



Lesson 3: Please (This Please)

Hada هذا

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In this lesson we'll take a look at "Please", as in asking for something. This is a very useful phrase when you travel, because when you see something you like, you'll be able to buy it right away. Imagine you walk into a restaurant and there are all these pictures of appetizing dishes right in front of you. You know what dish you want, but do you know how to order it? Or, you pass by a souvenir shop and you see the perfect present for your friends back home. Again, you know what you want, but do you know how to ask for it?

In Arabic "Please" is "Min fadlik" (من فضلك). The most rudimentary way of using "please" is pointing at something while saying "min fadlik", but let's try and build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression "This please" which is "hada min fadlik" (هذا من فضلك). In English, "this" comes before "please". In Arabic the word order is the same. The Arabic word for "this" is "hada" (هذا) and it precedes "min fadlik" (من فضلك) which is "please."

Looking at the word for "this" warrants a look at the word for "that" which is "hadak" (هناك). The phrase "That please" becomes "hadak min fadlik" (هناك من فضلك). Now remember that throughout these lessons, we'll be learning Arabic that is as close to the Spoken Arabic as possible to maximize your chances of being understood during your trip. And this is why we're using "hadak" (هناك) ("that" in Spoken Arabic) instead of "thalika" (ذلك) which is "that" in Classical Arabic. "Th" in the word "thalika" is pronounced like the English "th" in "that".

PHRASES

Arabic	Romanization	English
هذا من فضلك هذا عفاك	Hada min fadlik / Hada عافاك	This please (masc.)
هذي من فضلك هذي عفاك	Hadi min fadlik / Hadi عافاك	This please (fem.)
هناك من فضلك هناك عفاك	Hadak min fadlik / Hadak عافاك	That please (masc.)
هناك من فضلك هناك عفاك	Hadik min fadlik/ Hadik عافاك	That please (fem.)
هذه من فضلك هذه عفاك	Hadu min fadlik / Hadu عافاك	These please

Arabic	Romanization	English
هدوك من فضلك	Haduk min fadlik /	Those please
هدوك عفاك	Haduk عafak	

VOCABULARY

Arabic	Romanization	English
هذا	Hada	This (masc.)
هذي	Hadi	This (fem.)
هدو	Hadu	These (plur.)
هداك	Hadak	That (masc.)
هديك	Hadik	That (fem.)
هدوك	Haduk	Those (plur.)
من فضلك	Min fadlik	Please (Standard)
عفاك	عafak	Please (Spoken)

QUICK TIP

All nouns in Arabic are either masculine or feminine. So let's take you a step forward and learn the different forms of demonstrative pronouns in Arabic.

This (masc.): hada (هذا) / this please -> "hada min fadlik"

This (fem.): hadi (هذي) / this please -> "hadi min fadlik"

These (plur.): hadu (هدو) / these please -> "hadu min fadlik"

That (masc.): hadak (هداك) / that please -> "hadak min fadlik"

That (fem.): hadik (هديك) / that please -> "hadik min fadlik"

Those (plur.): haduk (هدوك) / those please -> "haduk min fadlik"

QUICK TIP 2

All Moroccans understand "min fadlik" since it's the Standard Arabic word for "Please." It's also a polite way of saying it. In Spoken Arabic across Morocco, however, people are more likely to use the word "عafak". It's more casual and it's totally okay to use it in shops, restaurants and about everything else in daily life. "عafak" is closely pronounced as "aafak". If you're new to Survival Phrases, make sure you refer to the Quick Tip of the previous lesson in which I talked about how to pronounce the sound "ع". So the phrase "This please" in Moroccan Arabic is "Hada عafak."