

LESSON 6

Where Are You From?

The question every Iranian asks in the first ninety seconds — and the one sentence that opens every heart on earth. Plus: Mâmân Pari, live from Tehran.

AFTER THIS LESSON YOU CAN...

- Ask and answer **ahl-e kojâyi?** — where are you from?
- Run the nationality machine: Âmrikâ → âmrikâyi, Irân → irâni.
- Say **âmrikâyi-am** — I'm American (the -am strikes again).
- Deploy the hero sentence: **ye kam fârsi baladam**.

THE PHRASE MAP

ahl-e kojâyi?

where are you from?

literally "of-where are you?"

Âmrikâ · âmrikâyi

America · American

place + i = person

Irân · irâni

Iran · Iranian

same machine, every country

âmrikâyi-am

I'm American

nationality + Lesson 1's -am

ye kam fârsi baladam

I know a little Farsi

the hero sentence — instant adoption

azizam

my dear

jân's best friend — you'll be called this a lot

THE NATIONALITY MACHINE: -I

Add -i to a place and it becomes a person: **Âmrikâ** → **âmrikâyi** · **Irân** → **irâni** · **Tehrân** → **tehruni** (street style!). Works for nearly every country you'll ever mention.

BALAD — THE "KNOW-HOW" WORD

Baladam = I know (how to). **Fârsi baladam** = I know Farsi. **Ye kam** = a little. Stack them: **ye kam fârsi baladam**. Ask it back with the casual you: **fârsi baladi?** — you know Farsi?

CULTURE: THE ADOPTION PHENOMENON

Say the hero sentence to any Iranian, anywhere on earth: you will be praised (**âfarin!**), fed, and introduced to a cousin. There is no known defense. This is a feature, not a bug.

Tehrangles: Los Angeles hosts the largest Iranian community outside Iran — Westwood's shop signs read like Tehran's. Sam picked the right city.

AZIZAM

"My dear" — from **aziz** (dear) + **-am** (my — Lesson 5's job!). Grandmothers issue it automatically. Accept with grace.

THE SCENE — TEHRAN CALLING

Sunday. Leila's laptop rings. Mâmân Pari — grandmother, boss of this course — meets Sam at last.

SPEAKER	FARSI	ENGLISH
Mâmân Pari	Alo? Sâm jân?!	Hello? Sam dear?!
Sam	Salâm! Hâl-e shomâ chetore?	Hello! How are you? (formal — correct!)
Mâmân Pari	Ghorbânet, azizam! Ahl-e kojâyi?	Bless you, my dear! Where are you from?
Sam	Âmrikâyi-am!	I'm American!
Mâmân Pari	Fârsi baladi?!	You know Farsi?!
Sam	Ye kam fârsi baladam!	I know a little Farsi!
Mâmân Pari	ÂFARIN! Âfarin, azizam!	BRAVO! Bravo, my dear! (adoption complete)

SCORECARD

Sam used the formal shomâ with an elder (Lesson 4 ✓), understood two coach words (Lesson 2 ✓), built a nationality (today ✓), and deployed the hero sentence (today ✓✓). Adopted in under thirty seconds.

EXERCISES — PART 1

1 • Match

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ahl-e kojâyi? | a. I know a little Farsi |
| 2. âmrikâyi-am | b. my dear |
| 3. ye kam fârsi baladam | c. where are you from? |
| 4. azizam | d. you know Farsi? |
| 5. fârsi baladi? | e. I'm American |

2 • Run the machine

Âmrikâ → _____ · Irân → _____ · Tehrân (street!) → _____ · Kânâdâ
→ _____

3 • Build your answer

Ahl-e kojâyi? → "_____-am!" (your nationality) Then add the hero sentence:

4 • Who says it?

Mark MP (Mâmân Pari) or S (Sam): ____ "Fârsi baladi?!" ____ "Âmrikâyi-am!" ____ "Âfarin, azizam!" ____
"Hâl-e shomâ chetore?"

EXERCISES — PART 2

5 • Why shomâ?

Sam greeted Mâmân Pari with "hâl-e shomâ chetore?" — give both reasons: _____ and _____

6 • Stack it

Put in order to say "I know a little Farsi": baladam / fârsi / ye kam → _____

7 • The -am census

Three -am's, three jobs — label each: khub**am** (), esm**am** (), âmrîkâyi-**am** ()

8 • The call (out loud)

Play both sides of the video call, twice. Second time, answer with YOUR name and nationality. End adopted.

DAILY 5-MINUTE ROUTINE UNTIL LESSON 7

1) machine drill: 4 countries → nationalities 2) hero sentence ×5, warmer each time 3) the call, both roles 4) drill track.

ANSWER KEY

- 1: 1-c · 2-e · 3-a · 4-b · 5-d
- 2: âmrikâyi · irâni · tehruni · kânâdâyi
- 3: e.g. âmrikâyi-am! · Ye kam fârsi baladam!
- 4: MP · S · MP · S
- 5: she's an elder + they just met (both point to shomâ)
- 6: Ye kam fârsi baladam.
- 7: I am · my · I am

PHRASES YOU OWN NOW

ahl-e kojâyi?

âmrikâyi-am

Irân → irâni

ye kam fârsi baladam

fârsi baladi?

azizam

NEXT — LESSON 7: NUMBERS 0-20 & PHONE NUMBERS

Count Tehran-style (shish, punzdah, hivdah), take a phone number — and learn why Iranians answer the phone with "my soul?"