

Conversational

ARABIC

in 7 Days

- **Develop your confidence with interactive exercises**
- **More than 750 key phrases for all travel situations**
- **Organized for quick and easy reference on the go**

*Master Language Survival Skills
in Just One Week!*

Samy Abu-Taleb

Conversational

ARABIC

in 7 Days

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in Just One Week!*

Samy Abu-Taleb

McGraw-Hill

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INTRODUCTION

Arabic in a Week is a short course which will equip you to deal with everyday situations when you visit any of the Arab countries: introducing yourself, asking for directions, booking accommodation, changing money, shopping, eating out, using the phone, using public transport and so on.

The course is divided into 7 units, each corresponding to a day of the week. Different topics are introduced in each unit to illustrate basic Arabic which can be used by tourists or business people during a short stay in an Arabic speaking country. Each unit includes short introductions to the topics covered, dialogues in everyday situations, lists of key words and phrases with their English equivalent, essential grammatical explanations, and exercises for practising spoken Arabic.

A key to exercises is given at the back of this book. English–Arabic vocabulary is listed under topic headings pp. 79–85 followed by an Arabic–English Vocabulary starting on p. 86.

What kind of Arabic?

There are two main varieties of Arabic: literary and colloquial. Literary Arabic is more formal. In its written form, it is used in official documents, newspapers, books, and formal letters. In its spoken form, it is used in public speeches, religious sermons, radio and television news bulletins and documentary programmes. Literary Arabic is standard and is used and understood by educated people in all the Arab countries. A table of the Arab countries is given on p. 91.

Colloquial Arabic is the spoken variety used for everyday purposes: at home, in the shops, offices, hotels, restaurants and places of entertainment. Due to the vast area of the Arab world, colloquial Arabic varies from country to country. Nevertheless, the dialect used in Cairo (the capital of Egypt) is recognised and understood almost everywhere in the Arab world. It is known as Cairene or Egyptian Arabic. Almost everyone in the Arab world is exposed to Egyptian Arabic as a result of listening to Egyptian radio programmes, importing Egyptian television programmes, videos and films and buying cassettes and records of Egyptian popular songs. In addition, millions of Egyptians travel to other Arab countries and millions of Arabs from other countries travel to Egypt for business, education and holidays.

The Arabic taught in this book is Egyptian Arabic. Some words and phrases which are used in non-Egyptian Arabic are also included wherever appropriate.

Pronunciation

Most of the sounds of Arabic are similar to the sounds of English. Only six or seven might be unfamiliar to English speakers. Arabic has its own alphabet of 29 letters, and is usually written from right to left in its own script (see p. 92).

INTRODUCTION

In this book, however, Arabic sounds are represented by English letters, and written from left to right. Some English capital letters are used to represent certain Arabic sounds different from those represented by the corresponding small letters.

Some key words which visitors to Arab countries might need to recognise on signs or notice-boards are also written in Arabic and are introduced in the relevant chapters of the book.

The sounds of Arabic are divided into vowels and consonants. **Vowels** are either short or long.

Short vowels

a as in about, postman, e.g. *samak* (fish)
i as in bit, his, e.g. *bint* (girl)
u as in put, foot, e.g. *ruzz* (rice)

Long vowels

aa as in hand, e.g. *salaam* (peace)
ee as in feed, e.g. *sheek* (cheque)
ou as in dome, e.g. *youn* (day)
oo as in room, e.g. *lamoona* (lemon)
ei as in name, e.g. *beit* (house)

Note: **a** and **aa** are both influenced by certain consonants near them. The word *baTT*, for example, is pronounced like the English *but*, because of the **T** sound. The **aa** in the word *DaabiT* is pronounced like the *a* in *calm*, because of the **D** sound.

Consonants

The following Arabic consonants are similar to English ones.

b	<i>book</i>	g	<i>game</i>	l	<i>look</i>
d	<i>day</i>	h	<i>home</i>	m	<i>man</i>
f	<i>fun</i>	k	<i>king</i>	n	<i>noon</i>
r	<i>room</i> (<i>r</i> is always pronounced in Arabic regardless of its position in the word.)				
s	<i>say</i>	t	<i>ten</i>	y	<i>yes</i>
sh	<i>shine</i>	w	<i>well</i>	z	<i>zero</i>

Please note that there are no **p** or **v** sounds in Arabic. Small **p** is usually replaced by **b** as in *bansyoun* for *pension*, and **v** is replaced by **f** as in *karnafaal* for *carnival*.

The Arabic consonants represented by the capital letters **S, D, T, Z** are vocal versions of **s, d, t, z**. You need to open your mouth as if you are saying *aaH* and make the sound at the back of your mouth.

S	<i>SabaaH</i> = morning	T	<i>Tayyib</i> = O.K.
D	<i>beiD</i> = eggs	Z	<i>Zareef</i> = charming

This sound is usually called a glottal stop. It is similar to the sound produced if you try to say *butter* or *bottle* without the **tt**, as in *Cockney*.

youm litnein/Monday

- Bill: 'ishshunaT ahih.
Kamaal: Tayyib, itfaDDalu, 'ilcarabiyya fil maw'af.
Catherine: shukran, huwwal huteil biceed?
Nadya: la' ilhuteil 'urayyib, mish biceed, laakin ishshunaT ti'eela.
Bill: 'aywa. 'ishshunaT ti'eela gidan.
Kamaal: Tayyib, itfaDDalu.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

SabaaH ilkheir	Good morning
'ana Bill Taylor	I am Bill Taylor
wi di zmilti/zugti	and this is my colleague/wife
'ahlan wa sahan	Hello
furSa sa'eeda	pleased to meet you
'irriHla kaanit kwayyisa?	Was the flight good?
'aywa	Yes
'irriHla kaanit kwayyisa gidan	the flight was very good
'ishshunaT fein?	Where are the suitcases?
'ishshunaT ahih	The suitcases are here
Tayyib	All right, O.K.
itfaDDalu	Let's go
'ilcarabiyya fil maw'af	The car is in the car park
shukran	Thank you
huwwal huteil biceed?	Is the hotel far away?
la' ilhuteil 'urayyib	No, the hotel is nearby
mish biceed	not far
laakin	but
'ishshunaT ti'eela	the suitcases are heavy

Introductions

In Arab countries people usually shake hands when they meet and when they say goodbye.

'ana Bill	I am Bill
wi di zmilti (zimilti)	and this is my (female) colleague
wi da zmileeli (zimeeli)	and this is my (male) colleague
wi di zugti	and this is my wife
wi da zougj	and this is my husband

Greetings

SabaaH ilkheir/innoor	good morning.
masaa' ilkheir/innoor	good afternoon/evening
ahlan wa sahan	Hello/How do you do?
ahlan	Hello/How do you do?
marHab/marHaba	Hello/How do you do?
furSa sa'eeda	Pleased to meet you.

SabaaH innoor and masaa'innoor mean 'Good morning' and 'Good evening' respectively but they are normally used as responses rather than to initiate greetings.

youm litnein/Monday

Polite expressions

Tayyib	Well! All right
itfaDDalu	let's go/after you (pl.)
shukran	thanks/thank you
min faDlak/faDlik	please (m./f.)
'aywa	yes
la'	no

itfaDDalu is used in many situations and can also mean 'please go ahead' or 'here you are'.

Other useful expressions

irriHla kaanit?	The flight was . . . /Was the flight . . . ?
kwayyis/kwayyisa	good, fine (m./f.)
kwayyis gidan	very good
fein . . . ?	Where is/are . . . ?

the way it works

Masculine and feminine

Words in Arabic are classified as nouns, verbs or prepositions. Nouns and verbs have masculine and feminine forms. In colloquial Arabic some nouns can be made feminine by adding the sound **a** to the end of the masculine form.

Examples

Masculine	Feminine	Meaning
zimeel	zimeela	colleague (noun)
zoug	zouga	spouse (noun)
kwayyis	kwayyisa	good (adj.)
saeed	saeeda	pleased/happy (adj.)

Verbs have masculine and feminine forms for the singular, but only one form for the plural.

Examples

kaan	he was (m. sing.)	kaanu	they were (m. and f. pl.)
kaanit	she was (f. pl.)		

The definite article

il is the definite article in Arabic, like 'the' in English. The l sound in il disappears in some cases, and the first letter in the word is doubled instead.

Examples

huteil	hotel	ilhuteil	the hotel
carabiyya	car	ilcarabiyya	the car

yum litnein/Monday

maw'af	car park	ilmaw'af	the car park
riHla	flight	irriHla	the flight
shunaT	suitcases	ishshunaT	the suitcases

I am . . . and This is . . .

The Arabic for 'I am Bill' is **'ana Bill**. (I/me Bill). The equivalent of the verb to be (am, is, are) in Arabic is not used in such structures as I am, he is, they are, this is, that is, etc. More examples are given below with their English translation.

'ana Bill	I Bill	I am Bill
'ana Catherine	I Catherine	I am Catherine
da zmeeli	This my colleague	This is my colleague (he)
di zugti	This my wife	This is my wife (she)
ilcarabiyya fil maw'af	The car in the car park	The car is in the car park (it)
ishshunaT ti'eela	The suitcases heavy	The suitcases are heavy (they)

My

To say 'my' in Arabic you add **i** sound at the end of the noun, whether it is masculine or feminine, singular or plural. But when the noun has a feminine ending with an **a** sound, the pronunciation of the word changes and **ti** replaces the **a**.

Examples

zoug	husband	zougi	my husband
zouga	wife	zugti	my wife
zimeel	colleague	zimeeli	my colleague (m.)
zimeela	colleague	zimulti	my colleague (f.)
shunaT	suitcases	shunaTi	my suitcases
carabiyya	car	carabiyyiti	my car

things to do

1.1 Say the following in Arabic.

- 1 Hello!
- 2 Pleased to meet you.
- 3 I am Sally.
- 4 This is my colleague Tom.
- 5 I am Ahmad.
- 6 This is my wife Nadya.
- 7 Was the flight all right?
- 8 Yes, it was a very good flight.
- 9 Where is the car?
- 10 The car is in the car park.

BOOKING HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation There are two main types of accommodation for people on holidays or business for a short period: hotels with star rating, and boarding houses called **bansyoun**. Guests in both types are always asked to fill in registration forms on arrival, giving passport details. There are also Youth Hostels in the big cities like Cairo, Alexandria, Luxor and Aswan.



Look for the following signs

Hotel
Boarding House/Pension
Youth Hostel
Reception

funduq
bansyoun
beit shabaab
'istiqbaal

فندق
بنسيون
بيت شباب
استقبال

Prices are fixed in hotels and Youth Hostels, but subject to negotiation in boarding houses.

'ana εandi Hagz/I have a reservation

Catherine: masaa' ilkheir.
Receptionist: masaa' innoor, ayyi khidma?
Catherine: 'ana εandi Hagz hina.
Receptionist: 'il'ism min faDlik?
Catherine: 'ana 'ismi Catherine Evans.
Receptionist: kaam leila?
Catherine: talat layaali.
Receptionist: 'aywa feeh Hagz bismik.

Catherine: **feeh Hammaam wi tilifoun fil 'ouDa?**
 Receptionist: 'aywa feeh, 'ouDa nimra khamisa, bi Hammaam wi tilifoun.
 Catherine: shukran.
 Receptionist: 'ilmuftaaH ahuh, 'itfaDDali.
 Catherine: shukran, tiSbaH eala kheir.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

'ayyi khidma	What can I do for you?
'ana eandi Hagz hina	I have a reservation here
'il'ism. min faDlik	What is the name, please?
'ana 'ismi	My name is
kaam leila?	How many nights?
talat layaali	3 nights
feeh Hagz bismik	There is a reservation in your name
feeh Hammaam	Is there a bathroom
wi tilifoun	and a telephone
fil 'ouDa?	in the room?
'ouDa nimra khamisa	Room No. 5
bi Hammaam wi tilifoun	with bathroom and telephone
'ilmuftaaH ahuh	Here is the key
tiSbaH eala kheir	Good night

eandak 'ouDa faDya?/Do you have a vacant room?



Bill: massa' ilkheir.
 Receptionist: masaa' innoor, 'ayyi khidma?
 Bill: eandak 'ouDa faDya min faDlak?
 Receptionist: kaam leila?
 Bill: 'arbae layaali min faDlak.
 Receptionist: 'aywa eandi.
 Bill: 'ana eayiz 'ouDa-b Hammaam wi tilifoun. bi kaam?
 Receptionist: bikhamseen gineih fil youm, bil fiTaar.
 Bill: Tayyib, kwayyis.
 Receptionist: 'ouDa nimra talaata. ilmufaaH ahuh, 'itfaDDal.
 Bill: shukran, 'ilfiTaar issaaca kaam?
 Receptionist: 'ilfiTaar issaaca sabaa.
 Bill: Tayyib tiSbaH eala kheir.

youm litnein/Monday

Words and phrases from the dialogue

'aadaak 'ouDa faDya	do you have a vacant room?
'aadaak layaali	4 nights
'aada	I have
'ana aaayiz	I would like (want)
'ouDa-b Hammam	a room with ensuite bathroom
'bi kaam?	what is the price?
'lakhamsseen gineih	50 pounds
'il yom	per day
'il fi'Taar	including breakfast
'omra talaata	number 3
'ilfi'Taar issaaca kaam?	what time is breakfast?
'ilfi'Taar issaaca sabca	breakfast is at 7 o'clock

Polite expressions

'ayyi khidma?	what can I do for you?
'uBaH cala kheir	good night (to a male)
'uBaHi cala kheir	good night (to a female)
'uBaHu cala kheir	good night (to more than one, male or female)
'itfaDDal/'itfaDDali	here you are (m./f.)

Other useful words and phrases

'ouDa bisreer waaHid	a single room
'ouDa bisrirein (Dabil)	a twin bedroom (double)
'ouDa-b dushsh	a room with a shower
'likaam shakhS?	for how many persons?
'ilmaTeam	the restaurant
'hinaak	there
'lihakhS waaHid	for one person (single)
'munkin tiktib/tiktibi	Would you like to write (m./f.)
'ilHisaab (ilfatoora)?	the bill?
'munkin 'ashoof?	can I see?
'ilgawaaz/ilbasbour	the passport

the way it works

Personal pronouns

'ana = I	'iHna = we
'inta = you (m.)	'intu = you (pl.)
'inti = you (f.)	humma = they
huwwa = he	
hiyya = she	

youm litnein/Monday

I have, you have, he has, etc.

To say 'I have' in Arabic you add the relevant end pronoun to the word **ʕand** which means 'possess', as in column 1 below. Personal pronouns can also be used, as in column 2.

ʕandi	'ana ʕandi	I have
ʕandak	'inta ʕandak	you have (m. s.)
ʕandik	'inti ʕandik	you have (f. s.)
ʕandu	huwwa ʕandu	he (it) has
ʕandaha	hiyya ʕandaha	she (it) has
ʕandina	'iHna ʕandina	we have
ʕanduku	'intu ʕanduku	you have (pl.)
ʕanduhum	humma ʕanduhum	they have

Examples

ʕandak Hagz?	do you have a reservation?
'aywa ʕandi Hagz	yes, I have a reservation
ʕandina Hagz	We have a reservation

Possessive pronouns

To say 'my/your/his', etc. in Arabic, you add the relevant ending to the noun:

Masculine nouns

Arabic	English
ismi	my name
ismak	your name (m. s.)
ismik	your name (f. s.)
ismu	his (its) name
ismaha	her (its) name

Feminine nouns

Arabic	English
zugti	my wife
zugtak	your wife (m. s.)
zimiltik	your colleague (f. s.)
zugtu	his wife
zimilitha	her colleague

The preposition bi

The Arabic preposition **bi** is mostly used to mean 'with' as in **bi Hammaam** (with bathroom). It also means 'in' as in **bismi** (in my name), or 'for' as in **bi kaam** (for how much). **bi** loses the **i** sound when it is followed or preceded by a vowel.

Examples

'ouDa-b Hammaam	room with a bathroom
'ouDa-b dushsh	room with a shower
bil fi'Taar	with (including) breakfast
'ilHagz bismi	the reservation is in my name
Hagz bism Bill Taylor	reservation in Bill Taylor's name
bi kaam il'ouDa?	(for) how much is the room?
bi khamseen gineih fil leila	(for) fifty pounds per night

yum litnein/Monday

Numerals 1–10

There are two forms of cardinal numbers from 1–10 in colloquial Arabic. One form is used for numbering, telling the time, ordering food or drinks, and talking about money (1), and the other form is used for counting objects or people (2).

(1)	Meaning	(2)
waaHid/waHda	1. one m/f	waaHid/waHda
itnein	2. two	itnein
lalaata	3. three	talat
arbaa	4. four	arbaa
khamisa	5. five	khamas
sitta	6. six	sitt
saba'a	7. seven	sabar
tamanyaa	8. eight	taman
tisaa	9. nine	tisaa
ashara	10. ten	ashar

Examples

umra talaata	No. 3	talat layaali	3 nights
umra khamisa	No. 5	arbaa layaali	4 nights
umra sitta	6 o'clock	sitt shunaT	6 suitcases

From 11 onwards, one form of cardinal numbers is used for all purposes.

More will be said about numerals later.

A list of cardinal and ordinal numbers is given in the vocabulary at the end of this book, p. 79.

things to do

- 1.2 You are Bill Taylor. You are checking in at a hotel in Cairo. Practise saying the following in Arabic, to a female receptionist.
- 1 I have a reservation here.
 - 2 My name is Bill Taylor.
 - 3 I would like a room with a shower, please.
 - 4 How much is it per night?
 - 5 Where is the restaurant, please?
- 1.3 You are Fay Wilson. You are booking a room in a hotel. Practise saying the following in Arabic, to a male receptionist.
- 1 Do you have a vacant room?
 - 2 No, I would like a room with a bathroom.
 - 3 Four nights, please.
 - 4 Can I have the key, please?
 - 5 Where is the room, please?

ORDERING FOOD AND DRINK

ilfiTaar fil huteil/ Breakfast at the hotel

Mr and Mrs Clark are a middle-aged couple on holiday in Egypt. They are sitting in the hotel restaurant waiting to order their breakfast.



- Waiter: SabaH ilkheir. taklu 'eih yafandim?
Mr Clark: SabaaH ilkheir. εandak 'eih?
Waiter: εandi fool, wi beiD, wi gibna, wimrabba.
Mrs Clark: 'ana 'aakhud gibna-w beiD. feeh εeish?
Waiter: feeh εeish yamadaam.
Mr Clark: feeh mirabbit 'eih?
Waiter: feeh mirabbit balaH wi-mrabbit teen.
Mr Clark: 'ana 'aakhud fool wi-mrabbit balaH, wi εeish Tabεan.
Waiter: HaaDir yamadaam. tishrabu 'eih? 'ahwa, shaay, εaSeer?
Mrs Clark: 'ana 'ashrab shaay bi laban.
Mr Clark: wana 'ashrab 'ahwa-b laban.
Waiter: 'ayyi khidma. 'ouDa nimra kaam?
Mrs Clark: nimra khamisa-w talateen.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

taklu 'eih?
yafandim/yamadaam
εandak 'eih?
εandi
'ana 'aakhud
feeh εeish?
feeh
Tabεan

What would you like to eat?
Sir/Madam
What have you got?
I have/There is
I'll have
Is there bread?
There is
of course

youm ittalaat/Tuesday

Haal hi yamadaam
 tishrabu 'eih?
 a'hwah ghaay, ʕaSeer?
 'ana ashrah (shaay)
 shaay bi laban
 ahwah laban
 'ayyi khidma.
 yulha nimra kaam?

Yes, Madam
 What would you like to drink?
 Coffee, tea, fruit juice?
 I'll have (tea)
 tea *with milk*
 coffee *with milk*
 certainly/at your service
 (What) room number?

Polite expressions

'ayyi khidma.
 yafandim

Certainly, at your service.
 Sir/Madam is a polite form of address
 for men and women.

winta yafandim
 wi HaDritak yafandim
 wintu ya madaam
 wi HaDritik ya madaam

And you, Sir.
And you, Sir. (more polite)
And you, Madam.
And you, Madam. (more polite)

ya is used before a name or form of address when talking to or calling someone. Other forms of address for men are: **sayyid**, **beih**, **'ustaaz**, **sheikh**. Other forms of address for women are: **sitt**, **haanim**.

Food and drinks

fool

Broad beans cooked in water until soft and brown and served with oil (or butter) and salt. Also known as **fool midammis**

beiD
 beiDa
 qibna
 qibna beiDa
 qibna roomi
 mirabba
 mirabbit balaH/teen
 'abna

eggs
 one egg
 cheese
 white cheese
 romano cheese
 jam
 date/fig jam
 butter

mirabbit farawla
 ʕeish
 ʕeish baladi
 ʕeish feenu
 shaay bilaban
 'ahwah laban
 ʕaSeer

strawberry jam
 bread
 local (flat) bread
 french bread
 tea with milk
 coffee with milk
 fruit juice

the way it works

The present tense

Verbs in the present tense with I and you are formed like this:

Person

I (m. & f.) ana
 You (m.) inta
 You (f.) inti
 We (m. & f.) ihna
 You (pl.) intu

take

'aakhud
 taakhud
 takhdi
 naakhud
 takhdu

eat

'aakul
 taakul
 takli
 naakul
 taklu

drink

'ashrab
 tishrab
 tishrabi
 nishrab
 tishrabu

What would you like to have?

