

**THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**  
**GENERAL ENGLISH**

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المستوى الرابع

**A visiting Student's Blog Post**

Two summers ago, I spent five months studying Arabic at the German-Jordanian University near Madaba. As my father is originally from Jordan, I spent my childhood speaking Arabic as well as German. However, I had never studied Arabic formally, and when the opportunity came up for me to spend a year in Jordan studying Arabic, I did not hesitate for one moment.

I have relatives in Jordan and **they** arranged for me to stay with a wonderful family who live just outside Madaba. I was amazed by the number of international students there, who were not only from Germany, but from all over the world. Most of them had studied Arabic to a high level. I am very familiar with colloquial Arabic, which is what my family speaks and understands. The Arabic class, in Modern Standard Arabic, was challenging, especially the grammar. Every week, we had to learn a vocabulary list of around 50 words. We covered many topics. Living with a family helped to improve my Arabic-speaking skills because, while all the students heard Arabic in the classroom and streets, I could also practise **it** at home. I really put my back into it, and I earned an A on the course.

What impressed me most about students in Jordan was their behaviour and their attitude to studying. All the students who I met appreciated the importance of their university education and the opportunities it would give them to contribute to their country's prosperity. They also showed extremely positive values. Everybody was honest and people discussed problems rather than getting angry if **they** disagreed with each other.

As someone **who** enjoys delicious food, beautiful places and friendly, hospitable people, studying in Jordan was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. I made many new friends. I also improved my Arabic speaking, writing and reading skills. My dream is to be fluent in Arabic one day - and as I intend to return to Jordan as often as I can, I know I am going to make this dream a reality.

**نموذج 1**

1. Anita liked many things while she was studying in Jordan .Write down two of these things.  
- **delicious food**    - **beautiful places**
2. The writer was so willing to go to Jordan and study Arabic because of many reasons. Write down two of these reasons.  
- **Her father is Jordanian and she has always spoken Arabic at home, but she had never studied it formally.**  
- **She had family in Jordan who could help her.**
3. Quote the sentence which shows the variety of Arabic that the writer and her family are familiar with.

- I am very familiar with colloquial Arabic, which is what my family speaks and understands.
- 4. Find an idiom in the text which means "to put a lot of effort into something".
  - put (my) back into it
- 5. What does the underlined word "**they**" refer to? ( relatives )

## نموذج 2

1. The writer states two varieties of Arabic language . Write them down.
  - Colloquial Arabic                      - Modern Standard Arabic
2. There are many things that impressed Anita about her fellow students at the university. Write down two of these things.
  - Their behaviour and attitude to studying was very good.
  - They fully understood the importance of studying and how it would help them and their country.
3. Quote the sentence which shows the languages that the writer has spoken since she was a child.
  - As my father is originally from Jordan, I spent my childhood speaking Arabic as well as German.
4. Find a word in the text which means "of language or words used mainly in informal conversations rather than in writing or formal speech".(colloquial)
5. What does the underlined word "**they**" refer to? ( people )

## نموذج 3

1. The writer spent her childhood speaking two languages . Write them down.
  - Arabic                      -Germany
2. There are two pieces of evidence which show that studying in Jordan was one of the best decisions the writer has made in her life .Write down these two pieces of evidence.
  - She made many new friends.
  - She improved her Arabic speaking, writing and reading skills.
3. Quote the sentence which shows that the writer put a lot of effort into Arabic to learn it.
  - I really put my back into it, and I earned an A on the course.
4. Find a phrase in the text which means "grew up". (spent my childhood)
5. What does the underlined word "**who**" refer to? (someone)
6. Living away from home comes up with different kinds of struggles and obstacles. Write down three possible obstacles a person may face while living a way from home.
  - Language differences - cultural differences -homesickness- climate differences.

7. *Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.* Think of this statement and, in two sentences, write down your point of view.

**I agree with this statement since it urges us to take advantage of all the opportunities that life gives us. In addition, it advises us to keep learning in order to have a better life. / Taking a advantage of all opportunities that life gives you. If you have given the chance to do something, do it. You need to keep learning in order to keep up with what is happening in the world**

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6. Many international students choose to study in Jordan because of many reasons. Write down three of these possible reasons.

- **enjoying the culture of Jordan**
- **improving skills in Arabic. Lower tuition fees.**
- **Friendly and hospitable people**
- **High standards of education.**

1. Anita states that students in Jordan showed extremely positive values. Write down two of these positive values.
  - **Everybody was honest**
  - **people discussed problems rather than getting angry**
2. Anita specifies three places where students can practice their Arabic speaking skills. Write them down.
  - **classroom**    - **streets**    - **home**
3. Quote the sentence which shows that Anita didn't live with family members while she was staying in Jordan.
  - **I have relatives in Jordan and they arranged for me to stay with a wonderful family who live just outside Madaba.**
4. Find a phrase in the text which means "grew up". (**spent my childhood**)
5. What does the underlined word "it" refer to? (**Arabic**)
6. Many students choose to go on an exchange to study in another country for many reasons. Write down three of these possible reasons.
  - **increasing employment prospects**
  - **building a valuable job skills**
  - **studying at top universities.**