



COLLOQUIAL

Arabic of Egypt

RUSSELL McGUIRK

ROUTLEDGE



Colloquial Arabic of Egypt

The Colloquial Series

- * Colloquial Arabic (Levantine)
- * Colloquial Arabic of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia
- * Colloquial Chinese
- Colloquial Czech
- Colloquial Dutch
- * Colloquial English
- Colloquial French
- Colloquial German
- Colloquial Greek
- Colloquial Hungarian
- Colloquial Italian
- Colloquial Japanese
- Colloquial Persian
- * Colloquial Polish
- Colloquial Portuguese
- Colloquial Romanian
- Colloquial Russian
- * Colloquial Serbo-Croat
- Colloquial Spanish
- Colloquial Turkish

* Accompanying cassette available

Russell H. McGuirk



Routledge & Kegan Paul
London, Boston and Henley

First published in 1986
by Routledge & Kegan Paul plc
14 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7PH, England
9 Park Street, Boston, Mass. 02108, USA and
Broadway House, Newtown Road,
Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1EN, England

Phototypeset in Linotron Times 9 on 11 pt
by Input Typesetting Ltd, London
and printed in Great Britain
by Cox and Wyman
Reading, Berks

© Russell H. McGuirk 1986

No part of this book may be reproduced in
any form without permission from the publisher,
except for the quotation of brief passages
in criticism

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

McGuirk, Russell H., 1946–
Colloquial Arabic of Egypt.
(Colloquial series)
Bibliography: p.
1. Arabic language—Dialects—Egypt—Grammar.
I. Title.
PJ6779.M43 1985 492'.77'0962 85-2247

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data also available

ISBN 0-7100-9936-3 (pb)
0-7102-0581-3 (cass)

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vii
INTRODUCTION	1
PRONUNCIATION	3
THE ARABIC ALPHABET	9
ROOT LETTERS AND GRAMMATICAL PATTERNS	10
ABBREVIATIONS	11
LESSON ONE	The definite article; Nouns and gender; Plurals; Subject pronouns; Simple sentences 12
LESSON TWO	Adjectives 18
LESSON THREE	Construct phrases; 'bitāa9'; Pronominal suffices; 'To have'; Demonstratives 24
LESSON FOUR	Numbers; Telling time; Months; Days of the week; Seasons 31
LESSON FIVE	Interrogative words; Active participles; Adverbial phrases with 'bi-' 40
LESSON SIX	Comparative and superlative adjectives; Colours 44
LESSON SEVEN	Perfect tense (simple verbs); Verbal negatives; Active participles (simple verbs); Passive participles (simple verbs) 47

LESSON EIGHT	Imperfect tense (simple verbs); 'ga'	52
LESSON NINE	Doubled verbs; Hollow verbs; Verbs with weak third radical	58
LESSON TEN	Pronominal suffixes as direct objects; Relative clauses	64
LESSON ELEVEN	The derived forms; Verbal forms II, III and IV; Participles	68
LESSON TWELVE	Goha stories I and II	75
LESSON THIRTEEN	Verbal forms V, VI and VII; Participles	77
LESSON FOURTEEN	Verbal forms VIII, IX and X; Participles; Quadriliterals	81
LESSON FIFTEEN	Verbal nouns; Nouns of place; Collective nouns; The professions; Conditional sentences	85
LESSON SIXTEEN	Goha stories III, IV and V	92
PROVERBS		95
READINGS		99
KEY TO EXERCISES		102
ARABIC-ENGLISH GLOSSARY		115
ENGLISH-ARABIC GLOSSARY		164

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to my Egyptian friends and colleagues Nagdi Madbouli Ibrahim, Hosni Abdul Aal, and Fat'hy Farouk for their unstinting help in answering my questions about the fine points of their native language; to Mahmoud Said Mansour who, in addition to checking the earlier lessons, provided the Goha stories and proverbs; and to Professor F. H. Megally, who kindly went over the finished manuscript.

The reading passage 'il-itneen ahmadaat' is adapted from a broadcast of the *kilmiteen wi-bass* series by Fouad El-Mohandis, and is included by the kind permission of the Egyptian Radio and TV Union.

Finally, thanks are also due to *Al-Ahram* newspaper for their permission to reproduce Salah Gahin's cartoon, which appears on page 94.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to introduce the Colloquial – or ‘spoken’ – Arabic of Egypt. Specifically, it aims to provide easy access to the Arabic which Egyptians, particularly the educated of Cairo and Alexandria, learn in the home and use in everyday life.

It is important to realise that spoken Arabic differs considerably from written Arabic. The Arabs call their written language **fúṣḥa** or ‘pure’; this volume refers to it in English as Classical Arabic.* It will suffice to mention here that Classical Arabic is the same for Arabs everywhere and that they learn it in school, much as Europeans once learned Latin for literary and formal purposes.

Egyptians call Colloquial Arabic **il-lúgha d-dáariga**, which means ‘the common language’.** Two important features are: that it is hardly ever written except for modern theatre scripts and cartoon captions; and that it differs from country to country. The forms of Colloquial Arabic spoken in Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq represent distinct and quite different dialects, though in fact it would be difficult to find clear boundaries to divide one dialect from another. Colloquial Arabic changes almost imperceptibly from town to town, and usually becomes clearly different only with distance.

Egyptian Arabic is generally understood by Arabs everywhere. It is the colloquial form spoken natively by about a third of all Arabs and is therefore the most widely used of the dialects. Moreover, its stature among the dialects is further enhanced by the fact that Egyptians play a leading cultural role in exporting their films, TV programmes, and popular songs – in their own dialect – as entertainment for the entire Arab World.

One should not consider any important aspect of Egyptian life without some mention of history. Certainly the forces that caused Egyptian Arabic to evolve from the kind of Arabic spoken by the Arab army that conquered Egypt in AD 639 are of historical interest evoking, as they do, names like Ibn Tulun, the Sultan

*Other English names are Modern Literary Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic.

Or **il-lúgha el-9ammíyya, which means the same thing.

2 INTRODUCTION

Selim, Saladin, Baibars, the Mamelukes, and Napoleon. Through fourteen centuries Arabic has had to jostle first with the native Coptic, and then with the native languages of new but non-Arab invaders – Kurdish, Turkish, Albanian, French, and (not least!) English. You, as a student of Egyptian Arabic, will soon see for yourself that what has made turbulent history has also resulted in a most colourful and expressive language.

THE TAPE

There is an optional cassette accompanying the book. A considerable amount of the Arabic material has been recorded. This is marked ■ in the text.

PRONUNCIATION

The correct pronunciation of some of these letters, for example ح and ع, it is scarcely possible for a European to acquire, except by long intercourse with natives.

A Grammar of the Arabic Language (1859)
by W. Wright

The problems of mastering Arabic pronunciation have often been greatly exaggerated. The truth is that the various sounds which you as a beginner are about to encounter, some of which are undeniably 'exotic', are not all that difficult so long as you *hear* the sounds in question, and do not rely solely on written descriptions. If you cannot find a 'native' to help you, you may use the cassette that has been especially prepared to accompany this volume. You should realise the degree to which good pronunciation is the key to success in the study of any new language. Without it a good grasp of grammar and vocabulary can seem pointless. The corollary is that with good pronunciation habits even a beginner, possessing only the rudiments of grammar and a small vocabulary, will be impressive.

WARNING: Do not assume that learning Egyptian Arabic is easier if approached through the Arabic alphabet. Quite the opposite! The Arabic alphabet suits Classical Arabic perfectly, but the sounds of Egyptian Arabic are actually more easily and efficiently represented by Latin letters. Nevertheless, learning the Arabic alphabet can obviously enrich your study of the language and if you are tempted you may refer to the table of Arabic letters given at the end of this introductory section.

The system of transliteration set out below is purely phonetic – that is, each symbol represents only one sound.

VOWELS

The two-lettered symbols are the long vowels and diphthongs. They have about twice the duration of short vowels, i.e. the single-lettered symbols.

<i>symbol</i>	<i>English equivalent</i>
a	(i) the <i>a</i> in <i>at</i> (ii) the first <i>a</i> in <i>aha!</i> *
aa	(i) the <i>a</i> in <i>man</i> (ii) the <i>a</i> in <i>far</i> *
i	the <i>i</i> in <i>bit</i>
ii	the <i>ee</i> in <i>deep</i>
u	the <i>u</i> in <i>pull</i>
uu	the <i>oo</i> in <i>pool</i>
e	a short clipped <i>e</i> as in <i>bet</i>
o	a short clipped <i>o</i> as in <i>yo-ho-ho</i>
ee (a diphthong)	the <i>ay</i> in <i>day</i>
oo (a diphthong)	the <i>o</i> in <i>open</i>

Pronunciation exercise 1

aa	áalif	(‘alif’, an Arabic letter)
a	alf	(a thousand)
ii	miin	(who?)
i	min	(from)
uu	fuul	(fava beans)
u	full	(jasmine)
ee	beet	(house)
e	bétna	(our house)
oo	yoom	(day)
o	yoméén	(two days)

CONSONANTS

The following Egyptian consonants have approximate English equivalents.

b	as in English
d	pronounced forward in the mouth like the <i>d</i> in <i>dental</i>

*The quality of vowels, particularly ‘a’ and ‘aa’, is influenced by the proximity of an emphatic consonant [the emphatics are introduced later in the pronunciation section]. This means that where one or more emphatic consonants occur in a word, both ‘a’ and ‘aa’ are pronounced as in the second alternatives given for each above.

f	as in English
g	always hard like the <i>g</i> in <i>go</i>
h	like the <i>h</i> in <i>house</i>
k	as in English
l	pronounced forward in the mouth like the <i>l</i> in <i>late</i>
m	as in English
n	as in English
p	as in English (foreign words only)*
s	like the <i>s</i> in <i>soup</i>
š	like the <i>sh</i> in <i>ship</i>
t	pronounced forward in the mouth like the <i>t</i> in <i>tea</i>
v	as in English (foreign words only)
w	like the <i>w</i> in <i>wolf</i>
y	like the <i>y</i> in <i>yet</i>
z	like the <i>z</i> in <i>zebra</i>
ž	like the <i>s</i> in <i>measure</i>

The following Egyptian consonants have no English equivalents:

gh	a vibrating <u>gh</u> sound like that made by gargling; like the <i>r</i> in French
H	a strong H pronounced with a rush of air from the throat. Pretend you are trying to blow out a flame with an H sound
q	a <i>k</i> sound pronounced far back in the throat
r	a slightly trilled <i>r</i> as in Spanish and Italian
‘	the so-called ‘glottal stop’, which is the stop in the middle of ‘uh-oh’ or in the Cockney word ‘bo’le’ (for bottle). This symbol is also used at the beginning of a word to indicate that its first letter was originally q, no longer pronounced. Anywhere else in a word it might represent either this suppressed q or the hamza of Classical Arabic (see p. 9)
9	the sound made when the throat muscles are clenched. Try to swallow the sound ‘ah’. When you sound as if you are being strangled, you will have mastered the ‘voiced pharyngeal fricative’!

*The *p* is rather difficult for Arabs to pronounce. You will often hear Egyptians pronounce it as *b*, e.g. ‘in for a benny, in for a bound’

Pronunciation exercise 2

g	gaar, agáaza, talg	(neighbour, holiday, ice)
ž	žiláati, garažáat, beež	(ice-cream, garages, beige)
gh	gharb, šughl, dimáagh	(west, work, brain)
h	hináak, gáahiz, nabíih	(there, ready, intelligent)
H	Halwáan, fatáaHa, ruuH	(Helwan, opener, go!)
k	kaam, ráakib, sabbáak	(how much, riding, plumber)
q	qur'áan, aqsáam, yiqáarin	(Koran, departments, compare)
r	ráagil, árnab, naar	(man, rabbit, fire)
x	xábar, baxt, moxx	(news, luck, brains)
9	9áli, sáa9a, rugúu9	(Ali, hour, return)
'	dí'íi'a, da'áayi', sáabi'	(minute, minutes, former)

The emphatic consonants are ḍ, ṣ, ṭ, ḏ. There are also emphatic versions of l and r, but these will only be marked emphatic before a long 'a' sound.

Emphatic letters sound thickened and heavy. Although they are not difficult, you must hear them correctly pronounced to get them right. Either ask a native Egyptian to help you or refer to the cassette recordings especially available to accompany this book.

Pronunciation exercise 3

non-emphatic	emphatic	
durg	ḍuhr	(drawer, back)
daas	ḍáani	(he trod, mutton)
saab	šaam	(he left (something), he fasted)
sahl	ṣabr	(easy, patience)
taar	ṭaar	(revenge, it (m.) flew)
zaad	ẓaabī	(he increased, officer)
zayy	ẓann	(like, he was of the opinion)
Hisáab	Huṣáan	(account, horse)
bádla	béeda	(suit, egg)
baat	baaṭ	(he stayed the night, underarm)

másgid	maṣr	(mosque, Egypt)
ba9d	ba9ḍ	(after, some)
	aḷḷáah	(God)
	raas	(head)

DOUBLED CONSONANTS

The general rule is that doubled consonants are prolonged to twice the duration of single consonants.

Pronunciation exercise 4

single	doubled	
buxáar	yi'áxxar	(steam, he delays)
dáwa	áwwil	(medicine, first)
ámal	ámma	(hope, as for)

Pronunciation exercise 5

Here are some colourful words and expressions to practise pronouncing:

báladi	<i>local, 'native'</i>
galabíyya	<i>galabia, traditional garment of male Egyptians</i>
yúusif afándi	<i>tangerines</i>
xawáaga	<i>foreign 'gentleman'</i>
in šaa' aḷḷáah	<i>God willing</i>
barsíim	<i>clover</i>
gámal	<i>camel</i>
ba'šíiš	<i>baksheesh</i>
9afrít	<i>demon, imp; mischievous child</i>
dáwša	<i>commotion, usually a shouting match in the street</i>
mašrabíyya	<i>old style projecting latticework window</i>
waḷḷáahi-l-9aẓíim	<i>By God! – a common oath</i>
ya rabb	<i>O Lord!</i>
ya ráagil	<i>O man</i>

8 PRONUNCIATION

fulúuka	<i>felucca, kind of Nile boat with lateen sail</i>
far9óoni	<i>Pharaonic</i>
zagħarīt	<i>long trilling sound, usually of joy, made by Arab women, e.g., at weddings</i>
ša9ūdi	<i>Upper Egyptian</i>
ʿibṭi	<i>Coptic</i>
Hamáam	<i>pigeon</i>
Hammáam	<i>bath</i>
nayrúuz	<i>Coptic New Year</i>
muʿázzin	<i>muʿazzin, caller to prayer</i>
ṣaláaH id-diin	<i>Saladin</i>
9abd il-9azūz	<i>Abdul Aziz</i>

and some place names:

xaan il-xalīlī	<i>Khan al-Khalili, a Cairo bazaar</i>
il-qaahira	<i>Cairo</i>
il-muʿāṭṭam	<i>Muqattam, hills to Cairo's east</i>
máari girgis	<i>a Coptic church in Old Cairo</i>
ṣáari9 il-mu9ízz li-diin ilḷaah	<i>a main street in Old Cairo</i>
il-azbakíyya	<i>Ezbekiyya, a quarter of Cairo</i>
it-tawfíʿíyya	<i>Tawfikíyya, a quarter of Cairo</i>
iz-zaʿazíʿ	<i>Zagazig, a town in the Delta</i>

THE ARABIC ALPHABET

(1 = beginning of word; 2 = middle; 3 = end of word; 4 = standing alone)

4	3	2	1	Name	Classical pronunciation	Egyptian pronunciation
ا	ل			alif	*	*
ب	ب	ب	ب	baa	b	b
ت	ت	ت	ت	taa	t	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	thaa (<i>thin</i>)	th	t or s
ج	ج	ج	ج	giim	j	g (hard)
ح	ح	ح	ح	Haa	H	H
خ	خ	خ	خ	xaa	x	x
د	د	د	د	daal	d	d
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	thaal (<i>those</i>)	th	d or z
ر	ر	ر	ر	raa	r	r
ز	ز	ز	ز	zaay	z	z
س	س	س	س	siin	s	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	šiin	š	š
ص	ص	ص	ص	ṣaad	ṣ	ṣ
ض	ض	ض	ض	ḍaad	ḍ	ḍ
ط	ط	ط	ط	ṭaa	ṭ	ṭ
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẓaa	ẓ	ẓ or ḍ
ع	ع	ع	ع	9een	9	9
غ	غ	غ	غ	gheen	gh	gh
ف	ف	ف	ف	faa	f	f
ق	ق	ق	ق	qaaf	q	q or ʿ
ك	ك	ك	ك	kaaf	k	k
ل	ل	ل	ل	laam	l	l
م	م	م	م	miim	m	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	nuun	n	n
ه	ه	ه	ه	haa	h	h
و	و	و	و	waaw	w	w
ي	ي	ي	ي	yaa	y	y

*alif is used (i) as a written symbol for the aa (long a) sound; and also (ii) to bear the hamza mark (e.g., j), which signifies the glottal stop.

ROOT LETTERS AND GRAMMATICAL PATTERNS

Like other Semitic languages, Arabic is characterised by a system of trilateral roots, each of which indicates a 'concept'. In other words, the vast majority of Arabic words consist of three root letters embedded in a fixed pattern. These root letters indicate the general concept with which the word is associated, while the pattern gives the precise meaning within that general concept.

By way of example, consider the three consonants **KTB**, which signify the general idea of 'writing'. By putting these consonants into specific patterns Arabs derive all the words they need that have to do with the concept, in this case, of 'writing'. The pattern **CaaCiC** (where C = consonant) means the doer of the action, so **káatib** is the word for 'writer'. Similarly we have:

CiCaaC = **kitáab** = book
maCCaC = **máktab** = 'office' or 'desk'
maCCuuC = **maktúub** = 'written'
 etc.

As you pursue your study of Arabic the consistency and predictability of the language will become increasingly obvious. You will begin to guess correctly the meanings of words you have never seen before just by recognising their root letters and patterns.

ABBREVIATIONS

m.	masculine
f.	feminine
s.	singular
pl.	plural
v.	verb
v.n.	verbal noun
n.	noun
adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
c.	collective
trans.	transitive
intrans.	intransitive
o.s.	oneself
pers.	person
perf.	perfect
imperf.	imperfect
impera.	imperative
voc.	vocative
lit.	literally
s.o.	someone
s.th.	something
resp.	response
V	vowel
C	consonant
CA	Classical Arabic

LESSON ONE (id-dars il-áwwil)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

1	saláamu 9aléekum	<i>Hello</i>
(resp.)	9aléekum is-saláam	<i>Hello</i>
2	ṣabáaH il-xeer	<i>Good morning</i>
(resp.)	ṣabáaH in-nuur	<i>Good morning</i>
3	izzáyyak? (to m.s.)	<i>How are you?</i>
	or izzáyyik? (to f.s.)	
	or izzayyúukum? (to pl.)	
(resp.)	kwáyyis, il-Hámdu lilláah	<i>Fine, thank you</i>
	(by m.s.)	
	or kwayyísa, il-Hámdu lilláah	
	(by f.s.)	
	or kwayyisín, il-Hámdu	
	lilláah (by pl.)	

Notes

By 'resp.' is meant the standard response to the preceding phrase.
 (1) A traditional formal greeting. Lit. = 'peace upon you' and (resp.) 'upon you peace'. The original CA expression is **is-saláamu 9aléekum** but Egyptians often drop the definite article from the opening phrase. **saláamu 9aléekum** may be used, for example: (i) when entering a room; (ii) passing an acquaintance in the hall or on the street; and (iii) to mean 'good-bye' (by the person departing).
 (2) Lit. = 'morning of goodness' and (resp.) 'morning of light'. Some pleasant variations to the response are **ṣabáaH il-ward** ('morning of roses') and **ṣabáaH il-full** ('morning of jasmine').
 (3) **izzáay** means 'how' and **izzáyyak** 'how are you?' Other ways to say 'how are you?' are:

izzáay ṣiHHítak	lit. =	'how is your (m.) health?'
izzáay ṣiHHítik		'how is your (f.) health?'
izzáay ṣiHHítukum		'how is your (pl.) health?'

and:

izzáay iṣ-ṣiHHa lit. = 'how is the health?'

Note also:

izzáay il-awláad *'how are the children?'*
 izzáay il-madáam *'how is madam?'* (i.e. your wife)

kwáyyis is the usual word for 'good'. **kwayyísa** is the feminine, and **kwayyisín** the plural.

il-Hámdu lilláah is a CA phrase used whenever something or someone is said to be good, in good health, or improving. Lit. = 'praise (be) to God'.

II GRAMMAR

The Definite Article

The definite article in Egyptian Arabic is **il-**. There is no indefinite article in Arabic.

beet	<i>house, a house</i>
il-beet	<i>the house</i>

Before certain consonants the **l** of the definite article is assimilated. These are **d, ḍ, n, r, s, ṣ, š, t, ṭ, z, ẓ** and (optionally) **g** and **k**.

	iṭ-ṭáagil	<i>the man</i>
	is-sitt	<i>the woman</i>
	il-gurnáan	
or	ig-gurnáan	<i>the newspaper</i>
	il-kitáab	
or	ik-kitáab	<i>the book</i>

Nouns and Gender

In Arabic nouns are either masculine or feminine. They are generally easy to differentiate. The best approach is to learn how to recognize feminine nouns, which include

- (a) those which clearly refer to females
- (b) the vast majority of nouns ending in **-a**

- (c) most cities and countries
- (d) certain parts of the body
- (e) a small group of miscellaneous nouns

Nouns which do not fit in any of these categories are almost always masculine.

Some feminine nouns (by category)

a	b	c	
sitt	woman, lady	ṭarabéeza	table
bint	girl, daughter	ginéena	garden
uxt	sister	madūna	city
umm	mother	9arabíyya	car
	d	e	
	raas	šams	head
	9een	Harb	eye
	iid	aṛḍ	hand
	riḡl	naar	foot, leg
			fire

Some masculine nouns

ṛaagil	man	baab	door	gáami9	mosque
wálad	boy, son	muftáaH	key	mát9am	restaurant
axx	brother	šibbáak	window	'álam	pen
abb	father	šáari9	street	nahr	river
gurnáan	newspaper	beet	house	in-niil	the Nile
kúrsi	chair	kúbri	bridge	háram	pyramid
kitáab	book	sawwáa'	driver	baHr	sea
máktab	office, desk	midáan	city	falláah	farmer, peasant
			square		

Plurals

Arabic plurals may be divided into 'sound plurals' which are regular and predictable; and 'broken plurals' which follow numerous unpre-

*il-qaahíra, the CA word for 'Cairo', is also common.

dictable patterns. The masculine sound plural is made by adding the suffix --iín to the singular noun or adjective [cf. Lesson Two] and shortening any preceding long vowel.

falláaH	→	fallaHíin	farmers, peasants
sawwáa'	→	sawwa'íin	drivers

The feminine sound plural is made by adding the suffix --aat with a shortening of any preceding long vowel. This is the plural form for many nouns and some adjectives bearing the feminine ending --a in the singular. For these the --aat replaces the --a.

ṭarabéeza	→	ṭarabezáat	tables
9arabíyya	→	9arabiyyáat	cars

Sometimes the feminine sound plural ending occurs together with some structural change to the single form of the noun. Notice the illogical use of the feminine plural ending for 'brothers' and 'fathers'.

sitt	→	sitáat	women
bint	→	banáat	girls, daughters
axx and uxt	→	ixwáat	brothers, sisters
umm	→	ummaháat	mothers
abb	→	abbaháat	fathers

Here, grouped by pattern, are the broken plurals for the singular nouns given so far.

'álam	→	a'láam	pens
baab	→	abwáab	doors
wálad	→	awláad	boys, sons, children
háram	→	ahráam*	pyramids
nahr	→	anháar	rivers
beet	→	buyúut	houses
Harb	→	Hurúub	wars
9een	→	9uyúun	eyes
riḡl	→	rugúul	feet, legs

*In Egypt the feminine sound plural suffix is usually added to this broken plural (= ahramáat) when referring to the ancient pyramids, while il-ahráam tends to be used to mean the *Al Ahram* newspaper.

maḍīna	→ mūdun	<i>cities</i>
kitāab	→ kūtub	<i>books</i>
šāari9	→ šawāari9	<i>streets</i>
gāami9	→ gawāami9	<i>mosques</i>
ginéena	→ ganāayin	<i>gardens</i>
máktab	→ makáatib	<i>offices, desks</i>
mát9am	→ maṭāa9im	<i>restaurants</i>
muftāaH	→ mafatīiH	<i>keys</i>
šibbāak	→ šababīik	<i>windows</i>
gurnāan	→ garanīin	<i>newspapers</i>
midāan	→ mayadīin	<i>city squares</i>
kúrsi	→ karāasi	<i>chairs</i>
kúbri	→ kabāari	<i>bridges</i>
aṛḍ	→ aṛāaḍi	<i>lands</i>
naar	→ nirāan	<i>fires</i>
baHr	→ biHāar	<i>seas</i>
ṛaagil	→ riggāala	<i>men</i>
ṛaas	→ ruus	<i>heads</i>
iid	→ idéen*	<i>hands</i>

From now on the plural will be given with the singular for new vocabulary.

Subject Pronouns

	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	
ána	<i>I</i>	iHna	<i>we</i>
ínta	<i>you (m.)</i>		
ínti	<i>you (f.)</i>	íntu	<i>you (pl.)</i>
húwwa	<i>he, it</i>		
híyya	<i>she, it</i>	húmma	<i>they</i>

***idéen** is the dual form [cf. Lesson Four] but is used in Egypt as if it were a plural.

Simple Sentences

The structure of the Arabic equational (simple) sentence could hardly be easier. It requires only a subject and a predicate – you do *not* need the verb ‘to be’ in the present tense.

feen is-sawwaa’?	<i>Where is the driver?</i>
is-sawwaa’ hináak	<i>The driver is over there.</i>

Additional Vocabulary

la’	<i>no</i>	min	<i>from</i>
áywa	<i>yes</i>	fi ~ f	<i>in</i>
hína	<i>here</i>	má9a ~ ma9	<i>with</i>
hináak	<i>there</i>	9ála ~ 9a	<i>on</i>
fiih	<i>there is</i>	taHt	<i>under</i>
mafiš	<i>there is not</i>	foo’	<i>over</i>
wi ~ wa ~ w	<i>and</i>	gamb	<i>beside</i>
miš	<i>not</i>	’uddáam	<i>in front of</i>
feen?	<i>where?</i>	wáṛa	<i>behind</i>
minéen?	<i>from where?</i>	’ahwa	<i>coffee house</i>

III EXERCISES

1 Reading practice

Read the following sentences aloud, then translate them:

1. feen maHámmad?
2. húwwa fi maṣr
3. inta minéen?
4. ána min ingiltíra
5. feen ik-kitāab?
6. ik-kitāab 9ála ṭ-ṭarabéeza
7. il-muftāaH fil-baab?
8. la’, il-muftāaH miš fil-baab
9. il-muftāaH hináak, gamb il-’álam
10. mafiš 9arabíyya ’uddáam il-mát9am

2 Translation exercise

Translate the following:

1. feen il-wálad?
2. húwwa taHt il-kúbri.
3. il-ginéena wára l-beet.
4. fiih kútub 9ála t-ṭarabéeza?
5. áywa, fiih kútub wi 'álam 9ála t-ṭarabéeza.
6. Where are they from?
7. They are from Egypt.
8. You (f.) are beside the window.
9. Is there a restaurant in Saad Zaghloul Square?
10. There is a restaurant there, and a coffee-house also.

LESSON TWO (id-dars it-táani)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | áhlán wa sáhlán | <i>Welcome. Good to see you</i> |
| (resp.) | áhlán biik (to m.s.) | <i>Good to see you too</i> |
| | or áhlán bíiki (to f.s.) | |
| | or áhlán bíikum (to pl.) | |
| 2 | šúkran | <i>Thank you</i> |
| (resp.) | 9áfwan | <i>Don't mention it</i> |
| 3 | má9a s-saláama | <i>Good-bye (said by person staying)</i> |
| (resp.) | aḷláh yisallímak (to m.s.) | <i>Good-bye (said by person departing)</i> |
| | or aḷláh yisallímik (to f.s.) | |

or aḷláh yisallímkum
(to pl.)

4 in šaa' aḷláh *God-willing*

Notes

(1) The traditional expression of welcome. **ahl** is a noun meaning 'family'; **sahl**, a noun meaning 'level ground, easy to walk on', i.e. 'plain'. The accusative ending **-an**, present in both nouns, occurs only in expressions taken from CA. In the desert environment where travel was often difficult and dangerous, the original meaning was 'you have reached your family and easy ground'.

(2) The CA accusative ending **-an** is also present in **šúkran** and **9áfwan**.

(3) Lit. = 'with safety' i.e., 'go in safety' and (resp.) 'May God give you safety'.

If the person departing is the first to say goodbye, he or she may say, for example:

sa9íida
(resp.) ma9a s-saláama
or simply

saláamu 9aléekum
(resp.) 9aléekum is-saláam

(4) Should be said upon any reference to the future, e.g., 'I'm travelling to Alexandria tomorrow, God-willing'. If you do not say **in šaa' aḷláh** in making any statement or expressing any wish or hope about the future, the Arab you are talking to will probably supply it. The underlying assumption here is that not to say it is to disregard God's control of events.

II GRAMMAR

Adjectives

An adjective may be masculine or feminine, singular or plural.

	singular		plural
	m.	f.	
big	kibíir	kibíira	kubáar
small	ṣuḡhayyar	ṣuḡhayyára	ṣuḡhayyaríin

<i>good</i>	kwáyyis	kwayyísa	kwayyisín
<i>bad, ugly</i>	wíHíš	wíHša	wíHšín
<i>beautiful</i>	gamíl	gamíla	gumáal

(i) An adjective follows the noun it qualifies. When it qualifies a singular noun, the adjective must also be singular and agree in gender.

beet kibūr	<i>a big house</i>
madīna kibūra	<i>a big city</i>

(ii) An adjective qualifying a plural noun should also be plural when that noun refers to humans.

banáat ṣughayyarín	<i>little girls</i>
awláad kwayyisín	<i>good children</i>

(iii) An adjective qualifying a plural noun that refers to things (either tangible or abstract) should be feminine singular.

buyúut kibūra	<i>big houses</i>
afkáar kwayyísa	<i>good ideas</i>
lugháat sáhla	<i>easy languages</i>

(iv) An adjective qualifying a noun in its dual form must be plural regardless of whether that noun refers to humans or things. The dual will be introduced in Lesson Four.

(The student should note that rules (ii) and (iii) are not universally followed by native speakers. For example, some Egyptians use a feminine singular adjective to qualify even certain 'human' nouns, e.g. *il-banáat iṣ-ṣughayyára*; and some use the plural form of the adjective to qualify nouns referring to things, particularly tangible objects, e.g. *il-buyúut il-kubáar*. Nevertheless, the student will find it easier in the long run always to use (i) a plural adjective to refer to humans in the plural; and (ii) a feminine singular adjective to qualify all non-'human' plural nouns.)

If the noun is definite (i.e. preceded by the definite article), the adjective must also be definite.

il-beet il-kibūr	<i>the big house</i>
il-madīna l-kibūra	<i>the big city</i>
il-awláad ik-kwayyisín	<i>the good children</i>

If the adjective is left indefinite, an adjectival phrase is turned into an equational sentence.

il-beet kibūr	<i>The house is big</i>
---------------	-------------------------

Learn the following adjectives in pairs:

	singular		plural
	m.	f.	
<i>new</i>	gidūd	gidūda	gudáad
<i>old*</i>	'adīm	'adīma	'udáam
<i>tall, long</i>	ṭawīl	ṭawīla	ṭuwáal
<i>short</i>	'uṣáyyar	'uṣayyára	'uṣayyarín
<i>expensive</i>	gháali	ghálya	ghalyiin
<i>cheap</i>	rixīṣ	rixīša	ruḫáaṣ
<i>clean</i>	niḍīf	niḍīfa	nuḍáaf
<i>dirty**</i>	wísix	wíxxa	awsáax
<i>lightweight</i>	xafīf	xafīfa	xufáaf
<i>heavy</i>	ti'īl	ti'īla	tu'áal
<i>near</i>	'uráyyib	'urayyiba	'urayyibín
<i>far</i>	bi9ūd	bi9ūda	bu9áad
<i>easy</i>	sahl	sáhla	sahlín
<i>difficult</i>	ša9b	ša9ba	ša9bín
<i>generous</i>	karīm	karīma	kúrama
<i>miser(ly)</i>	baxīl	baxīla	búxala
<i>thin</i>	rufayya9	rufayyá9a	rufayya9ín
<i>fat</i>	tixīn	tixīna	tuxáan

*When referring to an 'old' person, Arabs use *kibūr* or the phrase *kibūr fis-sinn* (= 'big in age'). Similarly 'young' is *ṣaghūr* or *ṣaghūr fis-sinn*.

