

Interogative pronouns (notes for parent / teacher)

In the previous two lessons we have learnt about Mubtada and Khabar using definite and indefinite nouns. In Mubtada+Khabar construction, both are marfoo. Mubtada is most of the time definite and khabar is most of the time indefinite.

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| What is this? | ما هذا |
| Who is this? | مَنْ هذا |
| What is that? | ما ذلك |
| Who is that? | من ذلك |

ما is used when interrogating about non-intelligent (gair aaqil) objects or beings.

مَنْ Is used interrogating about an intelligent (aaqil) being.

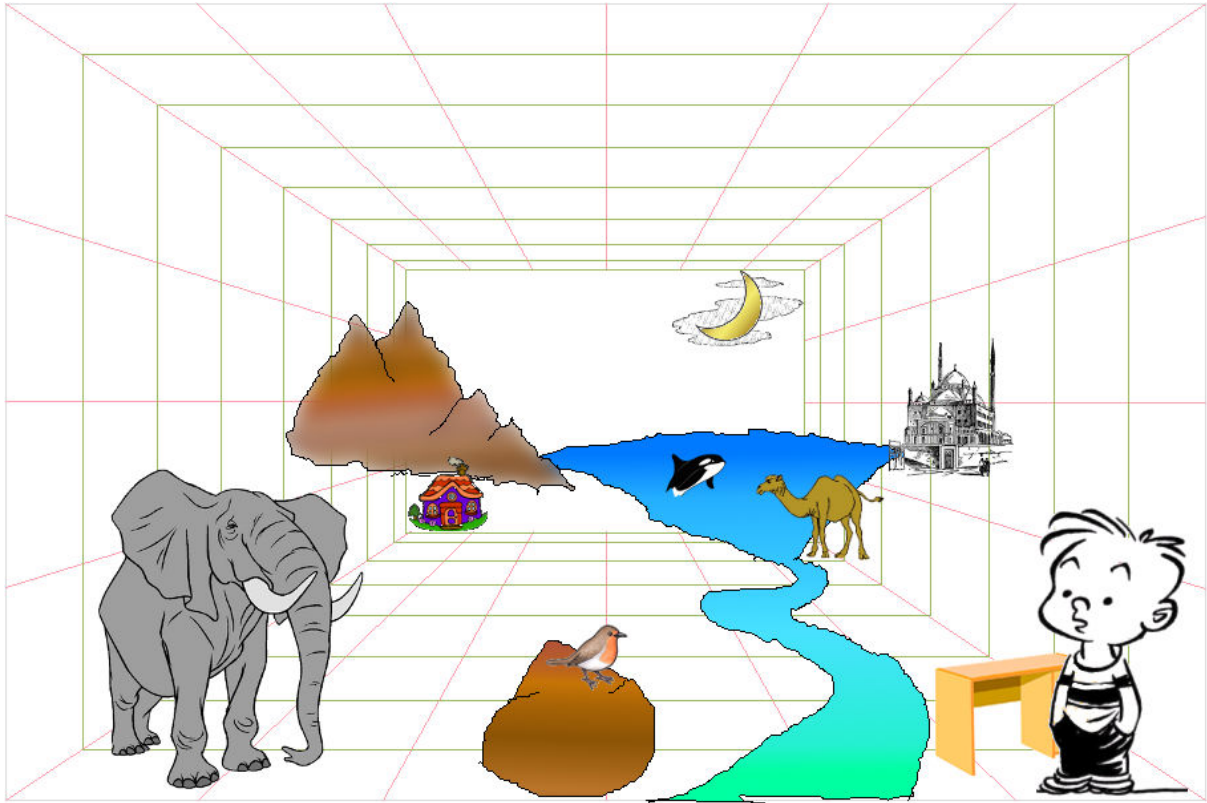
According to Arabic Scholars, Intelligent beings are – Human beings, Angels and Jinn.

هذا And ذلك are demonstrative pronouns (ismu ishara) for close by and far away object respectively. Both these pronouns are for pointing to masculine singular.

Pronouns are also treated as nouns. Therefore, the sentences on page 2 are nominal sentences and follow the rules of Mubtada+Khabar construction. Both mubtada and khabar are Marfoo, even though there is no damma at the last letter of mubtada. This is because of the fact that both هذا And ذلك have a sukoon on their last letters. They are both marfoo but our eyes cannot see it.

In the following picture every object will be interrogated with ما هذا ما ذلك except for the boy, for whom مَنْ هذا will be used.

Please practice making simple sentences based on the pattern in the next few pages.



| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| This is a boy | هذا ولدٌ |
| This is a desk | هذا مكتبٌ |
| This is a river | هذا نهرٌ |
| This is a rock | هذا حجرٌ |
| This is a bird | هذا طيرٌ |
| This is an elephant | هذا فيلٌ |
| That is a mosque | ذلك مسجدٌ |

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| That is a camel | ذلك جملٌ ^{٢٤} |
| That is a sea | ذلك بحرٌ ^{٢٤} |
| That is a whale | ذلك حوتٌ ^{٢٤} |
| That is a house | ذلك بيتٌ ^{٢٤} |
| That is a mountain | ذلك جبلٌ ^{٢٤} |
| That is a moon | ذلك قمرٌ ^{٢٤} |

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Is this a man? | أهذا رجلٌ ^{٢٤} ؟ |
| No. This is a boy | لا. هذا ولدٌ ^{٢٤} |
| Is this a sea? | أهذا بحرٌ ^{٢٤} ؟ |
| No. This is a river | لا. هذا نهرٌ ^{٢٤} |
| Is that a bird? | أذلك طيرٌ ^{٢٤} ؟ |
| No. That is a whale | لا. ذلك حوتٌ ^{٢٤} |
| Is that a mosque? | أذلك مسجدٌ ^{٢٤} ؟ |
| Yes. | نعم |

