1. What kinds of learning opportunities does the mentor provide to expose you to new learning?

The mentor is able to expose you to new learning in many different ways. While there are many resources for things such as learning languages, they just aren’t as good as a mentor who is able to teach you the language. One of the most immediate benefits is that a mentor is able to interact with you, while a language learning app like Duolingo is like a book in which there is no return interaction. Furthermore, a mentor is able to offer even more than just interaction. For example, languages have rules, but often, these rules are consistently broken, or perhaps there are no rules at all. In this case, a mentor is able to offer you further insight into the language.

2. What kinds of learning opportunities exist to reinforce new learning?

A way to reinforce new learning would be to consume some media of the language. While I haven’t gotten to the point in which I can understand most media, it would still be beneficial to read a book or watch a video to see what I understand. Another way to reinforce what I have learnt is to search some words and plug it into the structures I already know, and ‘experiment’ with the structure so to speak to create more complex sentences.

3. What kinds of opportunities exist that might accelerate learning?

While I did mention that Duolingo, among other language learning apps is not the greatest for learning a new language, I do believe it can be beneficial as offers a way for someone wishing to learn a language to learn it on their own. Furthermore, like the previous point, consuming media would allow me to accelerate this learning. Reading or listening to native different forms of media created by native speakers will give me the opportunity to identify how native speakers pronounce or form their sentences.

4. When you get together what do you talk about?

Most of the time, we are talking about the topic of the session that day. Occasionally however, we will talk about things in our life to demonstrate something in Arabic. One example that sticks out is when I asked him how many children he had to demonstrate an understanding of the word for “How many” or “كم”. Another example would be when he asked what I like to drink in Arabic, “ما تحب تشرب”, which I responded with the fact that I like to drink tea, “أحب أشرب شي”.

5. What is going particularly well in your mentoring relationship right now?

Something that I feel like is going particularly well in our mentoring relationship is how much we are able to accomplish in one session. For example, in one lesson, we were able to talk about the phrases “How are you?” and “How many”, while also talking about conjugating verbs, all in one session.

6. What are you learning about one another?

I definitely believe that something we are both learning about each other is each other’s personality. For example, one time I said I had 9 tables “عندي تسع طاولات”, as part of ‘fiddling’ with using numbers and plural nouns. Later, I said that I had a different amount of tables, and my mentor interrupted, stating that I had 9 tables earlier, and we both had a good laugh about it.