouns – Mohammed, Cairo, Egypt
- 3 pronouns such as he, I, you, etc.

The definite article *the* never varies in writing, and is always **الـ al-**. The hyphen shows that, in the Arabic script, **al-** is always attached to the following word.

البيت al-bayt	<i>the house</i>
الأهرام al-ahráam	<i>the pyramids</i>

There are two points of pronunciation:

- 1 *If the preceding word ends in a vowel or **-ah**, the **a** of **al-** is omitted in pronunciation, but kept in writing.*

CD1, TR13

<i>Written</i>	<i>Pronounced</i>
باب البيت	baab al-bayt <i>the door of the house</i> after a preceding consonant
في البيت	fi l-bayt <i>in the house</i> after a preceding vowel

- 2 *If the word to which **al-** is attached begins with one of the following consonants, the **l** of the **al-** is omitted in pronunciation and the following letter is doubled.*

<i>t th d dh r z s sh S D T DH l n</i>
<i>ن ل ظ ط خ ص ش س ز ر ذ د ث ت</i>

You are pronouncing the word properly if you make a small hesitation on the doubled letters.

<i>Written</i>	<i>Pronounced</i>	
	after a consonant	after a vowel
الشمس	ash-shams	sh-shams <i>the sun</i>
النور	an-nuur	n-nuur <i>the light</i>
السندويتش	as-sandwiitsh	s-sandwiitsh <i>the sandwich</i>

Insight

An easy way to remember these letters is to pronounce them all out loud. With the slight exception of **sh**, you will notice that the tip of your tongue is contacting somewhere in the region of your front teeth or the gum above them – where the letter **l** is pronounced, which is why the assimilation occurs. No other Arabic consonants are pronounced in this area.

The Arabs call these the ‘sun letters’, simply because the word **shams** (شمس) *sun* begins with one of them. The remaining letters are called the ‘moon letters’, because **qamar** (قمر) *moon* does not begin with an assimilated letter.

Remember: The written form remains the same; it is only the pronunciation that varies. However, to help you, the assimilations have been represented in the transliteration.

Exercise 10

🔊 CD1, TR15

Listen to the following words on the recording, or study them carefully:

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| a الشاي | e النور |
| b الأهرام | f الكبير |
| c السلام | g الصغير |
| d السندويتش | |

List those that begin with sun letters and those that begin with moon letters.

2 Nouns and adjectives

Arabic adjectives behave like nouns but:

- a they always follow the noun
- b they must agree with the noun in definiteness and in gender
- c additional adjectives are simply added after the first one with no punctuation or joining word. If the noun is definite, the adjectives must all be definite and have the definite article.

Insight

It will be a great help when you are learning Arabic if you can come to look on nouns and adjectives as being virtually the same thing. This only happens in slightly archaic English in phrases such as 'the great and the good', 'the meek shall inherit the earth'. More commonly we use the helping word 'one': 'Which dress do you prefer?', 'The blue one'.

Arabic grammar will become easier if you mentally add the word 'one' to Arabic adjectives, so that you are effectively equating them with nouns. In Arabic, the reply to the question above would have been simply 'The blue'.

« CD1, TR15, 02:35

بيت صغير bayt Saghīir

a small house = (a) house
(a) small(-one)



الولد الطويل **al-wálad aT-Tawíil** *the tall boy = the-boy the-tall(-one)*

بريطانيا العظمى
briiTáanyaa l-úDHma *Great Britain = Britain the-great (-one)*

كتاب كبير جديد
kitáab kabíir jadiid *a big new book = (a) book (a) big (-one) (a) new(-one)*

البنات الجميلة الصغيرة
al-bint al-jamíilah S-Saghiirah *the beautiful young girl = the-girl the-beautiful(-one) the-young(-one)*

بيوت **bayt, buyúut** *house*

صغير **Saghiir** *young (person), small (thing)*

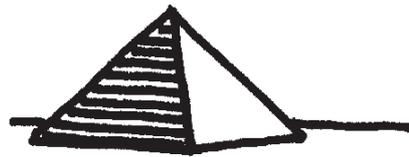
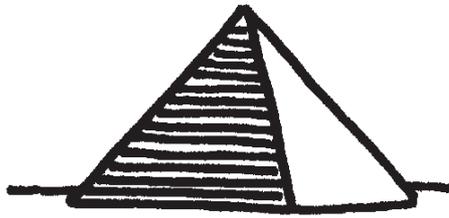
ولد، أولاد **wálad, awláad** *boy (pl. also children)*

طويل **Tawíil** *tall (person), long (thing)*

كتاب، كتب **kitáab (kútub)** *book*

كبير **kabíir** *big*

جميل (جميلة) **jamíil (f. jamíilah)** *beautiful*



هرم كبير

háram kabíir

a big pyramid

(a) pyramid (a) big(-one)

هرم صغير

háram Saghiir

a small pyramid

(a) pyramid (a) small(-one)



Insight

إلى المركز التجاري
TO THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE



Some words end with a final **ى** (written without the two dots) which is pronounced **-a** (strictly **-aa**, but often shortened). **إلى ila(a)**, *to/towards* is an example of this.

