GET BY IN ARABIC

A quick beginners' course for holidaymakers and businesspeople

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BBC Books
Get by in Arabic
A BBC Radio course

Published to accompany a series of programmes prepared in consultation with BBC Continuing Education Advisory Council

Acknowledgements
Cover illustration by courtesy of Ahmed Moustapha

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The course ... and how to use it

Get by in Arabic is a six-programme radio course for anyone planning to visit an Arabic-speaking country. It offers a basic 'survival kit' for dealing with the kinds of situation likely to arise on a visit abroad and assumes no previous knowledge of the language.

About Arabic

About 180 million people speak Arabic as their first language. As the language of the Koran, it is also learnt by many millions of Moslems throughout the world.

Arabic is sometimes thought to be a 'difficult' language, perhaps because it is written in an unfamiliar script. So in this book, we have used a writing system based on the Roman alphabet to represent the sounds of the language.

In Arab countries, courtesy and sociability are highly valued, and this is reflected in the language. It abounds in polite expressions, appropriate to particular situations, and any foreigner making the effort to speak Arabic will be welcomed with added warmth and hospitality.

What kind of Arabic?

There are basically two kinds of Arabic: literary and spoken. Literary Arabic is used as the written medium throughout the Arab world, and is spoken on the more formal occasions — in speeches, sermons, news broadcasts and so on. But for all everyday purposes — at home, in shops and offices — colloquial Arabic is used. The area of the Arab world is so vast (three times larger than the whole of Europe from Finland to Spain and from Ireland to Greece) that, not surprisingly, the language varies from country to country.
There are a number of reasons for choosing Egyptian Arabic. Geographically and historically Egypt lies at the heart of the Arab world. Its population (49 million) by far exceeds that of any other Arab country. Practically everyone in the Arab world is exposed, directly or indirectly, to Egyptian Arabic. Films, cassettes of popular songs and television soap operas are exported on a massive scale to other Arab countries. It is generally held to be the most prestigious spoken variety and whichever country you visit you will find people can understand and adapt to Egyptian Arabic.

However, the course also includes some non-Egyptian words which are in widespread use throughout the Arab world. These are given in the additional vocabulary and shown in square brackets.

The programmes
- are based on real-life conversations specially recorded in Cairo, so you get used to hearing everyday Arabic right from the start.
- enable you to cope with confidence in basic day-to-day situations such as meeting people, eating out, shopping and bargaining, travelling around, finding a room, making an appointment, and so on.

The book includes
- an introduction to the sounds of Arabic
- the key words and phrases for each programme
- the texts of the conversations in the order they appear in the programmes
- short explanations of the language
- extra useful vocabulary for each basic situation and background information about life in Arab countries
- exercises to test what you've learnt
- a reference section including language notes, the key to exercises, an introduction to the Arabic script for the really adventurous, and an Arabic-English word-list

The two cassettes
- contain an expanded form of the programmes and extra conversations and exercises. The key words in the 'Guide to pronunciation' section are given at the start of Cassette 1, so you can hear and imitate them while getting to know the writing system we have used; spoken answers to the exercises and test in this book are also given.
- give you the chance to go at your own pace, and take your study of the language a stage further, if you wish.

To make the most of the course
The way you use the course will depend on you and whether you're using the cassettes or the programmes or both. Here are some suggestions:
- If you have the cassettes, practise the key words given at the start of Cassette 1, which are printed on p12.
- Before each programme, look at the key words and phrases at the beginning of each chapter, and practise saying them aloud. Read the conversations aloud several times, with someone else if possible. Check the meaning of any words you don’t know. Words appearing for the first time are given after the dialogues, otherwise you can check in the full word-list at the end of the book. Then read the explanations provided.
- **During each programme,** listen to the conversations without looking at the book and concentrate on the sounds of the language. When you’re asked to repeat a word or phrase, try saying it aloud and confidently; this will help you to remember the expressions and to learn to say them with the proper stress. On the cassettes the pauses may seem a little short at first; if so, stop the tape.

- **After each programme,** read through the conversations aloud again. If you have the cassettes, you may find it useful to imitate the conversations phrase by phrase. Check again on the language explanations, then work through the exercises.

- **Making the most of the cassettes:** besides the dialogues and explanations expanding on the programmes, the cassettes contain additional conversations and exercises to reinforce what you’ve already learnt, and extend your vocabulary. Some of the exercises will draw on the additional vocabulary given at the end of each chapter. So if you make full use of the cassettes you can take your Arabic well beyond the stage of ‘getting by’.

**Guide to pronunciation**

Arabic has its own alphabet of 28 letters, and an introduction to the Arabic script is given on p86. In this book, though, we have used a modified form of the Roman alphabet. The following is a guide to the written symbols we are using and the sounds they represent. The description of sounds relate to standard southern English.

Contrary to general belief, most of the sounds of Arabic are similar to those found in English; only about half a dozen will be unfamiliar to English speakers (and two of these occur relatively infrequently anyway).

**The vowels**

There are three short vowels:

- **a** like the vowel in English ‘hat’ or ‘back’, as in gamal (camel)
- **i** like the vowel in ‘hit’ or ‘ship’, as in bint (girl)
- **u** like the vowel in ‘put’ or ‘hood’, as in shuf (I saw)

and five long ones:

- **aa** like a longer version of the vowel in ‘met’, as in haat (bring)
- **ii** like the vowel in ‘keen’, as in miin? (who?)
- **uu** like the vowel in ‘food’, as in nuur (light)
- **oo** like the vowel in ‘home’, except the lips are ronder and tenser, as in yoom (day)
- **ee** like the vowel in ‘may’ or ‘lane’, but with the lips more widely and tensely spread, as in feen? (where?)

**The consonants**

The sounds represented by b, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, s, t, v, w, y, z are virtually identical to their English counterparts.

- **sh** (underlined) represents the sound you find in ‘shoot’ or ‘shop’ and not the one in ‘mishap’; eg shaay (tea)
- **r** a ‘rolled’ r, made by vibrating the tip of the tongue behind the teeth, as in wara (behind)

**S, T, D, Z** represent ‘heavy’ or ‘thick’ versions of s, t, d, and z. They are pronounced with the muscles of the lips and the tongue very lax and loose, and can affect adjacent vowels, particularly **aa**, which is then pronounced more like the vowel in ‘half’. Listen on the cassette to the difference in both the initial consonant and vowel in:
The 'k' sound and Hidaashar indicates very egilqahira salaTa a is (to, innuur represents has by as word shown mudarrisah bariid is kilo). row, glottal taani saami (English pronounce indicated ana Sala kart (the card) by asikila.

The definite article (the) is il- and is joined to the noun:

kart (a card) ilkart (the card)

Consonants, like vowels, may be long; we have indicated this by doubling the letter. You must pronounce these consonants as doubles, as in English 'smalllad' or 'commonname'.

Sala (prayer) Sala (he prayed)
a (1) fanni (artistic)

The few exceptions to the above are shown with a written accent, like this:
dârâga salâTa

Finally, the best way of acquiring a reasonable pronunciation is to imitate the speakers in the programmes or the cassettes. You could also try saying aloud the key words at the beginning of each chapter, and then compare them with the native speaker's version. Best of all, of course, find an Egyptian to help you!

But when the noun begins with any of the following consonants:

t d n s z sh r T D S Z

the 'l' disappears and the first consonant is doubled and pronounced long:

nuur (light) innuur (the light)
raagil (a man) irraagil (the man)

In short words like fi (at, in), wi (and), li (to, for), the 'l' often disappears when another vowel precedes or follows:
talaata w nuSS (three and a half)
ilwalad w ilbint (the boy and the girl)
f ilqahihira (in Cairo)

If a word ends in two consonants and the next word begins with one, Egyptians often put in a short 'helping' vowel, to avoid the combination of three consonants in a row, which they find difficult. This is shown in the transcripts of the recorded conversations by an italic i, eg nuSiS kiilu (half a kilo).

It's important to stress a word in the right place; if the final vowel is long, it is stressed:

maZbuT bariid

Otherwise the last syllable but one normally carries the stress:

madarris madarrisah

The following consonants: are always doubled:
khiilal, khiilali

The French 'r' sound (like a very brief gargle!), as in ghâali (expensive) indicates a glottal stop, which you find a lot in Cockney English replacing a 't', as in 'bu'er' or 'Sco'land'. In Arabic it is a sound in its own right, and not an indication that something has been omitted. Eg ma'aas (size)

gh as in ilqahihira (Cairo) is similar to a 'k' sound, but produced further back, in about the same place as gh. It has the same effect on adjacent vowels as the 'thick' consonants.

H represents a very aspirated 'h'. You can achieve it by pretending you have drunk something very hot, breathing out heavily over the back of your tongue. When you make this sound, you should be able to feel the friction at the back of your throat. Eg Haaga (thing)

č is an unfamiliar sound in English. It is somewhere between the glottal stop and the gh in ghâali, and is made with the whole of the tongue as far back as possible in the throat; as in čala (on)
While you should try to be as accurate as possible in pronunciation, Arabic speakers are not only used to hearing a wide variety of accents from within the Arab world, they are also genuinely delighted to find a foreigner making an effort to speak Arabic.

Listen and repeat

The following word-list demonstrates the sounds of Arabic. The words are given at the start of Cassette 1.

Long vowels
haat miin yoom feen nuur

Thick consonants
saam Saam taab Taab daani Daani zaahir Zaahir

Other unfamiliar constants
r raagil bariid kart
kh khubz khaalid sukhna
gh ghaali baghdaad ghani
q qaaSIM ilqahira qarya
k/q kalb/qalb kaam/qaam
H Haal Hisaab aHmad
h/H haal/Haal hadd/Hadd
‘ ahwa ba’shish la’
č čala čawiz sačiid
‘/č ‘amal/čamal ma’aas/mačaad ‘aal/čaal

Long consonants
sitta iddiini innuur
iTTaalib issana ishshanTa

Watch the stress
muhandis muhandisa itfaDDali itfaDDali
TaaliTa Saaliba kwayyis kwayyisa
Sughayyar Sughayyara kallim kallimni

Meeting people

Key expressions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ahlān</td>
<td>hallo, nice to meet you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ahlān wa sahlān</td>
<td>reply (to a man)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ahlān bilik</td>
<td>reply (to a woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SabaaH ilkkeer</td>
<td>good morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SabaaH innuur</td>
<td>reply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misaa’ ilkkeer</td>
<td>good evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misaa’ innuur</td>
<td>reply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>izzayyak?</td>
<td>how are you? (to a man)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>izzayyik?</td>
<td>how are you? (to a woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ismā’ eeh?</td>
<td>what is your name? (to a man)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ismā’ eeh?</td>
<td>what is your name? (to a woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ismi shirīf</td>
<td>my name is shirīf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ana min landan</td>
<td>I am from London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ana muhandis</td>
<td>I am an engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma’ca ssalaama</td>
<td>goodbye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aṣhuufak imta?</td>
<td>when will I see you? (to a man)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aṣhuufik imta?</td>
<td>when will I see you? (to a woman)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conversations

1 Hello! How are you?
Two girls meet ...

zeenāb | aahl naahid! izzayyik?
naaḥid | ilHamdu lilaah, kwayyisa. w inti, izzayyik?

zeenāb | ana kwayyisa, ilHamdu lilaah.

In the morning two boys meet ...

Taari’ | heey! SabaaH ilkkeer!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>talattaasheer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the evening...

shiriif SabaaH innuur ya Taari! izzayyak?
Taari’ ihHamdu lillaah, kwayyis. w izzayyak inta?
shiriif ihHamdu lillaah, kwayyis.

2 What’s your name ...?

mu’nis ahlan.
‘inaas ahlan biik.
mu’nis inti ismik ‘eeh?
‘inaas ana ismi ‘inaas. w inta?
mu’nis ismi mu’nis.

3 ...and where are you from?

sanaa’ ismak ‘eeh?
shiriif ismi shiriif. w inti ismik ‘eeh?
sanaa’ ana ismi sanaa’.