There are three ways of asking this question in Arabic. Like English you can ask:

1. What would you like to have? taakhud 'eih? (m.)
takhdi 'eih (f.)
The answer would be, e.g. 'aakhud shaay (I would like tea) or 'aakhud gibna-w beiD (I would like cheese and eggs).
2. What would you like to eat? taakul 'eih? (m.)
takli 'eih? (f.)
The answer would be, e.g. 'aakul gibna-w beiD (I would like to eat cheese and eggs).
3. What would you like to drink? tishrab 'eih? (m.)
tishrabi 'eih? (f.)
The answer would be, e.g. 'ashrab shaay (I would like to drink tea).

Mirabba and mirabbit

The word **mirabba** means 'jam'. To say a particular kind of jam, such as date jam, you have to use the form **mirabbit** so you have **mirabbit balaH** (date jam), **mirabbit teen** (fig jam), or **mirabbit farawla** (strawberry jam).

Pronunciation of wi and bi

These prepositions lose the sound *i* when they are used before or after a vowel.

Examples

'aakhud gibna-w beiD	(wi beiD)
nimra khamisa-w talateen	(wi talateen)
'ashrab 'ahwa-b laban	(bi laban)
'aakhud fool wi beiD	I'll take beans and eggs
'aakhud gibna-w beiD	I'll have cheese and eggs
ashrab shaay bi laban	I'll have tea with milk
ashrab ahwa-b laban	I'll have coffee with milk

things to do

2.1 Say the following in Arabic

Ask the waiter

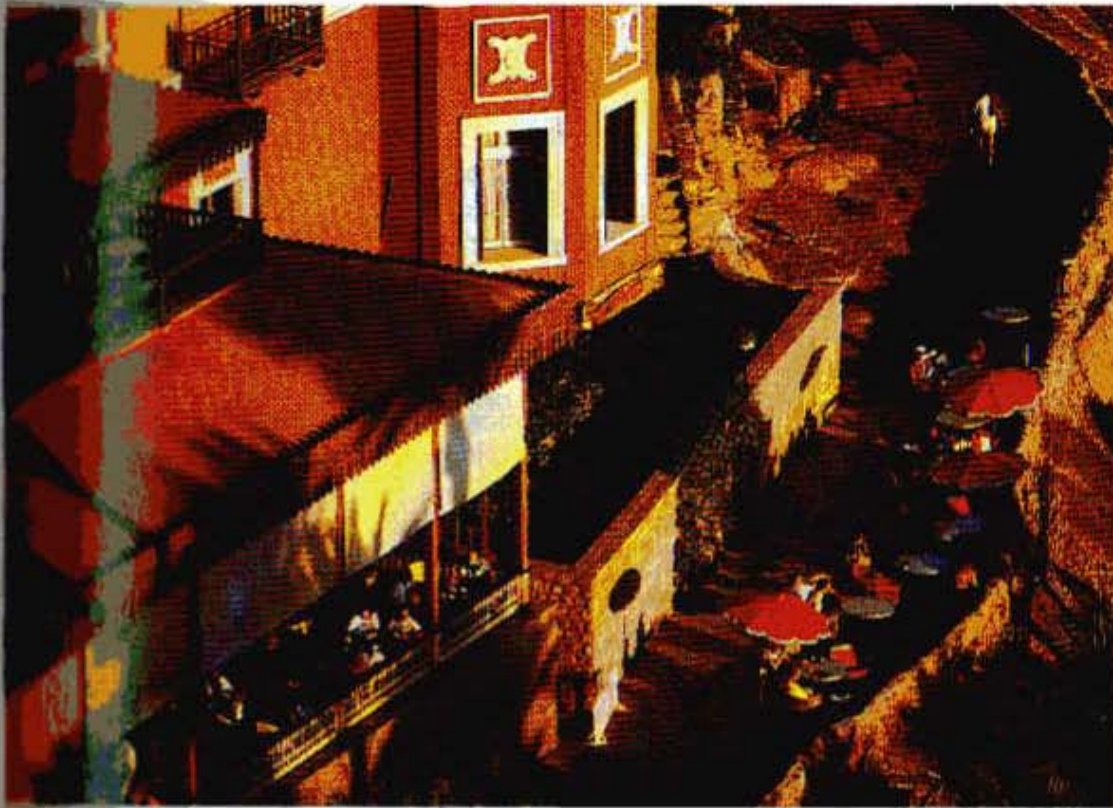
Ask your friend Sarah

Ask your friend Karim

Say

- 1 What have you got?
- 2 What jam have you got?
- 3 Would you like to have tea?
- 4 Would you like to have juice?
- 5 What would you like to eat?
- 6 What would you like to drink?
- 7 I would like to have beans, cheese and date jam.
- 8 I would like to have coffee with milk.

REFRESHMENTS



'Tea, coffee, cold drinks and snacks are available in cafés, shops and restaurants, particularly in tourist areas. Cold drinks are available everywhere. There is always a stall round the corner selling fizzy drinks and bottled water, even if there is no café or grocer's nearby.

Bill and Catherine stop at a café in **khaan ilkhalili** for refreshments.

fil 'ahwa/At the café

- Bill: massa' ilkheir.
 Waiter: masaa' innoor. 'ahlan wasahlan.
 Bill: cayzeen sandwitshaat, candakan 'eih?
 Waiter: candi fool wi falaafil wi gibna-w beiD.
 Bill: 'itnein fool witnein falaafil min faDlak.
 Catherine: candakan Haaga sa'ca?
 Waiter: candi bibsi-w kuka koula-w teem wi caSeer.
 Bill: feeh beera?
 Waiter: la' mafeesh beera, 'aasif.
 Catherine: feeh caSeer 'eih?
 Waiter: feeh caSeer manga-w caSeer gawaafa.
 Catherine: 'ana aakhud caSeer manga min faDlak.
 Bill: wana aakhud bibsi min faDlak.
 Waiter: HaaDir. 'ayyi khidma.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

masaa' innoor	Good evening!
ɛayzeen sandwitshaat	We would like some sandwiches.
ɛandak 'eih?	What have you got?
falaafil	Bean burgers.
ɛandak Haaga sa'ca?	Have you got any cold drinks?
ɛandi bibsi-w	I have Pepsi and
kuka-koula-w	Coca-Cola and
teem	Team (fizzy lemon drink)
wi ɛaSeer	and juice (fruit juices)
feeh beera?	Is there beer?/Do you sell beer?
la' mafeesh beera.	No, there's no beer.
'aasif	Sorry
feeh ɛaSeer 'eih?	What juices have you got?
ɛaSeer manga-w	Mango juice and
ɛaSeer gawaafa.	Guava juice.

Useful words and phrases

Fruit juices

ɛaSeer	juice
ɛaSeer burtu'aan	orange juice
ɛaSeer lamoon	lemon juice
ɛaSeer farawla	strawberry juice
ɛaSeer mouz	banana juice
ɛaSeer TamaaTim	tomato juice
ɛaSeer 'aSab	sugar cane juice

Hot and Cold

'il bibsi di sa'ca	This Pepsi is cold
'il bibsi di sukhna (mish sa'ca)	This Pepsi is hot (not cold)
'il 'akl da sukhn	This food is hot
'il 'akl da baarid	This food is cold

Salt and sugar

bi malH	with salt	bi sukkar	with sugar
bi malH 'aleel	with little salt	bi sukkar 'aleel	with little sugar
bidoon malH	without salt	bidoon sukkar	without sugar

youm ittalaat/Tuesday

The way it works

Would like

ayseen is the plural of **ayiz** (m) and **ayza** (f) which means 'would like'.

Examples

ana ayiz sandwitsh

I would like a sandwich

Magda ayza bibsi

Magda would like Pepsi

ilna ayseen caSeer

We would like juice

Using numbers when ordering

When ordering food or drinks use the same form of cardinal numbers as used for counting. (See p. 79 at the end of the book.)

Examples

itnein (sandwitsh) fool

two bean sandwiches

falaata falaafil

three falaafil sandwiches

arba a gibna

four cheese sandwiches

khamsa manga

five mango juice drinks

wasatid bibsi

one Pepsi

Note that, like English, the word 'sandwiches' can also be repeated when giving an order: **itnein fool** or **itnein sandwitsh fool**.

things to do

ii Order these food and drinks:

- 1 Three falaafil sandwiches
- 2 Two cheese sandwiches
- 3 Four orange juice drinks
- 4 One bean sandwich
- 5 Six Pepsis
- 6 Five lemon juice drinks

CHANGING MONEY



You can easily change money at banks. There are branches of the major national and foreign banks in airports and the larger cities. Banks usually give a better rate than exchange booths, hotels, or shops.

ATMs are also a convenient way to withdraw money while traveling in Egypt, as well as some other Arab countries.

The Egyptian currency is called **gineih**, usually known in English as 'Egyptian pound'. A **gineih** is 100 **piastres**. A piastre is known as 'irsh, and the plural is 'uroosh.

gineih
meet 'irsh

Egyptian pound
100 piastres

جنيه
١٠٠ قرش

Arab currencies are shown in a table at the end of this book (p. 91).

Look for the following signs:

Bank

bank

بنك

Bureau de change

maSrif

مصرف

taghyeer ilcumla

تغيير العملة

Siraafa

صرافة

Cash desk

ilkhazeena

الخزينة

Fil bank/At the bank

- Catherine: il'istirleeni-b kaam, min faDlak?
 Clerk: bikhamsa gneih wi talateen 'irsh.
 Catherine: widdulaar bi Kaam?
 Clerk: iddulaar bitnein gineih wi nuSS.
 Catherine: Tayyib. aghayyar miyya stirleeni, wimiyya-w talateen dulaar.
 Clerk: 'ayyi khidma, mumkin ashooof ilbasbour?
 Catherine: 'aywa. itfaDDal.
 Clerk: Tayyib imli listimaara di, wimDi hina, min faDlik.
 Catherine: HaaDir. ilfuloos minein?
 Clerk: ilfuloos min ilkhazeena, hinaak.



Words and phrases from the dialogue

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| il'istirleeni-b kaam? | How much is the pound sterling? |
| bikhamsa gneih | for five pounds |
| wi talateen 'irsh | and thirty-five piastres |
| widdulaar bi Kaam? | And how much is the dollar? |
| bitnein gineih wi nuSS | two pounds and fifty piastres (or a half) |
| aghayyar miyya stirleeni | I'll change one hundred pounds sterling |
| wimiyya-w talateen dulaar | and one hundred and thirty dollars |
| mumkin ashooof ilbasbour? | Can I see your passport? |
| imli listimaara di | Fill in this form |
| wimDi hina | and sign here |
| ilfuloos minein? | Where do I collect the money (cash)? |
| min ilkhazeena | from the cash desk |

Useful words and phrases

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| gineih/ginihaat | pound/pounds |
| gineih istirleeni | pound sterling |
| gineih maSri | Egyptian pound |
| 'irsh/uroosh | piastre/piastres |
| dulaar/dularaat | dollar/dollars |
| sheek/shikaat | cheque/cheques |

sheek siyaaHi
sheekat siyaaHiyya
istimara
mumkin aghayyar?
caayiz (caayza) aghayyar
caayiz tighayyar kaam?

traveller's cheque
traveller's cheques
form
Can I change?
I would like to change
How much do you want to change?

the way it works

Pronunciation

The following are further examples of the loss of *i* in *il*, *bi*, *wi*, *gineih*, and *istirleeni*, when these sounds are followed or preceded by other vowels:

il'istirleeni-**b** kaam?
miyya **st**irleen
wi miyya-**w** talateen dulaar
im**li** listimaara di (f.)
im**la** listimaara di (m).
bikhamsa **g**neih

bi kaam
miyya **ist**irleeni
wi talateen dulaar
im**li** **il**istimaara di
im**la** **il**istimaara di
bikhamsa **g**ineih

More about numerals

The form of numerals used for numbering, ordering food and drinks and telling the time is also used for talking about sums of money (see p. 79, column 1). Please note that there are two forms for the number 'one' **waaHid** (masculine) and **waHda** (feminine) although neither of these forms are used when talking about money, except for emphasis. When talking about money you say the following:

gineih or **gineih waaHid** (m.)
lira or **lira waHda** (f.)
itnein gineih/lira/dulaar*
talaata gneih/lira/dulaar
'arbaa gneih/lira/dulaar
khamisa gneih/lira/dulaar

one pound
one lira
two pounds/lira/dollars
three pounds/lira/dollars
four pounds/lira/dollars
five pounds/lira/dollars

youm ittalaat/Tuesday

sitta gneih/lira/dulaar

six pounds/lira/dollars

saba'a gneih/lira/dulaar

seven pounds/lira/dollars

tawanya gneih/lira/dulaar

eight pounds/lira/dollars

tha'aa gneih/lira/dulaar

nine pounds/lira/dollars

ashara gneih/lira/dulaar

ten pounds/lira/dollars

*Note that the object counted is in the singular.

From **HiDaashar** (eleven) onwards the same form of cardinal numerals is used for the hours, money and all other objects counted. The number is followed by the noun in the singular in all cases. When telling the time, the number comes after the word for hour. See p. 79 at the end of this book for a list of these numerals.

things to do

13 You are trying to change some foreign money for Egyptian pounds. Say the following in Arabic:

- 1 Can I change pounds sterling here?
- 2 How much is a pound sterling?
- 3 Can I change traveller's cheques?
- 4 No, dollars.
- 5 One hundred and thirty-two dollars.

14 You are Michael. You are having a conversation with your hotel manager in the Sudan. What do you say?

- 1 Michael: Ask about the number of the rooms in the hotel.
- 2 Manager: Feeh khamsa-w sittteen 'ouDa.
- 3 Michael: Ask how much a single room is.
- 4 Manager: khamsa warbi'een gineih filleila.
- 5 Michael: Ask if there is a bank in the hotel.
- 6 Manager: 'aywa feeh.
- 7 Michael: Ask if you can change money here.
- 8 Manager: eaayiz tighayyar 'eih?
- 9 Michael: Say you would like to change dollars.
- 10 Manager: Tabeen mumkin.

TELLING THE TIME

issaaea kaam?/What time is it?

Bill is asking about the times of meals at the hotel.



- Bill: 'ilfiTaar issaaea kaam, min faDlak?
Receptionist: min issaaea sabea lissaaea tisea.
Bill: wileasha-s saaca kaam?
Receptionist: ileasha min issaaea sabea-w nuSS lissaaea eashara.
Bill: issaaea kaam dilwa'ti?
Receptionist: issaaca dilwa'ti sabealla rube.
Bill: il'akhbaar issaaca kaam firradyu?
Receptionist: il'akhbaar issaaca tamanya-w nuSS.
Bill: Tayyib. 'arooH atashsha 'awwalan, wibaedein asmae
il'akhbaar. tiSbaH eala kheir.
Receptionist: tisbaH eala kheir yafandim.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

'ilfiTaar issaaca kaam?
wileasha-s saaca kaam?
min issaacas sabea-w nuss
lissaaea eashara
'issaaca kaam dilwa'ti?

What time is breakfast?
And what time is supper?
from half past seven
to ten o'clock
What time is it now?

/oum ittalaat/Tuesday

il'akhbaar issaaca kaam?
 firadyu
 issaaca tamanya-w nuSS
 'arooH
 an ashsha 'awwalan
 wibar dein
 asmae il'akhbaar

What time is the news?
 on the radio
 at half past eight
 I'll go
 and have supper first
 and then (and after that)
 I'll listen to the news

Useful words and phrases

'iftaar breakfast
 'ilghada lunch
 'ilasha supper/dinner

Sequence of events

'arooH
 'arooH atcasha awwalan
 wibar dein
 wibar dein asmae il'akhbaar

first
 I'll go and have supper first
 then/after
 then I'll listen to the news

Verbs with different persons

person		listen	go	have breakfast	have lunch	have supper
I	'ana	asmae	arooH	afTar	atghadda	atcasha
You (m.)	'inta	tismae	tirooH	tifTar	titghadda	titeasha
You (f.)	'inti	tismaei	tirooHi	tifTari	titghaddi	titeashshi
He	huwwa	yismae	yirooH	yifTar	yitghadda	yiteasha
She	hiyya	tismae	tirooH	tifTar	titghadda	titeasha
We	'ihna	nismae	nirooH	nifTar	nitghadda	niteasha
You (pl.)	'intu	tismaeu	tirooHu	tifTaru	titghaddu	titeashshu

Telling the time

The numerals used for telling the time are the same as those used for sums of money and ordering food and drinks. But note that the word **issaaca** (o'clock) is said before the number (see p. 26 above, and p. 79 for a list of cardinal numbers).

To tell the time, say the hour first, then **illa** if it is something to the hour, or **wi** if it is something past the hour.

Examples

issaaca sitta
 issaaca dilwa'ti talaata
 issaaca-rbaea
 issaaca khamsa-w cashara
 issaaca-rbaea-lla rube
 issaaca-tnein wi nuSS
 issaaca talaata-w nuSS

It is six o'clock
 It (the time) is now 3 o'clock
 It is 4 o'clock
 It is ten past five
 It is quarter to four
 It is half past two
 It is half past three

11:15 - HDaashar **wi** rube
 11:20 - tnaashar **illa** khamisa
 11:45 - waHda-**lla** rube

It is quarter past eleven
 It is five minutes to twelve
 It is quarter to one

Note the loss of **a** in **arba'a**, the loss of **i** in **wi** and the loss of **i** in **illa** because of the sound that precedes them.

things to do

2.5 Ask the following questions and reply using the clock and watch faces shown:

1 What time is breakfast?

2



7 What time is it now?

8



3 What time is the news?

4



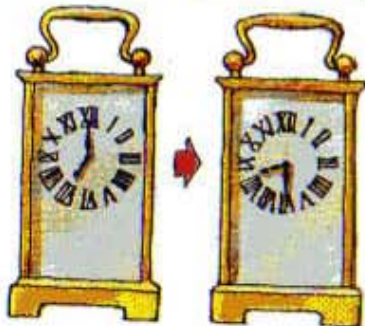
9 Is it quarter to eight now?

10 No it is 8.15.



5 What time can I have supper?

6



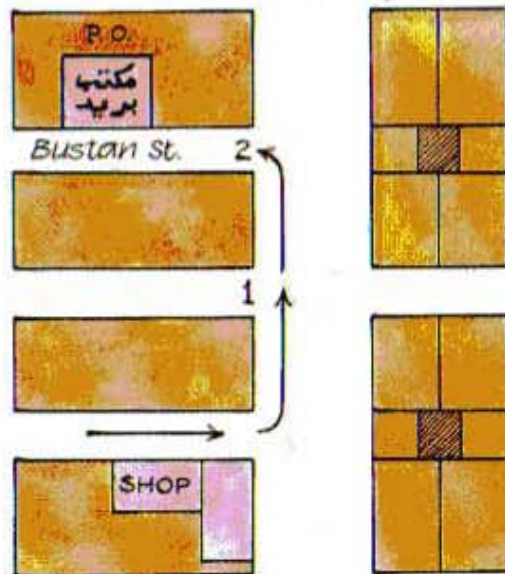
FINDING YOUR WAY

feeh maktab bareed 'urayyib?/Is there a post office nearby?

Catherine is asking a shop assistant if there is a post office nearby.



- Catherine: feeh maktab bareed 'urayyib min hina?
 Assistant: 'aywa feeh. fi shaarie ilbustaan.
 Catherine: 'arooH izzaay min faDlik?
 Assistant: imshi eala Tool li 'aakhir ishshaarie da. wibaedein Hawwidi shmaal.
 Catherine: Tayyib. 'amshi-l 'aakhir ishshaarie waHawwid shimaal. wibaedein?
 Assistant: imshi eala Tool. taani shaarie shimaal huwwa shaarie ilbustaan.
 Catherine: wi maktab ilbareed fi shaarie ilbustan?
 Assistant: 'aywa taalit mabna eala-l yimeen.
 Catherine: shukran.
 Assistant: ilcafw yafandim. 'ayyi khidma.



Words and phrases from the dialogue

feeh maktab bareed
 'urayyib min hina?
 fi shaarie ilbustaan
 'arooH izzaay?
 imshi eala Tool
 li'aakhir ishsharie da
 Hawwidi shmaal
 taani shaare shimaal
 huwwa
 taalit mabna
 eala-l yimeen
 'ilafw

is there a post office
 nearby?
 in Bustan street
 how do I get there?
 walk *straight on*
 to the *end* of this street
 turn left
 the *second* street left
 it is
 the *third* building
 on the *right*
 it's a pleasure/all right

fein 'a'rab bi'aala?/ Where is the nearest grocery?

Bill is asking one of the passers-by about the nearest grocery.