**Egyptians often prefer to say *miš naḍīf* (= 'not clean'), leaving *wísix* to mean filthy or 'morally dirty'.

The following adjectives are of two common patterns not represented above. They take **-a** in the feminine and, with one exception, the masculine sound plural. When adding the **-iin** for the plural remember to shorten the preceding long vowel.

kasláan	<i>lazy</i>
ta9báan	<i>tired</i>
9ayyáan	<i>sick</i>
za9láan	<i>angry</i>
xarbáan	<i>broken (down)</i>
magnúun (pl. maganín)	<i>crazy</i>
mabsúut	<i>happy</i>
mašghúul	<i>busy</i>

Nisba adjectives

Another type of adjective is that formed by adding **--i** to the related noun. We do something similar in English when from 'oil' we derive the adjective 'oily', or from 'Iraq' its adjective 'Iraqi'. In Arabic these are called 'Nisba' adjectives. The adjectives below are all Nisba-type, though the original noun may be slightly modified to form the stem for the adjectival endings. Note also that not all the plurals are of the masculine sound type.*

Place names		Adjectives		
		<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>Egypt</i>	mašr	mášri	mašríyya	mašriyyín
<i>Syria</i>	súrya	súuri	suríyya	suriyyín
<i>Lebanon</i>	libnáan	libnáani	libnaníyya	libnaniyyín
<i>Iraq</i>	il-9iráa'	9iráa'i	9ira'íyya	9ira'íyyín
<i>England</i>	ingiltíra	ingilízi	ingilizíyya	ingilíz

*Don't be surprised to hear any or all of the following from native speakers:

il-banáat il-mašríyya
il-banáat il-mašriyyín
il-banáat il-mašriyyáat

The last, where the adjective has a feminine sound plural ending, is a direct borrowing from CA.

<i>America</i>	amríika	amrikáani	amrikaníyya	amrikáan
<i>the East</i>	iš-šar'	šár'i	šar'íyya	šar'íyyín
<i>the West</i>	il-gharb	ghárbi	gharbíyya	gharbiyyín

Also important in the context of Nisba adjectives are the words for 'Arab(ic)': **9árabi** (m.s.), **9arabíyya** (f.s.) and **9árab** (pl.)

inglúzi and **9árabi** also mean the languages English and Arabic.

bil-ingilízi	<i>in English</i>
bil-9árabi	<i>in Arabic</i>

Note that any adjective can be used as a noun.

ig-gidíid	<i>the new [one]</i>
il-mašríyya	<i>the Egyptian woman</i>
il-inglíz	<i>the English</i>

Additional vocabulary

kílma (kilmáat)	<i>word</i>	'áwi	<i>very</i>
gúmla (gúmal)	<i>sentence</i>	gíddan	<i>very</i>
lúgha (luḡháat)	<i>language</i>	xáališ	<i>extremely</i>
ziyáara	<i>visit</i>	wálla	<i>or</i>
(ziyaráat)			
láakin	<i>but</i>	la . . . wála	<i>neither . . . nor</i>
innahárda	<i>today</i>	ya	<i>vocative</i>
xaddáam	<i>servant</i>		<i>partical,</i>
(xaddamín)			<i>used before a</i>
miš mawgund =			<i>name</i>
miš hina	<i>not present</i>		<i>when addressing</i>
			<i>someone</i>
			<i>directly</i>

III EXERCISES

1 Reading practice: a dialogue

ziyáara 'uṣayyára 'áwi

A. áhlan wa sáhlan, ya samúra!

B. áhlan biik, ya maHmúud.

- A. izzáyyik innahárda?
 B. kwayyísa, l-Hámdu lilláah. w-ínta?
 A. kwáyyis, il-Hámdu lilláah.
 B. nágwa miš hína?
 A. la, híyya f-iskindiríyya nnahárda.
 B. šúkran. sa9fida.
 A. má9a s-saláama.

2 Translation exercise

1. il-mašriyyiín kúrama.
2. in-niil nahr gamíl wi ṭawíl xáaliṣ!
3. il-ahramáat bi9fida min hína?
4. ínta súuri wálla libnáani?
5. ána la súuri wála libnáani. ána mášri.
6. The word is easy.
7. In Egypt restaurants [= the restaurants] are inexpensive.
8. War [= the war] is bad.
9. The sentence is not difficult.
10. The table is dirty [= not clean], but the servant is not here.

LESSON THREE (id-dars it-táalit)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | misáa' il-xeer | <i>Good evening</i> |
| (resp.) | misáa' in-nuur | <i>Good evening</i> |
| 2 | itfáḍḍal (to m.s.) | <i>Please, go ahead</i> |
| | or itfaḍḍáli (to f.s.) | |
| | or itfaḍḍálu (to pl.) | |
| (resp.) | šúkran | <i>Thank you</i> |
| 3 | fúrša sa9fida | <i>Pleased to meet you</i> |
| (resp.) | iHna ás9ad | <i>My pleasure</i> |

- 4 sallímli 9ála – (to m.s.) *Remember me to –*
 or sallimúli 9ála – (to f.s.)
 or sallimúuli 9ála – (to pl.)

Notes

- (1) Lit. = 'evening of goodness' and (resp.) 'evening of light'. There are no variations to the response.
 (2) A more literal translation would be 'be so kind'. It may be used to mean 'after you' (at the door); or 'please be seated'; or 'please take some' (of whatever is being offered).
 (3) Lit. = 'happy occasion' and (resp.) 'we are happier'. The response is always in the first person plural ('we') even when the person responding is speaking for him or her self alone.
 (4) Or 'give my regards to –'. Arabs everywhere know the line sung by Egyptian singer 9abd ul-Halím Háafiz: **w-in la'áakum Habúbi, sallimúuli 9aléeh** ('if my love should meet you, give her my regards').

II GRAMMAR

Construct Phrases

The term 'construct phrase' denotes two words juxtaposed in what may be considered a direct 'possessed-possessor' relationship. Only the second noun can carry the definite article even though both may be definite. In English this relationship could be indicated by putting the word 'of' between the two nouns, as in 'the book of the girl' (i.e., 'the girl's book'). In Arabic this would be

kitáab il-bint

When the first noun in a construct phrase is feminine and ends in **-a** (e.g. 9arabíyya), the **-a** changes to **-it**.

9arabíyyit is-sitt *the woman's car*

Proper nouns (e.g. names of people or places) are definite without needing the definite article. Note, however, that the definite article is retained if it forms part of the name, as in **il-qaahira**.

kitáab maHámmad	<i>Muhammad's book</i>
medīnit aswáan	<i>the city of Aswan</i>
medīnit il-qaahíra	<i>the city of Cairo</i>

To say 'the book of a girl' (i.e. 'a girl's book') one drops the definite article from the second noun.

kitáab bint

Adjectives modifying either noun must follow the construct phrase.

baab il-beet il-kibūr	<i>the big door of the house or the door of the big house</i>
-----------------------	---

If the meaning is not clear from the context, ambiguity can be avoided by using the alternative to the construct phrase described in the following section.

'bitáa9'

A common alternative to the construct phrase is the use of the word **bitáa9** (of) (fem. = **bitáa9it** or **bitá9t**, pl. = **bitúu9**).

il-kitáab bitáa9 il-bint	<i>the girl's book</i>
il-9arabíyya bitáa9it is-sitt	<i>the woman's car</i>
il-baab il-kibūr bitáa9 il-beet	<i>the big door of the house</i>
il-baab bitáa9 il-beet il-kibūr	<i>the door of the big house</i>
il-awláad bitúu9 il-falláaH	<i>the farmer's children</i>

Pronominal suffixes

Pronominal suffixes may be attached to nouns, prepositions, and verbs. In translation the suffixes appear as possessive pronouns, objects of prepositions, or direct objects. They differ slightly depending on whether the words to which they are added end in a consonant or a vowel (but *not* the feminine --a).

after consonants

--i	béeti	<i>my house</i>
--ak	béetak	<i>your (m.) house</i>
--ik	béetik	<i>your (f.) house</i>
--uh	béetuh	<i>his house</i>

ha	béthá*	<i>her house</i>
na	bétna*	<i>our house</i>
kum	bétkum*	<i>your (pl.) house</i>
hum	béthum*	<i>their house</i>

after vowels

-va	ma9áaya	<i>with me or I have</i>
-k	ma9áak	<i>with you (m.) or you have</i>
-ki	ma9áaki	<i>with you (f.) or you have</i>
-h	ma9áah	<i>with him or he has</i>
-ha	ma9áaha	<i>with her or she has</i>
-na	ma9áana	<i>with us or we have</i>
-kum	ma9áakum	<i>with you (pl.) or you have</i>
-hum	ma9áahum	<i>with them or they have</i>

Note the lengthening of the final vowel of the base word. This lengthening occurs in all base words ending in a vowel to which a suffix is added.

A common alternative to the 2nd pers. pl. suffix --kum is --ku.

Feminine nouns ending in --a take their 'construct form' (i.e. end in --it) before the pronominal suffixes.

9arabiyyítha	<i>her automobile</i>
--------------	-----------------------

The various forms of **bitáa9** may also be used in combination with the pronominal suffixes.

il-beet bitá9na	<i>our house</i>
il-9arabíyya bitá9ti	<i>my car</i>
il-awláad bitú9ha	<i>her children</i>

'To have'

A combination of the preposition **9and** and one of the pronominal suffixes is the usual way of saying 'to have'.

9ándi	<i>I have</i>	9andína**	<i>we have</i>
9ándak	<i>you (m.s.) have</i>	9andúkum**	<i>you (pl.) have</i>

*Egyptian Arabic does not allow VVCC.

**Notice the extra vowel added to prevent a three-consonant cluster.

9ándik	you (f.s.) have	9andúhum**	they have
9ánduh	he, it has		
9andáha**	she, it has		

The negative forms are:

ma9andíiš	ma9andináaš
ma9andákš	ma9andukúmš
ma9andikíiš	ma9anduhúmš
ma9andúuš	
ma9anduháaš	

Examples:

9ándak filúus?	Do you have [any] money?
ma9andíiš Háaga	I don't have anything.

Demonstratives

(i)

da (m.s.)	this/that
di (f.s.)	this/that
dool (pl.)	these/those

These words may occur after the noun (as demonstrative adjectives) or before the noun (as demonstrative pronouns).

Examples:

da kitáab kwáyyis	This (or that) is a good book.
il-kitáab da kwáyyis	This (or that) book is good.
di bint maşríyya	That is an Egyptian girl.
il-bint di maşríyya	That girl is Egyptian.
dool sawwa'íin wiHšíin	Those are bad drivers.
is-sawwa'íin dool wiHšíin	Those drivers are bad.

(ii)

Usually classified with the demonstratives are:

ahó (m.s.)	here is/there is
ahé (f.s.)	here is/there is
ahúm (pl.)	here are/there are

These words may precede or follow the noun, or occur in isolation.

Examples:

teen il-lukánda?	Where is the hotel?
ahé l-lukánda	There is the hotel.
il-lukánda hé	
ahé!	There it is!
teen ig-gurnáan?	Where is the newspaper?
ahó!	There it is!
il-fallaHíin teen?	Where are the peasants?
ahúm!	There they are!

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: Non-human plural nouns, both tangible and abstract, should, unless dual (explained in Lesson Four), always be treated syntactically as if they were feminine singular.

il-buyúut di kibūra	Those houses are big.
il-9arabiyyáat bitáa9it iš-šírka	Where are the company's cars?
feen?	
il-9arabiyyáat ahé!	There are the cars!

Additional vocabulary

ism (asáami)	name
Háaga (Hagáat)	thing
filúus (f.)	money
lukánda (lukandáat)	hotel
fúndu' (fanáadi')	hotel (Classical Arabic)
utéel	hotel
šírka (širkáat)	company
šānta (šūnat)	suitcase, briefcase, lady's bag
borg (burúug)	tower
gám9a (gam9áat)	university
gumhuriyya (gumhuriyyáat)	republic
bawwáab (bawwabíin)	doorman
mudíir (mudiriin)	director, manager
ra'íis (rú'asa)	president, chief
misáafir (misafiríin)	traveller
tayyáara (ṭayyaráat)	airplane

maṭáar (maṭaráat)	airport
borg il-qaahíra	Cairo Tower
midáan it-taHrír	Liberation Square
maṣr ig-gidíida	Heliopolis (a Cairo suburb)
'uráyyib min	near (s.th.)
bi9íid 9an	far from (s.th.)
bass	only, just; but
eeh?	what?

III EXERCISES

■ 1 Reading practice

ísmak eeh?

ísmi David Smith.

béetak feen?

béeti 'uráyyib min borg il-qaahíra.

feen il-muftáaH bitáa9 baab il-máktab?

muftáaH il-baab da má9a l-bawwáab.

il-9arabíyya di bitáa9it miin?

híyya bitáa9it ra'íis il-gumhuríyya.

gám9it il-qaahíra fig-gíiza wig-gám9a l-amrikaníyya fi midáan it-taHrír.

iš-šánta di gidíida.

šántit il-misáafir gidíida.

šántit il-misáafir il-9ayyáan fiṭ-ṭayyáara.

■ 2 Translation exercise

1. ísmuh eeh?
2. beet il-mudír fi maṣr ig-gidíida
3. il-fallaHín dool ta9banín innahárda
4. ána 9ándi kitáab wi 'álam, láakin hiyya ma9andaháaš la kitáab wála 'álam
5. il-9arabíyya bitá9tak ahé bass il-9arabíyya bitá9ti feen?
6. Where is your (pl.) house?
7. We don't have a house.

8. That university is extremely expensive.
9. There is the hotel, but where is the restaurant?
10. The director's new suitcase is at the airport.

LESSON FOUR
(id-dars ir-ráabi9)

■ 1 COMMON EXPRESSIONS

1	min fáḍlak (to m.s.) or min fáḍlik (to f.s.) or min faḍlúkum (to pl.)	Please
2	ásif (to m.s.) or ása (to f.s.) or asfín (to pl.) (resp.) ma9líšš	Sorry It doesn't matter; never mind
3	yálla	Let's go

Notes

(1) Lit. = 'from your kindness'. If someone uses this expression when asking for something (e.g. at the table), the response, when handing the thing over, would be **itfaḍḍal**. You will also hear the response **Háaḍir**, particularly from waiters, meaning 'at your service'. This is invariably masculine.

(2) Also **mit'ássif** (m.), **mit'assifa** (f.), and **mit'assifín** (pl.). Note that **ma9líšš** is one of the commonest expressions in Colloquial Arabic, used when something petty goes wrong or when someone does not get his or her way.

(3) Originally an invocation **ya alláh** (O God), the connotation has changed to mean 'let's go'; also said in the form of **yálla bíina**. **yálla** by itself may also mean 'hurry up!'

II GRAMMAR

Numbers (il-a9dáad)

Cardinals 1-100

1 wáaHid, wáHda	20 9išrín
2 itnéen	21 wáaHid wi-9išrín
3 taláata	22 itnéen wi-9išrín
4 árba9a	23 taláata w-9išrín
5 xámsa	24 árba9a w-9išrín
6 sítta	25 xámsa w-9išrín
7 sá9a	26 sítta w-9išrín
8 tamánya	27 sá9a w-9išrín
9 tís9a	28 tamánya w-9išrín
10 9ášara	29 tís9a w-9išrín
11 Hidáašar	30 talatín
12 itnáašar	31 wáaHid wi-talatín etc.
13 talatáašar	40 arbi9ín
14 arba9táašar	50 xamsín
15 xamaštáašar	60 siṭṭín
16 siṭṭáašar	70 sab9ín
17 saba9táašar	80 tamanín
18 tamantáašar	90 tís9ín
19 tisa9táašar	100 míyya

Number 'one' is the only number which has two forms to show gender. It is also the only number that generally follows the noun.

9askári wáaHid	<i>one policeman</i>
sitt wáHda	<i>one lady</i>

It may, however, precede a noun referring to humans in which case the meaning changes.

wáaHid 9askári	<i>a policeman, or some policeman</i> <i>('I don't know who')</i>
wáHda sitt	<i>a woman, some woman or other</i>

To indicate 'two' of something Arabic usually uses the dual form of the noun without use of the numeral. The dual consists of the

noun plus the suffix **--een**. Feminine singular nouns ending in **--a** take their construct form (**--it**) before the suffix.

waladéen	<i>two boys</i>
betéen	<i>two houses</i>
oḍtéen [for oḍiteen]	<i>two rooms</i>

Nouns ending in a vowel (other than the feminine ending **--a**), take a 'y' between that vowel and the dual suffix.

kursiyéen	<i>two chairs</i>
-----------	-------------------

There are rare exceptions where the dual is generally not used with a particular noun. For example, with the word **sitt** the numeral 'two' is used before the plural form of the noun.

itnéen sittáat	<i>two women</i>
----------------	------------------

As noted in Lesson Two an adjective qualifying any noun in the dual form must be plural.

kursiyéen kubáar	<i>two big chairs</i>
------------------	-----------------------

For the numbers 'three' to 'ten' Egyptian Arabic has a 'short form' used before nouns, which must be plural.

3 tálat	7 sába9
4 árba9	8 táman
5 xámas	9 tís9a
6 sitt	10 9ášar

Examples:

tálat banáat	<i>3 girls</i>
9ášar maṭṭáat	<i>10 times</i>

A few counted nouns, including those denoting drinks ordered (in a restaurant, for example) are always in the singular, while the numbers stay in their regular 'long form'.

itnéen ginéeh	<i>2 pounds</i>
taláata 'áhwa, min fáḍlak	<i>3 coffees, please</i>
árba9a kílu mooz	<i>4 kilograms of bananas</i>

From number 'eleven' on the counted noun must be in the singular form.

Hidáašar mářra	11 times
tís9a w-talatíin 'irš	39 piasters
wáaHid wi-xamsíin kitáab	51 books

Although the usual word for 'hundred' is **miyya**, '100 of something' is expressed using **miit** before the counted noun instead. Note that this only applies to '100 . . .', not to '101/102/110 etc . . .'.

miit yoom	100 days
míyya w-xamsíin yoom	150 days

Beyond '199':

200	mitéen
300	tultumíyya
400	rub9umíyya
500	xumsumíyya
600	suttumíyya
700	sub9umíyya
800	tumnumíyya
900	tus9umíyya
1,000	alf
1,000,000	milyóon
1,000,000,000	bilyóon

Examples:

mitéen wi-9ášara sána	210 years
tultumíit řaagil	300 men
xumsumíyya tís9a w-tis9íin	\$599
duláar	
alf tus9umíyya sítta w-xamsíin	1956
xámsa milyóon 9árabí	5,000,000 Arabs
bilyóon barmíil zeet	1,000,000,000 barrels of oil

Ordinals

m.	f.	
áwwil	úula	first
táani	tánya	second

talit	tálta	third
arabi9	ráb9a	fourth
xamis	xámsa	fifth
sadis	sádsa	sixth
sabi9	sáb9a	seventh
tamin	támna	eighth
taasi9	tás9a	ninth
9aašir	9ášra	tenth

To form ordinals for numbers higher than 'ten' just prefix **il-** to the cardinal form of the number.

il-Hidáašar	eleventh
il-arbá9a w-talatíin	34th

Learn also:

m.	f.	
awwaláani	awwalaníyya	The first [one], the former
waštáani	waštaníyya	middle (adj.); average
axíir	axíira	last
axráani	axraníyya	the other [one]; the latter

áaxir also means 'last', but it must occur before the noun.

if-řaagil il-waštáani	the man in the middle
il-kílma l-axíira	the last word
áaxir wáaHid	the last one (note that in the Arabic the article is implicit but not expressed)

Easy fractions

nuşş	1/2
tilt	1/3
rub9	1/4
xums	1/5
suds	1/6
sub9	1/7
tumn	1/8
tus9	1/9

9uŝr	1/10
tiltéen	2/3
xumséen	2/5
talat arbaa9	3/4

Telling the time

is-sáa9a kaam min fáqlak?	<i>What time is it, please?</i>
is-sáa9a wáHda	<i>It's 1:00.</i>
is-sáa9a wáHda w-xámsa	<i>It's 1:05.</i>
is-sáa9a wáHda w-9ášara	<i>It's 1:10.</i>
is-sáa9a wáHda w-rub9	<i>It's 1:15.</i>
is-sáa9a wáHda w-tilt	<i>It's 1:20.</i>
is-sáa9a wáHda w-nuŝŝ illa	<i>It's 1:25.</i>
xámsa	
is-sáa9a wáHda w-nuŝŝ	<i>It's 1:30.</i>
is-sáa9a wáHda w-nuŝŝ wi	<i>It's 1:35.</i>
xámsa	
is-sáa9a tnéen illa tilt	<i>It's 1:40.</i>
is-sáa9a tnéen illa rub9	<i>It's 1:45.</i>
is-sáa9a tnéen illa 9ášara	<i>It's 1:50.</i>
is-sáa9a tnéen illa xámsa	<i>It's 1:55.</i>
is-sáa9a tnéen biŷ-ŷabt	<i>It's 2:00 exactly.</i>
is-sáa9a taláata	<i>It's 3:00.</i>

etc.

Months (iš-šuhuur)

yanáayir	<i>January</i>
fibráayir	<i>February</i>
máaris	<i>March</i>
abríl	<i>April</i>
máayu	<i>May</i>
yúnyu	<i>June</i>
yúlyu	<i>July</i>
aghúŝtus	<i>August</i>
sebtémber	<i>September</i>
uktúbub	<i>October</i>

nuvámber	<i>November</i>
disímber	<i>December</i>

Islamic months

muHárram
 ŝáfar
 rabíu9 il-áwwal
 rabíu9 it-táani
 gamáad il-áwwal
 gamáad it-táani
 rágab
 ŝa9báan
 ramađáan
 ŝawáal
 zu-l-qí9da
 zu-l-Hígga

The 12 islamic months are lunar, and so do not correlate at all to the western calendar. The lunar 'year' is eleven days shorter than ours, so the months move forward every year.

Days of the week (ayyáam il-usbúu9)

yoom il-itnéen	<i>Monday</i>
yoom it-taláat	<i>Tuesday</i>
yoom il-árba9	<i>Wednesday</i>
yoom il-xamfís	<i>Thursday</i>
yoom il-gúm9a	<i>Friday</i>
yoom is-sabt	<i>Saturday</i>
yoom il-Hadd	<i>Sunday</i>

Seasons (il-fuŝúul)

iŝ-ŝeef	<i>summer</i>
il-xaríif	<i>autumn, fall</i>
iŝ-ŝíta	<i>winter</i>
ir-rabíu9	<i>spring</i>

More time expressions

innahárda	today
búkra	tomorrow
imbáariH	yesterday
ba9d búkra	the day after tomorrow
áwwil imbáariH	the day before yesterday
dilwá'ti	now
ba9d šwáyya	in a little while
iş-şubH	(in) the morning
iđ-đuhr	(at) noon
ba9d iđ-đuhr	afternoon
il-9aşr	mid-afternoon
misáa'an	in the evening
bil-leel	at night
nuşş il-leel	midnight

Additional Vocabulary

9askári (9asáakir)	policeman; soldier
mutárgim (mutargimíin)	translator
óḍa (owaḍ)	room
máṛṛa (maṛṛáat)	time (as in 'two times'); once
'irš ('urúuš)	piaster
ginéeh	pound (Egyptian or Sterling)
'áhwa	coffee
šaay	tea
mooz	bananas (collective)
sáa9a (sa9áat)	hour; watch, clock
di'fi'a (da'áayi')	minute
sánya (sawáani)	second
yoom (ayyáam)	day
usbúu9 (asabíi9)	week
šahr (ášhur or šuhúur)	month
sána (siníin)	year
9adad (a9dáad)	number
nímra (nímar)	number
faşl (fuşúul)	season
barmíl (baramíil)	barrel

zeet (zuyúut)	oil
dars (durúus)	lesson
bálad (f.) (biláad)	country
tazkára (tazáakir)	ticket
nuşş	half
rub9	quarter
tilt	third
illa	minus; except
biz-żabṭ	precisely
bass	only
li	for
lagna (ligáan)	commission

III EXERCISES■ *1 Reading practice*

alf tus9umíyya xámsa w-tamaníin.
ma9áana mutargiméen kwayyisiin innahárda, l-awwaláani min baghdáad wil-axráani min dimíş'.
wáaHid 'áhwa w-itnéen šaay min fádḷak.
is-sáa9a sítta w-nuşş illa xámsa iş-şubH.
9ášara 'urúuš.
xámsa w-xamsiín 'irš.
xámsa ginéeh máşri.
xamaşáaşar ginéeh sterlíni.
fis-sána tnáaşar šahr.
luġhitéen şa9bíin.

■ *2 Translation exercise*

1. il-xámas kútub di ġhálya.
2. léela 9andáha tnéen wi-9işriín sána.
3. 9ánduh dars ba9d iđ-đuhr yoom il-itnéen.
4. fih Háfla s-sáa9a sáb9a w-nuşş misáa'an.
5. ma9andináaş mitéen duláar lit-tazáakir.
6. Where are those five ladies?
7. There are twenty servants in that villa.
8. The eleventh man is not here.

9. Lebanon is a small country, but it has [*lit*: in it are] six million [síttá milyóon] Lebanese.
 10. Those two big cars belong to the president of the Commission.

LESSON FIVE (id-dars il-xáamis)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---------|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | tíṣbaH 9ála xeer (to m.s.)
or tíṣbáHi 9ála xeer (to f.s.)
or tíṣbáHu 9ála xeer (to pl.) | <i>Good night</i> |
| (resp.) | w-ínta min áhluh (to m.s.)
or w-ínti min áhluh (to f.s.)
or w-íntu min áhluh (to pl.) | <i>Good night</i> |
| 2 | mabruúk | <i>Congratulations</i> |
| (resp.) | aḷḷáah yibáarik fiik (to m.s.)
or aḷḷáah yibáarik fiiki (to f.s.)
or aḷḷáah yibáarik fiikum (to pl.) | <i>Thank you</i> |
| 3 | ríHla sa9fida | <i>Have a good trip</i> |
| 4 | Hamdilla 9as-saláama | <i>Welcome back</i> |
| (resp.) | Aḷḷáah yisallímak, etc. | |

Notes

- (1) Lit. = 'may you wake up in the morning to [lit. on] goodness' and (resp.) 'and you are one of [lit: from] its people' (i.e. people of goodness).
 (2) Lit. = 'blessed' and (resp.) 'God gives blessing in you'.
 (3) Lit. = 'happy trip'.
 (4) A condensed form of **il-Hámdu lilláah 9ála s-saláama**. Lit. = 'praise [be] to God for [your] safety.'

II GRAMMAR

Interrogative words

eeh?	<i>what?</i>
feen?	<i>where?</i>
izzáay?	<i>how?</i>
miin?	<i>who?</i>
ímta?	<i>when?</i>
leeh?	<i>why?</i>
kaam?	<i>how many?</i>
'add eeh?	<i>how much?</i>

izzaay changes to **izzayy** before suffixes.

izzayyak? *How are you?*

When **kaam** immediately precedes a noun, that noun must be singular.

9ándak kaam wálad? *How many children do you have?*

Interrogative words often come at the end of a sentence.

ismáha eeh? *What's her name?*
 is-sáa9a kaam? *What time is it?*

Active Participles

Active participles are like adjectives in that they are inflected for gender and number, but they have verbal meaning. They may stand alone or in equational sentences.

	<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>want(ing)</i>	9áawiz	9áwza	9awziin
	9áayiz	9áyza	9ayziin
<i>know(ing)</i>	9áarif	9árfa	9arfiin
<i>understand(ing)</i>	fáahim	fáhma	fahmiin
<i>go(ing)</i>	ráayiH	ráyHa	rayHiin
<i>do(ing)</i>	9áamil	9ámla	9amliin

<i>stay(ing) or sit(ing)</i>	'áa9id	'á9da	'a9dīin
<i>stop(ing) or stand(ing)</i>	wáa'if	wá'fa	wa'fīin
<i>see(ing)</i>	šáayif	šáyfa	šayfīin
<i>live (living)*</i>	sáakin	sákna	saknīin
<i>sleep(ing)</i>	náyim	náyma	naymīin
<i>come (coming)</i>	gaay	gáyya	gayyīin

Examples:

	fáahim	{ I understand You (m.s.) understand He understands
	fáhma	{ You (f.s.) understand She understands
	fahmīin	{ We understand You (pl.) understand They understand
(interrogative)	fáahim?	Do you understand? etc.
(negative)	miš fáahim	I do not understand etc.
(negative-interrogative)	miš fáahim?	Don't you understand? etc.

Adverbial phrases with 'bi-'

A common way to form adverbs is to prefix **bi-** ('with' or 'by') to the appropriate noun.

bi-šu9úuba	<i>with difficulty</i>
bi-suhúula	<i>easily</i>

*in the sense of 'residing'.

bi-tan9a	<i>quickly</i>
bi-twees	<i>slowly</i>

(The last expression naturally falls with the others although there is no noun **šwees** existing independently.)

I learn also the following adverbial phrases:

bi-tayyáara	<i>by plane</i>
bi-9arabíyya	<i>by automobile</i>
bi-9ágala	<i>by bicycle</i>
bi-ṭaṭr	<i>by train</i>
bi-utubīis	<i>by bus</i>

Additional vocabulary

suhúula	<i>ease</i>
su9úuba	<i>difficulty</i>
9agala (9agaláat)	<i>bicycle</i>
ṭaṭr ('uṭṭaráat)	<i>train</i>
utubīis (utubisáat)	<i>bus</i>
šā'a (šú'a')	<i>apartment</i>
safīir (súfara)	<i>ambassador</i>
sifáara (sifaráat)	<i>embassy</i>
gool (agwáaz)	<i>husband</i>
miṭáatu*	<i>his wife</i>
ligháayit	<i>until</i>
kull Háaga	<i>everything</i>

III EXERCISES

I Reading practice

rāayiH feen?
rāayiH is-sifáara l-biriṭaníyya.
il-awláad 9amlīin eeh dilwá'ti?
naymīin.

*The original word is **mára** ('woman'), which is somewhat vulgar in Egyptian Arabic unless used with a pronominal suffix or in construct, e.g. **miṭáati** ('my wife') and **miṭáat 9áli** ('Ali's wife').

9áli sáakin fid-dó'i.
 w-ínti sákna feen?
 ána w-góozí saknín fi šá'a gidúda fi šáari9 Hásan šábri.
 miin gaay min il-maṭáar innaháda?
 waḷḷáahi, miš 9árfa.
 iš-šírka di 9áyza kaam 9arabíyya gidúda?
 9áyza miteen.
 miš ma9'úul!

2 Translation exercise

1. ínta ráayiH izzáay? biṭ-ṭayyára?
2. 9awzín 'add eeh?
3. ána miš 9áarif nímrit it-tilifúun bitáa9it is-safiir.
4. miṭáatuh wá'fa fiš-šáari9 wi-9arabiyyítha xarbáana.
5. muṭáfa 'áa9id 9andína ligháayit yoom il-xamíis.
6. They are coming by bus.
7. My wife wants three kilos of bananas.
8. Does Mustapha live in Doqqi or in Giza?
9. Do you understand everything?
10. Is the bus coming quickly or slowly?

LESSON SIX (id-dars is-sáadis)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | la mu'áxxa | <i>Excuse me</i> |
| (resp.) | ma9lišš | <i>It's nothing</i> |
| 2 | ismáHli (to m.s.) | <i>Excuse me</i> |
| | or ismaHíli (to f.s.) | |
| | or ismaHúuli (to pl.) | |
| (resp.) | itfáḍḍal etc. | |

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 3 | 9an íznak (to m.s.) | <i>Excuse me</i> |
| | or 9an íznik (to f.s.) | |
| | or 9an iznúkum (to pl.) | |
| (resp.) | itfáḍḍal etc. | |

Notes

- (1) Lit. = 'no resentment [I hope]', i.e. 'I hope you have not taken offence.' Used, for example, by someone who is the cause of a minor accident such as stepping on someone else's foot or spilling something on or near some person.
- (2) Lit. = 'permit me' and used, e.g. if someone is blocking the speaker's way, or if the speaker wants to politely interrupt someone.
- (3) Lit. = 'with your permission'. Can be used like **ismáHli** but has the additional meaning of 'Excuse me. I have to leave now.' This latter meaning may also be conveyed by the verbal form **astá'zin**.

II GRAMMAR

Comparative and superlative adjectives

The comparative (and superlative) form of the adjective is invariable, i.e. not inflected for gender and number. For most of the adjectives given so far, the pattern for the comparative is **aCCaC**.

kibúir	ákbar	<i>bigger</i>
ṣuḡháyyar	ásḡhar	<i>smaller</i>
gamíil	áḡmal	<i>more beautiful</i>

When the second and third root letters of the adjective are identical (e.g. **xafiif**), the comparative pattern is usually **aCaCC**, but occasionally **aCCaC**.

xafiif	axáff	<i>lighter (in weight)</i>
gidíid	áḡdad	<i>newer</i>

Adjectives ending in **-w** or **-i** form the comparative according to the pattern **aCCa**.

Hilw	áHla	sweeter, prettier
gháali	ághla	more expensive

The comparative of **kwáyyis** ('good') is **áHsan** ('better').
The word for 'than' in Arabic comparative structures is **min**.

ana ákbar mínnaq *I'm bigger than you*

Colours (il-alwáan)

	m.	f.	pl.
red	áHmar	Hámra	Humr
green	áxdar	xádra	xuḍr
blue	ázra'	zár'a	zur'
yellow	ášfar	šáfra	šufr
white	ábyaḍ	béeḍa	biḍ
black	íswid	sóoda	suud
brown	búnna	búnna	búnna
grey	ramáadi	ramáadi	ramáadi
orange	burtu'áani	burtu'áani	burtu'áani

Of the same basic pattern (**aCCaC**) are adjectives denoting certain physical disabilities.

blind	á9ma	9ámya	9umy
deaf	átraš	ṭárša	ṭurš
dumb, mute	áxras	xársa	xurs
lame	á9rag	9árga	9urg
one-eyed	á9war	9óora	9uur

It is worth noting that an Egyptian would probably say 'he cannot see' rather than 'he is blind'; 'he has one eye' rather than 'he is one-eyed', etc. There is a definite preference for using what is considered a polite circumlocution to direct mention of an adjective of physical disability. On the other hand, **á9war** might be considered an appropriate insult for a bad driver!