4 What do you do ...?

Man ana muhandis. w inta?
Man ana mudirr bank.
Woman ana mudarissa. w inti?
Woman ana duktuura.
Man ana Taalib. w inta?
Man ana Taalib kamaan.

5 Saying goodbye ...

zeenab and her friend arrange to meet the next day.

zeenab ashuufik inta?
Friend ashuufik bukra, in sha’allaah.
zeenab bukra... hina?
Friend ‘aywa, hina.
zeenab maCa ssalaama.
Friend maCa ssalaama.
Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ana</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inta</td>
<td>you (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inti</td>
<td>you (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>huwwa</td>
<td>he</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hiyya</td>
<td>she</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'aywa</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la'</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wi</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kamaan</td>
<td>also</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ilHamdu</td>
<td>llilaah fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kwayyis</td>
<td>fine, well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bi kheer</td>
<td>fine, well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'eeh?</td>
<td>what?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mineen?</td>
<td>where from?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>min</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hina</td>
<td>here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maSr</td>
<td>Egypt, Cairo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanations

Arabic is rich in elaborate greetings, often with religious overtones. Here are a few of the commonest.

- **Hello**
  - ahlān or ahlān wa saḥlan
  - Reply:
    - ahlān or ahlān biik (to a man)
    - ahlān biiki (to a woman)

- **Good morning**
  - Sabāḥ ilkheer *(lit. morning of goodness)*
  - Reply:
    - Sabāḥ ilkheer or Sabāḥ innuur *(lit. morning of light)*
    - ‘Morning’ lasts till lunchtime, which may be at two or three o’clock.

- **Good evening**
  - misaa’ ilkheer
  - Reply:
    - misaa’ ilkheer or misaa’ innuur

- **When talking directly to someone or calling them**, you usually put ya in front of their name: ahlān, ya huda.

- **How are you?**
  - izzayyak? *(to a man)*
  - izzayyik? *(to a woman)*
  - To be more emphatic, you can add the pronoun ‘you’ - inta to a man, inti to a woman: izzayyak inta? izzayyik inti?

- **wi** means ‘and’. Notice the ‘i’ disappears before another vowel: w inta, izzayyak?

---

16 sittaashar 17 sabať taashar
I'm fine...

Kwayys (if you're a man)
Kwayyisa (if you're a woman)

Notice -a is usually added to adjectives and nouns to make them feminine.

Bi kheer is another way of saying 'fine', but it never changes.

Almost always people add ilHamdu lillaah (lit praise be to God). In fact, it is often used alone without kwayyis or bi kheer.

Izzayyak? ilHamdu lillaah

'I' is ana.

In a sentence like ana kwayyisa (I'm fine), inta mineen? (where are you from?) or zeenab min maSr (zeenab is from Egypt), there is no word equivalent to 'am', 'are' or 'is'.

Name' is ism

If you want to say 'my name' you add -i: ismi shiriif.

'Your (m) name' is ismak.

'Your (f) name' is ismik.

What?' is 'eeh? To ask someone their name:

(to a woman) ismik 'eeh?

(to a man) ismak 'eeh?

(lit your name is what?)

Again, the pronouns 'I' and 'you' are often added for emphasis:

Inta ismak 'eeh? ana ismi shiriif.

Where from? ' is mineen? Like 'eeh, this follows the subject:

Inta mineen? huda mineen?

To reply you use min (from) with the name of a place:

Ana min landan, huda min maSr.

He' is huwwa. 'She' is hiyya.

When using the feminine pronouns hiyya or inti, the noun or adjective must be feminine:

Huwwa duktuur he's a doctor
Hiiya duktuur she's a doctor

There's often a shift in stress when an 'a' is added:

Mudarris, mudarissa; muhandis, muhandisa

To say goodbye...

Maça ssalaama (with peace). The reply is the same.

When?' is imta? To ask 'When shall I see you?':

(to a woman) ashuufik

(to a man) ashuufak

You will hear in sha'allah (God willing) all the time; it almost automatically follows any reference to future plans (as in the last conversation: ashuufik bukra, in sha'allah - 'I'll see you tomorrow, I hope'). With the right kind of slightly doubtful intonation, it can even be a polite way of saying no.

Additional vocabulary

briTanya Britain

amerika America

ingiltira England

iskotlanta Scotland

airlanda Ireland

weelz Wales

kânada Canada

See map on p4 for the names of all the Arab countries.

NB maSr is 'Egypt', but is also used colloquially for 'Cairo'. The formal name for Cairo is ilqaahira.
Exercises

1 Pretend your name is John, and you are from England (ingiltira). Now answer the following questions:
   a inta mineen?
   b ismak 'eeh?

2 Answer questions a and b again. This time you are Taari', from Cairo.

3 What time of day would you greet people in the following way:
   a misaa' ilkheer
   b SabaaH ilkheer
   c ahl an wa sahlan

4 Give appropriate replies to 3a, b, and c.

5 You are meeting shirif for the first time.
   a Say hallo and ask him his name.
   b Now ask him where he's from.

6 You are meeting naahid for the first time.
   a Say hallo and ask her her name.
   b Now ask her where she is from.

7 You meet mu'nis, whom you already know.
   a Say 'Good morning, mu'nis'.
   b Ask him how he is.
   c Ask him when you'll see him.
   d When he suggests tomorrow, say 'I hope so'.

Mohamed Ali Mosque, Cairo
Food and drink

Key expressions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fiih ġaSīr?</td>
<td>is there any juice?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mafiīsh biira hina</td>
<td>there's no beer here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ġandak 'eeh?</td>
<td>what do you (m) want?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ġandik 'eeh?</td>
<td>what do you (f) want?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ilHisaab, min faDlak</td>
<td>the bill, please</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ġawza</td>
<td>(m) want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ġawza</td>
<td>(f) want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tishrāb</td>
<td>give me...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tishrāb 'eeh?</td>
<td>what would you (m) drink?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tishrābi 'eeh?</td>
<td>what would you (f) drink?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shukran</td>
<td>thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ġafwan; il ġafw</td>
<td>not at all</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conversations

1. Something to drink...

Waiter: tishrāb 'eeh?
Taari': ashrāb shaay.
Waiter: HaaDir.
Taari': shukran.

2. zeenab is in a cafe.

Waiter: tishrāb 'eeh?
zeenab: ġandak 'eeh?
Waiter: shaay walla 'ahwa walla Haaga sa' ġa?
zeenab: 'ahwa mafiīsh, min faDlak.
Waiter: HaaDir.

3. Two coffees, a tea and water pipe.

Waiter: SabaaH ilkheer. ayyi khidma?
Taari': SabaaH innuur. iddiini itneen 'ahwa w waahīd shaay.
Waiter: (shouting out to kitchen) itneen 'ahwa, waahīd shaay!
Cook: HaaDir.
Taari': (calling after the waiter) wi shaigha, min faDlak!

4. Many cafes don’t sell alcoholic drinks...

Taari': ġandak biira min faDlak?
Waiter: mafiīsh biira hina, ya beeh.
Taari': shukran.
Waiter: il ġafw, ya beeh.

5. ...but some of them do.

Taari': ġandak biira?
Waiter: 'aywa, ġandi biira.
Taari': iddiini talaata biira min faDlak.
Waiter: HaaDir.
Taari': (later) il Hisaab, min faDlak.
Waiter: 'aywaa.

6. Asking what juices there are.

zeenab: SabaaH ilkheer.
Waiter: SabaaH innuur.
zeenab: ġandak ġaSīr 'eeh, min faDlak?
Waiter: fiīh ġaSīr burTu'aan, fiīh ġaSīr gawaafa, fiīh ġaSīr manga, fiīh ġaSīr farawla, fiīh ġaSīr lamun.
zeenab: ġandak grepfrūt?
Waiter: 'aywa, ġaSīr grepfrūt mafiīsh.
zeenab: waahīd gawaafa, min faDlak.
Waiter: HaaDir.

7. Asking what sandwiches they have...

zeenab: SabaaH ilkheer.
Girl: SabaaH innuur.

**talaata w ġiśhriin**
8... and what soup they have.

Taari' misaa' ilkheer.
Waiter misaa' innuur.
Taari' fiih shurba.
Taari' shurbit 'eeh?
Waiter fiih shurbit khuDaar, shurbit baSal.
Taari' iddiini shurbit baSal, min faDlik.
Waiter HaaDir.

9 Ordering a complete meal.

kamaal misaa' ilkheer.
Waiter misaa' innuur, ahlan wa sahlan.
kamaal shukran. ilMinyu min faDlik.
Waiter iftaDDal. iftaDDali ya madaam.
huda/kamaal shukran.
huda min faDlik, ġawza waaHid samak
mashwi, wi waaHid baTaTis, wi waaHid sabaanikh.
kamaal ġawwiz waaHid ruzz wi waaHid
firaaqhi wi waaHid bisilla, min faDlik.
Waiter Haaga kamaan?
kamaal 'aywa, itneen mayya mačdaniyya
min faDlik.
Waiter HaaDir.

Later kamaal ilHisaaab min faDlik.
Waiter iftaDDal.
kamaal iftaDDal ... da ġalashaanak.
Waiter shukran. mača ssalaama.

9 Ordering a complete meal.

kamaal misaa' ilkheer.
Waiter misaa' innuur, ahlan wa sahlan.
kamaal shukran. ilMinyu min faDlik.
Waiter iftaDDal. iftaDDali ya madaam.
huda/kamaal shukran.
huda min faDlik, ġawza waaHid samak
mashwi, wi waaHid baTaTis, wi waaHid sabaanikh.
kamaal ġawwiz waaHid ruzz wi waaHid
firaaqhi wi waaHid bisilla, min faDlik.
Waiter Haaga kamaan?
kamaal 'aywa, itneen mayya mačdaniyya
min faDlik.
Waiter HaaDir.

Later kamaal ilHisaaab min faDlik.
Waiter iftaDDal.
kamaal iftaDDal ... da ġalashaanak.
Waiter shukran. mača ssalaama.

Vocabulary

waaHid one
itneen two
bilaat three
khamsa five
burTu'aan orange
gawaafa guava
mango mango
farawla strawberry
lamuun lemon
greppruit grapefruit
minyu menu
sandwitsh sandwich
shurba soup
samak fish
firaaqhi chicken
mashwi grilled
ruzz rice
khuDaar vegetables
baTaTis potatoes
bisilla peas
kufta meat balls
gina cheese
baSal onion

Explanations

- 'Have' is expressed not by a verb but by means of ġandi- (with), plus a personal ending, 'me', 'you' etc:
  I have ġandi
  you have ġandi (m)

24 arba9a w ġishriin
eg Candak 'eeh? what have you (m) got? 
Candak biira? do you have (any) beer?

• The same endings can be added to ċalashaan (for):
da ċalashaanak 'that's for you' (eg when giving a tip). To a woman: da ċalashaanik

• 'There is/are...' is the invariable fiih:
fiih ċaSiir? is there (any) juice? 
fiih biira? is there (any) beer? 
'aywa, fiih is there, yes, there is

• 'Not'
Both fiih and ċand- are made negative by adding ma.....sh:
Ċandi I have; mačandiish I haven't
fiih there is; mafiish there isn't
mafiish biira hina there's no beer here

• 'I want' is:
ana ċaawiz (or ċaayiz) (if you're a man)
ana ċawza (or ċayza) (if you're a woman)
Čawiz is an adjective and so takes the feminine -a ending:
eg hiyya ċawza ċaSiir she wants (some) juice

• ashrab I drink
 tishrab you (m) drink
 tishrabi you (f) drink
When inviting someone to have a drink, say tishrab 'eeh? (to a man) or tishrabi 'eeh? (to a woman).

• You often add -i for the feminine:
itfaDDal, itfaDDali (lit kindly accept...)
This is used in any situation where you are offering something politely to somebody. It can mean 'have a seat', 'please come in', 'have a drink', 'please join us' and so on.

