

The Sixteenth Lesson (Lesson Sixteen)

Let's add something new to our knowledge of the comparative adjective:

What happens when the two final root consonants are identical, e.g., ḥ-f-f



 ḥafīf → 'aḥaff = light → lighter

The two final consonants “crowd up” together so tightly that they have to be pronounced as a double *ff*. The effort of doing this attracts the stress to the end of the word, to the vowel just before the doubled consonant (unlike 'akbar, 'aḥla, where the stress is on the first syllable).

In the same way: qalīl → 'aqall (haqall¹)
 (a) little less

The word muhemm (*important*), whose root is h-m-m, also belongs to this group of adjectives, and its comparative form is 'ahamm (*more important*).

Vocabulary

ʕilbe // ʕulbe	tin, can, box	luḡa [luḡāt]	language
[ʕilab // ʕulab]	tins, cans, boxes	ʕarabi	Arab ^{m sing} ; Arabic
ḡaṭa [ḡuṭi]	lid, cover	ʕarabiyye	Arab ^{f sing}
zayy	like (prep)	'ajnabi ['ajāneb]	foreigner ^{m sing}
etqīl	heavy	'ajnabiyye	foreigner ^{f sing}
'atqal	heavier	ḡurfe ² [ḡuraf]	room
wiseḥ (cp: 'awsaḥ)	dirty	salle [slāl]	basket
hayyen	easy ^m	jārūr // jarrūr	drawer
hayyne	easy ^f	[jawārīr]	drawers
'ahwan (cp)	easier	ḥarbān	out of order, no good
qyās	size, measurement[s], dimensions		

1. See **Book 1, p.98, footnote 3.**

2. Don't forget to distinguish between -ḡ (which sounds rather like the noise you make when starting to gargle) and -r (an *r* sound rolled on the tip of the tongue, Scots or Spanish style). Try pronouncing this word slowly several times at first: ḡu - r^e - fe, then try to produce the same sequence of sounds more quickly.

Lesson 16

Conversation

- **biddi** ʕilab kartōn zayy **hādi** ʕišrīn santi ʕala talātīn. – I want cardboard boxes like this one, 20 centimeters by 30.
- **šūf** hadōl. – Take a look at these <look at these>.
- **la'**, hadōl ḥarbānīn. – No, these are no good. Don't you have
fišš ġēr-hom? anything else <there are not other-than them>?
- **fīh** hadlāk // hadōlāk³ – There are those in the corner
fi-l-qurne hunāk, nafs il-lōn there, the same color and
u-nafs l-eqyās⁴, lāken bala ġaṭa. the same size, but without a lid.
- **balāš** il-ġaṭa! **hāt**⁵ hadōlāk! – No need for the lid! Give [me] those!
-
- iš-šanta hāy_ʕtqīle ʕalēk. – This suitcase is [too] heavy for you
<heavy on you>.
- hōd**⁶ is-salle, is-salle ḥafīfe. Take the basket, the basket's light.
- is-salle 'aḥaff min iš-šanta? – Is the basket lighter than the suitcase?
- '**ā**, ṭabʕan, iš-šanta – Yes, of course, the suitcase is **much**
'atqal b-ektīr. heavier <heavier by much>.
- hiyye** tqīle ʕa-šān-ha⁷ malāne, It's heavy because it's full,
fī-ha 'awāʕi ʕutaq⁸. it's got old clothes in it
<in it [are] old clothes>.

Please note: in the recordings, the Conversation is followed by the sentences marked ■, first those in the Explanations, then those in the footnotes.

3. In northern Galilee (Tarshiha, Fassuta, etc.) you will hear people say **hadōk**; in Nazareth, Haifa and Acco (Acre): **hadlāk**; in Jerusalem **hadōlāk**.

■ 4. As q is pronounced ʕ, the word l-eqyās is pronounced le'... yās. In other words: le + a sudden pause (glottal stop) + yās. Listen carefully to the recording!

5. The word **hāt** (f: **hāti**, pl: **hātu**) means *give! bring! hand [me]....!* This is an isolated word, i.e., it does not form part of a verb conjugation.

6. This is the imperative of the verb '**aḥad** (*he took*) which in the past tense conjugates like **katab**, but is irregular in the other tenses; we'll learn it soon.

7. You can say either ʕala-šān or ʕa-šān, as ʕa- is short for ʕala. Personal pronouns can be attached to this word, too: ʕa-šān-ak taʕbān = *because you're tired*. We can do this with other similar words we know, too: li-ann-ak = li'anno 'inte ...).

8. ʕatīq (f ʕatīqa [ʕutaq / ʕutoq]) means *old* and is used of inanimate objects only.

Lesson 16

- qīm il-’awā⁹ci min qal^{eb}-ha⁹ Take the clothes out of it <remove the clothes from its inside> and then
u-betšīr ḥafīfe. it’ll be light <it will become light>.
-
- hal-banṭalōn¹⁰ ṭawīl ^ʿalayy. – These trousers are too long for me
<this [pair of] trousers is long on me>.
- fī-š ^ʿindek ’iši haqṣar¹¹ minno? Don’t you^f have a shorter pair
<something shorter than it>?
- hadāk illi fi-l-ḥazāne – The ones in the wardrobe / closet
'aṭwal kamān. fī-š
are even longer. There’s nothing
haqṣar min hāda. shorter than these <than this>.
- u-biddi kamān ṭaqiyye¹² laš-šug^ol, – And I want a cap, too, for work.
ṭaqiyye nḍīfe. hādi wishja.¹³ A clean cap, this one’s dirty.
- ḥōd hadīk illi fi-l-jārūr (jarrūr) – Take that one in the drawer <that [is] in the
hiyye nḍīfe. drawer>, it’s clean.
- nḍīfe nḍīfe? – Really clean <clean clean>?
- ya^ʿni... ’anḍaf min hāy. – Well.... cleaner than this [one].
- [This section is not included in the recording]
- kif il-luḡa J-^ʿarabiyye, ṣa^ʿbe? – What’s Arabic like
<how is the Arabic language> – hard?
- ’ā, ma^ʿlūm, il-^ʿarabi ṣa^ʿeb, – Yes, of course <[it’s] known>. Arabic’s
'aṣ^ʿab min il-^ʿubrāni (ʿibrāni^G) difficult, more difficult than Hebrew.