تمرينات tamriinát (Practice)

Exercise 11

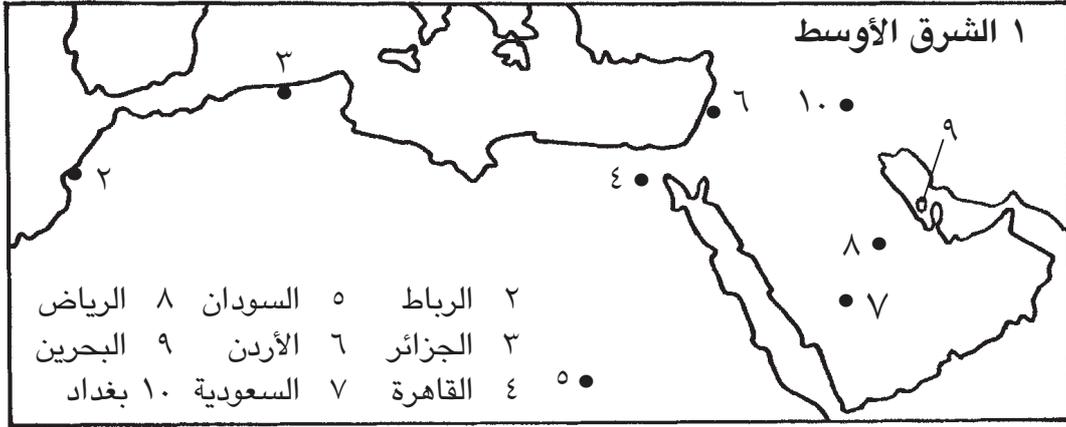
Listen again to the greetings at the beginning of the recording and repeat the phrases after the speakers. If you don't have the recording, read the dialogues several times until you are sure you are familiar with them.

Exercise 12

Match the following greetings with the appropriate reply.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <i>i</i> السلام عليكم | <i>a</i> شكرا |
| <i>ii</i> مساء الخير | <i>b</i> مساء النور |
| <i>iii</i> كيف حالك؟ | <i>c</i> أهلا بك |
| <i>iv</i> أهلا وسهلا | <i>d</i> وعليكم السلام |
| <i>v</i> تفضل! | <i>e</i> الحمد لله |

Exercise 13



Match the Arabic words for the places in the Arab world in the above box with the transliterated words below and practise saying them.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>a</i> ar-ribáaT | <i>b</i> al-jazáa'ir |
| <i>c</i> al-qáahirah | <i>d</i> ar-riyáaDH |
| <i>e</i> al-baHráyn | <i>f</i> baghdáad |
| <i>g</i> ash-sháraq al-áwsaT | <i>h</i> as-sa:uudíyyah |
| <i>i</i> as-suudáan | <i>j</i> al-úrdunn |

Now work out the English names for the towns and countries.

Exercise 14

🔊 CD1, TR16

Listen to the recording or read the transliteration and work out what is being asked for in the café.

- a* قهوة من فضلك. **qáhwah min fáDI-ak.**
- b* ليمون من فضلك. **laymóon min fáDI-ak.**
- c* كوكاكولا صغيرة من فضلك. **kookakóola Saghíirah min fáDI-ak.**
- d* آيس كريم بالشوكولاتة من فضلك. **ays kriim bi-sh-shokoláatah min fáDI-ak.**

And where do these people want to be taken?

e as-siinimaa min fáDI-ak. السينما من فضلك.

f al-bank min fáDI-ak. البنك من فضلك.

Exercise 15

In transliteration, change these words and phrases from indefinite to definite.