• Noun + noun
As in English, two nouns can come together, one modifying the other: eg ċaSiir ċaSiir (lemon juice), mudir bank (bank manager). But notice the order is reversed in Arabic. If the first noun ends in the feminine -a, this ending changes to -it when another noun follows: shurba soup, but shurbit baSal onion soup

• More than one
A common way of forming the plural is by adding -aat, as in sandwitsh, sandwitshaat.
The numbers from one to five are given in the vocabulary on page 25; when ordering food and drink, a number is used with the singular noun: itneen biira two beers
itneen 'ahwa two coffees

• 'The'
Put il- before the noun:
Hisaab a bill; ilHisaab the bill
The 'I' of il in some cases forms a long consonant with the following sound: issabaanikh - the spinach' (not ilssabaanikh). (See Guide to pronunciation, p11).

• Polite terms of address vary from country to country. In Egypt, some of the commonest, to a man, are ya beeh and y afandim; to a woman, ya madaam.

• If you are inviting someone to make a choice, the equivalent of '...or...?' is ...walla...?:
'ahwa walla shaay? coffee or tea?
Worth knowing

Besides eating in restaurants and hotels, you may want to eat at a snack bar, where you’ll find sandwiches, often made with flat pitta-type bread (khubz baladi, or ‘local bread’) fried snacks like falafel, kebab, and fresh fruit juice. Fast food eating places are increasingly popular in the Middle East, and range from traditional roadside kiosks to the modern international food chains.

In some cake shops you can eat a delicious pastry on the spot with a glass of iced water, or take it with you. Street cafes are for sipping tea, coffee and soft drinks at your leisure; in areas not much visited by tourists they tend to be patronised mainly by men. There the shisha - the water pipe or ‘hubble bubble’ - is a common sight.

Islam forbids the consumption of alcohol and pork. Animals are slaughtered according to Islamic law, and the meat is then described as Halaal (literally ‘permitted’). Official attitudes to alcohol vary a good deal from country to country, so it’s best to check before taking any alcohol with you.

Ramadan is the month when Moslems fast during the hours of daylight, so it is generally polite not to eat, drink or smoke in public places during these hours.

If you order tea or coffee in a café, it will usually be served black - the tea with lots of sugar. Traditional ‘Turkish’ coffee can be masbuT (medium sweet), saada (without sugar) or sukkar ziyaada (very sweet).

Additional vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic Word</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a’kl</td>
<td>food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sukkar</td>
<td>sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laban</td>
<td>milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halib</td>
<td>milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maH</td>
<td>salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filfil</td>
<td>pepper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talg</td>
<td>ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>khubz</td>
<td>bread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mezze</td>
<td>hors d’oeuvres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hummus</td>
<td>chick peas (often served as a creamy dip)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tihini</td>
<td>sesame seed paste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sallata</td>
<td>mixed salad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>makaroni</td>
<td>macaroni (or other pasta)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bidingaan</td>
<td>aubergines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aTaayif</td>
<td>sesame seed paste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tishta</td>
<td>bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tafa</td>
<td>water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mozz</td>
<td>bananas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuffaaH</td>
<td>apples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mishmish</td>
<td>apricots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tiin</td>
<td>figs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Traditional oriental pastries often made with honey and nuts include ba’laawa, basbuusa, kunafa, and ‘aTaayif - all of which may be served b il’ishTa - with whipped cream.

* Words shown in square brackets are not Egyptian but are in common use in other parts of the Arab World.

Exercises

1. Ask a waiter politely (ie say ‘please’) for the following:
   a. an orange juice
   b. two beers
   c. a sandwich

28 tamanya w čishriin  29 tisča w čishriin
2. What would change if it were a waitress?

3. Ask whether the following are available, using fiih:
   - coffee
   - mango juice
   - onion soup
   - rice
   - sandwiches

4. Ask for the same items using ḋandak.

5. Think of questions or comments which might have prompted the following replies:
   - 'aywa, ḋandi sandwitshaat gibna.
   - la', mafiigh nibit hina.
   - la', maẓandiish mayya maḍaniyya.
   - Haadīr....itfaDali ilHisaab.
   - Ẓafwan.

Using the additional vocabulary at the end of the chapter try ordering a really elaborate meal!

---

### Shopping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key expressions</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bi kam?</td>
<td>ḍamaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shukenTa di</td>
<td>this/that bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ilgamal da</td>
<td>this/that camel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(bi) ḍishtar gibna</td>
<td>(for) twenty pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mumkin</td>
<td>possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mūṣa mumkin</td>
<td>not possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mumkin ashtar?</td>
<td>can I buy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mumkin ashuar?</td>
<td>can I see it (f)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>di'ī' a waHda</td>
<td>one moment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'aṣṣif</td>
<td>ḍaustain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'aṣṣa</td>
<td>(I'm) sorry (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ana) 'aṣṣa</td>
<td>(I'm) sorry (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ẓandak Sanf 'aḥsan?</td>
<td>have you got a better kind?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ẓandak ma'aas 'akbar?</td>
<td>have you got a bigger size?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ghaali 'awi</td>
<td>very expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bi balaash</td>
<td>free (lit for nothing)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conversations

1. Asking the price of a souvenir camel ...

   Taari'    Shopkeeper
   min faDlik, bi kam ilgamal da?   bi kam?
   bi kam?          itneen gibna wi nuSS.
   w ilkibīr?        itneen gibna wi nuSS.
   khamsa gibna.     shukran.
   shukran.          ilCAFw.
2 ... a bag ...

Taari'    Sabaah ilkheer.
Shopkeeper    Sabaah unnuur.
Taari'    bi kam ishshantTa di?
Shopkeeper    Ishriin gineeh.
Taari'    wi di?
Shopkeeper    Innaashar gineeh.
Taari'    bi kam?
Shopkeeper    Innaashar gineeh.
Taari'    shukran.
Shopkeeper    Cafwan.

3 ... a galabiyya.

Taari'    bi kam ilgallabiyya di?
Shopkeeper    SabCa gineeh wi nuSS.
Taari'    w lHamra di?
Shopkeeper    w lHamra di, bi tamanya gineeh.
Taari'    shukran.
Shopkeeper    ayYi khidma.

4 zeenab wants some postcards.

zieenab    Candak kart buSTaal, min faDlak?
Shopkeeper    'aywa, Cand. IfaDDali.
zieenab    bi kam ilkart?
Shopkeeper    bi Ishshar 'urush.

5 Can I buy stamps here?

Taari'    mumkin aghshir TawaabiT hina?
Shopgirl    'aywa, mumkin.
Taari'    iddiini talat TawaabiT l ingiltira, min faDlak.
Shopgirl    Haadir.

6 A film for the camera.

Taari'    mumkin aghshir film l ilkamera di?
Shopgirl    mumkin ashuufha?
Taari'    (handing it over) ifaDDali.
Shopgirl    sitta w talatiin, wala arbaCa w Ishriin Suura?
Taari'    sitta w talatiin mulawwana.
Shopgirl    Haadir. dill'a waHda. (she fetches a film) ifaDDali, talata gineeh wi khamsa w sabCiin 'irsh.
Taari'    ifaDDali.
Shopgirl    shukran.
Taari'    shukran. maCa ssaalaama.
Shopgirl    maCa ssaalaama.

7 Sometimes you'll have to bargain ...
Shopkeeper | bi balaash ġalašaanik ... | Lawzaaha bi kem?
Customer | bi ġišriin gineeh. | Shopkeeper la'i mumkin bi talataa w ġišriin.
Customer | Tayyib, ittaDDal. | Shopkeeper shukran, ma'aa ssalaama.

8 ... or ask for a better kind ...
Customer | ġandak Sanf 'aHsan? | Shopkeeper 'aywa, ġandi, ma'aa saak.
Customer | ġandak Sanf 'aHsan? | Customer Tayyib. ittaDDal.
Shopkeeper | la', da 'aHsan Sanf. |

9 ... or a larger size ...
Customer | ġandak ma'aas 'akbar? | Shopkeeper fiih Haaga 'arkhaS?
Customer | ġand. ma'aa saak? | Shopgirl la', 'asfa, maflis.

10 ... or something cheaper.
Customer | fiih Haaga 'arkhaS? |
Shopgirl | la', 'asfa, maflis. |

Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bi</th>
<th>for (in prices), with</th>
<th>Suura (pl Suwar)</th>
<th>picture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gallyiya</td>
<td>gallyiya</td>
<td>ghaali (f ghaliya)</td>
<td>expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gineeh</td>
<td>pound</td>
<td>li 'to, for</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'irsh</td>
<td>(pl 'uruush)</td>
<td>'awi very, too</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kart (pl kurutu)</td>
<td>buSTaal</td>
<td>ashtiri / buy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TaabiC (pl TawaabiC)</td>
<td>stamp</td>
<td>bass but, only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nuSS</td>
<td>half</td>
<td>'aHsan better, best</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'aHmar (f Hamra)</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>rikhiiS cheap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kamera</td>
<td>camera</td>
<td>'arkhaS cheaper, cheapest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>film (pl aflaam)</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>kibir big</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mulawwan</td>
<td>coloured, in colour</td>
<td>'akbar bigger, biggest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'il'a</td>
<td>minute, moment</td>
<td>Sanf (pl 'aSnaaf)</td>
<td>kibir big</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kind, type</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ma'aas size</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tayyib ... OK, well now ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>arbaČa w talatiin</td>
<td>ri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers

| 6 | sitta (before plural noun - sitt) |
| 7 | sabČa (before plural noun - sabaČ) |
| 8 | tamanya (before plural noun - taman) |
| 9 | tisČa (before plural noun - tisČ) |
| 10 | ġišriin 50 khamsiin 80 tamanini |
| 11 | Hidaaghar 16 sittaasgar         |
| 12 | itnaaghar 17 sabaČ taasgar       |
| 13 | talattaaghar 18 tamantaasgar     |
| 14 | arbaČtaasgar 19 tisaČ taasgar    |
| 15 | khamastaaghar                   |

Explanations

- To ask the price of an object:

| ilgallabya? | ilgamal? | how much is the camel? |

or: ilgallabya bi kam?

The answer will be:

| gineeh | £1 |
|        | (bi) itneen gineeh £2 |
|        | khamsa gineeh £5 | and so on |

- kam? alone is used before a noun to mean 'how many?' or 'how much?', referring to quantities. The noun is always singular:

| kam kart? | how many cards? |
| kam sandwitš? | how many sandwiches? |
| kam sukkař? | how much sugar? |

- Adjectives have to add an -a to agree with feminine pronouns:

| ana/inta/huwwa kwayyis |

| ri | khamsa w talatiin 35 |
The page contains text in Arabic and some English. Here is a translation of the Arabic text:

- One way of forming plurals is to add -aat (see p.27):
  sandwitchsandwiches
  kart (a card) kurut (cards)
  'irsh (a piastre) 'uruush (piastres)
The pattern used for Taabiic (a stamp) is Tawaabici.

There are about half a dozen major patterns (see Reference section p.71-72). You can’t necessarily predict the plural, so we give the main ones in the vocabulary lists like this:
  film (p/ aflaam)

- The numbers 1 - 5 were given on p.25; 6 - 100 are given on p.35.
  waaHid (one) has the feminine form waHda. eg
di’ii’a waHda one moment

To say ‘24’, ‘35’, etc, Arabic uses ‘four and twenty’, ‘five and thirty’ etc:
  arbaC w Cishriin: 24 khamsa w talatiin: 35
It’s useful to divide the numbers into two sets: up to ten, and eleven upwards.
The numbers 2 - 10 are followed by a plural noun (except when ordering food and drink),
and the final -a of the number is dropped:
  talat Tawaabici three stamps
  Cishar ‘uruush ten piastres
Numbers from eleven upwards don’t change and are followed by a singular noun:
  talatiin ‘irsh thirty piastres
  arbaC w Cishriin Suura twenty-four pictures

- Basic units of length and weight are invariable:
  mitr a metre
  khamsa mitr five metres

...
kiilu  a kilo
sitta kiilu  six kilos
The same applies to gineeh (the Egyptian £):
gineeh  £1
talaata gineeh  £3

- To say ‘three and a half pounds’ (or kilos etc) add wi nuSS after the noun:
talaata gineeh wi nuSS; khamsa kiilu wi nuSS etc

- To say ‘a kilo of ...’:
  kiilu MburTu’aan  a kilo of oranges
  nuSS kiilu issamak  half a kilo of fish
  khamsa kiilu ibaTaaTis  five kilos of potatoes

mumkin? on its own means ‘is it possible?’, ‘can I?’, ‘may I?’, ‘can we?’ etc. The answer will be:
‘aywa, mumkin or la’, mish mumkin

- To say ‘I buy’ and ‘I see’:
  (ana)  ashuuf  I see
  [ashuuf]  I see
Add mumkin (is it possible?) to ask ‘can I ...?’:
mumkin [ashuuf]  can I buy?
mumkin [ashuuf]  can I see?

