

**FUNCTION B: DESCRIBING YOUR COUNTRY**

**NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES** • Remember that there is no 'it' in Arabic. All nouns are either masculine or feminine. You can usually identify feminine nouns because they end with *ataa marbuuta* ة or ء. There are some exceptions including *balad* بلد (a country), which is feminine but does not end in *ataa marbuuta* ة or ء. Most names of countries and cities are also feminine.

Adjectives--words used to describe something--follow the noun they describe and must match the noun exactly in gender (masculine or feminine) and number (single or plural). As we mentioned above, feminine adjectives usually end with *ataa marbuuta*. Therefore, in the sentence

*ostraalya balad kbiire*      Australia is a big country      استراليا بلد كبيرة

*balad* بلد (a country) and *kbiire* كبيرة (big) are both feminine and singular. (Both masculine and feminine forms of the adjective are given in the vocabulary list to help you remember them.)

The sound of the *taa marbuuta* ة or ء is either 'a' or 'e', depending on which letter comes before it (explained in more detail on page 13). Simply, consonants that you are familiar with in English, such as *b* ب, *t* ت, *j* ج and so on, are followed by an 'e' sound while consonants peculiar to Arabic, such as *h* ح and *kh* خ, are followed by an 'a' sound.

**1. Practise saying both the masculine and feminine form of each of the adjectives below.**

a. <i>hélú, hélwe</i>	beautiful, nice, good, sweet	حلو، حلوة
b. <i>kbür / kbiire</i>	big	كبير / كبيرة
c. <i>sghiir / sghiiire</i>	small	صغير / صغيرة
d. <i>jdüid / jdiide</i>	new, modern	جديد / جديدة
e. <i>qadiim / qadiime</i>	old	قديم / قديمة
f. <i>qariib / qariibe</i>	near	قريب / قريبة
g. <i>bçiid / bçiide</i>	far	بعيد / بعيدة
h. <i>ghani / ghaniyye</i>	rich	غني / غنية
i. <i>faqiir / faqiira</i>	poor	فقير / فقيرة
j. <i>ghaali / ghaalye</i>	expensive	غالي / غالية
k. <i>rkhiis / rkhiisa</i>	cheap	رخيص / رخيصة

**CONJUNCTION "AND"** • Using *w* و (and), you can string together as many adjectives as you like for example

*ostraalya balad hélwe w jdiide w kbiire w bçiide*

Australia (is) a beautiful, new, large and distant country

استراليا بلد حلوة و جديدة و كبيرة و بعيدة

Remember that the verb "to be" is not used in a simple sentence like this.

2. Choose as many adjectives as you like to describe the countries listed below. Remember *balad* بلد is feminine, for example

*ostraalya balad kbiire w bciide.* استراليا بلد كبيرة و بعيدة.

a. *ameerka balad* \_\_\_\_\_ اميركا بلد \_\_\_\_\_

b. *briitaanya balad* \_\_\_\_\_ بريطانيا بلد \_\_\_\_\_

c. *kanada balad* \_\_\_\_\_ كندا بلد \_\_\_\_\_

d. *maşr balad* \_\_\_\_\_ مصر بلد \_\_\_\_\_

e. *nyuu ziilanda balad* \_\_\_\_\_ نيوزيلاندا بلد \_\_\_\_\_

f. *él-érdon balad* \_\_\_\_\_ الاردن بلد \_\_\_\_\_

g. *suuriyya balad* \_\_\_\_\_ سوريا بلد \_\_\_\_\_

h. *lébnaan balad* \_\_\_\_\_ لبنان بلد \_\_\_\_\_

Now describe a country of your choice. Don't forget to use *w* و between each adjective.

i. \_\_\_\_\_ *balad* \_\_\_\_\_ بلد \_\_\_\_\_