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Introduction

Mastering Arabic Vocabulary and Pronunciation is a reference and activity book for all beginners and early intermediate students of Arabic.

As a reference book, it provides friendly theme-based vocabulary lists. As an activity book, it helps you to absorb and practise the vocabulary you are learning.

This book assumes you have a reasonable knowledge of the Arabic script and basic grammar.

How to use this book

Each unit of the book is divided into two parts:

- **Part 1:** Core vocabulary, with related activities
- **Part 2:** Extension vocabulary, with related activities.

Part 1 is suitable for early beginners. You can start by working through the core vocabulary and related activities, returning to the extension parts at a later stage.

Part 2 is more suitable for late beginners or early intermediate students. If you are confident of your level, you can complete the core and extension parts together.


The first three units of *Mastering Arabic Vocabulary and Pronunciation* focus on basic vocabulary sets and the pronunciation of individual sounds. Subsequent units focus on a particular theme.

The units have a built-in progression. You should feel you are making progress as you move through the book.

Answers to all the activities are included in the final section of the book. You can also find models for the speaking activities on the audio.

Downloadable audio

Each copy of *Mastering Arabic Vocabulary and Pronunciation* comes with free online audio, available at: www.macmillanihe.com/masteringarabic.

All core and extension vocabulary lists are included in the audio, as are listening activities and models for the end-of-section speaking activities. Those parts of the book which are on the audio are marked with this symbol: . The number under the headphone symbol identifies the audio section online.

Modern Standard Arabic

The vocabulary presented in this book is friendly Modern Standard Arabic which is universally understood in a variety of different situations and will provide you with an excellent base for your written and spoken language.

1

Sounds and basic words 1



Part 1: Core vocabulary



1

Arabic	Pronunciation	English	Write it yourself
أَنَا	<i>anā</i>	I	_____
أَنْتَ	<i>anta</i>	you (<i>masc. sing.</i>)	_____
أَنْتِ	<i>anti</i>	you (<i>fem. sing.</i>)	_____
أَنْتُمْ	<i>antum</i>	you (<i>plural</i>)	_____
هُوَ	<i>huwa</i>	he	_____
هِيَ	<i>hiya</i>	she	_____
نَحْنُ	<i>naḥnu</i>	we	_____
هُمْ	<i>hum</i>	they (<i>masc.</i>)	_____
وَ	<i>wa-</i>	and	_____
هُنَا	<i>huna</i>	here	_____
هُنَاكَ	<i>hunāka</i>	(over) there	_____
هَلْ ...؟	<i>hal ...?</i>	question word	_____



2

Pronunciation tip

The letter ح (*ḥā*)

The letter ح (*ḥā*) is a breathy 'h' similar to the sound you might make when breathing on glasses to clean them. The letter appears in the list above in the middle of the word for 'we': نَحْنُ (*naḥnu*). It also appears in names of Arabic origin that might be familiar to you. Listen to these names and repeat the Arabic pronunciation carefully.

أَحْمَدُ *aḥmad* Ahmed

حَمْدِي *ḥamdi* Hamdi

سَحْرَ *saḥar* Sahar

مُحَمَّدَ *muḥammad* Mohammed

Activity 1

Match the characters with the speech bubbles, as in the example.

نَحْنُ حَمْدِي وَمُحَمَّدٌ.

هَلْ أَنْتِ سَحْرٌ؟

أَنَا أَحْمَدُ.

مُحَمَّدٌ هُنَاكَ.

أَنَا سَحْرٌ.

هَلْ أَنْتَ حَمْدِي؟

أحمد

سحر

محمد

حمدي

١

٢

٣

٤

٥

٦

Activity 2

Write the missing Arabic words in the sentences and questions to match the English translation, as in the example.