-ha (‘it’ for feminine nouns) or -u (for masculine nouns) may be added to the end:
mumkin ashuufha?  can I see it? (eg ilkamera)
mumkin ashuufu?  can I see it? (eg ilgamal)

NB In conversation 7, the shopkeeper says ḡawzaah bi kam? (how much do you want to pay? - lit you want it for how much?) referring to ʾishshanTa.

- Good, better, best ...
A special pattern is used for the comparative

38 tamanya w talatiin
Bargaining
This is the accepted practice in the Middle East, at least when it comes to buying souvenirs. It is an amiable and often leisurely process - pursued over coffee or tea if a large item like a carpet is involved - but no offence is taken if you decide to 'think it over'. In countries where taxis don't have meters (or the meters tend not to work!), it's just as well to fix the price before you get in.

The galabiyya - a loose cotton gown ideal for hot climates - is the traditional form of dress for men in most Arab countries. It is usually simple in design - plain or striped - though more elaborate and brilliantly-coloured galabiyyas are produced for tourists. In Egypt, businessmen and office workers will probably wear European clothes rather than the galabiyya. In many other Arab countries though, it is the most usual form of dress for men of all classes.

The kaftan, a more formal version of the galabiyya, is often a heavier silk/cotton mixture - or wool for the winter - and is worn by both men and women.

Exercises

1 What is the difference in meaning between these four sentences?
   a shanTa kibiira
   b iishshanTa ilkibiira
   c iishshanTa kibiira
   d iishshanTa di kibiira

2 Ask a shopkeeper ‘Have you got..., please?':
   a any postcards
   b any stamps
   c a colour film
   d a large bag
   e a red galabiyya

3 Ask him if you can see the following:
   a a galabiyya
   b that camera
   c a larger size
   d a cheaper kind

4 Ask a shopkeeper the price of the following (checking your vocabulary from Chapter 2):
   a a kilo of oranges
   b half a kilo of lemons
   c two kilos of bananas
   d half a kilo of sugar

5 A shopkeeper gives the price of various items: tell him 'That is very expensive', using da or di as appropriate.
   a ilgallabiyya bi talatiin gineeh.
   b ilkart bi sittiin 'irsh.
   c mitr l'umaash bi khamsa gineeh.
   d iishshanTa bi itneen wi ċishriin gineeh.

6 Ask him if there is:
   a a bigger bag
   b a smaller dress
   c a cheaper camera
   d a better kind
4 In the hotel

Key expressions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ċandak 'ooDa?</td>
<td>do you have a room?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fihi mayya sukhnà?</td>
<td>is there hot water?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candì Hagz</td>
<td>I’ve got a reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kam leela?</td>
<td>how many nights?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bi kam illeela?</td>
<td>how much a night?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 gineeh f ilyoom 'ooDa nimra ...</td>
<td>£30 a day room number ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>issaača kam?</td>
<td>what time is it/at what time?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>issaača sabĉa</td>
<td>(it’s) seven o’clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mumkin adfač ilHisaab?</td>
<td>can I pay the bill?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mumkin ačmil tilifoon?</td>
<td>can I make a phone call?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mumkin aghayyar dolaraat?</td>
<td>can I change some dollars?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ċala lyimiin/shshimaal</td>
<td>on the right/the left imDi hina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conversations

1 Taari’ is booking a hotel room.

Taari’ isaa’ ilkheer.
Clerk misaa’ innuur.
Taari’ ċandak ‘ooDa, min faDiak?
Clerk di’i’i’a waHda. (looks in register) kam leela?
Taari’ leela waHda, fihi mayya sukhnà?
Clerk ‘aywa, wi fihi banyu wi tilifoon wi tilivizyoon f il‘ooDa.
Taari’ bi kam il‘ooDa?
Clerk talatiin gineeh f ilyoom.
Taari’ iddiini ‘ooDa, min faDiak.
Clerk HaaDir.

42 itneen w arbičiin

2 zeenab wants a room for two nights.

zeenab ċandak ‘ooDa, min faDiak?
Clerk di’i’i’a waHda. (looks in register) kam leela?
zeenab leelteen, min faDiak.
Clerk ‘aywa fihi.
zeenab ‘ayya ‘ooDa bi Hammaam.
Clerk fihi, mawguud.
zeenab bi kam?
Clerk tamanya w arbičiin gineeh.
zeenab fihi maTcam hina?
Clerk ‘aywa, fihi maTcam (pointing) hinaak.
zeenab ififTaar issaača kam?
Clerk min sabĉa l ċashara.

3 If you already have a reservation ...

Taari’ ana ċandi Hagz hina, min faDiak?.
Clerk ismak ‘eeh?
Taari’ Taari’ ilbaguuri.
Clerk ‘aywa, maZbuuT.
Taari’ shukran.
Clerk da ilmuftaH. il‘ooDa suttumiyya w waHHi. il’asanSiir ‘uddaam ċala lyimiin.
Taari’ shukran. ififTaar issaača kam?
Clerk ififTaar min issaača sabĉa l issaača ċashara, hinaak f ilmaTcam.
Taari’ shukran.
Clerk ifiCAF.

4 Asking for the bill.

Taari’ mumkin adfač ilHisaab, min faDiak?
Clerk mumkin. di’i’i’a waHda.
Taari’ shukran.

5 You may not always be lucky ...

Man SabaaH ilkheer.
Clerk SabaaH innuur.

talaata w arbičiin
6 And you may have to sign the register ...
Man imDi hina min faDlak. iktib ismak w ism baladak.
Clerk bi kull/ surur.
Man itfaDDal imDi hina min faDlak. iktib ismak w ism baladak.
Clerk itfaDDal ilmuftaaH. 
Man bi kull/ suruur.
Clerk itfaDDal ilmuftaaH. 

7 Can I call London?
Man mumkin akallim landan min hina?
Man shukran.
Clerk mumkin.
Man mumkin akallim landan min hina?
Man shukran.

8 Changing money.
Man mumkin aghayyar miyya w kamhsin dolaar?
Man shukran.
Man mumkin aghayyar miyya w kamhsin dolaar?
Man shukran.

9 Making a phone call.
Man mamkin ačmil tilifoon hina zaalan.
Man la', istiriil.
Man mamkin aghayyar shikaat siyaHiyya kamaan?
Man la', istiriil.
Man mamkin aghayyar shikaat siyaHiyya kamaan?
Man la', istiriil.

44 arbata w arbičin 55

Vocabulary

| Car | Room | Speed
| --- | --- | ---
| 'ooDa (pl 'owaD) | malyaan full | malyaan full |
| leela (pl layaali) | night | night |
| sukhna | hot | hot |
| banyu | bath | bath |
| tilifoon | telephone | telephone |
| tiliviżoon | television | television |
| yoom (pl 'awaam) | day | day |
| Hammaam | bathoom | bathoom |
| mawguud | there is | there is |
| maTęm (pl maTaačim) | restaurant | restaurant |
| hinaak | there | there |
| fiTaaar | breakfast | breakfast |
| saača | hour, time | hour, time |
| Hagz | reservation | reservation |
| maZbuuT | right, exact | right, exact |
| muftaaH | key | key |
| 'asanSiir | lift | lift |
| 'uddaam | opposite, in front | opposite, in front |
| Cala | on | on |
| yimin | right | right |
| shimaal | left | left |
| adač | I pay | 'aakul I eat |
| faaDi (f faDya) | empty, free | empty, free |

Explanations

- To ask for a room:
  Ḷandak 'ooDa?
  To specify:

  'ooDa bi
  Hammaam | bathroom
  dushsh | shower
  mayya sukha | hot water
  sirireen | two beds

  To say you've got a reservation:
  (ana) Ǧandi Hagz
  You'll be told the price per day:
  Ǧiširi | gineeh f ilyoom
  talatiin | talatiin

  kamsa w arbičin 45
One ...

waaHid (m) waHda (f)
eg yoom waaHid leela waHda

Two ...
itneen gineeh £2
itneen biira two beers
But most nouns have a special 'dual' form in which -een is added to the singular:
yoom day yomeen two days
siriir bed situreen two beds
If the noun is feminine, drop the -a and add -teen:
leela night leelteen two nights

The dual of 'hundred' (miyya) is miteen.

Hundreds
On p76 of the reference section, you will find the forms taken by numbers 3 - 9 when they precede 'hundred'. In the hotel (conversation 3) the clerk says suttumiyya (six hundred).

To ask the time:
issaa'ca kam? (lit the hour how much?) has two meanings: 'what time is it?' and 'at what time?'
To ask 'what time is ...?':
ilfiTaar issaa'ca kam? what time is breakfast?

To tell the time:
issaa'ca
talaata (it's) | three o'clock
khamsa | five o'clock
sitta w nuSS | half past six

To say 'from ... to ...':
min issaa'ca sabca l issaa'ca cashara

Directions
(ish)shimaal (the) left
(iil)ylimin (the) right
They often come after tala ('on'):
°ala | lyimin
shshimaal

'uddaam (in front, opposite)
It can be used on its own or take one of the pronouns:
'uddaamak in front of you (m)
'uddaamik in front of you (f)
'uddaamha in front of her

Verbs
More examples of '1 ...
| adfa$ | pay
| aakul | eat
| (ana) | aghayyar change
| a$ mil | make, do
| akallim | call (lit speak to)

The above are all in the first person (I) and so all begin with a-. To make the second person (you), change the a- to ti-:
tishrab 'eeh? what are you drinking?
mumkin | tidfae? can you pay?
| tighayyar? can you change?
NB mumkin taakul hina you can eat here
These are used when talking to a man. If talking to a woman, add a final -i:
tishrabi 'eeh?
mumkin | tidfae$i?
tighayyar$i?
NB mumkin takli hina

To tell someone to do something (the 'imperative'), the initial t- is dropped:
iktib (ismak) write (your name) (to a man)
iktibi (ismik) write (your name) (to a woman)
v sabca w arbi'iiin 47
iddiini (give me) is another imperative of this kind.

- Polite phrases
  Apart from the phrases you are now familiar with, like min faDleik (please), shukran (thank you) and so on, you will also hear bi kulli suruur (certainly) - an even politer version of HaaDir!

In conversation 9, Taari' says tisbaH âala kheer (good night), which shows he’s speaking to a man. To a woman, he’d have said tisbaHi âala kheer. It literally means ‘may the morning find you well’.

Additional vocabulary

- ghurfa room
- gawaaz issafar passport
- fuuTa (of tuwaTa) towel
- niDli clean
- wisikH dirty
- heedi quiet
- dawghe noise
- âalaTlaan out of order, not working
- âalaTlaan the phone’s not working
- shaghghaal working
- mish shaghghaal not working
- bi liTiTaar including breakfast
- li’ooDa li’iTiTaar bed and breakfast
- istiqbaal reception
- doorit mayya lavatory
- twalett lavatory
- takyif hawa air conditioning
- khidma service
- âalaTlaan the phone’s not working
- âalaTlaan the phone’s not working
- fiih 10%
- fiih 10%
- kam leela?
- fiih ‘ooDa Hilwa f iddoor ittaani.
- itfaDDal ilmuftaaH.
- âalaTlaan the phone’s not working
- bi sirirr waahHid walla bi sirireen?

