

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



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, 'ahla, where the stress is on the first syllable).

In the same way: qalīl → 'aqall (haqall<sup>1</sup>)  
 (a) little less

The word *muheem* (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 <sup>m sing</sup> ; Arabic
ḡaṭa [ḡuṭi]	lid, cover	ʕarabiyye	Arab <sup>f sing</sup>
zayy	like (prep)	'ajnabi ['ajāneb]	foreigner <sup>m sing</sup>
etqīl	heavy	'ajnabiyye	foreigner <sup>f sing</sup>
'atqal	heavier	ḡurfe <sup>2</sup> [ḡuraf]	room
wiseḥ (cp: 'awsaḥ)	dirty	salle [slāl]	basket
hayyen	easy <sup>m</sup>	jārūr // jarrūr	drawer
hayyne	easy <sup>f</sup>	[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 - rḡ - fe, then try to produce the same sequence of sounds more quickly.

Lesson 16

**Conversation**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| – biddi ʕilab kartōn zayy hādi<br>ʕišrīn santi ʕala talātīn.   | – I want cardboard boxes like this one,<br>20 centimeters by 30.  |
| – šūf hadōl.   | – Take a look at these <look at these>.   |
| – laʾ, hadōl ḥarbānīn.<br>fišš ġēr-hom?  | – No, these are no good. Don't you have<br>anything else <there are not other-than them?>   |
| – fīh hadlāk // hadōlāk <sup>3</sup><br>fi-l-ḡurne hunāk, nafs il-lōn<br>u-nafs l-ʕqyās <sup>4</sup> , lāken bala ġaṭa.  | – There are those in the corner<br>there, the same color and<br>the same size, but without a lid.   |
| – balāš il-ġaṭa! hāt <sup>5</sup> hadōlāk!   | – No need for the lid! Give [me] those!   |
| -----  |   |
| – iš-šanta hāy_ʕtqīle ʕalēk.<br><br>ḥōd <sup>6</sup> is-salle, is-salle ḥafīfe.<br>– is-salle ʾaḥaff min iš-šanta?<br>– ʾā, ṭabʕan, iš-šanta<br>ʾatqal b-ʕktūr.<br>hiyye tqīle ʕa-šān-ha <sup>7</sup> malāne,<br>fī-ha ʾawāʕi ʕutaq <sup>8</sup> . | – This suitcase is [too] heavy for you<br><heavy on you>.<br>Take the basket, the basket's light.<br>– Is the basket lighter than the suitcase?<br>– Yes, of course, the suitcase is <b>much</b><br>heavier <heavier by much>.<br>It's heavy because it's full,<br>it's got old clothes in it<br><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 ʾ, the word l-ʕqyās is pronounced leʾ... 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 ʾaḥad (*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.

- qīm il-’awā<sup>c</sup>i min qal<sup>e</sup>b-ha<sup>9</sup> Take the clothes out of it <remove the clothes from its inside> and then  
 u-betşîr hâfîfe. it’ll be light <it will become light>.
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- hal-banţalōn<sup>10</sup> ţawîl <sup>c</sup>alayy. – These trousers are too long for me  
 <this [pair of] trousers is long on me>.
- fî-ş <sup>c</sup>indek ’iši haqşar<sup>11</sup> minno? Don’t you<sup>f</sup> have a shorter pair  
 <something shorter than it>?
- hadāk illi fi-l-hazāne – The ones in the wardrobe / closet  
 ’aţwāl kamān. fî-ş are even longer. There’s nothing  
 haqşar min hāda. shorter than these <than this>.
- u-biddi kamān taqīyye<sup>12</sup> laş-şuġol, – And I want a cap, too, for work.  
 taqīyye\_nđife. hādi wishja.<sup>13</sup> A clean cap, this one’s dirty.
- hōd hadîk illi fi-l-jārūr (jarrār) – Take that one in the drawer <that [is] in the  
 hiyye nđife. drawer>, it’s clean.
- nđife nđife? – Really clean <clean clean>?
- ya<sup>c</sup>ni... ’aņđaf min hāy. – Well.... cleaner than this [one].
- [This section is not included in the recording]
- kîf il-luġa <sup>c</sup>arabīyye, şa<sup>c</sup>be? – What’s Arabic like  
 <how is the Arabic language> – hard?
- ’ā, ma<sup>c</sup>lūm, il-<sup>c</sup>arabi şa<sup>c</sup>eb, – Yes, of course <[it’s] known>. Arabic’s  
 ’aş<sup>c</sup>ab min il-<sup>c</sup>ubrāni (ċibrāni<sup>G</sup>) 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<sup>h</sup> / qimnā-ha** = *We took it away / We took it off*.

10 ) The Arabic for *trousers* is **banţalōn** (m sing!), [banāţlīn<sup>G</sup> // banţalōnāt<sup>J</sup>], from the French *pantalon*.

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

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

13) The adjective **wiseĥ** (f **wiṣĥa** [wiṣĥīn]) comes from the same root as the noun **wasāĥ**, which means *dirt*. The plural form [’awsāĥ] means *pieces of dirt / litter*. Don’t confuse this plural with the comparative adjective ’awsāĥ, which means *dirtier*.

## Lesson 16

- kamān il-<sup>c</sup>ubrāni muš hayyen (muš\_ehwayyen)<sup>G</sup> lāken ’ahwan min il-<sup>c</sup>arabi. – Hebrew’s not easy either, <also Hebrew [is] not easy>, but [it’s] easier than Arabic.
- kull luḡa ṣā<sup>c</sup>be la-l-’ajāneb, dars il-luḡāt biddo waqt\_u-tamrīn. – Every language is difficult for foreigners. Learning languages takes time and practice.
- ṣaḥīḥ! kull ši biddo ṣāber. <sup>c</sup>indak\_ektāb\_emnīḥ, hāda muhemm, bass... – True! Everything takes <wants / needs> patience. You’ve got a good book, that’s important, but....
- iṣ-ṣāber<sup>14</sup> ’ahamm ’iši. – patience is the most important thing!



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- il-ḡurfe hādi ’aḥla min hadīk. – This room is nicer than that one.
  - u-’aṇḍaf kamān. – And cleaner, too.
  - maḏbūt, bass hadīk ’aṭwal – True, but that one’s longer.
  - fīha 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 ḡurfe fi-l-bēt. – and this is the nicest room in the house.
  - ṭayyeb, zayy-ma biddak. – Fine, whatever you like <as what you like>.

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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!*

<b>Explanations</b>
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**1. Arabic**

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

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

- **btiḥki 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 **mīter** (*meter*), on the other hand, looks like an Arabic word (it looks as if it belongs to the same group of words as **binet**), and so it can assume an Arabic plural form [**mtūra** / **'amtūr**]. With a number it behaves just like an ordinary Arabic noun:

- **mitrēn**                              *2 meters*
- tlatt\_ʕmtūra**                      *3 meters*