

Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة: مني إني أعرف شخصين مع بعضهم البعض.. عادة.. إني.. إذا انا كنت بعرف داعي الشخصين على قلب البيت، عادة ممكن يكون انو بعرفوا بعض من اول ممكن يكونوا بعرفوش بعض من اول، فأول ما ييجوا الشخصين مفروض أوقف أقول فلان الفلاني، بأسمه، احتراماً لهذا الشخص. أو أحياناً باللقب اللي يلقب فيه، عادة عنا بيقلوا أبو سمار، أبو فادي، أبو وسيم، أبو كزا. خاصة إذا كان الشخص كبير يعرف انو عن طريق اسم ابنو.. ابو فلان.. ام فلان.. إذا كانوا الأشخاص كبار.. أما إذا كانوا الأشخاص من سن معين مش غلط لو انو الشخص نادينا باسم.. محمد، علي، حسين، محمد، رياض، الأسم اللي هو فيه، ونفس الشي الست، بعرفوا فلان الفلاني.. آيه.. إذا كان مثلاً طبيب ممكن أقول الطبيب الفلاني.. وو.. بعدين بترك مجال للشخصين..

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: بتعرفي..؟

المرأة: بعرفوا على الشخص الثاني وبعدين بتركهم مجال هم يتعرفوا أكثر على بعض، يقولوا شو بشتغل، شو بعمل، شو بسوي.. عادة هذا يرجع للشخص نفسه، بس أنا بعرف بالأسم وممكن أقول من عائلة كذا كذا.

English translation:

Woman: To introduce two people to each other -- usually if I know both persons, usually. Perhaps they know each other; perhaps they don't know each other. When they first come, I'm supposed to say, "This is Mr. so and so." I mention his name as a sign of respect, or sometimes his title. Usually for us people use titles like Abu Samer,¹ Abu Fadi, Abu Waseem, Abu so and so, especially if the person is a senior; he's addressed with his son's name, Abu so and so, um, so and so if they are seniors. If they are of a certain age,² it's fine if we call them by their first name -- Mohammad, Ali, Hussein, Mohammad, Riyadh, whatever his name is; and the same thing goes for women.

I introduce Mr. so and so, for instance. If he's a physician, I may say, "This is Doctor so and so." Then I leave a space for both persons....

Woman behind camera: Do you introduce...?

Woman: I introduce him to the second person and leave them to get to know each other more. He might say where he works or such, and usually this is up to the person himself. What I do is present names, and I might mention the family's name.

¹ Abu in Arabic means "father of," It's used instead of a person's first name as a sign of respect, especially if a person is a senior. Abu Samer means "Samer's father."

² She means someone who is 30 years old or younger for instance, with or without children.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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