III EXERCISES

1 Reading practice

ána ákbar mínnaq bi-tálat sinín.
il-ba'láawa áHsan min iž-žiláati.

min sáakin fil-beet il-ábyaḍ da?
miníra gamíla, láakin farída ágmál.
il-9arabíyya l-Hámra ágdad min il-9arabíyya l-xádra.
eeh il-ashal, 9árabi wálla ingilízi?
il-oḍtéen dool šughayyarín 'áwi!

2 Translation exercise

- Hásan ášghar min ráamiz.
- is-sáwwaa' da á9war. húwwa sawwáa' wíHíš.
- ir-rabú9 áHla l-fušuul.
- it-tuffáaH kwáyyis láakin il-burtu'áan áHsan.
- il-kitabéen dool ruxáaš.
- I am lighter (in weight) than Hassan.
- Summer is nicer than winter.
- Those two girls are beautiful, but his sister is more beautiful.
- Alexandria is one of the [from the] most beautiful Egyptian cities.
- How much for those two blue pens.

LESSON SEVEN (id-dars is-sáabi9)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | wala yhimmak (to m.s.)
or wala yhimmik (to f.s.)
or wala yhimúkum (to pl.) | <i>Don't worry!</i> |
| 2 | xálli báalak (to m.s.)
or xálli báalik (to f.s.)
or xállu bálkum (to pl.) | <i>Be careful</i> |
| 3 | Háasib (to m.s.)
or Hásbi (to f.s.)
or Hásbu (to pl.) | <i>Look out!</i> |
| 4 | ya xsáara | <i>What a pity!</i> |

Notes

- (1) Lit. = '[and] let it not worry you.'
 (2) Also 'pay attention'. Takes the prepositions **min** or **9ála**.
 (3) May convey a sense of urgency or imminent danger (e.g. a fast approaching car, something about to fall, etc.).
 (4) **xasáara** = loss. The particle **ya** introduces vocative expressions. Lit. = 'O loss!'

II GRAMMAR

Perfect Tense (Simple Verbs)

There are two basic tenses in Arabic. The 'perfect', denoting action which is finished, corresponds to the English past tense. The 'imperfect' refers to action which is incomplete (either on-going or future) and corresponds to our present, progressive and future tenses.

There is no infinitive form of the verb in Arabic. A verb is referred to by the 3rd person masculine singular of its perfect tense. This is also how the verb appears in a dictionary.

The simple verb **kátab** 'he wrote' is conjugated in the perfect tense as follows:

(ána) katábt	<i>I wrote</i>
(ínta) katábt	<i>you (m.s.) wrote</i>
(ínti) katábt	<i>you (f.s.) wrote</i>
(húwwa) kátab	<i>he wrote</i>
(híyya) kátabt	<i>she wrote</i>
(íHna) katábna	<i>we wrote</i>
(íntu) katábtu	<i>you (pl.) wrote</i>
(húmma) kátabu	<i>they wrote</i>

Taking **kátab** as the shortest and simplest form in this conjugation, one finds that the other persons are indicated by the addition of suffixes. Where the suffix causes a cluster of two consonants there is also a change in stress.

The shape of the simple verb is not always **CaCaC**. Sometimes it is **CiCiC**, but the suffixes and stress patterns are the same. For example, the conjugation of **fihim** 'he understood' is

(ána) fihímt	(íHna) fihímna
(ínta) fihímt	(íntu) fihímtu
(ínti) fihímti	(húmma) fihimu
(húwwa) fihim	
(híyya) fihimit	

Verbal Negatives

The negative structure for the perfect tense is **ma** + verb + **š**:

makatábtīš	<i>I didn't write</i>
makatábtīš	<i>you (m.s.) didn't write</i>
makatabtīš	<i>you (f.s.) didn't write</i>
makatábš	<i>he didn't write</i>
makatabīš	<i>she didn't write</i>
makatabnáāš	<i>we didn't write</i>
makatabtúūš	<i>you (pl.) didn't write</i>
makatabúūš	<i>they didn't write</i>

Note that where there is already a cluster of two consonants before the **-š** suffix, the vowel **-i-** is added between the cluster and the suffix (e.g. **makatábtīš**). Where the addition of **š** creates a cluster of two consonants there is a shift in stress (e.g. **kátab** but **makatábš**). And where the form of the verb (before adding the negative structure) ends in a vowel, that vowel is lengthened and stressed (e.g. **makatabnáāš**).

Learn the following verbs and practise conjugating them in the perfect tense. Then practise the negative forms.

dáras	<i>to study</i>	ṭīlī9	<i>to go up</i>
9ámal	<i>to make, do</i>	ḍárab	<i>to strike</i>
'áfal	<i>to close</i>	ṭálab	<i>to ask for</i>
nízil	<i>to descend</i>	dáxal	<i>to enter</i>
líbis	<i>to wear</i>	xárag	<i>to go out</i>
9íríf	<i>to know</i>	'á9ad	<i>to stay, sit</i>
fátaH	<i>to open</i>	sákan	<i>to reside, live</i>

Active Participles (Simple Verbs)

Active participles have been previously introduced [Lesson 5] as having the form of adjectives but verbal meaning. Active participles of this type are usually made plural with the sound plural ending (-iin).

Active participles may also occur as nouns in which case the plural is often formed according to one of the broken plural patterns. Some can be used both adjectivally and nominally. For example:

	<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>pl.</i>	
(adj.)	9áamil	9ámla	9amlíin	= [is/are] doing
(n.)	9áamil	9ámla	9ummáal	= labourer, workman
(adj.)	káatib	kátba	katbíin	= [is/are] writing
(n.)	káatib	kátba	kuttáab	= writer

Compare the following:

in-naas dool 9amlíin	Háaga	<i>Those people are doing something strange.</i>
in-naas dool 9ummáal		<i>Those people are labourers.</i>
in-naas dool katbíin	asamíhum	<i>Those people are writing their names.</i>
in-naas dool kuttáab		<i>Those people are writers.</i>

Passive Participles (Simple Verbs)

The pattern for forming passive participles from simple verbs is **maCCuuC** (m.s.); **maCCuuCa** (f.s.); the plural is usually **maCCu-Ciin**, but sometimes a broken plural applies.

maktúub	<i>written</i>
maftúuH	<i>open</i>
mamnúu9	<i>forbidden</i>
masmúuH	<i>permitted</i>
mabsúut	<i>happy</i>
mazbúut	<i>all right</i>
mašghúul (mašghulíin)	<i>busy</i>
magnúun (maganíin)	<i>crazy, mad</i>

mafhúum
mašhúur

understood; of course!
famous

Additional vocabulary

lissa	<i>still; not yet (with neg.)</i>
saahib (aṣHáab)	<i>friend</i>
naháar	<i>daytime</i>
ṭuul (n. or prep.)	<i>length</i>
ṭuul in-naháar	<i>all day</i>
bálad	<i>town, downtown</i>
nízil	<i>to descend, go down</i>
nízil maṣr	<i>to go to Cairo</i>
nízil il-bálad	<i>to go downtown</i>
nízil fi lukánḍa	<i>to stay in a hotel</i>
fustáan (fasatíin)	<i>dress</i>
Harír	<i>silk</i>
maHáll (maHalláat)	<i>store</i>
9ašáan	<i>because</i>
gúwwa (prep.)	<i>in, inside</i>
háwa (m.)	<i>air</i>
muluxíyya	<i>Mulukhiyya, Jew's mallow (an Egyptian vegetable)</i>
táani	<i>again</i>
asanséer	<i>lift, elevator</i>
sign (sugúun)	<i>jail</i>
šir	<i>poetry</i>
maqáala (maqaláat)	<i>article</i>

III EXERCISES**1 Reading practice**

it-ṭulláab dārasu id-dars il-xáamis áwwil imbáariH.

lissa madarasúuš id-dars is-sáadis.

9amáltu eeh fil-maktába?

katábna gawabáat li-aṣHábna fi maṣr.

9a9ádti fil-beet ṭuul in-naháar?

ábadan! ána nizílt il-bálad wi-ṭalábt tálat fasatíin Harír min

maHáll gidfid fi šáari9 silimáan báaša.
 il-9ummáal ma'afalúuš il-baab lámma xáragu.
 il-9árab mašhurín liš-ši9r bitá9hum.
 id-duktóor řili9 foo' bil-asanséer.

2 Translation exercise

1. léela fátaHit iš-šibbáak 9ašáan gúwwa l-beet ma fihúuš háwa.
2. il-awláad mabsuřín 9ašáan it-řabbáax 9ámal muluxíyya táani!
3. daxálna l-mát9am wi-9abdúllah řalab šaay min ig-garsóon. ána ma řalábtiš Háaga.
4. Hásan nízil mařr má9a šáHbuh [šaaHib + uh].
5. sakántu fi faránsa 'abl il-Harb wálła ba9dáha?
6. We entered the room at 9:30.
7. Why didn't you study the lesson?
8. He's crazy! He struck a policeman and now he's in jail.
9. Our teacher wrote an article about [9an] the pyramids.
10. He didn't stay because he's busy.

LESSON EIGHT (id-dars it-táamin)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | id-dínya Harr | <i>It's hot</i> |
| 2 | id-dínya bard | <i>It's cold</i> |
| 3 | id-dínya řálma | <i>It's dark</i> |
| 4 | id-dínya bitmářřar | <i>It's raining</i> |
| 5 | híyya di d-dínya | <i>That's life! ('C'est la vie!')</i> |

Note

(1,2,3,4,5) **id-dínya** = the world. It derives from a root meaning 'to be low', so in the literal sense it means 'the world down here on earth' and is opposed to the world up there, i.e. heaven. Hence

these phrases mean literally 'the world is hot, cold, dark, etc.' You should note that the reference does not have to be exclusively to the outdoors. It can be said of the temperature, etc. indoors, if appropriate.

II GRAMMAR

Imperfect Tense (Simple Verbs)

The imperfect tense of simple verbs is formed on the patterns (i) **yiCCiC**, (ii) **yiCCaC**, and (iii) **yuCCuC**. The final vowel of each is presented in brackets beside the verb to indicate which pattern should be followed.

Using **kátab**, **fihim**, and **xárag** as paradigms for the three patterns, we have:

1	kátab (i)	to write
(ána)	áktib	<i>I write, am writing, shall write</i>
(ínta)	tíktib	<i>you (m.s.) write</i>
(ínti)	tíktíbi	<i>you (f.s.) write</i>
(húwwa)	yíktib	<i>he writes</i>
(híyya)	tíktib	<i>she writes</i>
(iHna)	níktib	<i>we write</i>
(íntu)	tíktíbu	<i>you (pl.) write</i>
(húmna)	yíktíbu	<i>they write</i>
		íktib <i>Write! (m.s.)</i>
		íktíbi <i>Write! (f.s.)</i>
		íktíbu <i>Write! (pl.)</i>
2	fihim (a)	to understand
(ána)	áfham	<i>I understand, am understanding, shall understand</i>
(ínta)	tífham	<i>you (m.s.) understand</i>
(ínti)	tífhámi	<i>you (f.s.) understand</i>
(húwwa)	yífham	<i>he understands</i>
(híyya)	tífham	<i>she understands</i>
(iHna)	nífham	<i>we understand</i>

(intu)	tifhámu	you (pl.) understand
(húmma)	yifhámu	they understand
	ifham	Understand! (m.s.)
	ifhámi	Understand! (f.s.)
	ifhámu	Understand! (pl.)

3	xárag (u)	to go out
(ána)	áxrug	I go out, am going out, shall go out
(inta)	túxrug	you (m.s.) go out
(inti)	tuxrúgi	you (f.s.) go out
(húwwa)	yúxrug	he goes out
(híyya)	túxrug	she goes out
(iHna)	núxrug	we go out
(intu)	tuxrúgu	you (pl.) go out
(húmma)	yuxrúgu	they go out
	úxrug	Go out! (m.s.)
	uxrúgi	Go out! (f.s.)
	uxrúgu	Go out! (pl.)

Note that the **inta** and **híyya** forms of the imperfect are identical.

In Egyptian Arabic the imperfect is usually preceded by **b(i)-** to denote the present and by **H(a)-** to denote the future.

báktib		Háktib
bitíktib		Hatíktib
bitíktibi		Hatíktíbi
biyíktib		Hayíktib
bitíktib	and	Hatíktib
biníktib		Haníktib
bitíktibu		Hatíktíbu
biyíktibu		Hayíktíbu

The negative of the imperfect can be formed in three ways:

maktíbš	or mabaktíbš/	or miš báktib/miš Háktib
	maHaktíbš	
matíktíbš	etc.	etc.
matíktíbúš		

mayíktíbš
matíktíbš
maníktíbš
matíktíbúš
mayíktíbúš

IMPORTANT: the negative imperative is based not on the imperative but on the imperfect indicative.

matíktíbš	Don't write! (m.s.)
matíktíbúš	Don't write! (f.s.)
matíktíbúš	Don't write! (pl.)

Here again are the verbs that appeared in Lesson Seven, this time followed by the vowels which indicate the pattern each verb follows for the imperfect. Carefully work through the list putting the verbs into the imperfect, negative imperfect, imperative and negative imperative.

dáras	(i)	ṭíli9	(a)
9ámal	(i)	ḍárab	(a)
'áfal	(i)	ṭálab	(u)
nízil	(i)	dáxal	(u)
lībīs	(i)	'á9ad	(u)
9írif	(a)	sákan	(u)
lātaH	(a)		

The basic imperfect form of the verb (i.e., without prefixes **bi-** and **Ha-**) may be used (a) after certain active participles:

9áarif áktib 9árabī	I know how to write Arabic.
9áyza tīnzil bil-asanséer	She wants to take the lift down.

and (b) after certain invariable auxiliaries like **lāazim** and **ḍarúuri** (it is necessary), **miš lāazim** and **miš ḍarúuri** (it is not necessary), **múmkīn**, **yímkīn** and **gáayiz** (it is possible), **mafrúuḍ** (supposed to):

lāazim ṭílbis bi-súr9a	You must get dressed in a hurry.
mafrúuḍ tú'9ud hína	You are supposed to sit here.

'ga'

There are very few irregular verbs in Egyptian Arabic. Here is an important one: *ga* (to come)

	<i>Perfect tense</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Imperfect</i>	<i>Imperative</i>
(ána)	geet	magítš	áagi	
(inta)	geet	magítš	tíigi	ta9áala
(inti)	géeti	magitíiš	tíigi	ta9áli
(húwwa)	ga	magáaš	yíigi	
(híyya)	gat	magátš	tíigi	
(iHna)	géena	magináaš	níigi	
(intu)	géetu	magitúuš	tíigu	ta9áalu
(húmma)	gum	magúuš	yíigu	

Additional vocabulary

taríix	<i>history</i>
riyaḍiyyáat	<i>mathematics</i>
9ilm (9ulúum)	<i>science</i>
Hanṭúur	<i>buggy, carriage (horse-driven)</i>
durg	<i>drawer</i>
musíiqa	<i>music</i>
wáagib	<i>duty; homework</i>
dáyya'	<i>narrow; short (time)</i>
ba9d	<i>each other</i>
rígi9 (a) (without prep.)	<i>to return (to)</i>
šírib (a)	<i>to drink</i>
sími9 (a)	<i>to listen to, hear</i>
dáfa9 (a)	<i>to push; to pay</i>

Some new expressions based on the above vocabulary are:

ḍarab tilifóon li	<i>to phone [s.o.]</i>
9ámal tilifóon li	
šírib sigáara	<i>to smoke</i>

III EXERCISES

■ 1 Reading practice

ána báfham faransáawi šwáyya.

Hatúṭlub eeh fil-mát9am? ána Hátlub gíbna béeḍa wi-9eeš báladi wi-fuul wi-zatúun.

inta wi-mṛáatak bitidrísu eeh fig-gám9a, taríix wálá lugháat?

iHna mabnidrísš la taríix wala lugháat. ána bádris riyadiyyáat wi-mráati bitidris 9ulúum.

il-wa't dáyya'. írkab il-Hanṭúur w-írğa9 il-lukánda.

il-Hisáab? wala yhimmak. miš ḍarúuri tídfa9 il-Hisáab innaharda.

Múmkín tídfa9 búkra aw ba9d búkra.

law samáHt, údxul il-máktab bitáa9i w-i'fil id-durg.

húmma líssa mabyi9rafúuš ba9d.

■ 2 Translation exercise

1. ána básma9 musíiqa 9arabíyya.
2. híyya bitífham 9árabi kwáyis.
3. gúzha mabyu'9údš fil-máktab bitáa9u. miš 9árfa húwwa feen.
4. iṭ-ṭulláab biyiktíbu l-wáagib bitá9hum. ínta Hatíktib il-wáagib bitáa9ak ímta?
5. di l-maHátṭa bitá9tak. ínzil bi-súr9a!
6. What do you (f.) want to drink?
7. They will live in Egypt for [a period of] three months.
8. It's not possible for me to return home before Friday.
9. Don't hit that boy! He's smaller than you are.
10. She went out a little while ago, but she will return in [after] five minutes.

LESSON NINE (id-dars it-táasi9)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | kull sána w-ínta ṭáyyib
(to m.s.)
kull sána w-ínti ṭáyyiba
(to f.s.)
kull sána w-íntu
ṭáyyibín (to pl.)
(resp.) w-ínta ṭáyyib
etc. | <i>Season's greetings</i>

<i>Same to you</i> |
| 2 | Hagg mabrúur | <i>Congratulations on your recent pilgrimage</i> |
| 3 | ramaḍáan karīm
aḷḷáahu ákram | (See Note 3 below) |

Notes

- (1) Used by Muslims and Christians at any time of festive annual holiday, public or personal. Lit. = 'Every year and you are good'.
 (2) Pilgrimage to Mecca is one of the so-called Five Pillars of Islam. Muslims should go on pilgrimage at least once in a lifetime. Lit. = 'Blessed pilgrimage'.
 (3) Another Pillar of Islam is the annual fast for the month of Ramadan. Muslims observing the fast do not eat, drink or smoke from just before dawn until just after sunset for the whole month. Since the Islamic calendar is lunar, with a year about eleven days shorter than our fixed solar year, Ramadan gradually moves through the seasons. When it falls in summer the fast is longer and more difficult, but whatever the degree of severity it is always downplayed with the expression **ramaḍáan karīm**, which means 'Ramadan is generous'. **aḷḷáahu ákram** means 'God is more generous'.

The three other Pillars of Islam are:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| iš-šaháada | Lit. = 'bearing witness'. This is the profession of faith by saying: laa iláaha illa ʔaah, wa muHámmadun rasúulu-ʔaah . |
| iṣ-ṣaláah | The set prayer required five times daily (dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and evening). |
| iz-zakáah | Almsgiving. |

II GRAMMAR

Doubled Verbs

In the perfect tense, simple doubled verbs take the form **CaCC**, the last two consonants being identical. The variable vowel for the imperfect may be **u** or **i**.

Haṭṭ (u) to put

	perfect	imperfect	imperative
(ána)	Haṭṭéet	aHúṭṭ	–
(ínta)	Haṭṭéet	tiHúṭṭ	Huṭṭ
(ínti)	Haṭṭéeti	tiHúṭṭi	Húṭṭi
(húwwa)	Haṭṭ	yiHúṭṭ	–
(híyya)	Háṭṭit	tiHúṭṭ	–
(iHna)	Haṭṭéena	niHúṭṭ	–
(íntu)	Haṭṭéetu	tiHúṭṭu	Húṭṭu
(húmma)	Háṭṭu	yiHúṭṭu	–

Conjugated like **Haṭṭ**:

radd	(u)	to reply to (9ala)
xašš	(u)	to enter
bašš	(u)	to look
naṭṭ	(u)	to jump

9add (i) to count

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	9addéet	a9ídd	—
(ínta)	9addéet	ti9ídd	9ídd
(ínti)	9addéeti	ti9íddi	9íddi
(húwwa)	9add	yi9ídd	—
(híyya)	9áddit	ti9ídd	—
(iHna)	9addéena	ni9ídd	—
(intu)	9addéetu	ti9íddu	9íddu
(húmma)	9áddu	yi9íddu	—

Conjugated like **9add**

Habb	(i)	to like or love
rann	(i)	to ring
Hagg	(i)	to go on pilgrimage
ghašš	(i)	to cheat

Hollow Verbs

Hollow verbs take the form **CaaC** in the perfect. The **aa** takes the place of a middle radical (either **w** or **y**) which is suppressed in conjugated forms of the simple verb (Form 1), but which does appear in the active participle and some of the derived forms. Notice particularly how the vowels change in the perfect. The variable vowels in the imperfect are **uu**, **ii**, or **aa**.

raaH (u) to go

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	ruHt	arúuH	—
(ínta)	ruHt	tirúuH	ruuH
(ínti)	rúHti	tirúuHi	rúuHi
(húwwa)	raaH	yirúuH	—
(híyya)	ráaHit	tirúuH	—
(iHna)	rúHna	nirúuH	—
(intu)	rúHtu	tirúuHu	rúuHu
(húmma)	rúuHu	yirúuHu	—

Conjugated like **raaH**:

'aal	(u)	to say
šaam	(u)	to fast
šaaf	(u)	to see
zaar	(u)	to visit
kaan	(u)	to be

gaab (i) to bring

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	gibt	agíib	—
(ínta)	gibt	tigíib	giib
(ínti)	gíbt	tigíibi	gíibi
(húwwa)	gaab	yigíib	—
(híyya)	gáabit	tigíib	—
(iHna)	gíibna	nigíib	—
(intu)	gíibtu	tigíibu	gíibu
(húmma)	gáabu	yigíibu	—

Conjugated like **gaab**:

šaal	(i)	to carry
baa9	(i)	to sell

naam (a) to sleep, go to sleep

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	nimt	anáam	—
(ínta)	nimt	tináam	naam
(ínti)	nímti	tináami	náami
(húwwa)	naam	yináam	—
(híyya)	náamit	tináam	—
(iHna)	nímna	nináam	—
(intu)	nímtu	tináamu	náamu
(húmma)	náamu	yináamu	—

A variation on the above pattern is **xaaf (a) min** 'to be afraid of', which takes **u** instead of **i** in the first syllable of the perfect: **xuft** 'I feared'. The imperfect is regular: **axáaf**, **tixáaf**, etc.

Verbs with Weak Third Radical

ráma (i) *to throw*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	raméet	ármi	—
(inta)	raméet	tírmi	írmi
(inti)	raméeti	tírmi	írmi
(húwwa)	ráma	yírmi	—
(híyya)	rámit	tírmi	—
(iHna)	raméena	nírmi	—
(intu)	raméetu	tírmu	írmu
(húmma)	rámu	yírmu	—

Conjugated like **ráma**:káwa (i) *to iron*

A variation is **'ára (a)** 'to read', where there is an **a** in the place of the final **i** of the imperfect and imperative: **á'ra, tí'ra, yí'ra**, etc.

nísi (a) *to forget*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	nisiit	ánsa	—
(inta)	nisiit	tínsa	ínsa
(inti)	nisiiti	tínsi	ínsi
(húwwa)	nísi	yínsa	—
(híyya)	nísyit	tínsa	—
(iHna)	nisiina	nínsa	—
(intu)	nisiitu	tínsu	ínsu
(húmma)	nísyu	yínsu	—

Conjugated like **nísi**:šiHi (a) *to wake up*

Verbs like **míši (i)** 'to walk, go' and **gíri (i)** 'to run' take an **i** in the second syllable of both the imperfect and the imperative (perfect: **mišíit**, but imperfect: **ámši, tímši**, etc.).

Additional vocabulary

9iid il-miláad
9iid il-'iyáama
9iid il-fiṭr

9iid il-ádHa

9ašúura

móolid in-nábi
šamm in-nisíim

Hagg (Hugáag)

ḥigg

šoom

šáayim

il-'ál9a

il-mátHaf il-isláami

abu l-hool

gheet

Christmas

Easter

Feast on 1 Shawwaal celebrating
the end of the Ramadan Fast
The so-called Feast of Immo-
lation on 10 Zu l-Hijja

Ashura, on 10 Muharram, a
voluntary fast day

the Prophet's birthday
an Egyptian spring holiday on
the Monday following Coptic
Easter

pilgrim

pilgrimage

fast

fasting

the Citadel

the Islamic Museum

the Sphinx

field

III EXERCISES

■ 1 Verb translation

Translate the following:

1. zúuru ábu l-hool!
2. magabítš il-Haláawa.
3. biynáam bádri.
4. buşş hináak!
5. 'aalit kida.
6. matruHíiš li-wáHdik!
7. bitšúufi 9aadil.
8. báşHa wáxri.
9. binHíibb maşr.
10. 'uul!
11. mansáaş il-asáami.

12. rúddi 9a t-tilifóon!
13. matnamíiš 9ála l-ard!
14. HarúuH ispáanya.
15. biyšiil is-sábat.
16. Hanímši sáwa.
17. bi9t iš-šá'a.
18. 'aréet il-maqáala.
19. ána xuft mínnuh.
20. ígri!
21. máaši
22. Háaṭiṭ
23. rayHiin
24. šáayim
25. náyma

2 Translation exercise

1. ig-garsóon gaab fíngáan 'áhwa.
2. láazim ašúuf id-duktóor wi húwwa fil-mustášfa.
3. Huséen šaaf il-bint di fig-gám9a wi ba9d šwáyya ána šuft nafs il-bint fil-mát9am.
4. nagüib biyHíbb in-noom – biynáam bádri wi-biyíṣHa wáxri.
5. raddéeti 9ála gawáabuh wáláa líssa?
6. Did you visit the Islamic Museum or the citadel?
7. They fasted in the month of Ramadan.
8. The farmer carried the boy to the fields.
9. Bring your suitcase with you.
10. Where do you (pl.) want to go on Saturday afternoon?

LESSON TEN (id-dars il-9áašir)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | bil-hána wiš-šífa | (See Note 1 below) |
| (resp.) | aḷḷáah yihanníik | |

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | aḷḷáah yihanníiki | |
| | aḷḷáah yihanníikum | |
| 2 | haníyyan | (See Note 2 below) |
| (resp.) | hannáak aḷḷáah | |
| 3 | súfra dáyma | (See Note 3 below) |
| (resp.) | yidúum 9ízzak | |

Notes

- (1) Said by you as host when a guest compliments you on the food you are serving. Lit. = 'To [your] happiness and health' and (resp.) 'May God give you happiness'.
- (2) Said by you after someone drinks. Lit. = 'In happiness' and (resp.) 'May God give you happiness', an alternative to **aḷḷáah yihanníik**.
- (3) Said by guest after eating at someone's house. Lit. = 'May your dining table be always thus' and (resp.) 'May your honour [and good standing] last always'.

II GRAMMAR

Pronominal Suffixes as Direct Objects

We have seen the pronominal suffixes used as possessive pronouns and as objects of prepositions. They may also be attached to verbs, as direct objects, in which case the suffixes are the same with the exception of the 1st person singular which changes to **-ni**.

fihimni	he understood me	šáfni	he saw me
fihimak	he understood you (m.)	šáafak	etc
fihimik	he understood you (f.)	šáafik	
fihimuh	he understood him/it	šáafuh	
fihímha	he understood her/it	šáfha	
fihímna	he understood us	šáfna	
fihímkum	he understood you (pl.)	šáfkm	
fihímhum	he understood them	šáfhum	

When the basic verb already ends in two consonants, a suffix that begins with a consonant must be preceded by a helping vowel.

fihimtíni	<i>you (s.) understood me</i>
fihímtak	<i>I understood you (m.)</i>
fihímtik	<i>I understood you (f.)</i>
fihímtuh	<i>I or you understood him/it</i>
fihimtáha	<i>I or you understood her/it</i>
fihimtína	<i>you (s.) understood us</i>
fihimtúkum	<i>I understood you (pl.)</i>
fihimtúhum	<i>I or you understood them</i>

When the basic verb ends in a vowel, that vowel must be made long when adding a suffix.

fihimnáah	<i>we understood him</i>
šafúukum	<i>they saw you (pl.)</i>
biyifhamúuha	<i>they understand her</i>
mayifhamuháaš	<i>they do not understand her</i>

Study the following paradigm for the 3rd pers.m.s. suffix (-uh) attached to the complete conjugation in the perfect of **kátab**.

(ána)	katábtuh	(íHna)	katabnáah
(inta)	katábtuh	(intu)	katabtúuh
(inti)	katabtíih	(húmma)	katabúuh
(húwwa)	kátabuh		
(híyya)	katabítuh		

This 3rd pers. m.s. suffix changes when attached to a negative verb and itself followed by the negative suffix -š. The following patterns are both common among native speakers.

(ána)	makatabtuhúuš	or	makatabtúuš
(inta)	makatabtuhúuš		makatabtúuš
(inti)	makatabtíihúuš		makatabtíiš
(húwwa)	makatabhúuš		makatabúuš
(híyya)	makatabithúuš		makatabitúuš
(íHna)	makatabnahúuš		makatabnáaš
(intu)	makatabtuhúuš		makatabtúuš
(húmma)	makatabuhúuš		makatabúuš

It is recommended that you learn to understand both patterns. For your own speech the first pattern may be preferable as there is less inherent ambiguity. For example, **makatabúuš** (from the second

pattern) might mean 'he did not write it', 'they did not write it', or 'they did not write'.

Relative clauses

In English a relative clause is a dependent clause that begins with 'that', 'which', 'who', etc. (e.g. The book which I read was expensive.). The structure of Arabic relative clauses differs depending on whether the antecedent is definite or indefinite. If it is definite the relative pronoun is **illi**.

ir-ṛáagil illi kátab il-gawáab	<i>The man who wrote that</i>
da . . .	<i>letter . . .</i>
is-sitt illi fil-beet . . .	<i>The lady who is at home . . .</i>

If the antecedent is indefinite the relative pronoun must be omitted.

lazímna wáHda sitt Hatútḡbux	<i>We need some lady who will</i>
lína l-akl	<i>cook for us.</i>
fiih mudárris biyíḡrab	<i>There is a teacher who beats his</i>
talamíizuh	<i>students.</i>

If the antecedent is the object of a verb or preposition in the relative clause, a pronominal suffix agreeing with the antecedent must appear in the relative clause.

id-dars illi darástuh . . .	<i>The lesson that I studied . . .</i>
il-lukánda lli nizílt fíiha	<i>The hotel where I stayed . . .</i>

III EXERCISE

Read carefully the example sets of questions and answers, then continue the exercise by completing the answers for 1 to 4 yourself.

(example)	dafá9t il-Hisáab bitáa9 il-kahrába?
	áywa, dafá9tuh.
	la, madafa9tuhúuš.

(example)	šúftu l-film ig-gidíid fi sínima 'ašr in-niil?
	áywa, šufnáah.
	la, mašufnahúuš.

- (example) šuftiina fil-masraH imbáriH?
 áywa, šuftúku.
 la, mašuftukúuš.
- (example) il-makwági káwa l-'amiš?
 áywa, kawáah.
 la, makawahúuš.
1. fatáHt iš-šibbáak?
 áywa,
 la,
2. gíbtu l-gawáab?
 áywa,
 la,
3. zurtína fiš-šíta aw fir-rabí9 issána lli fáatit?
 fiš-šíta.
 ma fir-rabí9.
4. il-wálad ráma l-'álam?
 áywa,
 la,

LESSON ELEVEN

(id-dars il-Hidáašar)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | šidd Héelak (to m.s.) | <i>Be strong</i> |
| | or šiddi Héelik (to f.s.) | |
| | or šiddu Héلكum (to pl.) | |
| (resp.) | iš-šidda 9ála llaah | |
| 2 | rabbína yisáhhil | <i>May our Lord make [it] easy</i> |
| 3 | aļlaah yi'awwík, etc. | <i>May our Lord make you strong</i> |

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4 | salámtak | <i>I hope you feel better soon</i> |
| | salámtik | |
| | salamítikum | |
| (resp.) | aļlaah yisallímak, etc. | <i>Thank you</i> |

Notes

- (1) Said to someone facing difficulty or mental anguish – anything from too much work to a situation of mourning. More literally: 'Pull yourself together'. Resp.: 'Strength [depends] on God', i.e., we leave the dispensing of strength to God.
- (2) As (1) above, said to someone facing difficulty.
- (3) As (1) above.
- (4) Said to someone who is ill. **saláama** here means 'good health'.

II GRAMMAR

The derived forms

Verbal forms II to X are called the 'derived forms'. You should recognise many of the same root letter combinations that appear in the simple form of the verb (Form I). A given set of root letters may appear in one or several verbal forms but hardly ever in all ten forms.

	patterns	examples	
Form II	CaCCaC	fákkar	<i>to think; to remind</i>
(or)	CaCCiC	fáhhim	<i>to make s.o. understand</i>
Form III	CaaCiC	sáafir	<i>to travel</i>
Form IV	aCCaC	áḍrab	<i>to go on strike</i>
Form V	itCaCCaC	itfárrag 9ála	<i>to look at</i>
(or)	itCaCCiC	itHáassin	<i>to get better</i>
Form VI	itCaaCiC	itfáahim má9a	<i>to reach an understanding (with)</i>
Form VII	inCaCaC	inbásaṭ	<i>to enjoy oneself</i>

Form VIII	iCtaCaC	ibtásam	<i>to smile</i>
Form IX	iCCaCC	iHmárr	<i>to become red</i>
Form X	istaCCaC	istághrab	<i>to be surprised</i>
	(or) istaCCiC	istá9mil	<i>to use</i>

Verbal Form II (CaCCaC or CaCCiC)

Often denotes:

- 1 causation (e.g. **maat** 'to die'; **máwwit** 'to cause to die, to kill')
- 2 intensity (e.g. **'áṭa9** 'to cut'; **'áṭṭa9** 'to cut into many pieces')

9állim *to teach*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	9allímt	a9állim	—
(ínta)	9allímt	ti9állim	9állim
(ínti)	9allímti	ti9allími	9allími
(húwwa)	9állim	yi9állim	—
(híyya)	9allímit	ti9állim	—
(iHna)	9allímna	ni9állim	—
(intu)	9allímtu	ti9allímu	9allímu
(húmma)	9allímu	yi9allímu	—

Form II verbs which have **a** as the second vowel are conjugated the same way (e.g. **fákkar** 'to think' (Perfect: **fakkárt**; and Imperfect: **afákkar**, etc.))