Bill: **fein 'a'rab bi'aala min faDlak?**
 Passer-by: **'awwil shaarie yimeen. ilbi'aala
 raabie dukkan ealash-shimaal.**
 Bill: **shukran ya sayyid.**
 Passer-by: **ilafw. 'ayyi khidma.**



youm Iarbaʿ/Wednesday

Words and phrases from the dialogue

hin 'arab bi'aala?	where is the nearest grocery?
'awwil shaaric yimeen	the first street on the right
faash dukkan	the fourth shop
alash-shimaal	on the left

Polite expressions

shukran yasayyid	thank you, sir
bi-afw	it is a pleasure/that is all right

Useful words and phrases

faash 'ahwa ('agzakhana)?	is there a café (pharmacy)?
ittigaah	towards, in the direction of
lein ilmaHaTTa?	where is the station?
lein maHaTTit il'aTr?	where is the railway station?
lein ism ilbulees (ishshurTa)	where is the police station?
caadlak khareeTit maSr?	do you have a map of Egypt?
'utdaam ilhuteil	in front of the hotel
wara-l gaamic	behind the mosque
qanb il 'agzakhaana	beside the pharmacy
'ala yimeen ilhuteil	to the right of the hotel
'ala shimaal ilhuteil	to the left of the hotel
alshul yimeen/shimaal	turn right/left
khud 'awwil shaaric yimeen	take/turn at the first street on the right
'inshi meet mitr ta'reeban	go/walk about 100 metres
'inshu-liHaad	go up to
'ala-n naSya	at the corner
'akhir ishshaaric	the end of the street/road
'awwil ishshaaric	the beginning of the street
munkin taakhud taksi	you can take a taxi
munkin taakhud ilmitru	you can take the Metro
munkin taakhud 'utubees	you can take a bus
laazim taakhud il'aTr	you have to take the train

Some useful words in Arabic

street	shaaric	police	ishshurTa/ilbulees
square	midaan/saaHa	police station	'ism ilbulees
post office	maktab bareed	station	maHaTTa
stationers	maktaba	café	'ahwa
pharmacy	'agzakhaana	museum	matHaf
pharmacy	Saydaliyya		

the way it works

Asking for directions

Here are 3 different ways of asking for directions:

feeh ... ?

Is there a ... ?

fein ... ?

Where is ... ?

'arooH ... izzaay?

How do I get to ... ?

Examples

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| (a) | feeh bi'aala 'urayyiba min hina? (f.)
feeh maktab bareed 'urayyib min hina? (m.) | Is there a grocery nearby?
Is there a post office nearby? |
| (b) | fein ilmatHaf ilmaSri?
fein 'ism ilbulees? | Where is the Egyptian museum?
Where is the police station? |
| (c) | 'arooH ilmatHaf izzaay?
'arooH il'azhar izzaay?
caayiz (caayza) arooH ilhuteil. | How do I get to the museum?
How do I get to Azhar?
I would like to get to the hotel. |

Giving directions

Special forms of verbs are used to give directions, as shown in the table below: one for talking to a singular masculine, one for talking to a singular feminine, and one for talking to plural masculine and feminine.

person	walk	take	go (turn) into	turn	cross
(m.)	'imshi	khud	'idkhul	Hawwid	caaddi
(f.)	'imshi	khudi	'idkhuli	Hawwidi	caaddi
(pl.)	'imshu	khudu	'idkhulu	Hawwidu	caaddu

Ordinal numbers (1-10)

These forms are used before masculine and feminine nouns.

Examples

awwil shaaric (m.)	first street	saadis youm (m.)	sixth day
taani mabna (m.)	second building	saabic 'ouDa (f.)	seventh room
taalit leila (f.)	third night	taamin mabna (m.)	eighth building
raabic dukkaan (m.)	fourth shop	taasic dour (m.)	ninth floor
khaamis maHaTTa (f.)	fifth station	caashir maHatta (f.)	tenth station

things to do

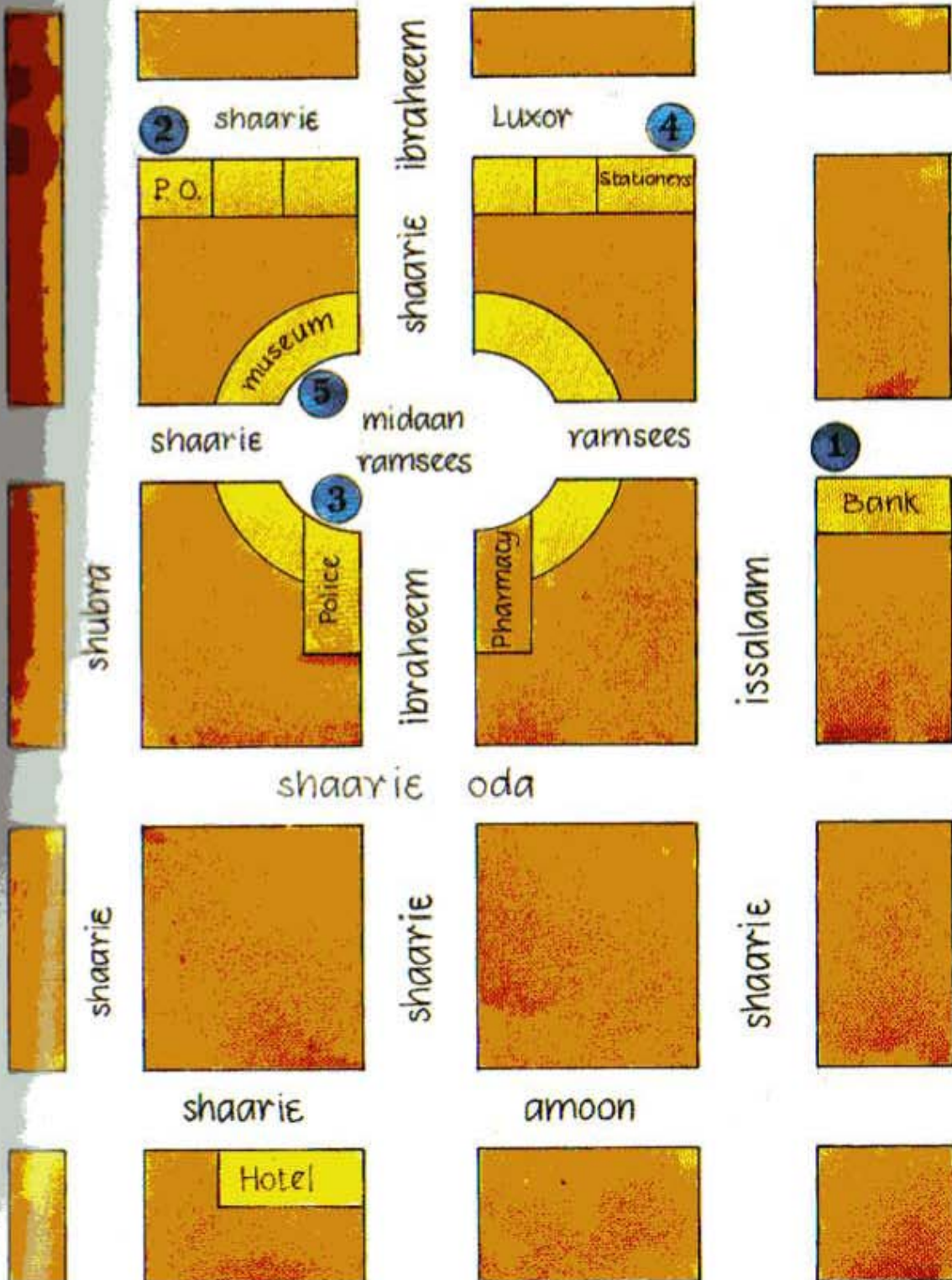
3.1 Ask for the following directions:

- 1 Where is the nearest pharmacy?
- 2 How can I get to the post office?

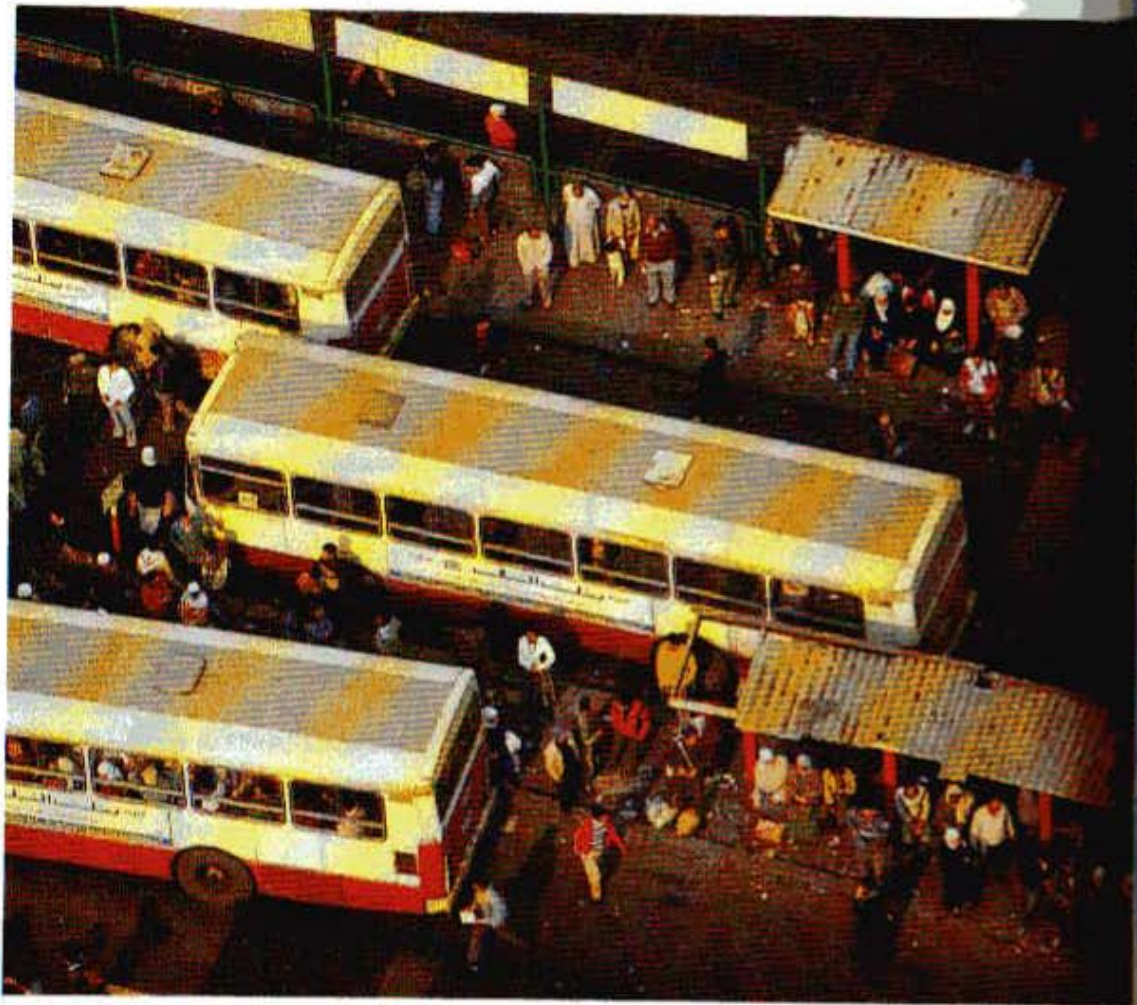
Forum Iarbae/Wednesday

- 3 Where is the police station?
- 4 Is there a grocery nearby?
- 5 How do I get to the railway station?

11 Give directions to taxi drivers taking you to each of the places marked on the map below. Starting from your hotel (H) go to destinations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.



TRAVELLING BY BUS OR TAXI



All the cities in the Arab countries have bus services and taxis. There are also coach services that link cities, towns and villages, in addition to the railway networks, in some countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Taxis normally wait outside railway stations, airports, big hotels, and tourist sites. You can also hail a taxi in the street. It is not unusual to share a taxi with others already in it, or for the taxi to stop and take others on the way to your destination. However, you can have a taxi on your own if you want to, especially if it is a long distance, or if you have a lot of luggage. Taxis you can have on your own are called **limousine**, and in some countries you can also order them by phone. The other type of taxi is known as **sirfees** (service), or just **taksi** (taxi).

Signs to look for are:

Station
Stop
Bus
Taxicab

maHaTTa
maw'af
'utubees
taksi

محطة
موقف
أتوبيس
تاكسي

'utubees nimra kaam?/Which bus?

Michelle and Catherine are going to see the pyramids in Giza and they want to get by bus. They ask their Egyptian friend how to get there.

- Michelle: 'iHna eayzeen nirooH ilharam, naakhud 'utubees nimra kaam?
 Catherine: mafeesh 'utubees min hina lilharam. laazim tighayyaru-f baab ilHadeed.
 Michelle: naakhud nimra kaam min hina?
 Catherine: takhdu nimra siTTaashar min hina-l baab ilHadeed?
 Michelle: wi baedein nimra kaam min baab ilHadeed.
 Catherine: wi baedein takhdu nimra tisaa lilharam.
 Michelle: Taysib, shukran.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

eayzeen nirooH ilharam
 naakhud 'utubees nimra kaam?

we want to go to the Pyramids
 which bus shall we take?

mafeesh 'utubees min hina lilharam

bus number what shall we take?
 there is no bus from here to the
 Pyramids

laazim tighayyaru-f baab ilHadeed

you have to change (buses) at baab
 El-Hadid

wi baedein nimra kaam

then number what (bus)?

fil 'utubees/On the bus

- Conductor: tazaakir min faDlak.
 Michelle: 'itnein baab ilHadeed
 Conductor: tazkartein bikhamseen 'irsh. ittazkara-b khamasa-w eishreen 'irsh.
 Michelle: 'itfaDDal. aadi gneih wi haat ilbaa'i.
 Conductor: 'itfaDDal tazkartein, wilbaa'i khamseen 'irsh.
 Michelle: shukran
 Conductor: 'ileafw.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

tazaakir min faDlak
 'itnein baab ilHadeed
 tazkartein bikhamseen 'irsh
 ittazkara-b khamasa-w eishreen 'irsh
 aadi gneih
 wi haat ilbaa'i

tickets please
 two (tickets) to Bab El-Hadid
 two tickets for fifty piastres
 twenty-five piastres for each (ticket)
 here is a pound
 and give me the change

'istiʿmal ittaksi/Taking a taxi

Bill and Catherine decide after their outing to take a taxi back to the hotel.



Bill: (shouting)	taksi!
Driver:	'aywa, rayHeen fein?
Bill:	MaSr iggideeda.
Driver:	fein fi maSr iggideeda?
Bill:	huteil sheratun.
Driver:	da bceed, aakhud ʿashara gneih.
Bill:	la' ʿashara kteer.
Driver:	Tayyib tamanaya.
Catherine:	tamanya kwayyis. shukran.
Driver:	itfaDDalu. 'irkabu.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

rayHeen fein?	where are you going?
maSr iggideeda	Heliopolis
fein fi maSr iggideeda?	where in Heliopolis?
la' ʿashara-kteer	no, ten (pounds) is too much
tamanya kwayyis	eight (pounds) is all right
'irkabu	get in (car)

Useful words and phrases

maHaTTit (maw'af) il'utubees	bus stop
maHaTTit il'aTr	the railway station
'ilmitru	the metro (tram)
mitru-l'anfaaq	the underground train
'il'utubees da biyrooH...?	does this bus go to...?
'issouk ('issou')	the market place
'ilkurneish (ikkurneish)	main road by the Nile or the sea
'il'istaad	the stadium

oum Iarbae/Wednesday

hina'Faar	the airport
utubees ealaTool	direct bus
hina i*	the change

* hina i literally means the remainder or balance, but it is also used to mean the change from a given currency after paying for a purchase or a service.

Maha This word originally means Egypt, but it is also used in colloquial Egyptian to mean Cairo, so we have **MaSr iggideeda** Heliopolis/New Cairo and **MaSr i'adeema** Old Cairo.

the way it works

Negation

fooh	there is (are)	mafeesh (maafi)*	there is/are no/not
fooh 'utubees	there is a bus	mafeesh 'utubees	there is no bus
fooh shaay	there is tea	mafeesh 'ahwa	there is no coffee
fooh bibsi	there is Pepsi	mafeesh e'aSeer	there is no juice

* maafi is non Egyptian

Number

In Arabic, there is singular, dual and plural. The dual is formed by adding **-ein** to masculine words and **-tein** to feminine words ending with **a**. Examples are given in the table below. Note the different pronunciation too.

Singular		Dual		Plural
tazkara (f.)	one ticket	tazkartein	two tickets	tazaakir
'ouDa (f.)	one room	'uDtein	two rooms	'iwaD
leila (f.)	one night	liltein	two nights	layaali
dour (m.)	one floor	durein	two floors	adwaar
sireer (m.)	one bed	sirirein	two beds	saraayir
youn (m.)	one day	yumein	two days	ayyaam

Pronunciation

The prepositions **bi**, **li**, **fi** and **wi** sometimes lose their **i** sound in connected speech when followed or preceded by the sounds **a**, **i** or **u**.

tighayyaru- f baab ilHadeed (fi)	(tighayyaru fi)	change at Bab El-Hadid
min hina li l haram (li)	(li ilharam)	from here to the Pyramids
'ittazkara- b kaam (bi)	('ittazkara bi)	for how much is the ticket
khamisa- w eishreen (wi)	(khamisa wi eishreen)	twenty-five

things to do

3.3 Ask the following questions in Arabic:

- 1 How can I go to the market place?
- 2 Can we take a taxi from here?
- 3 Which bus goes to Heliopolis?
- 4 Where do we change?
- 5 Where in Giza?

3.4 Clare wants to go to the Andalus Hotel. Translate her conversation into Arabic.

- 1 Clare: I would like to go to Andalus Hotel.
- 2 Nadya: You should take a taxi.
- 3 Laila: Clare can take a bus.
- 4 Clare: Is there a direct bus?
- 5 Laila: No, you have to change at Bab ElHadid.
- 6 Clare: Where is the bus stop?
- 7 Laila: In front of the bank.
- 8 Clare: How much is the ticket?
- 9 Laila: The ticket is twenty piastres.
- 10 Clare: Very good.

SIGHTSEEING

Some museums and tourist sites are closed on public holidays. It is advisable to check with the tourist information offices or your hotel reception before you decide where to go.



nirooH fein inniharda?/Where shall we go today?

Mr and Mrs Clark have met an Egyptian couple, Mr and Mrs Zaki, at their hotel, and now they ask them about tourist sites in Cairo.

Mrs Clark: **nirooH fein inniharda?**

Mrs Zaki: **laazim tirooHu-l matHaf ilmaSri.**

Mr Clark: **feeh 'eih fil matHaf ilmaSri?**

Mr Zaki: **'ilmatHaf ilmaSri feeh 'asaar maSriyya
'adeema-kteer.**

Mrs Clark: **nirooH izzaay ilmatHaf?**

Mr Zaki: **'ilmatHaf fimdaan ittaHreer, mumkin takhdu 'utubees nimra
tamanya-w tamaneen**

Mr Clark: **winrooH fein kamaan?**

Mrs Zaki: **mumkin tizoorul 'azhar wil Hussein wi khaan ilkhaleeli**

Mrs Clark: **Tayyib shukran. salaam**

Mrs Zaki: **maeassalaama. nishufku bukra.**

Words and phrases from the dialogue

nirooH fein inniharda?	Where shall we go today?
laazim tirooHu-l	you should go to the
matHaf ilmaSri	Egyptian museum
feeh 'eih fil . . . ?	What is there in the . . . ?
feeh 'asaar maSriyya 'adeema-kteer	There are many ancient Egyptian
	antiquities (in it).
findaan ittaHreer	in the Liberation square.
nirooH izzaay . . . ?	How do we get to . . . ?
winrooH fein kamaan?	Where else can we go?
mumkin tizooru-l 'azhar	You can visit the El-Azhar
wil Husein wi	and El-Hussein and
khaan ilkhaleeli	Khan El-khalili
salaam	cheers, goodbye (short for the Arabic
	greeting <i>salaamu caleikum</i>)
macassalaama	Goodbye
nishufku bukra	See you tomorrow

Useful words and phrases

Times of the day

The following table shows phrases used to express different times of the day.

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening/Night
Today	inniharda-S SubH	baʿd iDDuhr	billeil
Yesterday	imbaariH issubH	baʿd iDDuhr	billeil
Tomorrow	bukra-S SubH	baʿd iDDuhr	billeil

Note the loss of the first vowel in **iSSubH** with **inniharda** and **bukra** because of the final vowel in these two words.

Old and new

'adeem (m.)/'adeema (f.)	old, ancient
gideed (m.)/gideeda (f.)	new, modern
ʿarabiyya 'adeema	old car
gaamiʿ 'adeem	old mosque
'aasaar 'adeema	ancient antiquities
maSr iggideeda	Heliopolis (the new Cairo)
maSr il'adeema	Old Cairo (the old Cairo)

Big and small

kibeer (m.)/kibeera (f.)	big, large
Sughayyar (m.)/Sughayyara (f.)	small
dukkaan kibeer	big shop
ʿarabiyya kbeera	big car
gaamiʿ Sughayyar	small mosque
kineesa-Sghayyara	small church

the way it works

kamaan

kamaan has many meanings depending on the context. It can mean 'also', 'too', 'also', 'another'.

haat waahid shaay **kamaan**

bring another tea

wana **kamaan**

and me too

nitroff fein **kamaan**?

where else can we go?

nishufku/Goodbye

nishuf means 'we see'. When a personal pronoun is added to it as in **nishufku**, meaning 'we see you', it is used like its English equivalent 'see you' meaning 'goodbye'. Other pronouns can be added as shown below. The words **ashoof** and **nishoof** are used without the pronouns '**ana** (I) or '**ihna** (we).

I	We	Meaning
ashoofak	nishoofak	see you (m.)
ashoofik	nishoofik	see you (f.)
ashufku	nishufku	see you (pl.)

things to do

3.5 You are out sight-seeing in Cairo, say the following in Arabic:

- 1 I would like to go to El-Azhar.
- 2 El-Azhar is an old mosque.
- 3 Khan El-khalili is a big market.
- 4 What can I see in the museum?
- 5 How can we go to Khan El-khalili?
- 6 I would like to see a new mosque.
- 7 This shop is very small.

