

Lesson 13

Interrogative Pronouns

(أَسْمَاءُ الاسْتِفْهَامِ)

1. Some of the interrogative pronouns are:

Word	Meaning
مَنْ	who
مَا	what
مَاذَا	what
أَيْشَ	what
أَيُّ	which (m)
أَيَّةُ	which (f)
كَمْ	how much, how many
كَيْفَ	how
أَيْنَ	where
مَتَى	when
لِمَا	why

لَمَآذَا	why
أَنَّى	from where, how

Note 1: Besides (أَيُّ) and (أَيَّةٌ), all the interrogative pronouns are (الْمَبْنِي). See 10.9.

Note 2: You have read in Lesson 6 Note 4 that the particles (هَلْ) and (أَ) create the interrogative meaning in the sentence. They are both particles (حروف) of interrogation. That is, they cannot form the subject or doer of a sentence. On the other hand, the interrogative pronouns can become the subject or doer or object of a sentence.

2. The (أَسْمَاءُ الاسْتِفْهَامِ) - interrogative pronouns – are used at the beginning of sentences, e.g.

(مَنْ أَبُوكَ؟) – Who is your father?

However, when they are (مُضَافٌ إِلَيْهِ), they will follow the (مُضَافٌ) according to the normal rule, e.g. (كِتَابُ مَنْ) – whose book.

The particle (لِ) can be inserted before the (أَسْمَاءُ الاسْتِفْهَامِ) and

brought at the beginning of a sentence, e.g. (لِمَنِ الْكِتَابُ) – Whose book is it? (Literally: For whom is this book?)
(لِمَنِ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ) – Whose kingdom is it today?

3. The (حروف جارة)⁵⁰ can be attached to the beginning of the (أسماء الاستفهام).

Examples:

Word	Meaning
لِمَنِ	whose
لِمَا	why
بِكَمْ	how much
إِلَى أَيِّنَ	till where
مِنْ أَيِّنَ	from where
إِلَى مَتَى	till when
مِمَّا (مِنْ مَا)	from what
مِمَّنْ (مِنْ مَنْ)	from whom
عَمَّا (عَنْ مَا)	from what, regarding what

⁵⁰ See Vocabulary List No. 6.

فِيْمَا	in what
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4. Sometimes the word (مَا) is joined to the (حروف جارة) without the alif. Therefore (لِمَا) becomes (لِمَ), (عَمَّا) becomes (عَمَّ) and (فِيْمَا) becomes (فِيْمَ).

5. The words (أَيُّ) and (أَيَّةُ) are (مضاف) to the succeeding words, e.g. (أَيُّ رَجُلٍ) – which man, (أَيُّ الرَّجَالِ) – which of the men, (أَيَّةُ امْرَأَةٍ) – which woman, (أَيَّةُ النِّسَاءِ) which of the women. If the word after (أَيُّ) is indefinite, it will be singular and if it is definite, it will be plural.

6. The word succeeding (كَمْ) is (منصوب) - in the accusative case and it is singular, e.g. (كَمْ دِرْهَمًا عِنْدَكَ) – How many dirhams do you have?
(كَمْ سَنَةٌ عُمْرُكَ) – What is your age? (Literally: How many years is your age?)

7. Sometimes the word (كَمْ) is not used for interrogation but for providing information. It is called (كَمْ خَبَرِيَّةٌ). Its meaning in that case will be 'several' or 'many'.

The noun succeeding (كم خبرية) is (محرور). Sometimes it is singular and sometimes plural, e.g. (كَمْ عَبْدٌ أَعْتَقْتُ) or (كَمْ (عَبِيدٌ أَعْتَقْتُ) – I have freed many slaves.

The particle (مِنْ) is sometimes used after (كم استفهامية) and often after (كم خبرية).

Examples: (كَمْ مِنْ رُبِيَّةٍ عِنْدَكَ) – How many rupees do you have?

(كَمْ مِنْ دِينَارٍ أَوْ دَنَانِيرٍ صَرَفْتُهَا عَلَى الْفُقَرَاءِ) – I spent many gold coins on the poor.

