

## Al Araqi

**A**L ARAQI is one of the biggest Dhahira villages which is 8km north from Ibri city.

The population of Al Araqi is about 6,000 people, some of them are working in the government sectors and some are working in the farms and in the shops.

There are 2 streams (falajs) in Alaraqi one called Al Araqi Falaj and the other is called Alainain Falaj.



Al Araqi village is famous of palm trees like (*Khalas*) and (*Fardh*) as well as many other fruit trees like banana and lemon.

There is a beautiful fort located in the middle of the village near the old souq and among the palm trees farms.

Al Araqi village is a well developed village with new schools, roads, shops and other attractions.

— By Omar Awad al Mazroi  
Abbad bin Bisher School (5-9)  
Dahirah Region, Ibri



## PANGRAM

**A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog**



**W**HAT about the above sentence? Is there anything particular in it? Yes, It is a magic sentence. It's a pangram.

A pangram is a sentence or verse containing all the letters of the alphabet. It is a Greek word. In Greek language 'pan' means 'all' and 'gramma' means 'letter'. Here are more examples of Pangram. Try and make as many pangrams as you can.

1. Sixty zippers were quickly picked from the woven jute bag.
2. Crazy Frederick bought many very exquisite opal jewels.
3. J.Gray, pack with my box five dozen quills.
4. We promptly judged antique ivory buckles for the next prize.
5. Johny P Brad gave me a black walnut box of quite a small size.
6. How quickly daft jumping zebras vex.
7. Six plump boys guzzled cheap raw vodka quite joyfully.
9. Quixotic knights' wives are found on jumpy old zebras.
9. Jim just quit and packed extra heavy bags Loz Owen.
10. By Jove, my quick study lexicography won a prize.
11. Just remember this kind of excellent razor will help you for a better and quick shaving.
12. Quick waxy bugs jump on the frozen veldt.

— By Mr T K Abdul Razak  
Teacher of English  
Al-Abbas Basic School, Al-Wafi  
South Sharqiya

## What is Internet?

**T**he Internet is one of the newest methods of allowing people to communicate with each other. The Internet lets computers "talk" to each other by sending words, pictures, movies, and music over telephone lines. The thing that makes the Internet possible is the fact that all of these different kinds of messages can be digitised. When a signal of any sort is digitised, it is converted to a series of electrical signals called bits. A computer then can change the bits back to words, music, or pictures.

## What's the Internet good for?

**T**he Internet can do a lot of neat things. E-mail (short for Electronic Mail) letters can be sent easily to people all over the world, without having to paste on stamps or wait a long time for mail delivery. Newsgroups let people who are interested in a particular subject discuss it with thousands of other people.

There are newsgroups for just about anything you can think of from kite flying to classical music. You can use the Internet for shopping, for playing computer games, for finding out the latest news, or for trying to sell your old bicycle. One of the nicest things about the Internet is that if you have a question you need to answer, there's usually someone within reach who can help.

— The source: Tell Me More Encyclopedia

## Internet challenging minds

**I**N this electronic life, there might be an enemy to face, so you must be careful. He challenges people on the earth. Yet, this enemy has some advantages. It becomes the most vital mean in our daily life. We can learn many things through it .It gives us many useful information. It is Internet. Some websites nowadays work as a small village for gathering where people can contact with each other and learn more about different customs and traditions.

Facebook is one of the most famous social sites for meeting with your friends without any restriction to time and place. Facebook gives a chance for our voice to be heard and shared by the rest of the world. Also, we can build strong friendships with people from other countries. Unfortunately and lately, some people misuse it rather in a bad way. Their only interest is to find following desires: online untrue love, sexual abuse and blackmail.

Therefore, you have to be very careful when you chat with people whom you do not know very well. Try not to publish your pictures on suspicious websites because there are human-wolves who may play with them and use them in a bad way as for wicked purposes .Here, you have to build up privacy access for your membership or profile account. To conclude, my advice to you is to use internet wisely and avoid putting yourself in dangerous situations.