SHOPPING FOR FOOD, CLOTHES AND SOUVENIRS



You will find that shops in the Arab countries are usually open from 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m., with a two- or three-hour break in the afternoon. Shops are not closed on both weekend days (Thursday and Friday) but most are closed for part of the weekend. There are specialised small shops, but there are also department stores in big towns which sell a wide variety of goods including clothes (**malaabis** ملابس) and gifts (**hadaaya** هدايا). Many of these stores accept the major credit cards. Be prepared for a different system of paying, however. In bigger shops and supermarkets, after you choose your goods, you are given a bill which you pay at the cash desk (**ilkhazeena**) then you collect your goods from an adjacent counter (**il'istilam**).

shira-l fawaakih/Buying fruit

- Bill: **bikaam keelu-t teen?**
 Shopkeeper: bi talaata gneih.
 Bill: **wi keelu-l einab?**
 Shopkeeper: bikhamsa gneih.
 Bill: **'iddeeni keelu teen witnein einab min faDlak.**
 Shopkeeper: HaaDir yafandim.
 Bill: **'ilHisaab kaam min faDlak?**
 Shopkeeper: Hidaashar gineih.
 Bill: **'itfaDDal khamasTaashar gineih wi haat ilbaa'i.**
 Shopkeeper: ilbaa'i 'arbaea gneih. 'itfaDDal.

youm ilkhamees/Thursday

Words and phrases from the dialogue

hikaam keelu-t teen?
wi keelu-l cinab?
iddeeni keelu
ilhiinaab kaam?

how much is a kilo of figs?
and (how much is) a kilo of grapes?
give me a kilo of
how much is the bill (the lot)?

ilmalaabis wit-tuHaf/Clothes and souvenirs

- Catherine: **ɛayza jakitta gild** min faDlak.
Shopkeeper: **ma'aas kaam?**
Catherine: **ma'aas Sughayyar.**
Shopkeeper: **feeh bunni-w beij.**
Catherine: 'iddeeni waHda bunni.
Shopkeeper: 'itfaDDali. bi miyya warbiceen gineih.
Catherine: **la' di ghalya kida. wishshanTa di-b kaam?**
Shopkeeper: bitalateen gineih.
Catherine: Tayyib 'aakhud iljakitta-l bunni wishshanTa-b miyya-w khamseen gineih.
Shopkeeper: miyya-w sitteen kwayyis.
Catherine: Tayyib, itfaDDal, 'aadi miyya-w sitteen.
Shopkeeper: shukran, maɛassalama.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

jakitta gild
ma'aas kaam?
ma'aas Sughayyar
feeh bunni-w beij.
di ghalya kida
wishshanTa di-b kaam?

leather jacket
what size?
small size
there is brown and beige.
this is expensive at this price.
and how much is this handbag?

shira-l kuroot/Buying cards



- Mrs Clark: **mumkin ashoof ilkuroot** min faDlik?
Assistant: itfaDDali. **ɛayza kaam kart?**
Mrs Clark: **la' mish doul, 'ana ɛayza kart bustaal.**
Assistant: feeh kart bustaal. HaaDir.

Mrs Clark:	bikaam ilkart?
Assistant:	ilkart bi khamasTaashar 'irsh.
Mrs Clark:	Tayyib, 'iddeeni khamas kuroot
Assistant:	khamasa-w sabreen 'irsh, min faDlik.
Mrs Clark:	'itfaDDali gineih wi haati-l baa'i.
Assistant:	ilbaa'i khamasa-w eishreen 'irsh. 'itfaDDali.
Mrs Clark:	shukran.
Assistant:	ilæafw, maæassalaama.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

mumkin ashooof ilkuroot?	can I see the cards?
cayza kaam kart?	how many cards do you want?
la' mish doul	no, not these ones
kart bustaal	post cards
'iddeeni khamas kuroot	give me five cards

Bargaining

di ghalya (f.)/da ghaali (m.)	this is expensive
di-rkheeSa (f.)/da-rkheeS (m.)	this is cheap
feeh 'arkhaS min kida?	is there anything cheaper than that?
kwayyis kida.	that is all right.

Colours

(m.)	(f.)		(m.)	(f.)	
abyaD	beiDa	white	akhDar	khaDra	green
iswid	souda	black	azra'	zar'a	blue
aHmar	Hamra	red	bunni	bunni	brown
aSfar	Safra	yellow	beij	beij	beige

the way it works

Masculine and feminine words

Feminine words usually end with the sound **a** as in **jakitta, gazma, vaaza, eilba**.
When using colour words the feminine form should be used to describe feminine objects.

Examples

Feminine			Masculine		
jakitta	souda	black jacket	gamal	aHmar	red camel
vaaza	KhaDra	green vase	bantaloun	bunni	brown trousers
gazma	beiDa	white shoes	'ameeS	'abyaD	white shirt
bilouza	Hamra	red blouse	Taba'	'aHmar	red plate

When making the objects definite, the colour words also become definite e.g. **iljakitta-l bunni (il bunni), il'ameeS il'abyaD.**

youm ilkhamees/Thursday

Plurals

Many feminine words ending in **a**, have **aat** in the plural e.g. **jakitta** → **jakittaat** and **vaza** → **vazaat**. However, as many other different patterns are used to make plurals in Arabic, you will have to learn most plurals as you go along.

Examples

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
kurT	kuroot	eilba	eilab
urooh	'uroosh	shanTa	shunaT
tazaakir	tazaakir	gaarnie	gawaarnie
maTaaeim	maTaaeim	kineesa	kanaayis
gimaal	gimaal	'Taba'	'aTbaa'
tamaseel	tamaseel	Saniyya	Sawaani
galabeeb	galabeeb	maktaba	maktabaat
banTalunaat	banTalunaat	'ameeS	'umSaan
gizam	gizam	'ouDa	'iwaD
'utubees	'utubisaat	hidiyya	hadaaya

Cardinal numbers revisited

There are two forms of cardinal numbers from 3 to 10. One form is used for telling the time, ordering food or drinks and talking about money. The counted objects (see p. 15) are usually expressed in the singular with this form.

The other form is used for counting everything else, and it is usually followed by the plural form of the object counted as shown below.

talat tazaakir	three tickets	saba: gimaal	seven camels
arba: eilab	four boxes	taman Sawaani	eight trays
khams kuroot	five cards	tisa: 'iwaD	nine rooms
sitt biluzaat	six blouses	ashar 'aTbaa'	ten plates

things to do

- 4.1 Ask about the prices of the following:
 - 1 A kilo of mangoes.
 - 2 A kilo of strawberries.
 - 3 The green jacket.
 - 4 The beige shirt.
 - 5 This statue.
- 4.2 Say the following to shopkeepers:
 - 1 No, this is expensive (blouse).
 - 2 O.K., give me six cards.
 - 3 I'll take the red camel.
 - 4 I'll take three galabiyyas.
 - 5 Here's five pounds and give me the change.

POSTING LETTERS AND MAKING TELEPHONE CALLS

Post offices in Arab countries are open every day except for Fridays and holidays. Opening hours differ from one country to another. In Egypt, they are generally open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Some branches in larger cities may stay open as late as 8 p.m. Delivery times for international mail can be improved if you write the name of the destination country in Arabic.

fi maktab ilbareed/At the post office

- Bill: **εaayiz Tawaabic likhamas gawabaat min faDlak.**
 Clerk: **ilgawabaat rayHa fein?**
 Bill: **'ingiltira.**
 Clerk: **bareed gawwi walla εaadi?**
 Bill: **bareed gawwi min faDlak.**
 Clerk: **talaata gneih. iTTaabic bi sitteen 'irsh.**
 Bill: **wi εaayiz 'abcat ilgawaab da musaggal.**
 Clerk: **ilmusaggal lingiltira miyya-w sitteen 'irsh. Haaga tanya?**
 Bill: **la' shukran khalaaS.**
 Clerk: **ilmagmooc 'arbaεa gneih wi sitteen 'irsh.**
 Bill: **itfaDDal. (handing the money)**
 Clerk: **shukran. wi da waSl ittasgeel.**



Words and phrases from the dialogue

εaayiz Tawaabic
 likhamas gawabaat
 ilgawabaat rayHa fein?
 bareed gawwi walla εaadi?
 iTTaabic bi sitteen 'irsh
 wi εaayiz 'abcat
 ilgawaab da musaggal
 Haaga tanya?
 khalaaS
 'ilmagmuuc 'arbaεa gneih
 wi da waSl ittasgeel

can I have stamps
 for five letters
 where are the letters going?
 by air mail or surface mail?
 sixty piastres each (stamp)
 and I would like to send
 this letter by recorded delivery
 anything else?
 that's it
 the total is four pounds
 and this is the receipt for the recorded
 delivery

youm ilkhamees/Thursday

Useful words and phrases

bareed	post
faal ee bareed	postage stamp
haadhu' ilbareed	posting box
bareed gawwi	air mail
biTTayyara	by air mail (by plane)
caayiz abeat	I would like to send (post)
ilgawaab da biTTayyaara	this letter by air
ilgawaab da musaggal	this letter by recorded delivery
ilkaat da 'ingiltira	this card to England
caayiz asaggil ilgawaab da (or) caayiz abeat ilgawaab da musaggal	I would like to send this letter by recorded delivery
walla/aw	or

Singular and plural

Singular		Plural	
gawaab	letter	gawabaat	letters
ilgawaab	the letter	ilgawabaat	the letters
kaat	card	kuroot	cards
'ilkaat	the card	ilkuroot	the cards
Tard	parcel	Turood	parcels
iTTard	the parcel	iTTurood	the parcels
Taabic	stamp	Tawaabic	stamps
iTTaabic	the stamp	iTTawaabic	the stamps

Making a phone call

You can make local and international telephone calls at your hotel or at public telephone offices. Local calls can also be made from public telephones in the streets, in some countries, or from most shops, which charge a reasonable fee. It is more convenient to use the hotel telephones, but it is cheaper to use the telephone office, particularly for international calls. In hotels you ask the operator to connect you to local or international numbers. In the public telephone office you book the call with an assistant, wait until your number is obtained then the assistant calls you to take the call from booth number such and such. After you finish your call, you pay the fees and get a receipt.

fi-s sintiraal/At the telephone office

Catherine:	caayza mukalma manshistar min faDlak.
Clerk:	HaaDir. nimra kaam fi manshistar?
Catherine:	innimra di. (shows him the number written)
Clerk:	kaam di'ee'a?
Catherine:	sitt da'aayi' min faDlak. bikaam?
Clerk:	arbaa-w eishreen gineih.
Catherine:	Tayyib shukran.
Clerk:	itfaDDali, kabeena nimra sabaa.

Words and phrases from the dialogue



ʕayza mukalma manshistar
 nimra kaam
 kaam di'ee'a?
 sitt da'aayi'
 kabeena nimra sabʕa

I would like to call Manchester
 what is the number?
 how many minutes?
 six minutes
 cabin (booth) No. 7

Useful words and phrases

ʕaayiz/ʕayza (f.) akallim landan
 mumkin akallim London?
 mumkin aʕmil tilifoun?
 mumkin akkallim fittilifoun?
 ilmukalma khamseen 'irsh
 'aloo'alu
 'aywa, meen?

I would like to make a call to London
 can (may) I make a call to London?
 can I make a call?
 can I use the phone?
 50 piastres a call
 hello (on the phone)
 yes, who is it? (calling)

the way it works

ʕaadi means 'ordinary'. When talking about post, it means surface mail.
khalaaS means 'finished'. It is used in conversation to mean 'that's it', 'that's all', 'no more', 'it's finished', or 'already'.

things to do

4.3 Say the following in Arabic:

- 1 I would like to send these cards to Birmingham.
- 2 Can I send this letter, recorded delivery, please?
- 3 Can I send these parcels to Paris, please?
- 4 I would like a stamp for this card, please.
- 5 I would like to send these letters by air mail.
- 6 Where is the recording receipt?
- 7 How much is a stamp for Britain by air mail?
- 8 Can I use the telephone?
- 9 Can I call Alexandria?
- 10 I would like to call Manchester, please.

LONG-DISTANCE TRAVEL



There are intercity air and bus services in all the Arab countries, but railway services are only available in some. Trains have three classes, with a 'superluxe' class on certain routes, which provides air conditioned carriages and sleeping compartments, and buffet or restaurant services. It is advisable to travel at least first class on trains, especially as the fares are reasonable. Third class is very basic (wooden seats); and the locals would also be surprised to see you among them in second class. Air conditioned buses also run on certain bus routes.

You should enquire about the facilities available on the route you are using before booking train or bus tickets and be sure to reserve seats in advance, particularly for longer journeys.

Look for the following signs:

Ticket office

Platform number

Carriage number

Restaurant carriage

Sleeping carriage

shibbaak ittazaakir

raSeef raqam

εaraba raqam

εarabiyyit il'akl

εarabiyyit innoum

شباك التذاكر

رصيف رقم...

عربة رقم...

عربة الاكل

عربة النوم

issafar bil'aTr/Travelling by train

It would be useful to refer to pp. 26–28 for talking about time in this unit.

- Bill: **tazkara skindiriyya** min faDlak.
 Clerk: **daraga 'oola walla tanya?**
 Bill: **daraga 'oola mukayyafa.**
 Clerk: **raayiH gayy walla raayiH bass?**
 Bill: **raayiH gayy.**
 Clerk: **daraga 'oola raayiH gayy, bi εashara gneih.**
 Bill: **itfaDDal. il'aTr issaεa kaam?**
 Clerk: **feeh 'aTr issaεa tamanya-w nuSS.**
 Bill: **raSeef nimra kaam?**
 Clerk: **raSeef nimra talaata.**
 Bill: **feeh εarabiyyit 'akl?**
 Clerk: **'aywa feeh. wi feeh bufeih kamaan.**

Words and phrases from the dialogue

tazkara skindiriyya	a ticket to Alexandria
daraga 'oola	1st class
walla tanya?	or 2nd class?
daraga 'oola mukayyafa	1st class air-conditioned
raayiH gayy	return
walla raayiH bass?	or one way only?
il'aTr issaεa kaam?	what time is the train?
feeh 'aTr	there is a train
issaεa tamanya-w nuSS.	at 8.30.
raSeef nimra kaam?	what platform number?
raSeef nimra talaata	platform No. 3
feeh εarabiyyit 'akl?	is there a restaurant carriage?
wi feeh bufeih kamaan.	and there is a buffet as well.

Useful words and phrases

'aTr iskindiriyya (lukSur, etc)	the train to Alexandria (Luxor, etc)
εaayiz aHgiz makaan	I would like to book a seat
iddeeni tazkara	give me a ticket
daraga 'oola (tanya)	1st (2nd) class
siyaHiyya	tourist class (on planes)
teeh makaan ('amaakin)	there is a seat (are seats)
mafeesh 'amaakin fi	there are no seats on
'aTr 'issaεa khamisa	the 5 o'clock train
Tayyaarit issaεa khamisa	the 5 o'clock plane

yum iggumaa/Friday

bihi makaan waaHid bass.

raayil/zahaab

raayil gayy/zahaab wi sawda

muusaafir (misafreen) imta?

raaghi (raagreen) imta?

muusaafir biTTayyara

muusaafir bil'aTr

arafayyit innoum

diwaan bisrirein

hilla raqam

ifTayyaara f'oom issaa'a kaam?

ifTayyara tiwSal issaa'a kaam?

ifTayyaara f'oom min . . . issaa'a

ifTayyaara tiwSal . . . issaa'a

#aTr i y'oom issaa'a kaam?

#aTr i wSal issaa'a kaam?

there is only one seat

one way

return

when are you travelling?

when are you coming back?

travelling by plane (air)

travelling by train

in the sleeping carriage

compartment with two berths

flight number

what times does the plane take off?

what time does the plane arrive?

the plane *takes off* from . . . at . . . o'clock

the plane *arrives at* . . . at . . . o'clock

what time does the train leave?

what time does the train arrive?

things to do

#1 You are booking seats for yourself and friends on a train from Cairo to Luxor. Say the following to the ticket officer, in Arabic. You and the ticket officer are both male. (Refer to pp. 26–28 and p. 80 when talking about time.)

- 1 What time is the train to Luxor?
- 2 We are travelling on Friday morning.
- 3 I would like to book four seats, please.
- 4 First class air-conditioned.
- 5 We are going by train and coming back by plane.
- 6 Can I book a compartment with two berths?
- 7 How much is the ticket?
- 8 Is there a restaurant carriage?
- 9 What time does the train leave?
- 10 And what time does it arrive?

#2 You are booking a plane seat for yourself from Amman to Jeddah. Say the following in Arabic. You and the ticket officer are both female.

- 1 I would like to book a seat to Jeddah.
- 2 I am travelling Friday afternoon.
- 3 How much is a return ticket?
- 4 Tourist class.
- 5 What time does the plane take off?
- 6 What time does the plane arrive in Jeddah?

SPORT AND LEISURE



Most big hotels have sports facilities, particularly for swimming, tennis, squash and table tennis. There are also sporting clubs which are similar to sports centres in Britain, except that, in some countries, you cannot be admitted unless you are accompanied by a club member. In the evening various kinds of shows are presented in the hotels, theatres, cinemas, music halls and night clubs.

il 'alεaab irriyaaDiyya/Sports activities

Bill and Catherine make enquiries at the hotel reception about the sports facilities available.

- Bill: 'iHna εayzeen nile ab tinis niεmil 'eih?
 Receptionist: tiHgizu maleab. εayzeen tilεabu 'add 'eih?
 Bill: saaca-kfaaya. wi baεdein niεoom shiwayya.
 Receptionist: issaε-b khamσα-gneih. εanduku maDaarib?
 Bill: la' maεandinaash maDaarib hina.
 Receptionist: mumkin ti'aggaru maDaarib min il huteil.
 Bill: Tayyib ni'aggar maDrabein.
 Receptionist: laaz'im tiHgizu-l maleab bisurea.

yom iggumaa/Friday

- Catherine: wi **Hammaam issibaaHa** **εaayiz Hagz?**
 Receptionist: la'. **Hammaam issibaaHa** **εaayiz rasm-idkhool.**
 Catherine: wi **rasm iddukhool kaam?**
 Receptionist: gineih **likull waaHid.**
 Bill: **Tayyib shukran.**
 Receptionist: **ma'assalaama.**

Words and phrases from the dialogue

ilna εayzeen nilcab tinis	we would like to play tennis
ni nil 'eih?	what shall we do?
ilgisa malcab	(you) book a court.
εayzeen tilcabu 'add 'eih?	how long do you want to play?
saa a kfaaya	an hour is enough.
ni oom shuwayya	(we) swim for a bit.
εanduku maDaarib	do you have rackets?
ilna andinaash maDaarib	we have no rackets.
muukin ti'aggaru maDaarib	you can hire rackets.
biirca	quickly.
Hammaam issibaaHa	the swimming pool
εaayiz hagz?	does it need booking?
rasm-idkhool	entrance fee
likull waaHid	each

Useful words and phrases

Hammaam sibaaHa	swimming pool
malcab tinis/iskwaash	tennis/squash court
tarabeizit bing bong	table tennis table
maDrab tinis/iskwaash	tennis/squash racket
kourit tinis/iskwaash	tennis/squash ball
ilnaDaarib maggaan	the rackets <i>are free</i>
Hammaam issibaaHa maggaan	the swimming pool <i>is free</i>
nilcab sawa (maε baεD)	let's play together
fi-n naadi	in the club

nirooH fein?/Where to go?

Mr and Mrs Clark ask their hotel manager for advice on spending the evening out in Luxor.

- Mr Clark: **nirooH fein i'llilaadi?**
 Manager: feeh **birnaamig iSSouT wiDDou' fi maεbad ilkarnaK.**
 Mrs Clark: **wifeeh 'eih kamaan?**
 Manager: feeh **sahra maSriyya** hina fil huteil.
 Mr Clark: **issahra-l maSriyya** **feeha 'eih?**
 Manager: **feeha museeqa maSriyya** wi **ra'S shaεbi** wi **'aghaani** **shaεbiyya.**

youm iggumæa/Friday

- Mr Clark: wifeeh 'eih kamaan?
Manager: wifeeh **sahra**
'urubbiyya fi huteil
ramsees.
Mrs Clark: iSSouT wiDDou'
issaæa kaam?
Manager: **ilbirnaamig yibda'**
issaæa sabæa, **wi**
yintihi-s saæa æashara.
Mrs Clark: Tayyib **nirooH** iSSout
wiDDou' **inniharda,**
winiHDar issahra-l
maSriyya **bukra.**
Manager: **tisharrafu** yafandim.



