



Fez: A City of Wonders

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Intermediate I

Known as Morocco's cultural and historical capital, Fez is a city of treasures and a mixture of old and new.

Famous throughout almost the whole world, Fez is known for its beautiful historic monuments and its traditional industries. It's therefore not surprising to find some of the finest museums in Morocco right here in Fez. Fez is a recommended place to visit during a trip to Morocco.

The smells, the beauty, the confusion, and the colors are all around as you seem to stumble from narrow alley to narrow alley in the *souks*. Don't hesitate to get lost in the Old Medina at any time of the day. You'll discover unexpected places, and in the end, you'll be amazed and delighted to see how beautiful this spiritual city is.

This intellectual city has many ancient buildings as well, such as the Nejjarine Museum of Wooden Arts and Crafts, which is

a fascinating museum, and Al-Quarawiyyin University, which has been named the oldest university in the world, so it's definitely worth a visit. And also, if you come to Fez, visit a traditional *hammam*. It's a truly refreshing experience.

Furthermore, Moroccan cuisine is considered to be one of the greatest cuisines on the planet, and Fez has retained the prestige of Moroccan cooking for special occasions, so don't leave Fez without trying *tagine* and *b'stilla*.

Moreover, Feissis are so kind, generous, and open-minded. You can find in this breathtaking city many people who live together peacefully and happily.

And, besides all these things, the modern part of Fez, also called the New City, is of no great interest to tourists. This part of the city looks like any conventional city with its large shopping malls, but, in reality, the hotels in The New City are cheaper than those situated in the Old Medina.

Fortunately, there will be a call to prayer five times a day from the hundreds of mosques. At first, I'm sure you will find it weird, but soon, you will think how great it is to have a reminder of God five times a day, no matter what your religion is.

Finally, there isn't too much traffic, even though Fez is the second-largest city in Morocco. The Old Medina can only be traversed on foot. Vehicles are prohibited, and only donkeys and handcarts are used to transport goods. It's better for the environment, too!

In conclusion, my city is a place full of history and life. So, come to explore our lifestyle, attractions, and many other things. Surely, you won't be disappointed.

submitting teacher: Rebecca Young

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An Interview with Si-Mohammed Fahmi

Student Voice: *Where are you from? Are you originally from Fez?*

Si Mohammed Fahmi: I was born and grew up in Fez, but I am not from Fez, originally. I am from Tissa, a region not far from Fez.

SV: *Tell us about your life as a student. Where did you study? What did you study?*

MF: I first went to El Adoua Primary School in the Old Medina. Then I moved to Moulay Rachid High School, where I studied for Junior High and High School. When I got my high school certificate, I joined Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University, where I majored in English. I got my B.A. in Linguistics. After my graduation, I was appointed to the Artillery Training Center in Fez, where I taught English to non-commissioned officers for one year. Then I moved to a teacher training school after taking an entrance exam. I received a teaching certificate after spending a year there, and I started my job as a high school teacher.

SV: *Have you ever lived outside Morocco?*

MF: No, never.

SV: *How long have you been teaching at the ALC?*

MF: I've been teaching at the ALC since 2003.

SV: *How long have you been a teacher in life?*

MF: I've been a teacher for 31 years.

SV: *When did you decide to become a teacher? Why did you choose teaching?*

MF: Well, when I was a child, I always dreamt of becoming a doctor, but my dream came to an end when I was oriented to the literary section in high school. Actually, I started thinking of my future job as a teacher when I first met Mr. Augsburg, my English teacher whose way of teaching and speaking made me love this job. In short, my career choice was influenced by that man.

SV: *What do you enjoy most about teaching?*

MF: I think teaching is an art. So a good teacher is an artist who can carve creative brains and feels happy to do so. I really have the same feeling when I meet my students' needs and they react positively by expressing their own ideas in good English. This pushes me to look for new ways and materials to help them learn more and more. It's a hard task, but an enjoyable one.

SV: *Describe your teaching style in three words.*

MF: Interactive, creative, and friendly.

SV: *How is teaching at the ALC different from teaching at other schools?*

MF: Teaching at the ALC is different in many ways. First, the class size. Then the type of students you teach, *i.e.* most of them are motivated. And last, the teaching equipment; it really helps the teacher to do his or her job in a good way.

