

LESSON 14

Describing Things

Farsi's most elegant trick: a tiny *e* that hooks any thing to any description — plus the built-in wow: *Che khune-ye ghashangi!*

AFTER THIS LESSON YOU CAN...

- Hook descriptions on: *miz-e kohne*, *khune-ye bozorg*, *farsh-e ghermez*.
- Name the essential five colors and the two nouns you'll describe forever.
- Exclaim like a native — and survive the compliment-deflection.

THE PHRASE MAP

bozorg

big

kuchik

small

ghashang

beautiful

khoshmaze

delicious

nou

new

say it like "no"
kohne

old

things, not people
sefid

white

siyâh

black

ghermez

red

âbi

blue

sabz

green

khune

house

colloquial
farsh

carpet

the pride of the room
Che ...-i!

WHAT a ...!

the built-in wow

THE HOOK — THING + e + DESCRIPTION

1 • Say the thing. 2 • Add the little e (ye after vowels). 3 • Add the description.

miz-e kohne · farsh-e ghermez · khune-ye bozorg · gorbe-ye siyâh.

The wow: Che up front, -i on the end → Che khune-ye ghashangi! = WHAT a beautiful house!

THE SCENE — AT MÂMÂN PARI'S

SPEAKER	FARSI	ENGLISH
Mâmân Pari	Khosh umadi, azizam!	Welcome, dear!
Sam	Che khune-ye ghashangi!	WHAT a beautiful house!
Mâmân Pari	Cheshmet ghashang mibine!	Your eyes see beautifully!
Sam	Chi?!	...what?!
Mâmân Pari	Miz-e kohne — kheyli kohne!	The old table — VERY old!
Sam	Kheyli ghashange!	It's SO beautiful!
Mâmân Pari	Shirini-e khoshmaze!	Delicious sweets — for you!
Sam	Vây... kheyli khoshmaze-st!	Wow... SO delicious!

NEW SMALL WORDS WORTH KEEPING

khosh umadi = welcome! · azizam = my dear · cheshmet ghashang mibine = the classic compliment-deflection: "the beauty is in your looking." Don't answer it — smile.

EXERCISES — PART 1

1 • Match

1. sabz 2. kohne 3. khoshmaze 4. sefid 5. kuchik
a. white b. small c. green d. delicious e. old

2 • Hook them

house + big → _____ · carpet + red → _____ · cat + black → _____

3 • e or ye?

miz-_____ kohne · khune-_____ bozorg · shirini-_____ khoshmaze

4 • True or false

- a) kohne describes old people. (T/F) b) The hook after a vowel is -ye. (T/F) c) Che ...-i! is the exclamation. (T/F)

EXERCISES — PART 2

5 • You're Sam (out loud)

You walk into a gorgeous home: _____! • The sweets are amazing: kheyli _____!

6 • The wow

Exclaim about a carpet: Che _____!

7 • Colors quick-fire

red: _____ • blue: _____ • black: _____

8 • House tour (out loud)

Describe five things in your own home with the hook — then exclaim about your favorite: Che ...-i!

- 1: 1-c • 2-e • 3-d • 4-a • 5-b
- 2: khune-ye bozorg • farsh-e ghermez • gorbe-ye siyâh
- 3: -e • -ye • -e (shirini ends in vowel + y-glide: shirini-e is fine colloquially)
- 4: a) F — things only • b) T • c) T
- 5: Che khune-ye ghashangi! • khoshmaze-st
- 6: farsh-e ghashangi
- 7: ghermez • âbi • siyâh

NEXT — LESSON 15: I HAVE, YOU HAVE

The verb of ownership — dâram, all six persons — plus cars, cats, kids, and balcony small talk.