

FUNCTION D: TALKING ABOUT PERIODS OF TIME

CONJUGATION--VERB "TO BECOME" ➔ The hollow verb *saar* صار (become) is used to ask "how long have you.....?", for example

- A *ḡaddeesh saar-lak b-ésh-shaam?* أ قديش صارلك بالشام؟
 B *saar-li sétte shhuur hoon.* ب صارلي ستة شهور هون.

The verb always remains in the masculine third person singular ("he") because the subject of the sentence is "time" and literally means "it has been six months for me to be here". The pronoun attached to the preposition *l-* ل- after the verb specifies who you are talking about.

☉☉ <i>saar + l + o = saarlo</i>	he has been...	صار ل + ه = صار له
<i>saarla</i>	she has been...	صار لها
<i>saarlon</i>	they have been...	صار لهن
<i>saarli</i>	I have been...	صار لي
<i>saarlak</i>	you (m) have been...	صار لك
<i>saarlek</i>	you (f) have been...	صار لك
<i>saar^lkon</i>	they have been...	صار لكن
<i>saar^lna</i>	we have been...	صار لنا

Note the helping vowel in the last two is used to separate three consonants in a row.

PERIODS OF TIME ➔ Remember you use the plural noun ONLY between 3 and 10.

<i>yoom</i>	day	يوم
<i>yoom^{een}</i>	two days	يومين
<i>tlett ayaam</i>	three days	٣ أيام
<i>14 yoom</i>	14 days	١٤ يوم
<i>ésbuu^ε</i>	one week	أسبوع
<i>ésbuu^εeen</i>	two weeks	أسبوعين
<i>arba^εt asaabi^ε</i>	four weeks	٤ أسابيع
<i>12 ésbuu^ε</i>	12 weeks	١٢ أسبوع
<i>shah^lr</i>	month	شهر
<i>shahreen</i>	two months	شهرين
<i>kham^ls shhuur</i>	five months	٥ شهور
<i>18shah^lr</i>	18 months	١٨ شهر
<i>séne</i>	one year	سنة
<i>sénten</i>	two years	سنتين
<i>sétte sniin</i>	six years	٦ سنين
<i>20 séne</i>	20 years	٢٠ سنة

Fractions such as *néss* نصّ (a half) are said at the very end, for example

<i>sénten w néss</i>	two and a half years	سنتين و نصّ
<i>tlett sniin w néss</i>	three and a half years	٣ سنين و نصّ

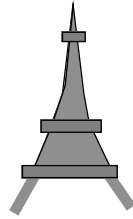


1. Listen to the conversation and fill in the missing words.

- A *qaddeesh saar-lak b-Dimashq?* أ قديش صارلك بدمشق؟
 B *saarli _____* ب صارلي _____
w énti qaddeesh saar-lek hoon? و انتي قديش صارلك هون؟
 A *bass _____* أ بس _____

2. Look at these pictures write how long each of these people have been in these places, for example

sénten



سنتين

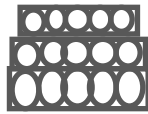
eg *John saarlo sénten b-Bariis.*

جون صارله سنتين ببارييس.

séne w néss



سنة و نص



3 sniin



٣ سنين



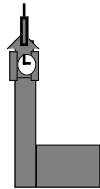
a. _____

b. _____

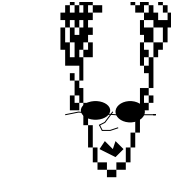
séne



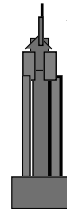
سنة



6 shhuur



٦ شهور



c. _____

d. _____

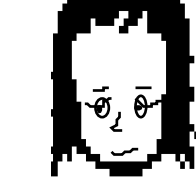
9 shhuur



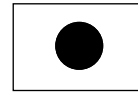
٩ شهور



9 shhuur



٩ شهور



e. _____

f. _____

Now work with a teacher or classmate and ask each other about these people, for example

- A *qaddeesh saar-lo b-Bariis?* أ قديش صارله ببارييس؟
 B *saar-lo sénten huniik* ب صارله سنتين هونييك.

HOW LONG DID YOU STAY? ➔ If you have gone somewhere but then returned, however, you must use a different verb: the regular type I verb *qad*-*qad* (to stay, to sit), for example


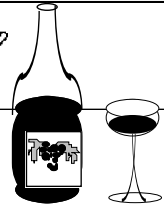


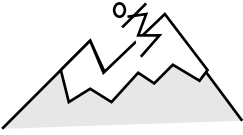
- A *qaddeesh qad b'fransa?* أ قديش قعدت بفرنسا؟
 B *qad hunik sette shuur.* ب قعدت هونيك ستة شهور.

SEASONS ➔ To say "it is summer (now)", the word *dénya* دنيا (world) is used, for example

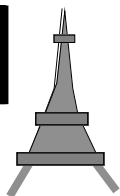
<i>éd-dénya...</i>	it is...	الدنيا...
<i>...seef</i>	..summer	صيف...
<i>...rabié</i>	..spring	ربيع...
<i>...khariif</i>	..autumn	خريف...
<i>...shéte</i>	..winter	شتاء...



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

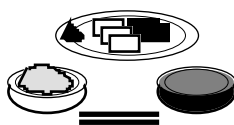
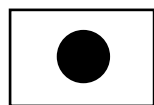
- A *ween réhti b-és-seef?* أ وين رحتي بالصيف؟
 B *réht' éala* ب رححت على 
 A *w qaddeesh qad acti huniik?* أ وقديش قعدتني هونيك؟
 B *qad* ب قعدت 
 A *shu emélti huniik?* أ شو علمتني هونيك؟
 B 
w énte ween réht? أ وانت وين رححت؟
 B *ana réht' éala* ب أنا رححت على 
w tzallajt kéll yoom. و تزلجت كل يوم.
 A *küif? w éd-dénya seef?* أ كيف؟ و الدنيا صيف؟
 B  ب

Now work with a teacher or classmate. Imagine you have spent the holidays in the following places. Discuss where you went, how long you stayed and what you did.



a.

b.



c.

d.