SV: *What is the role of a teacher in the classroom?*

MF: A teacher should play many roles

in the classroom. Among these roles, he should create the appropriate environment for the students to learn and pave the way for them to acquire the language in a simple way. Thus, he should be a facilitator, a well-organized person, and an actor.

SV: *What qualities do good teachers have?*

MF: A good teacher should be patient, hard-working, well-organized, and friendly.

SV: *What qualities do good students have?*

MF: A good student should be motivated and ready to interact with both teachers and classmates. They should also be respectful and focused.

SV: *If you weren't teaching English, what would you be doing?*

MF: I'd be teaching Arabic.

SV: *What's your favorite word in the English language?*

MF: Success.

SV: *What's your least favorite word in the English language?*

MF: Failure.

SV: *What word or phrase do you overuse?*

MF: "Is that clear?"

SV: *What is your motto?*

MF: If you don't succeed at first, try, try, and try again.

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Intermediate 5 Omar Mejbar

Intermediate 6 Zineb Atimi

Advanced 1 Nihal Lagrioui

Advanced 2 Hiba Zine

Advanced 3 Hiba Lamrani

Advanced 4 Yassine Ben Ramdane

Advanced 5 Omar Tijari



Rites of Passage in Morocco

Abderrahim Rhazi
Intermediate 6

Birth and circumcision

Celebrated on the seventh day after birth, a male sheep has to be sacrificed before the baby is given a name. By the way, the baby may have first been cut, and is circumcised if he is male. Boys don't know why their parents buy traditional clothes for them, and why their parents are very kind and generous to them until the *hajjam*, a gifted traditional surgeon, has done his job.

Losing your first tooth

In Meknes, where I was born and grew up, the child's lost tooth is thrown toward the sun. Children say, "Oh, sun, here is the tooth of the donkey. Please, give me the gazelle's one!"

The first day of school

Kouttab in Meknes, Rabat, and Marrakech, and *Msid* in Fez. It was in the corner of a mosque. At the age of six, my

father took me to the teacher and said to him, "You are the butcher, and I am your supporter," for me to receive a good education. At the age of seven, it is necessary to join a school. At the same age, the father orders his son or daughter to pray. But at ten, they have to be punished if they don't obey. Children have to train in fasting during Ramadan, especially on the 27th day of the month.

First certificate and high school graduation

The certificate of primary courses was very popular in the past. In my day, many ministers didn't have it, then *Brevet* and the *Baccalaureat*. After that, the license. The level was so high. Few students got the DEA or DES, and even fewer a doctoral degree.

First job and marriage

It was quite easy to find a job in the past, which is why Moroccans got married after getting a job and becoming parents. Marriages rarely broke down because hus-

bands and wives were mature and understanding.

Divorce

Divorce is a milestone through its consequences, but it is celebrated in the Moroccan Sahara in order to support the woman and to prove that she's still desirable enough to get married again!

Retirement

At that age, it is the last occasion to go on pilgrimage if the person can afford it. That's why the word *hajj* for men and *hajja* for women is added in Moroccan speech because they are respected for their "sainthood."

Death

The end of life on earth and the beginning of the true eternal life in Heaven or Hell.

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Spice Up Your English

S W E E T N W C A R D A M O M O
 P E P P O S O C K S U G A R O C
 T E A U R E R U O P A R S L E Y
 S A L T E S M M R S N B L E L C
 L C E R G A W I T P I L E M S O
 C I N N A M O N U I S A Y O A R
 L L G I N E O W R C E C P N F I
 O A F F O S D I M Y K K A V F A
 V N C A Y E N N E P E P P E R N
 E T R O S E M A R Y W E R R O D
 S R F E N D A M I N T P I B N E
 R O H O T S C N C I L P K E V R
 N U T M E G E T H Y M E A N I S
 W H I T E R G I N G E R D A N I

Seasoning is adding salt, herbs, or spices to food in order to make that food taste better.
 (Herbs are the leaves of a plant. Spices are the roots, bark, or seeds of a plant.)

These herbs and spices are commonly used in Moroccan cooking.
 Find the names of these herbs and spices in the puzzle.

anise	coriander	parsley
black pepper	cumin	rosemary
cardamom	ginger	saffron
cayenne pepper	lemon verbena	sesame seeds
cilantro	mint	thyme
cinnamom	nutmeg	turmeric
cloves	oregano	wormwood
	paprika	

What other food and drink words can you find in the puzzle?