



LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S1 #1

Preparing for a Deadline in Egypt

CONTENTS

- 2 Egyptian Arabic
- 2 Vowelled Egyptian Arabic
- 3 Egyptian Romanization
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

#1

EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. سليم: الديدلاين بتاع المشروع قرب! لازم نوزع المهام علينا عشان نلحق الديدلاين.
2. عبود: صح. سليم, إنت هتتولى العلاقات مع العملاء خلال العملية. فادية, إنت هتبقى مسئولة عن الجرد. نسيم هتتولى الجانب التقني من العملية عشان هو ده تخصصه. نسيم فين؟
3. فادية: ماعرفش. أعتقد أنه ف أجازة و ماعرفش هيرجع إمتى.
4. سليم: أنا هتصل بنسيم حالاً و أعرف هيرجع إمتى.
5. عبود: طب مبدئياً قوله يشوف الإيميل كل شوية. حلاوة التكنولوجيا إننا ممكن نشغل من أي حته!

VOWELLED EGYPTIAN ARABIC

1. سليم: الديدلاين بتاع المشروع قَرَب! لازم نوزَع المهام علينا عشان نلَحَق الديدلاين.
2. عبود: صَح. سليم, إنت هَتتَوَلَّى العِلاقات مَعَ العُمَلَّا خِلال العَمَلِيَّة. فادِيَّة, إنت هَتَبْقِي مَسئولَة عَن الجَرْد. نسيم هَتتَوَلَّى الجَانِب التِّقْنِي مِنَ العَمَلِيَّة عشان هُو دِه تَخَصُّصُه. نسيم فين؟
3. فادية: ما عَرَفَش. أَعْتَدِ إِنَّهُ فِ أَجَازَة و ما عَرَفَش هَيَرْجَعِ إِمْتَى.
4. سليم: أنا هَتَصِل بِنَسِيم حَالاً و أَعْرِف هَيَرْجَعِ إِمْتَى.

CONT'D OVER

طَب مَبْدِئِيًّا قَوْلَهُ يَشُوف الْإِيمِيل كُل شَوِيَّة. حَلَاوَة التَّكْنُولُوجِيَا إِنَّنَا مُمَكِّن
نَشْتَغَل مِن أَيِّ حَتِّه!

عَبُود: 5.

EGYPTIAN ROMANIZATION

1. SILĪM: el-dīdlāyn btā' el-mašrū' qarrab! lāzim nwazza' el-mahām 'alīnā 'ašān nilḥaq el-dīdlāyn.
2. 'ABBUŪD: ṣaḥ. silīm, 'inta hatitwallaā el-'ilāqāt ma' el-'umalā ḥilel- el-'amaliyyah. fādyah, 'inta hatibqī mas'ūlah 'an el-ḡard. nsīm hayitwallaā el-ḡānib el-tiqanī min el-'amaliyyah 'ašān huwwa dah taḥaṣṣuṣuh. nsīm fīn?
3. FĀDYAH: mā'rafš. 'a' taqid 'innuh fi 'aḡāzah wa mā'rafš hayirḡa' 'iimtā.
4. SILĪM: 'anā hattiṣil binsīm ḥal-an wa 'a'raf hayirḡa' 'iimtā.
5. 'ABBUŪD: ṭab mabda'iyyaan qūlluh yišūf el-'iīmīl kul šwayyah. ḥalāwih el-tuknūlūḡyaā 'inninā mumkin ništaḡal min 'ay ḥittah.

ENGLISH

1. SALEEM: The deadline is rapidly approaching on this project. We should start delegating the tasks at hand.
2. MR. ABBOD: Yes, indeed. Saleem, you should manage client relations at every step of the process. Fadia, you are responsible for inventory. Naseem will manage the technical aspects of the project because that is his specialty. Where is Naseem?

CONT'D OVER

3. FADIA: I don't know. I think he went on vacation and I am not sure when he will be back.
4. SALEEM: I'll call Naseem right away and find out when he will return.
5. MR. ABOUD: Yes, and in the meantime, tell him to be checking his email. The beauty of technology is that we can work from anywhere!

VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
بتاع (Egyptian)	btāʿ	possessive marker	particle	
المشروع (Egyptian)	el-mašrūʿ	project	noun	masculine
لازم (Egyptian)	lāzim	necessary	adjective	
عشان (Egyptian)	ʿašān	because, in order to	conjunction	
صح (Egyptian)	ṣaḥ	that's true, you're right	interjection	
مسئول (Egyptian)	masʿūl	to be responsible for	verb	
ما عرفت (Egyptian)	maāʿrafš	I don't know	verb	
أعتقد (Egyptian)	ʿaʿtaqid	I think	conjugated verb	

أجازة (Egyptian)	'ağāzah	vacation	noun	feminine
طب (Egyptian)	ṭab	ok	interjection	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>فين المكتب بتاع أحمد؟ fin el-maktab btā' 'aḥmad?</p> <p>Where is Ahmed's office?</p>	<p>المشروع كبير جداً. ālmašrū' kbīr ḡeddan.</p> <p>The project is very big.</p>
<p>لازم أروح الشغل. lāzem 'arūḥ el-šuḡl.</p> <p>I have to go to work.</p>	<p>هناك عشان أرتاح. hanām 'ašān 'artāḥ.</p> <p>I'll sleep to rest.</p>
<p>كلامك صح. klaāmak ṣaḥ.</p> <p>What you said is true.</p>	<p>أنا المسئول. 'anā el-mas'ūl.</p> <p>I'm the one responsible.</p>
<p>ماعرفش إسمه إيه. mā'rafš 'esmuh 'ēih.</p> <p>I don't know his name.</p>	<p>عايز أجازة. 'āyez 'ağāzah.</p> <p>I want a vacation.</p>
<p>طب إنت زعلان ليه؟ ṭab 'enta za'lān līh?</p> <p>Ok, then why are you angry?</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

(the possessive marker)

This word is inserted between an item and its possessor.