Like **9állim** and **fákkar**:

kállim	<i>to speak to</i>
kábbar	<i>to enlarge</i>
ṣállah	<i>to repair</i>
ḥáḍḍar	<i>to prepare</i>
taḍḍal	<i>to prefer</i>
mawwit	<i>to kill</i>
taḥḥim	<i>to explain</i>

Form II verbs with a weak third radical have a conjugation in the perfect similar to that of the simple doubled verbs. The imperfect and imperative are regular:

wárra *to show*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	warréet	awárri	—
(ínta)	warréet	tiwárri	wárri
(ínti)	warréeti	tiwárri	wárri
(húwwa)	wárra	yiwárri	—
(híyya)	wárrit	tiwárri	—
(iHna)	warréena	niwárri	—
(intu)	warréetu	tiwárru	wárru
(húmma)	wárru	yiwárru	—

Like **wárra**:

rábba	<i>to raise, bring up</i>
ṣállá	<i>to pray</i>
xábba	<i>to hide (s.th.), conceal</i>
wádda	<i>to take (to a place), deliver</i>
9ádda	<i>to cross; exceed</i>

Verbal Form III (CaaCiC)

Usually denotes effort, often effort to do something to or for someone.

sáafir *to travel*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	sáfirt	asáafir	—
(ínta)	sáfirt	tisáafir	sáafir
(ínti)	sáfirti	tisáfri	sáfri
(húwwa)	sáafir	yiáafir	—
(híyya)	sáfir	tisáafir	—
(iHna)	sáfirna	nisáafir	—
(intu)	sáfirtu	tisáfru	sáfru
(húmma)	sáfru	yiáfru	—

Like **sáafir**:

'áabil	<i>to meet</i>
záakir	<i>to study</i>
sáa9id	<i>to help</i>
Háawil	<i>to try, attempt</i>
gáawib	<i>to answer</i>

The pattern for Form III verbs with a weak third radical:

náada to call out to

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	nadéet	anáadi	—
(inta)	nadéet	tináadi	náadi
(inti)	nadéeti	tináadi	náadi
(húwwa)	náada	yináadi	—
(híyya)	náadit	tináadi	—
(iHna)	nadéena	nináadi	—
(intu)	nadéetu	tináadi	náadu
(húmma)	náadu	yináadu	—

Like **náada**:láa'a *to meet s.o.***Verbal Form IV (aCCaC)**

Form IV verbs are generally causative in Classical Arabic. Colloquial Arabic prefers Form II to denote causation which makes Form IV rare in the Colloquial. However, you will encounter many Form IV active participles.

áḍrab to go on strike

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	aḍrábt	áḍrib	—
(inta)	aḍrábt	tiḍrib	iḍrib
(inti)	aḍrábti	tiḍribi	iḍribi
(húwwa)	áḍrab	yíḍrib	—
(híyya)	aḍrábit	tiḍrib	—

(iHna)	aḍrábna	níḍrib	—
(intu)	aḍrábtu	tiḍribu	iḍribu
(húmma)	aḍrabu	yíḍribu	—

Like **aḍrab**:

ásbat (yísbit)	<i>to prove</i>
ákram (yíkrim)	<i>to be hospitable to</i>
áslam (yíslam)	<i>to become a Muslim</i>

(Note the **a** in **yíslam**)**Participles**

The following words are all participles of derived verbs. In Classical Arabic the first syllable of the participial patterns is always **mu-**; in some Colloquial words this becomes **mi-**. Active participles take **i** as a final vowel. Passive participles take **a**.

Form II	mu9állim	<i>teacher</i>
	mudárris	<i>teacher</i>
	mufáttiṣ	<i>inspector</i>
	mufáḍḍal	<i>preferred</i>
Form III	musáa9id	<i>helper, assistant</i>
	misáafir	<i>travelling, traveller</i>
	muHáasib	<i>accountant</i>
Form IV	múslim	<i>Muslim</i>
	mudíir	<i>director, manager</i>
	mufíid	<i>useful</i>
	múdhīṣ	<i>wonderful</i>

III EXERCISES

■ 1 Substitute the forms given below, making any necessary changes to the sentence:

- inta bitfákkar fi eeh?
húwwa?
húmma?

2. ana bafáḍḍal il-bíira 9ála n-nibíit.
inta
iHna
3. láazim agháyir hudúumi bi-súr9a.
(híyya)
(intu)
4. waldítuh sáfrit aswáan yoom il-itnéen, miš kída?
wálduh?
agdáaduh?
5. nádya bitdárris 9árabi wálla ingilízi?
Hásan?
nádya wi-Hásan?

Additional vocabulary

Háyya (Hayyáat)	<i>viper</i>
bíira	<i>beer</i>
nibíit	<i>wine</i>
hudúum	<i>clothes</i>
wáalid	(= abb) <i>father</i>
wálda	(= umm) <i>mother</i>

■ 2 Make the appropriate changes to the sentences below:

1. il-falláaH Háawil yimáwwit il-Háyya.
il-fallaHíin
2. il-mudarrísa bitfáhhim iṭ-ṭulláab id-dars.
il-mudarrisíin
3. iṭ-ṭabbáax biyHáḍḍar il-9áša.
iṭ-ṭabbaxíin
4. il-9áamil da miš Hayíḍrib.
il-9ummáal dool

LESSON TWELVE

(id-dars il-itnáášar)

A principal character of Middle Eastern folk literature is Goha. Usually depicted riding a donkey or quarrelling with his nagging wife, Goha plays the fool but always gets the last laugh. These stories are ideal for learning Arabic so see if you can learn them by heart. The translations are included in the Exercise Key.

I

■ márra kaan gúHa 'áa9id taHt šágarit búndu', wa 'á9ad yifákkar fi ceh il-Híkma innu rabbína yixállli šágara kibíira títraH búndu' šugháyyar wi-yixállli l-baṭṭíx illi húwwa ákbar min il-búndu' luh far9 šugháyyar mayi'dárs yišíluh. min kutr it-tafkíir gúHa naam, wi-ba9déen šiHi maxḍúuḍ 9ála búndu'a wí'it 9ála ráasuh. fa-'aal il-Hámdu lilláah ya rábbi. 9iríft Hikmítak inn is-šágara l-kibíira di mabtiṭráHiš baṭṭíx kaan zamáani ruHt fašúuš.

Vocabulary

márra	<i>once</i>
'áa9id	<i>sitting</i>
šágara (ašgáar)	<i>tree</i>
búndu'	<i>hazel-nuts (collective)</i>
búndu'a	<i>hazel-nut (s.)</i>
'á9ad yifákkar	<i>he went on thinking</i>
Híkma	<i>wisdom</i>
innu	<i>that</i>
rabb	<i>Lord</i>
xállli, yixállli	<i>to let</i>
táraH, yítraH	<i>to give forth</i>
baṭṭíx	<i>water-melon</i>
luh	<i>it has</i>
far9 (furúu9)	<i>branch</i>
'idir, yí'dar	<i>to be able</i>
šaal, yišíil	<i>to carry</i>

kutr	large quantity
tafkír (v.n.)	thinking
ba9déen	afterwards
maxđúuđ 9ála	startled by
wí'í9, yú'a9	to fall
kaan zamáani ruHt fašuuš	(very idiomatic) 'it would have been curtains for me'

II

- márra wi-gúHa máaši, il-9iyáal 'á9adu yi9aksúuh. fa-9ašáan yitxállas mínhum 'alláhum innu fih 9izúuma fi beet šáHbuh il-Hagg 9áli. il-9iyáal ma saddá'u ráaHu řal9iin gíru délhum fi sinánhum. ba9d ma ráaHu gúHa fákkar 'aal ma gáayiz yikúun fih 9izúuma bi-šaHúH wi-řili9 yígri húwwa kamáan 9ála beet il-Hagg 9áli.

Vocabulary

9iyáal (= wiláad)	children
9áakis, yi9áakis	to tease
'á9adu yi9aksúuh	[they] went on teasing him
itxállas, yitxállas min	to get rid of
'alláhum (= 'aal + la + hum)	he said to them
9izúuma (= Hářla)	party
ma saddá'u	no sooner believed than
deel	tail (here the hems of their galabias)
sinn (sináan)	teeth
ma gáayiz yikúun fih	maybe there is
bi-šaHúH	truly, really
gíri, yígri 9ála	to run to

LESSON THIRTEEN
(id-dars it-talařřáařar)

■ I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

1	na9iiman	You look refreshed
(resp.)	án9am ařřáah 9aléek,	Thank you
	etc.	
2	mařařřaah	(See note below)

Notes

(1) Said to someone who is looking refreshed after a shower, shave, hair-cut, etc. Lit. = '[May you be] in comfort' and (resp.) 'May God give you comfort'.

(2) or **ma řaa' ařřáah** Said when one sees something beautiful or admirable. Perhaps by now it has been said to you of your Arabic. It will certainly be said if you have a large family (à l'égyptienne) of your own. Lit. = 'That which God wills [is beautiful or admirable]'

II GRAMMAR

Verbal Form V (itCaCCaC or itCaCCiC)

The reflexive of Form II:

9állim 'to cause to know, to teach' → **it9állim** 'to cause oneself to know, to learn'

it9állim to learn

	perfect	imperfect	imperative
(ána)	it9állimt	at9állim	—
(ínta)	it9állimt	tit9állim	it9állim
(ínti)	it9állimti	tit9állimi	it9állimi
(húwwa)	it9állim	yit9állim	—
(híyya)	it9állimit	tit9állim	—
(íHna)	it9állimna	nit9állim	—
(íntu)	it9állimtu	tit9állímu	it9állímu
(húmma)	it9állímu	yit9állímu	—

like **it9allim**:

itgáwwiz, yitgáwwiz	<i>to get married</i>
itkállim, yitkállim má9a	<i>to speak (with)</i>
it'áxxar, yit'áxxar	<i>to be late</i>
itšáwwar, yitšáwwar	<i>to imagine</i>
itxárrag, yitxárrag	<i>to graduate</i>

Form V verbs with a weak third radical:

itghádda (itghaddéet), yitghádda	<i>to have lunch</i>
it9ášša (it9aššéet), yit9ášša	<i>to have dinner</i>

Verbal Form VI (itCaaCiC)

Usually the reflexive of Form III, often conveying an idea of reciprocity.

itfáahim (má9a) *to reach an understanding (with)*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	itfahímt	atfáahim	—
(inta)	itfahímt	titfáahim	itfáahim
(inti)	itfahímti	titfáhmi	itfáhmi
(húwwa)	itfáahim	yitfáahim	—
(híyya)	itfáhmit	titfáahim	—
(iHna)	itfahímna	nitfáahim	—
(intu)	itfahímtu	titfáhmu	itfáhmu
(húmma)	itfáhmu	yitfáhmu	—

Like **itfáahim**:

it'áabil, yit'áabil	<i>to meet (intrans.)</i>
itnáa'iš, yitnáa'iš	<i>to discuss</i>
itxáani', yitxáani'	<i>to quarrel</i>

Sometimes the 't' of the pattern is assimilated into the first root letter.

iddáayi'	<i>to be annoyed</i>
----------	----------------------

Verbal Form VII (inCaCaC)

Reflexive of Form I

inbásaṭ *to enjoy o.s.*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	inbasáṭṭ	anbísiṭ	—
(inta)	inbasáṭṭ	tinbísiṭ	inbísiṭ
(inti)	inbasáṭṭi	tinbísiṭi	inbísiṭi
(húwwa)	inbásaṭ	yinbísiṭ	—
(híyya)	inbásaṭit	tinbísiṭ	—
(iHna)	inbasáṭna	ninbísiṭ	—
(intu)	inbasáṭṭu	tinbísiṭu	inbísiṭu
(húmma)	inbásaṭu	yinbísiṭu	—

Like **inbásaṭ**:

inkásar, yinkísir	<i>to break (intrans.)</i>
infátaH, yinfítiH	<i>to open (intrans.)</i>
insáHab, yinsíHib	<i>to withdraw (intrans.)</i>

Participles

Form V	mitgáwwiz mit'áxxar mitgháyyar mitgháddi mitšákkir mit'ássif	<i>married</i> <i>late, delayed</i> <i>changed</i> <i>(have) lunched</i> <i>thank you</i> <i>sorry</i>
Form VI	mitšáa'im mitfáa'il middáayi'	<i>pessimistic</i> <i>optimistic</i> <i>annoyed</i>
Form VII	munfá9il mundáhiš	<i>upset, agitated</i> <i>surprised</i>

III EXERCISES

1 Translate the following:

1. láazim nit9állim faransáawi.
2. Hatit'áblu feen?
3. híyya txárragit is-sána lli fáatit.
4. yímkín at'áxxar šwáyya.
5. ašHábna nbasaṭu kitfir.
6. itkállim ma9áah.
7. matit'axxarúuš!
8. il-baab infátaH.
9. ána wi húwwa láazim nitfáahim má9a ba9d.
10. il-miráaya nkásarit.

2 Make the appropriate changes:

1. muráad* dáyman biyit'áxxar!
húda**!
húmma!
2. ána Hatxárrag min ig-gám9a s-sanáadi, in šaa' aḷláh.
ínti
húwwa
3. il-fallaHíin láazim yit'áblu iṣ-ṣubH gamb in-niil.
íHna láazim
íntu láazim
4. ínta bitHíbb tit9ášša bádri wálla wáxri?
húmma?
nabúla?
5. iṭ-ṭaalib il-ingilízi da ga maṣr 9ašáan yit9állim 9árabi.
iṭ-ṭaalíba
iṭ-ṭuḷḷáab

* boy's name

** girl's name

LESSON FOURTEEN

(id-dars il-arba9ṭáašar)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| 1 | ixs 9aléek, etc. | <i>Shame on you!</i> |
| 2 | Haráam 9aléek, etc. | <i>You must not do that. It's wrong!</i> |
| 3 | la samaH aḷláh | <i>May God not permit it to happen!</i> |
| 4 | bi9d iṣ-šarr | <i>May evil be far away!</i> |

Notes

(1) May be a light-hearted as well as a serious admonition.

(2) **Haraam** = that which is forbidden by Islam. The opposite is **Halaal**, that which is allowed by Islam.

(3 & 4) One or other of these expressions is used whenever any potential evil or unpleasantness is mentioned.

II GRAMMAR

Verbal Form VIII (iCtaCaC)

Also reflexive of Form I with the difference that Form VIII verbs may take a direct object.

ibtásam *to smile*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	ibtasámt	abtísim	—
(ínta)	ibtasámt	tibtísim	ibtísim
(ínti)	ibtasámti	tibtísmi	ibtísmi
(húwwa)	ibtásam	yibtísim	—
(híyya)	ibtásamit	tibtísim	—
(íHna)	ibtasámna	nibtísim	—
(íntu)	ibtasámtu	tibtísmu	ibtísmu
(húmma)	ibtásamu	yibtísmu	—

Like **ibtásam**:

iHtáram, yiHtírim	<i>to respect</i>
iftákar, yiftíkir	<i>to think</i>
istálam, yistílim	<i>to receive</i>
ištághal, yištághal	<i>to work (as)</i>

With a weak first radical:

ittáfa', yittífi' má9a	<i>to agree with</i>
iṭṭāṣal, yiṭṭāṣil bi	<i>to contact, get in touch with</i>

With a weak second radical:

ixtáar, yixtáar	<i>to choose</i>
-----------------	------------------

With a weak third radical:

ištára (ištáreét), yištíri	<i>to buy</i>
ibtáda (ibtadéet), yibtídi	<i>to begin</i>

Verbal Form IX (iCCaCC)

The rarest of the derived forms; associated with adjectives denoting colour and physical disability.

(áHmar →) iHmárr *to become red; blush; get sunburned*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	iHmarréet	aHmárr	—
(inta)	iHmarréet	tiHmárr	iHmárr
(inti)	iHmarréeti	tiHmárri	iHmárri
(húwwa)	iHmárr	yiHmárr	—
(híyya)	iHmárrit	tiHmárr	—
(iHna)	iHmarréena	niHmárr	—
(intu)	iHmarréetu	tiHmárru	iHmárru
(húmma)	iHmárru	yiHmárru	—

Like **iHmarr**:

(áxdar →)	ixḍárr, yixḍárr	<i>to turn green</i>
(áṣfar →)	iṣfárr, yiṣfárr	<i>to turn yellow</i>
(ásmar →)	ismárr, yismárr	<i>to get tanned</i>
(átraš →)	iṭrašš, yiṭrašš	<i>to become deaf</i>
(á9rag →)	i9rágg, yi9rágg	<i>to become lame</i>

Verbal Form X (istaCCaC or istaCCiC)

Usually denotes asking or doing for oneself; its least common use, considering (s.th. or s.o.) to be (s.th.) might also be its most amusing, as in **istáHmar**, **yistáHmar** to consider (s.o.) to be a donkey (= **Humáar**).

istá9mil *to use*

	<i>perfect</i>	<i>imperfect</i>	<i>imperative</i>
(ána)	ista9mílt	astá9mil	—
(inta)	ista9mílt	tistá9mil	istá9mil
(inti)	ista9mílti	tista9míli	ista9míli
(húwwa)	istá9mil	yistá9mil	—
(híyya)	istá9milit	tistá9mil	—
(iHna)	ista9mílina	nistá9mil	—
(intu)	ista9míltu	tista9mílu	ista9mílu
(húmma)	istá9milu	yista9mílu	—

Like **istá9mil**:

	istá9gil, yistá9gil	<i>to hurry</i>
	istá'zin, yistá'zin	<i>to excuse o.s.</i>
	istáltaf, yistáltaf	<i>to consider (s.o.) nice</i>
(hollow)	ista'áal, yista'íil	<i>to resign</i>
(doubled)	ista9ádd (ist9addéet), yista9ídd	<i>to be ready</i>
(final weak)	istá9la (ista9léet), yistá9la	<i>to be stuffy or pompous</i>

Participles

Form VIII	muHtáram muxtálif	<i>respected</i> <i>different</i>
Form IX	(rare)	
Form X	mistá9gil mistá9mal musta9ídd	<i>in a hurry</i> <i>used, second-hand</i> <i>ready</i>

Quadriliterals

Quadriliteral verbs have four root letters instead of the usual three, but their conjugation is perfectly consistent and regular. They follow exactly the pattern of Form II verbs (see Lesson Eleven).

	tárgim, yitárgim	<i>to translate</i>
	lāxbaṭ, yilāxbaṭ	<i>to muddle</i>
(derived)	itlāxbaṭ, yitlāxbaṭ	<i>to be muddled</i>

Cultural note:

The word for 'translator' is **mutárgim** (**mutargimīn**). The now archaic word **targumáan** derives from the same root, of course, and was the source for the also archaic English word 'dragoon' meaning 'guide/interpreter'.

III EXERCISES

1 Translate the following:

1. abúuya biyištághal šúHafi
2. Hatištíri eeh fi xaan il-xalíli?
3. léela iHmárrit min iš-šams
4. láazim nastá'zin dilwá'ti
5. Hásan ištára 9ágala gidíida
6. múmkin astá9mil il-qamúus bitáa9ak.
7. il-mušáa kullúhum mista9gilín.

Vocabulary

mušáa	<i>pedestrians</i>
muHáami	<i>lawyer</i>
a9ḍáa' il-máglis	<i>the members of the Council</i>
masraHíyya	<i>(theatrical) play</i>
šeex (šuyúux)	<i>old man; Senator</i>
ra'íis il-wúzara	<i>Prime Minister</i>

2 Make the appropriate changes:

1. ána baštághal muHáami.
húwwa
ínta

- il-mudfír Hayista'il búkra.
il-mudarrísa
a9ḍáa' il-máglis
- ána istalámt il-flíúus min il-bank.
híyya
húmma
- nagfíb ištára tázkara lil-masraHíyya.
ána
miřáati
- iš-šeex muHtáram
iš-šuyúux
ra'íis il-wúzara

LESSON FIFTEEN

(id-dars il-xamaštáašar)

I COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | šarraftína (to m.s.) | <i>Very pleased to see you</i> |
| | or šarraftíina (to f.s.) | |
| | or šarraftúuna (to pl.) | |
| (resp.) | aḷláh yišárraf mi'dáarak (to m.s.) | <i>Thank you</i> |
| | etc. | |
- | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 | nawwárt il-beet (to m.s.) | <i>(As above)</i> |
| | or nawwárti l-beet (to f.s.) | |
| | or nawwártu l-beet (to pl.) | |
| (resp.) | aḷláh yináwwar 9aléek (to m.s.) | |
| | etc. | |

3	anistína (to m.s.)	(As above)
	or anistíina (to f.s.)	
	or anistúuna (to pl.)	
(resp.)	al!áah yi'ánsak (to m.s.)	
	or al!áah yi'ánsik	
	(to f.s.)	
	or al!áah yi'anískim	
	(to pl.)	
4	waHíšni	<i>I miss you (to m.)</i>
	waHšáani	<i>I miss you (to f.)</i>
	waHaštíni	<i>I missed you (to m.)</i>
	waHášni	<i>I missed him</i>
	waHašúuni	<i>I missed them</i>
	HatiwHášni	<i>I shall miss you (to m.)</i>
(resp.)	matšúfš wíHiš	(See below)
	matšufiış wíHiš	

Notes

- (1) Said to your guest. Lit. 'You have honoured us' and (resp.) 'May God honour you'.
- (2) Same as (1) above. Lit. 'You have brought light to the house', i.e. to our house; (resp.) 'May God give you light'.
- (3) Same as (1) and (2) above. Lit. 'You have cheered us up' and (resp.) 'May God cheer you'.
- (4) Notice how the Arabic really says this the other way around: 'You are missed by me'. Resp. = 'May you not see [anything] bad!'

II GRAMMAR

Verbal Nouns

A verbal noun, called 'maşdar' in Arabic, is a noun derived directly from a verb. When translated into English such a noun may appear as a gerund (i.e. the form of the verb which ends in '-ing' and is used as a noun, as in 'Running is good exercise'). Verbal nouns can be grouped by patterns, but for simple (Form I) verbs these

are too numerous to try to memorise. Each new example should simply be learned as a new item of vocabulary.

verb	verbal noun	meaning
kátab	kitáaba	writing
zaar	ziyáara	visiting; visit
dáxal	duxúul	entering
xárag	xurúug	going out
wířil	wuřúul	arriving; arrival
řili9	řulúu9	ascending
nízil	nuzúul	descending
dáras	dars	lesson
đárab	đarb	striking
fíhim	fahm	understanding
sákan	sákan	dwelling
řírib	řurb	drinking
kal	akl	eating; food
naam	noom	sleeping
míři	mářy	walking
ráma	rámy	throwing

Verbal noun patterns for the derived forms of the verb tend to be regular and predictable. The following examples give the basic patterns for 'sound' derived verbs.

II	9állim	ta9lúim
	řállah	tařlúH
III	sáa9id	musá9da
	Háawil	muHáwla
IV	áđrab	iđráab
	ákram	ikráam
V	it9állim	ta9állum
	itxářřař	taxářřuř
VI	itfáahim	tafáahum
	it9áamil	ta9áamul

VII	insáHab inbásaṭ	insiHáab inbisáat
VIII	iHtáram ištáarak	iHtiráam ištiráak
IX	iHImárr	iHmiráar
X	istá9mil	isti9máal

Nouns of Place

Nouns of place generally occur on the patterns **maCCaC**, **maCCiC**, and **maCCaCa**. The plural is usually **maCaaCiC** for all three patterns.

kátab	máktab (makáatib)	place of writing	→ office; desk
ṭábx	máṭbx (maṭáabix)	place of cooking	→ kitchen
dáxal	mádxal (madáaxil)	place of entering	→ entrance
xárag	máxrag (maxáarig)	place of exiting	→ exit
ságad	másgid (masáagid)	place of kneeling	→ mosque
wí'if	máw'if (mawáa'if)	place of stopping	→ (parking) place
dáras	madrása (madáaris)	place of studying	→ school
kátab	maktába (maktabáat)	place of writing	→ library; bookshop
Hákam	maHkáma (maHáakim)	place of judging	→ law-court

The following are also nouns of place, but based on root forms possessing weak or doubled radicals.

ṭaar	maṭáar (maṭaráat)	place of flying	→ airport
kaan	makáan (amáakin)	place of being	→ place
Hatt	maHátṭa (maHattáat)	place of putting down*	→ station

*From Classical Arabic where **Hatt** has the additional meaning of alighting, or putting down.

Collective Nouns

Certain nouns (e.g., fruit, vegetables and animals) have a 'collective' form in addition to the usual singular and plural forms. The collective is general in scope in that it refers to the class of items as a whole (e.g. I like apples) as opposed to the specific or 'countable' plural, which is used with numbers (Bring me three apples, please). The singular for these nouns is always formed by adding the fem. sing. ending **-a** to the collective form.

collective	singular	plural	
beed	béeda	beḍáat	egg(s)
bidingáan	bidingáana	bidinganáat	aubergine(s)
burtu'áan	burtu'ána	burtu'anáat	orange(s)
gamúus	gamúusa	gawamíis	water- buffalo(es)
Hágar	Hágara	Hagaráat	stone(s)
Hamáam	Hamáama	Hamamáat	pigeon(s)
lamúun	lamúuna	lamunáat	lemons
naHl	náHla	naHláat	bee(s)
namúus	namúusa	namusáat	mosquito(es)
naxl	náxla	naxláat	palm-tree(s)
rummáan	rummáana	rummanáat	pomegranate(s)
šágar	šágara	ašgáar	tree(s)
tuffáaH	tuffáaHa	tuffaHáat	apple(s)

The professions

The 'professions' are usually formed either with the Turkish ending **-gi** or on the Arabic pattern **CaCCaaC**:

agzaxána*	→ agzági (agzagíyya)	pharmacist, chemist
búṣṭa*	→ buṣṭági (buṣṭagíyya)	postman
gázma*	→ gazmági (gazmagíyya)	cobbler
mákwa*	→ makwági (makwagíyya)	one who irons laundry
súfra*	→ sufrági (sufraigíyya)	butler
9áraba*	→ 9arbági (9arbagíyya)	driver of a horse and carriage

*meaning: pharmacy, mail, shoe, iron, table-cloth, carriage.

bawwáab (bawwabīn)	door-man
farráas (farrāšīn)	office-boy, attendant
garráaH (garraHīn)	surgeon
naggáar (naggarīn)	carpenter
sawwáa' (sawwa'īn)	driver
šarráaf (šarraffīn)	money changer
šayyáal (šayyalīn)	porter (to carry bags)
ṭabbáax (ṭabbaxīn)	cook
xaddáam (xaddamīn)	servant
xaṭṭáat (xaṭṭaṭīn)	calligrapher

Conditional Sentences

Arabic commonly uses three words to say 'if': **in**, **iza** and **law**.
Examples:

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | in šaa' al-láah | God-willing |
| (2) | iza 'ultílak il-Ha'ī'a
Hatíz9al | If I told you the truth, you'd
get angry. |
| (3) | law kunt makáanak kunt
inbasáṭṭ kitīir | If I were you, I'd be very
happy. |
| (4) | law Hásan ma9amálš kída
inta kunt Hatíz9al | If Hassan had not done so,
you would have gotten
angry. |

There are no hard and fast rules governing the use of the three particles meaning 'if' in Colloquial Arabic (though there are in Classical Arabic), but the following may be considered general guidelines.

- in** : used more in expressions borrowed from Classical Arabic.
- iza** : usually used if the proposition stated in the 'if' clause is possible or probable; the verb following **iza** is usually perfect and the main clause verb usually imperfect.
- law** : usually used if the proposition stated in the 'if' clause is totally hypothetical, or at least unlikely; the verb following **law** is perfect and the main clause verb usually compound with the perfect tense of **kaan**.

III EXERCISES

Translation exercise

- ḍarb il-Habīb zayy akl iz-zabīb [Proverb].
- id-ḍiHk min gheer sábab 'illit ádab [Popular Saying].
- 'wu'úu9 il-bála wála ntizáaruh' yá9ni wu'úu9 il-bála áHsan min intizáar il-bála.
- soráyya bitHibb is-sibáaHa wi-rukúub il-xeel.
- iddīni tálat rummanáat min fáḍlik.
- We ate apples and oranges.
- Smoking is forbidden at the cinema.
- There is no mutual understanding between the members.
- Walking in that street is dangerous.
- Drinking lots of wine is not good.

Additional vocabulary

Habīb	loved one
zabīb	raisins
ḍiHk	laughing
'illit ádab	lack of good manners
wu'úu9	falling; befalling, happening
bála	misfortune
intizáar	expecting
rukúub	riding
xeel	horses
xáṭar	danger; dangerous

LESSON SIXTEEN (id-dars is-siṭṭáašar)

Here are three more Goha stories.

III

- mārra wáaHid idda árnab hidíyya li-gúHa. wi-ba9d usbúu9 gáluh wáaHid 9ázam náfsuh 9ánduh bi-Higgit innuh šaaHib šaaHib il-árnab. gúHa 'addímluh máyya súxna 9ála innáha šúrba. fa-'álluh iṭ-ṭáagil – eeh da ya gúHa. 'álluh gúHa di šúrbit šúrbit il-árnab.

Vocabulary

idda, yíddi	to give
árnab (aráanib)	rabbit
hidíyya (hadáaya)	gift
gáluh [ga + li + hu]	came to him
9ázam, yí9zim	to invite
náfsuh	himself
bi-Higgit	on the pretext
šaaHib (aṣHáab)	friend; owner
šaaHib šaaHib il-árnab	'a friend of the owner of the rabbit'
'addímluh	offered to him
máyya súxna	hot water
9ála innáha	[pretending] that it was
šúrba	soup
fa	so (an introductory particle)

IV

- sa'alu gúHa 9an ig-gawáaz 'allúhum: lá9an alḷáah man tazáwwag qábli wa- man tazáwwag bá9di. 'alúluh leeh ya gúHa? 'allúhum, illi tgáwwiz 'ábli li'ánnuh manaṣaHnūš inn il-gawáaz zift. 'alúluh, ṭab w-illi tgáwwiz bá9dak? 'allúhum 9alašáan ma simi9š kaláami!

Vocabulary

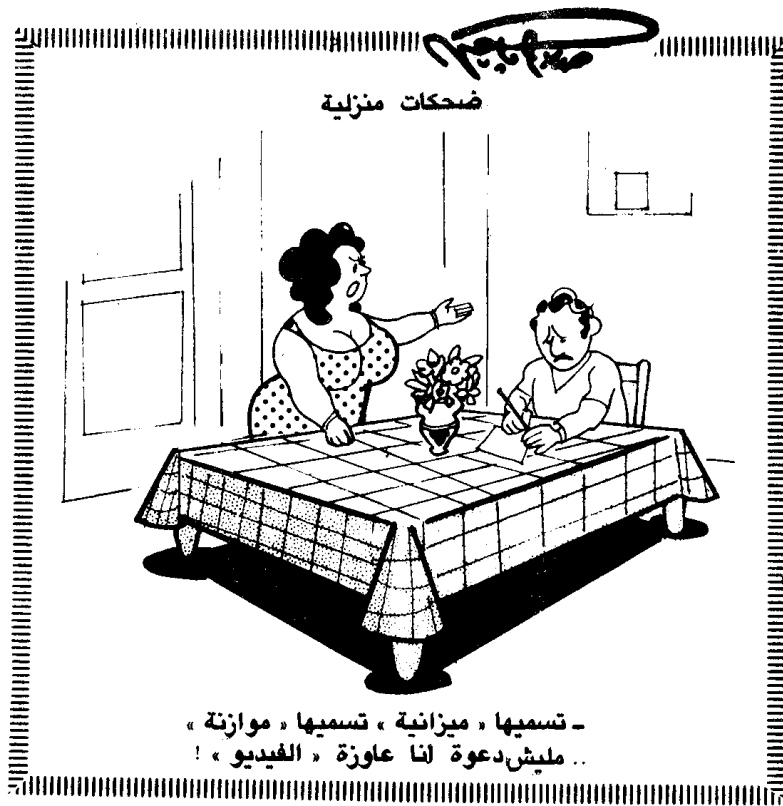
sa'al, yís'al (9an)	to ask (about)
gawáaz	marriage
lá9an alḷáah man tazáwwag qábli wa-man tazáwwag bá9di – Goha pompously says this is Classical Arabic: 'May God curse those who [lit.: the one who] married before me and those who married after me.'	
'alúluh	they said to him
li'ánnuh [li'ánna + hu]	because he
náṣaH, yínṣaH	to advise
manaṣaHnūš	they didn't tell me [lit.: he did not advise me]
zift	(idiom.) terrible, awful
ṭab = ṭáyyib	
kaláam	talking, speaking; words
kaláami	that which I said

V

- wáaHid mitgáwwiz sa'al gúHa 9an rá'yuh fil-gawáaz. 'álluh gúHa inn ig-gawáaz 9áamil zayy il-birmūl illi min foo' 9ásal wi-ba9deen tila'ūh kúlluh báṣal. 'álluh iṭ-ṭáagil, waḷḷáahi, ána min sáa9it ma tgawwízt wi-kúlluh báṣal. 'álluh gúHa láazim fataHt il-birmūl min taHt.

