

## Alif Baa Unit 4-5 – Showing Relationship Between Nouns

### Showing Relationship Between Nouns

#### Definite al-idaafa الإضافة

One of the most common grammatical constructions in Arabic is the al-idaafa الإضافة. It is formed by placing two (or more) nouns back to back to show that they are related to one another.

This type of construction is used in many ways, such as to present the names of things and places:

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| مدينة شكاغو<br>mediinat shikaagu<br>the city of Chicago       |
| ولاية نيو يورك<br>wilaayat nyu yuurk<br>the state of New York |

It can also be used to express possession:

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| بيت سمير<br>bayt Samiir<br>Samiir's house        |
| حبيب أميرة<br>Habiib 'amiira<br>Amira's dear one |

You might be tempted to use a full English-based translation when expressing a relationship between two nouns, complete with articles and prepositions (e.g. "the city of Chicago" or "the dear one of Amira"), but don't! Arabic is so much easier: it's four words for the effort of two!