

DESCRIBING IN THE PRESENT

"To Be" or No "To Be"?

Take a close look at the following phrases from this lesson. If you were to translate these phrases word for word, do you notice any missing words in the Arabic version?

<p><i>min 'ayna 'anta?</i> من أين أنت؟ Where are you from?</p>
<p><i>'ana min ...</i> أنا من ... I am from ...</p>

The verb "to be" is not used in the present tense. This makes describing people and things in the present very easy; you don't have to conjugate any verbs!