Words and phrases from the dialogue

nirooH fein illilaadi?
birnaamig iSSout wiDDou'
fi maæbad ilkarnak
wifeeh 'eih kamaan?
sahra maSriyya ('urubbiyya)

feeha 'eih?
museeqa maSriyya
ra'S shaæbi
'aghaani shaæbiyya
ilbirnaamig yibda'
wi yintihi-s saæa
nirooH . . . inniharda
winiHDar . . . bukra
tisharrafu

where shall we go this evening?
the son et lumière programme
in Karnak temple
and what else is there?
Egyptian (European) evening
entertainment
what is in it?
Egyptian music
folk dances
folk songs
the programme starts
and ends at . . . o'clock
we go to . . . today
and attend . . . tomorrow
it is an honour to us

youm iggumεa/Friday

Useful words and phrases

masraH	cinema
masraH	theatre
masraH	film
masraH	play
ana hatrooH lmasraH	I am going to the theatre
ana hatrooH issinama	I am going to the cinema
ana hatrooH il'ahwa	I am going to the café
ana hatrooH disco	I am going to a disco
ana hatfarrag εala-t tilifizioun	I am going to watch television
ana hatfarrag εala-l vidyu	I am going to watch the video
ana hatfarrag εala-k koura	I am going to watch the football
shwa εala-n neel/-lbaHr	a café by the Nile/sea
ullibb i-trooH fein?	where would you like to go?

the way it works

Sports

al'aaab irriyaaDiyya is a term used in Arabic when talking about all kinds of sports activities whether they are games or sports. The singular of **'al'aaab** is **lieba**.

malaab is used in Arabic to mean pitch, field or court. The plural is **malaacib**.

malaab/malaacib tinis	tennis court/s
malaab/malaacib koura	football pitch/es
malaab/malaacib huki	hockey pitch/es
malaab/malaacib iskwash	squash court/s
malaab/malaacib vuli	volleyball court/s

Some

shwayya means 'a bit', 'a little' or 'some'. When it is followed by a noun it becomes **shwayyit**.

Examples

shwayyit mayya	some water
shwayyit teen	some figs
lieab shwayya	play for a bit

Verbs in the future

ha at the beginning of the verb makes it future.

Examples

'ana hatfarrag	I am going to (shall) watch
'iHna hanitfarrag	we are going to (shall) watch
huwwa hayitfarrag	he is going to (will) watch

In some cases the first vowel of the verb is dropped.

'ana harooH (arooH)	I shall go
iHna hanrooh (nirooH)	we shall go
huwwa hayrooH (yirooH)	he will go

things to do

5.3 Tom wants to play squash. Translate the conversation he has into Arabic.

- 1 Tom: Can I book a squash court?
- 2 Attendant: For how long?
- 3 Tom: One hour.
- 4 Attendant: Do you want rackets?
- 5 Tom: No, we have rackets.
- 6 Attendant: Five pounds please.
- 7 Tom: When can we play?
- 8 Attendant: Half past four.
- 9 Tom: Is there a shower here?
- 10 Attendant: Yes, there are three.
- 11 Tom: Where are they?
- 12 Attendant: At the end of this corridor, on the left.

5.4 Nabeel asks Peter where he would like to spend the evening. Translate Peter's part into Arabic.

- Nabeel: Where would you like to go tonight?
- 1 Peter: What's available?
- Nabeel: There is a nice programme in the club.
- 2 Peter: What else is there?
- Nabeel: There is also evening entertainment in the hotel.
- 3 Peter: What does the hotel evening include?
- Nabeel: The hotel evening entertainment is a programme of Egyptian music and songs?
- 4 Peter: And what does the club evening include?
- Nabeel: The club programme is European music and singing.
- 5 Peter: All right. We'll go to the club tonight.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

There are both public and private health services in the Arab countries. Public services are available in government hospitals and medical centres. Private services are available in private hospitals and surgeries. If you are too ill to move, you can ask for a doctor to come and see you, or for an ambulance to take you to the nearest hospital or medical centre. In case of emergency you can go, or be taken, to the casualty department in any hospital, public or private.

Most people speak English, but your knowledge of Arabic would be useful for talking to hotel staff, ambulance men, paramedics or members of the public in case of emergency. It is advisable to take medical insurance before you travel so that you can claim any expenses.

taɛbaan shiwayya/Feeling ill

Mr Clark does not feel well when he gets up in the morning. Mrs Clark goes to the hotel reception to ask their advice.

- Mr Clark: SabaaH ilkheir, 'ana misiz klaark, 'ouDa nimra arbae'Taashar.
 Reception: SabaaH ilkheir yamadaam. 'ayyi khidma?
 Mr Clark: 'ana zougi taɛbaan shiwayya. niemil 'eih?
 Reception: huwwa candu 'eih yamadaam?
 Mr Clark: candu Suddaa: w-iltihaab fi zouru
 Reception: tiHibbi ni'Tlublu duktour?
 Mr Clark: 'aywa min faDlik.
 Reception: Tayyib, hani'Tlub
 duktour Haalan.
 Mrs Clark: shukran.
 Reception: ilaafw.



Words and phrases in the dialogue

taɛbaan shiwayya
 niemil 'eih?
 huwwa candu 'eih?

cand u Suddaa:
 w-iltihaab fi zouru
 tiHibbi ni'Tlublu duktour?

hani'Tlub duktour Haalan

is not very well
 what shall we do?
 what is wrong with him?/what does he
 suffer from?
 he has a headache
 and a sore throat
 would you like us to call a doctor for
 him?
 we shall call a doctor immediately

youm issabt/Saturday

fil eiyaada/In the surgery

Bill goes to see a doctor because he has a stomach-ache.



Doctor: candak éih ya mistar teilar?
Bill: candi maghaS wi 'is-haal.
Doctor: min 'imta?
Bill: min imbaariH billeil.
Doctor: Tayyib 'aakhud ilHaraara.

After taking Bill's temperature and examining him, the doctor gives him a prescription.

Doctor: mafeesh Haraara. di Haaga baseeTa. khud iddawa da wistareeH raaHa kamla.
Bill: 'aakhud iddawa kaam marra?
Doctor: talat marraat fil youm baed il'akl.
Bill: waakul 'eih?
Doctor: Kul tust wishrab Hagaat sa'ca bass.
Bill: shukran ya duktur salaamu ealeiku.
Doctor: ileafw ma'assalaama.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

candi maghaS wi 'is-haal
min 'imta?
min imbaariH billeil
'aakhud ilHaraara
mafeesh Haraara
di Haaga baseeTa
khud iddawa da
wistareeH raaHa kamla
kaam marra?
talat marraat fil youm
waakul 'eih?
kul tust
wishrab Hagaat sa'ca
bass

I have stomach-ache and diarrhoea
Since when?
Since last night
Let me take the temperature
There is no temperature
This is not serious
Take this medicine
and have complete rest
how often?
Three times a day
And what shall I eat?
eat toast
and have cold drinks
only

youm issabt/Saturday

Describing your ailments

There are two different ways of talking about ailments

- 1. **candi** + symptom = I have + symptom
- 2. (part of the body) **bi yiwgaeni** (m.)/**bi tiwgaeni** (f.)

Examples

1. candi Sudaac	I have a headache
1. candi imsaak	I have constipation
1. candi litihaab fi zouri	I have a sore throat
2. kafti-b yiwgaeni (m.)	I have pain in my shoulder
2. diraaci-b yiwgaeni (m.)	I have pain in my arm
2. tiqli-b tiwgaeni (f.)	I have pain in my leg
2. 'aedi-b tiwgaeni (f.)	I have pain in my hand

(Note the change of **bi** into **-b**.)

Injuries

pa-noun	twisted	cut	broke
YY-ut	laweit	garaHt	kasart
He	lawa	garaH	kasar
She	lawit	garaHit	kasarit

Examples

'ana laweit diraaci	I twisted my arm
Nabeel kasar diraacu	Nabeel broke his arm
Fayza garaHit 'idha	Fayza cut her hand

Other injuries

'anaSni dabboor	<i>I have been stung by a wasp</i>
'anaSitni nahla	<i>I have been stung by a bee</i>

Things you have to tell the doctor

'ana candi sukkar	I am diabetic
'ana candi rabw	I am asthmatic
'ana candi-l 'alb (candi il'alb)	I have heart trouble
'ana candi Hasasiya lil binsileen	I am allergic to penicillin
'ana Haamil	I am pregnant

Asking for help

caayiz duktour (m.)	I need a doctor
caayza duktour (f.)	I need a doctor
caayiz il'iscaaf (m.)	I need the ambulance
caayza-l 'iscaaf (f.)	I need the ambulance
caayiz arooH ilmustashfa (m.)	I want to go to the hospital.

Key words in Arabic

Ambulance	il'iscaaf	الاسعاف	Surgery	ciyaada	عيادة
Hospital	mustashfa	مستشفى	Doctor	duktour	دكتور

the way it works

'istareeH means have a rest, so **istareeH raaHa kamla** means have a complete rest. But in the phrase **itfaDDal istareeH** it means take a seat or have a seat.

Negation

mish, mafeesh, maεandeeH

mish	not
mish εaarif	I don't know
mish raayiH	I am not going
mafeesh	there is no (not)
mafeesh Haraara	there is no temperature
mafeesh εaSeer	there is no juice
maεandeeH	I have no (not)
maεandeeH Haraara	I have not got a temperature

Orders and requests

The doctor might tell you to do the following:

person	take	eat	drink
singular (m.)	khud	kul	ishrab
singular (f.)	khudi	kuli	ishrabi
plural (m. + f.)	khudu	kulu	ishrabu

things to do

6.1 Tell the doctor what each member of the group is suffering from.

- 1 Tom suffers from toothache.
- 2 Laura has a cold.
- 3 Josephine has a sore throat.
- 4 Helen has a sore eye.
- 5 Henry has heartburn.

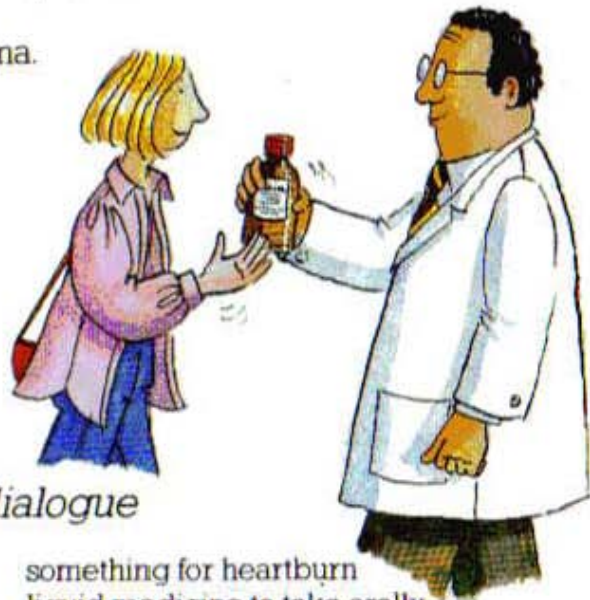
6.2 Translate the following questions into English and give the answers in Arabic.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 εandak bard? | No, I haven't |
| 2 εandik Haraara? | Yes, I have |
| 3 εankak Hasasiya lilbinsileen? | No, I haven't |
| 4 min 'imta? | Since this morning |
| 5 feeh Şudaæ? | No, there isn't |

youm issabt/Saturday

fil agzakhaana/At the pharmacy

- Catherine: mumkin **Haaga lil HumooDa**, min faDlak?
 Chemist: 'aywa feeh **dawa shurb** mumtaaz.
 Catherine: '**aakhud 'add'eih?**
 Chemist: khudi **ma'la'a-kbeera marritein fil youm. marra-S SubH, wi marra** billeil.
 Catherine: baed il'akl walla 'abl il'akl?
 Chemist: baed il'akl.
 Catherine: shukran. 'ilHisaab kaam?
 Chemist: miyya-w khamseen 'irsh, bass.
 Catherine: 'itfaDDal.
 Chemist: shukran. ma'eassalaama.



Words and phrases from the dialogue

Haaga lil HumooDa
dawa shurb
'aakhud 'add'eih?
ma'la'a-kbeera
marritein fil youm
marra . . . wi marra

something for heartburn
 liquid medicine to take orally
 how much shall I take?
 one tablespoonful
 twice a day
 once . . . and once . . .

Useful words and phrases

dawa 'a'raaS
dawa saayil (shurb)
dawa Hu'an
'urS ('a'raaS)
mumkin Haaga (dawa) li?
caayiz *Haaga (dawa) li
caayiz aSrif iddawa da
caayiz aSrif irrushitta di
'add 'eih?
kaam marra?
ma'la'a-kbeera
ma'la'a-Sghayyara

medicine in tablet form (tablets)
 medicine in liquid form (liquid)
 medicine to be taken by injection
 tablet (tablets)
 can I have something/medicine for?
 I want something/medicine for
 I want this medicine made up
 I want this prescription made up
 how much?
 how many times?
 tablespoonful
 teaspoonful

* Note: Use **caayiz** if a man, **caayza** if a woman.

the way it works

'istareeH means have a rest, so **istareeH raaHa kamla** means have a complete rest.
But in the phrase **ifaDDal istareeH** it means take a seat or have a seat.

Negation

mish, mafeesh, maεandeeH

mish
mish εaarif
mish raayiH

mafeesh
mafeesh Haraara
mafeesh εaSeer

maεandeeH
maεandeeH Haraara

not
I don't know
I am not going
there is no (not)
there is no temperature
there is no juice
I have no (not)
I have not got a temperature

Orders and requests

The doctor might tell you to do the following:

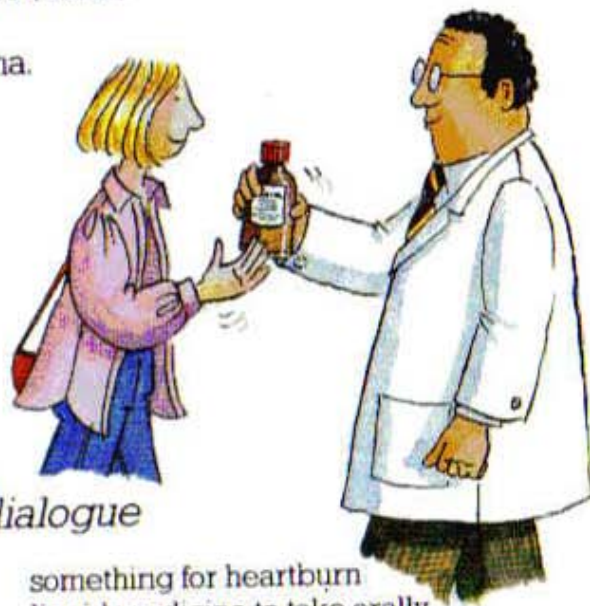
person	take	eat	drink
singular (m.)	khud	kul	ishrab
singular (f.)	khudi	kuli	ishrabi
plural (m. + f.)	khudu	kulu	ishrabu

things to do

- 6.1 Tell the doctor what each member of the group is suffering from.
- 1 Tom suffers from toothache.
 - 2 Laura has a cold.
 - 3 Josephine has a sore throat.
 - 4 Helen has a sore eye.
 - 5 Henry has heartburn.
- 6.2 Translate the following questions into English and give the answers in Arabic.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 εandak bard? | No, I haven't |
| 2 εandik Haraara? | Yes, I have |
| 3 εankak Hasasiya lilbinsileen? | No, I haven't |
| 4 min 'imta? | Since this morning |
| 5 feeh Şudaaε? | No, there isn't |

fil agzakhaana/At the pharmacy

- Catherine: mumkin Haaga lil HumooDa, min faDlak?
 Chemist: 'aywa feeh dawa shurb mumtaaz.
 Catherine: 'aakhud 'add'eih?
 Chemist: khudi macla'a-kbeera marritein fil youm. marra-S SubH, wi marra billeil.
 Catherine: baed il'akl walla 'abl il'akl?
 Chemist: baed il'akl.
 Catherine: shukran. 'ilHisaab kaam?
 Chemist: miyya-w khamseen 'irsh, bass.
 Catherine: 'itfaDDal.
 Chemist: shukran. maçassalaama.



Words and phrases from the dialogue

Haaga lil HumooDa
 dawa shurb
 'aakhud 'add'eih?
 macla'a-kbeera
 marritein fil youm
 marra... wi marra

something for heartburn
 liquid medicine to take orally
 how much shall I take?
 one tablespoonful
 twice a day
 once... and once...

Useful words and phrases

dawa 'a'raaS
 dawa saayil (shurb)
 dawa Hu'an
 'urS ('a'raaS)
 mumkin Haaga (dawa) li?
 caayiz *Haaga (dawa) li
 caayiz aSrif iddawa da
 caayiz aSrif irrushitta di
 'add 'eih?
 kaam marra?
 macla'a-kbeera
 macla'a-Sghayyara

medicine in tablet form (tablets)
 medicine in liquid form (liquid)
 medicine to be taken by injection
 tablet (tablets)
 can I have something/medicine for?
 I want something/medicine for
 I want this medicine made up
 I want this prescription made up
 how much?
 how many times?
 tablespoonful
 teaspoonful

* Note: Use caayiz if a man, cayza if a woman.

the way it works

Big and small

Kibeera big **sughayyara** small

When talking about dosage in medicine **ma'la'a-kbeera** means 'tablespoonful' and **ma'la'a-Sghayyara** means 'teaspoonful'. **Kbeera** and **Sghayyaara** lost their first vowels because of the last **a** in **ma'la'a**.

How many?

kaam? How many?

kaam is always followed by the singular when asking about the number of anything.

Examples

kaam marra?	how many times?
kaam keelu?	how many kilos?
kaam gineih?	how many pounds?

The answer to **kaam marra?** can be as follows

marra waHda	once
marritein	twice
talat marraat	times (up to 10)
Hidaashar marra	eleven times (from 11 upwards)

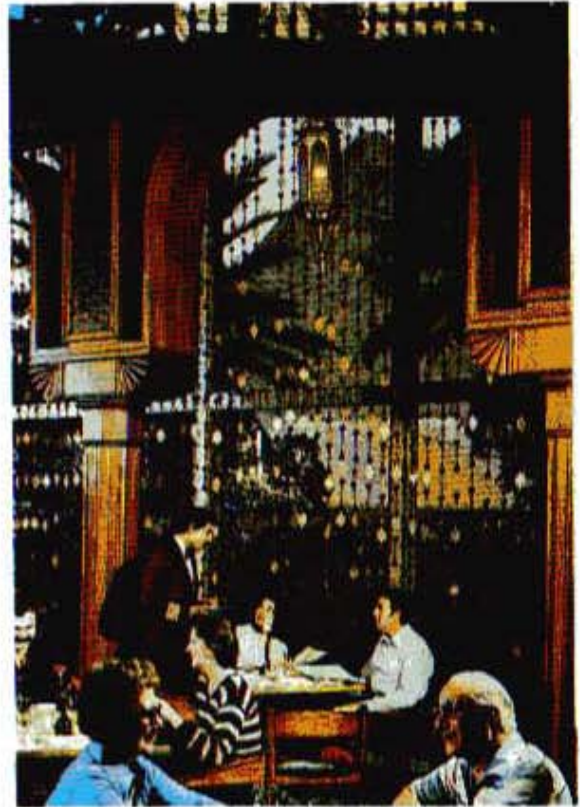
things to do

6.3 Ask in Arabic for the following things at the pharmacy:

- 1 something for a headache
- 2 to have a prescription made up
- 3 shaving cream and toothpaste
- 4 cotton wool, Dettol and elastoplast
- 5 something for diarrhoea and a disinfectant
- 6 how many times you should take the medicine
- 7 how much of the medicine you should take
- 8 a toothbrush
- 9 eau de Cologne and talcum powder
- 10 shaving brush and razor blades

EATING OUT

Lunch ('ilghada) is the main meal for townspeople in Egypt and all other Arab countries. A formal lunch is a four course meal, whether it is served at a restaurant, in a hotel or in a private house. Lunch ('ilghada) is served between 1.00 and 4.00 in the afternoon. The evening meal ('ilasha) is either a big meal, like lunch, or a light meal. Light meals, if not taken at home, are served in restaurants and cafés.



A formal meal includes the following:

shurba 'aw salaTa

ruzz 'aw makarouna

laHma-w khuDaar wi salaTa

il Hilw

mashroub (shaay/'ahwa)

soup or salad

rice or macaroni

meat, vegetables and salad

dessert

drink (tea or coffee)

Although alcoholic drinks are only available in some Arab countries, non-alcoholic beer (**beera**) and wine (**nibeet**) are available in them all. The majority of the Arab people have water (**mayya**) or fizzy drinks with their big meals.

Waiters expect a tip (**ba'sheesh**) even if a service charge is included in the bill. A 10% tip is just right in all kinds of restaurants.

fil maTcam/At the restaurant

Kamaal Salem and his wife arranged to meet Bill and Catherine and give them a meal at a restaurant in Cairo.

Kamaal: massaa' ilkheir. sayzeen **tarabeiza larba'a** min faDlak.

Waiter: 'ahlan yafandim. **itfaDDalu** min hina.

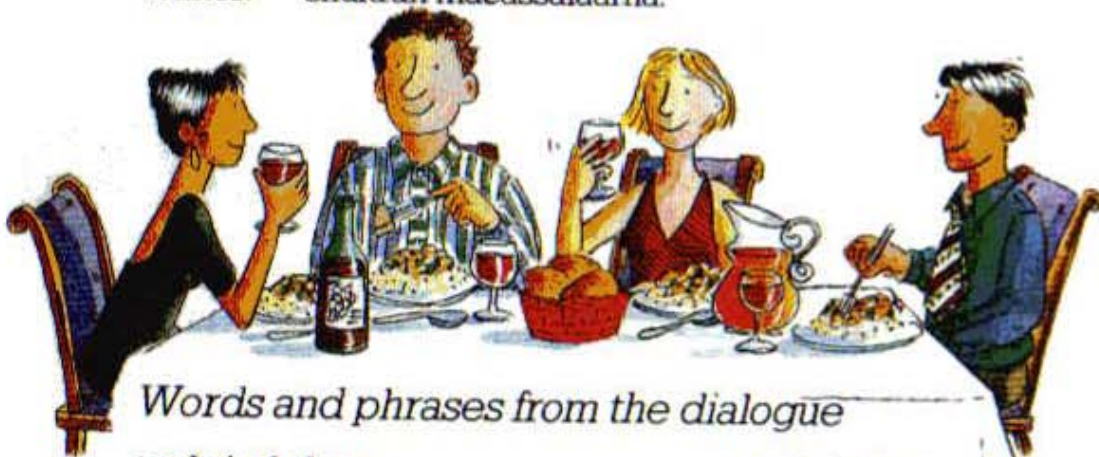
Kamaal: **mumkin il minyu** min faDlak?