Vocabulary

mitgáwwiz	married
ra'y (aráa') fi	opinion (on)
barmūl (baramūl)	barrel
9ásal	honey
láa'a, yilaa'i	to find
kull	all
báṣal	onion
waḷḷáahi	by God!
min sáa9it ma	from the moment [lit.: 'hour']
	that



tisammíiha mizaníyya tisammíiha muwázna malíiš dá9wa. ána 9áwza l-fídyu!
(You can call it your 'budget'; you can call it 'balancing the books';
I don't care. I WANT THAT VIDEO!)

PROVERBS

- 1 ig-gaar 'abl id-daar *[Choose] the neighbour before the house*
- 2 iṣ-ṣabr gamíl *Patience is beautiful, i.e. is a virtue*
- 3 il-'ird fi 9een úmmuh ghazáal *A monkey, in the eye of its mother, is a gazelle*
- 4 mafíiš duxxáan min gheer ṇaar *No smoke without fire*
- 5 ma ághla min il-wild illa wild il-wild *Nothing is dearer than one's children, save the children of one's children*
- 6 illi ma9indúuš mayilzamúuš *If you do not have it, you do not need it*
- 7 eeš yáaxud ir-riiH mil-baláat *What can the wind sweep from a tile (= you cannot have what is not there)*
- 8 illi faat maat *That which is past is dead (Don't cry over spilled milk)*
- 9 ibn il-wizz 9awwáam *The gosling knows how to swim (= like father like son, in a positive sense)*
- 10 ikfi l-'idra 9ála fummáha; tíṭla9 il-bint l-ummáha *Turn the clay pot on its mouth, the daughter turns out like her mother (= like mother, like daughter)*
- 11 ána w-axxúuya 9ála bn 9ámmi; ána w-ibn 9ámmi 9ála l-ghariib *My brother and I against my cousin; my cousin and I against the stranger (worth thinking about in the context of Arab politics)*

- 12 9ála 'add liHáafak midd rigléek *Spread your quilt according to the measure of your legs (= cut your coat according to your cloth)*
- 13 ána báaša w-ínta báaša; miin yisuu' il-Humáar *I'm a Pasha and you're a Pasha; so who drives the donkey?*
- 14 ɖarb il-Habíib zayy akl iz-zibíib *A blow from your loved one is like eating raisins (i.e. something good. The loved one referred to is usually the wife)*
- 15 il-9een mati9láaš 9al-Háagib *The eye does not rise above the brow (i.e. one should know one's place)*
- 16 il-'irš il-ábyaɖ yínfa9 fil-yoom il-íswid *A white piastre will be useful on a black day (= a penny saved is a penny earned)*
- 17 in ghaab il-'utt il9ab ya faar *If the cat's away, go play O mouse (= . . . the mice will play)*
- 18 lábbis il-búuša tíb'a 9arúusa *Dress up a reed and it will become a bride (like the English 'Clothes make the man' but applied to the female of the species)*
- 19 wáaHid šáyil dá'nuh: wit-táani za9láan leeh? *One man is carrying his beard; so why is the other one angry (i.e. it's none of his business)*
- 20 umm il-9arúusa, fáɖya w-mašbúuka *like a bride's mother: doing nothing but acting busy*
- 21 Habíibak yiblá9ak iz-zálaɖ; wi-9adúwwak yitmannáalak il-ghálaɖ *Your friend will swallow stones for your sake; your enemy hopes you'll make a mistake*
- 22 kul illi yi9gíbak; w-ílbis illi yi9gib in-naas *Eat that which pleases you; dress according to what pleases others (i.e. conform at least externally)*

- 23 it-ta9líim fiš-šighar zayy in-na'š 9al-Hágar *Learning in youth is like engraving in stone*
- 24 yí'tal il-'atíil wi-yímši fii ganáztuh *He kills the man, then walks in his funeral (i.e. hurts s.o. then pretends to be his friend)*
- 25 illi yšúfni bi-9een ašúufuh b-itnéen *He who looks at me with one eye, I'll look at him with two (= you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours – twice as much)*
- 26 gíbtak ya 9abd il-mu9iin ti9inni; la'éetak ya 9abd il-mu9iin tit9áan *I brought you here, Abd il-Mu9iin, to help me; I found you, Abd il-Mu9iin, needing help (i.e. even more than I needed it)*
- 27 il-márkib illi fiiha rayyiséen tíghra' *The ship which has two captains sinks (= too many cooks spoil the broth)*
- 28 il-bi9íid 9an il-9een bi9íid 9an il-xáaɖir *Literally: Out of sight, out of mind*
- 29 'alíl il-baxt yiláa'i il-9aɖm fil-kírša *So unlucky that he finds bones in tripe*
- 30 yíddi l-Hála' l-ílli bala widáan *He gives ear-rings to someone without ears*
- 31 maHáddiš wáaxid mínha Háaga *No one takes anything from it [the world] (i.e. You can't take it with you)*
- 32 ɖárabu l-á9war 9ála 9éenuh; 'aal xasráana xasráana *They hit the one-eyed man on his [bad] eye; he said 'what is bad is bad' (i.e. So what? Don't be concerned about what's already damaged)*
- 33 mala'úuš fil-ward 9eeb; 'alúuh ya áHmar il-xaddéen *They found no fault with the roses, so they said they had red cheeks (i.e. some people will always try to find fault)*

- 34 il-ga9áan yíHlim bi-suu' il-9eeš *A hungry man dreams of the bread market*
- 35 9umr id-damm mayíb'a máyya *Blood will never become water (used in the sense of: Blood is thicker than water)*
- 36 il-maktúub 9ála l-gibfín láazim tišúufuh il-9een *That which is written on the brow the eye must see*
- 37 yimúut iz-zammáar wi-šawáb9uh bitíl9ab *The player dies, but his fingers keep on playing*
- 38 illi fiduh fil-máyya miš zayy illi fiduh fiṇ-ṇaar *One whose hand is in water is not like one whose hand is in fire*
- 39 illi yáakul 9ála dīrsuh yínfa9 náfsuh *He who chews on his own molar is self-sufficient*
- 40 id-dīHk min gheer sábab 'illit ádab *Laughter without reason is impolite*
- 41 biyíHki 'iṣṣit ábu zeed *He's telling the story of Abu Zeid (i.e. he'll go on and on talking for ages)*
- 42 id-dínya zayy is-sáa'iya, márra foo' wi-márra taHt *The world is like a water-wheel; up one minute and down the next*
- 43 is-sirr fii biir *The secret is in a well (i.e., you can tell me, and I won't tell anyone)*
- 44 báṣalit il-muHibb xarúuf *An onion from a loved-one is like mutton*
- 45 wu'úu9 il-bála wi-laa ntizáaruh *The actual happening of disaster is not as bad as waiting for it to happen*
- 46 il-aṭfáal aHbáab ulḷáah *Children are much loved by God*
- 47 ḍarábni wi-báka wi-sabá'ni w-ištáka *He hit me and cried, then he ran off to complain before I could*

- 48 rabbína rabb il-'ulúub *Our Lord is the lord of the heart: He knows our thoughts and intentions*
- 49 illi yixtíši min bint 9ámmuh maygíbs mínha 9iyáal *He who is shy with his father-in-law's daughter won't have children*
- 50 il-muHáami zayy il-minšáar ṭáli9 wáakil náazil wáakil *A lawyer is like a saw; he eats when he's up, he eats when he's down (i.e. gets paid win or lose)*

READINGS

il-itnéen aHmadáat

il-itnéen aHmadáat. wáaHid 9áayiṣ fil-aryáaf. wit-táani 9áayiṣ fi maṣr. wáaHid biyištághal falláaH. wit-táani biyištághal ṣináa9i. wáaHid biytállá9 tís9a ginéeh. wit-táani itnáášar ginéeh Hásibma yídghaṭ 9ála rúuHuh fiš-šughl. il-itnéen mitgawwizfín wi-mixal-lifín. ábu Huméed illi 9áayiṣ fir-riif mixállif arbá9a. wil-xáamis gayy fis-síkka. wi-šaHíbna lli 9áayiṣ fil-qaahíra mixállif itnéen wit-táalit gayy fis-síkka. ti'áabil il-awwaláani ti'úlluh axbáarak eeh? yi'úllak il-Hámdu lilláah. ahé mášya. ti'úlluh mášya izzáay? yi'úllak yoom 9ásal wi-yoméen báṣal. ti'úlluh šidd héelak. yi'úllak iš-šidda 9al-aḷḷáah. aḷḷáah yikassíbha, id-dáaya. báṣit fi wišš miṣáati ba9d il-9eel it-táalit wi-'alítláha fiih fi wiššik wálad. lissa Hatgúbi wálad. kaan xállif wálad wi-bintéen. 'alítláha lissa fi wiššik wálad. Háakim id-dáaya di 9aalíma ruHíyya. fiih naas tí'ra taḍariis il-kaff wi-nass tí'ra taḍariis il-wišš. ṭáb9an miṣáatuh saddá'it. miš dáaya wallídit 'abl kída alf máṣṣa túb'a 9árfa. fidlit tizínn 9ála dimáagh gúzha 9áya kamáan wálad gamb ibnáha 9alašáan mayib'áas li-wáHduh 9ála bintéen. ḍarúuri yigíluh axx 9ašáan yisá9duh. fidlit tixállif lámma bá'u arbá9a. tálat banáat wi-wálad. wil-xáamis gayy fis-síkka. ḍarúuri il-xáamis wálad. in šaa' aḷḷáah. wi-in magáas il-xáamis wálad wi-gat bint. yíb'a s-sáadis in šaa' aḷḷáah ḍarúuri

Hayġi wálad. in magáaš bá'a, yíb'a ħarúuri is-sáabi9 wálad. tífðal is-silsilla mášya kída liHádd ma bu Huméed yíb'a dimáaghuh tiwgá9uh. wi-bádal ma yíb'a yoom 9ásal wi-yoméen bášal, yíb'a yoom 9ásal wi-xámsa bášal. ábu Huméed illi fi mašr Hašalítluh nafs il-Háaga. is-sitt il-Hakúma 'aalit li-mrátuh ba9d il-xilf it-tánya win-nábi w-ínti gáyba wálad. 'alítláha ímta? 'alítláha l-mářra g-gáyya. 'alítláha išmí9na? 'alítláha 9alašáan dimáagh il-bint illi xallíftíha midawwára. law káanit miřawla kaanit gat ba9dáha bint. innáma madáam dimághha midawwára yíb'a lli gayy waráaha wálad. garrábit wi-gáabit . . . wi-gat bint. 'aalit lil-Hakúma di gat bint. 'aalítláha mahúwwa miš min áwwil mářra. min táani mářra w-ismá9i kaláam. ti'áabil il-abb. izzáyyak? mayirúddiř. axbáarak eeh? lišáanuh yít'al leeh? máaři yíHsib wi-yifákkar. yigúib filúus minéen 9alašáan yířrif 9ála l-qabíla lli kull sána biyitzíid wáaHid. wil-miráttab kull sana mabiyizídš bi-nafs in-nisba. wil-as9áar kull sána títlá9 láha sillíma wálla tneen. ba9d ma kaan ábu Huméed illi hináak, w-ílli hína 9ayšíin fir-ráaHa bá'u 9ayšíin fi nakad. ba9d ma kaan il-wáaHid mínhum biyíđHak min 'álbuh bá'a miš 9áarif Háta šakl id-điHk eeh. il-9iyáal 9ayziin sanáadil wi-hudúum wi-akl wi-dáwa wil-ġinéeh ya áxxi bá'a 9áamil zayy ma yikúun sibírtu. yadúubak tiHúřtuh fil-gaww tibúřř tila'íih itbáxxar. kull il-mařáa9ib di gat 9alašáan kílma 'alítha id-dáaya aw il-Hakúma aw il-9ámma aw il-xáala. đánti líssa 9aléeki wálad, wi-wiřšik wálad, dimáagh il-bint midawwára: yíb'a gayyílik wálad. kílma ráaHit fil-háwa kílma gáhla malaháaš má9na. bass sabbíbit mařáakil wi-humúum wi-álam. řuul ma l-xuráafa 9áyša f-muġtamá9na wi-bitáakul wi-bitířrab wayyáana wi-řuul ma l-gahl mu9aasírna wi-9amáal yifákkar lina řuul ma Hanířðal maznu'íin. mafíiř dáwla, in-naas biyitzíid říiha zayyína wi-tiláa'i n-naas říiha murtáaHa. ħarúuri tířab wi-tiř'a. ħarúuri tímři tikállim nafsáha řiř-řári9. miř kída wálla eeh?

They are both called Ahmed. One lives in the country; the other lives in Cairo. One works as a farmer; the other works as a labourer. One is paid nine pounds; the other twelve pounds working only as the spirit moves him.

Both are married and have offspring. Abu Humeed who lives in the country has had four – and the fifth is on the way. Our friend who lives in Cairo has had two – and the third is on the way.

[When] you meet the first [Ahmed and] you say to him 'What's the news?' he says to you 'Praise be to God, things are all right?' You say to him 'How all right?'; and he says 'One day of honey, two days of onion.' You say to him 'Pull yourself together,' and he says to you 'Strength [to pull oneself together] comes from God. And as for the mid-wife, may God make her prosper, she looked at my wife's face after the third child and said "In your face I see a son. You're still going to have a son".' He already had a son and two daughters, and the mid-wife says to his wife, 'You're going to have another son!'

You see, this mid-wife was a teller of fortunes. Some people read the features of the palm of the hand. Other people read the features of the face. So, of course, his wife believed [it all]. Was she not a mid-wife who had presided over births a thousand times? For sure she would know.

The wife kept on at her husband, her words ringing in his head that she wanted another son so that her first son would not be all alone with two girls. He needed a brother to come help him.

Anyway, she had another child, making four in all – three girls and a boy. Now the fifth is on the way. The fifth one for sure will be a boy . . . God willing! And if the fifth is not a boy, but a girl, then, God-willing, the sixth will surely be a boy. And if he still does not come . . . THEN THE SEVENTH WILL SURELY BE A BOY!!!

And so the chain continued like this until Abu Humeed, instead of having one day of honey and two days of onion, had for every day of honey five days of onion.

As for Abu Humeed in Cairo, the same thing happened to him. The lady doctor said to his wife after her second child, 'By the Prophet, you're going to have a son.' [The wife] asked 'When?' She said 'Next time.' [The wife] asked, 'How do you know?' She said '[I know] because the head of the girl you've just had is round. Had it been more elongated, then your next child would have been a girl. As long as the head is round like this, the next one will be a boy.'

She gave it a try, gave birth . . . and had a girl. She said to the lady-doctor, '[I had] a girl.' The doctor said to her 'It's not the first time. Next time listen to me.'

You meet the father [and ask him] 'How are you doing?' He doesn't answer. 'What's your news?' Why has the cat got his tongue? He walks around thinking and pondering. Where is he going to get the money to spend on this tribe which every year increases by one. His salary is not increasing every year at the same rate. Every year prices go up a step or two. After the Abu Humeed who is there [in the country] and the Abu Humeed who is here [in Cairo] had both been living in [relative] comfort; they are now living in hardship. Where both had used to laugh from their very hearts, they now did not know what laughter was.

The children need sandals, clothes, food and medicine. All the while the pound is like alcohol: you expose it to the air, and you see it evaporate.

All these problems stem from the fact that the midwife or the lady-doctor or a paternal aunt or a maternal aunt said something to [the wife] – 'You're going to have another son,' 'Your daughter's head is round,' 'The next one will be a boy' – words that just go into the air, ignorant words without meaning; yet they cause problems, concern and even pain. So long as superstition is alive in society, so long as it eats and drinks among us, and so long as ignorance is our contemporary and doing our thinking for us – that's how long we shall be hard-pressed. There is no country in which people increase as in ours [dramatically in number] where you find people comfortable. They can't help but be tired and suffering. They can't help walking around the streets talking to themselves. Is it not so? What do *you* think?

KEY TO EXERCISES

Lesson One

Exercise 1

Where is Muhammad?

He is in Egypt.

Where are you from?

I am from England.

Where is the book?

The book is on the table.

Is the key in the door?

No, the key is not in the door.

The key is there, beside the pen.

There is no car in front of the restaurant.

Exercise 2

1. Where is the boy?
2. He is under the bridge
3. The garden is behind the house.
4. Are there [any] books on the table?
5. Yes, there are books and a pencil on the table.
6. húmma minéen?
7. húmma min maşr.
8. ínti gamb iš-şibbáak.
9. fiĥ māt9am fi midáan sa9d zaghlúul?
10. fiĥ māt9am hináak, wi- 'áhwa kamáan.

Lesson Two

Exercise 1

'A very short visit'

A. Hello, Samira!

B. Hello, Mahmoud.

A. How are you today?

B. Fine, thank you. And you?

A. Fine, thank you.

B. Isn't Nagwa here?

A. No, she is in Alexandria today.

B. Thank you. Good-bye.

A. Good-bye.

Exercise 2

1. Egyptians are generous.
2. The Nile is a beautiful and very long river.

3. Are the Pyramids far from here?
4. Are you Syrian or Lebanese?
5. I am neither Syrian, nor Lebanese. I'm Egyptian.
6. il-kılma sáhla.
7. fi maşr il-maṭáa9im rixíşa
8. il-Harb wíHša
9. il-gúmla miş şá9ba.
10. iṭ-ṭarabeeza miş niḍífa, láakin il-xaddáam miş mawgúud

Lesson Three

Exercise 1

What's your name?
 My name is David Smith.
 Where's your house?
 My house is near Cairo Tower.

Where's the key to the office door?
 The key to that door is with the doorman.

Whose is that car?
 It belongs to the President of the Republic.

Cairo University is in Giza and the American University is in Liberation Square.

That case is new.
 The traveller's case is new.
 The case belonging to the sick traveller is on [lit. in] the plane.

Exercise 2

1. What is his name?
2. The Director's house is in Heliopolis.
3. Those farmers are tired today.
4. I have a book and a pen; but she has neither book nor pen.
5. There's your car, but where is mine?
6. bécetak feen?

7. ma9indináaş beet.
8. il-gám9a di ghálya xáaliş.
9. il-lúkanḍa hé, láakin feen il-mát9am.
10. šántit il-mudíir ig-gidíida 9ind il-maṭáar.

Lesson Four

Exercise 1

1985
 With us today are two good translators. The first one is from Baghdad and the other is from Damascus.
 One coffee and two teas, please.
 It's 5:25 a.m.
 10 piasters.
 55 piasters.
 5 Egyptian pounds.
 15 pounds sterling.
 There are twelve months in a year.
 Two difficult languages.

Exercise 2

1. Those five books are expensive.
2. Leila is twenty-two years old.
3. He has a lesson Monday afternoon.
4. There's a party at 7:30 pm.
5. We don't have \$200 for the tickets.
6. il-xámas sitáat dool feen?
7. fiih 9işríin xaddáam fil-vílla di.
8. iṭ-ráagil il-Hidáaşar miş mawgúud.
9. libnáan bálad şugháyyar láakin fiiha sítta milyóon libnáani.
10. il-9arabiyitén il-kubáar dool bitúu9 ra'ís il-lágna.

Lesson Five

Exercise 1

Where are you going?
 I'm going to the British Embassy.

What are the children doing now?
They're sleeping.

Ali lives in Doqqi.
And where do you (f.) live?
My husband and I live in a new apartment on Hasan Sabry Street.

Who's coming from the airport today?
I (f.) really do not know.

How many new automobiles does that company want?
It wants 200.
Incredible.

Exercise 2

1. How are you going? By plane?
2. How much do they want?
3. I do not know the Ambassador's telephone number.
4. His wife is standing in the street, and her automobile is not working.
5. Mustapha is staying with us until Thursday.
6. gayyīn bil-utubīis
7. miṛāati 9āwza talāata kīlu mooz
8. mustāfa sāakin fid-dó'i wālla fig-gūza?
9. ínta fáahim kull Háaga?
10. il-utubīis gaay bi-súr9a aw bi-šwees?

Lesson Six

Exercise 1

I'm three years older than you.
The baklava is better than the ice-cream.
Who lives in that white house?
Mounira is beautiful, but Farida is more beautiful.
The red car is newer than the green car.
Which is easier, Arabic or English?
Those two rooms are very small!

Exercise 2

1. Hassan is smaller than Raamiz.
2. That driver is blind! He is a bad driver.
3. Spring is the nicest season.
4. The apples are good, but the oranges are better.
5. Those two books are cheap.
6. ána axáff min Hásan
7. iṣ-ṣeef áHla min iṣ-šíta
8. il-banáat dool gumáal, láakin úxtuh ágmāl
9. iskindiríyya min ágmāl il-múdun il-maṣríyya
10. il-'alaméen iz-zur' dool bi-kaam.

Lesson Seven

Exercise 1

The students studied the fifth lesson the day before yesterday.
They still have not studied the sixth lesson.
What did you (pl.) do in the library?
We wrote letters to our friends in Egypt.
Did you (f.) stay at home all day?
Not at all! I went to town and ordered three silk dresses from a new shop on Suleiman Pasha St.
The workmen did not close the door when they went out.
The Arabs are famous for their poetry.
The doctor took the lift upstairs.

Exercise 2

1. Leila opened the window because inside the house there is no fresh air.
2. The children are happy because the cook has made 'mulukhiyya' again.
3. We went into the restaurant and Abdullah ordered three teas from the waiter. I didn't order anything.
4. Hassan went to Cairo with his friend.
5. Did you live in France before the war or after it.
6. daxálna l-óda s-sáa9a tís9a wi-nuṣṣ

7. madarástiṣ id-dars leeh?
8. húwwa magnúun! ḍárab 9askári wi dīlwá'ti húwwa fis-sign.
9. il-mudárris bitá9na kītīb maqáala 9an il-ahráam.
10. ma'a9ádiṣ 9ašáan húwwa mašghúul.

Lesson Eight

Exercise 1

I understand a little French.
 What will you order in the restaurant? I shall order Feta cheese, the local country bread, Fava beans and olives.
 What do you and your wife study in the university, history or languages? We study neither history nor languages. I study mathematics, and my wife studies science [sciences].
 Time is short. Get in the carriage and get back to the hotel.
 The bill? Don't worry. You don't have to pay the bill today. You can pay tomorrow or the day after.
 Please go into my office and close the drawer.
 They don't know each other yet.

Exercise 2

1. I am listening to Arab music.
2. She understands Arabic well.
3. Her husband is not sitting in his office. I (f.) don't know where he is.
4. The students are doing [writing] their homework. When are you going to do your homework?
5. This is your station. Get off quickly.
6. 9áyza tišrábi eeh?
7. Hayuskúnu fi maṣr múddit tálat šuhúur.
8. miš múmkin árga9 'abl yoom il-gúm9a.
9. matḍrábiṣ il-wálad da! húwwa ášghar mínnaḥ.
10. híyya xáragit min šwáyya láakin Hatírga9 ba9d xámas da'áyyi'

Lesson Nine

Exercise 1

1. Visit the Sphinx.
2. She didn't bring the dessert.
3. He goes to sleep early.
4. Look over there.
5. She said so.
6. Don't go by yourself (f.)
7. You see Adel.
8. I wake up late.
9. We love Egypt.
10. Say [it]!
11. I don't forget names.
12. Answer the telephone.
13. Don't sleep (f.) on the ground.
14. I shall go to Spain.
15. He's carrying the basket.
16. We'll walk together.
17. I sold the flat.
18. I read the article.
19. I was afraid of him.
20. Run!
21. Walking
22. Putting
23. Going (pl.)
24. Fasting
25. Sleeping (f.).

Exercise 2

1. The waiter brought a cup of coffee.
2. I must see the Doctor while he's in the hospital.
3. Hussein saw that girl at the University, and after a while I saw the same girl in the restaurant.
4. Nagiib likes to sleep – he goes to bed early and wakes up late.
5. Have you answered his letter or not yet?
6. zurt il-mátHaf il-isláami wálla l-'ál9a?

7. šáamu fiš-šahr ramadāan.
8. il-fallāaH šaal il-wálad lil-gheet.
9. giib iš-šanta bitá9tak ma9áak.
10. 9ayziin tirúuHu feen ba9d id-ḡuhr yoom is-sabt?

Lesson Ten

1. áywa, fatáHtuh
la, mafataHtuhúuš
2. áywa, gibnáah
la, magibnahúuš
3. zurtúkum
mazurtukúmš
4. áywa, ramáah
la, maramahúuš

Lesson Eleven*Exercise 1*

1. húwwa biyfákkar fi eeh?
húmma biyfakkáru fi eeh?
2. ínta bitfáḡḡal il-bíira 9ála n-nibút.
iHna binfáḡḡal il-bíira 9ála n-nibút.
3. láazim tigháyir hudúmha bi-súr9a.
láazim tighayyíru hudúmkum bi-súr9a.
4. wálduh sáafir aswáan
agdáaduh sáfru aswáan
5. Hásan biydárris 9árabi wálla nglízi?
nádyá wi-Hásan biydarrísu?

Exercise 2

1. il-fallaHíin Háwlu yimawwítu l-Háyya.
2. il-mudarrisíin biyfahhímu t-tulláab id-dars.
3. it-ṭabbaxíin biyHaḡḡáru l-9áša
4. il-9ummáal dool miš Hayḡríbu.

Lesson Twelve*I*

Once Goha was sitting under a hazel-nut tree, and he began to wonder why God [lit. = in what the wisdom that our Lord . . .] let a big tree give forth small nuts while He let the watermelon, so much bigger than a hazel-nut, have a small branch which cannot carry it. From so much thinking Goha fell asleep. Then he suddenly awoke startled by a hazel-nut which had fallen on his head. He said: 'Praise be to God. My Lord I have understood Your wisdom that this big tree doesn't give forth watermelon. [Had it done so, that] would have been the end of me!'

II

Once Goha was walking along and children began to tease him. In order to get rid of them he told them that there was a party at the house of his friend, Hagg 9ali. The children believed him and ran off as fast as they could [lit. = their tails in their teeth]. After they had gone, Goha thought that perhaps there really was a party, and off he ran [he too] to the house of Hagg 9ali.

Lesson Thirteen*Exercise 1*

1. We must learn French.
2. Where will you meet?

3. She graduated last year.
4. It's possible that I may be a bit late.
5. Our friends enjoyed themselves a lot.
6. Speak with him.
7. Don't (pl.) be late!
8. The door opened.
9. He and I must understand one another.
10. The mirror has broken.

Exercise 2

1. húda dáyman bitit'áxxar
húmma dáyman biyit'axxáru
2. ínti Hatitxarrági min ig-gám9a . . .
húwwa Hayitxárrag
3. íHna láazim nit'áabil
íntu láazim tit'áblu
4. húmma biyHíbbu yit9áššu
nabíla bitHíbb tit9ášša
5. it-ṭaalfba l-ingiliiziyya di gat maṣr 9ašáan tit9állim 9árabi
it-ṭulláab il-ingilííz dool gum maṣr 9ašáan yit9allímu 9árabi

Lesson Fourteen*Exercise 1*

1. My father works as a journalist.
2. What will you buy in Khan al-Khalili.
3. Leila got sun-burned.
4. We must ask to be excused now.
5. Hassan bought a new bicycle.
6. May I use your dictionary.
7. All the pedestrians are in a hurry.

Exercise 2

1. húwwa biyištághal muHáami
ínta bitišťághal muHáami
2. il-mudarrísa Hatista'íl búkra
a9ḍáa' il-máglis Hayista'ílu búkra
3. híyya istálamit il-filúus min il-bank
húmma istálamu l-filúus min il-bank
4. ána ištáreét tázkara lil-masraHíyya
miřáati ištárit
5. iš-šuyúux muHtaramín
ra'íisit il-wúzara muHtárama

Lesson Fifteen

1. Being hit by one's beloved is like eating raisins.
2. Laughing without reason is rude.
3. 'wu'úu9 il-bála wála ntizáaruh' means that the happening of misfortune is better than expecting misfortune [to happen].
4. Thoraya likes swimming and horseback riding.
5. Give me three pomegranates please.
6. kálna tuffáaH wi-burtu'áan.
7. it-tadxíin mamnúu9 fis-sínima.
8. mafíiš tafáahum been il-a9ḍáa'.
9. il-máşy fiş-šáari9 da xátar.
10. šurb nibíit kitíir miş kwáyis.

Lesson Sixteen*III*

Once someone gave a rabbit as a present to Goha. A week later someone invited himself to his house on the pretext that he was a friend of the owner of the rabbit [şaaHib şaaHib il-árnab]. Goha

offered him hot water [saying] that it was soup. The man said to him, 'what's this, Goha?' Goha said to him, that is soup of the soup of the rabbit [šúrbit šúrbit il-árnab]!

IV

They asked Goha about marriage. He said to them: 'May God curse those who married before me and those married after me.'

'Why, Goha?'

'Those who married before me because they did not advise me that marriage was so awful.'

'Well, and those who married after you?'

'Because they didn't listen to what I said!'

V

One who was married asked Goha for his opinion on marriage. Goha said to him: 'Marriage is like a barrel which has honey in the top, and then underneath you find nothing but onion.'

The man said to him: 'I swear, from the moment I married it's been all onion.'

Goha replied: 'You should have opened the barrel from underneath!'

