

## EXERCISES








**FUNCTION A: MEETING SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME**

**GREETINGS** ♦♦ Syrians are very friendly and spend much of the time greeting each other. *ahla wa sahla* أهلاً وسهلاً and the more formal *ahlan wa sahlan* أهلاً وسهلاً are both commonly used to mean “nice to meet you”. The usual reply is:

<i>ahlan fiik</i>	and you (to a man)	أهلاً فيك
<i>ahlan fiiki</i>	and you (to a woman)	أهلاً فيكي
<i>ahlan fiikon</i>	and you (to a group)	أهلاً فيكن

*ahleen* أهلين and *marhaba* مرحباً are often used simply to say “hello” or “hi”.

1. Look at the pictures of these people greeting you. Give the appropriate reply (you have three to choose from), for example

- A *ahlan wa sahlan.*  أ أهلاً وسهلاً.  
B *ahlan fiik.* ب أهلاً فيك.
- a. A *ahla wa sahla.*  أهلاً وسهلاً.  
B \_\_\_\_\_
- b. A *ahla wa sahla.*  أهلاً وسهلاً.  
B \_\_\_\_\_
- c. A *ahleen.*  أهلين.  
B \_\_\_\_\_
- d. A *ahlan wa sahlan.*  أهلاً وسهلاً.  
B \_\_\_\_\_
- e. A *ahlan wa sahlan.*  أهلاً وسهلاً.  
B \_\_\_\_\_
- f. A *ahla wa sahla.*  أهلاً وسهلاً.  
B \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHED PRONOUNS** ➡ When you meet someone for the first time you will also need to be able to introduce yourself and ask for the other person's name.

*ana ésmi Emily Taayluur*

أنا اسمي إميلي تايلور

literally translates as "I, my name is Emily Taylor". *ana* أنا (I) however is only used for emphasis, so you can say just: *ésmi Emily Taayluur* اسمي إميلي تايلور (My name is Emily Taylor).

*ésmi* اسمي (my name) is actually made up of two parts: the noun *ésm* اسم (a name) and the ending *-i* -ي (my). You can use these endings, called attached pronouns, with most nouns to indicate something belongs to someone, for example:

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>ésm-i</i>	myname	اسمي
<i>ésm-ak</i>	your name (to a man)	اسمك
<i>ésm-ek</i>	your name (to a woman)	اسمك
<i>ésm-o</i>	hisname	اسمه
<i>ésm-a</i>	hername	اسمها

Note that in *ésmo* اسمه (his name) and *ésmā* اسمها (her name) the 'h' sound is written in the Arabic script but not pronounced. The 'h' sound is pronounced when the attached pronoun follows a vowel.

**THE VERB "TO BE"** ➡ Arabic does not use the verb 'to be' (am, is or are) in simple sentences like *ésmi Emily* اسمي إميلي which translates as "My name (is) Emily".

**QUESTION WORD "WHAT"** ➡ The word *shu* شو (what) is used at the beginning of the sentence and marks a question.

**2. Answer this question about yourself.**

- A *shu ésmak / shu ésmek?* أ شو إسمك؟  
 B *ésmi* \_\_\_\_\_ اسمي \_\_\_\_\_ ب

**ASKING QUESTIONS** ➡ All questions that cannot be answered with a simple 'yes' or 'no', such as *shu ésmak?* شو إسمك؟ (What's your name?) are asked with falling intonation.

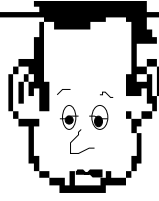
**3. Ask the names of the people pictured, for example**

- A *shu ésmā?* أ شو إسمها؟  
 B *ésmā Emily.* ب اسمها إميلي.  
 a. A *shu ésm* \_\_\_\_\_؟ شو اسم \_\_\_\_\_؟  
 B \_\_\_\_\_ Alison. اليسون



b. A *shu ésm* \_\_\_\_\_?

B \_\_\_\_\_ *John*.