— By Hala Akram Al-Qudaymat  
A former student from Marfaa Daris C2

# Pottery in Bahla



**N**OBODY can deny that Oman has a very famous history of pottery making and Bahla has been the centre of such wonderful handicraft. Pottery is made by forming a clay body into objects of needed shapes and heating them at a high temperature in special furnace to harden them.

Nowadays many people are still fond of pottery and pottery handicrafts although this industry has changed in some aspects.

First, most of the clay is being imported from Britain and China unlike old days when local clay was used.

Second, pottery makers now use modern machines to manu-

facturer pottery. In the past they would use a simple wheel operated by foot.

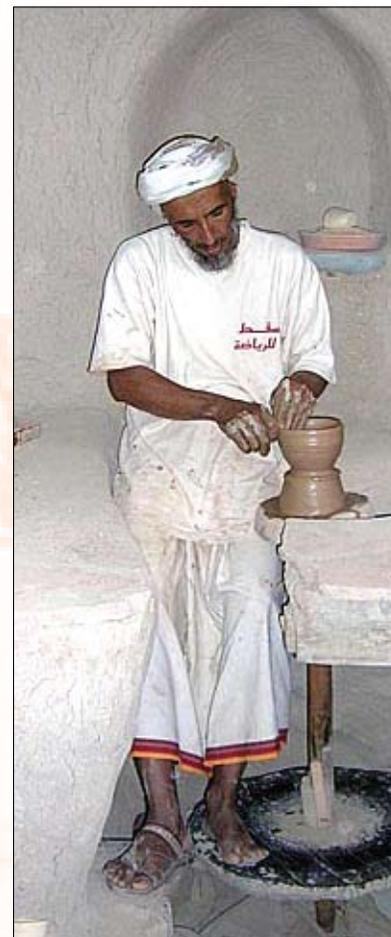
Third, new advanced furnaces are being operated by some skilled staff. These furnaces are much easier and less polluting than the old ones.

Fourth, pottery makers, nowadays, are trained to make some new designs with very beautiful shapes unlike the very simple designs that were made in the past. Potters make sets of pots for water conservation and cooking utensils and cups. They also make very large pots to store dates and other crops.

Recently, potters make other clay products like boats, cars, vases and even aircraft models.

In fact, the pottery is a very nice traditional industry. Many people in my town are working in this industry and they are very skilled in that area.

Many tourists come to Bahla in order to see and buy potteries. They think making potteries is one of the most important traditional industries that we have in Oman. So we have to be proud of our ancients and learn this traditional industry to insure its sustainability.



— By Sultan Sulaiman  
Al-Harhi  
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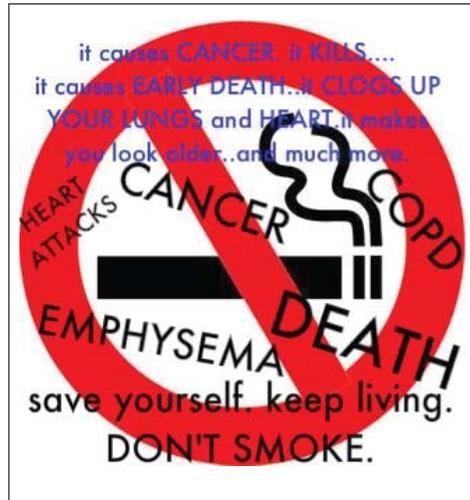


# Smoking damages your health

I AM writing about smoking because it's a global disease.

Teenagers smoke because they have friends who are addicted smokers and because of the massive advertisements on TV and Internet. Old people used to smoke because they don't have any work to do and spend most of the time smoking.

Cigarettes are very harmful. They contain dangerous chemicals such as ammonia, nicotine, hydrogen and nitro glycerine which are very dangerous on our health leading to cause lunge and liver cancers, heart attacks, respiratory diseases, kidney diseases and breath-



ing difficulties. Smoking will also lead to death.