ARABIC-ENGLISH GLOSSARY

a

'áabil, yi'áabil to meet (*trans.*)

'aal, yi'úul to say

'aam, yi'úum to get up; wake up

aanísa (anísáat) Miss

'aas, yi'ús to measure; try on

áaxir last

áaya (ayáat) Koranic or Biblical verse

'aa9id, 'a9da, 'a9dün sit(ting); stay(ing)

'ábaḍ, yi'baḍ to get paid

'ábaḍ, yú'buḍ to arrest

ábadan never; ever; not at all

abažúura (abažuráat) lamp(shade)

abb (abbaháat) father

'ábbaḍ, yi'ábbaḍ to pay (wages)

'abl before

'abl ma + vb. before

abriil April

abrii' (abarii') pitcher

abu galámbu crab

ábu l-hool Sphinx

ábyaḍ, béeda, biid white

ádab (adáab) literature, belles lettres; manners

'adam (i'dáam) foot

'add extent

'adda, yi'addi to spend (time)

'addim, yi'addim to present, put forward

'adiim, 'adiima, 'udáam old, ancient

'áfal, yi'fil to close

afrángi, afrangiyya, afráng foreign, 'western'

agáaza (agazáat) holiday, vacation

ággar, yi'ággar to rent

agzági (agzagiyya) pharmacist

agzaxána (agzaxanáat) pharmacy

aghlabiyya majority

aghúṣṭus August
'áhwa coffee; café
áHmar, Hámra, Humr red
áHrag, yíHrig to embarrass
aHyáanan sometimes
akl food
ákram, yíkrim to be hospitable to
'ála, yí'li to fry
'álam (a'láam) pen
'ála9, yí'la9 to undress, take off
alf (aláaf) thousand
'all, yí'll to decrease
alláh God
almáani, almaníyya, almáan German
'ál9a citadel
ámal (amáal) hope
'ámar moon
amúir (úmara) prince
'amH wheat
'amúṣ ('umṣáan) shirt
ámma but; as for
ámmin, yí'ámmín to insure
amr (awáamir) order
amrikáani, amrikaniyya, amrikáan American
ámṭar, tíṣṭir to rain
ána I
anáani, ananíyya, ananiyyiín selfish
anf (unúuf) nose
'ára, yí'ra to read
'áraṣ, yú'ruṣ to sting (e.g. insects); to pinch
arbá9a four
arba9ṭáaṣar fourteen
'ariib ('aráayib) relative
arbi9iín forty
arḍ (aráaḍi) land, ground; floor
árnab (aráanib) rabbit
'árrab, yí'árrab to draw near; be about to
ásad (usúud) lion
ásar (asáar) ancient ruins
ásbat, yísbit to prove

aslam, yíslam to become a Moslem
aswáan Aswan
'aṣd intent
'aṣr ('uṣúur) palace
aṣanṣéer (aṣanṣeráat) lift, elevator
asfar, ṣáfra, ṣufr yellow
aṣl (uṣúul) origin
aṣli, aṣlíyya, aṣliyyiín original
'aṣṣ, yí'uṣṣ to cut (e.g. with scissors)
'atal, yí'til to kill
'áṭa9, yí'ṭa9 to cut; buy a ticket
'aṭr ('uṭuráat) train
aṭraṣ, ṭáraṣa, ṭurṣ deaf
'aṭṭa9, yí'aṭṭa9 to cut (into many pieces)
axḍar, xáḍra, xuḍr green
axúir, axúira, axiriín last; latest
axúiran finally, at last
axráani, axraniyya, axraniyyiín last
áxras, xársa, xurs dumb, mute
áxxar, yí'áxxar to delay
aw or
'áwi very
awwaláani, awwalaniyya, awwalaniyyiín first
áwwil ma + v. as soon as
áwwil, úula, awáa'il first
'áwwim, yí'áwwim to cause to get up
áyḍan also
áywa yes
ayy which?; any
aẓhar, yíẓhir to show
ázra', zár'a, zur' blue
'á9ad, yú'9ud to sit down; stay
á9ma, 9ámya, 9umy blind
á9rag, 9árga, 9urg lame
á9war, 9óora, 9uur one-eyed

b

baab (abwáab) door
baal thought, care

báaligh, yibáaligh to exaggerate
baar (baráat) bar
báarik, yibáarik to bless
báas, yibúus to kiss
báaša, bašawáat pasha
baat, yibáat to stay overnight
baat (baťáat) armpit
báayix, báya, bayxíin unpleasant
baaz, yibúuz to become damaged, spoiled
baa9, yibíi9 to sell
báa'i, bá'ya, ba'yíin remaining
báa'i (small) change
bádal min instead of
bádawi, badawíyya, bádu Bedouin
bádlá (bídal) suit (of clothes)
bádri early
báHas, yibHas to investigate; do research
baHHáar (baHHáara) sailor
baHr (biHáar) sea
baHs research, inquiry
báka, yíbki to weep, cry
baláaš Never mind!
baláat (c.), baláata (s.), (balaťáat) tile(s)
bálad (f.), (biláad) country; town
báladi, baladíyya, baladiyyíin local, native
baladíyya municipality
bálaH (c.) dates
bálťu (baláaťi) overcoat
bámya okra
banafsígi purple
bank (bunúuk) bank
bansyóon (bansyonaat) 'pension', boarding-house
banťalóon (banťalonáat) trousers
báraka (barakáat) blessing
bára, yíbri to sharpen
bára', yúbru' to glitter
bard cold
bardáan, bardáana, bardaníin cold
bárdu also

baríid post, mail
barmíil (baramíil) barrel
barr land (opposite of 'sea')
bárra outside
basíit, basiita, busáat small; trifling
bass only, just
bášal (c.), bášala (s.), (bašaláat) onion
bašš, yibúšš to look
baťáaťiš (c.) potatoes
batn (f.), (buťúun) stomach
baťťaal, baťťáala, baťťaliin bad; unemployed
baťťal, yibaťťal to stop, put a stop to (a habit)
baťťaniyya (baťťaniyyáat) blanket
baťťiix (c.), baťťiixa (s.), (baťťixáat) watermelon
bawwáab (bawwabiin) doorman
báwwaz, yibáwwaz to damage, spoil (*trans.*)
baxíil, baxíila, búxala miser(ly)
baxt luck
bayyáa9 (bayya9íin) seller
báyyađ, yibáyyađ to whitewash
bá9at, yib9at to send
ba9d after
ba9d ma + v. after
ba9déen afterwards, later
ba9đ some; each other
bá'a then, well
bá'a, yib'a to become
ba'dúunis parsley
ba'láawa baklava
ba'síiš baksheesh
ba'' (c.), ba''áaya (s.), (ba''áat) bugs
ba''aal (ba''aliin) grocer
beed (c), béeda (s.), (beđáat) eggs
been between
beet (buyúut) house
bee9 (v.n.) selling, sale
benziin petrol, gasoline
bi by, with
bidingáan (c.), bidingáana (s.), (bidinganáat) eggplant

bidúun without
biḍáa9a (baḍáayi9) merchandise, goods
bihiima (baháayim) beast (of burden)
būba (bibáat) pipe (for smoking)
biir (abáar) well
būra beer
bináaya (binayáat) building
bint (banáat) girl, daughter
birnáamig (baráamig) programme, course
bisilla (c.) peas
bišwées slowly
bitáa9, bitá9t, bitúu9 of, belonging to
bitillu veal
bitróol petroleum
bi9iid, bi9iida, bu9aad far, distant
borg (burúug) tower
buHáyra (buHayráat) lake
búkra tomorrow
buliis police
búndu' (c.), **búndu'a** (s.), **(bundu'áat)** hazel-nuts
bunn coffee
búnni brown
burtu'áan (c.), **burtu'ána** (s.), **(burtu'anáat)** oranges
burtu'áni orange (colour)
búṣṭa post
buṣṭági (buṣṭagiyya) postman
butagáaz Butagaz
buur sa9iid Port Said
búuya (buyáat) paint
buxáar steam
bu9d distance
bu'' mouth

d

da, di, dool this, that, these, those
daar (duur) house
daas, yidúus (9ála) to step on
dáawa, yidáawi to treat (medically)

daax, yidúux to get dizzy
daaxil inside
daayi', yidáayi' to annoy, bother
daa', yidúu' to taste (food)
dabaH, yidbaH to slaughter (by cutting the throat)
dafa9, yidfa9 to push; pay
daf9 (v.n.) paying; payment
dáhab gold
dáhan, yidhin to paint
dall, yidúll to indicate
dállaa9, yidállaa9 to spoil, be too nice to
damm blood
dáraga (daragáat) degree, class
dáras, yidris to study
dárris, yidárris to teach
dars (durúus) lesson
dáwa (m.), **(adwíya)** medicine
dáwla (dúwal) nation
dáwša commotion, noise
dáwwar, yidáwwar (9ala) to look for
dáwwa', yidáwwa' to let s.o. taste
dáxal, yúdxul to enter
dáyman always
dáyya', dayyá'a, dayya'iin narrow
dáyya', yidáyya' to make tight
da'n (f.), **(du'úun)** chin; beard
da'', yidú'' to knock, ring
dibbáan (c.), **dibbána** (s.), **(dibbanáat)** flies
diib (diyáaba) wolf
diik rúumi turkey
diin (adyáan) religion
díini, diníyya, diniyyiin religious
dilwá'ti now
dimáagh brain
dinya world
diráasa (dirasáat) study
diráa9 (adri9a) arm
disimbir December
di'íi'a (da'áayi') minute

dubáara string
dúghri straight
duktóor (dakátra) doctor
duláab (dawalīb) cupboard
durg (adráag) drawer
duxúul (v.n.) entering
duxxáan smoke

d

ḍāani mutton
ḍaa9, yidū9 to be lost
ḍāffa (ḍifāaf) river-bank
ḍahr (ḍuhúur) back
ḍaláam darkness
ḍálma darkness
ḍamūir (ḍamáayir) conscience
ḍarab, yidrab to beat, hit
ḍarb (v.n.) hitting
ḍárba (ḍarbáat) blow
ḍarúuri, ḍaruríyya, ḍaruriyyiín necessary; essential
ḍáyya9, yidáyya9 to lose
ḍeef (ḍuyúuf) guest
ḍidd against
ḍiHik, yidHak to laugh
ḍiHk (v.n.) laughing
ḍoo' light
ḍuhr noon

e

eeh what?

f

faad, yifiid to benefit (trans.)
fāaḍi, fāḍya, fāḍyiín empty; unoccupied
fāaḍil, fāḍla, fāḍliín remain(ing)
fāahim, fāhma, fahmiín understand(ing)

fāakir, fákra, fakriín remember(ing)
faar (firáan) mouse
fāarigh, fārg̃ha, fārg̃hiín empty
fāaṣil, yifāaṣil to bargain
faat, yifúut to pass
faddáan (fadadiín) feddan
fāḍḍa silver
fāḍḍal, yifāḍḍal to prefer
fāh̃him, yifāh̃him to explain, cause to understand
fāHaṣ, yifHaṣ to examine
faHm (c.) coal
fakaháani (fakahaníyya) fruit vendor
fákha (fawáakih) fruit
fakk jaw
fakk, yifúkk to untie; to get change (money)
fákka (small) change
fákkar, yifákkar to think; remind
falláaH, falláaHa, fallaHiín farmer, peasant
fállis, yifállis to be broke, bankrupt
falsáfa philosophy
fann (funúun) art
fannáan, fannána, fannaniín artist
fánni, fanníyya, fanniyyiín technical
fáram, yúfrum to grind
faránsa France
faransáawi, faransawíyya, faransawiiyyiín French
fāraṣ, yifriṣ to spread (e.g. a cloth); furnish
faráwla (c.) strawberries
farHáan, farHána, farHaníín happy
farráaṣ (farraṣiín) office tea-boy and messenger
fárrag, yifárrag to show
fárraH, yifárraH to make joyful
farṣ furniture
fárxa (firáax) chicken
far9 (furúu9) branch
far9óoni, far9oníyya, fará9na Pharaonic
far' (furúu') difference
fássaH, yifássaH to take on an outing
fássar, yifássar to explain

faṣl (fuṣūl) season; classroom
faṣūlya (c.) (green) beans
faššaar (faššariin) braggart
fataH, yiftaH to open
fataš, yiftiš (is-sirr) to disclose (secret)
fattaH, yifattaH to open eyes
fattaaHa (fattaHaat) opener
fatúura (fawatiir) bill
fáwwit, yifáwwit to cause to pass
fazzúura (fawaziir) riddle
fa'ūr, fa'iira, fú'ara poor
feen where?
fi in
fibráayir February
fiḍil, yifḍal to remain, continue
fiḍi, yifḍa to become empty, unoccupied
figl (c.), figla (s.), (figláat) radish
fihim, yifham to understand
fiih there is/are
fikra (afkáar) idea
filfil (c.) pepper
filistiin Palestine
filúus (f.) money
fiṅgáan (fanagiin) cup
firiH, yifraH to feel joyful
fiṣáal (v.n.) bargaining
fiṭir, yiftar to eat breakfast, eat s.th. for breakfast
fi9l (af9aal) verb
foo' over; above
fukáahá humour
fulúuka (faláayik) fellucca (sailing boat)
furn (afráan) oven
fúrša (fúraš) opportunity; occasion
fúrša (fúraš) brush
fúsHa excursion, outing
fustáan (fasatiin) dress
fuṭúur breakfast
fuul sudáani (c.) peanuts
fuul (c.) fava (broad) beans
fúuṭa (fúwat) towel; napkin

g

gaab, yigiib to bring
gáahiz, gáhza, gahziin ready
gáami9 (gawáami9) mosque
gaar (giráan) neighbour
gáawib, yigáawib to answer
gáayiz it's possible
gaay, gáaya, gayiin come (coming)
gaaz kerosine
gaa9, yigúu9 to become hungry
gabáan, gabáana, gúbana coward(ly)
gábal (gibáal) mountain
gáhhiz, yigáhhiz to prepare
gah, yiigi to come
gállid, yigállid to bind (books)
gamáal beauty
gámal (gimáal) camel
gáma9, yigma9 to collect, add
gamb beside
gambári (c.) shrimp, prawn
gamúil, gamúila, gumáal beautiful
gamúu9 all
gamúus (c.), gamúusa (s.), (gawamíis) water buffalo
gam9 plural
gám9a (gam9áat) university
gánna paradise
gánnin, yigánnin to drive mad
ganúub south
garáaž (garažáat) garage
gáras (agraas) bell
gára, yigra to happen
garúida (garáayid) newspaper
garráaH (garaHiin) surgeon
garr, yigúrr to drag
garsóon (garsonáat) waiter
gatóoh cake
gawáab (gawabáat) letter
gaww weather
gayy (= gaay) come (coming)

gázar (c.) carrots
gázma (gízam) shoe
gazmági (gazmagíyya) cobbler
gazzáar (gazzaríin) butcher
ga9áan, ga9áana, ga9aniin hungry
gibna cheese
gidd (gudúud) grandfather
gidda (giddáat) grandmother
giddan very
gidiid, gidiida, gudáad new
gild skin; leather
ginéeh (gineháat) pound, £
ginéena (ganáayin) garden
giri, yigri to run
gism (agsáam) body
gooz (agwáaz) husband
gumhuríyya (gumhuriyyáat) republic
gúmla (gúmal) sentence
gúmruk (gamáarik) Customs
gurnáan (garaníin) newspaper
gúwwa in(side)
gu9ráan (ga9ariin) scarab

gh

ghaab, yighiib to be absent
gháali, ghálya, ghalyiin expensive
ghaar, yighiir (min) to be jealous of; (9ála) be jealously
 protective of
ghxuáyib, gháyba, ghaybiin absent
ghaaz gas
ghaaz, yighiiz to tease; make angry
gháda (m.) lunch
ghádda, yigháddi to give lunch
ghálab, yighlab to beat (in a game)
ghála, yighli to boil (intr.)
ghálta (ghálaṭ) mistake, error
ghaltáan, ghaltáana, ghaltaniin mistaken; at fault
ghámmaḍ, yighámmaḍ to close (eyes)

gháni, ghaníyya, aghniya rich
ghánna, yighánni to sing
gháraḍ (aghráaḍ) object, purpose
gharb west
gharbi, gharbíyya, gharbiyyiin western(er)
ghariib, ghariiba, ghuraba strange(r)
ghásal, yighsil to wash
ghašš, yighišš to cheat, swindle
ghaššáaš, ghaššáaša, ghaššašiin cheater
ghāṭa (ghutyáan) cover
gháyyar, yigháyyar to change
ghazáal (ghizláan) gazelle
ghiliṭ, yighlaṭ to make a mistake
ghili, yighla to become expensive
ghiri', yighra' to drown (intr.)
ghubáar dust
ghuráab (ghirbáan) crow

h

háadi, hádyā, hadyiin calm
haat, háati, háatu bring!
háayil, háyla, hayliin superb
hábaš, yihbiš to snatch
hamm, yihimm to concern
handása engineering; geometry
háram (ahráam) pyramid
háwa (m.) air
háwwa, yiháwwi to ventilate
házzar, yiházzar (má9a) to joke with
hidiyya (hadáaya) gift
hiláal crescent
hina here
hináak there
híndi, hindíyya, hunúud Indian
hiwáaya (hiwayáat) hobby
híyya she
hudúum clothes

húmma they
húwwa he

H

Háadir, Hádra, Haḍrīn present; 'yes, certainly'
Háafi, Háfyā, Hafyīn barefoot
Háaga (Hagáat) thing; something
Haal (aHwáal) condition, state
Háalan at once
Háasib, yiHáasib to add up; settle accounts with
Háawil, yiHáawil to try
Habb, yiHíbb to like; love
Habīb, Habíiba, Habáayib dear, beloved
Hadd someone
Hadd (Hudúud) border, frontier; limit
Hadūd iron (metal)
Hadīs, Hadīsa, Hudáas modern
Hádsa (Hawáadis) accident
Haḍáana kindergarten
Haḍáara, Haḍaráat civilization
Háḍḍar, yiHáḍḍar to prepare
Haḍrít(ak, etc.) you (formal)
Háfar, yúHfur to dig; drill
Háfla (Hafaláat) party (celebration)
Hágar (c.), Hágara (s.), (Hagaráat) stone
Hágaz, yiHgiz to reserve, book
Hagg, yiHigg to go on pilgrimage
Háka, yiHki to relate (a story)
Haláal (religiously) allowed
Haláawa (Halawiyyáat) dessert, sweet
Hálam, yiHlam to dream
Hála' (Hil'áan) ear-ring
Hála', yiHla' to shave
Hállā (Hílal) (cooking) pot
Hállā, yiHállī to eat dessert, (s.th) for dessert
Hall, yiHíll to solve
Hamáam (c.), Hamáama (s.), (Hamamáat) pigeon
Hamd praise (of God)

Hammáam (Hammamaat) bath(room)
Hámmil, yiHámmil to load
Hanaḥfiyya (Hanaḥfiyyáat) tap, faucet
Haṇṭúur (Hanaṭiir) gharry, carriage
Haráam (religiously) forbidden
Haráami (Haramíyya) thief
Haráara temperature; heat
Hára', yiHra' to burn
Harb (Hurúub) war
Harf (Hurúuf) letter (of alphabet)
Harīr silk
Harīi' fire (out of control)
Harr heat
Harráan, Harráana, Harraniin hot
Hásab, yiHsib to count
Hass, yiHiss to feel
Háṣal, yiHṣal to happen
Háṣba measles
Hášara (Hašaráat) insect
Háša, yiHši to stuff (food)
Hašūš grass; hashish
Haššáaš (Haššašīn) hashish addict
Haṭṭ, yiHúṭṭ to put
Hawáli approximately
Háwwal, yiHáwwal to transform
Háwwiš, yiHáwwiš to save, hoard
Hayáah (f.) life
Hayawáan (Hayawanáat) animal
Hayy (aHyáa') neighbourhood, quarter
Hazz luck, good fortune
Ha'ú'a (Ha'áayi') fact
Ha'l (Hu'úul) field
Ha'' (Hu'úu') right(s)
Heet (Heṭáan) wall
Hibr ink
Hidáašar eleven
Hiddáaya (Hiddayáat) kite (bird)
Hidīr, yiHdar to attend
Hifīz, yiHfāz to memorize

Higg pilgrimage
Hila (Hīyal) trick
Hikāaya (Hikayáat) story
Hikma (Hikam) maxim; wisdom
Hilif, yīHlif to swear (e.g., on one's honour)
Hilm (aHlāam) dream
Hilw, Hūlwa, Hilwīn pretty, nice
Hisāab bill; arithmetic
Hiṭṭa (Hiṭaṭ) bit, piece; place
Hizāam (Hizima) belt
Hizb (aHzáab) (political) party
Hooš (aHwāaš) courtyard
Hubb love
Hukm judgement
Hukúuma (Hukumáat) government
Hukúumi, Hukumíyya, Hukumíyyūn governmental
Humáar (Himūr) donkey, ass
Hurriyya freedom
Hurr, Húrra, aHráar free (e.g. politically)
Huṣáan (Hiṣina) horse
Husúul (v.n.) happening

i

'ibil, yī'bal to accept
iblíis Satan, the devil
ibn son
ibtáda, yibtídi to begin
'ibṭi, 'ibtíyya, a'báaṭ Copt, Coptic
ibtidáa'i, ibtida'íyya, ibtida'íyyūn primary, beginning (*adj.*)
iddáayi', yiddáayi' to get upset
idda, yiddi to give
'idim, yí'dam to become ancient
'idir, yí'dar to be able
iḍráab (iḍrabáat) strike (political)
iftákar, yiftikir to think
igáar (igaráat) rent
igtimáa9i, igtima9íyya, igtima9íyyūn social
ihtámm, yihtámm (bi) to be interested in

iHmárr, yiHmárr to be(come) red; get sun-burn
iHna we
iHtáag, yiHtáag to need
iHtáram, yiHtárim to respect
iid (idéen) hand
illa minus; except
illi that, which, who
imáan faith
imbáariH yesterday
ímta when?
imtiHáan (imtiHanáat) exam
in if
inbásaṭ, yinbásiṭ to be happy
ingūil Bible
ingiltíra England
ingilíizi, ingilíziyya, ingilíiz English
inkásar, yinkísir to break (intrans.)
inn that
innahárda today
insáan human being, Man
ínta you (*m.*)
intáag production
ínti you (*f.*)
íntu you (*pl.*)
iqtīṣáad economics
iqtīṣáadi, iqtīṣadíyya, iqtīṣadiyyūn economic
'irš ('urúuš) piastre
isháal diarrhoea
iskindiríyya Alexandria
isláam Islam
isláami, islamíyya, islamiyyūn Islamic
ism (asáami) name
isra'íil Israel
isra'íili, isra'íliyya, isra'íliyyūn Israeli
istághrab, yistághrab to be surprised
istálaf, yistilif to borrow
istálam, yistilim to receive
istánna, yistánna to wait
istaráyyaH, yistaráyyaH to rest

istá9gil, yistá9gil to hurry
 istá9mil, yistá9mil to use
 ista'áal, yista'íil to resign
 istá'zin, yistá'zin to excuse o.s.; ask permission
 istimáara (istimaráat) form (to fill out)
 istiwáana (istawanáat) record
 isti'áala (isti'aláat) resignation
 isti'láal independence
 íswid, sóoda, suud black
 iswíra (asáawir) bracelet
 išáara (išaráat) sign, signal
 išráaf supervision
 istághal, yistághal to work (as)
 ištára, yištíri to buy
 'išta cream
 itfárrag, yitfárrag (9ala) to have a look at, look around, watch
 itgáddid, yitgáddid to be renewed
 itgáwwiz, yitgáwwiz to get married
 itghádda, yitghádda to eat lunch, eat for lunch
 itHáassin, yitHáassin to improve
 itháyya', yitháyya' (li, lu) to seem, appear
 itkállim, yitkállim (má9a) to speak
 itmárran, yitmárran to practice
 itnáaşar twelve
 itnéen two
 ittáfa', yittífi' to agree
 ittiHáad (ittiHadáat) union
 it9állim, yit9állim to learn
 it9ášša, yit9ášša to have dinner
 it'ággil, yit'ággil to be postponed
 it'áxxar, yit'áxxar to be late
 iťálya Italy
 ixtáar, yixtáar to choose
 íza if
 izáa9a broadcasting
 izzáay how?
 i9dáadi, i9dadíyya, i9dadiyyiin preparatory (e.g. school)
 i9láan (i9lanáat) advertisement

k

kaam how many?; a few
 káamil, kámila, kamliin complete, perfect
 kaan, yikúun to be
 káatib (kuttáab) writer; clerk
 kábbar, yikábbar to enlarge
 kabb, yikúbb to pour, spill
 kabriit matches
 kaddáab, kaddaaba, kaddabiin liar
 káffa, yikáffi to be enough
 kaHH, yikúHH to cough
 kahrába electricity
 kahramáan amber
 kaláam talk
 kalb (kiláab) dog
 kállif, yikállif to cost
 kállim, yikállim to speak to
 kal, yaákul to eat
 kamáan also
 kamaliyyaat luxuries
 kámira (kamiráat) camera
 kámmil, yikámmil to complete, continue
 kánaba (kánab) sofa, couch
 kánaka (kanakáat) Arabic coffee pot
 kánas, yiknis to sweep
 karúim, karúima, kúrama generous
 karkadéeh hibiscus
 kásar, yíksar to break
 kasláan, kasláana, kaslaniin lazy
 kássil, yikássil to feel lazy
 kásaf, yíksif to embarrass
 kátab, yiktib to write
 káwa, yíkwi to iron
 káwkab (kawáakib) planet
 káwwan, yikáwwan to form (trans.)
 kazíno (kazinoháat) 'casino' = open-air restaurant
 kazzáab, kazzáaba, kazzabiin liar

kībda liver
kibūr, kibūra, kubáar big; large
kibir, yikbar to become large, grow
kída so, thus
kídib, yíkdib (9ála) to lie (to)
kifáaya enough
kílo kilogram
kiis (akyáas) bag (paper or plastic)
kílma (kilmáat) word
kilomítr kilometer
kílwa (kaláawi) kidney
kiníisa (kanáayis) church
kísib, yíksab to win; gain, profit
kitáaba (v.n.) writing
kitáab (kútub) book
kitiir, kitiira, kutáar many, much; a lot
kízib, yíkzib (9ála) to lie (to)
kóora (kúwar) ball
kóosa (c.) squash
korníiš 'Corniche'
kubbáaya (kubbayáat) drinking glass
kúbri (kabáari) bridge
kull every, all; each
kulliyya (kulliyyáat) college
kummítra (c.) pear
kumsáari (kumsaríyya) ticket collector (on bus, train, etc.)
kuṣṣáasa (kaṣṣáas) notebook
kúrsi (karáasi) chair
kurúmb (c.) cabbage
kuttáab (katatíib) village school
kwáyyis, kwayyísa, kwayyisiin good

I

laa no
láabis, lábsa, labsiin wear(ing)
lāaHiz, yilāaHiz to observe
láakin but
lāa9ib, yilāa9ib to play with s.o.; player

lāa'a, yilāa'i to find; to meet (s.o.)
lában milk
lābbis, yilābbis to dress s.o.
laff, yilaff to turn; wrap; take a walk
lāgha, yilgha to cancel
lāhga (lahgáat) dialect
láHma meat
lamma when
lamúun (c.), lamúuna (s.), lamunáat lemon
lándan London
laṭiif, laṭiifa, luṭáaf nice (of a person)
law if
lāxbaṭ, yilāxbaṭ to muddle, confuse
laziiz, laziiza, luzáaz delicious
la' no
leeh why?
leel night(time)
léela (layáali) night
li for; to
libis, yilbis to get dressed, put on
libya Libya
ligháayit until
liHáaf quilt
líssa not yet; still
li9ib, yil9ab to play
li'ánn because
loon (alwáan) colour
looz (c.) almonds
lubnáan Lebanon
lubnáani, lubnaníyya, lubnaniyyiin Lebanese
lúgha (lugháat) language
lukánda (lukandáat) hotel
lú'sur Luxor

m

máaḍi, máḍya, maḍyiin past
maal (amwáal) wealth, funds, money
máani9 objection

máaris March
máaši okay, all right
máaši, mášya, mašyiin walk(ing)
maat, yimúut to die
máayu May
máblagh (mabáaligh) amount
mabrúuk congratulations!
mabsúuṭ, mabsúuṭa, mabsuṭiin happy, glad
madd, yimidd to stretch, extend
madiina (múduun) city; Medina
madrása (madáaris) school
máḍa, yimḍi to sign
mafhúum understood
mafrúuḍ supposed (to)
mafrúuṣ, mafrúuša, mafaruṣiin furnished
magállā (magalláat) magazine
mághrib sunset, evening
máglis (magáalis) place of gathering and assembly
magnúun, magnúuna, maganiin crazy, mad
maHáll (maHalláat) place
maHátṭa (maHattáat) station
maHduud, maHduuda, maHduḍiin limited
maHfáza (maHáfiz) wallet
makáan (amáakin) place
makaróona macaroni
mákka Mecca
maknása (makáanis) broom
máktab (makáatib) office, desk
maktába (makáatib) library; bookstore
mákwa (makáawi) iron
makwági (makwagiyya) one who irons
mála, yimla to fill
malH salt
málik (mulúuk) king
málika (malikáat) queen
malliim (malaliim) milleme
malyáan, malyána, malyaniin full
mamnúun, mamnúuna, mamnunniin grateful
mána9, yimna9 to prevent; forbid

mandiil (manadiil) handkerchief
mánga (c.), mangáaya (s.), (mangáat) mango
manṭi'a (manáati') area, zone
mánzar (manáazir) view, sight
máṛa woman, wife (cf. **miráatu**)
máṛaḍ (amṛáaḍ) disease
marHála (maráaHil) phase, stage
marúid, marúida, marḍa sick, ill
márkaz (maráakiz) position; centre; station
márkib (f.), (maráakib) ship
máṛra (maṛráat) time(s)
marr, yimúrr to pass
marwáHa (maráawiH) fan
masáafa (masafáat) distance
másaH, yimsaH to wipe
másal (amsaal) proverb, saying
másalan for example
másgid (masáagid) mosque
masiHi, masiHiyya, masiHiyyiin Christian
maskiin, maskiina, masakiin poor, unfortunate; wretched
masraHiyya (masraHiyyáat) play (dramatic)
mássil, yimássil to represent; act
maṣṭára (masáatir) ruler (for school, etc.)
mas'ála (masá'il) matter
mas'uliyya (mas'uliyáat) responsibility
mas'úul, mas'úula, mas'uliin (9an) responsible (for)
maṣláHa (maṣáliH) (Gov't) department
máṣna9 (maṣáni9) factory
maṣr Egypt; Cairo
máṣri, maṣriyya, maṣriyyiin Egyptian
mašghúul, mašghúula, mašghuliin busy, occupied
máṣša, yimáṣši to walk s.o.
máṣwi broiled
mátHaf (matáaHif) museum
matiiin, matiina, mutáan strong
maṭáar (maṭaráat) airport
máṭar rain
mátbax (maṭábix) kitchen
mát9am (maṭáa9im) restaurant

mawḍúu9 (mawaḍi9) subject, matter
mawḡúud, mawḡúuda, mawḡuḍi9 present
mawluud, mawluuda, mawludi9 born
máwwit, yimáwwit to kill
máw'if (mawáa'if) stand, rank
maxṣúuṣ, maxṣúuṣa, maxṣuṣi9 special
máxzan (maxáazin) place of storing
máyya water
máyyit, mayyita, mayyiti9 dead
mázza, 'mezzeh' appetizer
mazḡuut, mazḡuuta, mazḡuti9 correct
má9a with
ma9áad (mawa9iid) appointment
ma9áaṣ (ma9aṣáat) pension
má9bad (ma9áabid) temple
má9dan (ma9áadin) metal
ma9lá'a (ma9áli') spoon
ma9lúum known; 'of course!'
má9mal (ma9áamil) laboratory
má9na (ma9áni) meaning
ma'áala (ma'aláat) article (e.g. in newspaper, journal)
ma'áas (ma'asáat) size
ma'áṣṣ (ma'aṣṣáat) scissors
midáan (mayadi9) city square
mifállis, mifallisa, mifallis9 bankrupt
mihna (mihan) trade, occupation
miHtáag, miHtáaga, miHtagi9 (li) need(ing)
miin who?
múna (mawáni) harbour, port
mikaniki (mikanikiyya) mechanic
miláad (mawali9) birth
milyoon (malayi9) million
min from
minéen from where?
miráaya (marayáat) mirror
mirábba (mirabbáat) jam
mísa evening
misáafir traveller
misáa'an p.m.; in the evening

mísik, yímsik to hold, catch
miṣ not
míši, yímši to walk, go away
mišmiš (c.) apricots
miṣṭ (amšáat) comb
mitḡawwiz, mitḡawwiza, mitḡawwizi9 married
míyya (miyyáat) hundred
mizáan (mawazi9) balance, scales
mizaniyya (mizaniyyáat) budget
mi'yáas in-niil Nilometer
móolid (mawáalid) saint's birthday
moot death
mooz (c.), móoza (s.), (mozáat) bananas
moxx brains
mudárris, mudarrisa, mudarrisi9 teacher
múdda (múdad) period
mudiir (mudiri9) director, manager
mudiriyya (mudiriyyáat) directorate
mufáttiṣ, mufattiṣa, mufattiṣi9 inspector
mufiid, mufiida, mufidi9 useful
múfrad singular
muftáaH (mafati9H) key
mugámma9 complex; central building of Cairo bureaucracy
mugawharáat jewelry
mugtáma9 (mugtama9áat) society
muhándis, muhandisa, (muhandisi9) engineer
muhímm, muhímma, muhimmúum important
muHáami, muHamíyya, muHamiyyi9 lawyer
muHáasib, muHásba, muHasbi9 accountant
muHádra (muHaḍaráat) lecture
muHáfza (muHafzáat) governorate
muHúṭ (muHiṭáat) ocean
muHtáram, muHtárama, muHtarami9 respected
muluxiyya (veg.) Moloukhiyya, favoured Egyptian vegetable
múmkín possible
mumtáaz, mumtáaza, mumtazi9 excellent
munáasib, munásba, munasbi9 appropriate
munásba (munasibáat) occasion
murúur traffic

musáa9id, musá9da, musa9diin helper, assistant
musáli, musalliyya, musalliyyiin fun, amusing
musiiqa music
múslim, musulma, muslimiin Moslem
mustášfa (mustašfayáat) hospital
mustáwa (mustawayáat) level, standard
mustáwrad, mustawráda, mustawradiin imported
mustá'bal future
muškila (mašáakil) problem, difficulty
múšrif, mušrifa, mušrifiin supervisor
mutárgim (mutargimiin) translator
mutašákkir, mutašakkíra, mutašakkiriin thank you
mutawássiṭ, mutawassiṭa, mutawassiṭiin medium; average
mút9ib, mut9iba, mut9ibiin tiring; tiresome
muwáHHad, muwaHHáda, muwaHHadiin unified
muwázẓaf, muwázẓáfa, muwázẓafiin employee
muxtálif, muxtálifa, muxtaliṭiin various, different
mu9állim, mu9allíma, mu9allimiin teacher
mu9a''ad, mu9a''ada, mu9a''adiin complicated; complex(ed)
mu9tádíl, mu9tadíla, mu9tadíliin moderate
mú9ẓam most (of)
mu'áddab, mu'addába, mu'addabiin polite
mu'támar (mu'tamaráat) conference

n

náada, yináadi to call
náadi (nawáadi) club
naam, yináam to sleep, go to sleep
naar (niṭáan) fire
naas people
náasib, yináasib to suit
náašif, nášfa, našfiin dry
náawi, náwya, nawyiin intend(ing)
náayim, náyma, naymiin sleeping
náa'is, ná'sa, na'siin lack(ing), miss(ing)
nabáat (nabatáat) plant
nába' (anbáa') news
nábi (ánbiya) prophet

nabíih, nabíiha, núbaha intelligent
nádah, yíndah to call by shouting
náḍḍaf, yináḍḍaf to clean
náfa9, yínfa9 to be of use
nafs same
nafs (f.) self; soul
nagáaH success
naggáar (naggaríin) carpenter
nággaH, yínággaH to give a passing grade
naháar day(time)
nahr (anháar) river
naHl (c.), náHla (s.), (naHláat) bee
náHya (nawáaHi) side
naml (c.), námla (s.), (namláat) ant
namúus (c.), namúusa (s.), (namusáat) mosquito
nasíim breeze
nášaH, yínšaH to advise
našúib share, portion
našúṭ, našúṭa, nušáaṭ active, energetic
náššif, yináššif to dry (s.th.)
natiiga (natáayig) result
náṭa', yínṭa' to pronounce, utter
naṭṭ, yinúṭṭ to jump
náwwar, yínáwwar to brighten, light up (s.th.)
naxl (c.), náxla (s.), (naxláat) palm-tree
náyyim, yináyyim to cause to sleep
názzil, yínázzil to bring down
naẓariyyan theoretically
náẓẓam, yínáẓẓam to organise
na9am yes
na9náa9 mint
na9sáan, na9sáana, na9saníin sleepy
na'al, yín'il to transfer; transport
na'aš, yún'uš to carve, engrave
na'l transfer; transport
na's decorating, decoration
na''áaš, na''áaša, na''ašiin painter
ná''aš, yiná''aš to decrease
ná''a, yiná''i to choose, select

nibīit wine
niḍīif, naḍīifa, niḍāaf clean
nígma (nugúum) star
niHáas copper
niháaya (nihayáat) end
niháa'i, niha'íyya, niha'íyyiin final
nimr tiger
nímra (nimar) number
nísba (nísab) proportion, percentage
nisbíyyan relatively
nísi, yínsa to forget
nízil, yínzil to descend, go down
nizáam (núzum) order, system
ni'áaba (ni'abáat) trade-union
noom sleep
noo9 (anwáa9) kind, sort
nufimbir November
nufúuz influence
núkta (núkat) joke
nuṣṣ half
nuṭ' pronunciation
núubi, nubíyya, nubiyyiin Nubian
nuur (anwáar) light

o

óḍa (ówaḍ) room

q

qáarin, yiqáarin to compare
qamúus (qawamíis) dictionary
qárya (qúra) village
qáwmi, qawmíyya, qawmiyyiin national
qism (aqsaám) division; department (e.g. university)
qiṣṣa (qíṣaṣ) story
qur'áan Koran

