

**FUNCTION F: TALKING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY**

**YOUR CHILDREN** ♦♦ After being asked if you are married, expect to be asked if you have any children. Use the preposition *عند* *and* *عند* to mean “have” when you are talking about children. Below is a list of words relating to children you might need.

<i>ahl, eele</i>	family	أهل، عيلة
<i>walad</i>	child	ولد
<i>waladeen</i>	two children	ولدين
<i>wlaad</i>	children	أولاد
<i>bén't</i>	girl, daughter	بنت
<i>bénteem</i>	two girls	بننتين
<i>banaat</i>	girls	بنات
<i>éb'n</i>	son	إبن
<i>şabi</i>	boy	صبي
<i>şébyeen</i>	two boys	صبيين
<i>şébyaan</i>	boys	صبيان
<i>toom</i>	twins	توم
<i>lé-kbiir (-e)</i>	the eldest	الكبير (-ة)
<i>él-wastaani (-yye)</i>	the middle one	الوسطاني (-ية)
<i>és-şhiir (-e)</i>	the youngest	الصغير (-ة)

**1. Listen to this conversation and fill in the missing words.**

- A *énte* \_\_\_\_\_? أنت \_\_\_\_\_؟
- B *ee* \_\_\_\_\_, *w énte?* إيه \_\_\_\_\_ و انت؟
- A *ee, ana kamaan.* \_\_\_\_\_ *wlaad?* إيه أنا كمان. \_\_\_\_\_ أو لاد؟
- B *la, maa* \_\_\_\_\_, *w énte?* لا، ما \_\_\_\_\_ و انت؟
- A *ee,* \_\_\_\_\_ *bén't w şébyeen.* إيه، \_\_\_\_\_ بنت و صبيين، .
- B *şu ésmá'on?* their names شو أسماءهن؟
- A \_\_\_\_\_ *ésma Riima, w* \_\_\_\_\_ أسماء ريماء، و  
*és-şabi lé-kbiir* \_\_\_\_\_ *Muhammad* الصبي الكبير \_\_\_\_\_ محمد  
 و الصبي \_\_\_\_\_ *ésma Ahmad.* اسمهُ أحمد.
- B *aah, izan* therefore أه، إذاً
- énte "abu Muhammad".* انت "أبو محمد".

**ARABIC NAMES** ♦♦ If a Syrian has children they will often be called “Father of...” or “Mother of...” and the name of their first-born son, for example

<i>abu Muhammad</i>	“Father of Muhamad”	أبو محمد
<i>émMuhammad</i>	“Mother of Muhamad”	أم محمد

**HOW OLD ARE THEY?** ➔ The word *عمر* *émr* means “age” and can be used with an attached pronoun to ask how old someone is.



**2. Listen to the conversation and fill in the missing words.**

- A *qaddeesh émra*? قديش عمرك؟ أ
- B *émri \_\_\_\_\_ séne.* عمري \_\_\_\_\_ سنة. ب
- A *w qaddeesh aemaar* \_\_\_\_\_ ages \_\_\_\_\_ و قديش اعمار أ
- éwlaadak?* اولادك؟ أ
- B *bénti émra \_\_\_\_\_ séne,* بنتي عمرها \_\_\_\_\_ سنة، ب
- ébni muhammad émro \_\_\_\_\_ sniin.* ابني محمد عمره \_\_\_\_\_ سنين. ب
- w ébni ahmad émro \_\_\_\_\_ bass.* و ابني أحمد عمره \_\_\_\_\_ بس. ب

**INTRODUCTION TO COUNTING THINGS** ➔ Using numbers with nouns in Arabic requires a little practice. Look at the following.

<i>shahér</i>	a month (also used after nos 11+)	شهر
<i>shahreén</i>	two months	شهرين
<i>shhuur</i>	months (also used after nos 3-10)	شهور
<i>séne</i>	a year (also used after nos 11+)	سنة
<i>sénteén</i>	two years	سنتين
<i>sniiin</i>	years (also used after nos 3-10)	سنيين

The singular noun is used without a number to mean “one” of anything. Adding *-een* –ين– to the end of a noun makes it mean “two” of anything. The plural noun is used as a general plural, but when used with numbers only after numbers 3-10. After numbers 11 and above, you must use the singular noun.

**3. Answer these questions. Circle the appropriate word for you if there is a choice.**

- A *qaddeesh émra* / *émrek*? قديش عمرك / عمرك؟ أ
- B *émri \_\_\_\_\_ séne* / *sniiin.* عمري \_\_\_\_\_ سنة / سنين. ب
- A *éandak* / *éandek éwlaad*? عندك / عندك أولاد؟ أ
- B *la, maa éandi.* / *ee, éandi* لا، ما عندي. / اييه، عندي ب
- \_\_\_\_\_
- A *shu ésmo* / *ésma* / *ésma'on*? شو اسمه / اسمها / أسماءهن؟ أ
- B \_\_\_\_\_ ب
- A *izan ént* “*abul émra* \_\_\_\_\_”. إذا أنت “أبو / أم” \_\_\_\_\_.” أ
- qaddeesh émro* / *émra* / *aemaaron*? قديش عمره / عمرها / اعمارهن؟ أ
- B \_\_\_\_\_ ب