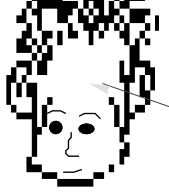


شو اسم \_\_\_\_\_؟

\_\_\_\_\_ جون.

c. A *shu ésm* \_\_\_\_\_?

B \_\_\_\_\_ *James*.



شو اسم \_\_\_\_\_؟

\_\_\_\_\_ جيمس.

d. A *shu ésm* \_\_\_\_\_?

B \_\_\_\_\_ *Mark*.



شو اسم \_\_\_\_\_؟

\_\_\_\_\_ مارك.

e. A *shu ésm* \_\_\_\_\_?

B \_\_\_\_\_ *Hasan*.



شو اسم \_\_\_\_\_؟

\_\_\_\_\_ حسن.

f. A *shu ésm* \_\_\_\_\_?

B \_\_\_\_\_ *Riima*.



شو اسم \_\_\_\_\_؟

\_\_\_\_\_ ريما.

g. A *shu ésm* \_\_\_\_\_?

B \_\_\_\_\_ *Féyruuz*.



شو اسم \_\_\_\_\_؟

\_\_\_\_\_ فيروز.

h. A *shu ésm* \_\_\_\_\_?

B \_\_\_\_\_ *umar*.



شو اسم \_\_\_\_\_؟

\_\_\_\_\_ عمر.

**PERSONAL PRONOUNS** ♦♦ As we mentioned above, in this sentence *ana* أنا (I) is used for emphasis. *ana* أنا (I) is called a 'personal pronoun'. Below are the personal pronouns you will practise in this chapter:

☐☐	<i>ana</i>	I	أنا
	<i>énte</i>	you (m)	انت
	<i>énti</i>	you (f)	انتي
	<i>hurwwe</i>	he/it	هو
	<i>hiyye</i>	she/it	هي

**COUNTRIES** ♦♦ Syrians will also be very interested to know where you come from. The conversation will go something like this:

- A *éntel énti mneen?* أنت / انتي منين؟  
 B *ana mén ostraalya.* أنا من استراليا.

The word *mneen* is actually a contraction of two words:

*mén + ween* from + where من + وين










**4. Can you guess the country? Write the name of the country in the space provided.**

<i>balad</i>	country	بلد
<i>amærka</i>	_____	أميركا
<i>briiṭaanya</i>	_____	بريطانيا
<i>kanada</i>	_____	كندا
<i>éṣ-ṣiin</i>	_____	الصين
<i>maṣṣr</i>	_____	مصر
<i>fraansa</i>	_____	فرانسا
<i>almaanya</i>	_____	ألمانيا
<i>hoolanda</i>	_____	هولاندا
<i>itaalya</i>	_____	إيطاليا
<i>él-yaabaan</i>	_____	اليابان
<i>él-érdon</i>	_____	الأردن
<i>nyuu ziilanda</i>	_____	نيو زيلاندا
<i>lébnaan</i>	_____	لبنان
<i>sbaanya</i>	_____	اسبانيا
<i>suuriyaa</i>	_____	سوريا

**5. Answer this question about yourself.**

- A *éntel énti mneen?* أنت / انتي منين؟  
 B *ana mén* \_\_\_\_\_ أنا من \_\_\_\_\_

6. Look at the pictures and say where these people come from, for example

- A *Emily mneen?*  إميللي منين؟  
 B *hiyye ménostraalya.* هي من استراليا.
- a. A *Riima mneen?*  ريما منين؟  
 B *hiyye mén \_\_\_\_\_* هي من \_\_\_\_\_
- b. A *Alison mneen?*  اليسون منين؟  
 B *hiyye mén \_\_\_\_\_* هي من \_\_\_\_\_
- c. A *Féyruuz mneen?*  فيروز منين؟  
 B *hiyye mén \_\_\_\_\_* هي من \_\_\_\_\_
- d. A *Mark mneen?*  مارك منين؟  
 B *huwwe mén \_\_\_\_\_* هو من \_\_\_\_\_
- e. A *John mneen?*  جون منين؟  
 B *huwwe mén \_\_\_\_\_* هو من \_\_\_\_\_
- f. A *ʕumar mneen?*  عمر منين؟  
 B *huwwe mén \_\_\_\_\_* هو من \_\_\_\_\_
- g. A *James mneen?*  جيمس منين؟  
 B *huwwe mén \_\_\_\_\_* هو من \_\_\_\_\_
- h. A *Hasan mneen?*  حسن منين؟  
 B *huwwe mén \_\_\_\_\_* هو من \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONALITIES** ➡ In addition to saying which country you are from, it is useful to be able to say your *jénsiyye* جنسية (nationality). Nationalities are simply adjectives made from the name of the country: *-i* -ي is the ending if you are talking about a man and *-iyye* -ية is the ending if you are talking about a woman. Note that the feminine ending *-iyye* -ية ends with a *taa marbuuta* ة. Nearly all feminine adjectives end with this letter.