Worth knowing

Information on accommodation, including up-to-date lists of hotels of various categories, can usually be obtained from the National Tourist Office of the country you are going to visit. This may not include much on the cheaper end of the market; if you want to live really simply, ask around on your arrival. Taxi drivers in the Middle East, as elsewhere, are usually invaluable sources of information.

48 tamanya w arbičii
49 tisča w arbičii

Exercises

1 You are booking into a hotel; check whether there is:
   a a bathroom
   b a shower
   c a telephone
   d hot water

2 Now complain that the first three are not working (âalaTlaan) and there’s no hot water!

3 Ask whether you can:
   a pay the bill
   b make a phone call
   c change some dollars

4 You want a single room for two nights; fill in your part of the conversation that follows, remembering to ask how much it costs!
   Clerk SabaaH âalkheer.
   You ...
   Clerk ayyi khidma?
   You ...
   Clerk ‘aywa, fiih. bi sirirr waahHid walla bi sirireen?
   You ...
   Clerk kam leela?
   You ...
   Clerk fiih ‘ooDa Hilwa f iddoor ittaani. itfaDDal ilmuftaaH.
   You ...
   Clerk âalaTlaan the phone’s not working
   âalaTlaan the phone’s not working
   âalaTlaan the phone’s not working
Out and about

Key expressions

- il'utiil feen? - where is the hotel?
- 'awwil taani 'urayyib (min hina) - first street near (here)
- biSiid (min hina) - far (from here)
- laazim taakhud taksi - you (m) must take a taxi
- Caawiz aruuH ilharam shuwayya kitiriir tazkara iskindriyya 'uula tanya raayiH raayiH gayy raSiif nimra kam?
- feen 'a'rab 'agzakhaana?
- imshi 'ala Tool da 'aTr iskindriyya?

Conversations

1 Asking for a free map of the town.

Taari' min faDlik? 
Clerk 'aywa?
Taari' Chandak khariiTa I ilqaahira?
Clerk 'aywa.
Taari' mumkin aakhud waHda?
Clerk itfaDDal.
Taari' shukran.
Clerk Cafwan.

2 Asking your way to Liberation Square.

Taari' min faDlik, feen midaan ittaHriir? 
Passerby 'awwil shaari ' ... (correcting herself) la', taani shaari  'ala liyimii.
Taari' shukran.
Passerby Cafwan.

3 Is Khan El Khaliili nearby?

Taari' min faDlik, khan ilKhaliili 'urayyib min hina? 
Passerby la', biSid shuwayya. laazim taakhud taksi.
Taari' shukran.
Passerby Cafwan.

4 Where is the nearest chemist's?

Tourist min faDlik, feen 'a'rab 'agzakhaana?
Passerby 'awwil shaari 'ala shshimaa.
Tourist shukran.

5 Calling a taxi ...

mu'nis taksil taksil Caawiz aruuH ilharam. 
Driver bi khamsa gineeh.
mu'nis khamsa gineeh? kitiiar arbaCa? 
Driver mumkin. itfaDDal.
mu'nis shukran.

6 ... and directing the taxi driver.

Driver feen il'utiil? 
mu'nis imshi 'ala Tool ... 
Driver (drives on) wi diwa'ti? 
mu'nis shimaal hina ... 
Driver shimaal feen? shimaal hina? 
mu'nis 'aywa. wi baCdeen taani shaari 'ala liyimii.
Driver hina? 
mu'nis 'aywa. shukran.
Driver ilCafw.

waaHid wi khamsiin
7 Finding out about planes to Aswan.
Taari' misaa' ilkeher.
Assistant misaa' innuur.
Supplier ana ẓaayiz aruuH 'aswaan.
Assistant imta?
Taari' baḍ bukra.
Assistant baḍ bukra? litneen.
Taari' 'aywa.
Assistant di'ii'a waHda. (looking in timetable)
fiih Tayyaara issaa9a itnaashar wi nuSS iSSubH, wi Tayyaara issaa9a itnaashar wi nuSS iSSubH.
Taari' shukran.
Assistant raayiH walla raayiH gayy?
Taari' raayiH gayy. Assistant raayiH gayy? sabta w arbi'iin gineeh.

8 Buying a train ticket.
Taari' tazkara i iskindriyya min faDlak.
Clerk daraga 'ula walla daraqa tanya?
Taari' daraqa 'ula.
Clerk daraqa 'ula tamanha khamsa gineeh.
Taari' (giving him the money) itfaDDal. raSiif nimra kam?
Clerk raSiif nimra arbaqa.
Taari' shukran.
Clerk ẓafwan.

9 Checking that it's the right train.
Taari' min faDlak?
Passerby 'aywa?
Taari' da 'aTr iskindriyya?
Passerby 'aywa. da 'aTr iskindriyya.
Taari' shukran.
Passerby ẓafwan.

10 zeenab is going to the Egyptian museum in Cairo.
zeenab min faDlak!
Passerby ilma'tHaf feen?
zeenab imshi Ẓala Tool, wi taani shaariC Ẓala ilymiin.
zeenab shukran.
Passerby ẓafwan.
Later zeenab bi kam ittazkara, min faDlak?
Attendant tazkara bi talaata gineeh.
zeenab iddiini tazkarteen.
Attendant itneen ... sitta gineeh.

Vocabulary
khariiTa (l ilqahira) map (of Cairo)
midaan square midaan ittaHriir Liberation Square
'awwili (f 'ula) first shaariC (pl shawaariC) street
khan ikhalili Khan El Khaliili (bazaar area of Cairo)
laazim (it is) necessary taxsi (pl taksiiyyaat) taxi
'arab nearest 'agzakhaana chemist's aruuH I go
raSiif platform dilwa'ti now
shukran week
Taari' shukran.
bi kam ittazkara?
passenger itneen ... sitta gineeh.

Explanations
To ask 'where is ...?'
'il'utiil feen? or feen il'utiil?

=aTr platform
Near or far
‘urayyib (min) near (to)
bi‘lidd (min) far (from)
da ‘urayyib min hina? is that near here?
da bi‘lidd min il‘util? is that far from the hotel?

Nearer and nearest
The key word is ‘a‘rab.
‘a‘rab ‘agzakhaana - the nearest chemist (adjective first), but
fiih ‘agzakhaana ‘a‘rab min il‘util? - is there a chemist nearer to the hotel? (adjective second).

First and second
1st ‘awwil ‘uula
2nd taani tanya
You’ll hear the masculine versions when you’re being told which street to take:
‘awwil shaari 1st on the right
‘ala ‘lamiin 1st on the right
‘ala shshamaal 2nd on the left
and the feminine versions when you’re asked if you want to travel 1st or 2nd class (notice that here they follow the noun):
daraga ‘uula walla daraga tanya?

- The ‘I’ and ‘you’ forms of ‘go’ and ‘take’ are:
aakhud I take
aruuh I go
taakhud you (m) take
tiruuH you (m) go
takhdi you (f) take
tiruuHi you (f) go

Any of these forms can follow mumkin:
mumkin aakhud waHda? can I take one?
‘aywa, mumkin taakhud waHda yes, you can take one

The imperatives of these are:
khud! (to a man) take!
khudil! (to a woman) take!

To say ‘must’:
use laazim (it is necessary), which is invariable and works like mumkin (see p38):
laazim taakhud taksi you must take a taxi
laazim tiruuH il‘util you must go to the hotel

Çawiz and Çawza (‘want’) also work like mumkin, except that there are separate masculine and feminine forms:
I want to ...
Çawiz ... a‘mil tilifoon
Çawza ... aruuH ‘aSwaan
You want to .../do you want to ...
Çawiz tishrab ‘ahwa? (to a man)
Çawza tiruuH ilharam? (to a woman)

- More times and dates
To talk about fractions of the hour, say nuSS (half), rubt (quarter) and tilt (third, ie twenty minutes):
issaat aalaat a nuSS it’s (or at) half past
issaat aalaat a rubt it’s (or at) quarter past
issaat aalaat a tilt it’s (or at) two twenty
If minutes are referred to, the ordinary numbers are used:
issaat aalaat a til ‘ashara ten past one

ruuH! (to a man) go!
ruuH! (to a woman) go!
The other verb ‘go’ which you’ll hear in street directions (meaning ‘go on’) is:
amshi I go
timshi you (m and f) go
imshil go! (m and f)
imshi ‘ala Tool go straight on!

54 arba‘a w khamsiin 05
khamsa w khamsiin 55
To say ‘a quarter to ...’ or ‘ten to ...’, use ILLA (less):
issaCa arbaCa illa rubCa a quarter to four
issaCa talasta illa Čashara/khamsa ten/five to three

Days of the week are given on p74-75, together with the months.
Yoom fitneen (lit ‘day two’ of the Muslim week) is Monday. Often yoom is omitted: fitneen.

Days of the month are simple: the appropriate number is used before the name of the month:
khamastaasher fibraayir (on) the 15th February
sitta mayyu (on) the 6th May

• In chapter 3, a girl said mumkin ašhuufha? (can I see it?), talking about the camera.
In this chapter, at the station the ticket clerk says tamanha khamas gineeh (lit its cost is £5).
The feminine -ha shows he’s talking about tazkara (ticket) - another feminine noun.

**Additional vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>muwaalaat</td>
<td>transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maHaTTal station/station</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maHaTTitter il'aTr railway station</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'utubis (pl. 'utubis)</td>
<td>bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maHaTTitter il'aTribus stop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Čarabiyya car</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[sayyaral, pl. sayyaral] car</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b il'aTr by train</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b il'aTr by bus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b il'arabiyya by car</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sawwaas' driver</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maTaar airport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asaafir</td>
<td>I travel, leave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hadri</td>
<td>early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wakhri</td>
<td>late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mafiuuH</td>
<td>open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma'faul</td>
<td>closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maktab ilbarid post office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maktab SiyaaHa tourist office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'ism bullis police station</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mustashif hospital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eifara embassy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suu’ market, bazaar</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Worth knowing**

Most towns and cities in the Middle East have a ‘bazaar’ area, part of which may specialise in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sitta w khamisiin</td>
<td>sabCa w khamisiin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
on taxi fares, and to make it clear in advance if, for example, you want the driver to wait for you and then bring you back, with the words mumkin tistanna hinaak, min faDlak? (can you wait there, please?).

There is not a tradition of hitchhiking in the Middle East, and some countries actively discourage it. In any case, buses are extremely cheap and a very good way of meeting people.

The Egyptian Museum (ilmatHaf ilmaSri) in Cairo houses the world’s most important collection of Egyptian antiquities dating back to the earliest civilisations. The collection includes monuments of the pharaohs, statues and jewellery, the treasure from the tomb of Tutankhamun and one of the great artistic masterpieces of all time - the gold mask of Tutankhamun.

Exercises
1 Tell someone ‘I want ...’:
   a to take a taxi
   b to go to the pyramids

2 Tell a man ‘You must ...’:
   a take a taxi
   b see the pyramids
   c pay the bill
   d go to the chemist’s

3 Now say the same things to a woman.

4 Tell the taxi driver to:
   a go straight on
   b turn left
   c take the first street on the right

5 You want to buy a first class return train ticket to Aswan. Fill in your part of the conversation.

   Clerk ayyi khidma? ṭaawiz tiruuH feen?
   You ...
   Clerk dáraga ‘uula walla dáraga tanya?
   You ...
   Clerk raayiH walla raayiH gayy?
   You ...
   Clerk tazkara dáraga ‘uula tamanha sitta gineeh.
   You ...
   Clerk shukran.

6 What times are being given here?
   a issaaṯa khamsa w nuSS
   b issaaṯa itneen wi rubČ
   c issaaṯa ḍaḥara w tilt
   d issaaṯa talaata illa khamsa
   e issaaṯa waHda illa rubČ

Exercise 1: Tell someone ‘I want ...’
   a to take a taxi
   b to go to the pyramids

Exercise 2: Tell a man ‘You must ...’
   a take a taxi
   b see the pyramids
   c pay the bill
   d go to the chemist’s

Exercise 3: Now say the same things to a woman.

Exercise 4: Tell the taxi driver to:
   a go straight on
   b turn left
   c take the first street on the right

Exercise 5: You want to buy a first class return train ticket to Aswan. Fill in your part of the conversation.

