Learn Lebanese

Level 101 – Lesson 3

Letter Types & the Definitive Article

Curriculum V1.0

Lebanese Language Center

www.abcleb.com

LLL System as developed by the Lebanese Language Institute
www,LebaneseLanguage.org

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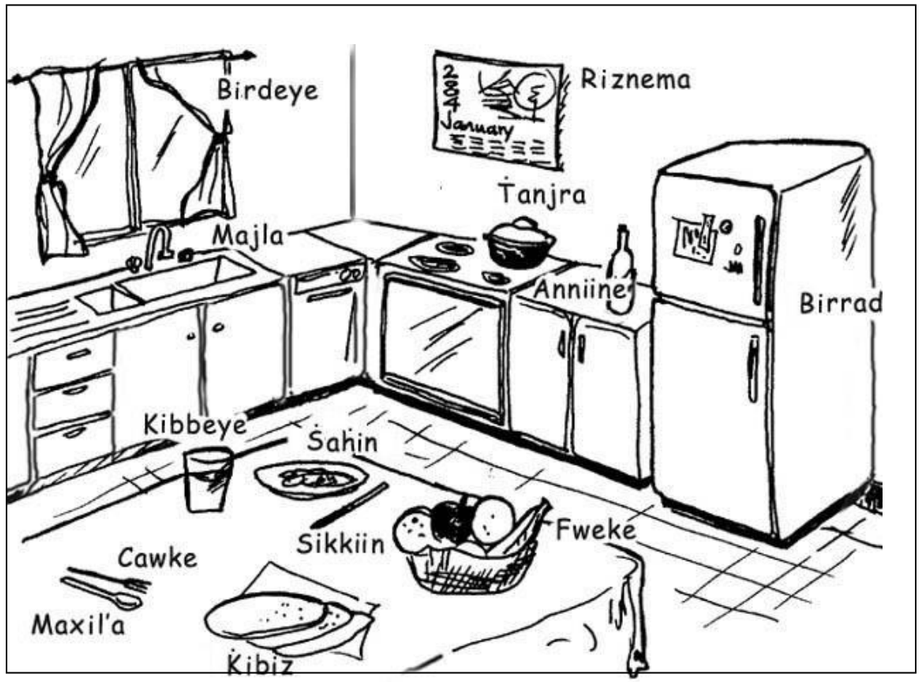
The Kitchen L Maṫbaḱ



Grammar

In Lebanese, and other Semitic languages, there is two types of letters, the sun letters (Solar) and the moon letters (Lunar). The word sun means "camis" and the word moon means "amar". If you look at the table of the alphabet, you will see that the letter type next to each letter is indicated either as "Camse" (Solar) or as "Amare" (Lunar).

In Solar letters you usually use the front part of your tongue, or close your teeth, to pronounce the word. They are: C, D, Ḍ, J, L, N, R, S, Ṡ, T, Ṫ, Z and Ż. The "Lunar" letters are the letters that you use your throat, or your lips to pronounce. They are: `, A, B, E, F, G, Ġ, H, Ḥ, I, II, K, Ḱ, M, O, P, Q, U, V, W, X and Y.

Words are defined in two ways:

1. Using the Definite Article

In Lebanese one article is used to define words, the "L". It is placed before the word to define, and pronounced as part of it. It is used with all words, whether singular or plural, regardless of the gender.

This applies to most of the words:

Miliḥ	Salt	L miliḥ	The salt
Bhar	Pepper	L bhar	The pepper
ḱibiz	Bread	L ḱibiz	The bread
Akil	Food	L akil	The food

2. Doubling the First Letter for sun [Solar] letters.
This is applied for the words starting with the letters:

C, D, Ḍ, J, L, N, R, S, Ṡ, T, Ṫ, Z and Ż.

Cajra	Ccajra	Sama	Ssama
Dabke	Ddabke	Ṡura	ṡsura
Ḍaw	Ḍḍaw	Trab	Ttrab
Nahir	Nnahir	Ṫarii'	Ṫṫarii'
Ras	Rras	Zirr	Zzirr

3. Using Bil for bi + l

House	Bet		
The House	L bet		
At/in	bi		
At the house	bi l bet	Also: Bil bet	
At the Kitchen:	.....		

4. No article is needed for indefinite words

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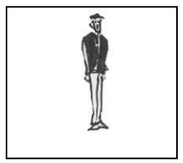

The father

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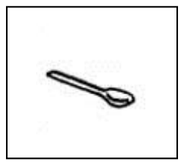

The spoon

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The fruits

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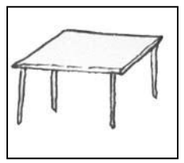

The Table

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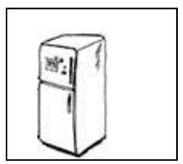

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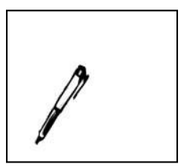

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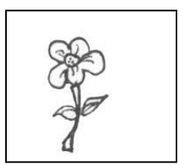

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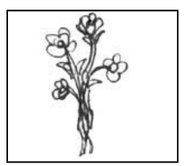

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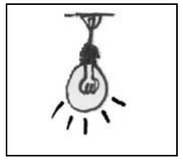

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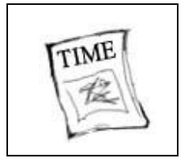

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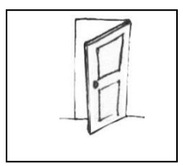

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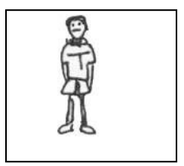

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Names of People or places are defined without the need of any definite articles. So are the articles themselves such as He, She, We etc..

Note:
All defined words carry the verb to be within.
For example: Bet = house
When defined: L bet = the house = the house is
Tony = Tony is
Libnen = Lebanon is
He = He is
They = They are

White House bet abyaḋ
The house is white l bet abyaḋ
The White house l bet l abyaḋ [both the noun and adjective are defined]

White: Abyaḋ / Bayḋa (f) Red: Aḥmar/ ḥamra (F) Black: Aswad/ sawda (f)
Blue: Azra'/ zar`a (f) Green: Aḳḋar/ ḳadra (f) Yellow: Aṡfar/ ṡafra (f)

Exercise:

The red flower	A red flower	The flower is red
……..	……..	……..
The blue pen	A blue pen	The pen is blue
……..	……..	……..
The white door	A white door	The door is white
……..	……..	……..
The yellow book	A yellow book	The book is yellow
……..	……..	……..