



## Lesson 2: You're Welcome!

العفو عافو al

### LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we continue on with basic etiquette. Moroccans are exceptionally hospitable, and phrases of gratitude and those related are used at an extremely high frequency. During your travels in Morocco, while you may not get the chance to use the Arabic phrase for "You're welcome" there is a very good chance you'll hear it. So let's cover this up.

"You're welcome" is "al عافو" (العفو). Look at Quick Tip #2 below to learn how to read the transcription. The word "al عافو" literally means "sorry" but it's also used to mean "you're welcome."

Another way of responding to a phrase of gratitude is "La shukra عالا واجب" (لا شكر على واجب) which means "not at all" or "don't mention it." The first word "la" (لا) means "no". Next is "shukra" (شكر) which in Arabic is "thanks". So up to here, we have "la shukra" and literally this means "no thanks". Let's take a look at the next "عالا" (على) which means "on" or "upon". The last word "wajib" (واجب) means "duty." So all together the phrase "La shukra عالا واجب" literally means "Don't thank me, it's my duty" and is used to mean "not at all."

In fact, Morocco is a very collectivistic society and the sense of community is very important. So when somebody has a problem or needs help with something, it is considered everyone's duty to do what they can to help them. And this is regardless of whether you know the person or not. That's why when you thank someone you'll usually hear "la shukra عالا واجب", which again means, "don't thank me, it's my duty."

### PHRASES

Arabic	Romanization	English
العفو	Al عافو	You're welcome
لا شكر على واجب	La shukra عالا واجب	Not at all / Don't mention it
شكرا	Shukran	Thanks

### VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English
لا	La	No
شكر	Shukr / shukra	Thanks

Arabic	Romanization	English
على	ala	On / upon
واجب	Wajib	Duty

#### QUICK TIP

In the previous lesson we learned that "thanks" in Arabic is "shukran". And today we used "shukra" instead of "shukran" in "Laa shukra ʿala waajib." Both words are actually the same. We just omit the "n" sound at the end of "shukran" when it is used in the middle of a sentence.

#### QUICK TIP 2

The large majority of consonants in Arabic are similar to sounds we have in English. The vowels in Arabic are also similar to English vowels. But there are eight consonants in Arabic that we do not have in English. It may take you some time to pronounce these correctly but make sure you refer to the audio files to listen to how these sounds are correctly pronounced. At this point, what's important is that you learn the transcription character for these new sounds. Today's phrase has the "ع" sound which can be approximated by pronouncing the a in "cat", with the tongue against the back of the mouth and from as deep in the throat as possible.