   Clerk ayyi khidma? ṭaawiz tiruuH feen?
   You ...
   Clerk dáraga ‘uula walla dáraga tanya?
   You ...
   Clerk raayiH walla raayiH gayy?
   You ...
   Clerk tazkara dáraga ‘uula tamanha sitta gineeh.
   You ...
   Clerk shukran.

Exercise 6: What times are being given here?
   a issaaṯa khamsa w nuSS
   b issaaṯa itneen wi rubČ
   c issaaṯa ḍaḥara w tilt
   d issaaṯa talaata illa khamsa
   e issaaṯa waHda illa rubČ
**Conversations**

1 Making an appointment by phone.

**Secretary**

'a'lo?

'ilmu diir mawguud?' is the manager in?

**Secretary**

'a'lo? min faDlik, ilmu diir mawguud?

mishi kida? isn't it?  isn't that so?

batkallim ğarabi I speak Arabic

'a'addimlak

let me introduce you to

furSa saCiida

pleased to meet you (lit a happy occasion)

Цandi mačaad (mača) I have an appointment

(kwith)

kallimni

ring me

sharraftuuna

you have honoured us

nawwartu beetna you have honoured us

mumkin awaSSalku? can I give you (pl) a lift?

mača 'alf salaama

goodbye (lit with a thousand farewells)

2 zeenab asked people in a hotel which languages they spoke. First, two girls ...

**Hostess**

itfaDDalu ... sharraftuuna.

**kaamil**

misaa' ilkheer.

**Hostess**

misaa' innuur ... ahlan wa sahlan ... itfaDDalu ... sharraftuuna.

**kaamil**

shukran.

**Hostess**

ya duktuur saami, a'addimlak ilmuhandis kaamil Hasan, zimili f ishshirka.

**Dr saami**

ahlan wa sahlan ... furSa saCiida.

itsharrafna.

3 Being introduced to someone at a party.

**kaamil**

misaa' ilkheer.

**Hostess**

misaa' innuur ... ahlan wa sahlan ...

**kaamil**

shukran.

**Hostess**

ya duktuur saami, a'addimlak ilmuhandis kaamil Hasan, zimili f ishshirka.

**Dr saami**

ahlan wa sahlan ... furSa saCiida.

itsharrafna.

4 Being offered a drink.

**Hostess**

tishrabu 'eeh ya gamaaCa? fiih 

tulli Haaga.

**kaamil**

ashrab laSiir lamuun min faDlik.

**Hostess**

w inta ya kaamil?

**kaamil**

ashrab biira min faDlik.

5 Being introduced to someone at a party.

**Hostess**

itfaDDalu ... sharraftuuna.

**kaamil**

misaa' ilkheer.

**Hostess**

misaa' innuur ... ahlan wa sahlan ... itfaDDalu ... sharraftuuna.

**kaamil**

shukran.

**Hostess**

ya duktuur saami, a'addimlak ilmuhandis kaamil Hasan, zimili f ishshirka.

**Dr saami**

ahlan wa sahlan ... furSa saCiida.

itsharrafna.

6 Business and pleasure

**Key expressions**

ilmudiir mawguud? is the manager in?

mishi kida? isn't it?  isn't that so?

batkallim ğarabi I speak Arabic

'a'addimlak

let me introduce you to

furSa saCiida

pleased to meet you (lit a happy occasion)

Цandi mačaad (mača) I have an appointment

(kwith)

kallimni

ring me

sharraftuuna

you have honoured us

nawwartu beetna you have honoured us

mumkin awaSSalku? can I give you (pl) a lift?

mača 'alf salaama

goodbye (lit with a thousand farewells)
5 Are you happy in Cairo?
Host inta mabSuut fi maSr?
kaamil ‘aywa, mabkuT ‘awi, innaas luTaaf giddan.
Host w inti ya madaam?
leela mabSuTu ‘awi, ilHamdu littaah. bass ilgaww Harr shuwayya, mish kida?

6 Telling someone your plans.
kaamil čandi mačaad mač maHmuud makkaawi bukra. tičrafu.
Host ‘aywa, raagil laTiif giddan. ilmačaad issaač a kam?
kaamil issaač a khamsa w nuSS.
Host inta w huuwa bass?
kaamil la’, ana w issayyid aHmad khaalid. raagil ‘ačmaal kuweeti.

7 Dinner is served!
Hostess čaSiir taani, ya madaam?
leela la’, shukran, kifaayaa kida.
Hostess haniyyan ... il‘akl gaaahiz, ya gamaaca atfaDalu.

8 Asking someone to ring you.
kaamil min faDlak, ya duktuur, kallimni yoom ilkhamiis ISSubH. nimrit tilifooni ilbeet khamsa sabča talaata waaHid Sifr itneen. wi tilifoon ilmakaabt, arbača sitta tamanya khamsa waaHid waaHid. Tayyib, in sha‘allaah.

Dr saami

9 And farewells.
kaamil Hafla mumtaaza, ya madaam. tislam ideeki. tiSbaHu čala kheer.
Hostess tiSbaHu čala kheer.

62 itneen wi sittiin

Dr saami čandi sayyaaraa. mumkin awaSSalku?
kaamil la’, shukran. ilhutiil ‘urayyib min hina.
Hostess mača sssalaamal mača ’alfi salaamal

Vocabulary
mawguud in, present sayyid Mr mačaad appointment ’alf a thousand bititkallim(l) you speak batkallim I speak ċárabi Arabic ingilizi English faransaawi French almaani German nuSS nuSS so so zimiil (pl zamaayil) colleague ghirka (pl shirikaat) company kuweeti Kuwaiiti iyaa, ma’am Sifr zero

Explanations
- To make an appointment with ...:
mumkin ačmil mačaad mača ...?
to which you add the time, day, etc.
- To ask ‘Do you know him?’: tičrafu?
and ‘Do you know her?’: tičrafa?
b- or bi- is used before verbs if the action is ongoing or habitual
ana batkallim ċarbi bashrab biira 'I drink (or am drinking) beer'

a‘addim means 'I introduce'.
With -lak (m) or -lik (f), it means 'I introduce to you ...
A‘addim lak kaamil Hasan let me introduce kaamil Hasan to you (talking to a man)

The imperative of akallim (I talk to) is kallim. -ni (me) can be added to it: kallimni talk to me/call me

More plurals
Adjectives, like nouns, have plural forms, but they are only used when referring to human beings.
Lu Таaf is the plural of laTiif (nice):
Innaas lu Таaf the people are nice
NB Plural nouns not referring to human beings take the feminine singular adjective:
Issandwitshaat kwayyisa the sandwiches are nice
Shikaat siyaHiyya travellers cheques

ItfaDDalu is the plural form of itfaDDal or itfaDDali; you might hear it when somebody is inviting everyone to come and eat.

TiSbaHu ċala kheer (good night) is the plural of tiSbaH(i) ċala kheer.

The commonest way of referring to a man politely is to use issayyid (Mr) followed by both his first and second names: Issayyid John Bates. The equivalent term for a woman is madaam, and for a girl, 'anisa.

idduktuur and iddaktuura (Dr) are used before someone’s first or second name.
Il’ustaaz and Il’ustaaza (lit Professor) are often used as a polite title for anyone with literary or academic qualifications.
Other job titles like ilmuhandis (engineer) are also used to introduce someone.
When addressing people, any of the following might be appropriate.
Ya duktuur(a)
Il’ustaaz(a)
sayyid kamaal
madaam

Worth knowing
Social visits in Arab countries can involve a wealth of polite exchanges of welcome and appreciation, some of which have cropped up in previous chapters.
If you are invited home, you might well hear sharraftuuna (lit you have honoured us), which can be said at the beginning or the end of a visit.
When being introduced, a common expression is furSa sačida (pleased to meet you, lit a happy occasion), and also itsharraft (I am honoured) and itsharrafnna (we are honoured).
In business dealings, a common way of wishing someone ‘good luck’ is bittawfiq (lit with success), not forgetting the usual in sha’allaah.
To thank someone and say you’ve had enough, say: shukran, kifaaya kida. The reply will often be: han liyan (glad you enjoyed it, lit with enjoyment), which is used after either food or drink.

64 arbača w sittiin

khamsa w sittiin 65
To compliment the hostess on her hospitality:

tislam ideeki (/lit bless your hands)

As you leave someone's home, you will often hear

nawwartu beetna (you have brought light to our house) and mača 'alfi salaama (with a thousand goodbyes).

Additional vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>miraati</th>
<th>my wife</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>miraatok</td>
<td>your wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goozi</td>
<td>my husband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goozik</td>
<td>your husband</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

walad (pl 'awaald)  son, child
SaaHib (pl 'aSHaab) friend (m)
SaHba  friend (f)

Exercises

1 You're making a phone call. Ask if the following people are in:
   a the director
   b Dr White
   c Mr kamaal gindi'
   d Mrs zeenab

2 Which of the following expressions would you use A as a host or hostess, B as a guest?
   a sharrartuuna
   b tislam 'ideeki
   c 'alfi shukr
   d mača 'alfi salaama
   e nawwartu beetna

3 Read the following dialogue aloud twice then answer the questions that follow.

**Hostess** misaa' ilkheer ya duktuur ashraf.
ahlan wa sahlan, nawwarti beetna.

**Guest** ahlan biiki, izzayyik?

**Hostess** kwayyisa, ilHamdu lillaah ...

iftaDDal ... tishrab 'eeh?

4 Ask a business acquaintance if you can see him ....
   a tomorrow
   b tomorrow afternoon
   c at half past four
   d on Monday
   e on Thursday morning
   f the day after tomorrow
   g in the hotel
   h at home

Abu Simbel

66 sitta w sittiin  67
Can you ‘GET BY’?

When you have finished the course, try your hand at this test. There is a possible maximum score of 65 points. Check your answers on p80. You might like to keep a record of your score, try the test again after a few days and see if you have improved.

First contacts
1 Say ‘good evening’.
2 Reply to SababH ilkheer.
3 Reply to ahlán wa sahlan.
4 Ask a woman how she is.
5 Ask a man when you’ll see him.
6 Ask a woman where she’s from.
7 Say you’re from England.
8 Say you’re not from here.
9 Say you’re a student (female).
10 Say thank you very much.
11 Say goodnight (to a couple).

Eating and drinking
Ask for the following:
12 two coffees and a tea
13 the menu, please (to the waiter)
14 three orange juices
15 one chicken and two grilled fish
16 a cheese sandwich
17 a vegetable soup
18 the bill, please (to a waitress)

Now ask:
19 what sandwiches there are.
20 what juices he’s got.
21 if there’s any wine here.
22 where the restaurant is.
23 what time breakfast is.

Shopping
Ask the price of:
24 that galabiyya ...
25 ... and that red one
26 the large bag
27 a kilo of potatoes
28 four stamps for England

Say:
29 That bag is very expensive.
30 Can I see a bigger size?
31 I want to buy a film for this camera.
32 Have you got a map of Cairo? (to a man)
33 Impossible. That’s very expensive (referring to a souvenir camel).

Out and about
Ask for:
34 A ticket to Aswan ...
35 ... second class ...
36 ... return.

Say:
37 I want to go to the pyramids (you’re a man).
38 I want to go the day after tomorrow (you’re a woman).
39 Is the museum near here?
40 Where’s the nearest telephone?
41 Is there a plane in the afternoon?
42 Can I take a taxi?
43 Straight on here and second street on the left.
44 Is this the train for Port Said?

In a hotel
45 Ask the receptionist if he has a room with bath.
46 Say you haven’t got a reservation.
47 Ask if you can make a phone call from here.
48 Say you want to change some sterling.
49 Say ‘room number 213’.

1* tis' a w sittiin 69
Ask where the lavatory is.
Say you have travellers cheques.
Say the phone isn’t working.
Say ‘that’s for you’ (when tipping a man).

Social encounters
Ask:
What would you like to drink? (to a man)
Do you speak English? (to a woman)
Do you know Dr Saami? (to a man)
Are you happy in London? (to a woman)
Another juice?