r

ráabi9 fourth
ráagil (riggáala) man
ráaHa rest, comfort
raaH, yirúuH to go, go to
rákib, rákba, rakbíin ride (riding)
raas (ruus) head
ráayiH, ráyHa, rayHíin go(ing)
rabaṭ, yúrbut to tie
rabb Lord
rábba, yirábbi to raise, bring up
rabfi9 spring (season)
radd, yirúdd (9ala) to reply to
rádyu (radyuháat) radio
ráḍa, yirḍa to please, satisfy
ráfa9, yirfa9 to lift, raise
raff (rufúuf) shelf
rágga9, yirágga9 to return (s.th.), give back
ráHHab, yiráHHab (bi) to welcome
rákkiz, yirákkiz to concentrate
ramáadi grey
ramaḍáan Ramadan
ráma, yirmi to throw
raml (rimáal) sand
rámma, yirámmi to scatter, throw away
ramz (rumúuz) symbol
rann, yirínn to ring; clink (of a coin)
rásmi, rasmíyya, rasmiyyiin official (*adj.*)
rasúul (rúsul) Messenger (of God)
raṣīif (arṣífa) pavement
ráttib, yiráttib to put in order, arrange
raṭl (arṭáal) Egyptian weight = approx. 1 lb.
ráwa, yirwi to irrigate, water
ráwwaH, yiráwwaH to go home
rayy irrigation, watering
ráyyaH, yiráyyaH to relieve
rá'aba (ri'áab) neck
rá'ad, yúr'ud to rest, take a catnap

rá'aş, yúr'uş to dance
 ra'îis (rú'asa) president, chief
 ra'îisi, ra'isiyya, ra'isiyyîn principal, main
 rá'şa dance
 ra'y (arâa') opinion
 reżîim diet
 righîif (arghîifa) loaf
 rigi9, yirga9 to return to
 rigl (rugúul) foot; leg
 riHla (riHlâat) trip, journey
 riif (aryâaf) country(side)
 riîH (aryâaH) wind
 rûîHa (rawâayiH) smell
 rûîša (riyaş) feather
 rîkib, yîrkab to ride, mount
 rimş (rumúuš) eyelash
 risâala (rasâayil) thesis
 riwâaya (riwayâat) novel (*n.*)
 rixîiş, rixîîša, ruxâaş cheap
 rîxiş, yîrxaş to become cheap
 riyâada sport(s); mathematics
 rî'a lung
 rub9 (arbâa9) quarter
 rufâyya9, rufayyâ9a, rufayya9îin thin
 rugúu9 (*v.n.*) return (*intr.*)
 rûkba (rûkab) knee
 rukn (arkâan) corner
 rukúub (*v.n.*) riding
 rummâan (*c.*), rummâana (*s.*), rummanâat pomegranate
 rûsya Russia
 ruţûuba humidity
 ruuH (arwâaH) soul
 rûumi, rumîyya, rumiyyîin European
 rûusi, rusîyya, ruus Russian
 rûxşa (rûxaş) license
 ruzz rice

s

sâabi9 seventh
 sâabi', sâb'a, sab'îin preceding
 saab, yisiîb to leave
 sâada (of coffee) without sugar
 sâadis sixth
 sâafir, yisâafir to travel (to)
 saagh piastre
 sâakin, sâkna, sakniîn live (living), residing
 sâakin, sâkna, sukkâan inhabitant
 sâakit, sâkta, saktîin silent
 sâawa, yisâawi to equal
 sâa9a (sa9âat) hour; watch, clock
 sâa9id, yisâa9id to help
 sâa'i9, sâ'9a, sa'9îin cold (e.g. drink)
 saa', yisûu' to drive
 sâbab (asbâab) reason, cause
 sâbagh, yûsbugh to dye
 sâbat (isbîta) basket
 saba9tâaşar seventeen
 sâba', yîsba' to precede
 sabbâak (sabbakîin) plumber
 sabb, yisibb to curse, swear
 sâb9a seven
 sab9îin seventy
 sadd (sudûud) dam
 sâdda', yisâdda' to believe
 sâfar travel
 safîir (sûfara) ambassador
 sâggil, yisâggil to record, register
 sâhhil, yisâhhil to make easy, facilitate
 sahl, sâhla, sahlîin easy
 saHâab (*c.*), saHâaba (*s.*), (sûHub) cloud
 sâaHil (sawâaHil) shore
 sâkan, yûskun to inhabit, live
 sakráan, sakráana, sakranîin drunk
 salâam peace
 salâama safety

sállim, yisállim to deliver; (9ála) greet; (of God) give peace or safety
sáma sky
sámaH, yísmaH (li) to allow
sámak (c.) fish
sammáak (sammakíin) fishmonger
sámma, yisámmi to name
sána (siníin or sanawáat) year
sanawíyya secondary (school)
sánawi, sanawíyya, sanawiyyíin annual
sandawítš (sandawitšáat) sandwich
sánya (sawáani) second (of time)
saqáafa culture
sára', yísra' to steal
saríi9, saríi9a, sari9íin fast
sáwa together
sawwáaH, sawwáaHa, sawwaHíin tourist
sawwáa' (sawwa'íin) driver
saxíif, saxíifa, súxafa silly, foolish
sáxxan, yisáxxan to heat
sáyyid (sáada) gentleman, Mr.
sa9íida hello
sa9udíyya Saudi Arabia
sa9úudi, sa9udíyya, sa9udiyyíin Saudi
sá'al, yís'al to ask
sa''áara Saqqaara
seef (suyúuf) sword
sibáaHa (v.n.) swimming
síbHa (síbaH) prayer-beads, rosary
sibtímbir September
sifáara (sifaaráat) embassy
sigáara (sagáayir) cigarette
siggáada (sagagíid) carpet
sign (sugúun) prison
síhir, yíshar to stay up late
siidi sir
siína Sinai
sikirtéera (sikirteráat) secretary
síkit, yúskut to be quiet

sikkíina (sakakíin) knife
síllim (saláalim) ladder
simíin, simíina, sumáan fat
simi9, yísma9 to hear
simsáar (samásra) broker
sinima (sinimáat) cinema
sinn age
sinna (sináan) tooth
sír'a theft
siríir (saráayir) bed
sitáara (satáayir) curtain
sitt (sittáat) woman
sítta six
siṭṭáašar sixteen
sittíin sixty
siyáasa (siyasáat) politics; policy
siyási, siyasiyya, siyasiyyíin political
si9r (as9áar) price
sudáan Sudan
súfra dining table
sufraḡi (sufragíyya) butler
suhúula ease
suHúur daily pre-fast meal in Ramadan
súkkar (c.) sugar
surúur pleasure
súrya Syria
súr9a speed
súuri, suríyya, suriyyíin Syrian
suu' evil
suu' (aswáa') market
suxn, súxna, suxníin hot
suxxáan (suxxanáat) water heater
su'áal (as'íla) question

§

šáafi, šáfya, šafyíin clear (e.g. weather)
šaaHib (ašHáab) friend; owner
šála (šaláat) hall

řáaliH, yisáaliH to make up with
 řaam, yiřúum to fast
 řabáaH morning
 řabáaHan in the morning, a.m.
 řábar, yušbur to be patient
 řabb, yiřúbb to pour
 řábi, řabiyya (řubyáan) young boy or girl
 řabr patience
 řabúun soap
 řádaf (c.) sea-shells
 řadr chest (anatomy)
 řaff (řufúuf) row
 řáffar, yiřáffar to whistle
 řáfHa (řafaHáat) page
 řafiiHa (řafaáyiH) large tin
 řáHba (řaHbáat) (f.) friend; (f.) owner
 řaHH, yiřáHH to be correct (3rd pers. s. only)
 řaHiiH correct
 řaHn (řuHúun) plate, dish
 řáHra desert
 řaHráawi, řaHrawíyya, řaHrawiyyiin desert (adj.)
 řaHw, řáHwa clear (weather)
 řala prayer
 řálařa salad
 řállah, yiřállah to repair
 řállah, yiřállah to pray
 řána9, yiřna9 to manufacture
 řándal (řanadiil) sandal(s)
 řaniyya (řawáani) tray
 řánři centimeter
 řaráaHa frankness
 řaraf, yiřrif to spend
 řarráaf (řarrafiin) money changer; cashier
 řarúux (řawariix) rocket
 řařH (řuřúuH) roof
 řařr (řuřúur) line (e.g. of text)
 řáwwar, yiřáwwar to photograph
 řaxr (řuxúur) rock
 řaydáli (řaydalíyya) pharmacist

řáyyif, yiřáyyif to spend the summer
 řa9b, řa9ba, řa9biin difficult
 řa9fiidi, řa9idiyya, řa9áyda Upper Egyptian
 řa99ab, yiřa99ab to make (s.th.) difficult
 řeef summer
 řiHHa health
 řiin China
 řináa9a (řina9aat) industry
 řináa9i, řina9iyya, řina9iyyiin industrial
 řiyáam (v.n.) fasting
 řoom fasting
 řoot (ařwáat) voice; vote
 řubáa9 (řawáabi9) finger; toe
 řubH morning
 řudáa9 head-ache
 řúdfa chance
 řugháyyar, řughayyára, řughayyariin small; young
 řúHafi (řuHafiyyiin) journalist
 řulH peace
 řultáan (řalařiin) Sultan
 řuuf wool
 řúufi Sufi
 řúura (řúwar) picture, photograph
 řu9úuba difficulty

ř

řaab (řabáab) young man
 řaaf, yiřúuf to see
 řaal, yiřiil to carry; remove
 řáari9 (řawáari9) street
 řáařir, řářra, řuřřaar clever
 řáaři' (řawáaři') beach
 řaay tea
 řáayif, řáyfa, řayfiin seeing
 řábaka (řabakáat) net
 řadd, yiřidd to pull
 řáfa, yiřfi to recover, be cured
 řagáa9a courage

šágar (c.), šágara (s.), (ašgáar) tree(s)
 šágga9, yišágga9 to encourage
 šaghghaal, šaghgháala, šaghghaliin working
 šaghghal, yišaghghal to operate
 šaháada (šahadáat) certificate
 šáHat, yišáHat to beg
 šáHHat, yišáHHat to give to a beggar
 šaHm grease
 šaHn (v.n.) loading
 šahr (ášhur or šuhúur) month
 šáhri, šahriyya, šahriyyiin monthly
 šákar, yúškur to thank
 šakk (šukúuk) doubt
 šakl (aškáal) shape
 šákwa (šakáawi) complaint
 šamáal north
 šamm, yišímm to smell (s.th.)
 šams (f.) sun
 šam9 wax
 šám9a (šam9áat) candle
 šánṭa (šúnaṭ) suitcase, bag, briefcase
 šaráab (šarabáat) socks
 šaraf honour
 šaraH, yišraH to explain
 šariik (šuraka) partner
 šarr evil
 šarraṭ, yišarraṭ to honour
 šarṭ (šurúṭ) condition
 šar' east
 šár'i, šar'íyya, šar'íyyiin eastern(er)
 šataráng chess
 šáwa, yišwi to grill
 šawíiš (šawišíyya) sergeant
 šaxš (ašxáaš) person
 šaxšíyya (šaxšíyyáat) personality
 šaxši, šaxšíyya, šaxšíyyiin personal, private
 šayyáal (šayyalíin) porter
 ša9b (šu9úb) people, folk
 ša9bi, ša9bíyya, ša9bíyyiin popular, of the common people

ša9r hair
 šá''a (šú'a') apartment
 šeex (šuyúux) sheikh
 šee' (ašyáa') thing
 šibbáak (šababíik) window
 šibšib (šabáašib) slippers
 šiik (šikáat) cheque
 šimáal left (-hand side)
 širib, yišrab to drink
 širiṭ (šaráayṭ) tape; cassette
 širka (šarikáat) company
 šíta winter
 ši9r poetry
 šóoka (šúwak) fork
 šugáa9, šugáa9a, šug9áan brave
 šughl work
 šukr thanks, gratitude
 šúkran thank you
 šurb (v.n.) drinking
 šúrba soup
 šwáyya a little; slowly

t

taag (tigáan) crown
 táagir (tuggáar) merchant, trader
 táalit, táлта third
 táamin, támna eighth
 táani again
 táani, tánya second
 táani, tánya, tanyíin other
 táasi9, tása9a ninth
 tába9, yítba9 to follow
 tadrīb training
 tadxíin smoking
 tafáahum (mutual) understanding
 tafkíir thinking
 tafšíil (tafašíil) detail
 tagdíid renewal

taghyiir change (*trans.*)
taHiyya (taHiyyaat) greeting(s)
taHriir liberation
taHsiin improvement
taHt under
takábbur haughtiness
takmíla completion
takriir repeating; refining
taks taxi
taláata three
talatíin thirty
talaṭṭáašar thirteen
talg ice; snow
talláaga (tallagáat) refrigerator
tamáam exactly
táman (atmáan) price
tamanṭáašar eighteen
tamánya eight
tamriin (tamrináat) drill, exercise
taṇḍiif cleaning
tanziim organising
taqliid (taqaliid) tradition, convention
tárgim, yitárgim to translate
targumáan interpreter, 'dragoman'
tariix (tawariix) date; history
tartiib arrangement
tár'iya promotion
tasgiil recording (e.g. words, music), registering
tashilil (tashiláat) facility; facilitating, making easy
tawzií9 distribution
taxáşşuş specialization
taxziin storing
tazkára (tazáakir) ticket
ta9áala (-i, -u) come!
ta9báan, ta9báana, ta9baníin tired; sick
tá9lab (ta9aalib) fox
ta9liim (ta9limáat) instruction(s); teaching
ta9liiq commentary
ta9riifa half-piastre

ta'riiban approximately
ta'rriir (ta'ariir) report
tigáara trade, commerce
tiin (c.) figs
tilifóon (tilifonáat) telephone
tilivizyóon (tilivizyonáat) television
tilmíiz (talámza) pupil, student
tilmíiza (tilmizáat) (f.) pupil, student
tilt (atláat) third
timsáal (tamasíil) statue
tír9a (tíra9) channel, irrigation canal
tisa9ṭáašar nineteen
tís9a nine
tis9iin ninety
tixiin, tixiina, tuxáan fat
tí9ib, yít9ab to get tired
ti'íl, ti'íila, tu'áal heavy
toom (c.) garlic
tuffáaH (c.), tuffáaHa (s.), (tuffaHáat) apple
tugáari, tugariyya, tugariyyiin commercial
turáab dust
turkúya Turkey
túrki, turkiyya, (atráak) Turk(ish)
turmáay (turmayáat) tram(way), streetcar

!

ṭáabi9 (ṭawáabi9) stamp
ṭaalib (ṭulláab or ṭalaba) student
ṭaaliba (ṭalibáat) (f.) student
ṭaar, yiṭiir to fly
ṭáaza (invar.) fresh (of food)
ṭábax, yúṭbux to cook
ṭaba' (aṭbáa') plate
ṭabbáax, ṭabbáaxa, ṭabbaxiin cook
ṭabiib (aṭibbáa') doctor
ṭabií9a nature
ṭabií9i, ṭabi9iyya, ṭabi9iyyiin natural
ṭabúur (ṭawabiir) queue, line (of people)

ṭabx (*v.n.*) cooking
ṭáb9an of course
ṭáfa, yíṭfi to extinguish, put out; turn off
ṭaffáaya (ṭaffayáat) ashtray
ṭálab (ṭalabáat) request, demand; application
ṭálab, yúṭlub to demand, ask for, order (in a restaurant)
ṭállá', yíṭállá' divorce
ṭáma9 greed
ṭammáa9, ṭammáa9a, ṭamma9iín greedy
ṭaqs weather
ṭaráawa softness; coolness (weather)
ṭarabéeza (ṭarabezáat) table
ṭarbúuś (ṭarabiiś) tarboosh, fez
ṭard (ṭurúud) parcel
ṭarii' (ṭúru') way
ṭarii'a (ṭúru') means, method
ṭawíil, ṭawíila, ṭuwáal tall, long
ṭáwla backgammon
ṭawwáali straight ahead
ṭayaráan (*v.n.*) aviation, flying
ṭayyáara (ṭayyaráat) airplane
ṭáyyib all right, okay
ṭáyyib, ṭayyiba, ṭayyibiín good
ṭa9míyya felafel, a deep-fried vegetable dish
ṭá99am, yíṭá99am to inlay
ṭibb (the field of) medicine
ṭifi (aṭfáal) child
ṭiHiína tahina, sesame paste
ṭiín mud
ṭili9, yíṭla9 to climb, go up
ṭuul length

u

'uddáam in front of
úghniya (agháani) song
úgra fee, fare
ukazyóon (ukazyonáat) sale (at reduced prices)
uktóobar October

'uláyyil, 'ulayyíla, 'ulayyiliín little (amount)
'umáaś cloth
umm (ummaháat) mother
unbúuba (anabíib) pipe (plumbing)
urúbba Europe
urúbbi, urubbíyya, urubbiyyiín European
usbúu9 (asabíi9) week
uslúub (asaliib)
úṣṭa (used to address taxi drivers, etc.)
ustáaz (asátza) professor
utubiis (utubisáat) bus
úula (f.) first
'uráyyib near, soon
'uśáyyar, 'uśayyára, 'uśayyaríín short
'úuṭa (c.) tomatoes
uxt (ixwáat) sister

w

wáadi (widyáan) valley
wáaḍiH, waḍHa, waḍHiín clear
wáafi', yiwáafi' (9ála) to agree (on)
wáagib (wagibáat) duty; homework
wáaHid (wáHda) one
wáalid father
wáasi9, wás9a, was9iín wide, spacious
wáaṭi, wáṭya, waṭyiín low
wáaxid, wáxda, waxdiín (have) taken
wáa'if, wá'fa, wa'fiín stop(ping); stand(ing)
wádda9, yiwádda9 to bid farewell, see off
wádda, yiwáddi to take to a place, deliver
wáḍḍab, yiwáḍḍab to arrange; pack (a suitcase)
wáffar, yiwáffar to save (e.g. money)
wága9, yíwga9 to hurt
wáHaś, yíwHaś to be missed by
wálad (awláad) boy; son
wálda mother
wálla or
walláa9a (walla9áat) (cigarette-)lighter

wállā9, yiwállā9 to light, ignite; switch on
wára behind
wára' (c.) **wára'a** (s.), (**awráa'**) paper
ward (c.), **wárda** (s.), **wardaat** flower
wárra, yiwárri to show
wárša (wíraš) workshop
wasíla (wasáa'il) method
wasťāni, wasťaniyya, wasťaniyyiín intermediate
wásťa someone who can pull strings for you
wášsal, yiwášsal to take somewhere, deliver
wátan (awťaan) native country
wátťa, yiwátťi to lower (e.g. volume)
wáxri, waxriyya, waxriyyiín late
wáyya with
wázan, yíwzin to weigh (trans.)
waziir (wúzara) minister
wázza9, yiwázza9 to distribute
wá9ad, yíw9id to promise
wá'a9, yú'a9 to fall
wa't time
wá''af, yiwá''af to stop
wi and
widn (f.), (widáan) ear
wíHiš, wíHša, wíHšiín bad; ugly
wíldit, tíwliđ to give birth
wíli9, yíwla9 to catch fire, be lit
wísix, wíxxa, wíxxiín dirty
wířil, yíwřal to arrive (at)
wířř (wuřúuř) face
wizáara (wizaráat) ministry
wizz (c.) goose
wí'if, yú'af to stop; stand up
wi-Hyáat(ak, etc.) please
wuđúuH clarity
wugúud presence, existence
wuřúul arrival

x

xaaf, yixáaf (min) to be afraid of; (**9ála**) be afraid for
xaal (xiláan) maternal uncle
xáala (xaláat) aunt
xáaliř extremely
xaam raw, crude
xáamis fifth
xáani', yixáani' to quarrel
xáarig outside
xaařř, xáařřa, xařřiín special; private
xáatim (xawáatim) ring (for finger)
xáayif, xáyfa, xayfiín afraid
xábar (axbáar) news
xabbáaz, xabbáaza, xabbaziín baker
xábbar, yixábbar to inform
xábbat, yixábbat (9aléehum) to knock (at s.o.'s door)
xabiir (xubara) expert
xádam, yíxdim to serve
xaddáam, xaddáama, xaddamiín servant
xad, yáaxud to take
xaff, yixíff to become light (weight); to get well
xafiif, xafiifa, xufáaf light(weight)
xaláař finished; agreed, okay
xála', yíxla' to create
xaliifa (m.), (xúlafa) caliph
xaliig (xulgáan) gulf
xall vinegar
xállāř, yixállāř to finish
xálla, yixállí to let, leave, allow
xamasíín the Khamseen (wind and sandstorm)
xamařťāařar fifteen
xámra (xumúur) wine
xámsa five
xamsíín fifty
xanziir (xanaziir) pig, pork
xárag, yúxrug to go out
xarbáan, xarbáana, xarbaníín broken (down); out of order
xárbiř, yixárbiř to scratch

xariif autumn
xariif̣a (**xarāayif̣**) map
xarúuf (**xirfāan**) sheep
xaşş (c.) lettuce
xass, **yixiss** to lose weight
xášab (c.) wood
xášabi, **xaşabíyya**, **xaşabiyyiin** wooden
xaşş, **yixúşş** to enter
xátam, **yixtim** to stamp, frank
xátab, **yúxtub** to get engaged to
xaṭar (**axṭáar**) danger
xaṭṭ (**xuṭúut**) hand-writing, calligraphy
xaṭṭáaṭ (**xaṭṭaṭiin**) calligrapher
xawáaga (**xawagáat**) foreign gentleman
xáwwif, **yixáwwif** to frighten
xayyáaṭa (**xayyaṭáat**) seamstress
xáyyaṭ, **yixáyyaṭ** to sew
xáyyim, **yixáyyim** to pitch a tent
xeel (c.) horses
xeer good(ness)
xibra experience
xidma (**xadamáat**) service
xígil, **yíxgal** to be ashamed, embarrassed
xiliş, **yixlaş** to end, be finished
xiyáar (c.) cucumber
xoox (c.) peaches
xuḍáar vegetables
xums one-fifth
xumsumíyya five hundred
xusáara (**xasaayir**) loss
xuşúuşan especially
xuşúuşi, **xuşuşíyya**, **xuşuşiyyiin**

y

ya O . . . (*vocative*)
yabáan Japan
yabáani, **yabaníyya**, **yabaniyyiin** Japanese
yádawi, **yadawíyya**, **yadawiyyiin** handmade

yadd [= iid] (*f.*) hand
yahúudi, **yahudíyya**, **yahúud** Jew(ish)
yálla let's go; hurry up!
yanáayir January
yaréet would that it were so
yatára I wonder if . . .
yá9ni it means; in other words
yimiin right (-hand side)
yoom (**ayyáam**) day
yúlyu July
yunáan Greece
yunnáani, **yunaníyya**, **yunaniyyiin** Greek
yúnyu June

z

zaad, **yiziid** to increase (*intr.*)
záakir, **yizáakir** to study
zaar, **yizúur** to visit
záayir, **záyra**, **zuwwáar** visitor
záHma crowd; crowded (*invar.*)
zamáan time; long ago
zára9, **yizra9** to plant, cultivate
zatúun olives
záwwid, **yizáwwid** to (cause to) increase
zayy like
zayy ma just like
zá9al anger
za9láan, **za9láana**, **za9laniin** angry
zá99al, **yizá99al** to anger
zá99a', **yizá99a'** (*li*) to shout at
za'', **yizú''** to push
zeet (**zuyúut**) oil
zibáala garbage
zibda butter
zibúun, **zibúuna**, **zabáayin** customer
zift tar; (*idiom.*) terrible
zihi', **yizha'** (*min*) to get bored of
ziina (**zináat**) decoration

zimīl (zúmala) colleague
ziráa9a agriculture
ziráa9i, zira9iyya, zira9iyyīn agricultural
ziyáada (ziyadáat) increase
ziyáara (ziyaráat) visit
zi9il, yiz9al (min) to be angry with; (**9ála**) feel sorry for
zúkáam (head-)cold
zu'áa' alley

ṣ

ṣáabiṭ (ṣubbaaṭ) officer
ṣábaṭ, yúzbuṭ to control; set (a watch)
ṣáhar, yizhar to appear
ṣálam, yizlim or yúzlum to oppress
ṣann, yizunn or yizinn to think (that); be of the opinion
ṣarf (ṣurúuf) envelope
ṣulm tyranny

9

9a (= 9ála) on
9áada (9adáat) habit, custom
9áadatan usually
9ádi, 9adíyya, 9adiyyīn ordinary, usual
9aad, yi9iid to repeat, do again
9aag ivory
9áakis, yi9áakis to tease, bother; flirt with
9áalam world
9áli, 9álya, 9alyīn high
9aam, yi9úum to swim
9aam (a9wáam) year
9áamil (9ummáal) worker
9áamil, yi9áamil to treat
9áamil, 9ámila, 9amlīn do(ing), make (making)
9aamm, 9amma public, general
9áarif, 9árfa, 9arfīn know(ing)
9aaṣifa (9awáaṣif) storm
9aaš, yi9iis to live

9aawiz, 9áwza, 9awziin want(ing)
9áayiz, 9áyza, 9ayziin want(ing)
9aaz, yi9úuz to want, need
9abiṭ, 9abiṭa, 9ubṭ stupid, idiotic
9add (a9dáad) number
9addáad (9addadáat) meter (e.g., of a taxi)
9ádda, yi9áddi to cross; exceed
9add, yi9idd to count
9ads lentils
9adúuw (a9daa') enemy
9aḍḍ, yi9úḍḍ to bite (of animals & insects)
9aḍm (c.) bone
9áfa, yi9fi (min) to exempt from
9afriṭ (9afariṭ) demon, imp; naughty child
9afš luggage
9áfwan Don't mention it (resp. to **šukran**)
9ágab, yi9gib to please
9ágala (9agaláat) bicycle
9agúuz (9awagúuz) old man
9aẓiim, 9aẓiima, 9uẓáam great
9aks opposite
9ála on
9álam (a9láam) flag
9alašáan because, for, in order to
9állim, yi9állim to teach
9ámal work
9amáliyya (9amaliyyáat) operation
9amaliyyan practically
9ámali, 9amáliyya, 9amaliyyīn practical
9ámal, yi9mil to do, make
9amm (9imáam) paternal uncle
9ámma (9ammáat) paternal aunt
9an about
9and at, 'chez'
9arabíyya (9arabiyyáat) car, automobile
9árabi, 9arabíyya, 9árab Arab, Arabic
9ára' sweat
9arbági (9arbagiyya) driver (of horse and carriage)
9arḍ (9urúuḍ) offer

9ariis (9irsáan) bridegroom
 9árraf, yi9árraf to introduce
 9arúusa (9aráayis) bride; doll
 9ásal honey
 9áskari (9asáakir) policeman; soldier
 9ášab (a9šáab) nerve
 9ašábi, 9ašabiyya, 9ašabiyyiin nervous
 9ášar, yi9šur to squeeze
 9ašūr juice
 9ašr (9ušūr) era
 9áša dinner
 9ašáan because, for, in order to
 9ášara ten
 9ášša, yi9ášši to give dinner
 9átaš thirst
 9aṭlāan, 9aṭlāana, 9aṭlanīn out of order
 9aṭšāan, 9aṭšāana, 9aṭšanīn thirsty
 9aṭṭal, yi9aṭṭal to obstruct
 9áwwim, yi9áwwim to cause to swim
 9ayyāan, 9ayyāana, 9ayyanīn sick, ill
 9áyyaṭ, yi9áyyaṭ to cry, weep
 9áyyin, yi9áyyin to appoint
 9ázam, yi9zim (9ála) to invite (for)
 9ázzil, yi9ázzil to move in (to a new residence)
 9a'd (9u'úud) contract
 9á'rab (9a'áarib) scorpion
 9eeb shame
 9éela (9eláat) family
 9een (9uyūun) eye
 9eeš bread
 9ibáara (9ibaráat) expression
 9iid (a9yáad) festival, holiday
 9iláa'a (9ila'áat) relation
 9ílba (9íláb) small tin or box
 9ílmi, 9ilmíyya, 9ilmiyyīn scientific
 9imáara (9imaráat) building
 9ínab (c.) grapes
 9inwáan (9anawīn) address, title
 9iráa': il-9iráa' Iraq

9iráa'i, 9ira'íyya, 9ira'íyyīn Iraqi
 9írif, yi9raf to know
 9išrīn twenty
 9iṭiš, yi9ṭaš to get thirsty
 9iyáada (9iyadáat) doctor's office
 9íyi, yi9ya to get ill
 9izz honour, glory
 9oom (v.n.) swimming
 9uḍw (a9dáa') member
 9úmda (9úmad) headman (in village)
 9umr life(time)
 9umúuman generally
 9uzúuma (9uzumáat) invitation; dinner party
 9u'báal(-ak), etc.) May (you) be next

ENGLISH-ARABIC GLOSSARY

a

able 'áadir; to be able 'ídir, yí'dar
about 9an (= concerning); Hawáli (= approximately)
above foo'
absent gháayib; **to be absent** ghaab, yighiib
to accept 'ibil, yí'bal
accident Hádsa (Hawáadis)
account Hisáab (Hisabáat)
accountant muHásib, muHásba, muHasbūn
accustomed to mit9áwwid, mit9awwída, mit9awwidīn 9ála
to act (on stage) mássil, yimássil
acting tamsiil
active našiit, našiita, nušáat
actor mumássil (mumássiliin)
address 9inwáan (9anawīn)
administration idáara
to advise náṣaH, yínṣaH
afraid xáyif, xáyfa, xayfīn; **to be afraid** xaaf, yixáaf
after ba9d; ba9d ma + v.
afternoon ba9d id-ḍuhr
afterwards ba9déen
again táani; márra tánya
against ḍidd
age sinn; 9umr
to agree ittáfa', yittífi'
agricultural ziráa9i, zira9íyya, zira9iyyīn
agriculture ziráa9a
air háwa
airmail baríid gáwwi
airplane ṭayyáara (ṭayyaráat)
airport maṭáar (maṭaráat)
air-conditioner mukáyyif háwa
Alexandria iskindiríyya
all kull; gamíi9
also bárdū; kamáan
although ma9'inn
always dáyman

ambassador saffir (súfara)
amber kahramáan
America amríka
American amrikáni, amrikaníyya, amrikáan
amount máblagh (mabáaligh)
ancient 'adūm, 'adūma, 'udáam
and wi or wa
angry za9láan, za9láana, za9lanīn; (**to be angry** =) zí9il, yíz9al
animal Hayawáan (Hayawanáat)
annual sánawi, sanawíyya, sanawíyyīn
another táani
answer gawáab (agwíba); **to answer** gáawib, yigáawib
antique antíika (antikáat)
antiquities asáar
any ayy
anyway 9ála kull Haal
apartment šá'a (šú'a)
apples tuffáaH (c.)
application (form) istimáara (istimaráat)
appointment ma9áad (mawa9íid)
to approach 'árrab, yi'árrab
apricots mišmiš (c.)
April abríil
Arab 9árabí, 9arabíyya, 9árab
area manṭí'a (manáati')
arm diráa9 (adri9a)
armpit baat (baṭáat)
army geeš (guyúuš)
to arrange ráttib, yiráttib
to arrest 'ábaḍ, yí'baḍ (9ála)
arrival wuṣúul
to arrive wíṣil, yíwṣal
art fann (funúun)
ashtray ṭaffáaya (ṭaffayáat)
to ask (a question =) sá'al, yís'al; (**to ask for** =) ṭálab, yúṭlub
asleep náayim, náyma, naymīn
assembly máglis (magáalis)
assistance musá9da
assistant musáa9id, musá9da, musa9dīn

astonished mistághrab, mistaghrába, mistaghrabín
at 9and

atmosphere gaww

to attempt Háawil, yiHáawil; (n. =) muHáwla

to attend Hiḍir, yiHḍar

attractive gazzáab, gazzáaba, gazzabín

August ughústus

aunt (**maternal** =) xáala (xaláat); (**paternal** =) 9ámma
 (9ammáat)

autumn xaríf

awake šaaHi, sáHya, saHyín

b

back ḍahr (ḍuhúur)

backgammon ṭawla

bad wiHiš, wiHša, wiHšín

bag (**handbag**, **briefcase**, **suitcase** =) šanṭa (šúnaṭ);
 (**paperbag** =) kiis (akyáas)

baksheesh ba'šiš

balcony balakóona (balakonáat)

bananas mooz (c.)

bank bank (bunúuk)

bankrupt mifállis, mifallísa, mifallisín; **to be bankrupt** fállis,
 yifállis

bar baar (baráat)

barber Halláa' (Halla'ín)

barefoot Háafi, Háfyā, Hafyín

to bargain fáašil, yifáašil

bargaining fišáal

barrel barmíl (baramíl)

to base ássis, yi'ássis

basic asási, asásiyya, asasiyyín

basis asáas (úsus)

basket sábat (isbíta)

bathroom Hammáam (Hammamáat); (**toilet** =) it-twalétt

to be kaan, yikúun

beans fuul; fašúlya

beard da'n (f.) (du'úun)

to beat (**hit** =) ḍárab, yíḍrib; (**defeat** =) ghálab, yíghlib

beautiful gamíl, gamíla, gumáal

because li'inn; 9ašáan; 9alašáan; ašl

to become bá'a, yíb'a

bed siríir (saráayir)

bedroom oḍt in-noom (úwaḍ in-noom)

beer bīra

bees naHl (c.)

before 'abl; 'abl ma (+ v.)

