

Mido

in Modern Standard
Arabic



میدو



lingualism

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Introduction

I remember with great fondness reading *Le Petit Nicolas* stories in college. Childlike in their innocence, they were a welcome break from the more serious literature in the syllabus. This inspired me to create *Mido* for Arabic students.

The stories in this book are light-hearted and easy to follow, but also engaging, all the while providing excellent reading practice in Modern Standard Arabic for students who are perhaps not yet ready to tackle Arabic literature.

The first chapter serves as an introduction to Mido and his family, as we take a peek at the household's typical morning. Mido's father, mother, brother, and sister each feature in a chapter showing a day in their lives. And Mido, our hero, stars in the remaining chapters.

The Arabic texts appear on even-numbered pages, while the English translations follow on odd-numbered pages along with cultural and language notes, as well as photographs.

Dozens of beautiful illustrations can be found throughout the book to help the reader better understand the texts. Professionally recorded audio is available to stream or download for free from www.lingualism.com.

I would like to thank Mona Mohamed, Mohamed Ibrahim, Amel Shafii, Lilia Khachroum, and Remon Maher for their contributions to this project. And I wish to extend a special thank-you to Mariam Khaled, who listened to my ideas about Mido and his family's adventures and turned them into the wonderful, vivid stories in this book, which would never have been possible without her creativity and hard work. Thank you, Mariam!

I hope you enjoy *Mido: In Modern Standard Arabic* and improve your Arabic along the way.

Matthew Aldrich

The Mido Series

Mido: in Egyptian Arabic is available in paperback, Kindle, and PDF eBook. Written in the colloquial dialect of Cairo, it offers a unique opportunity to read and listen to Arabic as spoken by Egyptians in their daily lives. Study **Mido: in Modern Standard Arabic** alongside **Mido: in Egyptian Arabic** to compare the differences and similarities between these two varieties of Arabic.

The PDF eBook version of this book, available at www.lingualism.com, includes an unvoiced version for those who prefer reading without *tashkeel*.

Accompanying audio available at:

www.lingualism.com





الفصل الأول: عائلة ميدو

"ميدو! استيقظ وإلا سيفوتك طابور الصباح يا فتى!"

أصبح صوت أم عمرو وهي توظف ميدو للمدرسة كالتشيد الصباحي الروتيني أو كالتسجيل الصوتي اليومي في بيت عائلة ميدو أو ربما في كل البيوت.

استيقظ أبو عمرو على صوتها وقال بغضب: "لا يزال هذا الغبي نائمًا؟" سَمِعَ ميدو خطوات أبيه تقترب من غرفته فقفز من السرير مُسرِعًا وقال:

— استيقظت يا أبي!

— هيا إنهض يا كسول قبل أن تغلق المدرسة أبوابها.*

Chapter 1: Mido's Family

“Mido! Come on, Mido! Wake up! You’re going to miss the morning assembly at school!”

The voice of Om Amr calling for Mido to wake up is like a daily morning anthem or a soundtrack in Mido’s family’s house and probably in every house.

Abu Amr woke up because of the noise. Annoyed, he said, “That stupid boy is still sleeping?” Once Mido heard his father’s angry footsteps approaching, he jumped out of bed and said,

“I’m up, Dad!”

“Hurry up, lazy, before the school doors close!”

طَائُورُ الصَّبَاحِ (lit. *morning line-up*) is the morning assembly that begins each school day in Egypt. Students line up in the school yard for the national anthem and physical exercise.

*The school door is normally locked fifteen minutes after the start of the first class, after which students who come late must wait until the next period to enter.



نَظَرَ مِيدُو لِأَخِيهِ الْأَكْبَرِ **عَمْرُو** (وَالَّذِي يُكْنَى أَبَوَاهُ بِاسْمِهِ "أُمُّ عَمْرُو" وَ "أَبُو عَمْرُو" *). إِنَّهُ لَا يَزَالُ نَائِمًا وَلَا أَحَدًا يُحَاوِلُ إِيقَاضَهُ وَذَلِكَ لِأَنَّ مَدْرَسَتَهُ فِي النَّاسِيعَةِ وَلَيْسَ فِي السَّابِيعَةِ وَالنَّصْفِ مِثْلُهُ. كَمَا يُمْكِنُهُ الْإِخْتِيَارُ أَيْضًا إِنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الذَّهَابَ أَمْ لَا. فَكَّرَ مِيدُو فِي نَفْسِهِ: "مَتَى سَأَكْبُرُ وَأُصْبِحَ مِثْلَ عَمْرُو وَأَفْعَلَ مَا أُرِيدُ؟"

قَطَعَ حَبْلُ أَفْكَارِهِ صَوْتٌ وَالِدَتِهِ وَهِيَ تُنَادِيهِ:

— هَيَّا يَا مِيدُو أَسْرِعْ لِتَنَاوُلِ الْفُطُورِ قَبْلَ ذَهَابِكَ! لَقَدْ حَضَرْتُ لَكَ شَطِيرَتَيْنِ

جُبْنٍ، وَشَطِيرَةَ مُرَبِّي وَأُخْرَى **حَلَاوَةٍ**.

ارْتَدَى مِيدُو زِيَّ الْمَدْرَسَةِ الْأَرْزَقِ الْكُحْلِيِّ مَعَ الْقَمِيصِ الْأَبْيَضِ الْمُخَطَّطِ وَخَرَجَ لِتَنَاوُلِ الْفُطُورِ.

