

Alif Baa Unit 4 – 5 - Language Highlights

Let's recap some of the highlights from this lesson, most of which are grammar principles that we expect you to master.

CONVERSATIONAL PHRASES

To Ask Where Someone Is From

- *min 'ayna 'anta? / min 'ayna 'anti?*

من أين أنت؟ \ من أين أنتِ؟

To Tell Someone Where You Are From

- *'ana min... أنا من ...*

To Agree With or "Second" Something

- *'ana 'ayDan*

أنا أيضا

COPING PHRASES

To Express Ignorance

- *laa 'a'rif*

لا أعرف

SINGULAR PRONOUNS

I	'ana أنا
you (male)	'anta أَنْتَ
you (female)	'anti أَنْتِ
He	huwwa هو
She	hiyya هي

GRAMMAR

- The verb "to be" (i.e. "am," "is," "are") is not used in the present tense.
- Yes/no questions are marked with a special particle: *hal* هل.
- *al-'iDaafa* الإضافة is formed by placing two (or more) nouns back to back to show that they are related to one another. Words which end in ة (i.e. most feminine words) are pronounced with a final "t" sound when they are the first terms of *al-'iDaafa* الإضافة.

- All nouns have gender. Arabic uses the pronouns *huwa* هو ("he") and *hiya* هي ("she") to refer to masculine and feminine nouns respectively.
- Masculine words usually end in a consonant; feminine nouns almost always end in the symbol ة. Most nouns that refer to people (e.g. professor, doctor, dear one, etc.) can be made feminine by adding the symbol ة to the end of the masculine form.
- Adjectives must match the gender of the nouns they describe. Most adjectives can be made feminine by adding the symbol ة to the end of the masculine form.