Waiter: **Haalan** yafandim.

youm issabt/Saturday

Later, after consulting the menu. . .

- Waiter: 'aywa yafandim, **Talabatku 'eih?**
 Kamaal: sayzeen itnein **shurbit εats** witnein shurbit **TamaaTim**.
 Waiter: εeish wi **salaTaat wi-mkhalilaat?**
 Kamaal: 'aywa. wi baεdein sayzeen itnein ruzz, witnein makarouna,
 witnein kabaab, witnein kufta-w waaHid bamyā-w waal lid
 bisilla.
 Waiter: **tiHibbu tishrabu eih maca-l 'aki?**
 Kamaal: naakhud arbaca εaSeer tuffaaH, wi-'zaazit mayya maεdaniyya
 Waiter: **wil Hilw?**
 Kamaal: 'itnein mihallabiyya-w waaHid baT'Teekh wi waaHid einab.
 Waiter: tiHibbu 'ahwa walla shaay **baεd il'aki?**
 Kamaal: 'itnein 'ahwa **maZboot**, witnein shaay **binicnaac**.
 Waiter: HaaDir yafandim. 'ayyi khidma.
 Kamaal: **ilHisaab min faDlak**.
 Waiter: HaaDir, **sanya waHda. itfaDDal**.
 Kamaal: dal Hisaab, **wida εashaanak**.
 Waiter: shukran maεassalaama.



Words and phrases from the dialogue

tarabeiza larbaca
 itfaDDalu min hina
 mumkin il minyu?
 Haalan

Talabatku 'eih?
 shurbit εats/TamaaTim
 salaTaat wi-mkhalilaat
 tiHibbu tishrabu 'eih
 maca-l 'aki?
 'izaazit mayya
 mayya maεdaniyya
 wil Hilw?
 baεd il'aki?
 'ahwa maZboot
 shaay binicnaac
 ilHisaab min faDlak
 sanya waHda
 wida εashaanak

a table for four
 This way please
 Can we have the menu?
 In a minute (literally it means
 immediately)
 what would you like to order?
 lentil/tomato soup
 salads and pickles
 what would you like to drink
 with the meal?
 a bottle of water
 mineral water
 and what for dessert?
 after the meal?
 Turkish coffee with little sugar
 mint tea (with mint)
 the bill, please
 one second
 and this is for you

youm issabt/Saturday

Useful words and phrases

ana Haagiz tarabeiza	I have booked a table	I (m.)
ana Hagza tarabeiza	I have booked a table	I (f.)
Utna Hagzeen tarabeiza	we have booked a table	we (m./f.)
'ahd il'akl	before the meal/food	
ma'a-l'akl	with the meal/food	
ba'd il'akl	after the meal/food	

The word **Haaga** which means 'thing' is always used when asking for drinks of any kind. Hot or cold is **sukhna** or **sa'ea**.

Examples

mumkin Haaga sa'ea?	can I have a cold drink?
mumkin nishrab Haaga?	can we have something to drink?

Another way of asking for a drink is mentioning it by name.

Examples

mumkin nishrab shaay?	can we have tea?
'ahwa min faDlak	coffee please

Asking about food and drinks available

canduku shurbit 'eih?	what soup have you got?
canduku (feeh) khuDaar 'eih?	what vegetables have you got?
canduku 'eih saa'ie?	what cold drinks have you got?
canduku caSeer 'eih?	what juices have you got?
canduku Hilw 'eih?	what dessert have you got?
canduku luHoom 'eih?	what meat dishes have you got?

Both **feeh** and **canduku** can be used separately or together.

Examples

feeh kukakoula?	} Have you got a Coca-Cola?
feeh canduku kukakoula?	
canduku kukakoula?	

the way it works

Would you like?

When asking an individual or a group what they *would like* (1) or *would like to do* (2) use the following:

(1) tiHibb 'ahwa? (m.)	Would you like coffee?
tiHibbi 'ahwa walla shaay? (f.)	Would you like coffee or tea?
tiHibbu ceish wi salaTa? (pl.)	Would you like bread and salad?

youm issabt/Saturday

- (#) *tiHibbi tishrab 'eih?* (m.)
- tiHibbu taklu 'eih?* (pl.)

What would you like to drink?
What would you like to eat?

Also

- (#) *tiHibbtishrab kukakoula?* (m.)
- tiHibbi tishrabi kukakoula?* (f.)
- tiHibbu tishrabu kukakoula?* (pl.)

} Would you like to drink
Coca Cola?

When the enquiry is about food or drink the word **Talab** (s.) or **Talabaat** (pl.) is used with the appropriate pronoun ending.

Examples

<i>Talabak'eih?</i> (m.)	What would you like?	}	(singular)
<i>Talabik'eih?</i> (f.)	What would you like?		
<i>Talabku'eih?</i> (pl.)	What would you like?		
<i>Talabaatak'eih?</i> (m.)	What would you like?	}	(plural)
<i>Talabaatik'eih?</i> (f.)	What would you like?		
<i>Talabaatku'eih?</i> (pl.)	What would you like?		

tiHibbu tishrabu'eih? or *Talabaatku'eih?* are more polite than *tishrabu'eih?* or *sayzeen'eih?*

things to do

6.4 Say the following to the waiter:

- 1 I have booked a table for two.
- 2 In the name of (give your name)
- 3 Can we have the menu please?
- 4 Can we have something to drink?
- 5 I would like a table for four.
- 6 What vegetables have you got?
- 7 What cold drinks have you got?
- 8 Have you got Turkish coffee?
- 9 Have you got rice or macaroni?
- 10 Have you got okra?

6.5 Order the following dishes and drinks:

- 1 One lentil soup and three tomato soups.
- 2 Two Pepsis and two lemon juices.
- 3 Three kebabs and one kufta.
- 4 Two coffees with a little sugar.
- 5 Four mint teas.

TALKING WITH FRIENDS

muHadsa/Making conversation

Bill and Catherine are sitting in the hotel lounge waiting for a friend to come and collect them. A middle-aged man sitting close by strikes up a conversation.



- Man: SabaaH ilkheir, 'intu-mnein?
 Bill: 'iHna min ingiltira, wi HaDritak minein?
 Man: 'ana maSri, min 'aSwaan.
 Catherine: HaDritak bitishtaghal 'eih?
 Man: 'ana taagir.
 Bill: HaDritak geit ilqaahira 'imta?
 Man: 'ana geit min yumein, wintu geitu 'imta?
 Catherine: 'iHna geina min 'usbooe.
 Man: wib tiemilu 'eih hina?
 Bill: 'iHna SaHafiyyeen. biniktib ean ilbilaad il eArabiyya.
 Man: wi 'aedeen 'add 'eih fi maSr?
 Bill: 'iHna-msafreen inniharda.
 Man: bissalaama. 'ana kamaan misaafir inniharda,
 Catherine: bissalaama.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

'intu-mnein?
 min ingiltira/aSwaan
 HaDritak (m.)/HaDritik (f.)
 'ana maSri (taagir)
 bitishtaghal 'eih?
 geit ilqaahira 'imta?
 min yumein ('usbooe)
 wib tiemilu 'eih hina?
 iHna SaHafiyyeen
 biniktib ean
 ilbilaad il eArabiyya

where are you from?
 from England/Aswan
 respectful form of address
 I am Egyptian (a merchant)
 what do you do for a living?
 when did you come to Cairo?
 two days (a week) ago
 and what are you doing here?
 we are journalists
 we are writing about
 the Arab countries

youm ilHadd/Sunday

wi 'a:deen 'add 'eih?
'iHna-msafreen
bissalaama
'ana kamaan misaafir

and how long are you staying?
we are travelling/leaving
have a safe journey
I, too, am travelling/leaving

Talking about your occupation

To ask about someone's occupation you can say

inta (HaDritak) bitishtaghal'eih/fein? (m.)

inti (HaDritik) bitishaghali'eih/fein? (f.)

intu-b tishtaghalu'eih/fein? (pl.)

They all mean 'What do you do?' 'Where do you work?'

'eih what fein where

You can answer this question in one or two ways

'ana + occupation

I am + occupation

or

'ana bashtaghal + occupation

I work as a + occupation

Examples

'ana mudarris

I am a teacher

or

'ana bashtaghal mudarris

I work as a teacher

'ana baghtaghal fi sharika

I work in a firm

The following table shows more examples with different pronouns

	<i>subject</i>	<i>verb (work)</i>	<i>occupation</i>	
I	'ana	bashtaghal	mudarris	teacher
you	'inta	btishtaghal	saHafi	journalist
you	'inti	btishtaghali	duktoura	doctor
he	huwwa	byishtaghal	fi sharika	in a firm
she	hiyya	btishtaghal	fi balad ʿarabi	in an Arab country
we	'iHna	bnishtaghal	muHandiseen	engineers
you	'intu	btishtaghalu	saHafiyyeen	journalists
they	humma	byishtaghalu	mudarriseen	teachers

'ana bashtaghal

I work

in

"

fiS SaHaafa

in the press (journalism)

"

fit tadrees

in teaching

"

fil 'izaara

in broadcasting

"

fit tigaara

in trading (business)

"

fi siyaaHa

in tourism

"

fi bank

in a bank

"

fi sharika

in a company

"

fi sharikit bitroul

in an oil company

"

fi maSnaʿ naseeg

in a textile factory

"

fi balad ʿarabi

in an Arab country

"

fi sifaarit briTanya

at the British Embassy.

youm ilHadd/Sunday

Talking about your stay

'ana geit (maSr) 'imta? (m.)
 'anti geiti (maSr) 'imta? (f.)
 'intu geitu (maSr) 'imta? (pl.)
 'ana geit (maSr) min yumein
 'ihna geina (maSr) min yumein
 'inta 'aacid 'add 'eih? (m.)
 'ana 'aacid 'usbooc
 'inti 'acda 'add 'eih? (f.)
 'ana 'acda talat-t iyyaam
 'intu 'acdeen 'add 'eih? (pl.)
 'ihna 'acdeen cashar-t iyyaam
 'inta-msaafir 'imta? (m.)
 'anti-msafra 'imta? (f.)
 'intu-msafreen 'imta? (pl.)
 'ana-msaafir ba'd 'usbooc
 'ana-msafra ba'd bukra
 'ihna-msafreen inniharda

when did you come to (Egypt)?

I came to (Egypt) two days ago
 we came to (Egypt) two days ago
 how long are you staying?
 I am staying for a week
 how long are you staying?
 I am staying for three days
 how long are you staying?
 we are staying for ten days

when are you leaving (travelling)?

I am leaving after (in) a week
 I am leaving the day after tomorrow
 we are leaving today

Summary of the structures used above

	pronoun		arrived	staying	travelling
I	(m.)	'ana	geit	'aacid	msaafir
I	(f.)	'ana	geit	'acda	msafra
You	(m.)	'inta	geit	'aacid	msaafir
You	(f.)	'inti	geiti	'acda	msafra
He	(m.)	huwwa	gih	'aacid	msaafir
She	(f.)	hiyya	gat	'acda	msafra
You	(pl.)	'ihna	geina	'acdeen	msafreen
They	(pl.)	humma	gum	'acdeen	msafreen

Introducing people

'abit issayid ibraheem? (m.)
 'abiti " " (f.)
 tieraf issayid ibraheem (m.)
 tierafi " " (f.)

have you met Mr Ibrahim?

do you know Mr Ibrahim?

Polite expressions

bissalaama
 'ila-l liqaa'
 'agaaza sa'eeda
 'insha'allaah tinbisiT (m.)
 " tinbisTi (f.)
 " tinbisTu (pl.)

goodbye, have a safe journey
 see you again, au revoir
 have a nice holiday

I hope you will have a nice time

Asking about your country

'inta-mnein? (m.)
 'inti-mnein? (f.)
 'intu-mnein? (pl.)

where are you from?

youm ilHadd/Sunday

The answer may be:

'ana ingleezi

I am English

'ana min ingiltira

I am from England

'iHna ingleez

we are English

'iHna min ingiltira

we are from England

Talking about languages

bitikkallim ingleezi? (m.)

do you speak English?

bitikkallimi ingleezi? (f.)

do you speak English?

'aywa bakkallim ingleezi

yes, I speak English

la' bakkallim ʿarabi bass

no, I speak Arabic only

the way it works

The continuous present

bi and **ba** are used with the verb in colloquial Arabic when talking about an action going on at the time of speaking or when reporting facts. Both the sounds **i** and **a** in **bi** and **ba** are lost when they are followed or preceded by **a**, **i** or **u** sounds.

Examples

'ana bakkallim ʿarabi

I speak Arabic

'ana bashtaghal SaHafi

I work as a journalist

Catherine bitishtaghal SaHafiyya

Catherine works as a journalist

hiyya-b tilʿab tinis

she plays tennis

wib ticmilu 'eih hina?

and what are you doing here?

The loss of i sound

The word **min** in **min ein** and the word **msaafir**, **msafra** and **msafreen** all lose their **i** sound when used after a word ending with a vowel.

Examples

'inta } mnein? where are you from? (m.)

'inti } where are you from? (f.)

'intu } where are you from? (pl.)

'inta msaafir you are leaving (m.)

'inti msafra you are leaving (f.)

'intu msafreen you are leaving (pl.)

The loss of a verb

Questions with the verb **biticmil** in all its forms are normally answered like English without this verb.

Examples

biticmilu'eih?

what do you do/what are you doing?

youm ilHadd/Sunday

ahna SaHafiyyeen/mudarriseen
ahna-b niktib gawabaat
ahna-bnitfarrag ala-t tilifizyoun

we are journalists/teachers
we are writing letters
we are watching TV

things to do

- 71 You are invited to a party where you meet Arabic-speaking people. Say the following to them.
- 1 Ask a middle-aged man what he does for work.
 - 2 Ask a young woman if she speaks English.
 - 3 Say you are a teacher.
 - 4 Say you came to Jeddah a week ago.
 - 5 Say you are leaving tomorrow morning.
 - 6 Ask a young journalist what she writes about.
 - 7 Say you are writing about broadcasting in Egypt.
 - 8 Say you are from England.
 - 9 Ask a middle-aged woman where she is from.
 - 10 Say your husband works at the British Embassy.

ziyaarit il'aSHaab/visiting friends

Bill and Catherine are invited by Kamaal and his wife to their home before their departure from Cairo. They are talking over the meal.



- Kamaal: 'ahlan yaraagil, 'izzayyak inniharda?
Bill: 'aHsan kiteer. mumkin 'aakul kull Haaga.
Kamaal: 'ahlan yakatrin 'izzayyik?
Catherine: 'anna kwayyisa.
Kamaal: 'abiltu meen inniharda?
Bill: 'abilna SaHafiyyeen min gareedit il'ahraam.
Catherine: wana 'abilt SaHafiyya min magallit il'iza'aa.
Nadya: 'agabku 'eih fi maSr?
Bill: 'ilgaww Tab'an. shams kull youm.
Catherine: 'aywa. 'ilgaww hina gameel.
Kamaal: 'iT'l'ayyaara-s sa'aa kaam?

youm ilHadd/Sunday

- Bill: 'IT'Tayyaara-s saaa sitta. laakin **laazim nikoon** fil maTaar
issaaca-rbaa.
- Nadya: **lissa badri**. issaaca waHda **dilwa'ti**.
- Kamaal: Tayyib **naakul wi nimshi**. 'ana raayiH **ma'aaku**.

Words and phrases from the dialogue

yaraagil	mate/my friend
izzayyak/izzayyik	how are you (m./f.)
'aHsan kiteer	much better
'abiltu meen	who did you meet?
min gareedit il'ahraam	from 'Al-Ahram' newspaper
min magallit il'izaaca	from 'Al-Izaa'a magazine
cagabku 'eih?	what did you like?
ilgaww Tabaan	the weather of course
shams kull youm	sun every day
ilgaww . . . gameel	the weather . . . is beautiful
laazim nikoon	we must be
lissa badri	there's plenty of time
dilwa'ti	now
naakul wi nimshi	let's go after we eat
ana raayiH ma'aaku	I'll go with you

Useful words and phrases

Greetings: Here are some ways of saying 'How are you?'

izzayyak	or	keif Haalak	when asking one male
izzayyik	or	keif Haalik	when asking one female
izzayyuku	or	keif Halku	when asking more than one

You could answer:

kwayyis/bikheir/ilHamdu lillaah	fine, very well
'aHsan	better
'aHsan kiteer	much better

kwayyis has different forms for singular and plural

kwayyis (m.)

kwayyisa (f.)

kwayiseen (pl.)

The other expressions **bikheir** and **ilHamdu lillaah** are used for singular and plural, male and female, without change.

Publications

gareeda/garaayid	newspaper/newspapers
magalla/magallaat	magazine/magazines
kitaab/kutub	book/books

Talking about the weather

When talking about the weather you can use the following expressions:

'iddinya bard/Harr	it is cold/hot
'iddinya bard/Harr gidan	it is very cold/hot
'ilgaww bard/Harr	it is cold/hot

youm ilHadd/Sunday

'ilgaww bard/Harr gidдан
'ishshams Talca
'iddinya Dalma/noor
'iddinya bitmaTTar
'ilgaww gameel/kwayyis

it is very cold/hot
the sun is shining
it is dark/light
it is raining
it (the weather) is beautiful/fine

'iddinya literally means the world and 'ilgaww means the weather.

Early and late

dilw'ati now
bisurca quickly
bardein later
badri early

Haalan immediately
lissa badri there's plenty of time
mit'akhkhar late

the way it works

Changes in pronunciation

issaaca loses its (i) sound when you say iTTayyaara-s saaca kaam because of the final a in iTTayyaara.

gareedit and magallit

Like feminine words ending with a'gareeda and magalla become gareedit and magallit when followed by their names, or any other noun.

gareedit il'ahraam	'Al-Ahram' newspaper
magallit il'izaaca	'Al-Izaca' magazine
gareedit kamaal	Kamaal's newspaper
magallit ishshahrida	this month's magazine

The same applies to ziyaara which becomes ziyaarit when followed by il'aSHAab.

laazim amshi/akoon = must go/be

These verbs change form according to the subject.

pronoun

(I) 'ana
(you) 'inta (m.)
(you) 'inti (f.)
(he) huwwa
(she) hiyya
(we) 'iHna
(you) 'intu (pl.)
(they) humma

must go

laazim amshi
laazim timshi
laazim timshi
laazim yimshi
laazim timshi
laazim nimshi
laazim timshu
laazim yimshu

must be

laazim akoon
laazim tikoon
laazim tikooni
laazim yikoon
laazim tikoon
laazim nikoon
laazim tikoonu
laazim yikoonu

youm ilHadd/Sunday

things to do

7.2 Can you reply in Arabic to the speaker?

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Speaker: | 'izzayyak? |
| 1 you: | very well, thank you. |
| Speaker: | 'abilt meen inniharda? |
| 2 you: | I met a writer from Lebanon. |
| Speaker: | hatrooH ilmaTaar 'imta? |
| 3 you: | I must be at the airport at 7 o'clock. |
| Speaker: | 'ana mumkin aroolt ma'aak. |
| 4 you: | Thank you. When can we go? |
| Speaker: | caayiz garaayid aw magallaat? |
| 5 you: | yes, 'AL-Ahram' please. |

bissalaama/Have a safe journey

Kamaal and Nadya are saying goodbye to Bill and Catherine at the airport.



- | | |
|------------|---|
| Kamaal: | tishrabu 'ahwa walla shaay? |
| Catherine: | 'ana ashrah 'ahwa maZbooT. |
| Bill: | wana kamaan 'ahwa maZbooT. |
| Nadya: | 'ismae ya Kamaal biynaadu eala-r rukkaab |
| Kamaal: | doul biynaadu eala rukkaab rouma. |
| Nadya: | 'aywa SaHeeH. laazim tiktibulna min ingiltira |
| Catherine: | Tabean, wintu laazim teegu ingiltira |
| Kamaal: | 'uraayib insha'allah |
| Bill: | dilwa'ti biynaadu ealeina |
| Nadya: | 'aywa SaHeeH. itfaDDalu intu. bissalaama |
| Catherine: | salaam ya nadya, mutshakkireen giddan |
| Bill: | salaamu ealeikum. nishufku f-ingiltira |
| Kamaal: | maeassalaama, maeassalaama. |

youm ilHadd/Sunday

Words and phrases from the dialogue

'amaa ya Kamaal
biynaadu eala-r rukkab
doul biynaadu eala
rukkaab rouma
'aywa SaHeeH
laazim tiktibulna
wintu laazim teegu ingiltira
'urayyib insha'allah
biynaadu ealeina
mutshakkireen gidan

listen Kamaal
they are calling the passengers
they are calling
Rome passengers
yes, that's true
you must write to us
and you must come to England.
soon, God willing
they are calling us
many thanks

the way it works

'urayyib means 'near', in time and place.

