

## EXERCISES

**FUNCTION A: COMPARING THINGS**

**CHEAPER THAN...** ➔ When you say something is “cheaper” or “more expensive” than something else, you are using the “comparative” form of the adjective.



1. Listen to the plain adjective followed by the comparative. Write the comparative, for example

eg *rkhiis* / *arkhas*

رخيص / أرخص

a. *kbür* / \_\_\_\_\_ / كبير

b. *sghiir* / \_\_\_\_\_ / صغير

c. *tqiil* / \_\_\_\_\_ / ثقيل

d. *khafif* / \_\_\_\_\_ / خفيف

e. *jdüid* / \_\_\_\_\_ / جديد

f. *qadiim* / \_\_\_\_\_ / قديم

g. *bciid* / \_\_\_\_\_ / بعيد

h. *qariib* / \_\_\_\_\_ / قريب

i. *ndiif* / \_\_\_\_\_ / نظيف

j. *faqiir* / \_\_\_\_\_ / فقير

Now look at adjectives and their comparatives and identify the three root letters (*el-jéZR* الجذر), for example

*rkhiis* / *arkhas*, *r-kh-s*

رخيص / أرخص، ر-خ-ص

Can you see any patterns? If C = a root letter the formula for the plain adjective is

(plain): C<sub>1</sub>(a)C<sub>2</sub>iiC<sub>3</sub>

(comparative): \_\_\_\_\_

what is the formula for the comparative? Write it in the space provided and circle any exceptions to this formula in the list above.

2. Look at these comparatives and identify the three root letters, for example

eg *arkhas* / *r-kh-ṣ*

أرخص / ر-خ-ص

- a. *altaj* / \_\_\_\_\_ kind, friendly \_\_\_\_\_ / أَلطَف
- b. *azraf* / \_\_\_\_\_ pleasant, nice \_\_\_\_\_ / أَظْرَف  
good (quality)
- c. *asman* / \_\_\_\_\_ fat \_\_\_\_\_ / أَسْمَن
- d. *anhaf* / \_\_\_\_\_ thin \_\_\_\_\_ / أَنْحَف
- e. *atwal* / \_\_\_\_\_ tall, long \_\_\_\_\_ / أَطْوَل
- f. *aqsar* / \_\_\_\_\_ short \_\_\_\_\_ / أَقْصَر
- g. *adʿaf* / \_\_\_\_\_ weak \_\_\_\_\_ / أضعف

Now go back and write the plain form of the adjective after the root letters, for example

eg *arkhas* / *r-kh-ṣ*, *rkhiiṣ*

أرخص / ر-خ-ص، رخيص

**FINALLY WEAK ADJECTIVES** ♦♦ When the third root letter is a semi-vowel the root is said to be “finally weak”. When an adjective is finally weak, the third root letter becomes an *Alif Makuura* *أ* in the comparative form, for example

<i>ghaali</i> / <i>aghla</i>	expensive, more expensive	غالي / أغلى
<i>ghani</i> / <i>aghna</i>	rich, richer	غني / أغنى
<i>zaki</i> / <i>azka</i>	smart, smarter	ذكي / أذكى
<i>ghabi</i> / <i>aghba</i>	stupid, more stupid	غبى / أغبى
<i>helu</i> / <i>ahla</i>	pretty, prettier / sweet, sweeter	حلو / أحلى
<i>qawi</i> / <i>aqwa</i>	strong, stronger	قوي / أقوى

**BETTER THAN...** ♦♦ There are two ways of saying “better than...”

*aḥsan mén*

أحسن من ...

*aḥḍal mén...*

أفضل من ...

**OTHER TYPES OF ADJECTIVES** ➤ Of course there are many adjectives which do not follow the C<sub>1</sub>(a)C<sub>2</sub>iiC<sub>3</sub> pattern but nevertheless have the same comparative form. This is where your ability to search out root letters comes in handy.

**3. Identify the roots and write the comparative form of each adjective, for example**

eg	<i>nhémm / h-m-m, ahamm</i>	important	مهمّ / أهّمّ
a.	<i>mashhuur / _____, _____</i>	famous	مشهور / _____, _____
b.	<i>mal'euun / _____, _____</i>	bad, naughty	ملعون / _____, _____
c.	<i>faateh / _____, _____</i>	bright (colours)	فاتح / _____, _____
d.	<i>ghaameq / _____, _____</i>	dark (colours)	غامق / _____, _____
e.	<i>waasaq / _____, _____</i>	loose, wide	واسع / _____, _____
f.	<i>dayyeq / _____, _____</i>	tight, narrow	ضيّق / _____, _____
g.	<i>wésekh / _____, _____</i>	dirty	وسخ / _____, _____
h.	<i>bésheq / _____, _____</i>	ugly	بشع / _____, _____
i.	<i>sah'el / _____, _____</i>	easy	سهل / _____, _____
j.	<i>saq'eb / _____, _____</i>	difficult	صعب / _____, _____