The World Health Organization has found that around 5,000,000 of people has died because of smoking.

I think smoking is very dangerous for your health and the main cause for a lot of diseases such as heart attack and cancer. In my opinion, people must stop smoking because it's very dangerous, it consumes money and causes death.

— Jihan Al-Nasri

Grade: 10-1

Amla and Al-Abla B.E. Girls School (5-10)

Al-Dhahira

## “QUOTES”

*“I think people smoke because they want to do every thing even smoking.”*

— Basma 10-1

*“Teenagers smoke because they think they are clever and adults.”*

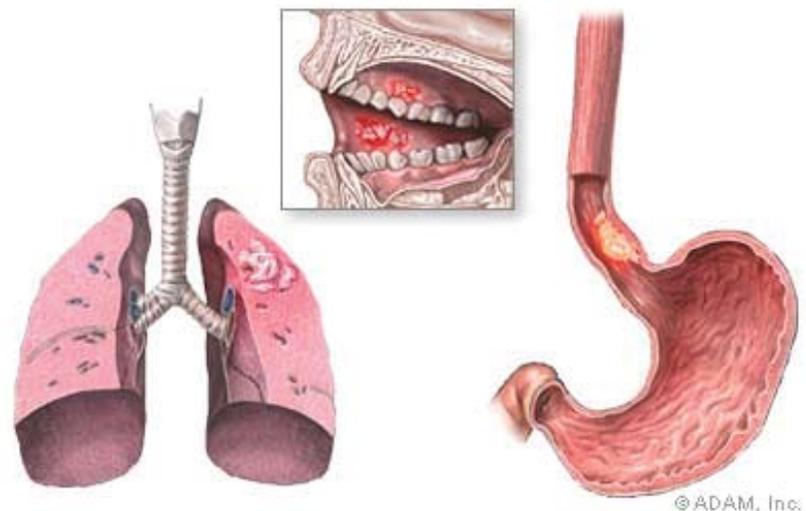
— Maymoona 10-2

*“Nowadays, smoking became more common in the community. Especially between young people and in cites more than in villages.”*

— Fatma Mohammed 10-1



Tobacco use is associated with increased risk of cancers of the lung, mouth and esophagus



## Common mistakes in writing

**1. Avoid using sexist wording, such as “he” or “his” when you are trying to refer to both boys and girls or to both women and men.**

**Wrong:** When the subject reported being finished, the experimenter asked him to complete a second questionnaire.

**Right:** When the subject reported being finished, the experimenter administered a second questionnaire.

**2. Do not combine singular and plural forms of words in the same sentence.**

**Wrong:** Each subject rated their own mood on the questionnaire.

**Right:** Each subject rated his or her own mood on the questionnaire.

**Right:** All subjects rated their own moods on the questionnaire.

**Wrong:** A variety of issues were presented at the meeting.

**Right:** A variety of issues was presented at the meeting.

**3. Use commas when appropriate. Sometimes a comma should be omitted, whereas other times including a comma may help to improve your writing.**

Use a comma when separating main clauses:

**Wrong:** We are here on this planet once and we might as well get a feel for the place.

**Right:** We are here on this planet once, and we might as well get a feel for the place.

Set off parenthetical material within commas.

**Wrong:** Sometimes people gossip as Barbara Walters has observed because they want to be interesting.

**Right:** Sometimes people gossip, as Barbara Walters has observed, because they want to be interesting.

Avoid unnecessary commas.

**Wrong:** The facts were selected, and organised with care.

**Right:** The facts were selected and organised with care.

**Wrong:** The Air Force debunked UFO sightings, but, millions of Americans didn't listen.

**Right:** The Air Force debunked UFO sightings, but millions of Americans didn't listen.

**Source:** <http://my.ilstu.edu/~jkhahn/writing.html>

**G**AMEELA was a beautiful woman who lived in a village.

Gameela was married but she didn't have children. Her husband was a farmer. But also he knew a lot about witchcraft. Gameela was very friendly and kind with everyone in the village. Her husband, too; although he was a witch but he was respectful and a hero man.