Vocabulary List No. 11

Word	Meaning
أَمْرٌ	matter, command
بَيْنَ	between
حَبْرٌ	ink
خَمْسَةٌ	five
رُبِيَّةٌ	rupee

سَمِينٌ ، سَمَنٌ	fat
ضُرُورِيٌّ	necessary
عَافِيَةٌ	comfort
عَصَا	stick
قَلَمُ الْحَبْرِ	fountain pen
قَلَمُ الرَّصَاصِ	pencil
دَوَاةٌ	ink bottle
قَهَّارٌ	powerful
وَاحِدٌ	one
يَمِينٌ	right, right-hand side
يَسَارٌ	left, left-hand side
فَارِهَةٌ	agile, lively

Exercise No. 12

(A) Translate into English:

هَذَا قَلَمُ الرَّصَاصِ	(1) مَا هَذَا ؟
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ذَاكَ قَلَمُ الْحَبْرِ	(2) وَمَا ذَاكَ ؟
هَذِهِ دَوَاةٌ	(3) مَا هَذِهِ ؟
فِي الدَّوَاةِ حَبْرٌ	(4) وَمَاذَا فِي الدَّوَاةِ ؟
هَذَا عَمِّي وَ خَالِي	(5) مَنْ هَذَا الرَّجُلَانِ ؟
تِلْكَ أُخْتِي الصَّغِيرَةُ زُبَيْدَةُ	(6) وَمَنْ تِلْكَ الْبِنْتُ بَيْنَهُمَا
ذَاكَ أَحِي الْكَبِيرُ حَامِدٌ	(7) أَيُّ رَجُلٍ جَالِسٌ خَلْفَكَ
هَؤُلَاءِ أَسَاتِذَةُ الْمَدْرَسَةِ	(8) مَنْ هَؤُلَاءِ الرَّجَالُ ؟
هُنَّ مُعَلِّمَاتٌ فِي مَدْرَسَةِ الْبَنَاتِ	(9) مَنْ هَؤُلَاءِ النِّسَاءُ ؟
هُوَ ذَهَبَ إِلَى الْمَدْرَسَةِ	(10) أَيْنَ أَحْوَكِ الصَّغِيرُ ؟
ذَهَبَ قَبْلَ سَاعَتَيْنِ	(11) مَتَى ذَهَبَ ؟
هَذَا هُوَ كِتَابِي	(12) لِمَنْ هَذَا الْكِتَابُ ؟
اللَّهُ رَبِّي	(13) مَنْ رَبُّكَ ؟
مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ نَبِيِّ	(14) مَنْ نَبِيِّكَ ؟
الْإِسْلَامُ دِينِي	(15) مَا دِينُكَ ؟

(B) Note the use of the interrogative pronouns in the following sentences:

- 1) مَا اسْمُكَ يَا وَلَدُ؟ اسْمِي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ يَا سَيِّدِي .
- 2) مَا اسْمُ أَبِيكَ يَا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ؟ اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ .
- 3) مِنْ أَيْنَ أَنْتُمْ؟ نَحْنُ مِنْ مَكَّةَ .
- 4) إِلَى أَيِّنَ ذَاهِبُونَ أَنْتُمْ؟ نَحْنُ ذَاهِبُونَ إِلَى الْهِنْدِ .
- 5) كَيْفَ حَالِكُمْ؟ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْنُ بِالْعَافِيَةِ .
- 6) كَمَ وَكَذَا لَكَ يَا خَالِدُ؟ لِي خَمْسَةُ أَوْلَادٍ يَا سَيِّدِي .
- 7) كَمَ بِنْتًا حَاضِرَةً فِي الْمَدْرَسَةِ؟ يَا سَيِّدِي خَمْسُونَ بِنْتًا حَاضِرَةً
الْيَوْمَ فِي الْمَدْرَسَةِ .
- 8) كَمَ لَكَ مِنَ الْإِخْوَانِ وَالْأَخَوَاتِ؟ لِي أُخْتَانِ وَأَخٌ وَاحِدٌ .
- 9) بِكَمْ هَذِهِ الْبَقْرَةُ السَّمِيئَةُ؟ هَذِهِ الْبَقْرَةُ بَعِشْرِينَ رِيَّةً .
- 10) لِمَ جَالَسْتُ أَنْتَ هَهُنَا؟ أَنَا جَالِسٌ لِأَمْرِ ضُرُورِي .
- 11) مَا تِلْكَ بِيَمِينِكَ يَا مُوسَى؟ هِيَ عَصَايَ .
- 12) قَالَ أَنِّي لَكَ هَذَا؟ قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ .
- 13) لِمَنْ الْمَلِكُ الْيَوْمَ؟ لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ .
- 14) مَتَى نَصَرَ اللَّهُ؟ أَلَا إِنَّ نَصَرَ اللَّهُ قَرِيبٌ .

(C) Answer these questions in Arabic using the words you

have learnt.