**4. Draw a line between adjectives with opposite meanings, for example**

a.	<i>qadiim</i>	<i>qasiir</i>	قصير	قديم
b.	<i>tawiil</i>	<i>ndiif</i>	نظيف	طويل
c.	<i>bésheq</i>	<i>jdiid</i>	جديد	بشع
d.	<i>wésekh</i>	<i>hélu</i>	حلو	وسخ
e.	<i>sah'el</i>	<i>waasaq</i>	واسع	سهل
f.	<i>dayyeq</i>	<i>ghabi</i>	غبي	ضيّق
g.	<i>faateh</i>	<i>saq'eb</i>	صعب	فاتح
h.	<i>zaki</i>	<i>ghaameq</i>	غامق	نكي

## 5. Look at the picture below. Which of the following statements is true?

*él-khéḍari abu l-kheer...*

الخصري أبو الخير...

a. *arkhaṣ*

أرخص

b. *awsakh*

أوسخ

c. *azraf*

أظرف

d. *asghar*

أصغر

e. *ajdad* أجدد

f. *aḥsan*

أحسن

...mén *él-khéḍari abu ghadab.*

...من الخصري أبو غضب.

*él-khéḍariyye*

الخصرية

أبو خير

٥      ٣.      ٥

١٥      ٤.      ٢٥

٣٥      ٢.      ٢٥

أبو غضب

٣,٥      ٢.      ٣,٥

١.      ٢٥      ١٥

٢٥      ١.      ١٥

**THE CHEAPEST** ♦♦ If you say something is the “cheapest” or “most expensive” you are using the “superlative”. Arabic uses the same form of the word for both the comparative and superlative, only the sentence structure tells you which is which. Look at the following examples

*Dimashq akbar madiine b-suuriyya* . دمشق أكبر مدينة بسوريا.  
Damascus is the biggest city in Syria

*él-jaameع él-Omawi ahla jaameع b-Dimashq.* الجامع الأموي أحلى جامع بدمشق.  
The Omayyad Mosque is the most beautiful mosque in Damascus.

*Féyruuz ashhar nghanniyye b-lébnan.* فيروز أشهر مغنّية بلبنان.  
Feyruz is the most famous singer in Lebanon.

In other words, “the most” = comparative adjective + INDEFINITE SINGULAR noun

**THE BEST...** ♦♦ There are two ways of saying “the best”

<i>ahsan (shi)</i>	the best (thing)	أحسن (شي)
<i>afdal (shi)</i>	the best (thing)	أفضل (شي)

**QUESTION WORD “WHICH”** ♦♦ Other words used before nouns to mean “which” are

<i>anu</i>	which (m, f and pl)	أنو
<i>ani</i>	which (f only)	أنّي



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

A *anu khédari* \_\_\_\_\_ *b-és-suuq?* ؟ أنو خضري \_\_\_\_\_ بالسوق ؟  
B *abu él-kheer* \_\_\_\_\_ *khédari.* أبو الخير \_\_\_\_\_ خضري.

**Now work with a teacher or classmate. Practise the conversation using these adjectives.**

a. <i>aghla</i> أغلى	
b. <i>andaf</i> أنظف	
c. <i>azraf</i>	أظرف
d. <i>akbar</i>	أكبر
e. <i>aqdam</i>	أقدم
f. <i>ahsan</i>	أحسن

**ONE OF THE CHEAPEST** ♦♦ If you want to say “one of the cheapest” or “one of the most expensive” of course, the sentence structure changes. Compare the following examples

*ḥalab mēn akbar él-médon b-suuriyya.* حلب من أكبر المدن بسوريا.  
Aleppo is one of the biggest cities in Syria.

*Dimashq akbar madiine b-suuriyya .* دمشق أكبر مدينة بسوريا.  
Damascus is the biggest city in Syria.

*jaameḥ Sétt Zainab mēn aḥla él- jawaameḥ b-Dimashq.* جامع الست زينب من أحلى الجوامع بدمشق  
Sayda Zainab Mosque is one of the most beautiful mosques in Damascus.

*él-jaameḥ él-Omawi aḥla jaameḥ b-Dimashq.* الجامع الأموي أحلى جامع بدمشق.  
The Omayyad Mosque is the most beautiful mosque in Damascus.

*Féyruuz mēn ashḥar él-mghanniyyin b-ésh-sharq él-awsaṭ.* فيروز من أشهر المغنيين بالشرق الأوسط.  
Feyruz is one of the most famous singers in the Middle East.

*Féyruuz ashḥar mghanniyye b-lébnaan.* فيروز أشهر مغنية بلبنان.  
Feyruz is the most famous singer in Lebanon.

In other words, “one of the most” = *mēn* + comparative adjective + DEFINITE PLURAL noun