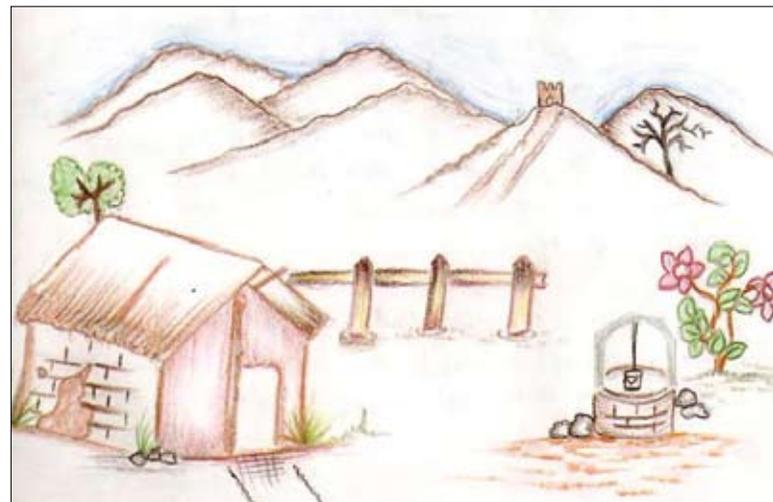
One day the beautiful woman (Gameela) was washing her clothes in the falaj with her friends. She enjoyed and laughed with her friends until they finished washing their clothes.

Suddenly, this woman saw a salamander which stopped and began looking at her. When Gameela saw it, she started laughing and then said to it "we bought if you want to sell". She meant she was ready to marry that animal. She was joking of course. She was not serious in that, but Gameela didn't know that the salamander was a man. There was a witch who had changed to a reptile. It lived in another place near the home of woman.

On the other hand, the woman's husband knew everything about the witch craft. His name was Khalfan; he had an experience about all these things. And he could see and knew them easily ,too.

That salamander didn't know

# The strange Salamander



Three days later, when Gameela got up, she found the house clean and she really wondered from that thing. But suddenly she saw two birds and she knew they had helped her in cleaning the house. The two birds gave Gameela a letter and told her to go to a place where she would find a big stone.

The tow birds told Gameela that when she reached the stone, she had to read the letter to be found under it. Also under that stone she would find a lot of milk that she could sell. In addition, there was a magic wine that Gameela could drink, so she would never become sick. Gameela went to the stone and found exactly what the birds had told her. She became very happy because she had all those things true.

At the same time, Gameela's husband noticed the change on Gameela and noticed that Gameela had a lot of money. Thus, he shouted at her and asked her about the source of



all these information about that woman. When it arrived to the door of that woman's home, Khalfan felt that somebody was in his house. So, he quickly took his spear and threw it to the

ground. One of the salamander's legs was chopped off. The injury was very big and it was bleeding a lot.

After two days that salamander came to Gameela to tell her his story. That salamander started talking to Gameela. The Salamander told Gameela that he loved her and wanted to marry her, but Gameela said that she had just been joking because she was married to another person. Also, he told Gameela that her husband cut his leg and now was dying. Gameela was very sad for hearing this.

Because it loved her, the salamander decided that if he died, he would give Gameela all what he had.

Before it died, the salamander told Gameela that he had two sisters who would help her in the house and he would give her his money, his caw, and his shops in the souq.

Three days later, the salamander died. The salamander's sisters came to Gameela and told her about that and told her to come with them to bury the salamander; Gameela agreed.

all this money. Gameela cried and told her husband all the story about the salamander. Her husband understood everything. Then he forgave Gameela. Both of them lived in that state of richness.

Finally, Gameela lived happily in a big house; she had a lot of money, animals and gardens. She became very famous.

— By **Abeer khalifa Al-hatmi**  
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