'insh'allah means 'God willing'. This expression is used by most Arabs when talking about anything happening in the future.

doul originally means **these**, but it is also used in some cases to mean **they**, as in the sentence in the dialogue, **doul biynaadu eala rukkaab rouma**.

mutshakkireen is the plural of **mutshakkir** (m.) and **mutshakkira** (f.) which mean 'thank you'.

things to do

7.3 You are saying goodbye to your friends at the airport. Say in Arabic:

- 1 Who are these people?
- 2 They are passengers for Paris.
- 3 Listen (m. + f. pl.).
- 4 They are calling us.
- 5 What's the time now?
- 6 Robert, you must write to me.
- 7 And you must write to me, my friend.
- 8 Have a safe journey, Nadya.
- 9 See you (Salem) in London.
- 10 Soon, God willing.

KEY TO EXERCISES

- 1.1 1 'ahlan/ahlan wa sahlān
2 furSa sa'eeda 3 'ana Sally 4 da-
zmeeli Tom 5 'ana 'aHmad 6 di zugti
nadya 7 'irriHla kannit kwayyisa?
8 'aywa irriHla kaanit kwayyisa
giddan. 9 fein ilcarabiyya?/ilcarabiyya
fein? 10 ilcarabiyya fil maw'af.
- 1.2 1 'anna candi Hagz hina 2 ismi
Bill Taylor. 3 eaayiz 'ouDa-b dushsh,
min faDlik. 4 bikaam illeila?
5 'ilmaTeam fein, min faDlik?
- 1.3 1 eandak 'ouDa faDya? 2 la',
'ana eayza 'ouDa-b Hammaam.
3 'arbae layaali, min faDlak.
4 mumkin ilmuftaaH, min faDlak?
5 il'ouDa fein, min faDlak?
- 2.1 1 eandak eih? (feeh eih?)
2 eandak (feeh) mirabbit eih?
3 takhdi shaay? (tishrabi...?)
4 takhdi eaSeer? 5 taakul eih?
6 tishrab eih? 7 'aakhud fool wi
gibna wi-mrabbat balaH. 8 y'aakhud
'ahwa-b laban.
- 2.2 1 talaata (sandwitsh) falaafil.
2 itnein (sandwitsh) gibna. 3 'arbae
eaSeer burtu'aan. 4 waaHid
(sandwitsh) fool. 5 sitta bibsi.
6 khamisa eaSeer lamoon.
- 2.3 1 mumkin 'aghayyar istirleeni
hina? 2 ilgineih il'istrleeni-b kaam?
3 mumkin 'aghayyar shikaat
siyaHiyya? 4 la', dularaat. 5 miyya
itnein wi talateen dulaar.
- 2.4 1 feeh kaam 'ouDa fil huteil? 2 It
has sixty-five rooms. 3 bikaam il'ouDa-l
shakhS waaHid? 4 It is forty-five
pounds per night. 5 feeh bank fil
huteil? 6 Yes, there is. 7 mumkin
'aghayyar eumla hina? 8 What do you
want to change? 9 eaayiz aghayyar
dularaat. 10 You can, of course.
- 2.5 1 'ilfiTaa' issaaca kaam?
2 issaaca sabea-w nuSS. 3 il'akHbaar
issaaca kaam? 4 issaaca khamisa
5 mumkin ateashsha-s saaca kaam?
6 min issaaca sabea lissaaca tamanya-
w nuSS. 7 issaaca kaam dilwa'ti?
8 issaaca sitta. 9 issaaca dilwa'ti
tamanya-lla rube? 10 la', issaaca
dilwa'ti tamanya-w rube.
- 3.1 1 fein 'a'rab agzakhaana?
2 'arrooH maktab ilbareed izzaay?
3 fein 'ism ilbulees (ishshurTa)?
4 feeh bi'aala 'urayyiba min hina?
5 'arooH maHTTit il'aTr izzaay?
- 3.2 1 'imshi-f shaarie ibraheem
liHadd midaan ramsees, wi baadein
Hawwid yimeen fi shaarie ramsees
wimshi-l Hadd shaarie issalaam, ilbank
eala-n naSya. 2 'imshi-f shaarie
ramsees liHadd shaarie shubra,
wibaadein Hawwid yimeen wimshi-l
Hadd shaarie luxor, maktab ilbareed
'awwil mabna eala-l yimeen. 3 imshi-f
shaarie luxor liHadd shaarie ibraheem,
wibaadein Hawwid yimeen wimshi-f
shaarie ibraheem liHadd midaan
ramsees. 'ism ilbulees hinaak fil midaan.
4 'idkhul fi shaarie ibraheem fittigaah
shaarie luxor, wibaadein Hawwid
yimeen fi shaarie luxor. taalit dukkaan
eala-l yimeen huwwa-l maktaba.
5 'imshi-f shaarie luxor fittigaah
shaarie ibraheem, wibaadein Hawwid
shimaal fi shaarie ibraheem wimshi-l
Hadd ilmidaan. ilmatHaf 'awwil mabna
eala-l yimeen.
- 3.3 1 'arooH issook izzaay?
2 mumkin naakhud taksi min hina?
3 'utubees nimra kaam biyrooH maSr
iggideeda? 4 nighayyar fein? 5 fein
figgeeza?
- 3.4 eayza arooH huteil il'andalus.
2 laazim takhdi taksi. 3 Clare
mumkin taakhud 'utubees. 4 feeh
'utubees ealaTool? 5 la' laazim
tighayyari-f baab ilHadeed. 6 fein
maw'af il'utubees? 7 'uddaam ilbank.
8 ittazkara-b kaam? 9 ittazkara-b
eishreen 'irsh. 10 kwayyis giddan.
- 3.5 1 eaayiz arooH il'azhar.
2 il'azhar gaamie 'adeem. 3 khaan
ilkhaleeli sou' kibeer. 4 mumkin
'ashoof 'eih fil matHaf? 5 nirooH khaan
ilkhaleeli izzaay? 6 eaayiz ashooof
gaamie gideed. 7 iddukkāan da-
Sghayyar giddan.
- 4.1 1 keelu-l manga-b kaam?
(bikaam keelu-l manga?) 2 keelu-l
farawla-b kaam? (bikaam keelu-l
farawla?) 3 'ijakitta alkhaDra-b kaam?

KEY TO EXERCISES

(bikaam...?) 4 il'ameeS ilbeij bikaam...? (bikaam...?) 5 ittimsaal da-b kaam? (bikaam...?)

4.2 1 la' di ghalya kida. 2 Tayyib iddeeni sitt kroot. 3 'aakhud ilgamal il 'ahmar. 4 'aakhud talat galaleeb.

5 'aadi khamsa gneih wi haat ilbaa'i.

4.3 1 caayiz/cayza abeat ilkuroot di birmingham. 2 mumkin abeat ilgawaab da musaggal, min faDlak? 3 mumkin abeat iTTuurood di barees, min faDlak? 4 caayiz/cayza Taabie hilkart da min faDlak. 5 caayiz/cayza abeat ilgawabaat di bil bareed ilgawwi. caayiz/cayza abeat ilgawabaat di biTTayyaara. 6 fein waSl ittasseel? 7 bikaam iTTaabie libriTanya bareed gawwi? bikaam iTTaabie libriTanya biTTayyaara? 8 mumkin astaemil ittillifoun? 9 mumkin akallim iskindiriyya? 10 caayiz/cayza akallim manshistar, min faDlak.

5.1 1 'aTr lukSur issaaca kaam? 2 iHna-msafreen youm iggumca-S SubH. 3 caayiz aHgiz 'arbae amaakin, min faDlak. 4 daraga 'oola mukayyafa. 5 iHna rayHeen bil'aTr-iw rageen biTTayyaara. 6 mumkin aHgiz diwaan bisrirein? 7 bikaam ittazkara? 8 feeh earabiyyit 'aki? 9 il'aTr iy'oom issaaca kaam? 10 wi yiwSal issaaca kaam?

5.2 1 'ana cayza aHgiz makaan hijda. 2 'ana-msafra youm iggumca baed iDDuhr. 3 bikaam ittazkara raayiH gayy? 4 daraga siyaHiyya. 5 iTTayyaara-t'oom issaaca kaam? 6 iTTayyaara tiwSal jidda-s saaca kaam?

5.3 1 mumkin aHgiz maleab iskwaash? 2 'add'eih? 3 saaca (waHda). 4 caayiz maDaarib? 5 la' candina maDaarib. 6 khamsa-gneih min faDlak. 7 mumkin nileab imta? 8 'issaaca arbaca-w nuSS. 9 feeh dushsh hina? 10 'aywa, feeh talaata. 11 humma fein? 12 fi'aakhir ilmamarr da, cala-sh shimaal.

5.4 1 feeh 'eih? 2 wi feeh 'eih kamaan? 3 sahril ihuteil feeha 'eih? 4 wi sahril innaadi feeha 'eih? 5 Tayyib. nirooH innadi illilaadi.

6.1 1 Tom sinaanu-b tiwgaau. 2 Laura candaha bard. 3 Josephine candaha iltihaab fi zurha. 4 Helen einha-b tiwgaaha. 5 Henry candu HumooDa.

6.2 1 Have you got a cold? la' macandees. 2 Have you got a temperature? 'aywa (candi) 3 Are you allergic to penicillin? la' macandees. 4 Since when? min inniharda-S SubH. 5 Have you got a headache? (Is there a headache?) la' mafeesh.

6.3 1 feeh Haaga liSSudaac, min faDlak? 2 mumkin aSrif irrushitta di? 3 caayiz maegoon Hilaa'a-w maegoon 'asnaan. 4 caayiz 'uTn Tibbi-w defoul wi 'ilastublast. 5 caayiz Haaga lil ishaal wi muTahhir. 6 'aakhud iddawa da kaam marra? 7 'aakhud 'add 'eih? 8 furshit 'asnaan min faDlak. 9 kulunya-w budra min faDlak. 10 furshit Hilaa'a-w amwaas min faDlak.

* (Words can be changed to fit masculine or femine speaker or pharmacist. e.g. caayiz - cayza, min faDlak - min faDlik.)

6.4 1 'ana Haagiz (Hagza) tarabeiza litnein. 2 bism (give your name). 3 mumkin ilminyu, min faDlak? 4 mumkin nishrab Haaga? 5 caayiz (cayza) tarabeiza larbaea. 6 candak khuDaar 'eih? 7 candak 'eih saa'ie? 8 feeh (candak) 'ahwa turki? 9 feeh (candak) ruzz aw makarouna? 10 feeh (candak) banya?

6.5 1 waaHid shurbit eats wi talaata shurbit TamaaTim. 2 itnein bibsi witnein caSeer lamoon. 3 talaata kabaab wiwaaHid kufra. 4 itnein 'ahwa maZbooT. 5 'arbaca shaay binicnaac.

KEY TO EXERCISES

7.1 1 HaDritak bitishtaghal éih?
2 bitikkallimi ingleezi? 3 'ana
mudarris (mudarrisa). 4 'ana waSalt
(geit) jidda min 'usbooc. 5 'ana-msaafir
bukra-S SubH. 6 bitiktibi ean 'eih?
7 'ana baktib ean il'izaaca-f maSr.
8 'ana min ingiltira. 9 HaDritik min
ein? 10 zougi-b yishtaghal fissifaara-l
briTaniyya.
7.2 1 'ana kwayyis, shukran. 2 'abilt
kaatib min libnaan. 3 laazim akoon

filmaTaar issaaca sabaa. 4 shukran,
mumkin nimshi 'imta? 5 'aywa, il
'ahram min faDlak.

7.3 1 doul meen (meen doul)?
2 doul rukkaab Parees. 3 'ismaru ya
gamaaca. 4 bynaadu caleina.
5 issaaca kaam dilwa'ti? 6 laazim
tiktibli yaRobert. 7 winta laazim tiktibli
yaraagil. 8 bissalaama ya nadya.
9 'ashoofak fi landan. 10 'urayyib,
inshaa'allah.

VOCABULARY

ENGLISH-ARABIC TOPIC VOCABULARIES

Numbers

Cardinal numbers 1-10

Numbers for time, money and orders

1	waaHid (m.)
1	waHda (f.)
2	'itnein
3	talaata
4	'arbaa
5	khamasa
6	sitta
7	sabaa
8	tamanya
9	tisaa
10	ʿashara

Numbers for other items

1	waaHid (m.)
1	waHda (f.)
2	'itnein
3	talat
4	'arbaa
5	khamas
6	sitt
7	sabaa
8	taman
9	tisaa
10	ʿashar

Cardinal numbers 11-30 (for all purposes)

11	HiDaashar	18	tamanTaashar	25	khamasa-w ʿishreen
12	'itnaashar	19	tisaaTaashar	26	sitta-w ʿishreen
13	talaTTaashar	20	ʿishreen	27	sabaa-w ʿishreen
14	'arbaaTaashar	21	waaHid wi ʿishreen	28	tamanya-w ʿishreen
15	khamasTaashar	22	'itnein wi ʿishreen	29	tisaa-w ʿishreen
16	siTTaashar	23	talaata-w ʿishreen	30	talateen
17	sabaaTaashar	24	'arbaa-w ʿishreen		

Cardinal numbers 40-1000

40	'arbiceen	100	miyya (meet)	700	subʿumiyya
50	khamseen	200	mitein	800	tumnumiyya
60	sitteen	300	tultumiyya	900	tuseʿumiyya
70	sabʿeen	400	rubʿumiyya	1000	'alf
80	tamaneen	500	khumsumiyya		
90	tisʿeen	600	suttumiyya		

Ordinal numbers 1st-10th

Indefinite (m. & f.)

1st	'awwil
2nd	taani
3rd	taalit
4th	raabie
5th	khaamis
6th	saadis
7th	saabie
8th	taamin
9th	taasie
10th	ʿaashir

Definite (the ...)

(m.)	'il'awwal	(f.)	'il'oola
	'ittaani		'ittanya
	'ittaalit		'ittalta
	'irraabie		'irrabaa
	'ilkhaamis		'ilkhamasa
	'issaadis		'issadsa
	'issaabie		'issabaa
	'ittaamin		'ittamna
	'ittaasie		'ittasaa
	'ilʿaashir		'ilʿashra

VOCABULARY

Time

second	sanya	week	'usbooe
minute	di'ee'a	month	shahr
hour	saara	year	sana
day	youn		
today	'inniharda/'ilyoun	tomorrow	bukra/baakir
yesterday	'imbariH/'ams	every day	kull youn
two days ago	min yumein	in two days time	baed yumein
two weeks ago	min 'usbooein	in two weeks time	baed 'sbooein
last week	il'usbooe ilmaaDi	next week	il'usbooe ilgaay
in the morning	'iSSubH	at noon	'iDDuhr
in the afternoon	baed iDDuhr	in the evening	fil masaa'
		at night	bil leil

Months of the year/shuhoor issana

January	yanaayir	July	yulya
February	fibraayir	August	aghusTus
March	maaris	September	sibtambir
April	'abreel	October	'uktoubar
May	maayu	November	noufambir
June	yunya	December	deesambir

Clothes

Arab loose costume	galabiyya	kaftan	'ufTaan
blouse	bilouza	overcoat	balTu
dress	fustaan	shirt	'ameeS
for boys	lil'awlaad	slippers	shibshib
for girls	banaati	socks	sharaab
for men	rigaali	suit (for men)	badla
for women	Hareemi	suit (for women)	taiyeir
handbag	shanTit yadd	shoes	gazma
jacket	jakitta	trousers	banTaloun

Sizes

small size	ma'aas Sughayyar
medium size	ma'aas mutawassiT
large size	ma'aas kibeer
one size	ma'aas waaHid

Colours

	(m.)	(f.)		(m.)	(f.)
beige	beij	beij	green	'akhDar	khaDra
black	'iswid	souda	red	'aHmar	Hamra
blue	'azra'	zar'a	white	'abyaD	beiDa
brown	bunni	bunni	yellow	'asfar	Safra

VOCABULARY

Space

near
right
in front of

'urayyib/'areeb
yimeen
'uddaam/amaam

far
left
behind

biæed
shimaal
wara/khalf

Food

Fruit

apples
apricots
bananas
dates
figs
grapes
mangoes

tuffaaH
mishmish
mouz
balaH/tamr
teen
æinab
manga

melons
oranges
peaches
pears
plums
strawberries
water melons

shammaam
burtu'aan
khoukh
kummitra
bar'oo'
farawla
baTTeekh

Vegetables

aubergine
cabbage
carrots
courgettes
cucumber
garlic
gherkins

bidingaan
kurunb
gazar
kousa
'atta
toun
khiyaar

green beans
lettuce
okra
onions
peas
potatoes
tomatoes

faSulya
khaSS
bamyah
baSal
bisilla
baTaa'Tis
TamaaTim

Drinks

coffee
coffee with milk
Turkish coffee (without sugar)
(with little sugar)
(with lots of sugar)

tea with milk

black tea
cold drink

juice

.. banana
.. mango
.. orange
.. strawberry

mineral water

beer

wine

'ahwa
'ahwa-b laban
'ahwa saada
'ahwa maZbooT
'ahwa zyaada (ziyaada)
shaay bilaban
shaay saada
Haaga sa'æa
æaSeer

.. mouz
.. manga
.. burtu'aan
.. farawla

maiya maædaniyya

beera

nibeet

Miscellaneous

bread
French bread
local bread
cheese
cooked broad beans (Egyptian)

æeish/khubz
æeish feenu
æeish baladi
gibna
fool midammis

VOCABULARY

egg/eggs
bean burgers
fish
gateau
jam
fig jam
kebab
macaroni
meat
oriental cakes
pancake/s
pepper
rice
salad
salt
sandwich
soup
lentil soup
sugar
Turkish delight

beiDa/beiD
falaafil
samak
gatou
mirabba
mirabbit teen
kabaab
makarouna
laHm/laHma
Halawiyaat shar'iya
fiTeera/fiTeer
filfil
ruzz
SalaTa
malH/milH
sandawitsh
shurba
shurbit eats
sukkar
malban

Cooking methods

boiled	masloo'	grilled	mashwi
fried	ma'li/miHammar	roasted	ruSTu

Meals

breakfast	'ilfiTaar	supper	'ilcasha
lunch	'ilghada		

At the chemist's

the pharmacy
the chemist
after-shave
aspirin
brush
hair brush
shaving brush
toothbrush
condoms
cotton wool
Dettol
disinfectant/antiseptic
laxative
medicine for ...
pain killer
razor blades
sanitary towels (women's)
shaving cream
soap (for the bath)

'iS-Saidaliya/il'agzakhaana
'iS-Saidali (m.)/'iS-Saidaliya (f.)
kulunya-l baed il Hilaa'a
'aspireen
fursha
furshit shaer
furshit Hilaa'a
furshit sinaan ('asnaan)
kababeet
'uTn Tibbi
ditoul
muTahhir
mulayyin (dawa mulayyin)
dawa li ...
musakkin (dawa musakkin)
'amwaas Hilaa'a
fiwaT (HifaDaat) nisa'iya
maegoon (kreim) Hilaa'a
Saaboon Hammaam

VOCABULARY

eye/inge/injection
 eye/inges/injections
 tablets/pills
 toothpaste

Hu'na
 Hu'an
 'urS (s.)/a'raaS (pl.)
 ma'goon sinaan ('asnaan)

Ailments

cold
 constipation
 cough
 diarrhoea
 headache

bard
 imsaak
 kuHHa
 is-haal
 Sudaac

heartburn
 sore ...
 stomach-ache
 temperature
 vomiting

HumooDa
 iltihaab fi ...
 maghaS
 Haraara
 qei'

Parts of the body

arm
 chest
 ear
 eye
 finger
 fingers
 foot
 hand
 head

diraa'c
 sidr/Sadr
 widn
 cein
 Subaa'c
 Sawaabic
 'adam/rigl
 'eed/yad
 raaS

leg
 mouth
 nose
 shoulder
 stomach
 teeth
 tongue
 toe
 tooth

rigl
 bu'/famm
 manakheer
 kitf
 baTn
 sinaan/'asnaan
 lisaan
 Subaa'c rigl
 sinna

Leisure

antiquities
 booking
 café
 church
 cinema
 dancing
 evening entertainment
 mosque
 museum
 music

'asaar
 Hagz
 'ahwa
 kineesa
 sinama
 ra'S
 sahra
 gaamic
 mathaf
 museeqa

night club
 play (n.)
 programme
 pyramid
 The Pyramids
 son et lumière
 songs
 temple
 theatre
 ticket

kazinu/naadi layli
 masraHiya
 birnaamig
 haram
 'il'ahraam
 'iSSou'T wiDDou'
 'aghaani
 ma'bad
 masraH
 tazkara

Sport

ball
 ... ball
 bat
 club
 court
 squash
 sunbathing
 swimming
 swimming pool
 table

koura
 kourit ...
 maDrab
 naadi
 malcab
 iskwash
 Hammam shams
 sibaaHa/coum
 Hammam sibaaHa
 tarabeiza

entrance fee
 game
 hire
 match
 racket
 table tennis
 table tennis bat
 tennis
 tennis ball
 tennis racket

rasm-idkhool
 lieba
 ta'geer
 mubaraa
 maDrab
 bing bung
 maDrab bing bung
 tinis
 kourit tinis
 maDrab tinis

VOCABULARY

Occupations

accountant	(m.) muHaasib	(f.) muHaasiba
author	mu'allif/kaatib	mu'allifa/kaatiba
businessman	ragul 'aemaal	
businesswoman		sayyidat 'aemaal
diplomat	diblumaasi	diblumasiyya
doctor	doktour/Tabeeb	doktoura/Tabeeba
engineer	muhandis	muhandisa
journalist	SaHafi	SaHafiyya
lawyer	muHaami	muHamiya
manager	mudeer	mudeera
nurse	mumarriD	mumarriDa
police officer	DaabiT bulees	
secretary	sikirteir	sikirteira
teacher	mudarris	mudarrisa
writer	kaatib/mu'allif	kaatiba/mu'allifa

Useful words and phrases

Essential expressions

Greetings

Good morning

SabaaH ilkheir

Good afternoon/evening

SabaaH innoor

Goodnight

masaa' ilkheir

Hello

masaa' innoor

Pleased to meet you

tiSbaH calakheir

ahlan/marHaba

furSa sa'eeda

Where is ... ?

fein ... ?

the telephone?

ittilifoun?

the toilet?

ilHamam? (ittiwalitt)

the bathroom?

ilHamam?

the post office?

maktab ilbareed?

the police station?