**7. Read the following sentences and circle the correct form of adjective, for example**

- Emily mén ostraalya* إميليا من استراليا.  
*hiyye ostraali* / *ostraaliyye* هي استرالي / استرالية
- a. *Mark mén amærka* مارك من اميركا.  
*huwwe amærki* / *amærkiyye* هو اميركي / اميركية
- b. *John mén briiṭaanya* جون من بريطانيا  
*huwwe briiṭaaniyye* / *briiṭaani* هو بريطانية / بريطاني
- c. *Alison mén kanada* اليسون من كندا  
*hiyye kanadi* / *kanadiyye* هي كندي / كندية
- d. *Hasan mén él-érdon* حسن من الاردن  
*huwwe érdoniyye* / *érdoni* هو اردنية / اردني
- e. *Riima mén suuriiyya* ريما من سوريا  
*hiyye suuri* / *suuriyye* هي سوري / سورية
- f. *Féyruuz mén lébnaan* فيروز من لبنان  
*hiyye lébnaani* / *lébnaaniyye* هي لبناني / لبنانية
- g. *umar mén maṣṣr* عمر من مصر  
*huwwe maṣṣriyye* / *maṣṣri* هو مصرية / مصري
- h. *James mén nyuu ziilanda* جيمس من نيو زيلاندا  
*huwwe nyuu ziilandi* / *nyuu ziilandiyye* هو نيو زيلاندي / نيو زيلاندية

**Now say what country you are from and your nationality.**

*ana mén (baladak )* \_\_\_\_\_ . أنا من (بلدك)

*ana (jénsiyytak)* \_\_\_\_\_ . أنا (جنسيتك)

**NOUNS** ➔ There is no 'it' in Arabic. All non-human nouns are either masculine or feminine. Human nouns can be either, depending on the person you are talking about. You can usually identify feminine nouns because they end with a *taa marbuuṭa* ة or ء.

**OCCUPATIONS** ➔ You must choose between the masculine and feminine form of the word when you are talking about your *méhne* مهنة (occupation). Remember you can identify feminine nouns because they end with a *taa marbuuṭa* ة or ء.

**8. Circle the masculine or feminine form of the occupation to describe these people.**

- |    |  |                         |                           |
|----|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. | <i>Emily: mʕallem / mʕallme</i>          | teacher                 | إميلي: معلّم / معلمة      |
| b. | <i>Riima: ṭaalab / ṭaalbe</i>            | student                 | ريما: طالب / طالبة        |
| c. | <i>John: mwazzaf / mwazzafe</i>          | office worker, official | جون: موظّف / موظّفة       |
| d. | <i>Alison: mudir / mudira</i>            | manager, director, boss | أليسون: مدير / مديرة      |
| e. | <i>Mark: safiir / safiira</i>            | ambassador              | مارك: سفير / سفيرة        |
| f. | <i>James: ṣahafi / ṣahafiyye</i>         | journalist              | جيمس: صحفي / صحفية        |
| g. | <i>Hasan: mhandes / mhandese</i>         | engineer                | حسن: مهندس / مهندسة       |
| h. | <i>Féyruuz: doktuur / doktuura</i>       | doctor                  | فيروز: دكتور / دكتورة     |
| i. | <i>ʕumar: déblomaasi / déblomaasiyye</i> | diplomat                | عمر: دبلوماسي / دبلوماسية |

**What is your occupation? Write it here:**

المهنة: \_\_\_\_\_  
*él-méhne:* \_\_\_\_\_

**YES AND NO** ➔ There are two ways to say 'yes' in Syrian Arabic. *ee* إيه is the most common, casual form while *naʕam* نعم is more formal. You will also hear the word *eewa* أيوه which means "yes" in Egyptian. In Syria, this word means "I see..." rather than "yes".