- I'm Mohammed. أنا _____ مُحَمَّدٌ. ١
- She's Sahar. سَحْرٌ _____ ٢
- Are you Ahmed? هَلْ _____ أَحْمَدٌ؟ ٣
- Are you Sahar? سَحْرٌ _____ ٤
- We are here. هُنَا _____ ٥
- Are you (plural) here? هَلْ _____ ؟ ٦
- Are they over there? هَلْ _____ ؟ ٧
- I'm Hamdi and he's Ahmed. حَمْدِي وَ _____ أَحْمَدٌ. ٨

Part 2: Extension vocabulary



3

Arabic	Pronunciation	English	Write it yourself
أَنْتُمَا	<i>antumā</i>	you [two] (dual)	_____
أَنْتُنَّ	<i>antunna</i>	you (fem. plural)	_____
هُمَا	<i>humā</i>	they [two] (dual)	_____
هُنَّ	<i>hunna</i>	they (fem. plural)	_____
أَهْلًا	<i>ahlan</i>	hello	_____
مَرْحَبًا	<i>marḥaban</i>	welcome	_____
إِسْمِي ...	<i>ismī ...</i>	my name's ...	_____
تَشَرَّفْنَا	<i>tasharrafnā</i>	pleased to meet you	_____



Language tip

The ending أَ (-an)

Some basic Arabic expressions end with a double *fatha* vowel sign (َ) pronounced *-an*. This is often written on top of a silent *alif* (أ). Try to remember the spelling and pronunciation of these expressions.

أَهْلًا *ahlan* hello

مَرْحَبًا *marḥaban* welcome

شُكْرًا *shukran* thank you

أَيْضًا *ayḍan* also

Activity 3

Match the Arabic pronouns to their English equivalents, as in the example.

a she	g you (fem. pl.)	أَنْتُنَّ ٧ _	نَحْنُ ١ d _
b they (fem.)	h you (fem. sing.)	أَنْتِ ٨ _	هُوَ ٢ _
c you (masc. sing.)	i I	هُمْ ٩ _	أَنَا ٣ _
d we	j you (masc. pl.)	هُمَا ١٠ _	هُنَّ ٤ _
e they (masc.)	k he	هِيَ ١١ _	أَنْتِ ٥ _
f they (dual)	l you (dual)	أَنْتُمْ ١٢ _	أَنْتُمَا ٦ _



Activity 4

4

Listen to your audio track. The coach, Captain Mahmoud, is trying to organise his new group of young men and women into teams. Listen and try to decide if the Arabic statements below are true (T) or false (F).

كابِتِن مَحْمُود: هَلْ أَنْتَ حَامِدٌ؟ هَلْ أَنْتَ سَامِحٌ؟

حَامِدٌ: أَنَا حَامِدٌ! سَامِحٌ هُنَاكَ!

كابِتِن مَحْمُود: أَهْلًا حَامِدٌ. هَلْ أَنْتِ سَحْرٌ؟

سَمِيحَةٌ: أَنَا سَمِيحَةٌ. أَنَا إِسْمِي سَمِيحَةٌ. وَهِيَ سَحْرٌ.

كابِتِن مَحْمُود: أَهْلًا سَمِيحَةٌ! مَرْحَبًا سَحْرًا! تَشَرَّفْنَا!

سَمِيحَةٌ: شُكْرًا، كابِتِن مَحْمُود!

حَامِدٌ: نَحْنُ أَيْضًا تَشَرَّفْنَا!



- ١ سَامِحٌ هُنَاكَ.
- ٢ حَامِدٌ هُنَاكَ.
- ٣ سَمِيحَةٌ وَسَحْرٌ هُنَا.
- ٤ سَمِيحَةٌ وَسَحْرٌ هُنَاكَ.
- ٥ الكابِتِن إِسْمُهُ أَحْمَدٌ.
- ٦ الكابِتِن إِسْمُهُ مَحْمُودٌ.



Language tip

Short vowels

Throughout the first units, we include the short vowel marks – *fatha* (a), *damma* (u) and *kasra* (i). In subsequent units, we still include the short vowels in the core and extension vocabulary lists, since this is useful for pronunciation. However, we also start to encourage you to recognise words in context without these short vowels, as this is how they will generally appear in Arabic text for native speakers. When writing Arabic yourself, you can include the short vowels or not as you prefer.