— هَلْ وَضَعْتَ كُلَّ كُتْبِكَ وَدَفَاتِرِكَ فِي الْحَقِيصَةِ إِخْرَصَ أَلَّا تَنْسَى شَيْئًا.

— لَا تَقْلَقْ يَا أُمِّي. وَضَعْتُ كُلَّ مَا أَحْتَاجُهُ.

— هَيَّا إِذْنِ، تَنَاوُلِ الْخُبْزَ وَتَنَاوُلِ الْفَلَافِلَ وَالْبَطَاطَسَ الْمَقْلِيَّةَ الَّتِي حَضَرْتُهَا مِنْ

أَجْلِكَ.

Mido looked at his elder brother, Amr, the eldest son in the family (and that's why his parents are called "Abu Amr" and "Om Amr"). He was still asleep in bed without anyone waking him up early. That's because he can wake up late as his high school leaves the door open until 9:00 a.m., and not 7:30 like his.

Amr also gets to choose whether he wants to go or not. Mido thought to himself, "When will I grow up like Amr and do what I want."

His mother's voice interrupted his thoughts as she called, "Mido! Hurry so you have time to eat breakfast. I made you two cream cheese sandwiches, one jam, and one halva".

Mido put on his navy-blue school uniform, with a white striped shirt, and went to eat breakfast.

"Have you put all your books and notebooks you need in your bag? Careful not to forget anything."

"Don't worry, Mom. I got everything."

"Here. Take this loaf of bread and eat the hot falafel and French fries I made for you."

عَمْرُو – Notice that the final و in the name عَمْرُو Amr is silent, but it helps distinguish it from another common name, عُمَر Omar.

*Such names are كُنْيَة (teknonyms), whereby parents are informally known by the name of their eldest son, or, in the absence of a son, their eldest daughter.

حَلَاوَة halva is a dense, sweet, crumbly confection made with tahini and sugar, sometimes containing nuts or dried fruit.

— حَسَنًا يَا أُمِّي.

— هَلْ سَتَقُومُ الْأُسْتَاذَةُ مَنَالُ بِالتَّدْرِيسِ لَكَ الْيَوْمَ؟

— أَجَلْ.

— حَسَنًا. أُبْذَلُ كُلَّ جُهْدِكَ لِكَيْ تَحْصَلَ عَلَى دَرَجَةٍ جَيِّدَةٍ وَلَيْسَ كَالْمَرَّةِ

السَّابِقَةِ عِنْدَمَا لَمْ تَكُنْ رَاضِيَةً عَنْ مُسْتَوَاكَ.

لَا شَيْءَ يُجِبُّهُ مِيدُو فِي هَذَا الْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ كَمَا يُحِبُّ الْبَطَاطِيسَ الْمَقْلِيَّةَ. إِنَّهُ مُسْتَعِدٌّ لِتَنَاوُلِهَا فِي الْفُطُورِ وَالْعَدَاءِ وَالْعَشَاءِ. كَانَ مِيدُو يَسْتَمْتِعُ بِعَدَائِهِ عِنْدَمَا قَالَ لَهُ وَالِدُهُ:

"هَيَّا تَحَرَّكْ لِتَصِلَ فِي مَوْعِدِكَ وَخُذْ هَذِهِ الْخَمْسَةَ جُنَيْهَاتٍ لِتَشْتَرِيَ كَيْسًا مِنَ الْمُقْرَمَشَاتِ أَوْ عَصِيرًا مِنْ كَافَتِيرِيَا الْمَدْرَسَةِ."



أَخَذَ مِيدُو التُّقُودَ مِنَ وَالِدِهِ بَيْنَمَا وَضَعَتْ
وَالِدَتُهُ الشُّطَائِرَ فِي الْحَقِيبَةِ وَمِثْلَ كُلِّ يَوْمٍ
قَالَتْ وَهِيَ تُسَاعِدُهُ فِي إِرْتِدَاءِ الْحَقِيبَةِ: "يَا
إِلَهِي! هَذِهِ الْحَقِيبَةُ ثَقِيلَةٌ جِدًّا! أَتَحْمِلُ
فِيهَا أَحْجَارًا أَمْ كُتُبًا؟"

وَضَعَ مِيدُو حَقِيبَتَهُ عَلَى ظَهْرِهِ وَخَرَجَ مِنَ الْمَنْزِلِ بَيْنَمَا تَقُولُ لَهُ وَالِدَتُهُ الْوَصَايَا
الْمُعْتَادَةِ: "مَعَ السَّلَامَةِ يَا حَبِيبِي. تَمَهَّلْ عِنْدَ نُزُولِكَ مِنَ الْحَافِلَةِ. لَا تَتَحَدَّثْ مَعَ
الْغُرَبَاءِ. فِي أَمَانٍ إِلَهِي!"

“Yes, Mom.”

“Is Miss Manal teaching you today?”

“Yes.”

“Okay, do your best so she gives you a good grade, unlike last time when she wasn’t so happy with you.”

There’s nothing Mido likes more in the world than French fries. He would eat them for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Mido was enjoying his breakfast when he heard his father coming out of the bathroom saying to him, “Get moving so you arrive on time, and take this five pounds to get the microbus and buy yourself a bag of chips or juice from the cafeteria.”

Mido took the money from his dad while his mom put the sandwiches in his backpack, and just like every day, she said, “Dear God! This bag is so heavy! What do you put in it, rocks or books?”

Mido put on his backpack and left home while his mom said her usual commandments, “Goodbye, honey! Get off the microbus carefully. If a stranger talks to you, don’t reply. God protect you!”



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