*la ʕ* is the only word used to say 'no'. There are several actions however, used to express no without speaking. The most common--and most baffling to foreigners--is the quick glance upwards with the eyes. Sometimes this movement includes the whole head and is accompanied by a 'tsk' sound, while at others it is made just with the eyes and eyebrows. And often only the eyeballs move! It can be very subtle, so watch carefully.

9. Refer to the previous exercise and answer the following questions, for example

- |    |                                 |   |                    |
|----|---------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| A  | <i>Emily mhandese?</i>          |  | أ أميلي مهندسة؟    |
| B  | <i>la, (hiyye) mɛallme.</i>     |   | ب لا، (هي) معلمة.  |
| a. | A <i>Féyruuz déblomaasiyye?</i> |   | فيروز ديبلوماسيية؟ |
|    | B _____                         |   | _____              |
| b. | A <i>Alison mwazzafe?</i>       |   | أليسون موظفة؟      |
|    | B _____                         |   | _____              |
| c. | A <i>Riima mɛallme?</i>         |   | ريما معلمة؟        |
|    | B _____                         |   | _____              |
| d. | A <i>Mark sahafi?</i>           |   | مارك صحفي؟         |
|    | B _____                         |   | _____              |
| e. | A <i>John mhandes?</i>          |   | جون مهندس؟         |
|    | B _____                         |   | _____              |
| f. | A <i>James safiir?</i>          |   | جيمس سفير؟         |
|    | B _____                         |   | _____              |
| g. | A <i>Hasan doktor?</i>          |   | حسن دكتور؟         |
|    | B _____                         |   | _____              |
| h. | A <i>umar taaleb?</i>           |   | عمر طالب؟          |
|    | B _____                         |   | _____              |



**WHAT DO YOU DO?** • The word *méhne* مهنة (occupation) is used on official forms however when you want to ask someone in person what they “do for a living” use the verb *yéshitéghel* يشتغل (to work), for example

☐	<i>shu byéshitéghel?</i>	what does he do?	شو بيشتغل؟
	<i>shu btéshitéghel?</i>	what does she do?	شو بتشتغل؟
	<i>shu btéshitéghel?</i>	what do you (m) do?	شو بتشتغل؟
	<i>shu btéshitégheli?</i>	what do you (f) do?	شو بتشتغلي؟

The *b-* ب in front of the verb indicates that it is a habitual action.

### 10. Fill in the missing word, for example

- A *Emilyshu btéshitéghel?* أ أميلي شو بتشتغل؟  
 B *hiyye mçallme.* ب هي معلمة.
- a. A *Féyruuz shu \_\_\_\_\_?* فيروز شو \_\_\_\_\_؟  
 B *hiyye doktuura.* هي دكتورة.
- b. A *Alison shu \_\_\_\_\_?* أليسون شو \_\_\_\_\_؟  
 B *hiyye mudiira.* هي مديرة.
- c. A *Riima shu \_\_\_\_\_?* ريما شو \_\_\_\_\_؟  
 B *hiyye taalbe.* هي طالبة.
- d. A *Mark shu \_\_\_\_\_?* مارك شو \_\_\_\_\_؟  
 B *huwwe safiir.* هو سفير.
- e. A *John shu \_\_\_\_\_?* جون شو \_\_\_\_\_؟  
 B *huwwe mwazzaf.* هو موظف.
- f. A *James shu \_\_\_\_\_?* جيمس شو \_\_\_\_\_؟  
 B *huwwe sahafi.* هو صحفي.
- g. A *Hasan shu \_\_\_\_\_?* حسن شو \_\_\_\_\_؟  
 B *huwwe mhandes.* هو مهندس.
- h. A *εumar shu \_\_\_\_\_?* عمر شو \_\_\_\_\_؟  
 B *huwwe déblomaasi.* هو ديبلوماسي.