to beg šáHat, yíšHat

beggar šaHHáat (šaHHatín)

to begin ibtáda, yibtídi

beginning bidáaya

behind wára

to believe sádda', yisádda'

bell gáras (agráas)

belonging to bitáa9, bitá9t, bitúu9

below taHt

belt Hizáam (aHzíma)

benefit fáyda (fawáayid)

to benefit (tr.) faad, yifíid; (intr.) istafáad, yistaffíid min

beside (**next to** =) gamb

between been

bicycle 9ágala (9agaláat)

big kibír, kibīra, kubáar

bill Hisáab (Hisabáat)

birth miláad (mawalíid)

to bite (**animal** =) 9aḍḍ, yi9úḍḍ; (**insect** =) 'áraṣ, yú'ruṣ

black iswid, sóoda, suud

'black market' is-suu' is-sóoda

to bless báarik, yibáarik

blessing bāraka

blind á9ma, 9ámya, 9umy

blood damm

blow ḍárba (ḍarbáat)

blue ázra', zár'a, zur'

boat márkib (maráakib)

body gism (agsáam)

to boil ghála, yíghli

bones 9aḍm (c.)
book kitáab (kútub)
booking Hagz
bookstore maktába (makáatib)
boring mumíll, mumílla, mumíllín
born mawlúud; (**to be born** =) itwálad, yitwílíd
to borrow istálaf, yistílif
bottle 'izáaza ('azáayiz)
boundary Hadd (Hudúud)
box 9ílba (9ílab); şandúu' (şanadíi')
boy wálad (awláad or wiláad)
bracelet iswíra (asáawir)
brain dimáagh; muxx (imxáax)
branch far9 (furúu9)
bread 9eeş
to break (*tr.*) kásar, yíksar; (*intr.*) inkásar, yinkísir
breakfast fuṭúur; **to eat breakfast** fíṭir, yíṭar
bridge kúbri (kabáari)
briefcase şánṭa (şúnaṭ)
to bring gaab, yígíib; (**bring!**) haat, háati, háatu
broadcasting izáa9a
broken maksúur
broken(down) xarbáan, xarbáana, xarbaníin; 9aṭláan, 9aṭláana, 9atlaníin
brother axx (ixwáat)
brown búnni; ásmar, sámra, sumr
brush fúrša (fúraş)
budget mizaníyya (mizaniyyáat)
bugs ba''
building bináaya (binayáat); 9imáara (9imaráat)
to burn Hára', yíHra'
bus utubíis (utubisáat)
busy maşghúul, maşghúula, maşghulíin
but láakin
butagaz butagáaz
butcher gazzáar (gazzaríin)
butter zíbda
to buy iştára, yiştíri
buying şíra
by bi

c

cabbage(s) kurúmb (c.)
café 'áhwa ('aháawi)
Cairo maşr; il-qaahíra
to calculate Hásab, yíHsib
to call náada, yináadi; (**to telephone** =) ḍárab, yíḍrab tilifóon
 li; (**to name** =) sámma, yisámmi
calm háadi, hádyá, hadyíin
camel gámal, gimáal
camera kámira (kamiráat)
canal tír9a (tíra9)
candle şám9a (şam9áat)
car 9arabíyya (9arabiyyáat)
card biṭáa'a (biṭa'áat)
carpenter naggáar (naggaríin)
carpet siggáada (sagagíid)
carriage (buggy =) Hanṭúur (Hanaṭíir)
carrots gázar (c.)
to carry šaal, yişíil
cashier şarráaf (şarrafíin)
cat 'úṭṭa ('úṭaṭ)
to catch mísik, yímsik
cause sábab (asbáab)
ceiling sa'f
celebration iHtifáal
certain (sure =) muta'ákkid, muta'akkída, muta'akkidíin;
 (**specific** =) mu9áyyan
chair kursi (karáasi)
change gháyyar, yigháyyar; (*v.n.*) taghyír; (**money** =) fákka
chapter faşl (fuşúul)
cheap rixíiş, rixíişa, ruxáaş
cheese gíbna
cheque šiik (şikáat)
chess šataráang
chicken firáax (c.)
children wiláad or awláad; 9iyáal
chin da'n (f.) (du'úun)
China iş-şíin
choice ixtiyáar

to choose ixtáar, yixtáar
Christian masiiHi, masiHiyya, masiHiyyiin
church kiníisa (kanáayis)
cigarette sigáara (sagáayir)
cinema sínima (sinimáat)
Citadel il-'ál9a
city madiina (múdun)
city square midáan (mayadiin)
civilization Haḍáara (Haḍarát)
Classical Arabic il-fuṣḥa
clean niḍfif
to clean náḍḍaf, yináḍḍaf
cleaning tanḍíf
clever šáatir, šátra, šatriin
clock sáa9a (sa9aat)
to close 'áfal, yífil
cloth 'umáaš
clothes hudúum; maláabis
clouds saHáab (c.)
club (social =) náadi (nawáadi)
coast sáaHil (sawáaHil)
coat bálṭu (baláaṭi)
coffee 'áhwa
cold bard
colleague zimfíl (zúmala)
college kullíyya (kulliyyáat)
Colloquial Arabic il-lúgha d-dáariga; il-lúgha l-9ammíyya
colour loon (alwáan)
comb mišt (amšáat)
to come ga, yígi
coming gaay, gáaya, gayiin
commotion dāwša
company šírka (šarikáat)
to complain ištáka, yistíki
to complete kámmil, yikámmil
complex mi9á''ad, mi9a''áda, mi9a''adīn
to concentrate rákkiz, yirákkiz 9ála
condition Haal (aHwáal); (**requirement** =) šarṭ (šurúuṭ)
congratulations mabrúuk

continue istamárr, yistamírr; 'á9ad, yú'9ud + imperf.
cook ṭabbáax (ṭabbaxīn)
cooking ṭabx
Copt(ic) 'ibṭi, 'ibṭíyya, a'báat
correct šaHiiH
cotton 'uṭn
council máglis (magáalis)
to count 9add, yi9idd
country bálad (f.) (biláad)
crazy magnúun (maganīn)
cream 'išṭa
crescent hiláal
to cross 9ádda, yi9áddi
crow ghuráab (ghirbáan)
crowd záHma
crown taag (tigáan)
cucumber xiyáar (c.)
culture saqáafa
cup fíngáan (fanagiin)
cupboard duláab (dawalīb)
curtain sitáara (satáayir)
Customs gúmruk (gamáarik)
to cut 'áṭa9, yí'ṭa9; (**into many pieces** =) 'átṭa9, yi'átṭa9

d

dam sadd (sudúud)
to dance rá'aš, yúr'uš
dancer (f.) ra''áša (ra''ašáat)
danger xáṭar (axṭáar)
darkness ḍaláam
date taríix (tawaríix)
dawn fagr
day yoom (ayyáam)
daytime naháar
dead máyyit, mayyíta, mayyitūn
deaf áṭraš, ṭárša, ṭurš
December disímbir
degree dáraga (daragáat)

to delay 'áxxar, yi'áxxar
to deliver sállim, yisállim; wáṣṣal, yiwáṣṣal
to demand ṭálab, yuṭlub
department qism (aqṣáam)
to descend nízil, yínzil
desk máktab (makáatib)
dialect láhga (lahgáat)
diarrhoea isháal
dictionary qamúus (qawamíis)
to die maat, yimúut
to differ ixtálaf, yixtílif
different muxtálif, muxtálifa, muxtalifiin
difficult ṣa9b, ṣá9ba, ṣa9bíin
difficulty ṣu9úuba
dinner 9áṣa
diplomat(ic) diblumási, diblumasíyya, diblumasíyyiin
director mudíir (mudiriin)
dirty wísix, wíxa, wixúin
disease máraḍ (amráḍ)
dish ṭába' (aṭbáa')
distance bu9d
to disturb dáayi', yidáayi'
to divorce ṭalla', yiṭállá'
to do 9ámal, yí9mil
doctor duktóor (dakátra); ṭabíib (aṭibbáa')
dog kalb (kiláab)
doing 9áamil, 9ámila, 9amlíin
donkey Humáar (Himíir)
door baab (abwáab)
doorman bawwáab (bawwabíin)
down taht
drawer durg (adráag)
dress fustáan (fasatíin)
to drink šírib, yíšrab
drinking šurb
to drive saa', yisúu'
driver sawwáa' (sawwa'íin)
drunk sakráan, sakráana, sakraníin
dumb áxras, xársa, xurs
duty wáagib (wagibáat)

e

ear widn (f.) (widáan)
early bádri
earth arḍ (f.)
ease suhúula
east šar'
eastern(er) šár'i, šar'íyya, šar'íyyiin
easy sahl, sáhla, sahlíin
to eat ákal or kal, yáakul
eggplant bitingáan (c.)
eggs beed (c.)
Egypt maṣr
Egyptian mášri, mašríyya, mašriyyiin
electricity kahrába
election intixáab, intixabáat
elephant fiil
embarrassed maksúuf, maksúufa, maksufiin
embassy sífáara (sifaráat)
employee muwázẓaf (muwazẓafiin)
empty fáaḍi, fáḍya, fadyiin
to end intáha, yintíhi; (n.) intiháa'
engineer muhándis (muhandisiin)
England ingiltíra
English ingilíizi, ingilizíyya, ingilíiz
enough kifáaya
to enter dáxal, yúdxul; xašš, yixúšš
entering (v.n.) duxúul
envelope ẓarf, ẓurúuf
Europe urúbba
European urúbbi, urubbíyya, urubbiyyiin
evening mísa
every kull
exactly biz-ẓábt
examination imtiHáan (imtiHanáat)
example másal (amsíla)
except ílla
to excuse sámaH, yismaH
existence wugúud
to expect intáẓar, yintíẓir

expecting intizáar
expensive gháali, ghálya, ghalyiín
experience xibra
expert xabíir (xúbara)
to explain fáhhim, yifáhhim
extremely xáaliş; lil-gháaya
eye 9een (9uyúun)

f

face wişş (wuşúuš)
fact Ha'íi'a (Ha'áayi')
factory máşna9 (maşáani9)
faith imáan
to fall wí'i9, yú'a9
family 9éela (9eláat)
famous maşhúur, maşhúura, maşhuríin
fan marwáHa (maráawiH)
far bi9iíd, bi9iída, bu9áad
farmer falláaH (fallaHíin)
to fast şaam, yişúum
fast (adv.) bi-súr9a
fasting (adj.) şáayim, şáyma, şaymíin
fasting (n.) şiyáam; şoom
fat tixiín, tixiína, tuxáan
father abb (abbaháat)
faucet Hanafiyya (Hanafiyyáat)
to fear xaaf, yixáaf min
fear (n.) xoof
feast 9iid (a9yáad)
February fibráayir
few şwáyya
field gheet (ghitáan)
film film (afláam)
final niháa'i, niha'iyya, niha'iyyiín
to find lá'a, yiláa'i
fine kwáyyis, kwayyísa, kwayyisíin; (okay =) táyyib
finger şubáa9 (şawáabi9)
to finish xállaş, yixállaş

fire naar (niráan)
first áwwil; awwaláani, awwalaníyya, awwalaníyyiín
fish sámak (c.)
flies dibbáan (c.)
food akl
foot rigl (rugúul)
for li
forbidden mamnúu9, mamnúu9a, mamnu9iín
foreigner agnábi, agnabíyya, agáanib
to forget nísi, yínsa
France faránsa
freedom Hurríyya
French faransáawi, faransawíyya, faransawíyyiín
Friday yoom ig-gúm9a
fried má'li, ma'líyya, ma'liyyiín
friend şaaHib, şaHba, aşHáab
from min
from where? minéen
fruit fákha (fawáakih)
fruitseller fakaháani (fakahaníyya)
full malyáan, malyáana, malyaniín

g

game lí9ba (al9áab)
garbage zibáala
garden ginéena (ganáayin)
garlic toom (c.)
gas ghaaz
gazelle ghazáal (ghizláan)
generally 9umúuman; 9ála l-9umúum
generosity káram
generous karíim, karíima, kúrama
gentleman xawáaga (xawagáat)
German almáani, almaníyya, almáan
Germany almánya
gift hidíyya (hadáaya)
girl bint (banáat)
to give ídda, yíddi

Giza ig-gíza
glass 'izáaz; (**drinking** =) kubbaaya (kubbayáat)
to go raaH, yirúuH
God alláah
going ráayiH, ráyHa, rayHíin
gold dáhab
good kwáyyis, kwayyísa, kwayyisiin
good (n.) xeer
goodbye ma9a s-saláama
government Hukúuma (Hukumáat)
to graduate itxárrag, yitxárrag
grandfather gidd (gudúud)
grandmother gídda (giddáat)
Greece il-yunáan
greed táma9
greedy tammáa9, tammáa9a, tamma9íim
Greek yunáani, yunaniyya, yunaniyyiín; igríigi
green áxḍar, xáḍra, xuḍr
grey ramáadi
grocer ba''áal (ba''alíin)
guest ḍeef (ḍuyúuf)
gulf xalíg (xulgáan)

h

habit 9áada (9adáat)
hair ša9r (c.)
half nuṣṣ
hammer šakúuš (šawakíiš)
hand iid (idéen)
handkerchief mandíil (manadíil)
to happen Háṣal, yíHṣal
happy mabsúuṭ, mabsúuṭa, mabsuṭíin
harbour mīna (mawáani)
hashiish Hašíiš
he húwwa
head raas (ruus)
headache šudáa9
to hear sími9, yísma9

heart 'alb ('ulúub)
heat Harr; Haráara
to heat sáxxan, yisáxxan
heavy ti'íil, ti'íila, tu'áal
to help sáa9id, yisáa9id
help(ing) misá9da
here hína
here is/are ahó, ahé, ahúm
high 9áli, 9álya, 9alyiín
history taríix
to hit ḍarab, yíḍrab
hitting ḍarb
to hold mísik, yímsik
holiday agáaza (agazáat)
home beet (buyúut)
honey 9ásal
to honour šárraf, yišárraf
hope ámal (amáal)
horse Hušáan (Hišína); **horses** xeel (c.)
hospital mustášfa (mustašfayáat)
hotel lukánda (lukanḍáat)
hour sáa9a (sa9áat)
house beet (buyúut); daar (duur)
how many? kaam
how? izzáay
huge ḍaxm, ḍáxma, ḍuxáam
humidity ruṭúuba
hungry ga9áan, ga9áana, ga9aniín
to hurry istá9gil, yistá9gil
hurrying (adj.) mistá9gil, mista9gíla, mista9gilíin
husband gooz (agwáaz)

i

I ána
ice talg
ice cream žiláati
idea fikra (afkáar)

idiot 9abūṭ, 9abūṭa, 9ubṭ
if in; íza; law
to imagine itṣáwwar, yitṣáwwar
immediately 9ála ṭuul
important muhímm, muhímma, muhimmūn
impossible miš mūmkin
to improve (*tr.*) Hássin, yiHássin; (*intr.*) itHássin, yitHássin
improvement (*tr.*) taHsūn
in fi, gúwwa
in front of 'uddáam
industry šináa9a (šina9áat)
inexpensive rixíṣ, rixíṣa, ruxáaṣ
influence nufúuz
inhabitant sáakin (sukkáan)
ink Hibr
to inquire istá9lim, yistá9lim 9an
inquiries isti9lamáat
inside gúwwa; dáaxil
instead bádal; bádal ma + v.
intelligent záki, zakíyya, ázkiya
to intend náwa, yínwi
interested in muhtámm, muhtámma, muhtammūn bi
interesting (**enjoyable** =) múmti9, mumtí9a, mumti9ūn;
 (**exciting** =) musíir
interpreter mutárgim (mutargimūn)
to invite 9ázam, yí9zim 9ála
Iraq il-9iráa'
Iraqi 9iráa'i, 9irá'íyya, 9irá'íyyūn
to iron káwa, yíkwi
iron (substance =) Hadíid; (**for laundry =**) mákwa (makáawi)
to irrigate ráwa, yírwi
irrigation rayy
Islam isláam
Islamic isláami, islamíyya, islamiyyūn
island giziira (gúzur)
Israel isra'il
it húwwa (*m.*); híyya (*f.*)
Italy itálya
ivory 9aag

j

jam mirábba (mirabbáat)
January yanáayir
Jew(ish) yahúudi, yahudíyya, yahúud
job šughl (ašgháal)
joke núkta (núkat)
journalist šúHafi, šuHafíyya, šuHafíyyūn
journey ríHla (riHláat); sáfar (asfáar)
joy fáraH
judgement Hukm
juice 9ašíir
July yúlyu
June yúnyu

k

key muftáaH (mafatíiH)
to kill máwwit, yimáwwit; (**murder** =) 'átal, yí'til
kilogram kílu (kiluháat)
kind (sort =) noo9 (anwáa9)
king málík (mulúuk)
kitchen máṭbax (maṭáabix)
knife sikkūna (sakakūn)
to know 9íri9, yí9rif
knowing 9áarif, 9árfa, 9arfūn
Koran il-qur'áan

l

lady sitt (sitáat)
lame á9rag, 9árga, 9urg
land arḍ (aráaḍi); barr
language lúgha (lugháat)
large kibíir, kibíira, kubáar
last áaxir; axíir, axíira; axráani, axraníyya, axraniyyūn
late wáxri, waxríyya, waxriyyūn; mit'áxxar, mit'axxára,
 mit'axxarūn
later ba9déen

to laugh dīHik, yīdHak
laughter dīHk
laundryman makwági (makwagíyya)
law qanúun (qawaníin)
lawyer muHáami (muHamíin)
lazy kasláan, kasláana, kaslaníin
to learn it9állim, yit9állim
leather gild (gulúud)
Lebanon libnáan
lecture muHádra (muHaḍráat)
left šimáal
leg rigl (*f.*)
lemons lamúun (*c.*)
length tuul
lentils 9ads
lesson dars (durúus)
letter gawáab (gawabáat)
lettuce xaṣṣ (*c.*)
liberation taHrír
library maktába (maktabáat)
lift aṣanšéer (aṣanšeráat)
light (*n.*) nuur
light(-weight) xafíif, xafíifa, xufáaf
to like Habb, yiHíbb
like zayy
to listen sími9, yísma9
little (small =) sugháyyar, sughayyára, sughayyaríin; (**a little =**) šwáyya
to live (inhabit =) sákan, yúskun
living sáakin, sákna, sakníin
local maHállí, maHalíyya, maHallíyyín; báladi
London lándan
long ṭawíl, ṭawíla, ṭuwáal
to look (at) baṣṣ, yibúṣṣ li
lover Habúb, Habúba, Habáayib
luck baxt
lunch gháda
to lunch itghádda, yitghádda
Luxor lú'sur

m

magazine magálla (magalláat)
maid šaghgháala (šaghghaláat)
mail buṣṭa; baríid
mailman buṣṭági (buṣṭagíyya)
majority aghlabíyya
man raágil (riggáala)
manager mudíir (mudiríin)
mangoes mánga (*c.*)
many kitír
map xaríiṭa (xaṣáayit)
March máaris
market suu' (aswáa')
marriage gawáaz
married mitgáwwiz, mitgawwíza, mitgawwizíin
matches kabríit
mathematics riyaáda
May máayu
meat láHma
mechanic mikaníiki (mikanikíyya)
medicine dáwa (*m.*) (ádwiya)
to meet (*tr.*) 'áabil, yi'áabil; (*intr.*) it'áabil, yit'áabil
meeting igtimáa9
merchandise biḍáa9a (baḍáayi9)
merchant táagir (tuggáar)
Middle East iš-šarq il-áwsaṭ
minister wazír (wúzara)
ministry wizáara (wizaráat)
minus ílla
minute di'fi'a (da'áayi')
mirror miráaya (mirayáat)
miser baxíl, baxíla, búxula
Miss aanísa (anisáat)
miss (lit.: to be missed by =) wáHaš, yíwHaš
mistake ghálṭa (ghaltáat)
Monday yoom il-itnéen
money filúus
month šahr (ašhur or šuhúur)

moon 'ámar
Moslem múslim, muslíma, muslimín
mosque gáami9 (gawáami9)
mosquitoes namúus (c.)
mother umm (ummaháat); wálda (waldáat)
mouse faar (firáan)
mouth bu''; Hának
Mr is-sáyyid
Mrs is-sitt; madáam
much kitíir
to muddle láxbat, yiláxbat
municipality baladíyya
museum mátHaf (matáaHif)
music musíqa

n

name ism (asáami)
napkin fúuṭa (fúwaṭ)
narrow dáyya', dayyá'a, dayya'ín
nation dāwla (dúwal)
national waṭani, waṭaníyya, waṭaniyyín; qāwmi, qawmíyya, qawmiyyín; áhli, ahlíyya, ahliyyín
nationality ginsíyya (ginsiyyáat)
native (*adj.*) báladi
near 'uráyyib, 'urayyíba, 'urayyibín
necessary ḡarúuri
necktie karavátta (karavattáat)
to need iHtáag, yiHtáag li
neighbour gaar (giráan)
neither . . . nor la . . . wála
never ábadan
new gidíid, gidiida, gudáad
news xábar (axbáar)
newspaper gurnáan (garanín)
night léela (layáli); leel
Nile in-niil
no la'
nobody maHáddiš

noon ḡuhr
north šamáal
not miš
notebook kurṛáasa (kaṛarís)
nothing wála Háaga
November nufímbir
now dilwá'ti
nowhere wála Hítta
number 9add (a9dáad); nímra (nímar)

o

O . . . (*voc.*) ya
occasion munásba (munasbáat)
occupied mašghúul, mašghúula, mašghulín
October uktúubar
of bitáa9, bitá9t, bitúu9
of course ṭáb9an
to offer 'áddim, yi'áddim
office máktab (makáatib)
often kitíir
oil zeet (zuyúut); (**petroleum** =) bitróol
old 'adúim, 'adúima, 'udáam
olives zatúun (c.)
on 9ála
once máṛṛa
one-eyed á9war, 9óora, 9uur
onion báṣal (c.)
only bass
to open fátaH, yíftaH
open (*adj.*) maftúuH, maftúuHa, maftuHín
operation 9amalıyya (9amalıyyáat)
opinion ra'y (aráa')
opportunity fúrṣa (fúraṣ)
or aw; wálla
orange (colour) burtu'áani
orange (fruit) burtu'áan (c.)
to order (ask for =) ṭálab, yúṭlub
ordinary 9áadi, 9adíyya, 9adiyyín

to organize názzam, yinázzam
organized munázzam, munazzáma, munazzamíin
origin ašl (uṣúul)
other táani, tánya, tanyíin
out of order 9aṭlāan, 9aṭlāana, 9aṭlaníin
outing fúsHa (fúsaH)
outside bárra
oven furn (afráan)
over foo'
overcoat bálṭu (baláaṭi)
owner šaaHib (ašHáab)

p

to pack (suitcases =) wáḍḍab, yiwáḍḍab
page šáfHa (šafHáat)
pain wága9 (awgáa9)
paint búuya (buyáat)
palace 'ašr ('uṣúur)
paper wára'
party Háfla (Hafláat)
pasha báaša (bašawáat)
to pass faat, yifúut; marr, yimúrr
passenger ráakib (rukkáab)
passport gawáaz sáfar (gawazáat sáfar)
patience šabr
to pay dáfa9, yídfa9
paying daf9 (v.n.)
peace saláam
peanuts fuul sudáani
peas bisílla (c.)
peasant falláaH, falláaHa, fallaHíin
pedestrians mušáa
pen 'alam (a'láam)
people naas
perhaps yímkin
period múdda (múdad)
permission izn
to permit sámaH, yísmaH

personally šaxsíyyan
pessimist(ic) mutašáa'im, mutašaa'ima, mutaša'imíin
petrol benzíin
petroleum bitróol
Pharaoh far9óon (fará9na)
Pharaonic far9óoni, far9oníyya, far9oniyyíin
pharmacy agzaxáana (agzaxanáat)
photograph šúura (šúwar)
piaster 'irš ('urúuš)
picture šúura (šúwar)
piece Hitta (Hítat)
pigeons Hamáam (c.)
pilgrim Hagg (Huggáag)
pilgrimage Higg; (to go on pilgrimage =) Hagg, yiHígg
pipe (to smoke) búba (bibáat)
poetry ši9r
police bulíis
policeman 9askári (9asáakir)
polite mu'áddab, mu'addába, mu'addabiin
poor fa'íir, fa'íira, fú'ara
port míina (mawáani)
porter šayyáal (šayyalíin)
possible múmkin
post baríid; búṣṭa
post office máktab baríid
postman buṣṭági (buṣṭagiyya)
potatoes baṭáaṭis (c.)
pound (£) ginéeh (gineháat)
to pray šállá, yišállí
to prefer fáḍḍal, yifáḍḍal
to prepare Háḍḍar, yiHáḍḍar
president ra'ís (rú'asa)
to prevent mána9, yímna9
price si9r (as9áar)
problem muškíla (mašáakil)
programme birnáamig (baráamig)
progress ta'áddum
proverb másal (amsáal)
put Haṭṭ, yiHúṭṭ
pyramid háram (ahráam or ahramáat)

q

quarter rub9
question su'áal (as'íla)
queue ṭabúur (ṭawabfūr)
quickly bi-súr9a

r

rabbit árnaḅ (aráanib)
radio rádyu (radyuháat)
rain māṭar
to rain maṭṭárit, timáṭṭar
to read 'ara, yi'ra
ready musta9ídd, musta9ídda, musta9iddīn li
real Ha'íi'i, Ha'íi'yya, Ha'íi'yyīn
reasonable ma9'úul
to receive istálam, yistílim
red áHmar, Hámra, Humr
refrigerator talláaga (tallagáat)
relation 9iláa'a (9ila'áat)
relatively nisbíyyan
religion diin (adyáan)
religious diini, diníyya, diniyyīn
remaining báa'i
to renew gáddid, yigáddid
to rent ággar, yi'ággar; (n.) **rent** igaar
to repair šállah, yišállah
republic gumhuríyya (gumhuriyyáat)
research baHs
reservation Hagz
to reserve Hágaz, yíHgiz
to reside sákan, yúskun
to resign ista'áal, yista'íl
resignation isti'áala (isti'aláat)
to respect iHtáram, yiHtírīm; (n.) **respect** iHtiraam
restaurant māṭ9am (maṭáa9im)
to ride ríkib, yírkab
right (-hand side =) yimīn

ring xáatim (xawáatim)
to rise (get up =) 'aam, yi'úum
river nahr (anháar)
river-bank ḍáffa (ḍifáaf)
road ṭaríi' (ṭúru')
room óḍa (ówaḍ)
to run gíri, yígri
Russia rúsyā
Russian rúusi, rusíyya, ruus

s

safety saláama
sailor baHHáar
salad šálaṭa (šalaṭáat)
same nafs
Saturday yoom is-sábt
Saudi Arabia is-su9udiyya
schedule gáḍwal (gadáawil)
school madrása (madáaris)
science 9ilm (9ulúum)
sea baHr (biHáar)
season faṣl (fuṣúul)
second sán̄ya (sawáani)
secondary school madrása sanawíyya
secret sirr (asráar)
to see šaaf, yišúuf
seeing šáyif, šayfa, šayfīn
self nafs
to sell baa9, yibū9
seller bayyáa9 (bayya9fīn)
selling bee9 (v.n.)
to send bá9at, yíḅ9at
sentence gúmla (gúmal)
September sibṭímbir
serious gadd (*invariable*)
servant xaddáam (xaddamūn)
service xídma
to shave Hála', yíHla'

she híyya
shelf raff (rufúuf)
ship márkib (maráakib); báaxira (bawáaxir)
shirt 'amíš ('umšáan)
shoe (pair of =) gázma (gízam)
shop maHáll (maHalláat)
short 'uṣáyyar, 'uṣayyára, 'uṣayyaríin
to show wárri, yiwárri
sick 9ayyáan, 9ayyána, 9ayyaníin
silver fádḍa
sing ghánna, yighánni
sister uxt (ixwáat)
to sit 'á9ad, yú'9ud
sitting 'áa9id, 'á9da, 'a9díin
sky sáma
to sleep naam, yináam
sleeping náayim, náyma, naymíin
slowly bi-šwées
small ṣugháyyar, ṣughayyára, ṣughayyaríin
to smell šamm, yišímm
to smoke šríb, yíšrib (sagáayir)
smoke (n.) duxxáan
smoking tadxíin
soldier 9askári (9asáakir)
some ba9ḍ
sometimes aHyáanan
son ibn (awláad or wiláad)
to speak itkállim, yitkállim
specially xušúušan
speech kaláam
speed sūr9a (sur9áat)
spoon ma9lá'a (ma9áali')
sports riyáaḍa
spring ir-rabí9
square (city-square =) midáan (mayadíin)
stamp (postage =) ṭáabi9 (ṭawáabi9)
to stand wí'if, yú'af
station maHátṭa (maHaṭṭáat)
to steal sára', yísra'

steam buxáar
still líssa
stomach baṭn (f.)
stopping wáa'if, wá'fa, wa'fíin
straight dúghri
street šáari9 (šawáari9)
student (m.) ṭáalib (ṭulláab or ṭálaba); (f.) ṭaalíba (ṭaalibáat)
to study dáras, yídris; záakir, yizáakir
success nagáaH
sugar súkkar
suit bádlá (bídal)
suitcase (bag=) šanṭa (šunat)
summer iṣ-ṣeef
sun šams
Sunday yoom il-Hádd
sure muta'ákkid, muta'akkída, muta'akkidíin
sweet Hilw, Hílwa, Hilwíin
to swim 9aam, yi9úum; síbiH, yísbaH
system nizáam (ánzima)

t

table ṭarabéeza (ṭarabezáat)
tailor ṭarzi (ṭarziyya)
to take xad, yáaxud
to talk itkállim, yitkállim
tall ṭawíil, ṭawíla, ṭuwáal
to taste daa', yidúu'
tea šaay
to teach dārris, yidārris; 9állim, yi9állim
teacher mudārris, mudarrísa, mudarrisíin; mu9állim, mu9allima, mu9allimíin
to tease 9áakis, yi9áakis
technical fānni, fanníyya, fanniyyíin
telephone tilifóon (tilifonáat)
television tilfízyoon (tilfízyunáat)
to tell 'aal, yiúul li
test imtiHáan (imtiHanáat)
thank you šúkran

theatre mäsraH (masáariH)
then bá'a
there hináak
there is fih
they húmma
thief Haráami (Haramíyya)
thin rufáyya9, rufayyá9a, rufayya9iin
thing Háaga (Hagáat)
to think fákkar, yifákkar; iftákar, yiftikir
third tilt
thirsty 9aṭšáan, 9aṭšáana, 9aṭšanīn
this, that da, di, dool
to throw ráma, yirmi
Thursday yoom il-xamīs
ticket tazkára (tazáakir)
to tie rábaṭ, yúrbaṭ
tiles baláaṭ (c.)
time wa't
time(s) maṭṭa (maṭṭáat)
tired ta9báan, ta9báana, ta9banīn
title 9inwáan (9anawīn)
today innahárda
together sáwa, má9a ba9d
tomatoes 'úuṭa (c.); ṭamaaṭim
tomorrow búkra
tonight il-léela
too kamáan
towel fúuṭa (fúwaṭ)
tower borg (burúug)
town bálad (biláad)
traffic murúur
train 'aṭr ('uṭuráat)
to translate tárgim, yitárgim
translation targáma (targamáat)
translator mutárgim (mutargimīn)
to travel sáafir, yisáafir
travel sáfar
traveller misáafir
trees šágar (c.)

trip riHla (riHláat)
trousers baṭalóon (baṭalonáat)
to try Háawil, yiHáawil
Tuesday yoom it-taláat
turkey diik rúumi
Turkey turkíyya
Turkish túrki, turkiyya, atráak

u

unbelievable miš ma9'úul
under taHt
to understand fihim, yifham
understanding fahm; (**mutual understanding** =) tafáahum
understanding fáahim, fáhma, fahmīn
United Kingdom il-mamláka l-muttáHida
United States il-wilayáat il-muttáHida
university gám9a (gam9áat)
until ligháayit
Upper Egypt iṣ-ṣi9fid
to use istá9mil, yistá9mil
use (benefit =) fáyda
used to (accustomed =) mit9áwwid, mit9awwida, mit9awwidīn
useful mufiid, mufiida, mufidīn
usually 9aadátan; fil-9áada

v

vacation agáaza (agazáat)
valley wáadi (widýaan)
Valley of the Kings wáadi l-mulúuk
veal bitillu
vegetables xuḍáar
very gíddan; 'áwi
villa vília (vílal)
village qárya (qúra)
visit ziyáara (ziyaráat)
to visit zaar, yizúur
visit ziyáara
voice šoot (ašwáat)

w

wanting 9áawiz; 9áayiz
war Harb (Hurúub)
we íHna
weak ɖa'íif, ɖa'íifa, ɖu'áaf
to wear líbis, yílbis
weather gaww
wedding fáraH (afráaH)
Wednesday yoom il-árba9
week usbúu9 (asabíi9)
to weep 9áyyaɖ, yi9áyyaɖ
weight wazn
welcome áhlan wa sáhlan
well biir (abáar)
well (*adv.*) kwáyyis
west ɣharb
what? eeh
where? feen
white ábyaɖ, béeda, biid
who? miin
why? leeh
wife sitt (sitáat); miɖáat (+ *n./pron.*)
window šibbáak (šababíik)
wine nibíit
winter iš-šíta
with má9a
without bidúun; min ɣheer
woman sitt (sitáat)
wood xášab
wool šuuf
word kíлма (kilmáat)
to work ištáɣhal, yištáɣhal
work šuɣhl
worker 9áamil (9ummáal)
world dínya
to write kátab, yíktib
writer káatib, kátba, kuttáab
wrong (in error =) ɣhaltáan, ɣhaltáana, ɣhaltaníin

y

year sána (siníin)
yellow ášfar, šáfra, šufr
yes áywa
yesterday imbáariH
yet líssa
you (*f.*) ínti
you (*m.*) ínta
you (*pl.*) íntu