

MetroTried & tested

Mark Rix broadens his horizons with a course of private Arabic lessons at the Eton Institute

Why did you decide to learn Arabic?

When I decided to live and work in Dubai I felt it was the perfect opportunity to learn Arabic. Whilst business is mostly conducted in English, to be able to communicate in Arabic, where appropriate, is not only respectful, but an excellent skill to have and in a social context it is particularly interesting and useful.



What were the other people on the course like?

It wasn't a classroom situation as I opted to have a personal tutor. I needed flexibility in the timing of lessons because of work and my teacher is superb and very patient.

What does the course entail?

My initial course was a weekly lesson lasting two hours. This was mainly focused on understanding the Arabic alphabet, basic reading and writing and getting to grips with verbs, nouns, adjectives, past and present tenses and the likes.

Did you have homework? If so was it easy to fit into your work/social life?

I usually have work to complete in

between lessons. However, I find that I am developing what I have learned so far at every opportunity, mainly with Arabic speaking friends and work colleagues.

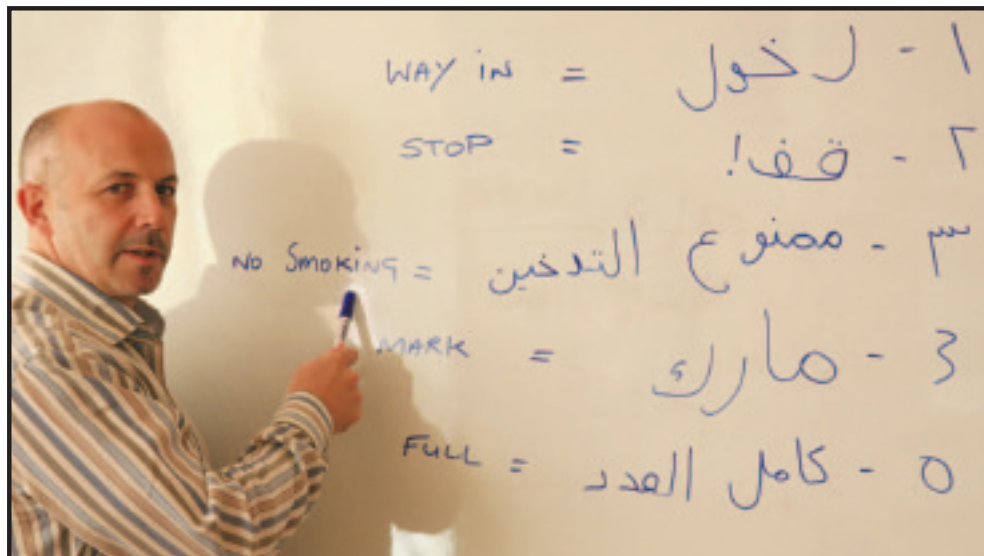
I find I don't actually hear a lot of what is going on when I'm watching television now because I can't help trying to follow the subtitles - that is still beyond me at the moment!

What did the homework entail?

Homework is written exercises and basic translation, interpreting Arabic speech from a coursework DVD and practice, practice, practice.

Have you spoken the language outside the classroom?

All the time. I can't think of a better way to build up my confidence and



REPEAT AFTER ME: Mark gets to grips with some key Arabic phrases (above) and (left) tries out his conversation skills on Arabic colleague, Ali Al-Shouk

also my Arabic vocabulary.

What has the response been like when you have tried to speak Arabic in public?

It is very positive and more often than not it is met with surprise. Trying to follow and understand a response is the difficult part.

Was it good value for money?

Definitely. I started from absolute scratch and from knowing nothing, I can now read and write in basic terms. I wouldn't be able to do that

without enrolling in the course.

Do you intend to continue your studies?

I really enjoy it and have started the second level, another ten lessons. There is a long, long way to go but I'm really enjoying the challenge.

The Eton Institute, isn't it a bit far out of town? Was travelling there a problem?

No different to any other venue in Dubai, it is located in Knowledge Village so that is perfect for me.

LEARN THE LINGO

Visit the web site www.eton.ac if you want to take Arabic classes. Over 100 different language courses are available, from English through to Urdu so almost everyone in Dubai could benefit from a quick visit to the web site. Sign language classes are now also available, call 800 3866 for details on all the courses

The 7DAYS star rating



'Khamsa Ala Khamsa', which means five out of five!

deals on wheels

Are you tired of your car?
Do you need an **UPGRADE?**
Have you considered a **TRADE-IN?**

INTRODUCING ...

DRIVE-IN

DRIVE-OUT

To view cars available, log on to dealsonwheels.ae

Childhood vaccinations made compulsory - it's a sore point for some
Letters, page 24

Self Storage

simple & secure

- Home/Business Storage
- Climate Controlled Rooms
- Your key - Your Room
- Flexible Timings; Open on Friday's
- Personalized Service
- 24hrs Surveillance & Security
- Rooms of Variable Sizes
- Drive up Access to Mega Rooms
- Very Competitive Rates
- 4,000 pallet position Warehouse also available
- Support Offices Available for Rent
- Close to Gardens, Springs, Meadows, Arabian Ranches, Jebel Ali Village and Barsha

STORALL LLC
STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Tel: 04-8803644 Fax: 04-8803643 Email: info@storall.ae
www.storall.ae

Dine 4, Pay 3

At ALL mouthwatering buffet feasts!
(for groups of 4 guests)

1 February - 31 March 2010

International Lunch Buffet (Sat-Thurs)
AED 99/person
Seafood Night (Thurs)
AED 185/person
Meat Indulgence (Fri)
AED 185/person
Mediterranean Feast (Sat)
AED 185/person

Friday Brunch / Sparkling / Champagne
AED 185/225/425/person

Further indulge with buy 1, get 1 free on select beverages in MyBar!

For further information and reservations, please call +971 4 3174515 or email dine.dtu@dust.com

133 Sheikh Zayed Road, P.O. Box 21333, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Dusit Thani