Now answer this question about yourself.

- A *énte shu btéshitéghel?* أنت شو بتشتغل؟  
*énti shu btéshitégheli?* انتي شو بتشتغلي؟
- B *ana \_\_\_\_\_* أنا \_\_\_\_\_

**MARITAL STATUS** ♦♦ You will find that you are often asked if you are married. Again, you have to choose between the masculine and feminine form of the word. *métzawwej* متزوج is an adjective meaning “married” and can be made feminine by adding a *taa marbuuta* ة or ؃ to the end. Remember that the verb “to be” is not used in simple sentences like this.

<i>énte métzawwej?</i>	(Are) you married?	انت متزوج؟
<i>ee, ana métzawwej.</i>	Yes, I (am) married.	ايه، أنا متزوج.

or, if you are speaking to or about a woman

<i>énti métzawweje?</i>	(Are) you married?	انتي متزوجة؟
<i>ee, ana métzawweje.</i>	Yes, I (am) married.	ايه، أنا متزوجة.

**SIMPLE NEGATIVE SENTENCES** ♦♦ To negate a simple sentence, use the word *muu* مو before the word you wish to negate, for example:

<i>énte métzawwej?</i>	Are you married? (to a man)	انت متزوج؟
<i>la, ana muu métzawwej.</i>	No, I am not married.	لا، أنا مو متزوج.

Or, if you want to be more precise about your marital status:

<i>aʕzab, ʕazbaʕ</i>	single	اعزب، عزباء
<i>khaateb, makhtuube</i>	engaged	خاطب، مخطوبة
<i>mʕallaʕ, mʕallaʕa</i>	divorced	مطلق، مطلقة
<i>armal, armale</i>	widowed	ارمل، ارملة

For women in the Middle East however, if a man who is unknown to you asks about your marital status (and he is not asking in an official capacity), it can help to avoid unwanted attentions to answer that you are married, even if you are not.

### 11. Answer this question about yourself.



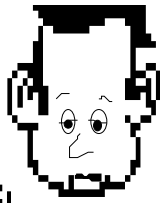
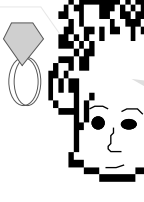





A	<i>énte métzawwej?</i>	أ	انت متزوج؟
	<i>énti métzawweje?</i>		انتي متزوجة؟

B	_____	_____	ب
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**I DON'T KNOW** ♦♦ We will deal with verbs in detail later. For the time being, a very useful verbal expression to know is

<i>maa baʕref</i>	I don't know.	ما بعرف
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12. Look at these pictures and answer these questions about the marital status of each person, for example

- A *Emily métzawwje?*  أ اميلي متزوجة؟  
 B *ee, métzawwje.* ب ايه، متزوجة.
- a. A *Alison métzawwje?*  اليسون متزوجة؟  
 B \_\_\_\_\_
- b. A *John métzawwej?*  جون متزوج؟  
 B \_\_\_\_\_
- c. A *James métzawwej?*  جيمس متزوج؟  
 B \_\_\_\_\_
- d. A *Mark métzawwej?*  مارك متزوج؟  
 B \_\_\_\_\_
- e. A *Hasan métzawwej?*  حسن متزوج؟  
 B \_\_\_\_\_
- f. A *Riima métzawwje?*  ريما متزوجة؟  
 B \_\_\_\_\_
- g. A *Féyruuz métzawwje?*  فيروز متزوجة؟  
 B \_\_\_\_\_
- h. A *عumar métzawwej?*  عمر متزوج؟  
 B \_\_\_\_\_

**POSSESSION USING ATTACHED PRONOUNS** ♣ We learnt how to use attached pronouns to say “my name”. You can use these attached pronouns with any noun to indicate possession, for example