Say:
I have an appointment with Mr Hasan ...
... at half past three.
Cairo is very big, isn’t it?
What languages do you speak? (to a woman)
You speak a little Arabic ...
... and French so so.

Finally, wish someone success.

Language notes

• Nouns and adjectives
  il- is prefixed to definite nouns and adjectives:
  ‘akl kwayyis nice food
  il’akl ilkwayyis the nice food

• A final -a indicates the feminine:
  mudarris laTiif a nice teacher (m)
  mudarrisa laTiifa a nice teacher (f)

• Demonstratives (this/that/these/those)
  da (m), di (f) and dool (pl) are added to definite nouns:
  il’akl da this/that food
  ilmudiira di this/that manageress
  innaas dool these/those people
  da, di and dool can be used by themselves when referring to masculine, feminine or plural nouns:
  da kwayyis that (m) is fine
  di kibiira that (f) one is big
  dool min landan those are from London

• Plurals
  -aat is often added to the singular:
  dolaar - dolaraat sandwitsh - sandwitshaat
  More usually the word changes internally, following one of half a dozen different ‘patterns’. You just have to learn which plural pattern each noun takes.
  The commonest patterns:
  kart kuruut ‘irsh ‘uruush
  shanTa shunaT furSa furaS

  waahid wI sabtiin
maktab makaatib
tazkara tazaakir
ma{T}am maTaa9im
sigaara sagaayir
isbuut asabiit
SaaHib ‘aSHaab
walad ‘awlaad
nooC ‘anwaaC

After a plural noun a feminine singular adjective is usually used:
sandwitshaat kibiira big sandwiches
but the plural form of the adjective is used if the noun refers to human beings:
naas luTaaf nice people

This is a common pattern for plural adjectives:
Sughayyar Sughaar

The dual
Instead of using the number ‘two’, the noun takes the ‘dual’ ending -een:
yoom day yomeen two days
In feminine nouns the -a ending changes to -teen:
Haaga thing Hagteen two things
When ordering food or drink, the singular noun is used with all numbers:
Itneen biira two beers
arbaC a shaay four teas

Comparatives and superlatives
The same basic pattern is used to make both the comparative (eg bigger) and superlative (eg biggest)
kibiir big ‘akbar bigger, biggest
rikhiS cheap ‘arkhaS cheaper, cheapest
When it means ‘bigger’, ‘cheaper’ etc, it follows the noun:
Haaga ‘arkhaS something cheaper
and it comes before the noun when it means ‘biggest’, ‘cheapest’, etc:
‘arkhaS Haaga the cheapest thing

Pronouns
As the subject of a sentence they take the following forms:
aná I
inta you (m)
inti you (f)
huwwa he
hiyya she

Following a noun or preposition they take the forms:
-i beeti my home
ak beetak your (m) home
-it beetik your (f) home
-u beetu his home
-ha beetha her home
-na beetna our home
-ku beetu (pi) home
-hum beethum their home

After a preposition:
‘uddaami in front of me
čandu lit with him, ie he has

After verbs, almost the same forms are used; only the ‘me’ form is different:
kallim speak to kallimni speak to me

A regular verb in the present tense:
ashrab I drink
nishrab we drink
tishrab you (m) drink
tjshrabu you(pl) drink
tyishrab he drinks
tjishrab she drinks

ie various prefixes and suffixes are added to the base -shrab-
These forms can follow mumkin (can), laazim (must) and Caawiz or tawza (want):
mumkin ashrab? can I drink?
laazim tishrab you (m) must drink
čawiza yishrab he wants to drink

Vr

Vr
talaata w sabćiin
• bi- precedes the verb if the action is habitual or ongoing:
  hiyya bitishrab mayya she (usually) drinks (or is now drinking) water
  bititkallim ingiliizi? do you speak English?

• Imperatives
  The initial t- of the second person is lost:
  ishrab! drink!
  ishrabi! drink! (f)
  ishrabu! drink! (pi)
  For verbs like aṣhuuf (see) and aruuH (go), where the base begins with a single consonant, the initial -i is lost as well:
  shuuf! look!
  shuufi! look! (f)
  shuufu! look! (pi)

• Negatives
  In ‘verbless’ sentences like
  ana min landan I (am) from London
  huwwa laTiif he (is) kind, pleasant
  mish is inserted:
  ana mish min landan
  huwwa mish laTiif etc
  With verbs, ma- and -sh are placed before and after the verb:
  mayishuufsh he doesn’t see
  The same is true for fili and ċand-:
  mafiish ‘akl there is no food
  maČandiish sayyaara I don’t have a car
  maČandaksh sandwitshaat? don’t you have sandwiches?

• Days of the week
  yoom litneen Monday
  yoom ittalaat Tuesday
  74 arbača w sabčiin

• Months of the year
  yanaayir January
  fibraayir February
  maeris March
  abrili April
  mayyu May
  yunyu June
  huwwa laTiif he (is) kind, pleasant
  mish is inserted:
  ana mish min landan
  huwwa mish laTiif etc
  With verbs, ma- and -sh are placed before and after the verb:
  mayishuufsh he doesn’t see
  The same is true for fili and ċand-:
  mafiish ‘akl there is no food
  maČandiish sayyaara I don’t have a car
  maČandaksh sandwitshaat? don’t you have sandwiches?

• Numbers
  0 Sifr
  1 waahHid
  2 itneen
  3 1arbača
  4 khamastaashar
  5 sabča
  6 tamantaashar
  7 tisča
  8 shuuf!
  9 tisatashaashar
  10 shuufi!
  11 tisatashaashar
  12 tisatashaashar
  13 tisatashaashar
  14 arbačtaashar
  15 khamastaashar
  16 sittaashar
  17 sabč atashaashar
  18 tamantaashar
  19 tisča
  20 ċishriin
  30 talatiin
  40 arbičiin
  50 khamsiin
  60 sittiin
  70 sabčiin
  80 tamaniin
  90 tisčiin
  75 khamsiin
  11 days
  30 students
  To make numbers like twenty-five, fifty-three,
say 'five and twenty', 'three and fifty':

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Equivalent in English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Khamsa w Cishriin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Talaata w Khamsiin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100 miyya 1000 'alf
200 miteen 2000 'alfeen
300 tulumiyya 3000 talat alaaf
400 rub'umiyya 4000 arba't alaaf
500 khumsumiyya 5000 khamast alaaf
600 suttumiyya 6000 sitt alaaf
700 sub'umiyya 7000 saba't alaaf
800 tunnumiyya 8000 tamant alaaf
900 tus'umiyya 9000 tisa'at alaaf

When 100 - 900 are followed by a noun, -miyya becomes -miit:

- £400 rub'umiit gineeh
- 300,000 tulumiit 'alf
- 400,000 rub'umiit 'alf

Key to exercises

Chapter 1

1 a ana min ingiltira.
   b ismi John.
2 a ana min maSr. (or ana min iqaahira).
   b ismi Taari'.
3 a afternoon or evening.
   b morning
   c any time of day
4 a misaa' innuur.
   b Sabaah innuur.
   c ahlan bik(i).
5 a ahlwan wa sahlan. ismak 'eeh?
   b inta mineen?
6 a ahlwan wa sahlan. ismik 'eeh?
   b inti mineen?
7 a Sabaah ilkheer ya mu'nis.
   b (inta) izzayyak?
   c aghuufak imta?
   d in sha'allaah.

Chapter 2

1 a Casiir burTu'aan min faDlak.
   b itneeen bilra min faDlak.
   c sandwitsih min faDlak.
   d 'ahwa maZbuuT min faDlak.
   e shurbit khudar min faDlak.
   f ilHisaab min faDlak.
2 min faDlak would become min faDlik.

Chapter 3

1 a a big bag
   b the big bag
   c the bag is big
   d this bag is big

2 a Cankad kuuruust buSTaal min faDlak?
   b Cankad Tawaabit min faDlak?
   c Cankad film mulawwan min faDlak?
   d Cankad shanTa kibiira min faDlak?
   e Cankad gallabiyya Hamra?

3 a mumkin aghuuf gallabiyya?
   b mumkin aghuuf ikamera di?
   c mumkin aghuuf ma'as 'akbar?
   d mumkin aghuuf Sanf 'arkhaS?

4 a bi kam kilu iburTu'aan?
   b bi kam nuSS kilu illamuun?
   c bi kam itnee kilu ilmuooz?
   d bi kam nuSS kilu issukkar?

5 a di ghalya 'awi
   b da ghaali 'awi
   c da ghaali 'awi
   d di ghalya 'awi

Chapter 2

1 a Casiir burTu'aan min faDlak.
   b itneeen bilra min faDlak.
   c sandwitsih min faDlak.
   d 'ahwa maZbuuT min faDlak.
   e shurbit khudar min faDlak.
   f ilHisaab min faDlak.
2 min faDlak would become min faDlik.

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   c Cankad film mulawwan min faDlak?
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   e Cankad gallabiyya Hamra?

3 a mumkin aghuuf gallabiyya?
   b mumkin aghuuf ikamera di?
   c mumkin aghuuf ma'as 'akbar?
   d mumkin aghuuf Sanf 'arkhaS?

4 a bi kam kilu iburTu'aan?
   b bi kam nuSS kilu illamuun?
   c bi kam itnee kilu ilmuooz?
   d bi kam nuSS kilu issukkar?

5 a di ghalya 'awi
   b da ghaali 'awi
   c da ghaali 'awi
   d di ghalya 'awi
Chapter 4
1 a fiih Hammaam?
  b fiih dushsh?
  c fiih tilifoo?
  d fiih mayya sukhna?
2 a ilHammaam LaTlaan.
  b iddushsh LaTlaan.
  c irtilifoon LaTlaan.
  d mafiish mayya sukhna.
3 a mumkin adfa. ilHisaab?
  b mumkin a’mil tilifoon?
  c mumkin aghayyar dolaraat?
4 SabaaH innuur.
  fiih ’ooDa faDya?
  bi sirir weaHid.
  lelteen.
  bi kam il’ooDa?

Chapter 5
1 Ăawiz ... (or Ăawza ...)  
  a aakhud taksi.
  b aruuH ilharam.
  c aruuH il’util.
  d aruuH ilmatHaf.
  e tazkara li’aSwaan.
2 laazim ...  
  a taakhud taksi.
  b tishuuf ilharam.
  c tidfaC ilHisaab.
  d tiruuH il’agzakhaana.
3 laazim  
  a takhdi taksi
  b tishuufi ilharam.
  c tidfaCilHisaab.
  d tiruuH il’agzakhaana
4 a (imsa) Ăala Tool.
  b (imsb) Ăala shghimaal.
  c (taakhud) awwil shariC Ăala lyimiin.

78 tamanya w sabčiin

\[\begin{align*}
5.30 & \quad 2.15 & \quad 10.20 & \quad 2.55 & \quad 12.45
\end{align*}\]

Chapter 6
1 a ilmudiir mawguud?
  b idduktuur White mawguud?
  c issayyd kamaal gindi mawguud?
  d madaam zeenab mawguuda?
2 a A B C D e A
  b afternoon or evening
  c Dr aghraf
  d mineral water
  e Mr khaalid gamaal
  f He’s a businessman from Baghdad.
4 mumkin asguufak  
  a bukra?
  b bukra ba’d IDDuhr?
  c issaCa arbela w nuSS?
  d (yoom) itneen?
  e (yoom) ilkhamis ISSubH?
  f ba’d bukra?
  g f il’util?
  h f ilbeet?
Answers to ‘Can you get by?’

