

Levantine Arabic transcript:

زينه: إحكينا شو إسمك؟

الرجل: أنا إسمي أبو مصطفى. بس تقوتي على ال (Goodies) وتقولي أبو مصطفى، الكل بيعرفوني.
زينه: وقديش صرلك عم بنتشغل؟

الرجل: أنا صرلي هوني يعني تقريبا شي خمستعاش سنه.
زينه: وشو دوام الشغل؟

الرجل: دوام الشغل هوني تسع ساعات انا بفوت الساعة سبعة ويغادر الساعة أربعة.
عامل آخر: وساعة تريحه؟

الرجل: ما بدنا (...).

زينه: ما في ساعة رياحه؟

الرجل: أمبلى في ساعة رياحه، إذا الواحد بدو يتروقو بيوفت يتروق جوا، بيقد يرتاح.
زينه: ومع مين بنتشغل هوني؟

الرجل: أنا بنتشغل معنا نحنا هوني اربعة، أربع شباب على الجاج لأنو الجاج هوني ما بنلحق.

زينه: وكيف أنتا حسيت بعد كل هالسنين وسنين الحرب وكيف حال (Goodies)...

الرجل: حال ال (Goodies) لقدم إن شاء الله، ليش عنا زبونات دويميه جداد والحمد لله عم بنتشغل وكل بضاعتنا عم
بتقلب وكل بضاعتنا طازه.

زينه: كان في أكثر شغل في وقت الحرب فكرك ولا هلا أكثر ولا نفس الشئ؟

الرجل: لأننا هلا أكثر، لأنو وقت الحرب كانت العالم فزعانه، يجو ويهربوا، هلا ارتحنا والحمد لله، الحاله مليحه،
صافيه رواق، والشغل الحمد لله مليح كثير.

زينه: مرسى كثير.

الرجل: أهلا وسهلا any time.

English translation:

Zeina: Can I ask you what your name is?

My name is Abu-Mustafa. When you come into Goodies and say "Abu-Mustafa," everyone knows me.

Zeina: How long have you worked here?

I've been here for about 15 years.

Zeina: What are your hours?

Nine hours. I come in at seven o'clock, and I stay until four o'clock.

Male voice: Do you have a rest hour?

We don't want to make trouble....

Zeina: You don't have a break.

Yes we do. If someone wants to go in and rest, he goes in and rests.

Zeina: Who do you work with?

There are four of us here. Four young guys work on the chicken. We can't keep up.

Zeina: How do you feel about being here all these years and through the war? How is Goodies doing?

Goodies forever, Inshallah. Why not? We have new customers, and, thank God, we're working. We sell all of our products, and it's all fresh.

Zeina: Do you think there was more work during the war, or is there more now? Is it the same?

No. Now there is more. During the war everybody was scared. They would come and run away. Now we're more relaxed. Things are good, thank God. Work is good, really good.

Zeina: Thanks a lot.

Welcome. Any time.

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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