**4. What is the simplest way to ask someone about the following? Write the questions.**

- a. name \_\_\_\_\_
- b. marital status name \_\_\_\_\_
- c. name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_
- d. children (names and ages) \_\_\_\_\_
- e. address in Syria \_\_\_\_\_
- f. telephone number \_\_\_\_\_
- g. passport number \_\_\_\_\_
- h. id card number \_\_\_\_\_
- i. nationality \_\_\_\_\_
- j. occupation \_\_\_\_\_

**5. This is a typical form. All the questions you have just written relate to one of the categories below, even though some of the words used are slightly different. Match the questions you have just written with the category.**

.....: الأسم الكامل:

.....: الجنسية:

.....: رقم جواز السفر:

.....: رقم البطاقة الشخصية:

.....: المهنة:

.....: الوضع العائلي: اعزب / متزوج / مطلق

.....: اسم الزوج:

.....: اسماء الاولاد و اعمارهم:

.....

.....: العنوان في سوريا:

.....: رقم الهاتف:

**Now work with a teacher or classmate and fill in the form with their details by asking the appropriate questions.**

**YOUR RELATIVES** ➔ Syrian family relationships are very complicated. You do not simply have “a cousin” but a relative who is the “daughter of my paternal uncle”. Below is a list of your basic blood relatives.

<i>qariib,-e</i>	relative	قريب، -ة
<i>jédd</i>	grandfather	جدّ
<i>sétt</i>	grandmother	ستّ
<i>abb</i>	father	أبّ
<i>émm</i>	mother	أمّ
<i>ékhwaat</i>	brothers and sisters	إخوات
<i>akhhk</i>	brother	أخّ
<i>akhhkeen</i>	two brothers	أخين
<i>ékhwaat sébyaan</i>	brothers	إخوات صبيان
<i>ékhét</i>	sister	إخت
<i>ékhteen</i>	two sisters	إختين
<i>ékhwaat banaat</i>	sisters	إخوات بنات
<i>khaal</i>	maternal uncle	خال
<i>khaale</i>	maternal aunt	خالة
<i>εamm</i>	paternal uncle	عمّ
<i>εamme</i>	paternal aunt	عمة
<i>ébbén...</i>	son (of...)	إبن...
<i>...εamm (-e)</i>	...paternal uncle/aunt(=) cousin	عمّ(-ة)...
<i>...khaal (-e)</i>	...maternal uncle/aunt(=) cousin	خال(-ة)...
<i>...akh</i>	...brother (=) nephew	أخّ...
<i>...ékhét</i>	...sister (=) nephew	أخت...
<i>bénét...</i>	daughter (of...)	بنت...
<i>...εamm (-e)</i>	...paternal uncle/aunt(=) cousin	عمّ(-ة)...
<i>...khaal (-e)</i>	...maternal uncle/aunt(=) cousin	خال(-ة)...
<i>...akhhk</i>	...brother (=) neice	أخّ...
<i>...ékhét</i>	...sister (=) neice	أخت...

Usually, when you talk about relatives you attach a pronoun. If you are talking about your own, you would attach *-i* *سي* for example

<i>abi</i>	my father	أبي
<i>émmi</i>	my mother	أمي
<i>akhi</i>	my brother	أخي
<i>ékhti</i>	my sister	أختي
<i>bénét εammi</i>	my cousin	بنت عمّي
<i>ébbén khaalati</i>	my cousin	إبن خالتي

**6. Draw your family tree including grandparents and cousins. Underneath the names of all your relatives write the Arabic for their relationship to you.**

**DO YOU HAVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS?** ♦ Generally, *él-* إـلـ is the preposition used to talk about one's relatives (except children), for example

- A *élak ékhwaat?* أ إلك أخوات؟  
*élek ékhwaat?* إلك أخوات؟
- B *ee, éli akhkh.* ب ايه، إلی أخ.

As in English, relatives from whom you are directly descended--grandparents and parents--you inherently "have", therefore the above question would never be asked.

**7. Answer this question.**

- A *élak / élek ékhwaat?* أ إلك أخوات؟
- B \_\_\_\_\_ ب

**8. Work with a teacher or classmate and discuss you families: their names, ages, what they do and where they live.**

**YOU MUST BE JOKING...MORE RELATIVES** ♦ The following list is of relatives by marriage. We have listed them with the attached pronoun *-i* يـ because that is the form you will most often hear. Do not abandon all hope--this is simply for your reference.

<i>εammi (hamaayii)</i>	my father-in-law	عمي (حمائي)
<i>hamaati</i>	my mother-in-law	حماتي
<i>kénnti</i>	my daughter-in-law	كنتي
<i>shéiri</i>	my son-in-law, my sister's husband	صهري
<i>mart akhi</i>	my brother's wife	مرت أخي
<i>sélfí</i>	my husband's brother	سلفي
<i>sélfí</i>	my husband's brother's wife	سلفتي
<i>bén't hamaayii</i>	my husband's sister	بنت حمائي
<i>ébé'n hamaayii</i>	my wife's brother	إبن حمائي
<i>mart ébé'n hamaayii</i>	my wife's brother's wife	مرت إبن حمائي
<i>bén't hamayii</i>	my wife's sister	بنت حمائي
<i>zawj εamnti</i>	my uncle	زوج عمتي
<i>zawj khaalti</i>	my uncle	زوج خالتي
<i>mart εammi</i>	my aunt	مرت عمي
<i>mart khaali</i>	my aunt	مرت خالي

