

LESSON 18

In this lesson we learn the following:

1. Unlike English, Arabic has three numbers: singular, plural and dual. Dual refers to two, and more than two is plural. The dual form ends in «-âni», e.g.,

بَيْتَانِ
bait-âni

يَدَانِ
yad-âni

بَيْتُ
bait-u-n

يَدُ
yad-u-n

- The dual of هَذَا is هَذَانِ and of هَذِهِ is هَاتَانِ, e.g.

هَذَانِ كِتَابَانِ.

هَاتَانِ سَيَّارَتَانِ.

- The dual of هُوَ and هِيَ is هُمَا, e.g.

Who are these two boys?

مَنْ هَذَانِ الْوَلَدَانِ ؟

They are (two) new students.

هُمَا طَالِبَانِ جَدِيدَانِ .

Where are the two sisters?

أَيْنَ الْأُخْتَانِ ؟

They are in the room.

هُمَا فِي الْعُرْفَةِ .

Note that the adjective qualifying a dual noun is also dual.

2. كَمْ “how many”. Note that the noun following كَمْ is singular and in the accusative case. e.g.

How many books?

كَمْ كِتَابًا ؟

How many cars?

كَمْ سَيَّارَةً ؟

Note that a noun with tanwîn in the accusative case takes an alif which is not pronounced, e.g.

كِتَابٌ - كِتَابٍ - كِتَابًا

But a noun ending in the round ta (ة) does not take this alif, e.g.

سَيَّارَةٌ - سَيَّارَةٌ - سَيَّارَةٌ

Exercises

Ex.1: Answer the following questions using the dual e.g.

كَمْ قَلَمًا عِنْدَكَ ؟

عِنْدِي قَلَمَانِ .

Note that the dual of أَخ is أَخَوَانِ (not أَخَانِ).

Ex.2: Read and write.

Ex.3: Fill in the blanks with the suitable words, and vocalize it with the correct ending.

Ex.4: Change the subject in the following sentences to dual.

Ex.5: Read and write the following nouns with the correct ending.

Ex.6: Write the dual of the following words.

Vocabulary

العَجَلَةُ wheel

العِيدُ festival

السَّنَةُ year

النافذة window

المِسْطَرَّة ruler

السَّبُورَةُ writing board

الريَّالُ riyal

الجبِّي city district

الرَّكْعَةُ rak'ah (part of

رَكَعَاتٍ pl salât)

Note that the second letter «k» has sukûn in the singular, and fatha in the plural.