



Video Worksheet

Unit number: 17 **Topic:** Comparing things

Video: Mahmoud talks about the Egypt of his youth

Go to the *Mastering Arabic* website to play the video of Mahmoud talking about his memories of Egypt. See if you can answer these questions:

- 1 What was Mahmoud doing 30 years ago?
 - 2 How does he compare the Cairo streets now and 30 years ago?
 - 3 What could you see 30 years ago on the way to the pyramids (الأهرام al-ahrām)?
 - 4 What can you see now?
 - 5 What did Mahmoud cycle along by bicycle? Where did he go?
- Try to pick out the key information.



Extension activity

✓ These eight phrases appear in the video. Can you write the English next to the Arabic?

- ١ مُنْذُ ثَلَاثِينَ سَنَةً
- ٢ فِي الشُّوَارِعِ
- ٣ وَلَكِنِ الْآنَ
- ٤ سِيَّارَاتٌ كَثِيرَةٌ جِدًّا
- ٥ الْحُقُولُ الْخَضْرَاءُ
- ٦ كَانَ هُنَاكَ شَجَرٌ كَبِيرٌ
- ٧ بِجَانِبِ النَّهْرِ
- ٨ أُرَكِّبُ دَرَّاجَتِي

✓ See the following page for a full transcript, a translation, notes and answers to the comprehension questions and Extension activity.

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Transcript

أهلاً! مُنذُ ثلاثين سنةً كُنْتُ أُدرُسُ في الجامعة الأمريكية في القاهرة.
في ذلك الوقت كانَ هناكَ سيَّاراتٌ قليلةٌ في الشوارعِ، ولكن الآنَ هناكَ
سيَّاراتٌ كثيرةٌ جدًّا. كُنَّا نَذهبُ إلى الأهرامِ بالسيَّارة. كانَ الشارعُ وَسَطَ
الحقولِ الخُضراءِ، ولكن الآنَ هناكَ بُيوتٌ وفنادقٌ ومطاعمٌ في مكانٍ
هذه الحُقُولِ.

مُنذُ ثلاثين سنةً كانَ هناكَ شَجَرٌ كَبيرٌ، قَدِيمٌ وَجَميلٌ بِجانِبِ النَّهرِ.
وَكُنْتُ أُحِبُّ أَنْ أَمْشي بِجانِبِ النَّهرِ، أَوْ أَرْكَبُ دَرَاجَتِي لِأَذهبَ إلى الجامعةِ
في مَيدانِ التَّحريرِ.

Translation

Hello! Thirty years ago I used to study at the American University in Cairo.

At that time there were few cars in the streets, but now there are very many cars. We used to go to the pyramids by car. The street was in the middle of green fields, but now there are houses and hotels and restaurants in the place of these fields.

Thirty years ago there were large trees, old and beautiful, beside the river [Nile]. And I used to like to walk beside the river, or ride my bicycle to go to the university in Tahrir Square.

Notes

- ✓ You can add the appropriate part of **كان** (kān) in front of a present verb to make the meaning of 'used to':

أدرسُ (adrus) I study

كُنْتُ أُدرُسُ (kuntu adrus) I used to study

نَذهبُ (nadh-hab) we go

كُنَّا نَذهبُ (kunna nadh-hab) we used to go

Answers to Extension activity
1 thirty years ago 2 in the streets 3 but now 4 very many cars 5 [the] green fields 6 there were large trees 7 beside the river 8 ride my bicycle

Answers to comprehension questions
1 Studying at the American University in Cairo. 2 The number of cars has increased a lot. 3 Green fields. 4 Houses, hotels and restaurants. 5 The river [Nile]. 6 To university in Tahrir Square.

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