'ism ilbulees?

would like/would like to/need

caayiz (m.) cayza (f.) cayeen (pl.)

I would like to go to the club

caayiz arooH innaadi (m.)

we would like to go to the club

cayza arooH innaadi (f.)

cayzeen nirooH innadi

can and cannot

mumkin and mish mumkin

can I see the manager?

mumkin ashooH ilmudeer?

yes, you can

'aywa mumkin

no, you cannot

la' mish mumkin

must, have to

laazim

and do not have to

mish laazim

I must leave tomorrow.

laazim amshi bukra

VOCABULARY

you have to book a seat.
you don't have to change money.

laazim tiHgiz makaan
mish laazim tighayyar fuloos/eumla

In the airport

arrival
departure
entry visa
exit visa
flight no.
gate
lounge/hall (departure lounge)
passenger
passengers
passport
passports

wuSool
safar
ta'sheerit dukhool
ta'sheerit khuroog
riHla raqam
bawwaaba
saala (saalit ... issafar)
raakib (m.) rakba (f.)
rukkaab
basbour/gawaaz
basburtaat/gawazaat

VOCABULARY

ARABIC-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

- 'a'rab nearest
'aadi here is (are)
aakhud I (I'll) take
aakul I (I'll) eat
'aasif I am sorry
abcat I send
'abl before
'abilt I met
'abyaD white
'adam foot
'add 'eih how much (many)?
'adeem old/ancient
'agaaza holiday
aghayyar I (I'll) change
'agzakhaana pharmacy
'ahlan Hello!
'ahlan wa sahan Hello!
'ahwa café, coffee
aHDar I (I'll) attend
'aHmar red
'aHsan better
akallim speak to
akkallim fi use (the phone)
'akbar bigger
'akhDar green
'akl food
aktib I (I'll) write
alcab I (I'll) play
'alf one thousand
'alou Hello! (on phone)
amDi I (I'll) sign
'amreeki/ya American (m./f.)
amshi I (I'll) walk
'ana I (1st person)
'araSni (m.) bit/stung me (wasp)
'araSitni (f.) bit/stung me (bee)
arbae/arbaca four
arbae-Taashar fourteen
arbiceen forty
'arkhaS cheaper
arooH I (I'll) go
'aSanseir lift
'aSfar yellow
aSrif cash
asaafir I (I'll) travel
'asbaani Spanish
asmae I (I'll) hear
astaemil I (I'll) use
ashoof I (I'll) see
ashrab I (I'll) drink
ashtiri I (I'll) buy
atfarrag I (I'll) watch
'aTr train
'awwal/'awwil (adj.) first
'awwalan (adv.) first
'aywa yes
'ayy any
'ayyi khidma at your service
'azra' blue
caayiz/cayza I want (m./f.)
cagabni I liked
cala on
cala Tool straight on
cammaan Amman
can about
cand near (adv.)
candi I have
candina we have
carab Arabs
carabiyya car
caSeer juice
cashara ten
cein eye
cilba can/box
cishreen twenty
cumaan Oman
baed after
baed iDDuhr in the afternoon
balad country/town
baladi local
bank bank
bansyoun boarding house
banTaloun trousers
bard cold
bareed post/mail
basbour passport
baseeTa not serious
bass only/enough
bastilya pastilles
baSal onions
baTaaTis potatoes
baTn stomach
beera beer
beiDa egg (white, f.)
beij beige
beit house
beit shabaab youth hostel

VOCABULARY

bi with/by/at

balingaan aubergine

baxeed/a far away (m./f.)

bakaam for how much?

balleil at night

balouza blouse

bant girl

baxilla peas

baxsalaama goodbye

baxsurca quickly

ba' mouth

budra powder

bakra tomorrow

banni brown

bartu'aan oranges

da this (m.)

daakhil inside

dabboor wasp

daraga class (transport)

dawa medicine

di this (f.)

diblumaasi/ya diplomat (m./f.)

di'ee'a minute (1/60 hour)

dinaar dinar (currency)

diraac arm (body)

dirham currency

ditoul Dettol

diwaan compartment (train)

doul these/those

dour floor

dukkaan shop

duktour doctor

dulaar dollar

dushsh shower

'eed hand (body)

'eih? what?

faaDi vacant/free

falaafil bean burgers

farawla strawberries

faSulya green beans

fatoora bill

feeh ... ? is/are there?

fein ... ? where is?

fi in

film film

fiTaar (il-) breakfast

fool midammis cooked broad beans

fuloos money

funduq hotel

furSa sa'eeda pleased to meet you!

fursha brush

furshit brush

gaamiε mosque

galabiyya loose Arab costume

gamal camel

ganb beside

gatou gateau

gawaab letter

gawaafa guava

gaww weather

gazar carrots

gazma shoes (pair)

geit I arrived

gibna cheese

gidan very

ghaali/ghalya expensive (m./f.)

ghada (il-) lunch

haat give me

haram pyramid

hina here

hinaak there

hiyya she

humma they

huteil hotel

huwwa he

HaaDir yes/certainly

Haaga thing

Haaga tanya anything else?

Haalan in a minute!

Haamil pregnant

Hafla party

Hagz reservation

Hammam bathroom

Hammam sibaaha swimming pool

Hamra red (f.)

Haraara temperature

Hasasiya allergy

Hawwid turn (verb)

HifaDaat nisa'iyya sanitary towels

Hilaa'a shaving

Hilw/Hilwa sweet, beautiful

iHilw dessert

Hisaab arithmetic

ilHisaab the bill

iddeeni give me

iddinya bard it is cold

iDDuhr at noon

iHna we

VOCABULARY

il the
ilcafw it's a pleasure
iltihaab inflammation
imbaariH yesterday
imDi sign
imshi walk/go
imta when
inniharda today
inshaa'allah hopefully
inta you (m.)
inti you (f.)
intu you (pl.)
'irsh piastre
'iscaaf ambulance
'is-haal diarrhoea
'ism name
'ism ilbulees police station
'ismae listen!
issaaca ... it's ... o'clock
istiqbaal reception
istirleeni sterling
'iswid black
iSSubH in the morning
itfaDDal please/after you
itnaashar twelve
itnein two
'izzaay? how?
'izzaayyak? how are you? (m.)
'izzayyik? how are you? (f.)
'izaaza bottle
'izaazit ... a bottle of ...

jakitta jacket

kaam how many?
kaatib writer
kababeet condoms
kabeena cabin/booth
kamaan also/too
kart card
kart bustaal post card
kasart I broke
kibeer large/big
kida like that
kifaaya enough
keelu kilo
kineesa church
kitaab book
kiteer much/a lot
kitf shoulder
koura ball
kourit tinis tennis ball

kreim cream
kuHHa cough
kul eat
kull ... every/each
kulunya eau de cologne
kummitra pears
kuroot cards
kwayyis/a good (m.f.)

khaarig outside
khalaas it's over!
khamas five (things)
khamasTaashar fifteen
khamsa five
khamseen fifty
khareeTa map
khazeena cash desk
kheir good
khoukh peaches
khubz bread
khud take
khudaar vegetables
khuroog exit

la' no!
laazim must/have to
lamoon lemon/lime
laweit I twisted
leila night
li to/for
lieba game/toy
lissa not yet

ma'aas size
ma'a with
macassalaama goodbye
macbad temple
ma'la'a spoon
ma'goon paste
mabna building
maDrab racket/bat
mafeesh there isn't
maggaanan free (gratis)
maHaTTa station
makaan (amaakin) seat
maktaba (maktabaat) library/stationers
malH salt
malcab (malaacib) court (sport)
mamarr (mamarrat) corridor
manakheer nose
manzar (manaazir) view
marra (marraat) one time
masaa' evening

VOCABULARY

maana ilkheir good evening!
mashwi grilled
maatraH theatre
maatraHiya play (n.)
maafnae factory
mafir Egypt/Cairo
mafir iggideeda Heliopolis
mafir il'adeema Old Cairo
maHaf museum
maTaar airport
maw'af stop
mayya water
maZbooT just right
meet ... one hundred ...
midaan square, place
min from
min faDlak please! (m.)
min faDlik please! (f.)
minyu menu
mirabba jam (food)
mirabbit jam
mish ... not ...
mish mumkin you can't
mitein two hundred
mitru metro
muyya one hundred
moos (amwaas) razor blade
mudarris/a teacher
mudeer/a manager
muftaaH key
muhandis/a engineer
mukalma phone call
mulayyin laxative
musaggal recorded
musakkin pain killer
museeqa music
mutashakkir/a thank you
muTahhir antiseptic

naadi club
naadi layli nightclub
nihaar day
nimra number (No.)
nibeet wine
nuSS half

'oola first (f.)
'ouDa room

ra'S dancing
raabie fourth
raagil (riggaala) man
raaHa rest

raaHa kamla complete rest
raakib (rukkaab) passenger
raas head (body)
raayiH one way/going
raayiH gayy return
rabw asthma
ragul acmaal businessman
ramaDaan fasting month
raSeef platform
rigl leg/foot
riHla trip/flight
rikhees cheap
riyaaDa sport
rube a quarter
rushitta prescription
ruzz rice

sa'ea cold
saabic seventh
saa'a hour/clock
saa'eed/a happy/pleased
sabaa, sabaae seven
sabaar'Taashar seventeen
sabeeen seventy
sahra evening entertainment
salaam peace!/bye!
samak fish
sana year
sandawitsh sandwich
sandoo' box
sandoo' bareed post box
sanya second (1/60 minute)
sayyid Mr
sayyida Mrs/lady
sidr chest
sifaara embassy
sinama cinema
sinna (sinaan) teeth
sireer bed
sitt woman/lady
sitt/sitta six
sitteen sixty
siTTaashar sixteen
sook, soo' market
suttuniyya six hundred

SabaaH morning
SabaaH ilkheir good morning
Saboon soap
SaHafi/yya journalist (m./f.)
Saniyya tray
Sarraf cashier
Subaae finger

VOCABULARY

Subaa rigl toe
Sudaa headache
Sughayyar small

shaaric street
shaay tea
shacbi folk/popular
shakhS (ashkhaaS) person
shanTa (shunaT) bag/suitcase
sharika (sharikaat) firm/company
sheek (shikaat) cheque
sheek siyaaHi traveller's cheque
shibbaak window
shibbaak ittazaakir ticket office
shimaal left (side)
shiwayya a little/some
shukran thanks!
shurb drinking
shurba soup
shurTa police

ta'reeban almost, about
taalit third
taamin eighth
taani second (2nd)
taasie ninth
ta'baan not well/tired
taghyeer changing
taksi taxi
talaata, talat three
talateen thirty
talaTTaashar thirteen
taman, tamanya eight
tarabeiza table
tazkara (tazaakir) ticket
teen figs
tibda' start (f.)
ti'oom departs/takes off
tiHibb would you like . . . ?
tilifizyoun television
tilifoun telephone
tilt one third

tintihi ends (f.)
timsaal figure, statue
tisaa **Taashar** nineteen
tisaa, tissaa nine
tis'een ninety
tiSbaH **cala kheir** goodnight!

Taabie postage stamp
Tabaan of course
Tabeeb doctor
Talab (Talabaat) order (n.)
Tayyaara aeroplane
Tayyib yes! O.K.

'uddaam in front of
'urayyib/a near
'urS (a'raaS) pill
'usbooe week
'uTn Tibbi cotton wool

waaHid one (m.)
waHda one (f.)
walad boy
walla or
wi and
wiba'dein and then
wuSool arrival

ya a word used when addressing somebody
ya kamaal Kamaal!
yafandim sir!/madam!
yamadaam madam!
yi'oom departs (m.)
yibda' starts (m.)
yimeen right (side)
yintihi ends (m.)
youm day

zimeel/a colleague (m./f.)
ziyaara visit (n.)
zoug/a spouse (m./f.)

VOCABULARY

ARAB COUNTRIES

Country	Nationality	Capital	Currency
1 Algeria	'iljazaa'ir	'iljazaa'ir	'id-deenaar
2 Bahrain	'ilbaHrein	'ilmanaama	'id-deenaar
3 Egypt	maSr	'ilqaahura	'il-gineih
4 Iraq	'il'iraaq	baghdaad	'id-deenaar
5 Jordan	'il'urdunn	ammaan	'id-deenaar
6 Kuwait	'ilkuweit	'ilkuweit	'id-deenaar
7 Lebanon	libnaan	bayroot	'il-lira
8 Libya	leebya	Tarablus	'id-deenaar
9 Mauritania	muritanya	nuwaakshuT	'il-'ookiya
10 Morocco	'ilmaghrib	'irribaaT	'id-dirham
11 Oman	cumaan	masqaT	'ir-riyaal
12 Qatar	gaTar	'iddouHa	'ir-riyaal
13 Saudi Arabia	'issa'oodiya	'irriyaaD	'ir-riyaal
14 Somalia	'iSSumaal	mugadeeshyu	'ish-shilin
15 Sudan	'issudaan	'ilkhartoom	'il-geneih
16 Syria	surya	dimishq	'il-lira
17 Tunisia	toonis	toonis	'id-deenaar
18 United Arab Emirates	'il'imaaraat il'arabiya ilmuttaHida	'abu zaby	'id-dirham
19 Yemen	'ilyaman	Sancaa'	'ir-riyaal

* **i'ya**, **i** is the ending for the masculine adjective (nationality) and **iya** is the ending for the feminine. e.g. **jazaa'iri** (m.) and **jazaa'iriya** (f.) **maSri** (m.) **maSriya** (f.)

ARABIC WRITING

There are different types of written Arabic. The type introduced in this section is the most commonly used for printing books, newspapers and magazines, and for writing signposts.

Only the basic features of written Arabic are given here, since this book uses a colloquial variety of Arabic and is meant to teach spoken Arabic. Some of the examples given in this section are inevitably taken from literary (written) Arabic.

Arabic is written from left to right. It has its own alphabet of 29 letters. Whether written in long hand, typed or printed, the letters are joined up to make words. There are no capital letters in Arabic, but there are different forms of each letter according to its position in the word: initial, middle or final.

The Arabic alphabet

A list of the letters of the Arabic alphabet is given below showing the three forms of each letter, the English transliteration, and the English equivalent where there is one.

Equivalent	Transliteration	Position			Arabic
		Final	Middle	Initial	
Initial					
a, e, i, o, u	ī				ا
a	aa	آ	أ	إ	آ
b	b	ب	ب	ب	ب
t	t	ت	ت	ت	ت
'th' in 'thin'	(th)	ث	ث	ث	ث
g/j	g/(j)	ج	ج	ج	ج
...	H	ح	ح	ح	ح
...	kh	خ	خ	خ	خ
d	d	د	د	د	د
'th' in 'the'	(dh)	ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ

ARABIC WRITING

Equivalent	Transliteration	Position			Arabic
		Final	Middle	Initial	
r	r	ر	ر	ر	ر
z	z	ز	ز	ز	ز
c/s	s	س	س	س	س
sh	sh	ش	ش	ش	ش
s	S	ص	ص	ص	ص
d*	D	ض	ض	ض	ض
t*	T	ط	ط	ط	ط
...	Z	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
...	ε	ع	ع	ع	ع
...	gh	غ	غ	غ	غ
f	f	ف	ف	ف	ف
...	(q)	ق	ق	ق	ق
c/k	k	ك	ك	ك	ك
l	l	ل	ل	ل	ل
m	m	م	م	م	م
n	n	ن	ن	ن	ن
h	h	ه	ه	ه	ه
w	w	و	و	و	و
i/y	y	ي	ي	ي	ي

An asterisk after an English letter on the list means it is equivalent when it is in some positions only.

A letter between brackets means the sound it represents is mainly used in formal speech and only rarely in colloquial Arabic.

All the letters of the Arabic alphabet represent consonants except the second letter ا which is a long vowel. The letters ي and و are also long vowels as well as consonants. The three long vowels are therefore represented by the letters ا , و , and ي .

The first letter ة is either carried on one of the long vowel symbols ي , و , ا or stands alone on the line.

Examples
 guz' جزء fu'aad فؤاد ra'ees رئيس 'ahlan أهلاً

ARABIC WRITING

Vowels are either short or long. Short vowels are represented by three vowel marks which are written above or below the consonant concerned.

Examples

su	سُ	bi	بِ	ka	كَ
zu	زُ	fi	فِ	ta	تِ
ku	كُ	ti	تِ	ba	بِ

Long vowels are represented by the same vowel marks followed by one of the three consonants ا , ي or و .

Examples

dukhoor	دُخُول	teen	تَيْن	baab	بَابٌ
khuroog	خُرُوج	sheek	شَيْكٌ	haat	هَاتٌ

If a consonant is not followed by a vowel, it has the sign · above it.

Examples

mishmish	مِشْمِشٌ	bansyoun	بَنْسِيُونٌ	bint	بِنْتُ
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Sometimes the short **a** and the long **aa** are represented by the letter ي instead of the letter ا , at the end of some words.

Examples

mustashfaa	مُسْتَشْفَى	mabna	مَبْنَى	ʿala	عَلَى
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If a consonant is doubled, one letter only is written with the mark above it. This mark is called *shadda*.

Examples

dabboor	دَبُّورٌ	Hawwid	حَوِّدٌ	maHaTTa	مَحَطَّةٌ
---------	----------	--------	---------	---------	-----------

The doubling of consonants also happens when **il** (meaning *the*), is used with words which start with one of the following consonants: ا ت ث د ذ dh ذ ر ز س ش S ص D ض T ط Z ظ ل ن .

Examples

issudaan	السُّودَان	inneel	النَّيْلِ	issaʿaa	السَّاعَةِ
----------	------------	--------	-----------	---------	------------

The (h/هـ) sound used at the end of some words to indicate they are feminine nouns or adjectives, is always written in its final form (ة), with two dots above it. In colloquial Arabic this sound is pronounced like the short vowel (a).

Examples

sifaara	سَفَارَةِ	waHda	وَاحِدَةٍ	maHaTTa	مَحَطَّةٌ
---------	-----------	-------	-----------	---------	-----------

ARABIC WRITING

Vowel marks are not usually used in newspapers, magazines or books. Only school books for native or foreign learners of Arabic use vowel marks. By the time learners pass the beginners stage they do not need these marks except in very rare cases.

Some useful words

The following are some of the words you will see on boards and signposts, in the airports, streets and shops. They are written in the normal joined form, and the letters they are made up of are given, as well as the English transliteration.

Examples			
maTaar	Airport	مطار	مطار
ilquaahira	Cairo	القاهرة	القاهرة
iskindiriyya	Alexandria	الإسكندرية	الإسكندرية
aSwaan	Aswan	أسوان	أسوان
luksur	Luxor	الأقصر	الأقصر
wuSool	Arrival	وصول	وَصُول
mughadra	Departure	مغادرة	مُغَادِرَة
khuroog	Exit, out	خروج	خُرُوج
dukhool	Entry, way in	دخول	دُخُول
algawazaat	Passport (control)	الحوارات	الْحَوَارَات
algumruk	Customs	الجمرك	الْجُمُرُك
bank	Bank	بنك	بنك
'issooq ilHurra	Duty Free Shops	السوق الحرة	السُّوقُ الْحُرَّة
gineih	Pound	جنيه	جِنِيهِ
'irsh	Piastre	قرش	قَرَش
dinaar	Dinar	دينار	دِينَار
dirham	Dirham	درهم	دِرْهَم
riyaal	Riyal	ريال	رِيَال
maHa'TTa	Station	محطة	مَحْطَة
sikka Hadeed	Railway	سكة حديد	سَكَّة حَدِيد
maw'af	Stop	موقف	مَوْقِف
taksi	Taxi	تاكسي / اجرة	تاكسي / أَجْرَة
'utubees	Bus	أتوبيس	أَتُوبِيس
tilifoun	Telephone	تليفون	تَلِيفُون
huteil	Hotel	هوتيل	هُوتِيل
bansyoun	Boarding House	بنسبون	بَنْسَبُون

ARABIC WRITING

beit shabaab	Youth Hostel	بيت شباب	بيت شباب
'ism ishshurTa	Police Station	قسم الشرطة	قسم الشرطة
'issifaara ...	The ... Embassy	السفارة	السفارة ...
ilbireeTaaniyya	British	البريطانية	البريطانية
maTeam	Restaurant	مطعم	مطعم
maktaba	Library/Stationers	مكتبة	مكتبة
mustashfa	Hospital	مستشفى	مستشفى
Saydaliyya	Pharmacy	صيدلية	صيدلية
maktab bareed	Post Office	مكتب بريد	مكتب بريد
'ahwa	Café	قهوة	قهوة
shaarie	Street	شارع	شارع
midaan	Square/Place	ميدان	ميدان
keelu	Kilo	كيلو	كيلو

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