a sandawíitsh سندوييتش

b tilifúun تلفون

c bayt بيت

d TamáaTim طماطم

e siinima سينما

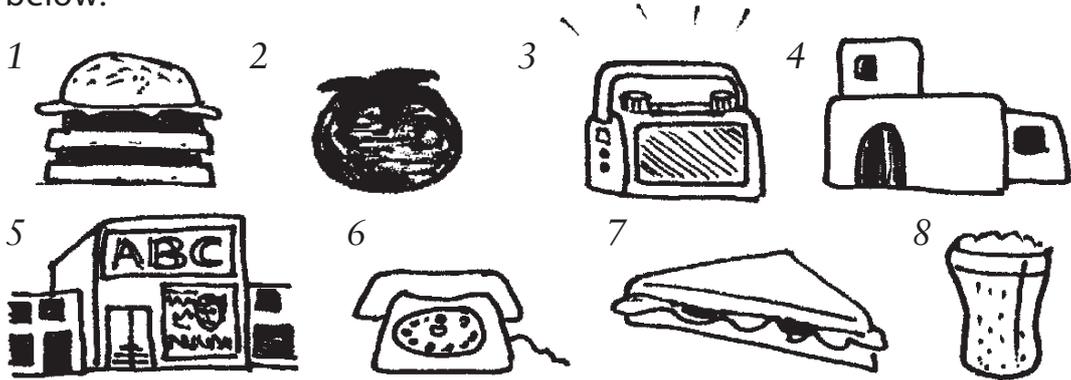
f bíirah Saghiirah بيرة صغيرة

g bárgar kabíir برج كبير

h ráadyo jadíid راديو جديد

Exercise 16

See if you can match the words in Exercise 15 to the drawings below.



Exercise 17

Choose the correct adjective from the brackets to complete the phrases.

١ السينما (جديدة، الجديدة)	1 the new cinema
٢ بنت (صغيرة، الصغيرة)	2 a small girl
٣ كتاب (جميل، الجميل)	3 a beautiful book
٤ فيلم (طويل، الطويل)	4 a long film
٥ البيت الكبير (واسع، الواسع)	5 the big roomy house

واسع **wáasi**: roomy, spacious

كبير **kabíir** big

أوزان الكلمات **awzáan al-kalimáat** (Word shapes)

» CD1, TR17

The large majority of Arabic words are built around a three-consonant root. It is conventional to express the first consonant of the root by **C¹** – i.e. first consonant – and later consonants as **C²** and **C³**. The vowels between are usually stated as they are (**a, i, u, aa, uu, ii** and so on) or, where they are variable, simply by **v**, meaning *vowel*.

The word pattern for this unit is **C¹aC²iiC³**, for example **kabíir**.

Insight

The word **kabíir** means *big* (old when applied to people). In Arabic, anything to do with the root **k-b-r** will have something to do with *bigness, large size* and so on. This is a very useful concept, noticed long ago by Arab philologists. Most dictionaries are still arranged according to these three-letter roots.

Here we have the three consonants **k-b-r**. In Arabic, they are fleshed out with long and short vowels. You can see that in the word **kabíir**, *big*, the first consonant of the root (**k**) has an **a** vowel after



it and the second consonant (**b**) has a long **ii** after it. This is a very common pattern for adjectives in Arabic.

To help you feel the cadences of the Arabic sounds, an English equivalent (or one as near as possible) is given. Such words which are familiar to you will also help with the Arabic stress patterns.

Pattern	Arabic example	Eng. sound-alike
C ¹ aC ² iiC ³	كبير kabīir <i>big</i>	<i>marine</i>

It will help you greatly in learning Arabic if you learn and listen for these patterns.

Here are some more words to show the pattern:

- 1 صغير **Saghīir** *young (person), small (thing)*
- 2 طويل **Tawīil** *tall (person), long (thing)*
- 3 بعيد **ba:īid** *far, distant*
- 4 قريب **qarīib** *near*
- 5 جديد **jadīid** *new*
- 6 قديم **qadiim** *old (things)*
- 7 جميل **jamīil** *beautiful, handsome*
- 8 لطيف **laTīif** *pleasant, nice*
- 9 كريم **kariim** *noble, generous*
- 10 صحيح **SaHīiH** *correct, right*

Exercise 18

Write down the roots for the words above in Arabic or transliteration with hyphens between the letters.



Note: For this type of Exercise, use the *independent* forms of the letters in the Arabic script.

10 things you need to know

- 1 *Learn the common phrases of greetings as a whole, with their special replies:*
as-salaamu :alaykum!
wa-:alaykum as-salaam
- 2 *In the phrase **kayfa Haalak** how are you?, the **-ak** changes to **-ik** when you are speaking to a woman, and to **-kum** when speaking to more than one person.*
- 3 *The standard reply, **al-Hamdu li-l-laah** Praise be to God, never changes.*
- 4 *There is no word for a or an in Arabic.*
- 5 *The word for the, **al**, never changes in writing.*
- 6 *If a word begins with a Sun letter, the **-l** of the word **al** is omitted in speech, and the first letter of the word is doubled.*
- 7 *Nouns and adjectives are treated as the same thing in Arabic.*
- 8 *There is no general rule for forming plurals, so learn them when you learn the singular.*
- 9 *Adjectives always follow their nouns.*
- 10 *Most Arabic words are built around a three-consonant root.*