<i>zawj</i>	husband	زوج
+ <i>i</i> > <i>zawji</i>	+ my > my husband	+ <i>سي</i> < زوجي
+ <i>ek</i> > <i>zawjek</i>	+ your (f) > your husband	+ <i>ك</i> < زوجك
+ <i>a</i> > <i>zawja</i>	+ her > her husband	+ <i>ها</i> < زوجها

Here, *zawj* زوج (a husband) ends in a consonant. If the word is feminine and ends in a *taa marbuuta* ة or ة however, the *taa marbuuta* is changes to a ‘t’ sound when a pronoun is attached, for example

<i>zawje</i>	wife	زوجة
+ <i>i</i> > <i>zawji</i>	+ my > my wife	+ <i>سي</i> < زوجتي
+ <i>ak</i> > <i>zawjtak</i>	+ your (m) > your wife	+ <i>ك</i> < زوجتك
+ <i>o</i> > <i>zawjto</i>	+ his > his wife	+ <i>ه</i> < زوجته

There is only one word for “husband” while several are used for “wife”. Of these, *mara* مرة is the most colloquial term and is often avoided in polite company.

<i>mara</i> + <i>i</i> > <i>marti</i>	wife + my > my wife	مرة + <i>سي</i> < مرتي
<i>madaam</i> + <i>i</i> > <i>madaanti</i>	wife + my > my wife	مدام + <i>سي</i> < مدامتي

Note that when you attach a pronoun to *madaam* مدام you also add *ataa marbuuta*. Pronouns can be attached in the same way to

<i>khatiib, khatiibe</i>	a fiancé(e)	خطيب، خطيبة
<i>rfiiq, rfiqqa</i>	a friend, a companion	رفيق، رفيقة

### 13. Answer this question about your spouse, fiancé(e) or partner.

(this question if you are a woman)

A	<i>zawjek</i>	زوجك	أ
	<i>khatiibek</i> } <i>shu ésma?</i>	خطيبك	
	<i>rfiqek</i> }	رفيقك	
B	_____ -i ésma _____	_____ سي إسمه _____	ب

(this question if you are a man)

A	<i>zawjtak</i>	زوجتك	أ
	<i>khatiibtak</i> } <i>shu ésma?</i>	خطيبتك	
	<i>rfiqtak</i> }	رفيقتك	
B	_____ -ti ésma _____	_____ تي إسمها _____	ب



14. Listen to the conversation and fill in the missing words.

A *ahla wa sahla.* أ أهلاً وسهلاً.

B *ahlan fiiki.* ب أهلاً فيكي.

A *ana \_\_\_\_\_ Emily.* أنا \_\_\_\_\_ اميلي.  
*énte \_\_\_\_\_ ésmak?* انت \_\_\_\_\_ اسمك؟

B *ésmi \_\_\_\_\_.* ب اسمي \_\_\_\_\_.

A *ana \_\_\_\_\_ ostraalya.* أنا \_\_\_\_\_ استراليا،  
*ana \_\_\_\_\_.* أنا \_\_\_\_\_،  
*énte mneen?* انت منين؟

B *mén \_\_\_\_\_.* ب من \_\_\_\_\_،  
*ana \_\_\_\_\_.* أنا \_\_\_\_\_،

A *ana \_\_\_\_\_.* أنا \_\_\_\_\_،  
*w énte shu \_\_\_\_\_?* و انت شو \_\_\_\_\_؟

B *ana \_\_\_\_\_.* ب أنا \_\_\_\_\_،  
*énte \_\_\_\_\_?* انت \_\_\_\_\_؟

A *ee, ana \_\_\_\_\_.* أ آه، أنا \_\_\_\_\_،  
*w énte?* و انت؟

B *la, ana \_\_\_\_\_ mézawwej.* ب لا، أنا \_\_\_\_\_ متزوج.

Now work with a teacher or classmate. Imagine you have just met for the first time. How much can you find out about each other? If you find that you have the same name, nationality, profession or marital status, you can add the word *kamaan* كمان (also) and the end of your statement.