1. misaa’ ilheer.
2. SabaaH innuur.
3. ahlun bik (to a man); ahlun biki (to a woman)
4. izzayyk?
5. a$huuufak inta?
6. inti mineen?
7. ana min inglitira.
8. ana migh min hina.
9. ana Taaliba.
10. ‘alf shukr.
11. tSiBahu tala kheer.
12. itneen ‘ahwa w waaHid shaay.
13. izzayyik?
14. ashuufak imta?
15. inti mineen?
16. ana min ingiltira.
17. ana mish min hina.
18. ana Taaliba.
19. ‘alf shukr.
20. itneen ‘ahwa w waaHid shaay.
21. ilHisaab, min faDlik.
22. ilMaTtam feen?
23. ilfiTaar issaata kam?
24. bi kaimgallabiyya di ...?
25. ... w iHamra di?
26. bi kam iSshaaHa Taa kiibiira?
27. bi kam kii kuTaTaasTi?
28. bi kam arbaat. Taaawaab, l inglitira?
29. iShahaaTa di ghalya ‘awi.
30. mumkin a$huuuf ma’aaas ‘akbar?
31. iLawiv (or iLawaa) film l ilkamara di?
32. iLandaa khaaTiTa i ilqaaahira?
33. mish mumkin. da ghala ‘awi.
34. tazkara li ‘aSwaan
35. ...darga tanya
36. ...raayiH gayr.
37. iLawiv arruuh ibaharam.
38. iLawaa aruuh ba’d bukra.
39. ilMaTaa huryyib min hina?
40. feen ‘a’rab tilifoon?
41. fih TaaYyaara IDDuHuh?
42. mumkin aakjuth taks?
43. iLaal Tool hina wi taanii shaarii. iLaal shshmaa.
44. da ‘aTr buur sa’cid?
45. iLandak ‘ooDa bi Hammaam?
46. ma’andishi Hagz.
47. mumkin aCtil tilifoon min hina.

80 tamaniin

81 waaHid wi tamaniin
Word list

The following is a list of the words appearing in the conversations in the six chapters.
The alphabetical order used is:
'a b d D e f g h H i k h l m n o q r s s t T u v w y z z ğ ġ ħ k l m n o q r s S

In addition, related forms are shown thus wherever they seem valuable:
plural: Suura (pl Suwar)
masculine: Hamra (m 'ahmar)
feminine: gaahiz (f gaahza)

Verbs are given in the first person singular form, eg
ašhišir i buy
ašhuuf i see
so if you are looking for the words tishrāb or tīcrāf, look under ašhrāb or ačraf. A fuller list of verb forms can be found on p73-74.

'ašrāb nearer, nearest
'aasīf (f 'asfa) sorry
'agiqāhaana chemist
'ahwa coffee
'aHsān better, best
'akbar bigger, biggest
'akl food
'afl a thousand
'alī shukr many thanks
'alī hāllo (on phone)
'arkheS cheaper, cheapest
'asānSir lift
'asfa sorry (f)
'ašwaan Aswan
'aTr train
'awi very
'awwāl (f 'uula) first
'aywa yes
'eeh? what?
'irāb (pl 'uruub) piastre
'izāza bottle
'ooDa (pl 'owaD) room
'uddaam in front of
'u'maash material

aruuH i go (to)
aghrāb i drink
ašhtar i buy
ašhuuf i see
atkallim i speak
aawaSSal i give a lift
ayyi khidma can i help you; don't mention it
ačmil tilītoon i make a phone call
ačraf i know
b
balad town, country
bank bank
banyu bath
babuuru passport
bass but; only
baSal onion
batkallim i speak
baTaTis potatoes
bačd after
baČd bukra (the) day after
tomorrow
baČḏ Ḻ̱̱̱́́dean later, then
baida (DDuhr) afternoon
beeD eggs
beet (pl buyuut) house, home
bi with
bi balaagh free, for nothing
bi kam? how much?
bi kheer fine, well
bi kull surūūn with the greatest pleasure; certainly
bira beer
bisliSila peas
bičlid (min) far (from)
bukra tomorrow
buRTu'aan orange
buur sačlid Port Said
d
da this, that (m)
dāraga class
di this, that (f)
di'ii'a moment, minute
diwa'ti now
dolaaar (pl dolaraat) dollar
door floor
duktuur (f -a) doctor
duSHaH shower
d
Duhr (afternoon)
f
faaDi (f faDya) empty, free
talaaafî chicken peas or beans
faransaawi French
farawla strawberry
feen? where?
fi, fī, at
fiīth there is/are
film (pī 'alaam) film
fīrawtâ breakfast
fursa sačldīs pleased to meet you
fuul cooked beans
g
gaahiz (f gaahza) ready
galabīyya (pl -aat)
galabīyya
gamaal aAgī everyone
gambari prawns
gawalaaf guava
gaww weather
ghinna cheese
giddan very
gineah pound
grepfruut grapefruit
gh
ghaali (f ghalay) expensive
h
haniiyyan glad you enjoyed it
harram pyramids
hina here
hinnaak there
hiyya she
hustīl hotel
huwwa he

H
HaaDir certainly, at once
Maaga (pl Maagat) thing, something

82 itteen wi tamanin

83 talaata w tamanin
Kamera camera  
kart (pl kuruut) busTaal postcard 
kibir big 
kiba lver 
kida like that, so  
kifaaya - enough  
kini a lot, much, many  
kufa meat balls 
kull each, every  
kuweesi Kuwaiti  
kwyayis fine, well  

kh  
khamas five  
khans lanikhalli Khan El  
khalil  
khariTa map  
khidma service  
kuDaar vegetables  

la' no  
lazim it is necessary, have to, must  
lamuun lemon  
landan London  
lTil (pl luTaaf) nice, pleasant  
leela (pl laYaali) night  
li to, for  
limeen Monday  
lughla (pl laaat) language  
m  
am'aas size  
maSuuT happy  
malfish there isn't/aren't  
maktab (pl makaTibi) office  
malyaan full  
manga mango  
masr Egypt, Cairo (see p19)  
mashwi grilled  
mashhat museum  
maTaam (pl maTaaLim) restaurant  
mawguud available, in 
mauya (ma-daaniya) (mineral) water  
maZbuuT right; exact;  

medium sweet  
maaa with  
maC saalaamaa goodbye  
maCaad appointment  
maCandish I haven't  
maDhaan square  
maDhaan ifHaar Liberation Square  
min from  
mineen? where from?  
in faDlik please (to a man)  
in faDlik please (to a woman)  
minyu menu  
misaa' ilkheer good  
amenoon/evening  
misaa' innuur reply to  
misaa' ilkheer  
mish not  
mish kidaa? isn't it?, isn't that so?  
miteen two hundred  
mir metre  
mudarris (f a) teacher  
mudir (f a) manager, director  
mutfaaH key  
muhandis (f a) engineer  
mulawwan coloured, in colour  
mumkin it is possible  
munmtaaz lovely, splendid  

n  
naaas people  
nawwartu beetaa you have honoured us  
nibii wine  
nimra number  
nimrit tiliifoon telephone number  
nuSaah half  
nuSaah nuSaah so so  
nuoba nobia  

medium sweet  
maaa with  
maC saalaamaa goodbye  
maCaad appointment  
maCandish I haven't  
maDhaan square  
maDhaan ifHaar Liberation Square  
min from  
mineen? where from?  
in faDlik please (to a man)  
in faDlik please (to a woman)  
minyu menu  
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mish not  
mish kidaa? isn't it?, isn't that so?  
miteen two hundred  
mir metre  
mudarris (f a) teacher  
mudir (f a) manager, director  
mutfaaH key  
muhandis (f a) engineer  
mulawwan coloured, in colour  
mumkin it is possible  
munmtaaz lovely, splendid  

raSiif platform  
rRiSiS cheap  
rubC quarter  
ruzz rice  

s  
sa'a cold  
saaSa hour, time  
sabaaanik spinach  
sabii seven  
sabiiin seventy  
samak fish  
sandu' box  
sandwitsh (pl sat) sandwich  
sayyaaraa (pl sayyaraat) car  
sayyid Mr  
siriir bed  
sitta six  
sittiiin sixty  
sukha hot  
sutumiiya six hundred  

S  
Sabaah ilkheer good morning  
Sabaah innuur reply to  
Sabaah ilkheer  
Sanf (pl 'aShnaaf) kind, sort  
Sifr zero  
SubH morning  
Sura (pl Suwar) picture  

sh  
shaaarih (pl shaaarii) street  
ghay tea  
shaaaTbaa lshuna bag  
sharratunya you have honoured us  
shik (pl shikaat) siyaHiyya  
travellers cheque  
shika bubble bubble  
shimaal left  
shirka (pl shirikaat) company  
shukran thank you  
shurba soup  
shuwayya a little, quite  

r  
raaqil (pl riggaal) man  
raaqil aCmaal businessman  
raayH single  
raayH gayy return  

84 arbaaC w tamaniin  

khamas w tamaniin 85
An introduction to Arabic writing

The purpose of this section is to help you recognise public signs, posters, notices and the like which you will see on visits to Arab countries. Arabic is written from right to left, and its alphabet has 29 letters. Most of these letters are easy to pronounce for English speakers, as equivalent sounds exist in English (see Pronunciation guide, p8). The Arabic alphabet and the corresponding transcriptions are as follows:

86 sitta w tamaniin
1. The following letters never join the letter following them.

2. The following letters 'shrink' when they are joined up, i.e., they become narrower.

3. The following letters lose their tails or 'flourishes' when they join. The letters are still easily recognisable after their tails are cut.

4. The final letter in all words is written in full, that is to say, it retains its original shape as given in the alphabet list above.

5. The following table shows those letters that change depending on whether they come at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of a word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ء</td>
<td>ج</td>
<td>جم</td>
<td>ح</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>جب</td>
<td>جد</td>
<td>جول</td>
<td>ح</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>مه</td>
<td>مع</td>
<td>مع</td>
<td>ح</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>نه</td>
<td>مع</td>
<td>مع</td>
<td>ح</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>يه</td>
<td>مع</td>
<td>مع</td>
<td>ح</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: ی is a feminine ending, so it is always a final letter. If joined to the previous letter, it is ی. The final letter ی can stand for a final 'a'.

The following shows how separate letters join together to form words according to the above rules. We have used each letter in the three possible positions - beginning, middle and end. Translations are not given as the words are intended simply as examples of the appearance of the writing system. Remember, you are reading from right to left.

88 tamanya w tamanin

89 tisca w tamanin
Here is a list of some of the words and phrases you will be most likely to see on signs and notices. They are given with (a) a ‘spoken’ form following the transliteration system explained on pp8-10 and (b) an English translation.

menu  ilminyu
restaurant  maTcam
hotel  hutiil
hotel  funduq
WC  doori mayya

90 tisqiiin  91  waaHid wi tisqiiin  91
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gents</td>
<td>للرجال</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ladies</td>
<td>للسيدات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>danger</td>
<td>خطر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exit</td>
<td>خروج</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no entry</td>
<td>ممنوع الدخول</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no smoking</td>
<td>ممنوع الدخان</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no photographs</td>
<td>ممنوع التخليص</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no parking</td>
<td>ممنوع وقوف السيارات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bus stop</td>
<td>موقف الأوتوبوس</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taxi rank</td>
<td>موقف التاكسي</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>car park</td>
<td>موقف السيارات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post office</td>
<td>مكتب البريد</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>information office</td>
<td>مكتب الاستعلامات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>information</td>
<td>الاستعلامات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tourist office</td>
<td>مكتب السياحة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ticket window</td>
<td>شباك التذاكر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bank</td>
<td>مصر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bank de change</td>
<td>مصرف تعريب العملة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the airport</td>
<td>إلى المطار</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the station</td>
<td>إلى المحطة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>قفت</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>customs</td>
<td>الجمارك</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>passports and visas</td>
<td>الجوازات والتأشيرات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>embassy</td>
<td>سفارة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consulate</td>
<td>قنصلية</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>museum</td>
<td>متحف</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exhibition</td>
<td>معرض</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company</td>
<td>شركة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telephone</td>
<td>التليفون</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telephone</td>
<td>التليفون</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telegrams</td>
<td>تليفيونات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hospital</td>
<td>مستشفى</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chemist's</td>
<td>أجراسة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>police station</td>
<td>قسم البوليس</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talaata w tisqin</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92 itneen wi tisqin</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In much of the Arab world, the following figures are used:

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

Compound numbers are written from left to right as in English.

1985
Tel: 351476
7864315

NB In north-west Africa, the original (Arabic) numbers have been retained: 1, 2, 3 ...