9. The word **qalb** means *heart* and also *inside* (n); **qām** [iqīm] means *to remove, take off*, and it conjugates in the same way as the verb **jāb**. **qīm hāda min hōn** = *Take that away from here!* / *Get that out of here!*

qimto means *I took it away*; **qimnā^h** / **qimnā-ha** = *We took it away* / *We took it off*.

10) The Arabic for *trousers* is **banṭalōn** (m sing!), [**banāṭlīn^G** // **banṭalōnāt^J**], from the French *pantalon*.

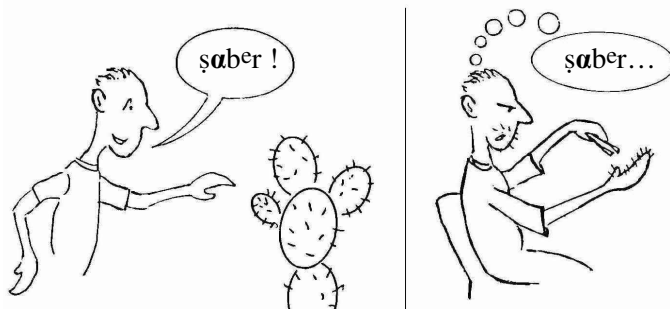
11) See **Book 1, p. 98, footnote 3**.

12) The word **ṭaqiyye** means *cap, beret, skullcap*, etc.

13) The adjective **wiṣḥ** (f **wiṣḥa** [wiṣḥīn]) comes from the same root as the noun **wasāḥ**, which means *dirt*. The plural form [**’awsāḥ**] means *pieces of dirt / litter*. Don’t confuse this plural with the comparative adjective **’awsāḥ**, which means *dirtier*.

Lesson 16

- kamān il-^cubrāni muš hayyen (muš_^{eh}wayyen)^G – Hebrew’s not easy either, <also Hebrew [is] not easy>, but [it’s] easier than Arabic.
- kull luġa ṣābe la-l-’ajāneb, – Every language is difficult for foreigners.
- dars il-luġāt biddo waqt_u-tamrīn. Learning languages takes time and practice.
- ṣaḥīḥ! kull ši biddo – True! Everything takes <wants / needs> patience. You’ve got a good book, that’s important, but..... patience is the most important thing!
- ṣāber. Ġindak_ektāb_emnīḥ, hāda muhemm, bass... iṣ-ṣāber¹⁴ ’ahamm ’iši.



- il-ġurfe hādi ’aḥla min hadīk. – This room is nicer than that one.
u-’anḍaf kamān. And cleaner, too.
- maḥbūt, bass hadīk ’aṭwal – True, but that one’s longer.
fiha maḥall ’aktar. It’s got <in it> more space.
- bidnā-š maḥall_ektūr. – We don’t need a lot of space.
hadīk wiṣḥa, That one’s dirty,
u-hādi ’aḥla ġurfe fi-l-bēt. and this is the nicest room in the house.
- ṭayyeb, zayy-ma biddak. – Fine, whatever you like <as what you like>.

14. This word means both *patience* and *prickly pear*, which is a tough and “patient” variety of cactus that can go for a long time without water. The fruit of the prickly pear ■ is called *kūz ṣāber* [kwāz] in Arabic. *hāt talat_ekwāz* = *Give [me] three prickly pears!*

Explanations

1. Arabic

We've learnt in this lesson that we can say either il-**ʕarabi** or il-**luḡa ʔ-ʕarabiyye**, and, in the same way, either il-**ʕibrāni** (or **ʕubrāni**) or il-**luḡa ʔ-ʕibriyye** *Hebrew*, and also il-**'ineglīzi** / il-**luḡa l-'inglīziyye** *English*.

Even though we haven't learned the verb *to speak* yet, let's learn the following important expression:

- **būḥki ʕarabi?** *Do you speak Arabic?*
- baḥki šwayy.** *I speak a little.*

2. Centimeter = santi / šanti

This form is used for both singular and plural, and it is invariable. When it is preceded by a number between 3 and 10, this number remains “complete,” i.e., the final *-e /-a* is not dropped:

- **talāte santi** *3 centimeters*
- ḥamse santi** *5 centimeters*

This is the also case with other foreign words that designate weights and measures: **kīlo** (*kilogram* or *kilometer*), **šēkel** (*shekel*), etc.

- **sabʕa kīlo** *7 kilometers / kilograms*
- ʕašara šēkel** *10 shekels*

We've talked about the numbers between 3 and 10 – but what about 2? The dual ending *-ēn* is not added to foreign words, and so we say:

- **tnēn santi** *2 centimeters*
- tnēn šēkel** *2 shekels*
- tnēn kīlo** *2 kilometers*

The form of these foreign words in no way resembles that of any Arabic word. The word **miṭer** (*meter*), on the other hand, looks like an Arabic word (it looks as if it belongs to the same group of words as **biṇet**), and so it can assume an Arabic plural form [**mṭūra** / **'amṭār**]. With a number it behaves just like an ordinary Arabic noun:

- **mitrēn** *2 meters*
- tlatt_emptūra** *3 meters*