It is used to show possession in the case of both animate and inanimate objects. It can be used for basic possessive phrases, such as "the boy's book," and also phrases like "the project's deadline," which in English might normally be expressed using "project" as an adjective, "project deadline," rather than as part of a possessive phrase. This structure, using a possessive structure to express adjectives, is very common in the Egyptian dialect.

For example:

القطة بتاعت صحتبي

"My friend's cat"

عشان

"because," "in order to"

This word is inserted in a sentence to connect two ideas.

This word can be used to express both reason and purpose. You can also use *ashan* when you want to express reason by saying "I'm doing this for you" or "for your/his/her sake" by saying: عشانك, عشانه, عشانها

For example:

إنت ماشي ليه؟ - عشان إتاخرت.

"Why are you leaving? - Because I'm late."

صح

"true," "yes"

This word is used in the Egyptian dialect to show agreement while someone else is speaking and also at the beginning of a response to someone.

This is an expression of agreement used in conversation, similar to "right" or "true" in English. It can be used in any level of formality in Egyptian conversation.

For example:

الجو حر أوي صح؟ - صح.

"The weather is really hot, right? - Yeah."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Future Tense

ما عرفش. أعتقد أنه ف أجازة و ما عرفش هيرجع إمتى.

mā rafš. 'a 'taqid 'innuh fi 'ağāzah wa mā rafš hayirğa 'imtā

"I don't know. I think he went on vacation and I am not sure when he will be back."

When you want to turn a verb into its future tense, you put a *ha* at the beginning of the verb in the present tense form. Conjugating verbs in Arabic can be tough sometimes, but there is good news! In Egyptian Arabic, conjugating in the future tense is actually very easy. A future tense sentence is very similar to a present tense sentence. The only difference is the sound *ha* that is attached in front of the verb.

In the dialogue, Saleem said he would call Naseem right away. He used the same structure as the present tense, "I call" اتصل but just added the *ha* sound at the beginning of the verb to make it "I will call" هتصل. Notice that the *alif* just blends in with the *ha* sound in the pronunciation.

He also used the future tense in the second part of the sentence in regards to when Naseem will return from vacation. "He returns" is يرجع, while "he will return" is هيرجع

The structure is simple: *ha* + simple present tense verb.

Before we dive into future tense, let's quickly review the simple present tense forms in Egyptian Arabic. This chart uses the verb "to make"- عمل

Simple

Present
(imperfect)

"to make" عمل Future

Subject	Conjugation	Subject	Conjugation	English
---------	-------------	---------	-------------	---------

أنا	أعمل	أنا	هعمل	I will make
انت	تعمل	انت	هتعمل (m)	you will make (m)
انتى	تعملى	انتى	هتعملى (f)	you will make (f)
هو	يعمل	هو	هيعمل	he will make
هي	تعمل	هي	هتعمل	she will make
احنا	نعمل	احنا	هنعمل	we will make
انتو	تعملوا	انتو	هتعملوا	you all will make
هم	يعملوا	هم	هيعملوا	they will make

Future tense is as simple as just adding *ha* to the beginning of these conjugations!

Here are a few examples of future tense verbs:

"she will write" هتكتب

"we will drive" هنسوق

Here's one last thing about conjugating verbs in Egyptian Arabic. You might be wondering why Saleem used the pronoun *ana*, meaning "I," before the verb in the phrase أنا هتصل بنسيم ("I will call Naseem") but he did not use the pronoun *howa*, meaning "he," when talking about Naseem in the phrase هيرجع ("he will return"). In Arabic, the conjugation of the verb is often enough for the listener to know who the subject is. In conversation, it is common to drop the pronoun unless it is necessary for clarity or emphasis.

Examples from the dialogue:

أنا هتصل بنسيم حالا و أعرف هيرجع إمتى

'anā hattiṣil binsīm ḥal-an wa 'a'raf hayirġa 'iimtā

"I'll call Naseem right away and find out when he will return."

Sample Sentences

هتيجي معانا للسينما؟

hatigi ma'ana lel sinima?

"Are you going to come with us to the movie theater?"

السنة اللي جاية هرجع مصر ان شاء الله.

el sana el gayya harga' masr in sha' Allah

"Next year, I will return to Egypt, God willing."

بكرة انا هتفرج عالتلفزيون.

bokra hatfarrag 'attelevision

"Tomorrow I will watch television."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Commonly Used Business Terms in the Arab World

In Egypt and many parts of the Arab world, and especially in companies, many people have started using the English equivalents of Arabic words. Examples include the word "deadline," and many other words like "email," "project," "contact," and "HR." If said in Arabic, they will sound very stiff and awkward, and so the English equivalent is used.

Words like "senior/junior," "brand," "overtime," "log in," "location" and many others are often heard in Egypt (especially the bigger cities like Cairo and Alexandria) and using them will make you sound very natural and give you more vocabulary for your daily life and work!

Useful expression:

منير, السينيور مانيجر عايزك.

"Mounir, the senior manager wants you."