- (1) مَا هَذَا ؟
- (2) مَنْ هَذِهِ ؟
- (3) مَا ذَاكَ ؟
- (4) مَا تِلْكَ ؟
- (5) مَنْ هَذَا ؟
- (6) مَنْ هَذَانِ ؟
- (7) مَنْ هَؤُلَاءِ ؟
- (8) أَيُّشَ اسْمُكَ ؟
- (9) أَيُّنَ أَخُوكَ يَا أَحْمَدُ ؟
- (10) مَا اسْمُ أَحِيكَ ؟
- (11) مَنْ ضَرَبَ أَخَاكَ ؟
- (12) مَنْ ضَرَبَ أَحِيَّ ؟
- (13) كَمْ لَكَ مِنَ الْإِخْوَانِ ؟
- (14) بِنْتُ مَنْ هَذِهِ ؟
- (15) أَيُّنَ أَبُوهَا ؟
- (16) أَرَأَيْتَ أَبَاهَا ؟
- (17) أَرَأَيْتَ بَيْتَ أَبِيهَا ؟

- (18) أَيَّةُ النِّسَاءِ جَالِسَةٌ عِنْدَ أُمِّكَ ؟
(19) كَيْفَ هَذَا الْكِتَابُ ؟ سَهْلٌ أَمْ صَعْبٌ ؟
(20) مَتَى ذَهَبَ أَبُوكَ إِلَى بَمْبَائِي ؟

(D) Translate the following sentences into Arabic:

- (1) Who are you? Sir, I am Hāmīd.
- (2) What is your father's name? My father's name is Hasan Ibn Àlī.
- (3) How many sons and daughters does Àbdur Raḥmān have? He has one son and two daughters.
- (4) Who is the woman standing in front of you? She is my brother's wife.
- (5) What is in her hand? There are clothes in her hand.
- (6) How many people are standing there? Five people are standing there.
- (7) How many boys are present today? Sir, thirty boys are present.
- (8) O Mahmūd, why are you standing here? I am standing here for some necessary work.
- (9) How much is this book? It costs five rupees (Lit. It is for five rupees).
- (10) O Khālīd, how many brothers do you have?

Sir, I have two brothers.

(11) To whom does this small dog belong? It is my maternal uncle's dog.

(12) Where are you going to now? Sir, we are going to the madrasah.

(13) When did your brother go? He went one hour ago.

(E) Note how the following sentences have been analysed. An indication was made in Lesson 6 and 10 to (جملة اسمية) and (جملة فعلية) respectively. Here a simple analysis of some straightforward sentences is made. If any sentence provides information of some type, term it (خبرية) and if there is a question, term it (استفهامية) or (انشائية).

(1)

جَالِسٌ	حَامِدٌ
خبر	مبتدا
جملة اسمية خبرية	

(2)

سَخِيٌّ	رَجُلٌ	عَلِيٌّ
صفة	موصوف	مبتدا
خَبَرٌ		
جملة اسمية خبرية		

(3)

الْكُرْسِيِّ	عَلَى	جَالِسٌ	مَنْ
مجرور	حرف جرّ	خبر	اسم استفهام مبتدا
متعلق بالخبر			
جملة اسمية استفهامية			

(4)

خَالِدٌ	إِلَى	مَكْتُوبًا	زَيْدٌ	كَتَبَ	هَلْ
مجرور	حرف جرّ	مفعول	فاعل	فعل	حرف استفهام
متعلق بالفعل					
جملة فعلية استفهامية					

Test No. 7

- (1) Which words constitute the (اسماء الإستفهام) and the (حروف الإستفهام). What is the difference between the two?
- (2) Where should the (اسماء الإستفهام) be placed in a sentence?
- (3) From the (اسماء الإستفهام), which word is (معرب)?
- (4) How many types of (كَمْ) are there? What is the (اعراب) of the noun succeeding each type?
- (5) How are (أَيُّ) and (أَيَّةٌ) used? Explain with examples.

(6) What were the words (عَمَّ) and (فِيمَ) originally?

Insert the (اعراب) in the following sentences:

- (1) لمن هذه الناقة الفارحة ومن راكب عليها؟
- (2) هل هو عمك؟
- (3) وأية امرأة قائمة عند باب دارك ولماذا؟
- (4) ومن عن يمينها؟
- (5) هل هو ولدها الكبير؟
- (6) كم لك من الناقات يا صالح وكم لك من البقرات؟
- (7) كم شاة عندك يا حامد وكم بقرة؟
- (8) هل أرسل محمود مكتوبا الي ابيه؟
- (9) نعم يا سيدي كم مكتوب ارسل محمود الي ابيه لكن ما جاء جواب
من عنده .