

TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES K–12

Arabic: Vegetables We Like > Resources

Opening Lesson Routine

“My opening lesson is a 10- to 15-minute minilesson during which we discuss the details of the day using visuals, literature, and songs. I also use this time to give instructions for the day’s lesson. The minilesson is done entirely in Arabic. It gives me the opportunity to teach students number, calendar, and weather skills without having to isolate these concepts into units or lessons of their own.”

Following is an outline of the daily routine:

1. Students sing the Hello song.
2. A student is chosen to set up the calendar. This student is required to choose the proper day of the month from a list of numbers and paste it onto the calendar. The student then leads the class in an out-loud counting of the days of the current month.
3. The entire class sings the Days of the Week song, and then a student is chosen to complete the days of the week task. This person is required to complete sentences discussing what today is, what yesterday was, and what tomorrow will be.
4. The entire class sings the Weather song. A student is chosen to determine the current weather outside using a chart. This student then has to verbally describe the current weather.

The minilesson is followed by instructions for the day’s lesson—or, in the case of a new unit, an introduction to the new unit, including new concepts and vocabulary.

